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The Exonian



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Academy Elects New Student Council Board



Student Council looks towards the future of their tenure.

Thomas Wang/*The Exonian*

By ANNE BRANDES, DANIEL CHEN, GIANLUCA AUDIA, EVAN GONZALEZ, MINSEO KIM and AMY LUM

Editor-in-Chief, News Editor and Staff Writers

In a surprising turn of events last Friday, Student Council (StuCo) announced a dead-even tie between presidential candidates Charlotte Lisa and Senai Robinson. According to the StuCo advisers, Dean of Academic Affairs Laura Marshall and Science Instructor Anne Rankin, 363 votes, including abstentions, were filed via 360 electronic ballots and 3 absentee ballots.

After discussion between the two candidates, they decided to lead together under a Co-Presidency system. Lisa and Robinson will join the 2020-2021 StuCo Executive Board along with Vice President elect upper Seth Amofa and Co-Secretary elects upper Phil Horrigan and lower Siona Jain.

Co-Presidency

The last Co-Presidents to assume the office of StuCo Presidents were Co-Presidents Jackson Parrell '18 and Menat Bahnasy '18 of the 2017-2018 Executive Board. After a rigged election, the Student Council appointed all students in the run-off election to the Executive Board.

According to Marshall, the 2017-18 StuCo raised the question of whether or not they wished to keep the Co-Presidency structure for future boards. Ultimately, they voted against Co-Presidents and advised only one Student Council president after the 2017-2018 board, returning back to its original structure.

Horrigan believes that this election cycle indicates a larger problem. “My candidate statement from the very beginning was rooted in the assumption that students have a lack of autonomy in the Student Council,” he said. “The lack of transparency both in results of the election and the appointment of Co-Presidents confirm

STUCO, 3

Reverend Heidi To Leave Post Next Year

By LINA HUANG, MAXINE PARK and CLARK WU

After four years of serving as Interim Director of Religious and Spiritual Life, the Academy has chosen not to reappoint the Rev. Heidilee Heath for the coming school year, according to Heath.

As one of the chairs of the Search Committee for the director position, Assistant Principal Karen Lassey explained that the extensive search began last winter, with finalist interviews conducted this January. “Through a series of phone and video interviews and after much deliberation, the committee decided on finalists who will visit campus early in the spring term to meet with the community,” she said. “I have appreciated working with Rev. Heath immensely over the last few years. She has brought much to this community and we are better for having the opportunity to know and work with her.”

According to Heath, four years ago during the hiring process, she “went through an extensive interview meeting with many members of the Academy in both one-on-one meetings and group settings,” she said. “I was then invited back for the following three years as the Academy discerned the future of this role [Interim Director].”

Heath could not provide any additional information regarding the following stages of the new director hiring process. “I can only say that the search is taking the committee in a different direction, and they chose not to include me in the finalist pool for this role,” she said.

Senior Helen Xiu first met Heath her prep year through Christian Fellowship. “Rev. has always provided good guidance to Christian Fellowship and has helped me develop my perspective on various parts of the Bible,” she said. “I think her understanding of the text is something

REV, 2

Students Alter Travel Plans Due To Coronavirus

By TUCKER GIBBS, ANDREA LUO and ANYA TANG

As awareness of COVID-19, a novel form of coronavirus, increased on campus, the Dean of Students Office communicated protocol and contingency plans for students traveling to restricted areas for the upcoming spring break. In addition, all students received an email request for spring break travel plans. The Dean of Students Office produced a form for students to fill out, detailing their departure and arrival.

The U.S. Department of State issued a travel advisory on Feb. 20, warning against travel to China due to coronavirus. The advisory explains that citizens who travel to the Hubei province in China and return to the U.S. may be subject to up to 14 days of quarantine, and citizens returning from anywhere else in mainland China may be subject to

a health screening.

Administrators have already compiled plans for responses to international travel issues. “Every international student is asked upon matriculation to provide the Academy with an emergency host contact in the U.S. for situations such as [the coronavirus outbreak] which may arise,” International Student Coordinator Jennifer Smith said.

According to Dean of Students Brooks Moriarty, the form was drafted in the fall term before news of the coronavirus outbreak. “There were too many loose ends with our information on student comings and goings from campus,” he said. “Then in late January, the coronavirus news came in. So we made two adjustments. One was [asking], ‘Are your plans final?’ And the other is [asking], ‘Which countries will you be traveling to?’” he said.

With the influx of informa-

tion, the Academy began to make plans for remote learning. “If somebody gets stuck somewhere, how are we going to make sure that we can get them back? How many people are going to be stuck? Do we have them take classes remotely and what does that look like to take a Harkness class remotely?” Moriarty said. “We’re starting to gather that information just to allow us to be ready for whatever might happen.”

To evaluate students’ travel plans, the administration intends to align their responses with those of international health organizations. “We defer to the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control, as well as other groups like the U.S. Department of State for directions and threat levels,” Smith said.

In order to address the possible restrictions students may face when traveling in and out of the U.S. over spring break,

CORONAVIRUS, 5

Campus Safety Warns Students of Record Thefts

By TINA HUANG, MARCO KO, and CLARK WU

From Canada Goose coats and laptops to dorm ice cream, theft is on the rise at the Academy.

“The number of reported thefts are obviously trending upwards,” Director of Campus Safety Paul Gravel said. According to Campus Safety data, dorm thefts reached a new high of 30 reported cases between September 2019 and February 2020. Already, this year’s thefts have surpassed the 23 and 29 total cases in the two previous school years, respectively.

Notably, these reported

cases do not reflect the actual number of dorm theft cases—the actual number is anticipated to be significantly higher. According to Gravel, students mostly communicate with the Campus Safety office only when the loss exceeds a value of \$500.

The thefts mostly plague dormitory communities at Exeter, although Grill and the Exeter Bookstore have seen thefts this year as well. Reports indicate a variety of stolen items, from technology to food in communal dorm refrigerators. Gravel noted that each theft leads to an increasingly less welcoming boarding atmosphere. Concrete solutions continue to evade students and

faculty.

The variation in intent between cases of theft further complicates this issue: while some students simply borrow and never remember to return, others deliberately steal from the post office, dorm room or postal services such as Amazon.

Senior and Bancroft resident Keaghan Tierney commented on how prominent thefts have been throughout her time at the school. “For the three years I’ve been here, there’s been stuff stolen every single year,” she said. “Every year, we get together and talk about it, and the deans come in and threaten us, and it never works.”

Sometimes, locking away belongings is not enough. Josh Riddick, a senior in Peabody Hall, has had money stolen from a locked closet in his dorm basement. “Know that you can’t assume that things are safe,” he said.

However, breached trust can be difficult to avoid in a dorm where theft may be common. “Stealing makes people more aware of who they’re looking at,” prep and Hoyt resident Nur Almajali said. “I feel like there will be hostility between people because you don’t know who’s doing it.”

Many feel that more conversation between dorm members should be necessary before putting blame on certain people. “If you’re pointing fingers, you need to have conversations with that person to begin with,” Tierney said. “If you’re not resolving that issue and it’s leading to you blaming

that person for something that they might not have done, you need to figure that out yourselves. It’s a very severe thing to be blaming people for, so you don’t want to blame the wrong person and have it catch wind from the deans and it becomes a big thing.”

English Instructor and Webster Dorm Head Alex Myers agreed. “This hasn’t happened for a long time, but when one or two incidents have occurred and students start to say ‘I think it’s so and so who does it,’ that’s dangerous,” he said. “You never know who steals, and it’s usually never the obvious culprit. People don’t always steal because they need the money.”

To prevent dorm theft, Gravel emphasized the importance of door-locking. “Theft is a crime of opportunity. Somebody sees something, they want that thing, they con-

STEALING, 4

News

» REVEREND HEIDI

The Academy will not re-appoint Reverend Heidilee Heath, a beloved figure on campus, next year, 2.

» MOCK TRIAL

Mock Trial took the top three places at the New Hampshire Mock Trial State Tournament, 5.

» JAZZ BRUNCH

Winterfest, an outdoor celebration on Sunday replaced Jazz Brunch this year, 4.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ASSEMBLY

» Friday's Assembly (Feb. 28) has been canceled. Next Tuesday's assembly will feature the Exeter Association of Rock.

EXETER SWIMMING BOASTS NEW RECORDS

» During the E/a meet on Feb. 26, Andrew Benson and Sydney Kang broke several swim records. Benson took home the New England record for the 50-meter freestyle with a time of 20.06 seconds. Kang set a new school and E/a meet record in the 200 Individual Medley with a time of 2:03.91.

TRANSPORTATION CANCELLED

» Academy bus transportation to Grand Central Station has been discontinued indefinitely, according to Student Center and Transportation Coordinator Daisy Jobarteh. The JFK bus will no longer run after spring break.



Grand Central Station buses cancelled.

Robert Moss

Students Reflect on Reverend Heidilee Heath's Tenure

that I will take with me as I grow in my faith, and I am going to miss her guidance as I graduate."

Senior Andrea So met Heath at Amen, where So appreciated Heath's warmth and outreach. "Rev is so generous, funny as hell, and full of light—there's no other way to put it. She's very approachable even to complete strangers. When you speak to her, you get the feeling that you're truly being heard," she said. "My favorite part about her is probably her infinite capacity for love. She puts so much of it out into Exeter, and we are truly a better community because of her."

So said she will miss the unique perspective Heath brings to Exeter. "There's no other faculty on campus I feel completely comfortable discussing queer struggles with besides her, and I'm so angry that future Exonians may not experience that understanding now because she's leaving. Being not straight at Exeter is hard enough. So many people love her, and for good reason," So said.

Senior Alisha Simmons also appreciated Heath's identity as an LGBTQ+ campus minister. "Coming in as a new lower from a not-so-open high school in the South, I hadn't seen that much LGBTQ+ representation in my ev-

eryday life," she said. "Just knowing that the campus minister was queer, married with a spouse and completely open about it affected me so deeply and made me feel more welcome as a queer student than anything else ever did."

Simmons believes Heath connected her to her own sense of faith and religion. "I've always had a difficult relationship with religion for many reasons, but especially coming from the South, religion and queer identity never seemed like it could ever mix," she said. "But she is a representation of that mixture and living in harmony of the two."

Senior Ben Gorman expressed how Heath's presence on campus gave him confidence in his identity. "I'm definitely going to miss how much she legitimizes being queer for me and many others just by being on campus and being as influential as she is," he said. "Exeter constantly surprises me in how comforting and human it can be sometimes, and I think a large portion of that humanity and compassion comes from what Rev. Heidi does on campus."

Simmons also valued Heath's supportive nature—she remembered when she received a note in P.O. from Heath. "It got to me late, as it was meant to be received at

the end of lower spring, but it was exactly what I needed at the time. The note was short but heartfelt, an expression of support and a reassurance that if I needed an adult on campus, she would always be there," she said. "Never before had I felt as seen and noticed by a faculty member before."

When speaking of her career at Exeter, Heath especially appreciated the impact students had on her. "Hands down my favorite part of this work has been all of you, the students," she said. "The opportunity to create caring community together, explore religious and spiritual identity, hold your stories, laugh together and engage difficult questions has been such a gift."

Instructor Mercy Carbonell expressed how Heidi's impact and support extended to the faculty as well. "Sometimes, all I want is to know she is across a room, over a brick building or two, because being queer as an adult at PEA has been, since I began my career here in 1993, a lonelier place than I have allowed myself to feel," she said. "And I know some of our students have often felt that loneliness, have opened the church doors and sought Rev. Heidi in her office, seen her smile, accepted an invitation that they may not even

have known how much they needed, sat down in one of her chairs and begun to tell their truth to her, for she gives always the present tense of being and receiving."

Heath's care and commitment to helping the school appeared also after the sexual assault sit-in for students, according to Simmons. "The way that she stood up for us that day and validated our experiences after such a grueling experience of feeling invalidated was just yet another way that she's been able to help students feel seen and loved," she said. "I see you," she said to us, and my friend broke down into tears. Because it's hard to feel that way on this campus as a marginalized identity. It's hard to feel that way as a queer woman of color, as a sexual assault survivor, as a low-income student. And she's always been there for me and so many others to help us feel seen and remind us that we matter here."

"I can't imagine getting through these past three years without her constant support and assurance," Simmons said. "She's so supportive to others in all of their endeavors, and really wants to know who you are. Her Instagram page is a constant stream of motivational and supportive posts, and seeing them makes me smile on days that it

feels difficult to."

Xiu recognized that Heath's impact on campus will be missed by many communities. "The religious community, the LGBTQ+ community, her dorm and many more all treasure her presence on campus," she said. "It is very rare that a person can unify so many people in love."

Gorman hoped that the new Director will offer the intersectionality and queer representation that Heath has brought to campus. "It just makes me really sad how few queer faculty we have on campus and how little they're appreciated. I hope the new Director of Religious and Spiritual Life will be as intersectional, but that seems unlikely," he said. "Rev. really is one in a million."

Heath recognized her unique role and legacy in the community and thanked Exeter for providing this opportunity. "There is no role quite like this one on campus. This is the first time Exeter has had someone with explicit training as a chaplain, in advanced spiritual care and counseling, and in interfaith work in this role," she said. "I am the first woman and the first queer person to serve as the head of Religious and Spiritual Life. That is an honor I will carry with me for a long time."

The Exonian Investigates Student Committees

By TUCKER GIBBS and DAVID CHEN

Committees, such as the Community Conduct Committee (CCC), Deans' Council, Attendance Committee, Publications Committee and Assembly Committee, are composed of both students and faculty to give input on the Academy's functions. With the exception of the CCC and Publications Committee, all of these committees' members are handpicked by the Student Council Executive Board.

Deans' Council

Members of the faculty and administration bring topics to Deans' Council that require student input. In the fall of last year, members of Deans' Council were among the only students consulted in appointing Bill Rawson as permanent Principal. Other topics of discussion have included Academy social media accounts, building hours and resources.

Deans' Council members are appointed by either the deans or the Student Council (StuCo) Executive Board. "When I was an upper, Ayush came up to me and asked if I would be interested in joining because he believed that I was part of certain demographics and certain organizations that could offer a useful perspective," senior Suan Lee said.

Deans' Council meets fairly often to discuss a range of issues. "We meet every two weeks," she said. "We'll get an email from either one of the deans or Matt Wabunoha, who's the current chair of the Deans' Coun-

cil, about an assigned topic that the deans would like student input on."

Altering the selection of Deans' Council was a part of newly-elected StuCo Co-President Charlotte Lisa's platform. "The selection process has kind of just been looking for who's an outgoing student on campus, who knows a lot of kids and speaks to our kids—that sort of thing," she said. "While I definitely think there's value in outgoing students, I think we really need the outgoing students, we need the quiet students. We need a very comprehensive picture of Exeter, so diversity in all aspects."

Though some students would like to find another way to appoint students to Deans' Council, Lee pointed out that elections may not be an improvement from the current process. "Elections can, in some circumstances, really create the most diverse group of representatives, but in other cases, it can also be influenced by which demographics are the majority," Lee said. "Sometimes, you need appointments where you are actively seeking diversity in order to have a representative group of people. I'm sure there are ways the Deans' Council could improve to do this more effectively, but this is our intent."

Assembly Committee

Similarly to Deans' Council, Assembly Committee has two students who are also appointed by the StuCo Executive Board. The Assembly Committee meets every other week to discuss the purpose and composition of the assembly program.

The two students on the committee, lower Jasmine Xi and upper Anne Brandes, are the first to serve. "If I recall correctly, [StuCo President Ayush Noori] was redoing some of the subcommittees on StuCo," Assembly Committee Chair and English Instructor Alex Myers said. "There used to be a StuCo Assembly Committee, and he said, 'Instead of doing that, why don't those people just join you?'"

According to Myers, more students may join the committee in the future. "StuCo could just put more of their reps on that. Or I could put out an email and we could do an application, [seeing] if anyone else is interested," he said. "I think the limitation is scheduling. The more people you have on a committee, the harder it is to schedule it. So I try to keep the committee small. But if I could still find the meeting time, I would happily have four students on that committee."

