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2019-nCoV, or “coronavirus” has resulted in concerns of health and racism at Exeter, 1.

» LIFE

Justin Li debuts his solo exhibition at the Lamont Gallery, “Your Blood + Mine”, 3.

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Prep Clark Wu calls for greater empathy and kindness when discussing coronavirus, 5.

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Exeter, New Hampshire

The Exonian



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Exeter Responds to Coronavirus

By HANSIZHU

Concerns over 2019-nCoV, a coronavirus that the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a “global health emergency,” have struck the Exeter community. Though Medical Director Dr. Katy Lilly stressed that the “risk to the US public is currently low,” students and administrators have addressed both the virus’ medical and cultural impacts. Asian and Asian American students, in particular, have noted coronavirus-related incidents of racism and xenophobia.

Shortly after reports of international transmission, Lilly sent an all-school email addressing coronavirus concerns. “At this time, we are continuing programming as scheduled. Please be assured that we continue to consider our programming, visitors to campus and upcoming vacation travel as we monitor the situation,” her statement read.

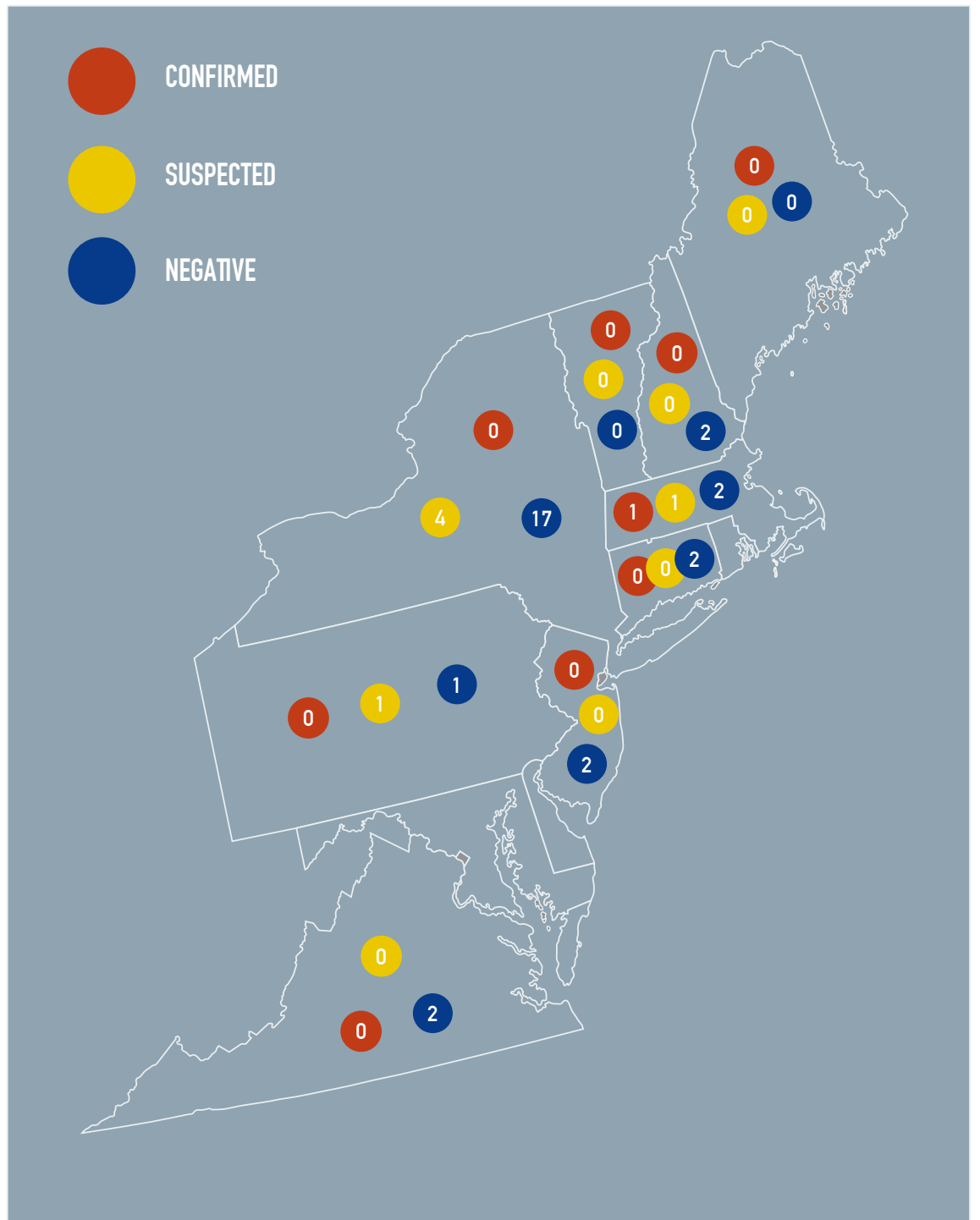
Despite these assurances, Dean of Students Brooks Moriarty encouraged students to “review travel plans for the March break” to and from China in an all-school email. International students from China were also

offered two non-Academy affiliated travel programs, one to Arizona and the other to Boston/New York City.

“The circumstances surrounding this situation are changing daily. We are monitoring information carefully, but please know that some countries may impose travel restrictions which may make it difficult or impossible for travelers to return,” Moriarty wrote in an email to international student parents.

Shortly thereafter, the Academy canceled a spring Global Initiatives trip to China, and participants in the Shenzhen term abroad and School Year Abroad Beijing programs in China were called back to the United States.

Travel program participants noted their disappointment at the trip cancellations. “I thought it was kind of premature, in that—in a month—the circumstances surrounding the coronavirus might be different,” upper Ursie Wise said. “However, we would have had to cancel it regardless because airlines are cancelling flights now. Still, we probably could have waited until airlines took action to cancel the trip.”



CORONAVIRUS, 2. All confirmed, suspected and negative coronavirus cases. Daniel Chen and Otto Do/The Exonian

“Can I Kiss You?” Academy Discusses Consent

By ANYA TANG, KIESSENANOR and MINSEOKIM

To foster healthy relationships, students attended consent and communication training through two student-centered, interactive events hosted by the Center for Respect on Thursday and Friday. Preps, in particular, were required to attend the workshop on Thursday. These sessions helped students recognize misconceptions surrounding consent and sexual assault.

Founded in 2002 by educator and author Mike Domitz, the Center for Respect is a non-profit educational organization that aims to teach anti-sexual assault curriculum to students by creating a culture of

respect.

Domitz spoke at two separate events on campus. The first, on Thursday, covered the forms of pressure high school students experience in sexual and romantic relationships, and the second, during Friday’s assembly, addressed subjects of consent and preventing sexual assault. At both events, Domitz prompted students with questions, role-plays and discussions, addressing issues from nude photographs to hook-up culture.

Director of Student Well-Being Dr. Christina D. Palmer reached out to the Center for Respect. “[The Center for Respect] was another opportunity for our community to reinforce our understanding about

CONSENT, 2.

Vernon Family Farm Explores Happiness at Assembly

By MARCO KO, TINA HUANG and ANIKA TSAI

One morning, in the middle of the scorching New Hampshire summer, hundreds of mature chickens lay still on the grounds of Vernon Family Farm. After long days of tending to the chickens, Jeremiah and Nicole Vernon’s local, family-run farm had suffered a near-fatal hit.

However, the local community, which had eaten the Vernons’ fried chicken for years and celebrated with the family on Chicken Rotisserie Nights, provided them with

an outpouring of support. The farm’s years of family service have fostered a supportive community in both good and bad times.

Their farm, based in Newfields, New Hampshire, is located just ten minutes away from campus. Invited by Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Szu-Hui Lee to speak at Tuesday’s assembly, the Vernon family emphasized pursuing passions, even if the path does not lead to conventional success.

Lee introduced the Vernon family with a proverb her own father had once told her. “Don’t chase money or hap-

piness; go after the things that give you purpose, and the rest will follow,” she said.

Lee hoped that by inviting the Vernons, she could show students an example of living by one’s personal direction and principles. “Happiness is a side effect and bonus of living life in congruence [with] your values,” she said.

Students saw what “living their best lives” meant to the Vernons on Tuesday, when the entire Vernon family took the Assembly stage together: the parents Jeremiah and Nicole, seven-year-old Magnolia, five-year-old Indigo and three-year-old Pingree.

HAPPINESS, 2.

Coyotes Spotted on PEA’s Trails

By TUCKER GIBBS, DAVID CHEN and AMY LUM

The Academy’s Red Trail made headlines on Jan. 20 after a confrontation between a local man and a rabid coyote. Fearful for his son’s safety, the man strangled the coyote after a brief tussle. Just before the incident, Campus Safety alerted the Exeter community of the hazard in Exeter’s woods. This coyote, the first sighted in 19 years, raised concerns with some Exonians who use the trails.

Just an hour before the incident, a woman suffered a coyote attack walking her dogs near her home on Drinkwater Road. By noon, Monday, Director of Campus Safety and Risk Management Paul Gravel sent out a warning to all students and staff, warning them to exercise caution when walking on the trails or near the Phelps

Stadium.

Gravel was first told by an overnight Campus Safety officer of the risk. “The officer had observed a coyote lying in the rear parking lot of Facilities Management in the early morning,” he said. “Later that morning, we received a call from Exeter Police about a coyote seen on Drinkwater Road,” which spurred Gravel to send a campus-wide notification. Shortly thereafter, Campus Safety was notified of the confrontation.

Gravel reflected on the scarcity of coyote sightings. “Coyotes are by nature afraid of humans. This particular coyote was rabid and, therefore, was not afraid and was in fact aggressive, which is very unusual,” Gravel said.

Campus Safety alerted both students and faculty to the danger posed. “We sent the informational email and posed caution signs on our trail system.

Members of Grounds have been asked to be vigilant,” Gravel said. “If it is a report of an aggressive coyote, we call [New Hampshire Department of] Fish and Game. Otherwise, we would monitor the area, as we are aware that there is plenty of wildlife living on our property, and, as long as they are not aggressive, we just need to be cautious.”

Students, particularly those who use the trails, shared some concerns about the coyotes. “Generally, I’m a little afraid of running alone, but if we’re in a pack of three or more, I feel a little bit more comfortable because we can probably scare them off,” lower and distance runner Alex Kermath said.

Senior and Varsity Cross Country co-captain Maddie Machado agreed. “The cross country team is very cautious about running alone, whether it’s in the woods or on the

roads,” Machado said. “I’m not super worried about anyone having a problem with coyotes because we always run in groups of multiple girls and stay on the marked paths. Sometimes, we run into deer or small animals, but, over my four years of running, in our woods I’ve never seen a coyote.”

Some distance runners saw no danger. “I’m not afraid of the coyotes,” prep Mateo Connelly said. “They don’t stand a chance against us. Unless they’re rabid, I’m not worried about them.”

Connelly was not the only student with this opinion. “I would look at [the coyote], and if it started running away from us, I would run towards it. And so would everyone else on the team,” upper and distance runner Phil Horrigan said. “I think, generally, the protocol is to run away. However, f**k protocol.”

Caution has led to some changes to the running routes, according to lower and winter distance track runner Sophie

Cohen. “We’ve been avoiding running on the trails a little bit more, but it’s snowy most of the time, so we haven’t really been running on them much anyways,” she said. “Instead, we’ve been running on the roads not too far off campus, just around the little neighborhoods around there.”

Several runners have other hazards on their mind. “I’m much more scared of getting hit by cars on my runs than I am of coyotes,” Horrigan said. “Although it is a problem that they’re having coyote sightings, I don’t think it’s that severe because there have only been one or two coyotes sightings, and at least one of those coyotes is dead now because that father strangled them to death.”

Though the risks are relatively low, the team is not taking many chances. “We’re trying to be really safe,” senior Will Coogan said. “The coaches don’t want anybody to get hurt and we don’t want our teammates to get hurt either.”

News

» PEA AND CORONAVIRUS

Coronavirus spurs hysteria, resulting in xenophobia directed towards Asian and Asian-American students.

» CENTER FOR RESPECT

Michel Dormitrz, educates the Academy about consent and respecting one's choice.

» VERNON FAMILY FARM

The Vernons excite PEA at assembly with their lesson about how to achieve happiness.

Students Explore Respectful Relationships and Consent

consent, healthy relationships, being a bystander and dating violence,” Palmer said.

The events themselves, however, were organized by H4, a student-led peer health education program that works with the Health Department to create beneficial learning initiatives. “[H4 meets] to discuss health issues on campus such as vaping, sexual assault, sleep deprivation or stress levels,” upper and H4 member Dorothy Baker said. “[We’re] working towards having peers get the education to help their other peers.”

The goal of the events was to create a safe environment on campus through discussions surrounding consent. “H4 really wants to reach out and make sure that students feel safe on campus,” Baker said. “[We] agreed it was a good idea to have another speaker come to campus and

talk to us about consent.”

Palmer felt the timeliness of the Center for Respect’s presentation. Specifically, she noted that the Academy’s environment surrounding sexual health continues to change in a positive direction. “There are more conversations and opportunities for students to discuss sexual behavior, consistency in language and awareness of sexual misconduct,” Palmer said. “This is evident when students report and participate in the [sexual health] curriculum.”

The Center for Respect aimed to present pressing topics of communication and sexual assault in a discussion-based environment in order to involve and engage with the attendees. “Our whole program is built on asking questions, and [students’] answers will allow us to take the conversation where it needs to go,”

Dormitrz said.

Students appreciated Dormitrz’s student-guided approach, something they believed that the Academy’s consent curriculum has lacked in the past. “The administration has been very dry about the subject and not very effective,” upper Charlie Preston said. “[Dormitrz] relayed the information in a way that we haven’t seen before.”

Specifically, students praised the fact that Dormitrz was accessible and relatable. “He really knew his demographic well. That’s sort of what made it so effective—because we knew exactly what he was talking about and he knew exactly how we would react to it,” lower Shantelle Subkhanberdina said. “Even though it was a presentation, it was very conversational and candid, and I think that’s a difference in how sex-

ual assault cases have been handled here in the past, because [the presentation] felt like we were being talked to as if we’re all on the same level.”

During his presentation, Dormitrz featured skits and invited students to present with him, which made the presentation more engaging and memorable for the students. “I heard from quite a few people that he’s one of the best speakers we’ve had ... because of the way he cared about what he was talking about and because of the way he commanded the stage,” lower and H4 member Alexandria Westray said. “Very few people were in that Assembly Hall falling asleep—because of his passion but also the way he had skits and got students on the stage, I think he’ll be in people’s minds for a while.”

Lower Dellara Sheibani enjoyed how Dormitrz’s involved students in his presentation. “By bringing students up on stage, Dormitrz was able to bring the community together,” Sheibani said. “In that way, he was able to emphasize the importance of his words and leave a lasting message.”

Dormitrz noted that Exonians reacted positively to his collaborative

approach regarding consent. “The students here were very well-educated on the topic. They’re very quick to reinforce positive choices,” Dormitrz said. “When somebody made a choice, the whole room was excited for them.”

Still, Dormitrz challenged pre-existing beliefs about consent, allowing students to identify and challenge possible stereotypes about the subject. “Even though [the students] have all this education on the topic, they can still fall into the trap of some stereotypes and some caught themselves doing it as we went along,” Dormitrz said. “It was powerful because they can recognize that this is a journey. This isn’t just because I know the right answer, I’m always going to do the right thing.”

Dormitrz’s speech left a lasting impression on listeners. “I could tell that the speaker was knowledgeable about this topic and that it was really important to him,” prep Grace Nivera said. “The speaker was so connected and caring about this issue, and there was a certain level of emotion that couldn’t be conveyed with just any speaker, which is what made this event so eye-opening.”

Vernon Family Animates Assembly

J. Vernon, who was originally invited to speak by himself, explained that he brought his whole family to share their story collectively due to the communal nature of their business. “The girls are in the store, and all of us are operating on the farm as a group. Let’s just be what we are, which is a family farm.”

The Vernons also saw the speaking engagement as an opportunity to teach their children about public speaking, community and responsibility while also providing engaging interaction between the children and the

students.

Lower Emma Chen noted the proximity from the farm to Exeter, something she found unusual on the assembly stage. “Usually, we find people from very far away, like the most famous people from all over the world, but then [the Vernons are] people who are right next to us, who we don’t know,” Chen said.

One of the main messages the Vernons hoped to leave with students was that there are many different pathways to fulfillment. “You can find an immense amount of happiness in other

things that are not traditional career paths,” N. Vernon, who introduced herself as a Spanish teacher at Exeter High School, as well as a chicken farmer, mother and community member, said. Raising chickens involves chemistry, mathematics, art, anatomy and many other disciplines, and for the Vernons—“farming itself is a foundation for a lot of creativity.”

Many students enjoyed the positive message of the family, especially when they considered Exeter’s environment. “It was very informative for Exeter students to know that you can find happiness outside of academia,” lower Neha Nedumaran said.

Other students, while they enjoyed the positive atmosphere, believed that the Vernons’ philosophy did not consider the other factors playing into a person’s

life choices. “Especially in more strict immigrant families and communities, parental expectations and what society thinks of you is really important,” lower Lekha Masoudi said. “[With] my parents’ expectations, I can do what I want to an extent, but I have to go to a good school. I have to have a respectable profession.”

While working on their farm, the Vernon family prioritizes the sustainability and quality of their food. “In the farm store, we don’t have plastic bags and only have paper bags,” N. Vernon said. “We recycle all the dairy containers and glass. All those little steps make a large impact, and it’s important to understand that.”

In the future, the Vernon family looks forward to possible collaborations with the Acad-

emy. “PEA, in my opinion, is a huge contributing member to the local community,” Jeremiah said. “You consume an incredible amount of product, food and energy. You should be supporting the local farmers and businesses in that process. I think a student-led action to improve the quality of school dinners and stuff would be awesome.”

Faculty members, such as Director of Service Learning Elizabeth Reyes, were also interested in the campus’s involvement with the broader community, which includes the Vernon Farm. “I have plans to follow up with them to see if anyone in the ESSO program wants to go up there,” Reyes said. “If any students are interested [in] trying to get a relationship and going out there to serve once in a while, I’d love to help make that happen.”

Coronavirus Raises Community Concerns

On Friday, Asian Voices (AV), a Pan-Asian affinity group for students on campus, hosted a discussion on coronavirus-related racism. “People who have family near Wuhan or in China talked about how they’ve been hearing students at school make jokes about coronavirus,” AV co-head Mia Kuromaru said. “We talked about incidents in classrooms where we felt that teachers didn’t guide the classroom environment respectfully and allowed students to make jokes about it, or made jokes themselves about coronavirus.”

For many Asian students, “travel plans have changed and international students have had their plans affected,” AV co-head David Kim added.

Dean of Students Brooks Moriarty made an announcement after Friday’s assembly asking students to refrain from allowing fear of the coronavirus to influence their views on Asians and Asian-Americans in the Exeter community.

Dean of Multicultural Affairs Sami Atif urged the community in an all-school email to remember that “health scares have led to discriminatory policies, scapegoating, xenophobia, and racism” and that “what you may perceive to be a joke, can easily come across as a racist barb.”

However, many Asian students felt that the responses from the administration were delayed. “The reactions [from AV] were grateful, but there were students who were not satisfied that there was informa-

tion [from the Health Center] about the virus sent out first, and then later on, an email that said, ‘That doesn’t allow you to be racist towards Asian people,’” Kuromaru explained. “For a lot of the students [AV members] in that room, it seemed like a second-hand thought.”

Kim also explained that certain AV members felt that multiple emails about coronavirus unintentionally dramatized the situation. “Some people at AV thought that... several emails felt excessive and unintentionally made the administration seem overly concerned about coronavirus.” However, Kim himself thought that the Dean Atif and Dean Moriarty’s responses were necessary.

International events hosted by clubs were also interrupted due to coronavirus concerns. Exeter Math Club (EMC) cancelled the 2020 Exeter Math Club Competition (EMCC) on Friday, Jan. 24 due to a fear that competitors could potentially be carriers of coronavirus.

Members of the EMC work all year to write problem sets for the competition, comprised of 300 middle school students from across the globe who travel to campus for an intensive mathematics competition. Upon hearing about the coronavirus outbreak, tournament directors seniors Ben Wright and Sanath Vogindarajan and club adviser and Mathematics Instructor Zuming Feng sought the guidance of the administration about whether to continue the event.

Though the school approved the event in accordance to CDC (Center for Disease Control) and WHO guidelines, Feng, Wright and Vogindarajan opted to cancel. “The risk was simply too large to continue with the competition, especially due to the difficulty of finding symptoms, the two-week incubation period, its highly contagious nature, and the unavailability of a cure,” the two said in their statement. “We did not want to risk anyone’s health.”