Attendance Committee

As with Deans' Council and the Assembly Committee members, Attendance Committee members also recommended by the StuCo President. This year's members, Dawson Byrd, Paula Perez-Glassner, Milo Walshe and Kaleb Washington, were not appointed by Noori.

Student members are first proposed by the Student Council President in the spring and must be current uppers. While three are recommended, two are picked by the previous attendance committee and serve for one year. Often, the faculty on the

committee serve for two years.

A total of four people sit on the Attendance Committee at one time, two of whom are faculty appointed by Dean of Faculty Ellen Wolff. In addition, there are two students at every session, both of whom have voting privileges.

According to Attendance Committee Chair and Dean of Student Health Gordon Coole, students play a valuable role on this committee. "They have a peer perspective which is invaluable in the committee's decision making," he said. "They are active in discussing each student's situation and vote on each case."

Community Conduct Committee

The CCC, formerly the Discipline Committee, hears level two or three violation cases on Thursday evenings and is comprised of nine faculty and four out of eight rotating students. Current members are Seth Amofa, Graham Guite, Tise Okeremi, Nahla Owens, Senai Robinson, Meredith Thomas, Matthew Wabunoha and Rachel Won.

"The primary considerations include community wellbeing and the student's learning process," upper and CCC member Graham Guite said. Students may advocate for a certain response from the Academy and raise questions during committee proceedings, but they do not have voting privileges.

Unlike the other committees on which students sit, the positions on the CCC are given through a strenuous selection process. Lower members run for a two year term by means of an election, and then are selected after an interview with Dean of Residential Life Carol Cahalane.

"This interview process—it's pretty rigorous," lower Nahala Owens said. "They look at your grades, your attendance, all of it. And in the

spring, you find out whether or not you've been selected."

Publications Committee

Publications Committee consists of faculty and student representatives from all on-campus publications and WPEA. Students who serve on the committee hold the highest role in their respective publications. Chaired by History Instructor William Jordan, the committee approves new publications and serves as the body of final appeal for conflicts between student leadership and club advisers.

Questions Raised

Still, students continue to question committee appointments. "There is no reason to believe favoritism does not extend to the Attendance Committee and Deans' Council," senior Jack Zhang said. "It's a shame the compositions of these committees, which are the formal contact points between students and administration, are determined by one or two students."

Students questioned the objectivity of the StuCo Executive Board's appointments. "At the end of the day, we are all high schoolers," prep Rohan Modi said. "Who is to say that [the StuCo Executive Board] will not just pick their friends?"

Lee agreed that while questions over the committees' compositions are natural, such committees serve an important role advocating for the student voice. "I do think there are I've heard some criticism or concerns about Deans' Council sounds like this really secretive organization that meets with the administrators and sort of bypasses the rest of the student body," she said. "But honestly, I think it's just a more direct way for the deans to get immediate input. We are usually just the first step."

Laptops of Andover Students Stolen

By LINA HUANG and KENDRA RAHSU

Laptops belonging to Andover and Hillside School students were stolen at the Love Gym during their Squash and Hockey games against Exeter on Wednesday, Feb. 5. The thefts occurred between 2 pm and 9 pm in the visiting teams' locker rooms, and to date, no culprit has been found. An investigation is underway by the Exeter Police Department.

Five laptops were taken from Andover and two from Hillside teams. Each laptop stolen was either a MacBook Pro or MacBook Air, and prices ranged from \$800 to \$1200. The purchase value was around \$1000 per laptop. Currently, campus safety is following up on insurance policies to cover the loss.

Campus Safety Officer Andrew Pixely launched the investigation. "I've been here for five and a half years. I can't remember anything like this here ever happening in my time here," Pixely said.

On Feb. 5, Andover and Hillside played games with a 45-minute time difference; the teams were assigned side-by-side locker rooms, G and C in the Love Gym complex. The locker room doors were left unlocked and it is likely the culprit entered the locker room and took the computers.

Campus Safety was initially contacted by Andover after the game, and the Deans' Office reached out to Hillside to determine if there were more thefts. Afterward, Campus Safety looked at the camera footage in the lobby area of the gym but was unable to determine a culprit.

"It is really hard to determine who belongs in the facility and who doesn't since everybody goes in with a hockey bag, backpack, or some type of bag. It would be easy enough for someone to load the laptops in a bag and walk off undetected," Director of Campus Safety Services and Risk Management Paul Gravel said.

"So the short answer is, we checked the cameras in the garage and entrance with no luck. Unless we saw someone walking with laptops, we have no way to determine [based on the cameras]."

Campus Safety additionally reached out to schools for laptop device numbers and worked with the Information Technology Department to check if the laptops were activated onto the Exeter network.

Exeter also contacted the Police Department, according to their memorandum of understanding, where Campus Safety is required to report any losses over \$500 to the Exeter Police Department within 48 hours. The Police Department is currently handling the investigation.

The culprits could have been from within the Exeter community or from the outside, as Exeter opens its facilities to the public. "I know that people utilize our gym; they are authorized to be there, but they're there at their own risk. It's really unfortunate and very embarrassing for us, but that comes from having an athletic facility that's pretty much open to the public," Gravel said. "We don't check IDs on the way and we don't have somebody sitting at a desk to make sure everyone that goes in has an affiliation with the Academy."

Campus Safety discussed the potential of locking buildings down and closing them to the public, though the decision would have to be made by the administration. "We would have to change the culture of Exeter. It's not like we're getting these incidents every single day. We've talked about it. It would be a big undertaking to be able to lock all the doors down and have one central point of entry because we have hockey rinks in the back, the pool in the front and Love Gym," Gravel said. "I think it's kind of the risk that we take having an open campus, but the alternative is you don't have an open campus, and that is not what we are about."

Potential consequences for the



Laptops of Andover students were stolen.

Sabrina Kearney/The Exonian

culprit include felony charges. "Culprits could be charged with jail time, three and a half to seven years with around a \$1,500 to \$3,000 fine. They would also have to give back the victims the items that were taken. But we don't know if it was one person or a couple of people working in concert," Gravel said. "We are limited in our camera coverage, so we weren't able to use the cameras as an investigative tool."

Campus Safety does receive reports from students of money, jackets or other items stolen from campus. Usually, these incidents occur in dorms, and items were, at times, usually the dorms, but items were simply misplaced or mistakenly taken.

Moving forward, Campus Safety has asked the Athletics Department to post signage inside visiting locker rooms about securing valuables and asked building monitors to watch out for suspicious behavior. "We're always looking at it: how can we eliminate issues and how can we curb any type of theft like this? But it's really difficult. That's why we always ask the students to see something, say something," Gravel said. "If some-

thing doesn't look right, let us check it out. We'll check it out."

Members of the Andover Squash team did notice their missing laptops until their return to Andover. "I had last used my laptop in my last class period of the day, and I traveled directly from my last class to the team's bus, which was departing right after classes ended at 1 pm, so I found it suspicious that it had suddenly gone missing," Andover lower Brooks Robinson said.

Other Andover students had similar stories. Most brought laptops to Exeter in hopes of getting homework done on the bus rides. As Robinson retraced his footsteps around Andover, he found three of his teammates in the dining hall also searching for missing laptops. Robinson then contacted his coach and the rest of the team. "When I heard this, I went back to my dorm to see if mine was also taken, and it was," Andover lower Shep Hearle said.

"A fifth member of my team had also lost his computer, and all of us had brought our computers into the Exeter locker room," Robinson added. After reporting this to Andover's

Public Safety team, who then contacted Exeter, both schools worked together to discover who stole the laptops.

Players without laptops were unable to request loaner computers until two days after the incident. At first, Andover's Information Technology Department did not allow the squash team members to receive loaners as only those with faulty laptops were eligible under Andover policy. By the afternoon of the next day, Andover lent players loaner laptops. However, going a few days without a laptop meant that the players needed extensions for assignments and homework that required computer access.

Robinson hoped that the problem would be resolved soon. "I would hope Exeter would take accountability for these actions occurring on their campus and compensate myself and my teammates for the expenses it will take us to buy new laptops," he said. "But this seems very unlikely due to the fact that they did not find a suspect and Exeter's athletic facilities are open to the public, so they cannot determine that it was an Exeter student who stole them."

Students Criticize Transparency of StuCo

my platform."

Marshall explained that the decision to offer Co-Presidents arose from different circumstances than the 2017-2018 election, and the Constitution did not contain any information about the proper response to a tie. Lisa and Robinson were given the options of accepting or declining the position.

If they both accepted the presidency, a Co-President system would be established. "If it's not dictated in the constitution, the Executive board and the Elections Committee have to decide," Marshall said.

When told about the tie, Robinson noted that he wanted to privately deliberate with Lisa before coming to a decision. "For me even to take on any leadership role, I wanted to consider what's best for the students, what's best for, in this case, me and Charlotte," he said.

Marshall also explained that the decision to establish Co-Presidents "was not made by the advisers."

Multiple students are aware of the voter turnout—363 votes including abstentions, 360 of which were filed electronically and 3 filed as absentee ballots. Lai, Robinson and Lisa were made aware of the vote count during this Tuesday's Student Council meeting.

As outlined in the Student Council Constitution, only two elections are to take place—a primary and a run-off. After a re-vote due to technical difficulties in the primary election, a fourth election was considered, but it was determined that it did not make sense to re-run the exact same election, according to Marshall. "They

each received the same number of votes," said Marshall. "It would not have made sense to do another run off between the two of them, because this election was already a run off between the two of them."

Transparency

However, many students raised concerns of transparency, noting how they were not aware of StuCo's reasoning for offering a Co-Presidency in response to the tie. "I don't know why we have Co-Presidents and nobody has told me why," lower Shrayes Upadhyayula said. "I don't know if there's anything in the Constitution, or if people just decided that there should be Co-Presidents."

Lower Janessa Vargas was surprised when she first heard of the new Co-President system. "It's not that I have a problem with it, but it's that I didn't vote for Co-Presidents."

Upper Oliver Hess was concerned about the efficiency of Co-Presidents. "My biggest fear is that their competing ideas would inhibit action from happening," he said. "There were some distinct differences that I took into account while voting. Both of them will inevitably contradict each other. I don't think this system would be efficient in passing the legislation that the students are counting on."

While students are allowed to know that the election had a 363 voter turnout, this figure was not announced publicly by StuCo. Students are not allowed to know the distribution of the votes of the results, as per the Constitution. Upadhyayula explained that his concerns would be assuaged by the public release

of results. "The results haven't been released and I don't understand why they haven't," he said. "I would like to know the percentage breakdown of the votes and how many votes have been actually tallied. I'm interested in knowing the voter turnout because it indicates how much of the student body is represented by StuCo."

Hess also felt that the public release of results would establish needed trust between the students and StuCo. "I think with the history of the election committee, considering that there was already a problem this election cycle, I feel that results very much should be public so that we can be sure that this is what happened," Hess said.

"I feel like there could be more confidence in the election committee, but at the moment, that confidence doesn't exist. I don't think that not releasing the results is aiding the confidence and trust of the students," Hess added.

Some students were confused whether or not the results were a dead tie. "I thought there was a margin of error that they considered to be a tie. I wonder if it was actually a dead tie or something they considered to be a tie," lower Tommy Seidel said. "It would be better to be more clear about results so that the students know if it was exactly a dead tie."

Other Discrepancies

Students have directed criticisms regarding transparency against other parts of the election process.

Vice President Candidate and upper Sonny Fiteni noted that his rival, Amofa, was

not disqualified for failing to submit a candidate statement. "I was just surprised that they chose to ignore this old rule. I just tried to run my race in a clean way," he said. "This is not a critique of any candidate, I just think things get a little murky when the rules aren't very clear or consistent year to year. It'd be a lot simpler if everything was set in stone and the rules they put in the email were in the Constitution."

Upper Emmanuel Tran noted similar experiences. After he was disqualified from running for the election, he was not told why he was disqualified. "I find it difficult to trust an election system that I have experienced as untransparent," Tran said.

Marshall explained that the signature requirement was mandated by the Constitution. "The Constitution dictates that candidates must get the certain amount of signatures required and the election committee has been very consistent year over year about enforcing those rules," she said. "That rule is consistently applied."

She also explained that while the signature rule was included in the Constitution, the requirement for a candidate statement was discretionary based on the Election Committee heads. "In different years, that infraction is treated differently. It depends on what the election committee decides that given year. Their primary concern is to make sure the election is fair."

Looking Forward

Despite concerns about the election's operation, the newly elected StuCo Executive Board is excited to begin their tenure.

Amofa will look to enact a key tenet of his platform, the creation of an intrascholastic system of fun athletic competitions between groups of dorms and houses. "It's meant to encourage more community and foster more friendships across dorms," Amofa said.

Co-Secretary Jain will emphasize the values of representation and expanding the body of voters in order to efficiently effect change. She ran on a campaign which outlined plans for "optional club representatives in StuCo and a monthly forum between students, Principal Rawson and administration."

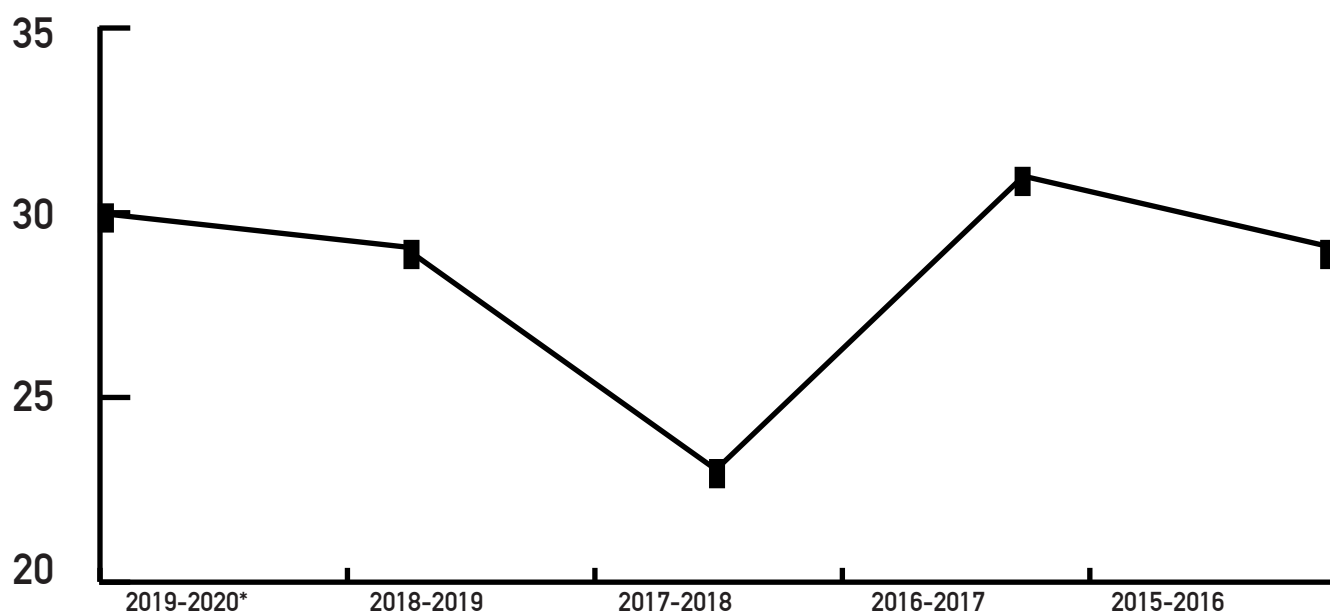
Fellow Co-Secretary Horrigan will seek to make StuCo a more transparent organization. "I really want to make the finances public because it is the people's money. If StuCo does represent the people, then they [the finances] should be public," Horrigan said.

In fact, Horrigan mentioned, a new structure for StuCo should be considered to effectively represent the student voice. "I ran for this position as a member of FS party, a group which proposes seven operators without executive power to lead Student Council and to spur change through protest," he said.

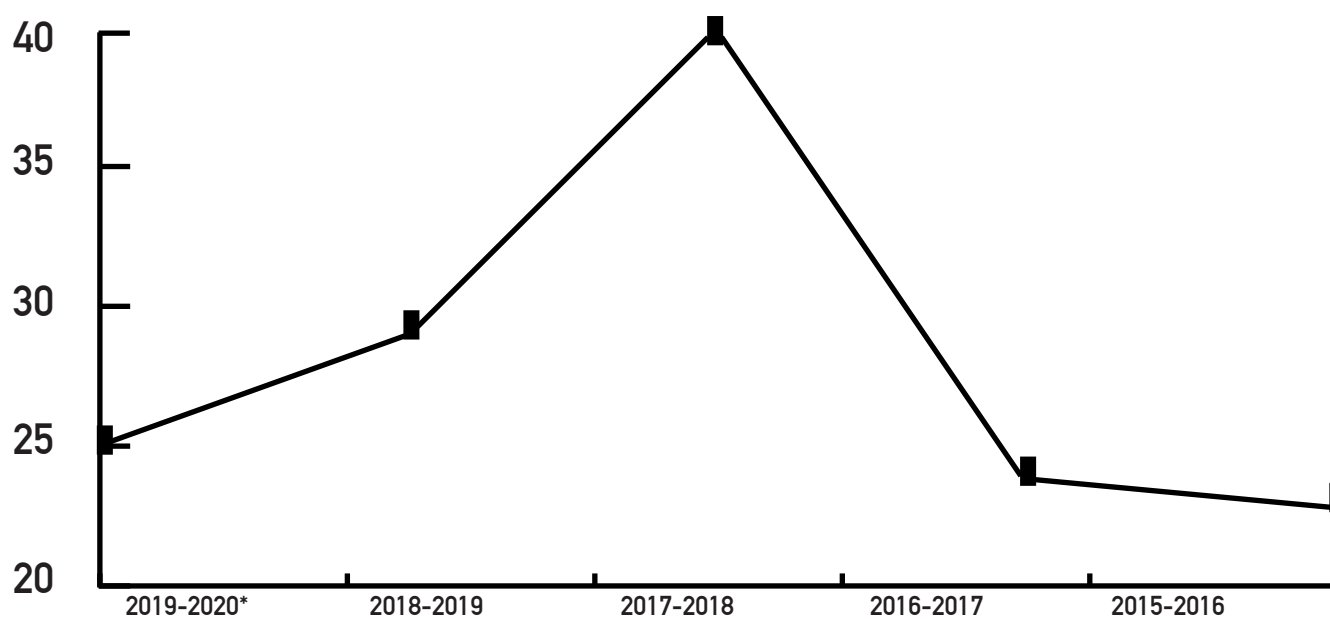
"Clearly, this system of government is not working for us," Horrigan said.

Lisa expressed excitement for the potential of the presidential partnership. "We're each going to be bringing in the work ethic that we would if alone as president. We're not going to be splitting the work, we're going to be bringing twice as much work."

REPORTED THEFTS

Avery Lavine/*The Exonian*

REPORTED PROPERTY DAMAGE



*Note: Totals from 2019-2020 are recorded from September to February, while the rest of the totals are from September to June.

Thefts Increase

vince themselves that they deserve that thing and they take it," he said. "If you don't give them an opportunity, you're not going to be a victim. You must eliminate the opportunity by locking your door." If students have lost their room keys, Gravel emphasized that the Campus Safety office will make a new key free of charge.

Students also believe in this simple but effective procedure. "Keeping things at home instead of bringing stuff to campus is a good idea," Riddick said.

Myers endorsed the door-locking procedure. "I think the only way to prevent dorm stealing is to lock the door," he said. "I know that when I speak with boys at Webster about it, they tell me 'Well, this is a trusting environment.' But, they also tell me that people go through their things when they're not there."

Gravel pointed out the importance of communication when combating issues such as dorm theft. "When you realize you've lost something, backtrack your steps. Get a hold of the dorm head. Report the missing item to Campus Safety," he said. "Our second shift officers are great about going around and finding things, and we'll hold an investigation if the value lost is high or if there seems to be a pattern of theft. We're a high school community. Let's look out for each other."



Preps enjoy themselves outdoors in the first official Winterfest.

Teja Vankireddy/*The Exonian*

Winterfest Replaces Jazz Brunch

By KATIE LEE and AMY LUM

Children ran around the grass as they chased each other gleefully between a giant snow globe and the inflatable maze, their parents watching with cups of hot chocolate in their hands. This joy marks the advent of a new tradition: Winterfest, which replaced Jazz Brunch this year.

Winterfest was organized by Director of Dining Services Melinda Leonard, Director of Student Activities Joanne Lembo and the Assistant of the Principal Leigh Drapeau in order to replace the annual Jazz Brunch tradition that was held in February. For three hours, from noon to three PM, students, faculty, and familiar were able to participate in activities both inside and outside of Wetherell Dining Hall. Activities ranged from arts and crafts hosted by ESSO Kids Create to decorate-your-own cupcakes provided by the Dining hall staff to an outdoor ice skating rink in the corner of the English building

and Wheelwright.

Drapeau noted Leonard's goal was to create better events to replace Jazz Brunch. "Jazz Brunch is normally [only] a dining services event. [Leonard] wanted to change it up this year and make it into something far more inclusive so that the staff, the faculty, families and everybody could enjoy a day together with the students," she said.

Leonard added that she wanted Winterfest to connect people in a way that wasn't just through food. "Instead of the Jazz Brunch of last year, where we created a theme and a menu around that theme, I wanted this event to be more about the activities and the fun factor, and not about the food. I wanted the food to support it, but not be the centerpiece."

Though the food was not the main focus, Third Cook Jeffrey Brown believed it played a big role in Winterfest. "What I enjoyed the most was the collaboration, and the joy that I saw on everyone's faces today. Together as a team in the kitchen, we came

together and tried to produce some good food for everybody," Brown said. "Now, being out [on the quad] and seeing everybody enjoying [the food] has really been what's made things special for me."

Leonard also wanted to make sure people of all ages could have fun. She considered all age groups when deciding what to have at the festival, from very young children to adults. And it paid off. "I was really happy to see participation from everybody, from the faculty and staff and their families, and a lot of the students, it was a great turnout," said Leonard.

According to Lembo, there was a major difficulty when considering this event. "The weather was the wild card," she said. "It could have been a blizzard!"

When planning the event, it was by complete chance it happened to be on a day with 51-degree weather. "Being in New England in February, I was counting on snow," said Leonard.

Lower Alexandria Westray

greatly appreciated having Winterfest on a day with such good weather. "Winter is already a pretty sad term, and I know people suffer from different levels of seasonal affective disorder. To have an event like this for a few hours on the quad, on one of the warmer days of winter, really brightens spirits and helps lessen the pressure and anxiety of students as finals come up."

Lower Allison Kim expressed her gratitude for those who planned and helped make this event possible. "It's a culmination of a lot of hard work from everyone, and it really shows," Kim said. "I also really liked the food; they clearly spent a long time making everything, and they got so many supplies too [for the arts and crafts]. I'm really surprised they managed to pull this off."

Drapeau noted for next year, they would plan the timing of the festival to make sure everyone can come to the event. The three-hour event fell in between the showing of this year's winter musical "The Secret Garden," so

those who worked on the play had to come early and did not get much time to enjoy the event.

With some of these problems in mind, Leonard is still thinking on how to improve the event for next year. "I think I need to reflect a little bit more, just enjoy today and let it sink in, but I have some thoughts...I want to hear the feedback from the community, and what they have to say, because that would pretty much direct us as to what changes or modifications we want to make next year."

Lower Kiese Nanor, for example, thought that maybe Jazz Brunch and the Winterfest were on two different ends of the spectrum of inclusivity. "Jazz Brunch was something that all of Exeter could participate in, but for this one I felt like it was more catered towards faculty children."

Leonard believed that with continued dialogue with students, staff and faculty alike, Winterfest will become "a successful precedent" to fun activities at the Academy.

Mock Trial Sweeps States

By MOKSHA AKIL, OTTO DO and WILL DURAWA

In a mock courtroom at the University of New Hampshire Law School, senior Sam Farnsworth readied himself to deliver his opening statement. “If it’s you, I’m going to kill you,” he said, reciting a line from this year’s New Hampshire Mock Trial state case. With that, a heated trial between the Academy’s A and C Teams began. At the end of the trial, a panel of five jury members crowned A Team the state champions.

The Academy’s three Mock Trial teams conquered the New Hampshire State Tournament, receiving first, second and third place. A Team and C Team reached the finals, while B Team reached the semi-finals, losing against C. The tournament took place over three days, with round-robin style matches between eighteen schools from Feb. 8 to 9 and a finals match on Feb. 11.

During the tournament, uppers Ursie Wise and Felix Yeung were recognized as the top witnesses in the state, winning the title of Outstanding Witness. Additionally, Seniors Farnsworth and Audrey Vanderslice and upper Matthew Chen won Outstanding Attorney awards, honoring them as state’s best lawyers.

With the state championship under their belts, A Team will travel to Evansville, Indiana to compete in Mock Trial Nationals.

On Feb. 9, B Team took on C in what adviser Lori Dubois called a “remarkable trial.” C Team managed to gain the upper hand, winning by five points and earning them a spot in the final round against A Team. As Exeter’s teams are organized by experience, C Team’s victory took all by surprise.

“This was the first time in [Exeter] history this has happened,”

Dubois said. “This was an exceptionally extraordinary year.”

Senior Thomas Wang, the leader of C Team, praised the team’s witnesses. “The gap between teams grew when C Team’s witnesses took the podium. Our witnesses prepared thoroughly, so they were able to handle prosecutions from B Team with calm and composure,” he said. “We won when the witnesses took the stage.”

Unlike many trials, Vankireddy noted the excitement of the semi-final trial. In a cross examination, Wang attempted to impeach lower witness Daniel Chen. D. Chen held strong to his argument, earning a perfect score of “10”.

According to Vankireddy, Wang asked D. Chen to read a part of his affidavit, so D. Chen began reading his three page document from top to bottom in an attempt to take up Wang’s time. “They had everyone in the courtroom laughing,” Vankireddy said. Though D. Chen was an expert witness, whose performances are typically dry, “Daniel Chen’s character was particularly interesting and brought some excitement to the room.”

Farnsworth agreed with Vankireddy’s characterization of the cross examination. “Daniel absolutely demolished Thomas. It was humiliating. Truly unexpected talent—a once in a lifetime performance,” he said. “Maybe he should be co-head.”

In addition, the familiarity between the two teams allowed for some inside humor. D. Chen began his testimony by saying, “I’ve always wanted to be a lawyer.” As D. Chen competed as a lawyer last season, this remark drew laughs from the courtroom.

After C Team’s victory against B, C went on to challenge Exeter’s A Team. Though A Team emerged victorious, C Team gave A Team a good fight.

Wang commended prep Tucker Gibbs’ evasion of lawyer Vanderslice’s questioning. “I want to applaud Tucker for what he’s accomplished. Audrey Vanderslice is a seasoned professional when it comes to Mock Trial,” he said. “When Audrey challenged Tucker, he stood his ground and remained calm. His performance was definitely a highlight.”

Senior and Mock Trial co-head Janalie Cobb had similar praise for C Team. “C Team performed extremely well and served as great competition throughout the trial. It was, without a doubt, impressive.”

In the end, the scores between the teams did not differ by a significant margin. “Mock Trial has more than one judge, and each judge scores individually. Together, the judges’ individual scores sum to a final score,” lower and C Team witness Teja Vankireddy said. “It doesn’t really matter whether you argue the case better—every time someone speaks, the judges score based on a simple set of criteria. Despite A Team’s victory, both teams spoke with quality and poise.”

Dubois expressed her pride for Exeter’s successes, specifically a personal sacrifice that Wang made. “Thomas Wang made a personal decision at the beginning of the school year to step back from the opportunity of being on the A Team to coach the C Team. This was a very admirable thing for him to do,” she said. “As an adviser, it was amazing to watch, and it humbled me to know that most of the credit for how the C team performed throughout the year was due to the leadership of Thomas Wang... Thomas put his heart and soul into working with these new students, teaching them the ropes of Mock Trial and how to be successful not only this year, but in their future years here.”



The Mock Trial co-heads win big.

Teja Vankireddy/The Exonian

Wang believed that leading C Team was the best way to give back to the group. “I want to inspire future Exonians who participate in Mock Trial and develop a sense of community,” he said. “Fostering that sense of community is very worthwhile and fulfilling.”

Wang is grateful for the community Mock Trial has given him and seeks to foster the same community within newer members. “Because of the sheer amount of hours we spend together, Mock Trial is known for being very culty,” he said. “To a certain degree, this is true. Audrey Vanderslice, Sam Farnsworth and Janalie Cobb are my closest friends.”

Lower Michelle Park explained the importance of teamwork in the preparation process. “Mock Trial is more than an individual effort—it’s the combined

effort of the entire team,” she said.

However, Mock Trial entails more than long hours of work. “Whenever we meet, we order food and goof around for a bit, but we get the job done. I always look forward to going to a Mock Trial meeting just because of how much I love the people that I’m working with to prepare for tournaments,” Park added.

Cobb reflected on the significance of Exeter’s victory and noted her gratitude for seeing such success before she graduated. “The highlight is most definitely having our teams place first, second and third with five individual awards,” she said. “We absolutely swept the tournament this year, and it was wonderful for this season with this number of awards to cap off my Exeter Mock Trial career.”

COVID-19 Forces Exonians to Change Plans

“I’m allowed to visit the U.S.,” Angela Dong P’23 said. “It’s a very inconvenient process for my daughter and me to see each other, so I have given up the idea of seeing my daughter this break.”

Many students have sought accommodation from day student friends as well as host families. In an email sent Tuesday night, Moriarty said, “We have invited day student families to consider hosting Academy students over break.”

In addition, students have voiced their worries for family and friends currently living in China. “I am a little worried about my parents,” upper Tony Xiao said. “The news about the increasing number of people being diagnosed with coronavirus is really scary.”

Despite being separated from their parents over the two-week break, students are taking on this outbreak with high spirits and a positive mindset. “I’m sad that I won’t be able to go home, but staying here with friends from Exeter also sounds like a great time,” prep Sophia Zhang, Wang’s daughter, said. “I’d say that we all are disappointed that my parents and I won’t get to reunite over break, but my parents definitely believe that I’m in good hands.”

The fallout from coronavirus has also affected the PEA spring break trips to Italy, where coronavirus cases have risen exponentially. Outside of Asia, Italy has the highest incidence of coronavirus cases. Two trips, one with the Classics Department and the other with eight student instrumentalists and the chamber group Gli Scalatori, have been canceled.

“The areas of Lombardy and the Veneto are seriously impacted at the moment by the outbreak of COVID-19, the third-largest outbreak worldwide,” Director of Global

Initiatives Eimer Page said. “These are the areas our music groups were to visit. It would not be prudent to take students there, and local reports say that school groups are being advised not to travel to those areas.”

Moriarty also said that the Classics trip was likely canceled due to the fact that three out of the five teachers were traveling to Italy, and the Academy feared they would not be able to return campus afterward.

Many students are disappointed at the cancellation of the trips but understand the Academy’s reasoning. “Even if we were to go to Italy, all the venues would be closed. Saint Mark’s [Basilica] would be closed,” senior and Gli Scalatori member Beez Dentzer said. “It would be just us sitting around in our hotel room.”

Music Department Chair Kristofer Johnson, who participated in the decision-making, noted that disappointment was unavoidable. “Both students and adults were disappointed at the lost opportunity but seemingly in support of the decision to prioritize health and well-being,” he said. “[Gli Scalatori] and the instrumental ensemble will present a concert on Thursday, Mar. 5 at 7 pm in the Bowld. We are discussing if we might plan a short run-out concert in the spring trimester.”

Senior and Gli Scalatori member Orion Bloomfield agreed. “I’m upset—I thought the Italy trip would be the pinnacle of my Exeter singing career. But I think [the cancellation was] completely reasonable based on the situation in Italy. What if we went to Italy and all the flights back were canceled because of coronavirus, and we couldn’t return back?” Bloomfield said. “There was no way today that we could go to Italy.”



Both school trips to Italy were canceled in light of the COVID-19 epidemic.