EMC chose to cancel the event entirely as they “did not want to discriminate against competitors/coaches/chaperones and therefore couldn’t block a specific subset of groups from coming.”

Due to the competition’s proximity to MATHCOUNTS, another national competition, EMC decided against postponement. “One of the reasons Exeter hosts EMCC is to help competitors prepare for MATHCOUNTS, a very important competition series for middle school mathletes that starts in early [February]. Delaying the event would defeat this purpose.”

Student and parent concerns over the competition also contributed to EMC’s decision-making. Parents, in particular, wrote to administrators about their concerns.

Some students noted their disappointment with the cancellation. Upper Yunseo Choi, a member of EMC, understood the concern for campus health but was saddened that the event

would not go forward. “When I was in eighth grade, [this competition] was a chance for me to get noticed by Mr. Feng,” Choi said. “I think it had a big impact on my acceptance here, so I’m kind of sad that there might be some kids that could’ve used this opportunity.”

In lieu of an on-campus tournament tournament, the head problem writers, tournament directors and Feng sent out tests with electronic submission forms. Coaches were told to administer the test problems to the teams that would have competed. “Now, EMCC graders are in the process of grading the electronic submissions,” EMC said.

However, the “guts” round, a teamwork-based contest that is the highlight of many competitors’ experience, required proctors to administer it. It will not be administered remotely.

In spite of the educational opportunity lost, EMC stood by the cancellation. “Teams, as well as Exeter staff, lost an important opportunity to have a team bonding experience,” they said. “However, we believe we made the right decision, given

the choices available to us.”

Peer schools have also had to balance participation in extra-curricular activities with safety concerns. At a Model United Nations competition hosted at Yale (YMUN), an Andover student reported a Chinese competitor as a potential case of coronavirus. As a result, the final day of YMUN, including a culminating committee session and an awards ceremony, was cancelled. Due to safety concerns of coronavirus, The Andover Model United Nations team chose not to attend the Harvard Model United Nations competition last Thursday to this Sunday.

However, New Haven mayor Justin Elicker announced on Jan. 31 that the individual reported tested negative.

Kim reminded the Exeter community that many Exonians are proximate to the impacts of coronavirus. “I know that coronavirus seems very far from Exeter, but I want people to know that because it is such a diverse community, we need to be aware of the gravity of our words and jokes,” he said.

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» **EVENING PRAYER**

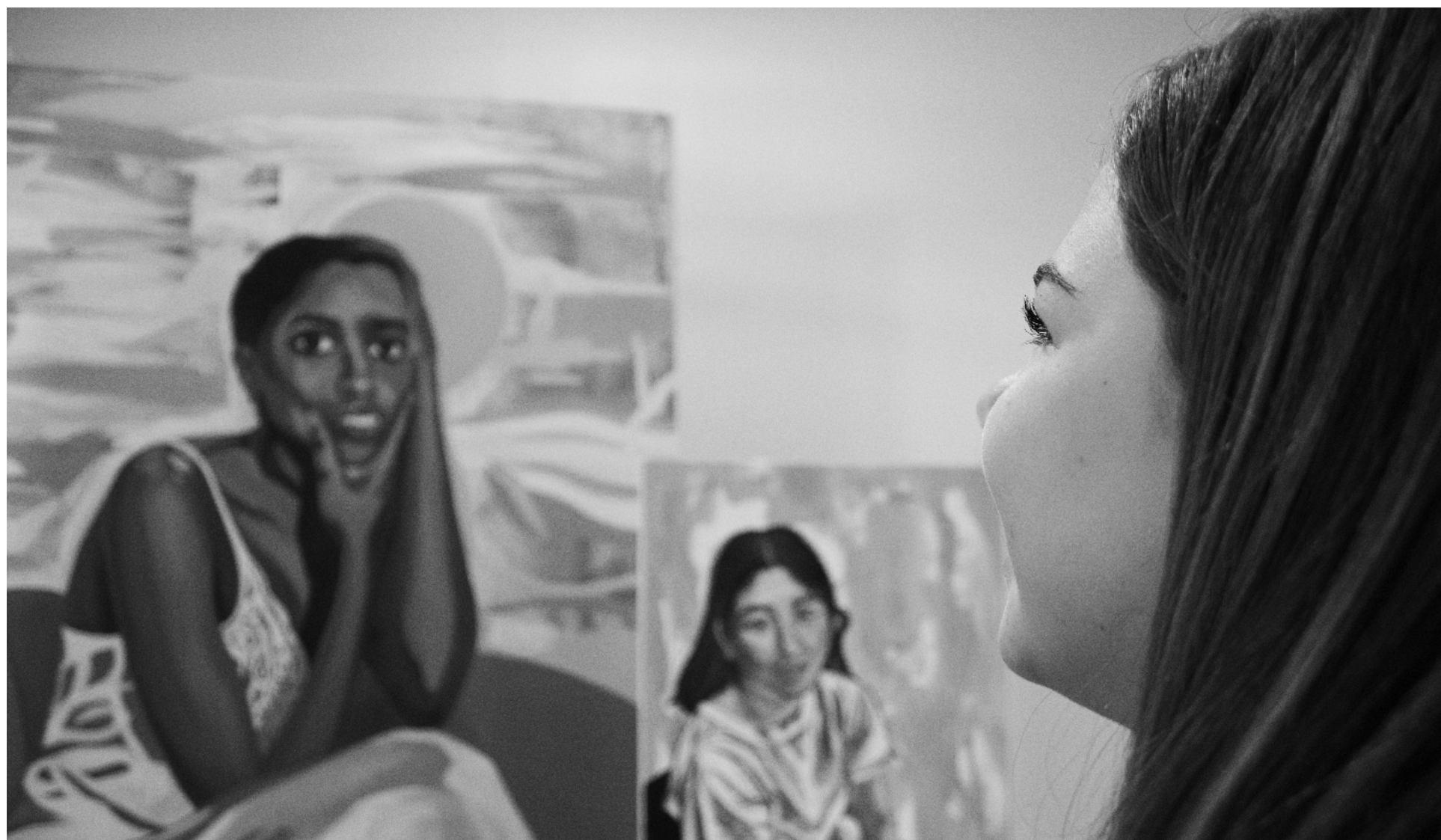
Members from the Mock Trial team will perform this Friday, Feb. 7.

» **SENIOR MEDITATION**

Senior Mollie Finnegan will be reading her meditation, “Because It’s There,” next Wednesday, Feb. 12.

» **NEXT WEEK**

Read about the inspiration behind upper Osiris Russell-Delano’s song “Ghost Town” through an exclusive interview with *The Exonian*.



A student admires senior Justin Li’s paintings.

Teja Vankireddy / *The Exonian*

“Your Blood + Mine”: Li Pieces Together Identities

By **BLAKE SIMPSON**

Displaying a vivid painting of a figure screaming in blood red, senior Justin Li debuted his first exhibit titled “Your Blood + Mine” in Exeter’s Lamont Gallery on Thursday, Jan. 23. The exhibit featured his art from his years at the Academy—2017—present—and his personal growth as an artist. The pieces highlighted the development of Li’s personal painting style and showcased a powerful visual timeline of finding oneself.

“I wanted to show how I developed as an artist, both conceptually and technically,” Li said. His pieces are inspired by his experiences as a queer person of color and the collision of those identities with Exeter’s culture.

During his artist talk, he touched on his inspiration for each of the artworks. The first one, a self-portrait from 2017, depicts the pressure felt to assimilate into American standards and is a reflection on how he chose to hide certain aspects of himself in order to do so.

Many of Li’s pieces are self-portraits, which show the ways in which he has changed from then to now. “I like to see how I change ... physically, but also through my style, colors, composition—stuff like that,” he explained.

While discussing his different portraits, Li brought up the topic of whether or not he “sees himself” in his work. He talked about how he has changed so much—even in as short a period as one year—and how his work is

demonstrative of these changes. “The message behind this piece was forming an identity,” Li said. “2018 Justin, who was still trying to piece together parts of his identity, is still there ... but I think I’ve changed a lot as well. And through my art, I’d like to shine a light on that.”

Another piece at his exhibit was a triptych depicting Asian women. Li hoped to change the narrative surrounding them and how they are portrayed. “I wanted to empower Asian women and present them in a more colorful light,” he said. Questioning the narrative of popular media which portrays Asian women as submissive or silent, he wanted to have the models claim their narrative and their portrayal by choosing their own poses.

The final pieces that he de-

scribed were the most recent and the two that he completed during his Art 999. One depicted the pain of the HIV/AIDS crisis; the other was a portrait of his close friend, Alisha Simmons. “This piece explores the HIV/AIDS crisis and how it still continues to plague queer youth—specifically those of color,” Li said. “I wanted to share my personal fear and how I personally see the crisis.”

Li experimented with departure from his previous style while crafting the piece. “It’s a bit more abstract and a lot more loose or casual in terms of painting style,” he noted.

Lower Ela Andreassen noted similar themes. “I thought his most recent piece was really cool because it sort of had a more obvious meaning to it,” she said. “He has much more of a style now ...

I think he’s found it and strayed away a bit from the realistic and leaning towards ones similar to his AIDS piece.”

Senior Summer Hua shared similar sentiments. “As a friend of [Justin], I’ve seen him grow a lot through his art and how he uses his art as a medium to empower others,” she said. Her favorite piece of Li’s was also the one surrounding the HIV/AIDS crisis.

“There are still many people in the LGBTQ+ community that have stereotypes surrounding them and this piece kind of displays their emotions about it,” Hua reflected. Hua added that his art would resonate with many, both in the present and future. “I think that his art will go on to impact a wider community and more people will be able to listen to the message behind his art,” she said.

What Are Exonians Grateful For?