Otto Do/The Exonian

Smith has worked to prepare travel letters for students. “In partnership with the Deans’ Office, I am collaborating on travel letters which students can carry with them during domestic and international travel,” Smith said. “These letters will confirm student health and attendance for the last several months to travel administration.”

Smith is also coordinating individually with international students and their families to make arrangements for those whose plans are affected by the coronavirus outbreak. “As the International Student Coordinator, I am working on ensuring that all international students, and especially those from mainland China, have a safe and secure plan for the upcoming spring break,” Smith said. “This includes but is not

limited to providing ideas about non-Academy-affiliated spring break programs being offered and possibly finding host families for some students.”

The Academy is individually reaching out to students about their travel plans as the virus spreads. “Now, I can reach out to the students and ask, have your plans changed or have you talked to your family and do you need any help from the school?” Moriarty said.

Moriarty noted that while PEA itself is not prohibiting any students from returning to an area in which coronavirus is present, governments themselves are performing and will perform quarantine measures themselves as they see fit.

Due to travel restrictions and the chances of being quarantined upon arrival back to

the country, many parents and students have expressed concerns about changes to their travel arrangements. “In the early stages of the outbreak, we didn’t pay too much attention to travel plans as we thought our daughter could come back, but as things got more and more serious, we began to worry,” Melody Wang P’23 said. “The school responded instantly and Dean Moriarty and Mrs. Smith both gave us options for arrangements.”

To combat the travel reinforcements, parents have the option to fly out of China before coming into the U.S. However, the travel has proved to be too lengthy for a two-week break. “Since I work and live in Shenzhen, China now, I have to go to Singapore first and stay there for two weeks before

Life

» **DANCE COMPANY**
Winter Dance Company will put on its show, *Technology: A Winter Dance Concert*, this weekend.

» **SENIOR MEDITATION**
Senior Giovana Romero will read her senior meditation next Wednesday, Mar. 4.

» **MUSIC CONCERTS**
The Music Department will stage concerts on Thursday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday in the Bowl.

Faculty of the Week: Heather Taylor



Architect Heather Taylor looks to the future.

Ethan-Judd Barthelemy/*The Exonian*

By TUCKER GIBBS

Though students may not know Heather Taylor directly, as Campus Planner and Architect, she has impacted every student at the Academy. Along with her team in Facilities Management, she betters life for students, faculty and staff who live and work on the Phillips Exeter Academy campus.

Taylor's primary duty is to plan renovations at the Academy, for which she works with Director of Facilities Management Mark Leighton. "I will... get to work in hiring architects, out of house," she said. Each selection process includes other members of the PEA community as appropriate for the specific project.

"I work with our internal team and coordinate with the various consultants in the planning and design process of these projects."

Currently, Taylor is intimately involved with the Campus Master Plan, serving on the Steering Committee and coordinating with the Master Plan Team from consulting firm Byer Blinder Bell. "Last fall, we held two open houses for the whole Academy Community: students, faculty and staff—one in Elm Street Dining Hall and another for the whole day in Phelps Commons. The team gathered a lot of information, which has been very helpful in the master planning process," Taylor said. "Just this week, we have [rolled out] an online student survey to gather

more specific information about the Academy Center and the Class of 1945 Library. Our goal is to present a draft Campus Master Plan to the trustees in May of this year."

Prior to her arrival at the Academy, Taylor spent most of her career working for architecture firms, planning and designing for colleges, universities and schools like Phillips Exeter. "I [have] wanted to be an architect since I was very young. I started with Legos, but it was a trip to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello when I was eight years old that sparked my interest," she said. "Through good design we can solve problems and improve lives."

"One of the great things about my role at Phillips Exeter is that I

can take everything I have learned... as an architect and planner and apply that knowledge in a new way to be a steward of the campus," she added.

As with other departments, Taylor and her colleagues in Facilities Management collaborate with Academy's peer schools, "We work with peers at other institutions to share best practices and understand how they address similar challenges with their facilities," she said.

In addition to her work as Campus Planner and Architect, Taylor advises the Architecture Club. "Last year, two seniors started an Architecture Club. But they went on a term abroad, so it kind of just stopped," Architecture Club co-head Jasmine Xi said. "[T]his year, [I] and another person wanted to start [Architecture Club] again, so we emailed [Taylor]."

Through her work as club adviser, Taylor gives students a dose of inspiration. "It is great to share my passion for architecture with students who have some interest or appreciation for architecture and our campus. I want to share what I can about what a career in architecture or associated careers might look like," she said. "I also am excited to have a group of students from whom we can gather additional input for the master plan or other projects we are working on."

"For the Architecture Club, she's very excited about it, as we were, and she had a lot of enthusiasm," Xi said. "I think having someone like her who has experience with architecture, to be able to like advise the club, is something that is really valuable, and you don't find that a lot."

Though her work with Facilities Management keeps her out of the classroom, she engages with stu-

dents by gathering feedback. This year, she helped plan the open house in the fall and worked with Student Council (StuCo) to elevate the student voice. "I have had a lot of fun working with this board. They came to us first with questions on how they might use specific funds," Taylor said. "At first, they were hoping they could spend the appropriated funds on something physical for the campus, that would have a lasting impact. Working with Institutional Advancement, we learned the funds were established not for a physical addition to the campus, but for programming to enhance the student experience on campus and to have fun."

"[Taylor] advises us on the dorm whiteboards project as well as helping us as we're trying to change the art in the [the Academy Center], and especially in Grill," StuCo President and senior Ayush Noori said. "[S]he's worked closely with the Executive Board to help communicate the student [body's] desires to [the] Student Council."

Taylor's love for architecture spills over into a love for Exeter's campus. She concluded that she most likes "any view that I get [with] the Academy Building tower against the sky. I also love the famous marble steps in the Academy Building. They are very special and hold stories of the countless students who have been here before us," Taylor said. "I very much love the outdoor campus space. I love the vistas and the little moments where you see one building after another and the spaces between the buildings. It is all the outdoor spaces that knit the buildings together and make Phillips Exeter the special campus that it is."

The Secret Garden: A Review

By SHEALA IACOBUCCI

Parents, teachers and students packed into Goel Theater on Friday night. Excited chatter filled the room, the audience buzzing with anticipation. The lights dimmed, and a spotlight illuminated the silhouette of senior Paula Perez-Glassner, playing Lily, who opened the show with a transfixing song.

The set, from the iron-railed bed in the first scene to Lily's garden, decked in fabric flowers, contributed to the classic atmosphere of the show. In each scene, the set complemented the tone of the dialogue and aided audience members' understanding of the plot.

Projections were a large part of the set design; black and white images of gardens or houses provided the crowd with a deeper sense of setting. The projection set up an especially effective backdrop during a heartfelt rendition of *How Could I Know* by Perez-Glassner and upper Oliver Hess: the Eiffel Tower. When the screen didn't show images, lighting still remained a powerful element of the play, casting a spotlight to show the shadow of the characters.

In addition to the set, the costumes also helped to give the audience a sense of each character's personality and reflected the era in which the play is set. "They were absolutely gorgeous," upper Julia Dobbins, who played Rose Lennox, said. "[The costumes] helped us all be transported back in time with our characters."

Actors sported a unique outfit, adorned with details only visible to an attentive eye. But few costumes were as eye-catching as that of Perez-Glassner's. Her dress was made of white fabric, matching that of the rest of the "dreamers," an ensemble from Mary's past who came out to enact different memories. However, Perez-Glassner's dress was embroidered with colorful flow-



Stunning stage design and masterful performances made *The Secret Garden* an incredible success.

Thomas Wang/*The Exonian*

ers, rather than the golden fabric sewn into those of the "dreamers." These flowers matched the ones on the wall of the secret garden; this detail gave the character the extra sense of gravity and attention she deserved.

Even more astounding than the costumes of the characters were the people who played them. Each actor brought a strong voice and talent that complemented their fellow cast members'. Upper Iona Kruger, who played Martha, delivered an especially strong performance.

Kruger's sweet voice conveyed a sense of clarity and genuineness. Another captivating singer was Hess, who played Archibald Craven, a cantankerous and misunderstood man. Hess effectively captured the sadness of his character with his smooth and melodious voice.

The performers were equally as talented in their acting as they were in their singing.

Director Rob Richards let actors take their own creative license when portraying their characters, prep Michelle Ma-

honey noted. Mahoney played Colin Craven, an isolated and sickly boy. "[Richards] always has a saying: 'Go where the spirit moves you,'" Mahoney said.

This process evidently drew out successful, compelling performances from the students. The different character interpretations in the play shined through in a very positive light. Charlie Knight, playing gardener Ben Weatherstaff, delivered sage pieces of advice disguised as deadpan jokes. Mahoney inspired the audience with her

monologues as her character Colin begins to gain a sense of power. Upper Hannah Lee's dramatic fits, befitting the personality of outspoken lead character Mary Lennox, garnered applause mid-scene.

The Theater Department certainly proved its worth this year, offering the Academy a remarkable performance. *The Secret Garden* allowed audiences to leave campus—if only for a short two hours—to be enraptured by the cast and amazing visual effects.

A Celebration of Black Heritage

By OTTO DO and DANIEL CUI

The aroma of freshly-baked biscuits and fried chicken filled Wetherell as students gathered for the Black Heritage Dinner on Feb. 19. Bonding over the array of dishes prepared by chef and activist Kurt Evans, attendees embraced this unique opportunity to indulge in soul food and good company.

This dinner marked Evans' second trip to Exeter. Evans previously travelled to the Academy for MLK Day's Half-and-Half workshop. With 12 years of professional cooking experience, Evans has used his culinary skills to rally support for political matters, such as ending mass incarceration. At the workshop, Evans outlined the importance of celebrating black heritage and recognizing its impact through cuisine.

"American culture is rooted in blackness—from slavery until the present, the culture of black America is everywhere," he said.

He originally intended to cook on campus for MLK Day, but logistics made this plan difficult. When asked to return for this event, he accepted immediately. "I saw that Exeter was moving towards diversity. I thought coming back could add

to this movement, especially during Black History Month," he said. "I was excited to share my traditional recipes because I can represent the past and future of where black heritage and black cuisine is going."

At Wednesday's dinner, through his spread, Evans highlighted Southern cuisine traditionally enjoyed in black communities, including cornbread, biscuits, fried chicken, bean pie and pound cake.

When creating the menu, Evans made sure that there was intention behind his selections, expounding upon the symbolism of different dishes in the community. "If you ever grew up in a black American household, you had to eat black eyed peas, collard greens and fried chicken for New Year's. Peas symbolize prosperity, and collard greens [represent] wealth."

Evans extended attention to detail to his selection of beverages for the event. The vibrant red color of the hibiscus fruit punch, he explained, represents perseverance and strength in many African cultures. "The color was also used to celebrate Juneteenth, an event where slaves were freed in Texas. It actually translates to this time: block parties, cookouts, the same type of vibe," he said.

Director of Dining Services



Students wait in line for fried chicken, collard greens and bean pie.

Maegan Paul/The Exonian

Melissa Leonard was thrilled by the dinner's success. "I thought that the organization of the dining was very enjoyable. Just connecting and learning [Evans'] story and why he chose the menu items he did—what he's bringing to the table to share with all of you. We knew it would be good," she said. "The event was even more impactful because he could come during Black History Month."

Students expressed their excitement about Evans' return to campus, citing their appreciation for his cooking and his mission. "I loved Evan's message during the Half-and-Half, so, when I saw that he was going to be in-

involved in this event, I got super excited," upper JaQ Lai said. "All of the food was mind-boggling. The craziest food to me was the 7 Up pound cake."

For black students, the dinner was especially meaningful. Upper and MLK Committee member Dillon Mims expanded on its personal importance. "I really enjoyed this event because it offered me a chance to eat my culture's food, which isn't very common at Exeter. I had a great time with my POC friends and my non-POC friends. It was a very good recognition by the administration of Black History Month as it's often left unrecognized," he said.

To lower Siona Jain, the event constituted a necessary acknowledgment and celebration of black history by the school. "This is one of the only events on campus that has been put on for Black History Month. The only group on campus that acknowledges black history is OMA, so I'm glad that there's change," Jain said.

"Being a black person in black history month, these foods gave me a sense of home. I grew up with a lot of these foods," lower Catherine Uwakwe said at the end of the night. "I'm leaving this event with a full stomach and a refreshed mind. I have a new sense of calm."

Fem Club Fundraiser Debuts



Student leaders model for Fem Club.

Thomas Wang/The Exonian

By KAYLEE CHEN and TINALI

"I don't associate with simply feminism. I associate with intersectional feminism: Feminism that acknowledges its own fraught history of excluding, whitewashing and co-opting."

For senior Sam Weil and many others, the new FEMINIST sweatshirt design—the classic FEMINIST tagline on the front, a venus and raised fist on the back with "INTERSECTIONAL" emblazoned in bold print—represents their vision of what feminism should be.

Upper Maegan Paul and seniors Aiwen Desai, Lilly Pinciario and Weil—co-heads of Exeter's Feminist Union—launched the

design last Monday to kick off their fundraiser for Women for Women International, an international nonprofit that provides women in regions of conflict with local support networks, financial resources and vocational training. The fundraiser, established in partnership with the Exeter Student Service Organization (ESSO), has raised over \$2,630 to date.

Organizers spread the word through emails from Director of Service and Learning Elizabeth Reyes and various Instagram campaigns, including a recent giveaway that prompted more than a hundred supporters, on and off campus, to post spirited snapshots and captions in hopes of winning a free sweatshirt.

To drum up support and anticipation for the fundraiser, the Fem Club co-heads solicited student leaders to model in their sweatshirts and post on various social media platforms prior to the launch date.

Senior Anjali Gupta, one of the fundraiser's models, emphasized the significance of the campaign and affirmed the urgency of its message. "I hope the sweatshirts accomplish several objectives. First, to show that feminism is not something rare or strange, but something as normal as everyday clothing... that the struggles of women are issues we cannot forget and must be aware of in our everyday activities."

"I love the message of the revamped sweatshirts with the new design on the back: that feminism is intersectional," Gupta added. "This message is not just supported by the new design, but simply through having all sorts of people wear the sweatshirts."

The term "intersectionality" was first coined by law professor and American civil rights advocate Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989. On the Columbia Law School page, Crenshaw defines intersectionality as "a lens through which you can see where power comes and collides, where it interlocks and intersects. It's not simply that there's a race problem here, a gender problem here, and a class or LGBTQ problem there. Many times that framework erases what happens to people who are subject to all of these things."

For the Fem Club co-heads, the term represents a more nuanced, sensitive understanding of

oppression. "We made conscious efforts to imbue the campaign with intersectional messaging," Weil said, "from redesigning the sweatshirt, to crafting a statement on the fundraiser website, to assembling a diverse group of student models."

Some curiosity has arisen from Fem Club's decision to incorporate what has been traditionally known as the black power fist on the back of the sweatshirt. "In addition to being a nod to the black power movement and the civil rights movement, [the raised fist] has also always been used as a symbol of solidarity and unity. We felt that really communicated what we wanted to show through the sweatshirt," Desai said.

Fem Club is primarily a discussion group that meets each Wednesday to discuss articles, videos and podcasts concerning issues of Exeter's culture around politics and gender. In previous years, the club sold an older edition of the sweatshirt without the back design and sent a small profit to Planned Parenthood. After a year's hiatus, however, the new co-heads decided it was time for a change.

"The idea of feminism is usually associated with older feminist movements like the suffrage movement, and they were traditionally white-only movements. We wanted to emphasize the importance of including everyone in the idea of feminism," Pinciario said.

Senior Sam Farnsworth was one of the students that was asked to model the sweatshirts. "I think that clothing is an easily accessible medium that gets the message out visibly and effectively for all to see. It's also fashionable and people can get into the message without necessarily throwing

themselves into political activity."

"I loved the new design on the back of the sweatshirts because it promotes this idea of intersectionality and ally-ship," upper Audrey Yin, who also modeled for the fundraiser, said. "It's super important for people to realize that being a feminist isn't just for women, and that it doesn't have to be a scary off-putting title."

Out of the eight applications for winter term ESSO fundraisers, according to Reyes, the Fem Club fundraiser stood out most. "They chose this one because it was organized. It had a mission and vision. It had a clear plan. It was very doable to raise money through the CustomInk fundraiser line."