By **ATHENA WANG**

Exeter celebrated Thank-a Donor Day last Tuesday. At this annual event, students thank the Academy’s donors for their contributions to Exeter. Following a speech by Vivian Wesson ’89, who shared her own appreciation for the Exeter experience, students sent gratitude notes at writing stations in the Academy Building, dining halls and Phelps Commons. The following are some of their messages:

“I’m thankful for the experiences I’ve gained at this school that I wouldn’t have had any-

where else.” — Nat Kpodonu ’23

“I’m thankful for all the amazing opportunities offered and the music program especially... We have a lot of practice rooms.” — Lara Muyombwe ’23

“I’m really thankful for the Brown Technology Grant, which gave me the opportunity to purchase supplies—including the laptop I use for all classes and homework.” — Caleb Yu ’23

“I was very grateful that I got the opportunity to do a school year abroad in Italy last year.” — Genesis Reyes ’20

“I, personally, come from a middle-class family, and there is really no way we could pay

for Exeter without the generous aid donors to Exeter have given. People mention how donors have changed their Exeter experience—for me, there would be no experience at all without their contributions. Another thing is the money given to fund assembly speakers. Assembly serves as a great way to listen to different opinions or just brighten your day a little bit, and I’m thankful for the donors that help make that small event possible twice a week.” — Rohan Modi ’23

“I’m really thankful for the fitness center because it’s a place where I can go to take my mind off of school and stay healthy in times of stress.” — Angela Zhang

’23

“I’m thankful for many things at this school: for the people and the teachers, but also my computer. I feel the donors really helped out with my financial situation. I’m also thankful for the education I can get here, whether it’s my math class or even English class—though I’m not particularly good at it—I’m thankful to the teachers for making me a better student.” — Max Chuang ’23

“I’m really thankful for teachers here at Exeter, who I can always rely on. I’ve never had such positive relationships with teachers before, and I appreciate all the effort they put into my education. All their hard work, diligence and encouragement really empowers and motivates me.” — Jacqueline Subkhanberdina ’23

“I’m extremely thankful for the opportunity to take a multitude of courses at Exeter, from a range of topics that I couldn’t get at a normal school—especially with teachers that are experienced and actually care about you.” — Val Whitten ’23

“I’m thankful for being able to be in a community with a lot of inspiring and amazing people who have made a great impact on me.” — Sami Smith ’23

“Thank you for providing me with a full financial aid grant, providing me with opportunities while my family is homeless back home. You have given me a huge helping hand out of the poverty cycle, and I cannot express in words how grateful I am for this.” — Anonymous

A Bittersweet Celebration: Reviewing the Grammys

By **BLAKESIMPSON**

This year’s Grammys took place in Los Angeles’ Staples Center, and the tone of the red carpet and stage was somber after the tragic death of Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant just hours prior. Many artists dedicated their performances to him. Despite the unthinkable tragedy, the night carried on with its scheduled performances and festivities celebrating the advances in music has made over the past year.

The night opened up with a stunningly choreographed and performed two-song set by Lizzo, followed by Gwen Stefani

and Blake Shelton, and a fairly underwhelming set by the Jonas Brothers. No Disney Channel pop rock band is going to produce the most incredible, sophisticated or cutting-edge music. Despite this, the Jonas Brothers have begun to take themselves more seriously without bringing the music up to par. Lizzo then returned to the stage to accept the Grammy for Best Pop Solo Performance for her hit song, “Truth Hurts.”

After everyone had settled in, one of the best performances of the night took place on stage. Tyler, the Creator was joined by Charlie Wilson and Boyz II Men to perform his songs “EARTHQUAKE” and “NEW MAGIC

WAND.” Tyler’s stage set was a makeshift neighborhood with the rooves on fire. This was done with a mix of effects on a large screen and actual fire, which perfectly punctuated the intensity of the song and the performance. Tyler is a showman like no other in his prime right now, and his performance was a glimmer of hope in a frequently disappointing sonic landscape.

I was quickly brought down to Earth by one of the least impressive performances of the night. One of the events from the Grammys was a tribute to Prince, primarily featuring Usher. Usher is a talented artist, and it is most certainly not my place to rag on his original work, but I took issue

with this tribute. Prince has been a huge influence on my sense of creativity, and that’s why I had a problem with this tribute.

If I am ever going to be led to believe that someone as talented as Prince is alive today, then I need to see in that person the same things I saw in Prince that inspired so many people. This tribute rounded out Prince’s edge and nearly erased what Prince fans try to keep alive about his music. This was bittersweet, as I think we should all try to remember Prince’s legacy as the music industry continues to evolve, but I also believe that a better tribute was possible, and I felt cheated by what the Grammys gave us.

Billie Eilish took home five Grammys, including Song of the Year. I am not a huge Billie Eilish fan and don’t make it a point to listen to her music; however, her performance was one of the highlights of the show. She brought out a raw and sincere vocal performance that we don’t

always get out of her mega-hits. It would take a while to analyze all of the nominees that she beat and whether or not they deserve it more, but overall I am not dissatisfied with Eilish’s victories.

The Grammys this year were an interesting forecast for the near future. The mediocrity of certain performances is no longer depressing, but accepted, and therefore makes glimmers of hope like Tyler, the Creator, and yes, even Billie Eilish, the best part about the show.

I am hopeful for the future of music as the internet in many ways has democratized it and the Grammys may only still be alive because of their prestige.

We will continue to watch the Grammys each year and cheer and walk away feeling all sorts of different ways about it, but we must take all of the night’s events with a grain of salt—because, more than ever, the future of music is now in our hands.

D-Hall Creations: Gourmet Edition

By PHILIPORAVITAN

D-Hall is not given enough credit on our campus. In addition to cooking gooey mac and cheese and reliable tacos on Tuesday, they often produce creative menu offerings that spice up the food scene here at Exeter. However, after too many plant-forward options, many students find themselves going back to a simple bagel or sandwich. To provide alternatives to these dull entrees, I present to you a couple of D-Hall recipes or hacks that are sure to please your palette.

Gourmet PB&J

Everyone knows the classic PB&J: peanut butter and jelly haphazardly smashed between two pieces of white, sleek sandwich bread. I, like most other people, treasure this excellent childhood snack. But every once in a while, I enjoy creating a bit more of an elevated—gourmet, if you will—PB&J.

To start, we need to pick out the best buns for the job. Every week, Weth gets either braided challah or sweet Portuguese bread, both of which work perfectly thanks to their superior, full-bodied tastes and exceptional toasting abilities under the hot, smoking panini press. Cut two thick pieces along the fullest side and generously butter up the out-sides to your liking.

Next, we need to create a better, more tantalizing filling by combining either strawberry or raspberry jam with the fresh fruit of your choice—often found in either the sandwich or salad aisle.

Mash, mix and pound to your desired consistency, spread on the unbuttered sides of the sandwich and begin toasting in the panini press. Make sure to not add peanut butter until the toasting is complete as to not cross-contaminate the press. Cut your golden, mouth-wateringly thick sandwich into two halves.

Next, smooth together the viscous honey and the superior newly ground Weth peanut butter, and spread on one of the puffy slices. Place the other sandwich slice on top, and you've created a sneaky tease of a gourmet PB&J.

Chocolate Waffles

Do you miss chocolate chip pancakes? The intoxicating smell of these fluffy, sumptuous cakes would pack a sweet start to any day and used to be served more frequently in both D-Halls. For a similar taste for your eager tongues, try chocolate waffles.

To start, you must leave the warmth of your room and trek across campus to Weth, where a smoking hot griddle will greet you any morning of the week. Next, you can prepare the silky batter by collecting a cup and adding Hershey's chocolate sauce to richen the color and taste.

Don't be afraid to pour liberally—really let yourself go, admiring the way the deep chocolate drizzles down into the cup, overflowing, relishing in the joy of the chocolate sheen.

Now you may proceed as usual, and after the beep of two minutes, your chocolate waffle will be ready. Make sure to add plenty of whipped cream and maybe strawberries or peanut butter, all to your pleasure.

Can't Believe it's D-Hall Butter

Do you often find yourself trying to scoop out rock-solid butter from either dining hall? Try this easy trick for spreadable golden goodness. Fill a mug with piping hot water from the coffee machine and let it relax for around a minute.

Afterwards, drain the water and place a dollop of butter in the cup, letting the warmth of the mug melt away the tension of the lipid's bondage. Wait for 30 seconds and there you go: alluring, sleek butter waiting to be spread to your liking!

GOURMET PB&J

- » challah bread or portugese sweet bread
- » butter
- » jam and fresh fruit
- » honey
- » peanut butter



CHOCOLATE WAFFLES

- » pancake batter
- » chocolate sauce
- » peanut butter
- » whipped cream
- » toppings



Avery Lavine / *The Exonian*

Inside the Abbot “Apartment”

By ANDREALUO

Inhabiting the corner room on the second floor of Abbot, uppers Wiley Bahr and Lucas McEachem have transformed the space to suit their every need. The door opens to a central square room, with four windows and a small living room in the alcove on the left. Because of the unconventional interior design, the roommates call their room “The Apartment.”

The walls of “The Apartment” are adorned with an eclectic array of items: posters, maps, photographs, flags, squash racquets—and even a baby Jesus. “I really enjoy going into thrift stores, so most of our decorations are found there,” Bahr said.

These items come from a variety of places, and McEachem, an international student from France, attributes this to their shared passion for traveling. “Our room was inspired by where we’ve been in the world, and this room is a representation of our travel experiences,” he said.

In addition to worldly mementos, items from pop culture and with family significance fill the duo’s room. “My mom followed the Grateful Dead around for four years in college,” he said. “That really influenced me to put [their posters] up.”

All around the room are items that remind Bahr and McEachem of

their respective homes. Hailing from a suburb of Chicago, Bahr represents his hometown with a Chicago Cubs poster. For McEachem, who grew up in Paris, a poster of *The Adventures of Tintin* comics displays an important part of his childhood.

More importantly, the two Abbot residents highlight their common experiences. To do so, they proudly showcase flags of the Academy and the United States. “There’s an American flag because we’ve both been to America,” McEachem joked.

Certainly, “The Apartment” benefits from pre-existing features. When picking a room for their upper year, the duo were drawn to the natural light, afforded by several large windows. “We needed sunlight because when it gets too dark, I can’t see,” McEachem said. “It also makes us happy.”

With a couch, television and fridge, the living room in “The Apartment” serves as a welcoming hangout spot. “We like to have movie nights with friends over on weekends,” Bahr said. Friends from Abbott and beyond have spent fun-filled evenings in “The Apartment,” watching a movie over pizza or playing games on the couch. Surrounded by the varied memorabilia of the room’s owners, they have forged the best of memories.



Uppers Wiley Bahr and Lucas McEachem in The Apartment.

Andrea Luo / *The Exonian*



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» **CORONAVIRUS**

Clark Wu responds to the rise of racism linked to the Coronavirus epidemic.

» **EUROCENTRISM**

Sophia Zhang argues for a diversification of the curriculum.

» **WOMEN**

Sarah Kennedy calls for an end to patronization of conservative women.