Reyes lauded the fundraiser's success. "The last time I checked Wednesday afternoon, they had raised over \$2,600. That's above and beyond the cost of the sweatshirts. It's amazing what they did to spread the word and get people to purchase."

As the fundraiser deadline of Mar. 3 approaches, the co-heads hope their message continues to spread. "The main point was to support Women for Women and actually make some tangible change, because oftentimes on this campus, we can be very enveloped in the Exeter bubble and not think about the fact we attend an incredibly privileged institution with so many opportunities and have ways to help other people, but we neglect them," Weil said. "We welcome fruitful conversation and debate around how you brand new movements and how you try to forward your movement to make a tangible impact with the money that you raise while also communicating its message."

Trendwatch

By THOMAS SEDIEL

This week in the fashion world, Prada appointed Raf Simons as Co-Creative Director. Simons will work alongside Miuccia Prada, the granddaughter of founder Mario Prada. In a public statement, the brand said the move "opens a new dialogue between designers widely acknowledged as two of the most important and influential of today" and is "a new approach to the very definition of creative direction for a fashion brand."

The partners' first collaborative collection, Spring Summer

2021, will debut in Milan this september. Since 2015, Simons had served as Chief Creative officer of Calvin Klein, and many wondered where the Belgian designer would land after amicably leaving the brand in 2018. Aside from his own label, which has been functioning since 1995, Simons has also been Creative Director for Jil Sander and Christian Dior in the past. It will be interesting to see what new perspectives Simons' elevated streetwear style brings to the Italian fashion house.

In other news, Sean Wotherspoon continues to tease his upcoming Adidas sneaker collab-

oration. This will be the third sneaker brand the American artist has worked with. He previously collaborated with Japanese brand Atmos on a colorful Asics Gel Lyte III and Nike for the iconic Airmax 97 colorway. Although no pictures have been released, the new Adidas shoe, named SUPEREARTH, boasts 100 percent recycled laces, cork insoles, a partially recycled rubber sole and more.

Aimé Leon Dore also just announced another collaboration with New Balance. The collaboration follows last year's 990v5 and 997 collaborations, and focuses on the more obscure New Balance 827 sneaker. Very few details have been provided so far, but pictures on the New York brand's Instagram show a cream colored base, muted blue, green and red accents and a gum sole.



Prada Creative Director Raf Simons.

businessoffashion.com

Senior of the Week: Matteo Calabresi

By LINA HUANG

Pasta. Community. Education. Senior Matteo Calabresi's time at Exeter can be described by these three words: his casual made-from-scratch pasta dinners, his generosity in helping others and his dedication to getting the most out of his education.

Calabresi, a two-year senior, remembers his initial exposure to the Academy through Exeter Summer, where he was introduced to Harkness for the first time. Harkness contrasted greatly with the Italian frontal system, in which the teacher primarily lectures the same class of 26 students for five years.

"Harkness is very empowering for students and you really get to know the people that are around you. You can appreciate how smart they are and how diverse the student body is here," he said. "One of the greatest things about being able to interact during classrooms is that you can take advantage of the incredible differences that are on display."

Upon his arrival, Calabresi had to adjust not only to a new system of learning but also to using English at school. "When I first began writing papers, it took me two times as long as anyone else because I had to search words that nobody else would have to search," he said. "If I put the work necessary into the assignment, though, I found that I would improve from the beginning."

Calabresi recalled that in his first few weeks, his unfamiliarity with the language resulted in some mistakes. "I was trying to talk about someone's skin as a soft skin and instead I said morbid skin, which was very bad for an English essay. My teacher did put a question mark," he said.

Senior Sophia Cho was in the same English class as Calabresi this fall and observed the work Calabresi invested to improve. "Matteo has adjusted wonderfully. We talk about how English was a struggle for him at the beginning of his Exeter career, but his English is really perfect now. It's a testament to how hard he works and how earnest he is in learning," she said.

Another significant adjustment Calabresi has made

involves the different social norms and values in America and Italy. "Here, there's a lot of talk about getting into college or having the highest GPA. But in Italy, we're focusing more on day-to-day life: family, sports and human interactions," he said. "Italian culture values personal interactions a lot, whereas the American system is more helping each other, but in a way that can be beneficial to everyone individually. I've learned to deal with American culture in a way that makes me feel like I belong to it in some sense."

Senior Marina Ruiz de Lobera first met Calabresi when he reached out to her on Instagram. Bonding over their shared experience of being international students from Europe, they have lunch and dinner together every day. "And our rule, though it's an unwritten rule, is we don't use our phones. We don't do any work. No books on the table and we stay quite a bit of time after dinner also talking, which is a very European thing. You talk more than you eat," Ruiz de Lobera said.

Calabresi's interest in cooking started upon coming to Exeter. "Really, I wasn't [good at it], but step by step, phone call by phone call with my mom or with my grandma, I've learned to cook pasta and also bake cakes," he said. "The beauty of being able to share moments with your friends around a good dish of pasta is that it helps build communities and friendships. I can say this because that's what Italian culture is about: we do not work as much as people work here, but people are very good at sitting at the table for however many hours and discovering every detail about a person's life."

Calabresi often invites others to eat the food he cooks, which he makes from scratch. "I'm against buying tomato sauce," he said. "I buy the tomatoes and then the garlic, and I buy olive oil. The way you do it is you just put the oil on the bed and then the tomatoes inside with garlic after you fry the garlic in the oil. And after a while, you mix the sauce."

Fellow Front Street residents, including upper Joe Laufer, regularly appreciate Calabresi's cooking. "He's

very specific about what kind of pasta to buy and everything in true Italian fashion. He's very sort of like 'This was my grandmother's way, and I'm going to stick with it,'" Laufer said.

Through cooking, Calabresi has also explored more of his own culture. "So what I like to say is that a lot of stereotypes about Italian culture are true: people speaking loudly and people speaking with that weird inflection that inflates some words at some points. I guess those things are true, and I guess another thing that's true is the cooking culture," he said. "It's huge in Italy, and I think that I was born and raised with the idea of sharing moments with people. I think that one of the greatest ways to share each moment with people is you sitting at a table with the people you love and enjoying additional pasta—or whatever it is you're eating with them. At least [in] my mind, it brings me back home."

Calabresi has also supported friends through his cooking. "I remember last year, a friend of mine was really upset about something, so I made this cake for her. I call it coconut and yogurt on top, and that's pretty much what it is," he said. "It's like cornbread, but it's really not cornbread. It doesn't taste like cornbread. I guess it might look like it on the outside and then you put Nutella on top and then coconut powder."

Senior Grace Ferguson also appreciated Calabresi's strong commitment to his culture. "He keeps [his Italian roots] at the forefront of his life. We all spend a lot of time cooking together. He has taught us how to make some classic Italian cuisine and is an amazing cook," she said. "He also has a great sense of humor and unique personality overall, as is exhibited by his iconic raccoon library slippers."

Ferguson also admires Calabresi's kindness and care for others. "When he truly cares about you, he will let you know and take the time to support you and show up for you. He is a very loyal and authentic person," she said. "He also is happy to answer my endless questions about Italian words and pronunciation and does his best to help me with my terrible Italian."

Calabresi is a Student Listener and dorm representative for Front Street House, where he draws on his own experiences to assist others. "I want to help people more on the individual level, and seeing how I can help students improve on their personal issues is just as beneficial for me as it is for them when I see that I can help a community as a whole," he said.

"One of the greatest supports that I could ever hope to find was given to me by a Student Listener friend whose name was Raj [Das '19]. He was probably the nicest person I've ever met and also an incredibly supportive friend, someone that I could always reach out to for any type of help. I found that interacting with him was so helpful that at some point, I felt like I needed to do that too."

Laufer commended Calabresi's proactive focus on others. "Even if people don't ask Matteo specifically, he'll offer to read people's essays for class. If they ask him, he's very, very receptive and would normally do it right away. He's a very giving person," he said.

Ruiz de Lobera also appreciated Calabresi's kindness, especially in reaching out to her before Exeter started. "He's always talking, and he's always hugging, and he's always making jokes, and if you're in a conversation with him, he's probably the focus of attention. But it's not because it's about him; it's because he wants to make everyone else comfortable," she said. "He just lives for other people."

Senior Dacha Thurber recalled a memorable interaction he had with Calabresi. "At the time, I had also just finished a big performance of La Bohème, which is sung in Italian. I remembered bits and pieces of the libretto phonetically, and we had a good laugh over my mispronunciations," he said. "There are few people who are as principled and eloquent as Matteo. He graciously stands by what he believes in in all aspects of his life while keeping his ears and mind open and aware."

Calabresi has embraced Spanish at Exeter, allowing him to interact with individuals from different cultures. "One of the most beautiful

things that I've done in my life is interacting with people from different places and discovering about their identity and the culture that shaped it," he said. "My desire to speak multiple languages comes from the idea of interacting with different people and discovering things about their cultures."

Modern Languages Instructor Paolo Reichlin taught Calabresi for two terms in a row, vividly recalling a skit Calabresi made. "He based his character on the miserly Juan from Olancho but gave it a modern touch... Not only was the skit hysterical, it was grammatically flawless and beautifully written," he said. "Matteo is incredibly humble, understated and rather than intimidate the underclassmen in Spanish, he draws them into the discussion and makes them feel their voices are valued."

Calabresi has loved taking difficult courses that expose him to different cultures, including U.S. History, where he especially valued being able to read primary texts. "Being able to compare my opinions about U.S. History with the ideas of people from different parts of the world and of the country is beautiful," he said. "I've had classes with people that have completely different ideas about constitutional amendments, for example, and in every single topic of U.S. History, I found different opinions, different ideas. And because of those, I found my academic experience most enriching."

In the future, Calabresi is unsure of what he will pursue, but he hopes to return to his home country. "I want to spend the last days of my life or the last years of my life in Italy because that's where I want to be old," he said. "The culture there feels more like home."

However, in the short term, Calabresi will continue with the American education system at the University of Chicago next year. "I know that one of the beautiful things about the American education... is that it always brings you toward what you love the most," he said.

"That could be biology, philosophy, academic passion or your personal goals—so saving people or helping the world become a better place."

Study Tips: A How To Guide

By OTTO DO

Exeter inundates us all—with homework, sports, clubs, music and more. This is an equation Exonians know all too well. How do we find time for all our passions?

As the administration has noted, some Exonians embrace a culture that encourages suffering; these students even compete with each other over their suffering. Who can pull the most consecutive all-nighters? Who can do the most extracurriculars and still maintain their grades? At Exeter, we don't want to sacrifice anything.

However, the picture of success has changed—among friends, we ask: Who slept the earliest? Who slept the most? Who wakes up early to eat breakfast?

Outlined below are four of my ingredients for the recipe of success:

Wake up early, eat breakfast and get a head start for the day. We've been reminded time and time again about the benefits of breakfast, but breakfast remains as unpopular as ever. Many students argue that an extra half an hour of sleep is better. To them, I say: try it. Try going to breakfast for a week. As the saying goes, "The early bird catches the worm." While enjoying your first meal of the day, you can get a head start on home-

work for the next day—the ultimate flex.

Step away from social media. Above all other reasons to limit social media use, the sheer time commitment reigns supreme. Outside of required appointments, there's only so many hours in the day! How many should we allocate to social media? How much time do we spend on Instagram or Snapchat? If you can't commit to abandoning social media completely, try out an app called FlipD—it hides all of your third-party apps for a certain amount of time. All it requires is initial motivation to turn it on. Once activated, you'll have to wait for the timer to end!

Do your homework...when it's assigned! Homework is a convenient study schedule perfectly laid out by your teachers. If you keep up with your homework, major assignments will be all the more manageable.

To those who are resting comfortably, ask your teachers to help you further refine your study habits—honing your skills and expanding your knowledge when you have the leisure of time will prepare you for more strenuous weeks.

As for final advice, I asked Ayush Noori. Praise be to the man who runs Exeter's Student Council. His only advice: "Eat cherry tomatoes."

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» SOLITUDE

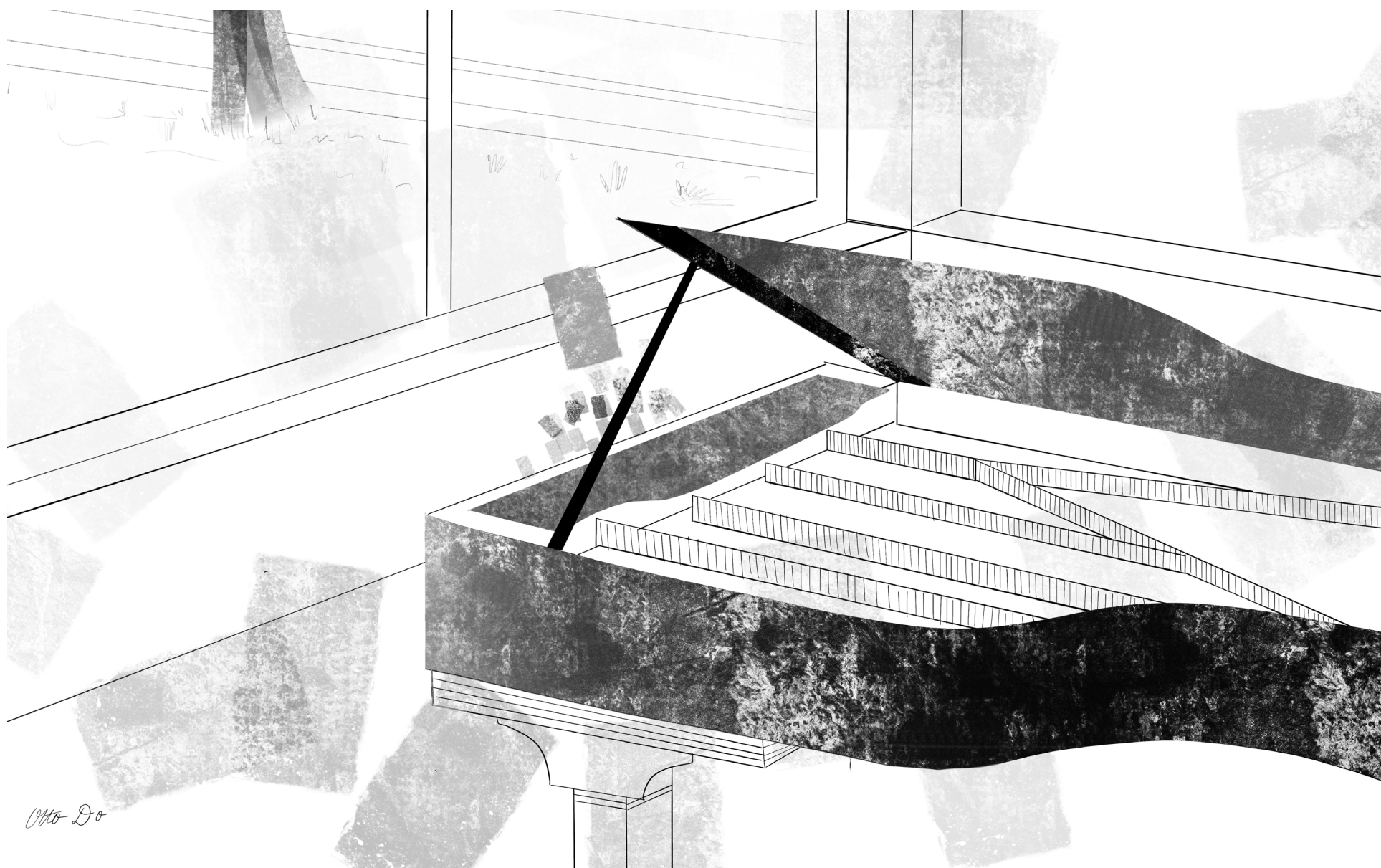
Head Designer Otto Do describes the joys and benefits of alone time in character formation.

» SWEATSHIRTS

The co-heads of the Feminist Union analyze the intersectional design on their annual sweatshirts.

» STUCO

Prep Arhon Strauss argues that Student Council is efficient but ineffective.

Otto Do/*The Exonian*

Finding Myself: An Ode to Solitude

Editors' Corner: Otto Do

By OTTODO '22

A tree sways outside the window, dancing to the pentatonic tones that resonate off my piano's brass strings. I stare just above its pitched lid and lean back into the arms of sound. I am alone but not lonely. I have chosen to retreat to this small room—this small room where a Steinway rests, waiting for me every day.

It is in these moments of solitude that I learn the most about myself. When the music pushes the distractions into periphery, I pause and discover. I yearn for these moments more than anything else.

Especially for adolescents, finding true solitude has become a lost practice—we spend our few free hours with friends because work consumes every other second. Unfortunately, this leads many teenagers to equate alone time with sadness or antisocial tendencies. The reality could not be further from the truth—many philosophers and even scientists have explored the benefits of solitude at great length.

Although often neglected, solitude remains a necessary component for balanced life. The quiet and contemplative discovery with oneself brings a gift of clarity and understanding—in solitude, you can hear the soundless dialogue our souls hold with themselves. It's best we get used to these silent conversations, as we will be having quite a few of

them—as strange as it sounds, we will all spend the rest of our lives with ourselves.

Before Exeter, many people described me as outgoing and sociable. My social life depended on constant interaction with others—like a waterfall perpetually crashing in every direction. When Exeter's rigor battered down on me, I realized that the most valuable thing I own is my time—it's actually the only thing I have.

This realization shocked me, caused me to reexamine my life choices. What do I really want to do? Is it really spending time with friends? What do I enjoy most? Asking these hard questions for the first time, my answer felt selfish—I concluded that my friends offered less to me than I could for myself.

Nevertheless, humans by nature are social creatures: I still desired the company of others. I wanted someone whom I wouldn't have to compromise with, someone who shared my hobbies, someone who knew what it meant to socialize without talking, someone who would wake up early to play piano with me before classes, someone who had a raw desire to learn. I wanted a perfect friend. I wanted another me.

Motivational speaker Jim Rohn famously stated, "We are the average of the five people we spend the most time with." Whether or not this is true, imagine if it were. Would we ever

be ourselves, then, if never left alone—or rather, never allowing ourselves to be alone? I realized that I had to know myself before I let others know me.

In short, I learned to be alone.

Understandably, my friends noticed this change in me. And, when confronted, I stumbled upon an important distinction: solitude and loneliness are different. More often than not, my peers consider these words interchangeable and assign negative connotations to both. The former, however, describes "that human situation in which I keep myself company," as philosopher Hannah Arendt synthesizes, while the latter describes a mere lack of company.

In my time alone, I've rekindled my lost joys for piano, reading, writing, poetry and painting. I've learned that my supposed extroversion does not define who I am.

I view my outgoing personality as a skill, something that helps me navigate the waters of the social sphere. In my world of solitude, though, I rest in a place which follows me from the minute I wake up to the minute I fall asleep. I have my own stimulus.

The connotations we attribute to introversion and extroversion reveal the logic behind society's negative perception of solitude. A quotation from Susan Cain, author of *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking*, explains this phenomenon: "We live in a culture

of personality, where extraversion is ideal, a far departure from the past that was the culture of character which prized honour and discipline."

Somehow, my old self, who had accumulated so much social capital with a flamboyant facade, is supposed to be happier than my present self, who spends every waking hour doing the activities he loves. But that is fiction.

For the past three terms, I've woken up early to eat breakfast at exactly 7:00a.m. In this hour before classes start, I make avocado toast on a focaccia bagel, steep a cup of Jasmine tea and sit in the same corner of the fish-bowl every day. With my warm mug nestled between my hands, I watch the sun rise from behind the bookstore; it's this moment that I look forward to every day.

In Hannah Arendt's timeless classic, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, she describes the importance of solitude. She constantly reminds me that, if we lose our relationships to solitude, we lose the very ability to think for ourselves and risk succumbing to the influence of others. In solitude, I can tell right from wrong most clearly. In solitude, I am most unique.

My parents have repeatedly told me that I am an enigma. Despite the parenting stereotypes that come with being Asian, they allowed me to explore the world for myself. That I did. And in my own self-motivation, I became aware that pure joy for learning

is integral to who I am—it is the reason I wake up every morning.

Nonetheless, it's important to remember that prolonged isolation can be damaging. To remind me of this, my father often quotes an African proverb: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

There's no one person exactly like me, but there will always be people who share my interests. This year, I've allowed myself to venture back into social settings—as a changed person. With a foundational understanding of myself, developed in solitude, I've built some of the most meaningful relationships of my life. I built those friendships on raw passion for shared interest and found a thrill beyond superficial dialogue or short-lived laughter; I found intellectual conversation; I found social stimulus.

Relationships act as catalysts for great change, but to prevent the dangerous state that Edgar Allan Poe described as "mind-numbing conformity," we must understand ourselves. We cannot stay congruent to our defining characteristics if we have not learned who we are to begin with.

On my own, separate from the profusion of people, I figured out what these characteristics were. Now, as I re-enter the social sphere, I can trust that I am myself: understood and ever-changing, like the waves that roll in and out forevermore.

Make PIEs Optional

By ATHENAWANG '23

At the end of each term, all students are asked to complete their PIEs (Post Instructional Evaluations) for all their classes. The catch is this: every incomplete evaluation results in a dickey for the offending student. While the risk of punishment definitely ensures participation, it brings one to question the quality of the feedback.

Many students just complete them quickly and move on. The growth and improvement of a class, however, depends on constructive feedback that PIEs often don't reveal. Worse still, many Exonians are endlessly busy under intense levels of stress. People like me, who often forget to check their emails, may just end up with seven

dickeys.

Although evaluations and reflections are essential to the improvement of any course, they're only relevant if there's a problem. To the majority of students who aren't experiencing problematic events in class, these forms seem like just a timesuck. People already have so much homework to do, papers to write and tests to study for. Some students just don't have any energy left to fill out an evaluation.

In the case of PIEs, we penalize this lack of effort. For this reason, students often fill them out for the sake of getting it done. Many don't even leave comments—they just fill in the bubbles neutrally and move on. Therefore, the information we gain from these evaluations may not be well-founded.

Another reason why students may not take these forms seriously is because they fear confidentiality being broken. Some might not feel that health classes are the most productive, for instance, but I doubt most would feel comfortable sharing that opinion. What if it wasn't anonymous?

Even where anonymity does exist, some still feel uncomfortable. In fact, that happens already—when we were doing METICs for a fall term class, I felt very embarrassed when my particularly negative review was read aloud, even though the paper I had written it on didn't have my name.

The debate also lies in whether the questions in these reflective surveys actually provoke constructive responses. My friend was telling me about her

French class, in which she had to fill out a survey on "how to increase participation" from the teacher and from students. She noted that some prompts were very generic and she wasn't sure how to answer them. And other questions were just downright frustrating. One asked: "What grade would you give yourself in the class currently?"

I quote my friend, "It's not my job to grade myself! Can't I just learn in peace and not have to worry even more about grades?" Although I would say it's probably a good idea to evaluate one's own performance from time to time, the quotation demonstrates the frustration many Exonians have with these sorts of forms. It becomes even worse on the PIEs—the questions are incredibly vague and, by design, wildly generic.

Although many people are already opposed to the idea of having so many forms to fill out, we also need to have a growth mindset. Obviously, one can

point out many problems with our school, especially when we look at the various protests that have occurred on campus. These problems can only be solved by making the administrators aware of the problem—PIEs seek to do just that.

But is it productive or necessary to make the whole school fill out forms on the pain of multiple dickeys, when not everyone has a problem to be resolved? Is it a reasonable tactic to use vague forms to get that feedback from absolutely everyone? Attention for those who really need it is both more effective and less burdensome to students.

So what action should we take to minimize annoyances within the student body but also maximize needed constructive feedback to improve things? An obvious solution would be to have PIE forms readily available to those who care—conducting PIEs this way would avoid subjecting the entire student body to another needless task.

Awareness at What Cost? The Intersectional Feminist Sweatshirt



By EXETER FEMINIST UNION

Three photoshoots, two new colors, one pink-hued Instagram feed. You may have noticed the new FEMINIST sweatshirts around campus and their accompanying promotional materials. But beyond the photoshoots and giveaway reposts, we especially hope that you have noticed the intersectional symbol on the back—a raised fist within the Venus symbol—and considered what it means for our product and our fundraiser as a whole.

“Intersectionality,” a term coined by professor Kimberlé Crenshaw, refers to the idea that all facets of a person’s identity—gender, race, sexuality, age, nationality, religion, et cetera—work together to shape their lived experience. Because these identities are inseparable in each individual, they should likewise be addressed together in social movements. American feminism has a history of disregarding every facet of identity other than gender, as shown by the exclusion of queer women, women of color and other minority groups from the movement.

We acknowledged these truths by adding an intersectional element to the design of our FEMINIST sweatshirts. The Venus symbol (♀), used for centuries to denote femininity, is a call for equality—a call for recognition of the historical and current oppression faced by women around the world. The raised fist represents solidarity and gives a nod to the black power movement, in recognition of the historically whitewashed and exclusionary nature of American feminism.

We have grappled with this history in many Fem Club conversations and will continue to do so. One such conversation has been centered around

the relationship between the feminist movement and civil rights/black power movements throughout American history. The two groups worked in tandem for much of this country’s history but often found themselves divided, like, for example, when black men gained legal suffrage decades ahead of white women. How can we reconcile these historical tensions to better act on the shared values and goals of each movement?

We have also considered the implications of commercializing feminism. Whenever a symbol or idea is popularized, there exists a tension between preserving its integrity and packaging it to be easily understood. In the case of our sweatshirts, we sacrificed elaborations on intersectionality in order to create an aesthetically pleasing product. We chose to design a sweatshirt that would start a conversation about intersectionality, not one that would educate its wearers. On the spectrum between a comprehensive but esoteric means of conveying information and a popular but unsubstantial product, we attempted to find a middle ground. Admittedly, however, we did lean towards the latter, and that choice was intentional. We hope that the thought given to aesthetics and marketing serves to bring the sweatshirt to a wide audience and start more conversations about feminism and intersectionality.

In recent years, the presence of activism in mainstream media has grown considerably. Companies perpetuate and profit from this growth, using the media to sell products with trendy “feminist” branding. Frankly, many of us (consciously or not) enjoy the social affirmation that comes with toting a bag or sweatshirt that announce-

es to the world our awareness and social conscience—we pay to appear “woke.”

As co-heads, we acknowledge that we took advantage of this desire for social validation. We decided, ultimately, to harness our culture’s wish to appear “woke” for a good cause since proceeds from the shirt sales will go to the Women for Women International nonprofit organization.

When designing the FEMINIST sweatshirts, we were faced with a choice. We could sell the same sweatshirts as before—sweatshirts that brought to mind the “white feminist” Fem Club of years past. But we didn’t want people to tote the term without a qualifier, an acknowledgment of the nuances of feminism (not to mention its history of whitewashing and exclusionary actions). We decided to go a different route and update the sweatshirt to reflect the change in our club and our values: we no longer consider ourselves simply feminists. Rather, we are intersectional feminists. The two ideas are inseparable, and our new design shows that.

We are so grateful for community members who have approached us with their concerns and excitement about the FEMINIST sweatshirts. The sweatshirts have given us an opportunity to engage in dialogue about the commercialization of feminism and Fem Club’s role on this campus and to make a real impact with our fundraiser.

More than anything, we hope that this is only the beginning of a conversation about intersectionality.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns, and be sure to hold those wearing our sweatshirts accountable to understand the meaning behind the symbols they wear.

Raising Citizens Around the Table

By ARYA PALLA '22

The expansive and in-depth curriculum at Exeter provides a plethora of courses to satisfy the intellectual needs of Exonians. However, as Kai Lockwood pointed out in a recent article about science and ethics, students can finish their entire Exeter career without taking essential courses that contribute to their character and morality.

For instance, our school has a comparative lack of civics courses. Knowledge about one’s government and rights is vital to successfully moving through society. As Lockwood noted in their piece, the lack of emphasis on ethics goes against the school’s principles of goodness. The absence of civics courses also diminishes Exeter’s ideals—when we don’t provide civic awareness to our students as they explore the legal and administrative crevices of our society, we tarnish our commitment to “knowledge.”

Exeter’s progressive community is filled with students who want to and can cause change. The remarkable individuals who make up the student body have such great potential to affect our society. This echoes itself in our school’s ideals. A lack of apt knowledge about the government and constitutional rights, however, makes it hard to engage with and act on your ideas, be it small-scale or nation-wide.

There are still more areas for curricular growth. Becoming financially independent is one of the biggest changes to someone’s life when they leave high school. Whether you are fully financially independent or relying on a friend or family, the ability to manipulate and increase your wealth is vital to progress in our nation. Many students nationwide have voiced concerns about the lack of financial education, which leads many to poor economic decisions. The interconnectedness of economics and government, as well as its extensive influence on young adults across the country, bolsters the need for financial education courses at Exeter.

Now, of course, the school does have a couple of courses that cover the principles of economics and its governmental ties, but this is certainly not enough for students to develop a comprehensive understanding on how to handle their own money or

contribute to society through their civic duties.

That’s not the point of the economics courses—they are designed to teach the theories of economics, not their practical applications. There is not a requirement to enroll in classes that might cover these topics. The courses are there for those who have an interest in such topics, but they aren’t required and don’t deal with the type of financial education needed.

Simply put, Exeter should make certain courses in economics and government required. Unfortunately, student enrollment in civics courses (and subsequently, young adult civic engagement) has sharply dropped over the last decade in schools across America. Exeter should not buoy that trend. But, more than that, we have to plan what specifically should be required.

Debt is one of the basic tenets of economics that directly applies to young adults entering college. Not only does debt manifest in student loans after university. It also manifests in the forms of real estate, auto insurance and many other goods and services that adults tend to purchase later on in life. As a crushing force in many people’s lives, the ability to handle debt and handle investments (with a rational mindset and proper foreshadowing, of course) can provide real tangible benefits to young people and help them learn to handle or prevent future struggles.

Taxes are another basic economic principle on which adolescents are rarely educated. Like debt, taxes can be a frustration and burden to newly financially-independent students. They can be an economically repressive force in the beginning, just like debt, and students need to be prepared to deal with the financial consequences of daily life. Preparation for taxes should occur in more than senior health.

Civic and financial education allow for civic and financial participation. Together, they turn the wheels of our society and democracy and allow everyone to make a difference in their own world. That is, essentially, the goal of our school: to prepare and shape our students to create constructive change that reflects their knowledge and goodness. If Exeter required courses in financial preparation and civics, it would be instrumental in fulfilling this prospect.