Sabrina Kearney/*The Exonian*

Kindness: A Needed Response to Coronavirus

By CLARK WU '23

Apple and Starbucks stores closed. Cinemas, malls, and restaurants empty. Starving animals waiting in zoos. In Cheng Huang Temple, a must-see complex of Lunar New Year markets and alleyways, a few vendors stand behind their flawlessly bedecked stands. They wait desperately for customers.

When I returned to China for winter break, Chinese media spread word of a novel virus in Wuhan. A patient had demonstrated respiratory symptoms after visiting the Huanan Seafood Market, where vendors traded wild and exotic animals. When questioned by reporters, however, the Wuhan government denied the existence of the mystery illness and dismissed it as part of the seasonal flu. As a consequence of such a decision, the news

of a potential virus died down.

On New Year's Eve, Wuhan reported cases of "pneumonia" to the World Health Organization. Health officials arrived and quarantined the patients.

By January, the epidemic had grown. Chinese officials reported the isolated pathogen, 2019-nCoV, as belonging to the coronavirus family, along with such viruses as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). Scientists launched immediate and transparent countermeasures by sequencing and distributing the pathogen's genome in an attempt to assist international containment efforts.

Even that couldn't stop the epidemic. On January 7, the first infected patients passed away. Reported deaths ticked up. In urban areas, medical masks sold out

in stores and online, while worried Chinese citizens flooded into cramped, overworked hospitals. Frankly, fears of coronavirus added to its severity. Terrified, the healthy flocked to hospitals, and the truly sick were crowded out. There, the healthy were in turn contaminated.

On January 23, the Chinese government imposed the Wuhan lockdown. Yes, confining healthy and contaminated populations in an underdeveloped city with a weak health system raised ethical issues. However, I believe this lockdown was absolutely necessary. Quarantining the epicenter of the virus was essential in mitigating further economic and social losses for the rest of China—and the world at large.

That being said, this lockdown has strayed far from logistical effectiveness. To begin, the delay in

the Wuhan government's response let many contaminated victims slip through the cracks and travel outside of Wuhan. According to medical experts, each of these uninformed victims would contaminate at least two more people, creating a disastrous spiral of infection. On top of that, the suspected source of the coronavirus, the Huanan Seafood Market, remained open until early January, contaminating thousands every day.

The Wuhan government's failures extend further. Though it launched the lockdown at 10am, the announcement—at 2am—spurred thousands of Wuhan families to flee. I do not wish to criticize the escaping families; staying Wuhan has practically meant death, and I probably would have done the same thing. Undoubtedly, however, this eight-hour gap allowed perhaps a million potentially infectious people to leave the city, rendering the lockdown attempt futile and utterly ineffective.

Ultimately, however, corruption and censorship in the central government lie at the core of the coronavirus outbreak.

Step one: spurning liability. From the very beginning, the state media has reported evidence coming solely from Wuhan. The Huanan Seafood Market? In Wuhan. The dismissed party officials? Of Wuhan. Lockdown? Wuhan. No one ever investigated the possibility of there being a contaminated victim who brought the disease into the market.

Step two: underplaying crisis. The established censorship system, built deeply into social media, erases posts that contradict the official narrative. The coronavirus, in turn, is painted as a heroic battle between the virus and the virtuous Communist Party under President Xi Jinping. Will they forget the valiant doctors? We must wait and see.

Looking beyond China, while I absolutely endorse international aid and understand the travel ban impositions, I feel disgusted by the global backlash against the Chinese community. Almost overnight, negative racist comments poured in from all over the world, even onto blog posts about Chinese restaurants.

What's most outrageous is a medical post from UC Berkeley.

Within a handful of "normal reactions" students might experience to coronavirus, Berkeley lists "Xenophobia: fears about interacting with those who might be from Asia and guilt about those feelings."

This normalization of racism, especially in esteemed institutions, cannot be allowed. Period. Ordinary Chinese citizens and Chinese Americans should not be the scapegoats for an infectious outbreak occurring under an incompetent administration.

Genuinely speaking, the coronavirus outbreak affects many more people around you than you think.

My grandparents have locked themselves in our home in Shanghai—one suffers from chronic laryngitis, and the other recently endured a major surgery that rendered them unable to fly. To leave would be too great of a risk. They depend on the food they've stacked up in the refrigerator and the kitchen shelves. They don't dare take a single step out of the house, because three residents across the street have already been infected. I can't speak for other students, but I believe the same dangers and concerns haunt others in the Exeter community right now.

Exeter, please be kind. I've heard a lot of racist barbs about coronavirus, hidden under the patronizing veil of "joking." Just because someone is Asian or Chinese doesn't mean you can't walk with them. Just because someone came back from China recently doesn't mean you have to hold your breath around them. And, in all honesty, given recent cases in Boston and New York, the issue is also closer to home than you might imagine. We all know joking about cancer is wrong—who gave you the right to joke about coronavirus, then?

I know we're still high schoolers, and we can't solve a worldwide epidemic. Still, we can do our best to keep our community safe—and, just as importantly, warm—in this harsh winter season. Cough into your elbow. Drink lots of water. Wash your hands regularly, before and after your meals. Use napkins in the cafeteria.

Be tolerant of mistakes. Lend a helping hand. Smile.

In Defense Of the Myers-Briggs Test

By RYAN XIE '20

Since the conception of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), psychologists and others have criticized it. For those who are unfamiliar, the MBTI is a personality test that categorizes people into one of 16 types, based on four binary factors. Someone can be Extroverted or Introverted, Sensors or Intuitive, Thinkers or Feelers, and Judgers or Perceivers. These combine into a medley of four letters (such as INFJ), giving 16 personality types.

Typically, people take the test online by answering questions on per-

sonal beliefs and behaviors, which tell people how much of an E vs. an I they are, how much of a S vs. an N and so on. Despite the scientific criticism behind the Myers-Briggs, I can also see the argument for its often-ignored benefits.

One common argument against the MBTI describes how the categorization is often inaccurate. For instance, someone can be Extroverted 90% of the time and Introverted 10% of the time (abbreviated as 90% E — 10% I). This person would be categorized as an "Extrovert," as would someone who is 60% E — 40% I. Despite the similar classifi-

cation, these individuals would display significantly different amounts of extroversion. In the same vein, someone who is 60% E — 40% I has a closer personality to someone who is 40% E — 60% I than a 90/10, even though the 40/60 would be categorized as an Introvert.

People also criticize the Myers Briggs because it does not explain the mechanisms behind why people behave in certain ways. All it can do is categorize. You can't say, "Oh, that person is an ESFP, so that person will choose to go to Grill instead of doing homework" (I think this is actually true, though. ESFP's, amirite?).

However, the purpose of a beneficial test can be categorization instead of explaining behavior. Inherently, categorization cannot acknowledge the nuances and granular nature of a continuum (for the MBTI, this is the continuum between extroversion and

introversion or between Judging and Perceiving, for example). Though categorizing personalities isn't necessary, the MBTI serves this purpose very efficiently and effectively, evident from the numerous subreddits and opinions columns on it.

Moreover, I have found that the MBTI sparks interest. Certainly, it sparked my interest in psychology a few years ago, despite it being considered pop psychology or pseudo-psychology. To me, it was like a sophisticated version of a Buzzfeed Quiz; you put in some opinions about yourself, and then you get back a written report explaining how you're an ESTP, for example. For me, this was pretty fun. The best part, though, was guessing others' personality types and sometimes finding out that my guess was correct. Since then, I have loved exploring psychology.

Of course, this isn't the most

scientific test, but I know that oftentimes, learning things in the popular aspects of a field spark a deeper interest in it. It's like how being on a rollercoaster can make someone interested in physics. Or how reading Percy Jackson can make someone love writing, even though Percy Jackson isn't the type of English you would study in high school. Psychology itself is an often underrepresented field that many people don't gain exposure to until high school and college, and the Myers-Briggs effectively presents an easy-to-understand topic for people of all ages.

The Myers-Briggs personality doesn't have to serve the purpose of explaining human personality or even being entirely accurate; it can just be a categorization device, while still having merit. And if you haven't taken the Myers-Briggs personality test, I highly suggest you do it. You'll be fascinated.

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INTJ



LOGICIAN
INTP



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ENTJ



DEBATER
ENTP



ADVOCATE
INFJ



MEDIATOR
INFP



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ENFJ



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ISTJ



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ISFJ



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ESFJ



VIRTUOSO
ISTP



ADVERTURER
ISFP



ENTREPRENEUR
ESTP



ENTERTAINER
ESFP

Let's Ensure That Every Culture Is Heard in the Classroom

By SOPHIAZHANG '23

As a six-year-old in China, I had an irregular education. Coming into the school system a fluent English speaker made me the teacher's pet right away. As a minuscule six-year-old, I stood in front of the white board, bossing around the other six-year-olds as they struggled to pronounce their phonics right. English was my pride.

I was, as they said, international.

Soon, I could choose not to attend certain classes as long as I maintained my grade. I didn't even need to focus on Chinese or Chinese history, and my teachers had a ready-made excuse: "She's going out of China, that one—give her the freedom she needs!" So I found more pride in knowing English and, like many of my international school friends, took pride in not really knowing Chinese.

My only perspective was that speaking English made me special. I was constantly reminded, from the praise of teachers and the respect of peers, that knowing English and being just a bit more American made me special. Better.

Of course, the problem didn't stop at my perspective. English classes often give us a narrow view of the world, and this problem flows through almost every subject we take.

Take history as an example. "The Atlantic Slave Trade between the 1500s and 1800s brought millions of workers from Africa to the southern United States to work on agricultural plantations." This sentence was photographed by a black Texas student from his history textbook, who in turn texted the picture to his mom, Roni-Dean Burren.

"It talked about the U.S.A. being a country of immigration, but mentioning the slave trade in terms of immigration was just off," Dean-Burren said to the New York

Times. "It's that nuance of language. This is what erasure looks like."

Not all textbooks do this, but this provides a pretty good example—in learning history, one voice often shapes our perspective. Events are taught, remembered and almost never questioned, building a history that belittles other cultures and seeks understanding without conflict, without divergent views and without multiple sources.

The same is true of literature and art—popular scholarship still tends to celebrate the works of Western thinkers, even when the exploration of others could provide a much better outlook.

At Exeter, we study the works of great Greek playwrights and have extensive courses on the Od-

yssey and the Iliad. These are undeniably influential pieces of art, but they are only pieces of all the plays and poetry that the ancient world produced.