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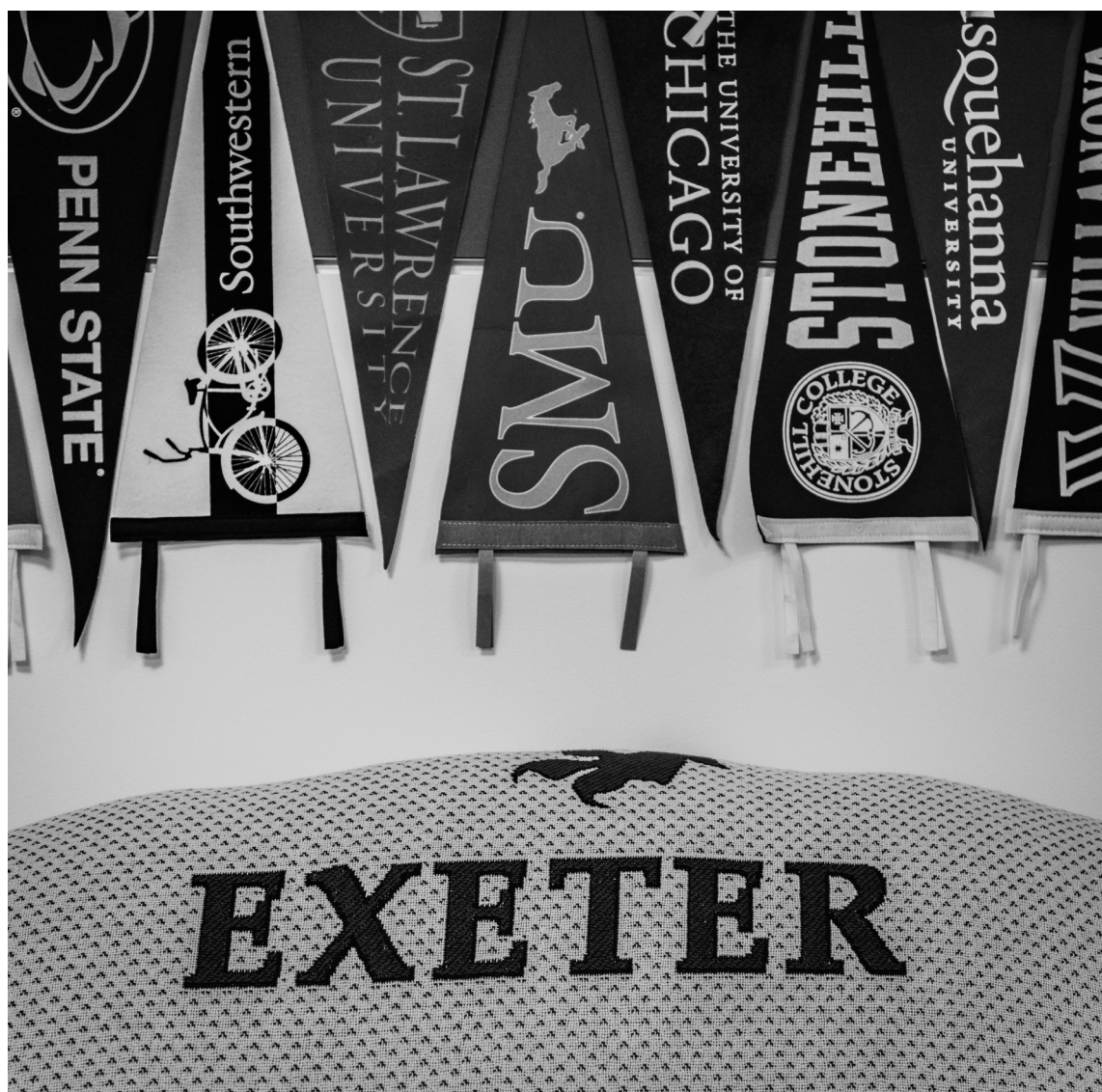
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College Doesn't Have to be So Stressful



Thomas Wang/*The Exonian*

By ANGELAZHANG '23

From Feb. 14 to 16, parents of uppers traveled from around the globe to Phillips Exeter Academy for Upper College Weekend. Current uppers can expect to begin college applications within the next few months, and to this end, Exeter's College Counseling Office used the weekend to prepare parents and students for the daunting admission process ahead.

With so much emphasis placed on college admissions nowadays, it is obvious that the college process affects Exonians across campus. We are fierce in caliber, have talents and interests in a variety of fields and, most importantly, innately strive for only the best. In short, Exonians are people who aim for success, and, for most of us, this means continuing our stud-

ies at a prestigious university.

As college acceptance rates decrease and standards increase, the admissions process is growing to be more difficult and stressful. Seniors often complain, understandably, about the difficulties of writing applications and the anxiety of waiting for decisions exacerbates their already fast-paced, busy lives. The stress of the college admission process is perhaps best outlined in the sheer relief and joy a senior feels when they finally get that acceptance note.

Uppers need to mentally prepare for what they will soon experience, narrow down their prospective school lists and begin facing the beast ahead. Lowers and preps are not affected as much by the prospect of college, but, nevertheless, the thought lingers in their head, and the effects of college hover

over the lives of every Exonian.

I strongly, however, believe the college process should not cause so much stress, nor should it ever be the driving force behind any student's learning experience.

Oftentimes, students choose courses by asking themselves an insidious question: "What will colleges see on my transcript?"

Students hesitate when choosing courses: do they pursue interests and risk having an "unimpressive" course load, or do they sacrifice their passions to take courses that may seem impressive on a transcript? Many students, at Exeter and beyond, choose the latter.

I suppose this is not unreasonable—the selection and completion of certain "rigorous" courses does demonstrate a student's ability and interests. It is not, however, the best mindset to be in when select-

ing courses.

For example, many students at my old public high school stacked their schedules with Advanced Placement courses (tiring themselves out in the process). These students even took courses they had no interest in as a means of proving to colleges they are competent.

Students also partake in a multitude of clubs they may have no interest in but they join anyway for the sake of racking up a college resume. It's unfortunate to see students feel pressured to join certain clubs or take certain courses in order to seem more impressive for a college.

It is important to remember that we are receiving an education for our own good. Thus, we should base our choices not on what we think would impress a college, but rather on what we know will satisfy our passions. Besides, if people are genuinely passionate about the courses they take and the clubs they join, it will make writing about these interests so much easier and much less stressful when it comes time to apply for college.

I believe Exeter does recognize and address the stresses that come with the college process. The school encourages students to take advantage of the full learning experience instead of just studying for the sake of college. Exeter stresses that younger students should not worry about standardized testing until later years. The school teaches that students should explore as many fields as possible through participating in clubs, enrolling in preferred courses and encountering peers and mentors.

The Deed of Gift perfectly demonstrates this ideal. It states that the Academy's responsibility is to teach students "not only in the English and Latin grammar, writing, arithmetic, and those sciences wherein they are commonly taught, but more especially to learn them the great end and real business of living."

A laser and sole focus on academics is not the "real business of living." Instead, it is the ability to balance work, social life and health—all while developing pas-

sions—that comprises this business. I truly believe Exeter allows Exonians to practice that "real business of living," if only we choose to.

If I were at my public high school, I don't think I would be studying to enrich my learning; instead, I would be in a fierce, academic-based competition against peers. My friends back home, like many other students around the world, have studied with the prospect of college driving their education. I am grateful for Exeter's desire to steer us away from this college-centered mindset and encourage us to learn for the sake of enhancing our goodness and knowledge.

Overall, it is not reasonable for college admissions to control our lives. Of course, depending on what we want to do with our futures, college can play a major role in the years to come.

But surely it should not limit us.

There is more than one path to success. Many of them don't include college. As for those paths that do, we don't have to give up our lives for it, choose "impressive" classes for the sake of it or be in the "most competitive" clubs. We can do things for our own benefit.

Lastly, a reminder that many Exonians need right now: which college you attend will not determine your worth; it will not define your success. What matters is your experience—here at Exeter and beyond—and you can only get that experience by exploring and pursuing your passions. Besides, college doesn't last our whole lives. Four years (maybe five, maybe eight if we pursue a master's degree and a doctorate) are not our whole lives. We should not be so overbearingly stressed about and treat the college process as if it will set our future in stone.

We have so much to live for, so much to experience, so much to explore. No matter how stressful the college admissions process is, or no matter how stressful the prospect of your future makes you, rest assured that with hard work and dedication to our passions, we will all be just fine.

StuCo: When Less is More

By ARHON STRAUSS '23

Vote Senai! Vote Charlotte! They will finally change StuCo! These are phrases you have probably heard a lot in the past few weeks. With all sorts of buzz around the visitations policy and "how StuCo must change," it can be hard to determine who has actual solutions or if Student Council (StuCo) even has the power to implement those solutions. This brings us to the largest flaw with the StuCo elections and StuCo as a whole: it has no power.

StuCo has been used as a symbol of student representation, and some seek to use it as a way to make a difference in faculty decisions. But, time and time again,

we have seen that StuCo has not affected the outcomes of these decisions. This failure doesn't stem from a lack of willpower or confidence—most people in StuCo are fairly competent. It stems from the very infrastructure of StuCo.

This is not to say StuCo has not done anything—take, for example, the RedBikes program, a shining example of what StuCo can do when it works.

But advancements like this have been few and far between, taking years of bureaucracy and negotiating. This is partially due to how hard it is to actually get StuCo to use any of its money; with \$30,000 in reserve, StuCo could do so much to improve stu-

dent life without needing to go through the administration. But it has barely used any of this money.

Yes, it is good to save, but saving money is pointless unless you use it.

StuCo should be using this money for everything, from improving school dances to increasing dorm funding. But it has only used a small amount of money for any of these things.

This brings me back to my initial point: the lack of power. StuCo has the potential to make a difference: it has the resources, it has the competent members, it has a bridge into the administration. So, right now, I think that StuCo's biggest limiter is itself,

or rather the sheer number of members it has. You always hear how we need more representatives to more properly represent our student body. With each addition, however, it becomes increasingly harder to unify and rally StuCo into real action.

So, in order to fix this—to streamline the process—we need to streamline the number of people in high-level positions. The concept is simple: fewer people means less arguing and less bureaucracy, which makes ideas move faster and creates a unified front to curb the administrative hurdles for students. But this plan has its own faults: with fewer positions of power, the risk of one bad apple ruining StuCo becomes substantially higher. Ultimately, though, the likelihood of this is very low, mostly because they would have to put in the tremendous work and demonstrate the passion necessary to get elected

in the first place.

Even this streamlining would not be enough to truly solve StuCo's powerlessness. To do that, we would need to address the largest issue facing StuCo: the administration. Creating a more unified StuCo would certainly do wonders for our ability to stand up to the administration, but it needs to actually convince the administration to listen.

To do that, StuCo would have to start producing results on a consistent basis—if it can make that leap, perhaps administration would take StuCo's requests more seriously. If this all were to work, programs like the RedBike program would be rolled out more regularly.

StuCo is efficient, but it requires a huge amount of change to be effective. Though I don't think it will come this election cycle or this year, there is still hope for change.

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Humor

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A Cry For Help In Verse

By ANONYMOUS UPPER
They could be any one of you.

“Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
I still haven’t started,
My three-thirty-two.”
- Anonymous Upper ’21

Nobody:
Lowers running for CCC:



Six Potential Career Paths for Me If Higher Education Doesn’t Work Out

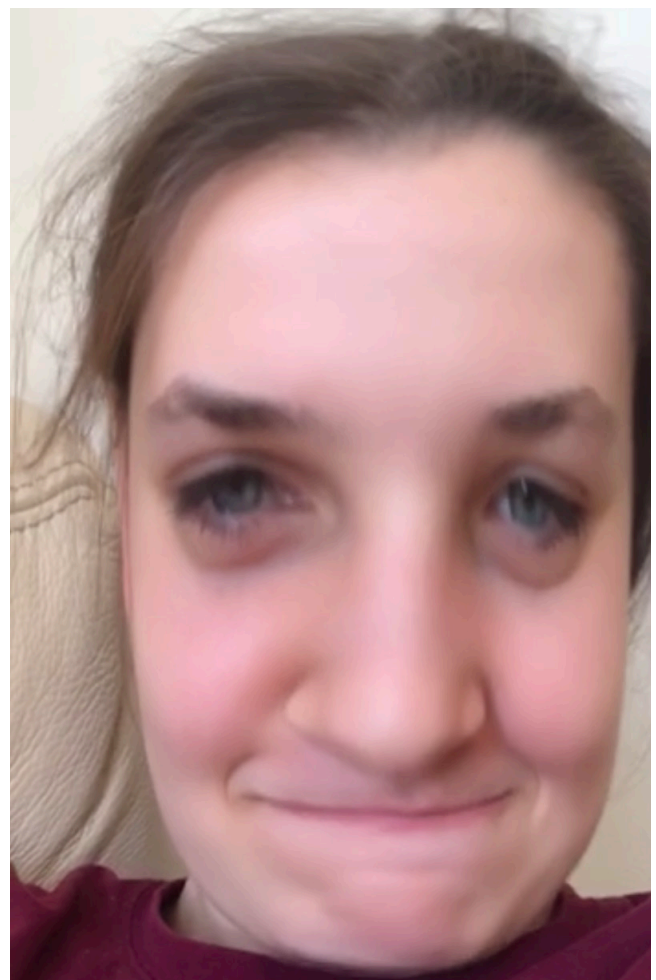
By SARAH HUANG

1. Contestant on “The Bachelor”
Probably the first girl to get kicked off, but I’d be the first second Asian on the show!
2. Third Spouse to Wealthy Person
Not smart enough to be in a position to meet an almost wealthy person, not pretty enough to be a second spouse... just mediocre enough to be third.
3. Self-Driving Car Driver
Still don’t have my license.
4. Stunt Double for Hannah Lee When She Becomes A Famous Singer/Actress
Unless she doesn’t want my body...?
5. Retired
Former Child
6. Dress-Up Character at Disneyland
Hired to play Ursula from the “Little Mermaid.”

Answers to Last Week’s Crossword

- | Down | Across |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Instagram | 3. Board turnovers |
| 2. College Counseling | 5. Redacted |
| 4. StuCo Debates | 7. Cumulative |
| 6. Signatures | 8. Research papers |
| | 9. Speaking clubs |

TFW Only One Person Loses StuCo Elections and It’s Sonny



Exonian Exclusive: Opinion Editors Looking Scruffy

By BLAKE SIMPSON
The other Mr. Simpson.

If you haven’t noticed the Op-Ed editors recently, that makes sense. But in all seriousness, there seems to be something they all have in common: they are all so devoted to tending to the tender crop that is the Op-Ed section that it seems they have all forgotten to shave. How may each editor have acquired this scruff? Lucky for you, *The Exonian* is here to get to the bottom of this.

First up, Stephen. Where have you been during Writers’ Meetings, Steve? Poor Stephen simply has not been able to reap the benefits of the revitalizing meetings of the longest running preparatory school newspaper, *The Exonian*, now in its 142nd year. Even as a lowly prep, I carve an hour out of my Sunday evenings to attend these meetings, and I know that when I skip them (which is rarely) it certainly adds a bit of scruff to my face, at least according to my ex-wife. (Just kidding, I can’t grow a beard.) It is clear that it has been far too long since the pure joy of exposing the crap out of college counseling has made its way to Stephen’s facial follicles.

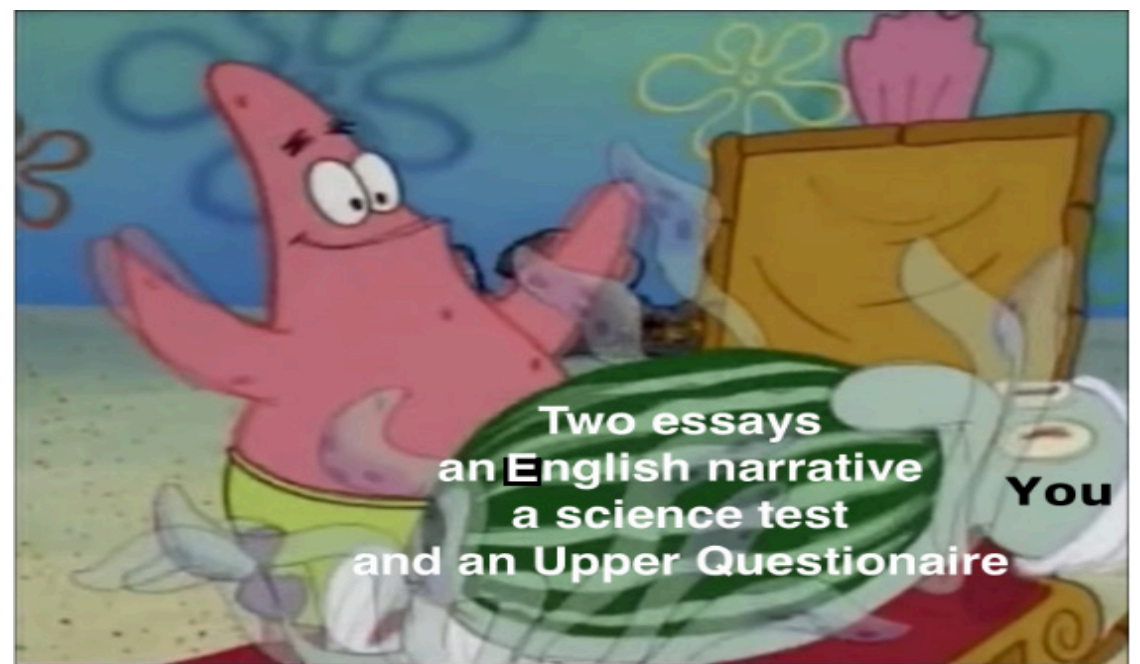
Dennis is a whole different case. Dennis’s scruff is beyond justified as he has been working long hours as assistant to the Director of Marketing for Standup Comedy Club (Blake Simpson). Standup Comedy Club (S.U.C.C., if you will) requires 24/7 hands on work. I spent tireless minutes covering up emergency phone boxes and defibrillators with posters for the show last Saturday at 9:00p.m. in Agora, and Dennis was right by my side printing out posters in quantities that would make Greta Thunberg throw in the towel. Just look at how many grams of CO₂ are marked by his UPrint page—that is effort, people. It is not easy work to advertise for the best club on campus, but it is a service comparable to that performed by the so-called “Peace Corps.” God-speed, Dennis.