Philosophy, too, is mainly focused on studying the works of thinkers such as Socrates (really just Plato), Descartes, Spinoza and Kant, all the way down to Nietzsche and Satre—all of whom, as a philosophy nerd, I ardently admire. However, they are still just a group of European men (with some Americans sprinkled in). We're missing out on so many different works that have had just as much influence on thought or at least should. We're missing out on so many new perspectives.

Let me clarify. Teaching about Western ideas is absolutely awesome. Placing an exaggerated em-

phasis on them, however, isn't. So, what should we do?

Some may say that there isn't anything we can do. How can we override what textbooks and school feed into our mouths? I can only tell you this: try.

As students, and perhaps teachers, our influence as individuals will not be far reaching to the point where we can change textbooks. I do implore you, however, to try and bring more thoughts and cultures into your classrooms. In fact, Harkness is a great tool for this. We can bring our own voices to the table, and, in doing so, we can pull in more perspectives.

In history, we can step beyond the content and look into the texts themselves, investigating how historians' lenses influence the ways they write and the ways we per-

ceive their work. Take your Tao Te Ching to your next philosophy class and research playwrights like Bharata Muni in English. Start by yourself—go looking for different perspectives.

If you've begun to realize how our learning is shaped by one perspective, see it as an opportunity to clean your learning glasses and reexamine. See it as an opportunity to realize how important other narratives and cultures are.

I've learned to begin loving my own Chinese identity, finding just how much history we have and how many people from my culture I can learn from. If you haven't yet, I implore you—start doing the same. Be the change and bring in more perspectives from around the world. We can't let one voice shape our future.



Sabrina Kearney/*The Exonian*

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Stand Up for a Real Student Democracy

By THE FS PARTY

Phil Horrigan '21, Philip Oravitan '21 and Emmanuel Tran '21

Disclaimer: The Exonian does not endorse any candidate for Student Council, and this piece should be construed as neither an endorsement nor an expression of support. Emmanuel Tran, an Opinions Editor, is a member of the FS Party and formerly its presidential candidate. Tran was not involved in the review or editing process for this article.

If you were to look in on the average Student Council meeting, you would see a room half-full of bored representatives doing work on their computer, zoning out the Executive Board's pleas for people to pay attention to the speaker, and a group of preps in the back who haven't uncovered the hidden uselessness of our current form of student government.

However, veteran Student Council members have realized the unavoidable faults of the self-described "student voice in all matters on campus." If you checked in on the other 950 or so students on campus, you'd find that our most prominent form of student representation is the farthest thing from their mind. A lot of campus, anecdotally, either doesn't care about StuCo or dislikes it, either because they don't know what it does or because they don't like whatever it does do.

During the Student Council METIC last month, there was one resounding theme: disappointment. The voting body was disappointed that the Visitations policy hadn't been fixed; disappointed that Evening Prayer hadn't been moved back to Tuesdays; disappointed that Executive Board

hadn't been spending its massive budget well; disappointed that the Student Council meetings weren't fun or exciting like they were a couple of years ago.

There has, in the last couple weeks, been outward progress to fix at least two of these complaints. A "task force" has been created to tackle the Vs policy, and a demonstration of dissatisfaction has been organized to prove to the administration that EP needs to be on Tuesday—as if reduced attendance and performer dissatisfaction haven't made this point obvious enough.

We agree with the points made in the METIC and are apprehensive about the success of StuCo's recent efforts.

We are also concerned about the transparency of the whole organization. The last time a Student Council Agenda was posted to ExeterConnect was October 2018. The last minutes were uploaded last September. Despite the fact the Co-Secretaries have diligently written the minutes, students have been unable to access them on the Student Council site due to technical issues, rendering them inaccessible to the average Exonian. The Executive Board meets with administrators often, but the student body has not seen a single note from one of those meetings.

Then, there's the issue of the Student Council budget. Every year, the body gets more money from the school than some of its employees. On top of this, alumni have the option to donate to the organization, adding even more income. On one of the school's accounting sheets, there is a number in the range of 10 to 15 thousand dollars that can be used by the Council. Where does all this

money go? Who knows.

There is one irrefutable benefit to our current, bloated Student Council: the college application. It would be naive of us to continue writing this article without recognizing the obvious fact that the title "Student Council Representative" or "Student Council Committee Head" helps when fighting the ever-more selective gauntlet of college. We'd like to hope and believe that our fellow students weren't upholding StuCo for themselves. Alas.

Anyway, we want to repeal the Student Council Constitution and usher in a new era of student representation. Along the way, we want to give the exorbitant amount of money collecting dust back to the people.

We, very much like you, are a group of Exonians who try to see a more positive future for ourselves and others. We are also the first Student Council political party. We call ourselves the FS party. FS officially stands for the "For the Students," but we encourage other interpretations.

Our first and most important goal is to fix a system that has been broken for too long. Exeter's current system of student government lacks the power to have an actual impact on the school's policy. Right now, we rely on bureaucracy: meeting with members of the administration or faculty and hoping that, through conversation, the student's voice will be heard. It's very Harkness of us—but it usually doesn't work because the administration doesn't have to listen.

One method of broadcasting our qualms with the administration that has had tremendous results throughout the last decade

is protest. Good, old-fashioned, student-initiated protest. Everyone on campus knows what events we're talking about. The administrations certainly remember them, too. Protesting would be the last resort, only after diplomacy has failed, and hopefully infrequent. As the protests will only be necessary for the direst circumstances and the most impactful issues, student agency will be present.

That is why we want to repeal the StuCo Constitution and create a new student government, which takes a new approach to the students' voices. This new body, deemed The Golden Branch, will use protest as a means to an end. We suggest Googling (or Yahooing if you don't like Google's monopolistic tendencies) "The Golden Branch Exeter" and ignoring its unfortunate transformation into the Daniel Webster Debate Society.

morrow.

We advocate for pure democracy. Through bi-weekly (meaning once every two weeks, not twice a week, for those in the back) elections online that are open to every student on campus, we can fix those problems. If everyone on campus has the opportunity to vote easily, the student voice will be much more concrete.

The FS-proposed Golden Branch would be made up of seven operators whose sole job is to carry out the will of the people as demonstrated by the elections. Say, for instance, the student body wanted to buy hammocks on the quads. A member of the community would propose the idea to The Golden Branch, through an online form, they would determine the idea's feasibility (in this case very feasible) and put the idea up for a vote in the next elections. If the majority of voters supported it,

"Protest beyond the law is not a departure from democracy; it is absolutely essential to it."

— Howard Zinn

The current Student Council, which is based on a Republican system, cannot accurately represent the student body. You'll see this sentiment echoed throughout the current Student Council Executive Board candidates. Representatives become out of touch and fail to vote effectively on behalf of their constituents. Representatives don't attend the meetings, so they can't even vote. Representatives have a history paper due to

the seven operators would make it happen.

The Golden Branch eliminates the middle man; eliminating the middle man will increase the number of Exonians involved in our Student Government; more involvement will lead to a better campus. FS is fighting for The Golden Branch.

Race in Comedy: A Delicate Balance

By ARYA PALLA '23

For most people, comedy is a source of relief. It can be an escape from the harsh realities of the world or just something to chuckle at to help your day. What's great about comedy is that it is universal. Everyone can laugh at something, just not the same thing. Comedy's subjectivity might be its greatest quality—but not everyone would agree.

Some of the greatest comedians push the boundaries in their jokes. Some tackle politically incorrect issues. Others make jokes based on topics most of us think about but are too afraid to talk about: topics such as race.

When joking about race, there

is a structure most comedians use. You can punch up but not down. This applies to a variety of situations, but race in comedy is a perfect manifestation of this model. In our society, the one race most comics punch up to are white people. More prominent comedians, however, don't always need someone to punch up. To them and to the world, they are already on top. They still make jokes about race, however, because some are still funny.

Often, there is a limit to what is acceptable. However, to some comedians, such as Dave Chapelle, those limits are nonexistent.

Chapelle, one of the most prominent comedians of our time, jokes about all sorts of politically incorrect subjects, twisting and turning

these taboo topics to produce a lot of laughs. Though the topics he covers might be controversial, his specials and bits still succeed.

In his recent special, "Sticks and Stones," Chapelle performs several bits making fun of certain groups. His audience was diverse, consisting of the very groups he poked fun at—white or black, gay or straight, they all laughed, because they were able to step back a little and joke about themselves.

Despite earning an incredible 99 percent audience score, the special got a measly 35 percent score from critics on Rotten Tomatoes. The 35 percent was an uproar against the crude humor expressed in the show. Chapelle's unforgiving comments elicited laughs in many—but clearly not all. Most of the critics who didn't take a liking to the jokes called Chapelle a bigot, racist, Trump supporter and just straight up unfunny. Of course, these people are entitled to their opinions. However, they were wrong to attempt to project their disagreement onto others.

Chapelle's jokes have always been controversial with the critics. Even though they hit home with his regular audience and most of the public, his unorthodox jokes about race and identity unnerved some critics. They tried to get him blocked on social media platforms, banned from hosting conventions and more.

He mentioned this during his special, referencing the stories of comedians like Kevin Hart. Hart made a homophobic tweet over 10 years ago, which led to his resignation as host for the 91st Oscars. Chapelle explained that the outlandish tweets were obviously sarcasm, though they aren't completely excusable. He explained that the criticism wasn't representative of Hart's good nature and personality and that, ultimately, the backlash against Hart and other comedians wasn't completely justified.

This all ties back to the intertwining of comedy and race; it all depends on the environment in which we express our comedy. We all pick and choose which jokes

to say depending on whom we're speaking with, and we feel comfortable making jokes about taboo topics with those whom we know well and trust.

Race can play into comedy, but it doesn't always have to. It is important to know your audience and gauge the response. Our ability to laugh at ourselves develops our humility and personal relations with others. When we can take certain jokes, it improves our mental health as well.

Obviously, race and humor are not funny to some, which is why it is important to be aware of your audience if you are doing comedy about such topics. While joking about sensitive topics can be a good practice in exploring tricky issues, we've already seen the consequences of careless, unaware humor.

Ultimately, the intertwining of race and comedy hangs in a delicate balance. Be careful, for sure, but go ahead if you can handle it with sensitivity and awareness.

Stop Patronizing Conservative Women

By SARAH KENNEDY '21

Why is it so difficult for Democrats to understand conservative women? From Hillary Clinton to students at Exeter, the very people who proclaim themselves to be tolerant often use sexist tropes to attack Republican women.

In the leadup to the last presidential election, Hillary Clinton stated that "[women] will be under tremendous pressure—and I'm talking principally about white women. They will be under tremendous pressure from fathers and husbands and boyfriends and male employers not to vote for 'the girl.'"

This comment suggests that women who do not vote for Democratic women do so under the influence of their male relatives. This is a pernicious attitude that patronizes women, and it falls back on the anti-suffragist trope that women shouldn't vote because they would parrot their husbands' opinions.

Unlike my father, who typi-

cally votes Democratic, I am a Republican. I do not intend to vote that way because of the influence of my father.

Instead, I chose to educate myself by going to my local library and reading all the political books I could find. I respect that many women who are raised in conservative households also choose to educate themselves about the issues and become Democrats. That is a valid choice, but it is not the only choice.

Some students at Exeter have told me that Republicans are simply less intelligent than Democrats because Democrats choose to educate themselves about the issues. To suggest that I only identify as Republican because I am uneducated is to downplay my intelligence and that of conservative women everywhere. I wonder if those same comments would have been levied against a man. Sexism is still wrong, even if it is against your political opponent.

I have also heard the argument that Republicans hate women.

Many Exonians in particular have asked me how I could possibly be a Republican when that party tries to curb access to my so-called "reproductive health" at all times.

The answer to that line of questioning is simple: I believe that abortion is wrong.

I care little about "healthcare access" that actually ends a human life. It is not just men who want to limit abortion. There are millions of women in America who also believe that the right to life is a human right. To argue that those who are opposed to abortion are simply foolish old men who ignore the millions of young women like me on the frontlines of today's abortion battles. At Exeter, I have been told that if I do not support abortion, I am a misogynist. I am a woman—I certainly do not hate women or believe them "lesser" in any way.

Conservative women in particular are also attacked for their appearance. One of my personal heroes, former White House Press Secretary Sarah Hucka-

bee Sanders, was attacked by Michelle Wolf during the White House correspondents dinner. Wolf made jokes about Sanders' makeup and called her "the Uncle Tom of disappointing other white women."

This is a ridiculous double standard. I have read on liberal blogs and heard here at Exeter that it is wrong to mock people for their appearance. Why do the rules change when a conservative is involved? It is hard enough for women in politics without their appearances being policed. When comedians who claim to be feminists attack someone who is a role model for girls like me, they are not encouraging female solidarity. Rather, they show that unless the only thing you believe in is what is expected for the educated liberal elite, then anything about you can be mocked with impunity.

I have heard it said that Democrats are a party of choices. If that is the case, then why is it so inconceivable to them that women might choose to vote Republican? To tell women that vot-

ing Democratic is for their own good, and then to attack women who don't, is not giving women a choice at all. To suggest that women must vote a certain way because they are women is sexism, pure and simple.

Former Secretary of State Madeline Albright once said, "There's a special place in hell for women who don't help each other!" I respect Ms. Albright greatly, but I don't believe that I need to support Hillary Clinton or Elizabeth Warren just because they are women. That takes away my agency to decide who I think is the best choice for our country. I would rather judge them by their plans than by their gender. Just being a woman does not mean that any one candidate is what Americans need, and it doesn't mean that I have to vote for her.

To suggest that I must vote for someone who looks like me, rather than who thinks like me, is the true insult to my intelligence and ability to choose my own fate.

Humor

Have an idea for a humor article? Scan our code to submit your suggestion, or email the page at exonianhumor@gmail.com with your full article.



Top Ten Ways To Wear Your Lanyard

By KAYLEE CHEN and CINDY SU
Preps

1. Don't. Bundle it up into a pocket square and dangle it from your jeans.
2. Swing it around your head like a lasso wherever you go. Say "yeehaw" instead of hi for dramatic effect. The cowboy hat is optional.
3. Wear it as a belt when you don't want your pants to fall down. They say dress for the job you want and nothing says top dog like being a future Red Bandit™.
4. If you drape it around your head like a headband you can at least be certain nobody will be worried about your hair.
5. Wear it, but make sure the photo side isn't showing. You'll seem more mysterious when you complain about how your photo looks nothing like you.
6. Dress it up for Friday Night EP—that tie lanyard combo moves differently.
7. Wear it everyday.
8. Clip a few necessities onto the lanyard: hairbands, keys, tissues, the patience you need to finish that history paper, pens...
9. At some point, you'll set down your lanyard for the last time. The nylon faded, beat and torn. That sun kissed maroon withered by your adventures together. It was loved. Appreciate those final moments with your lanyard. You only realize it when it's gone.
10. If you're anything like us you appreciate high fashion—without a doubt icing out your neck by wearing your favorite stuffed animal, that's something I've never seen before.

Elections Committee Making Candidates Get Signatures During Winter Thaw

By SONNY FITENI
Humor team's deadweight editor



Last Week's Crosswords Answers

By SARAH HUANG

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Down | Across |
| 2. Long Block | 1. Grill |
| 3. Juxtaposition | 4. Alex the Geologist |
| 5. Elm | 6. Dickey |
| | 7. RawDog |

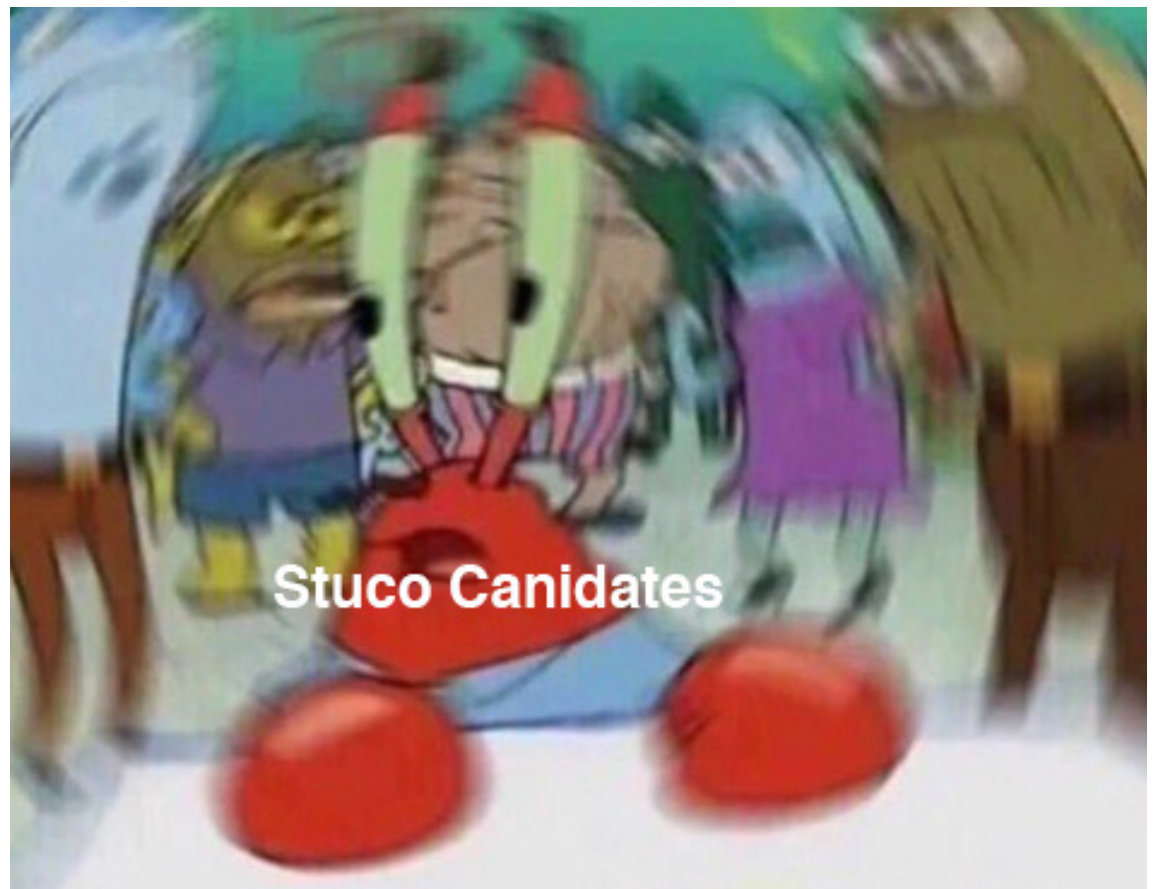
TFW When Emmanuel Gets Disqualified for Prez



StuCo Memes for Non Sibi Teens

By SONNY FITENI

“So what’s your platform about anyways”



*Not me, I'm running for Mental Health Days

The Seven Stages of Winter Thaw

By JACK ARCHER
Likes bylines

Threshold: 5:59 PM. Friday night. The Harkness warrior is wrapping up his final point after enjoying another productive class of talking to himself. The teacher hardly looks down to draw another line on their unbalanced Harkness chart. Books lay unannotated. All eyes are on the clock as it ticks down to sweet release.

Initiation: 6:00 PM. Everyone simultaneously yells, “have a nice weekend!”, and bolts. The Harkness warrior keeps on talking. His Friday night is already off to a great start. Yours is just beginning. You sprint onto the quad, brilliant plans for the night and the weekend ahead racing through your head. You’re going to do so much nothing. You’re gonna party so hard you’ll forget that your midterms are so low they can be rounded down to zero. You’ll sleep for days. You’ll get so far ahead the next time you do homework will be senior spring.

Lapsation: It is 4 AM when you look up from your laptop and wonder how long you’ve been binging for. As a matter of fact, how did you even get here? Last you remember you were in D-Hall making big plans for the

night. Everything else is a big blank. Oh well. At least you have three free days ahead of you.

Oblivion: Turns out your experience on Friday was not the result of a one night stand as you hoped but the beginning of a trend. The weekend passes in a blur. You spend half of it unconscious. Because you’re getting loads of sleep, of course. Your will to move plunges, and you become one with your chair, one with your bed. Your watch time statistics claim there are more than 24 hours in a day, yet you feel no alarm. You feel nothing. You tried to do homework the other night but one subject took you five hours. Empty bags of junk food mysteriously appear in your hands. Is this inner peace you’ve found? True happiness? It just might be.

The Super Bowl: You had a good run, San Fran. Maybe try getting an even bigger lead next time around.

Deterioration: Monday night approaches like an invisible train. You lay strapped to the tracks, pinned down by a sleep schedule so ridiculous you think you may have jet lag. You try to change course, scrambling to finish homework you thought you did

days ago, and squeezing in one last season of your favorite show. And another because it ends on a cliffhanger. You set your alarm at 3AM and you swear you can hear the 8AM bell ringing, beckoning you to your first class in three days.