Emmanuel’s condition is shrouded in mystery, as I do not know him very well, but it is alleged (by Dennis Kostakoglu Aydin, off the record) that his scruff is a vain attempt to emulate (Emmanuelate, if you will) his idol Karl Marx—no, not the comedian,

but the author of the *Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx. These allegations are yet to be verified but let’s be real. Dennis has a radio show, and if you can lock someone in a room for an hour each week with a live transmission and millions of dollars of equipment, then you can certainly trust them to provide truthful information about their colleagues.

Well, I hope this information provides some insight into *The Exonian’s* ridiculous budget, since it seems most of it goes towards razors. We spend so much on razor’s for these three fine journalists (read “editors”) that we have to hold our meetings in Soule. In all seriousness, however, the situation is dire. Their luscious beards will soon fill every seat in the forum, such that no one will write for *The Exonian*. What monster have you created, Op-Ed Editors (Op-Editors if you will)? We are begging, you must shave at least once per decade. I extend to you a personal and preemptive thank you, from concerned staff writer and clean-shaven person Blake Simpson.

“Don’t worry class, there won’t be any major assignments on Friday.”
Teachers on Thursday:



Dead Days: The Calm Before the Storm

By JACK ARCHER
The FitnessGram™ Pacer Test is a multistage aerobic capacity test that progressively gets mor

STUDENTS, BEWARE. Your predators lie in wait. They hide in the shadows, frustrated by the decisions of their masters. In a rare altruistic act, those authorities are not allowing the beasts who don’t allow your 8a.m. format to meet in D-hall to have major assignments due over the three days before finals week. Tomorrow, we will enter the fabled dead days. We will stand in the eye of a tornado, the final gusts of the storm ready to catch us by surprise.

It will feel suspicious at first—you’ll scroll through Canvas with surprise, wondering why you don’t have half a book of history reading, a math test and an essay or two due by Monday. Your suspicions will fade as you give in to the facade of calm. This weekend, you will relax in the sunny weather (according to climate change, winter term was over a month ago!), oblivious to the tsunami swelling below the surface of your tranquil life which you believe to be under control.

You’re wrong. Your teacher’s kind smiles will warp into sneers as they announce due dates and test

days. Their days of lying in wait are over. While you spent the weekend packing for the bus, they tweaked the syllabus—changing a word here, moving key phrases to the very bottom of the last page in really tiny font there or maybe snipping out a concept or two so that it’s a surprise on the final! Their review guides have been crafted to require as much flipping as possible, so papercuts will line your fingertips as you march to your 8:15a.m. A final. The predators have devised a most cruel gauntlet, just for you. In less than a week, you shall scamper through it, desperately trying not to fall prey to their hungry mouths salivating at the thought of ripping your soul from you with the corrosive powers of a 2.0 GPA.

Preps will enter their second finals week confident, after realizing that finals week is mostly free periods disguised as extra-long-blocks that they can use to grind on their 500-word English narrative final. But they are not prepared for the extra bite inflicted by wintry weather: the Sad Boi hour. I’m no scientist, but I swear motivation comes from vitamin D, and with the sun going

down during unifree, there’s not much of that going around.

Lowers are not quite uppers but are triggered that lower year is not just prep year part two like they expected it to be. Their productivity also takes a hit because it takes twice as long to eat when EVERYONE is running for CCC. Seriously, what are they gonna do about the resulting draw when everyone votes for themselves?

Uppers are stuck writing a 300 level paper for a 400 level class, both literally and figuratively. But cheer up, these ones aren’t half as bad as the next one!

And seniors... Well, I’m pretty sure seniors have bigger concerns. Like which prep gets to inherit their room next year. Important stuff.

If it’s any consolation, your teachers will probably spend your finals block ferociously grading the tests taken by the class before. They deserve some major props for getting our assignments back to us at all and answering our last minute questions at 2:34a.m. the day something’s due. Honestly, I bet they get less sleep than we do, although I’m not sure what negative sleep looks like.

Quotes of the Week

“Well, that was tough.”
-Sonny Fiteni ’21, after losing

“Yay! All my candidates won!”
-Graham Guité ’21, after Sonny losing

Sports

» **GIRLS HOCKEY**

Girls' Hockey will play at Andover at 2:00p.m. on Saturday.

» **BOYS BASKETBALL**

Boys' Basketball will play at Andover at 3:30p.m. on Saturday.

» **BOYS HOCKEY**

Boys' Hockey will play at Andover at 4:10p.m. on Saturday.

» **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Girls Basketball will play at Andover at 5:30p.m. on Saturday.



Senior and co-captain Keaghan Tierney aims for the net.

Oliver Hess/*The Exonian*

Girls' Hockey Hammers NMH

By AMELIA BYERLY and GRACE PUCHALSKI

The puck speeds across the ice towards the goal, but a Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) goalie deflects it. It bounces over to the other side of the net. Unable to recover fast enough to save the next shot, the NMH goalie watches as senior Robin Potter grabs the rebound and rushes past the goalie to bury it into the net.

Big Red Girls' Hockey faced off against NMH on home ice last Saturday. They had everyone on the edge of their seat, stealing the win with three unanswered goals in the third period. This last period run gave Big Red a

4-2 win over their opponents.

Leading up to Saturday night, the team was focusing on specific goals. "During our practices leading up to NMH, our team mainly focused on getting more shots to the net, as well as chipping the puck off the glass/boards and out, which both contributed to our win," lower Victoria Quinn said. The team executed these goals well; two of their three third-period goals were scored off of rebounds.

Prep Sami Smith noted that the team approached the game with determination and eagerness. "We had a lot of energy and the mentality that it was our game and that we were going to want it more than them," she

said.

However, the start of the thrilling match proved a bit challenging for Big Red. Heading into the third period, the team was down 2-1. Despite the other team's lead, the girls kept their heads up.

Quinn commended the team's comeback. "Going down isn't always easy... but we were very resilient and bounced right back, getting three unanswered goals to pull out the win."

Smith went on to shout-out some of her senior teammates for an exceptional game. "All the seniors had amazing games, but [senior and co-captains] Jenna Brooks and Abby Smith had outstanding games, as well as line-

mates [prep] Eden Welch, Potter and Quinn."

Welch seconded Smith's statement. "Some players that really stood out to me were Abby Smith, who worked hard the whole game and scored two awesome goals, and also Victoria Quinn and Robin Potter, who also scored two gritty rebound goals, which all helped us win the game!"

The game against NMH was on the team's senior day. With that in mind, "everyone on the team wanted to go out and have fun," Smith said. "It was so great to win this game, especially since it was senior day." Saturday was the team's last Saturday home game for the season, so

they wanted to finish strong with a win for both the seniors and the fans.

With the upcoming E/A game, the girls are more focused than ever. "We are going to continue shooting more and getting to the net for rebounds," Welch said. "This is a huge week for us, and we are all so excited to get out on the ice and win these next few games."

Quinn agreed, stressing the team's high spirits. "For our next game, we definitely want to keep getting shots to the net and also playing gritty and hearty hockey."

Looking forward, Big Red hopes to come out strong against Andover this Saturday.

Underdogs: Boys' Basketball Crushes Cushing

By SAVI KEIDEL

Underdogs against an undefeated Cushing Academy team, Boys' Varsity Basketball pulled off an unlikely victory, winning 76-68.

Not only did Cushing ride the momentum of an undefeated season; they are also an AA program, one division above Exeter. Despite these odds, Big Red dominated its home court and boosted its record to 15-4.

To prepare for the game, all players put in focus and determination during practice. According to lower Josh Morisette, the team simply "focused on ways that would make it harder on Cushing and easier for us." The team focused on the game plan given to them by their coaches.

After watching Cushing's game film, it was evident that Big Red was up against a good shooting team. In response, the coaches gave players alternate defensive strategies that would limit their opponents' perimeter scoring and force them to drive the ball.

Upper Robbie Stankard explained that the coaches "always have full trust in [the team] to execute the game plan to the best of [their] ability."

As game time approached, team energy was high. Morisette described the team's mindset heading into the game: to be "the hardest team to play against."

"In good basketball, anybody can beat anybody," upper Lucas McEachern added.

The team knew that all it had to do to win was play its game. Senior and co-captain Jasper Ludington conveyed his own conviction to win, noting "it's about what we've got to do."

Stankard provided several shout-outs to his teammates. During the game, senior Neil Owens delivered a stand-out performance. "Going up against a high major recruit, Neil played exceptionally well," Stankard said. "Josh shot the ball really well again, and it was awesome to have Niko back in rotation!"

As a whole, the team's offense was fluid on the court; the players hit a number of different shots from around the arc and drove the ball to the net with force. McEachern highlighted their mental and physical toughness, pointing out that as a team they were all "playing really well and tapping into the level of play we said we would reach by now."

Because of this toughness and high level of play, Ludington added that it was "a competition between two good teams, and we were excited to be competing and winning."

With the season coming to an end, the team is now dialed in on playoffs. "All year, we have been working on one goal, winning the championship," Morisette explained. "That is why we woke up for 6 am lifts all fall and



Upper Robbie Stankard launches the ball towards the hoop.

Eva Carchidi/*The Exonian*

pushed each other. We want to finish what we started."

After winning the Class A championship last year, the stakes are high for the team.

"We're playing smart, efficient and together... and when we do that, we are a very hard team to beat," Stankard said, adding that he has full confidence in

the team's ability to be the best in their league. Indeed, Big Red Boys' basketball will be a force to be reckoned with on the court as the team heads into playoffs.

BOYS' HOCKEY

01 Deerfield

BOYS' SWIMMING + DIVING

01 NMH

SCORE

3-4

SCORE

119-51

BOYS' SQUASH

01 Crystal Springs

02 Horace Mann

03 Lawrenceville

04 McDonogh

SCORE

3-4

5-2

0-7

4-3

WRESTLING

01 Prep Nationals

23rd Place

Girls' Basketball Tackles Tournament

By SOFIA MORAIS

Standing just outside the three-point line, senior and co-captain Mia Glinn eyes the court for an opportunity to make a play. She notices an opening and calls for the pass from her teammate. As she catches the ball, she readies her stance and focuses on the basket. With the flick of her wrists, she shoots the ball out of her hands. The whole team watches in anticipation as the ball spins towards the basket in a perfect arc. Both teams rush towards the basket to claim the rebound, but Glinn's three-point shot will not need one. The ball glides through the net with ease. The crowd roars, and Glinn fist bumps her teammates as the scoreboard adds three points for Exeter.

Girls' Varsity Basketball drove to the Northfield Mount Hermon School (NMH) for an eventful Eight School Tournament this past weekend. They played two games, losing first to St. Paul's School, 44-3 before coming back with a win the next day against Hotchkiss, 40-23.

The team had lost against St. Paul's earlier in the season. "When we found out we were playing St. Paul's in the first game, we were super excited. We lost to them previously, but it was definitely a game that we could have won. We really wanted to win," senior and co-captain Claudia Lee said.

After the tough match against St. Paul's, the team was eager to reflect before its next game, pinpointing what it could do better while playing Hotchkiss. Glinn explained that the team headed into the second game with a focus on offense. "After our first game, I thought we needed to work on getting our offense more

involved in our game," she said. "We played very good defense, but we couldn't get our offense to be at the same level."

Senior and co-captain Eva Carchidi added that she wanted the team to sustain its enthusiasm through a second game. "We knew that we would be tired after already playing one game, so one of my goals was to keep the energy up, which is already one thing that we sometimes have difficulty doing."

Looking back and reflecting paid off. By examining what needed to be fixed before their second game, the girls took a confident win, dropping a cool 40 points against the Bearcats.

Lee noted how, even though the team was tired from their previous game, they were able to succeed. "We were a lot more fatigued, but we were hitting our three-pointers in the second half of the second game. Usually, we struggle scoring, but we were lighting it up on the floor."

Glinn noted that the team dynamic seemed stronger in the Hotchkiss game. "Our second game was a lot more fun, and I think we were a lot more connected as a team," she said. "We really wanted to get a win at this tournament, and we came out with that determination."

Multiple teammates agreed, noting that Glinn especially showed grit on the court. "Mia Glinn had a great game against Hotchkiss. She popped off in the second half," prep Amelia Byerly said.

Big Red Girls' Basketball plans to keep up the momentum and energy in the coming week-end's E/A games. They will face off against Phillips Academy on Saturday, hopefully ending off their season with a well-deserved win.



Senior and co-captain Eva Carchidi sets a play.

Teja Vankireddy/The Exonian



Upper Catherine Fortin returns a serve.

Teja Vankireddy/The Exonian

Girls' Squash Places 4th at Prep Nationals

By CLAIRE FU

Girls' Varsity Squash competed in the Division III Prep Nationals at Wesleyan University last weekend. Going into their matches, the girls were seeded eighth but managed to climb up the rankings, securing fifth at the end of the tournament.

During the initial rounds, Big Red came out on top against Rye High School with a final score of

4-3. Lower Leandra Sze, upper Catherine Fortin, senior Charlotte Kaufmann and prep Lassiter Foregger all secured wins over the Rye players.

Scoring fifth place was no small feat, especially considering the team was missing its number two player, upper and co-captain Anne Brandes. "Everyone had to play up a place on that ladder," coach Bruce Shang said. "Matches were hard, but our girls played

their best squash of the year."

The players all brought enthusiasm and determination to their matches. Foregger found Kaufmann's match especially inspiring. "She was running for every ball and was playing her heart out. It was a difficult match, but she put in her all and won." This victory contributed to the overall success against Rye and helped push the team into the quarter plays.

Facing off with Potomac High School in the quarters, prep Isabella Vesely surprised herself by winning with a one-point lead over Potomac's player. "After being down 0-2 in a best of five game match, I ended up making a comeback and winning the match against Potomac," Vesely said. "Although the team didn't pull through, it was a lot of fun, and I was very happy that I was able to change my game to win it."

Shang highlighted Vesely's outstanding improvement through the season. "[Vesely] started at 16th on the ladder and is ending the season numbered 7th on Varsity."

Overall, the team was well-prepared and hopeful going into its matches. Everyone on the team supported one another during individual plays. The team's ability to work together despite competing individually allowed Exeter to pull ahead of their initial eighth place ranking.

Vesely appreciated this positive dynamic. "I always had multiple teammates and our coach, Coach Shang, cheering me on. In tough and close matches, this can really make a difference in regrouping and pushing through."

Foregger agreed, noting that every player performed as best they could, and that "if there ever was a day where a player wasn't feeling their best, another player would step it up."

Building off this energy, the team is ready to train technique and give its all to their next competition. Foregger specifically described her individual focuses. "I'm hoping to work on hitting with more direction instead of just power, which is what I will be focusing on for Interschols."

Vesely is also looking to improve upon certain aspects of her match. "I'd like to have a better, more aggressive serve and be able to hit more accurately on the backhand rails. Going into these matches, I hope that I also have a bit more self-confidence in myself."

Despite not moving onto the semi-rounds, the team will head to Interschols to face off against other schools in the prep school league.

Vesely anticipates great outcomes for Big Red's last tournaments of the season, looking at the team's hard work and positive mentality. "At practice, these are the people that push you forward and make you improve, and, off the courts, they are super nice people to hang out with. I'm really excited to see this again at Interschols, as it made [Nationals] a lot more enjoyable."