Reinitiation: The Monday night train wreck is nothing compared to the brain-wrenching jerk you feel as you get out of bed on Tuesday morning. The sun blinds you. You’re not used to waking up when it’s light out. You’re not used to feeling tired, you don’t really know who you are, and you’re pretty sure you haven’t done the homework for your 8AM yet. Classes are distant memories, like the Silly Bandz hobby you had in third grade. You certainly feel like a silly band—stretched, distorted, and you can’t really tell what you’re supposed to be. The Harkness warrior has lost his voice. The horror you feel when you gaze into the mirror is nothing compared to the look your coach gives you when they first see you after the break. Also, low homework week is over. You have three major assignments and a narrative draft due soon. Hopefully you had a restful Winter Thaw. You’re going to need it.

10 Things That Happen Too Frequently at Exeter

By ADAM TUCHLER

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| P E M S Y S W I P F N V | 1. ____ talking about his grades. |
| X L U P I M M E E E E C | 2. Elm’s traditional Fuji chicken tempura turning out to be ____. |
| V C T O U G X L N G R S | 3. A ____ outperforming me. |
| A I N R O F I L A C H P | 4. Andrew Benson and Sydney Kang being featured in the ____ section. |
| W T O T A X R N S S U D | 5. ____ teachers making students cry. |
| P S K S K K N I I G Q I | 6. Assembly checks only hitting ____ and ____. |
| P I D E T U O L E U I F | 7. Coach Reavill exercising his Nintendo Switch with 20 games of ____. |
| X L P J G C G I N N D T | 8. Felix buying ____. |
| B M E G J N G S R C D B | 9. ____ section publishing an article that references itself. |
| E M E L E H Z V K A M S | 10. Humor forcing 10 lines in a ____. |
| I T N E W Y O R K G M W | |
| S R O M U H D M R K O L | |

Quotes of the Week

I think I might have touched *The Exonian* twice—once to tear it up, another because we were out of toilet paper.

— Emir Islamovic, '20

You can quote me. I don't care. It's not like I'm gonna read it.

— Emir Islamovic, '20

Sports

» BOYS' BASKETBALL

Boys' Basketball will play against Tabor at 4:30pm on Saturday.

» BOYS' SQUASH

Boys' Squash will compete against Choate Rosemary Hall at 4:00pm on Saturday.

Athletes of the Week: Andrew Benson & Charlie Venci

By **SOFIA MORAIS** and **CLAIRE FU**

At the sound of the whistle, senior Charlie Venci preps himself on the blocks in his signature pose, arms set as if ready to run a race. Once the official calls out, "Swimmers, take your mark," Venci bends down, gripping the edges of the block. At the sound of the buzzer, he launches off and dives in like an arrow. Cutting through the water with power and determination, Venci begins to pull ahead of the other swimmers, and the team erupts with excitement on the deck. Reaching for the wall, Venci does it again with another outstanding win for Exeter.

Venci, along with senior Andrew Benson, are the co-captains of the Boys' Varsity Swim team this year. Together, they have led the team to many victories this season. They are not only exceptional swimmers but compassionate friends and teammates, always trying to provide a fun team culture with traditions and fast swims.

"They always bring that extra level of energy," coach Avery Reavill said.

Venci began competing at the young age of five for a small country club team where his mother used to swim when she, too, was a child. After swimming for the non-Academy affiliated Exeter Swim Club and at the Academy for four years, his mother was eager to take Venci down the same path.

"She enrolled my brother and [me] in swim lessons at age three and pushed us to compete as soon as we turned five," Venci said. "I was hesitant at first, but I started swimming for a club team at age seven, and everything took off from there."

"I have always loved the sensation of being underwater.

It's like being on another planet," Venci said. "I love to race and compete. I hate to lose, and I get fired up for weeks at the thought of making a mistake or losing a race. I have always worked to produce the fastest possible version of myself on race day, and I always look forward to my next shot at the podium."

Benson had a similar early start with the sport. He began at age six through swim lessons with his mother at their local pool. "My family encouraged me to join a swim club, and my swimming career took off," he said. "I swam on the Exeter swim team for a few years with some success before transferring to my current club team, SOLO Aquatics. Later on, I joined the Phillips Exeter Academy swim team and began to swim year round on both my high school and club teams."

With both co-captains sharing an early love for the sport, it is no coincidence that they have created such a close yet competitive bond over the years. Venci shared his first encounters with Benson. "I met Benson when we were 12 years old at a New England Championship Meet. Over the next few years, we slowly grew closer through many races against one another," he said. "When I learned that he was coming to Exeter, I was thrilled."

The rapport has lasted. "His talent, work ethic and enthusiasm for the sport of swimming have been tremendous assets to our team over the last few years," Venci noted. "We push each other extremely hard in the pool, and ... I am honored to have known Andrew for this long. I know that swimming has given us a bond that will exist long after our swimming days have ended."

Benson spoke of Venci in



Seniors Andrew Benson and Charlie Venci

The Exonian

similar terms. "Chazz is my best friend, I am truly honored to have him as my teammate and co-captain," he said. "He makes every yard I swim all the more worth it."

The close bond this year's captains have translated to the entire team's atmosphere at practice and meets. While the expectations are high, the dynamic remains positive. "They work together to create rosters for swim meets and plan workouts. They don't take everything seriously, which is a good mentality in my opinion. Chill vibe's very nice," upper Josh Yu said. "They like to hype people up and get us excited to race."

"Chazz does a great job at rallying the home crowd to support his team," prep Patrick McCann said.

The team is strengthened by a respect for their captains' technical skill. "Benson is like 'Toothless' from DreamWorks' 'How to Train Your Dragon.' He is the fastest, and he is missing a tooth," upper Adam Tuchler said.

A notable aspect of Benson and Venci's leadership is their willingness to flexibly adapt

long-standing traditions. Such traditions include "throwdowns" at practices, where two swimmers race one another to gain the title of champion in different events.

"One thing that I'm really glad Chazz and Benson introduced to the swim team is the "throwdown belt," which is a championship belt that we give to the winners of 'throwdowns,'" senior Benjamin Cai said. "Chazz and Benson consistently get the boys' team excited for racing and this belt is a collective measure of every swimmers' enthusiasm and pride for the sport and each other."

In addition to creating a strong team dynamic, the co-captains have focused on fostering growth in younger members of the team. "Coming in new to varsity as a ranger, they really made sure that the rangers aren't treated differently than the full varsity swimmers," lower Pedro Coelho said. "After all, we're all here to practice because of our love for swimming."

While swimming is an individual sport, the captains make it a true team endeavor. "Their

support for their teammates is incredible. They always want everyone to swim fast and chase after their personal goals," Reavill added. "At the same time, though, they make sure their group is still excited to perform for each other as a team."

Besides their contributions to the team, the duo have had many individual successes and strengths. "Chazz has a more easy-going personality; he encourages swimmers like me to speak up for ourselves and set and pursue our own goals," Cai said. "However, Benson is definitely not afraid to challenge us, especially through sets that he designs himself."

Benson has collected an assortment of records over the years, ranging from the 100 breast to 50 free to multiple relays. Venci, too, has had his share of personal triumphs. However, they lead together, and that has made their leadership special. From school and New England records to throwdown traditions, Benson and Venci have set the standard for fast swimming and excellent teamwork for the Big Red Boys' Swim team.

show your loaf.

send a note!



\$2 to let someone know that, you're **butter** together

BOYS' HOCKEY	SCORE	GIRLS' BASKETBALL	SCORE	BOYS' BASKETBALL	SCORE
01 Kimball Union	1-4	01 St. Paul's	34-43	01 Belmont Hill	57-51
02 Cushing	1-2	02 Thayer	27-52	02 Loomis Chaffee	54-63
GIRLS' HOCKEY	SCORE	GIRLS' SQUASH	SCORE	GIRLS' SWIMMING + DIVING	SCORE
01 Tilton	42-33	01 Dana Hall	6-1	01 Dana Hall	90-68
02 Rivers	3-4	02 Noble and Greenough	2-5		

Boys Squash Bests Nobles

By MILO WALSH

The small ball flies from one side of the court to the other. Senior and co-captain Ryan Xie whips his opponent until the Noble and Greenough player is left exhausted. Finally, he finishes him off in straight sets while the crowd behind him goes wild.

This past Saturday, Big Red's Boys' Squash team traveled to Dedham, Massachusetts to take on the Nobles' Bulldogs. Big Red had a rocky start after losing their first three matches, but the bottom four on varsity pulled through and sealed Big Red's 4-3 win.

"This match was really important because it [solidified] our Division Two seeding for High School Nationals," prep Eric Zhang said.

The match featured many impressive performances. Senior Nathan James shouted out his teammate, upper Alex Ranganathan, for showing his "tenacity and skill in his heroic comeback from 8-2 to 10-10. He showed great grit and a positive mentality on his way to a crucial 3-1 victory [that paved] the way to our team's eventual triumph."

Ranganathan had praise in turn. "[James was] put into a tough situation as he lined up against a Nobles player who described himself as someone who believed in 'gym first, squash second,'" he said. "James was pushed around the court for much of the match as a result of the Nobles player's supreme strength and power ... [However, he] somehow found a way to use

his superior tactics and brainpower to his advantage, skillfully and tactfully putting away his opponent."

Additionally, upper Cole Breen recognized his role model, Xie, for an "inspiring performance against Nobles." "Ryan has been accumulating a lot of squash skills. This showed in his performance in his last match," Breen said. "He displayed great skill with the racket, while he beat his opponent quite comfortably."

While there were many great performances, senior and co-captain Sam Lew was most proud of the way his team supported each other through the match. "Everyone put in a lot of effort and hard work. In the end, everyone contributed to the victory," he said. "We were all there for each other, supporting and cheering."

Lew noted that the team's strategy—capitalizing on its depth of talent—proved vital in earning their win. "This year, we have a pretty deep team that knows how to play to our strengths," he said. "From three to seven, the skill level is very similar, and, instead of feeding the competitive nature of the ladder system, our team used that to our advantage and beat Nobles with the latter half of the ladder."

Lew hopes to continue this positive team dynamic when Andover comes to their home courts this Wednesday. "We are looking forward to giving a good fight. They have a good team, but I hope that we can stand together and continue to play hard no matter the score or rankings."



Upper Alex Ranganathan takes a swing at the squash ball

Helena Chen/The Exonian

Wrestling Places 2nd at Class A Championships



Lower Zander Galli grapples with his opponent

By ADRIAN SUN

Boys' Varsity Wrestling pulled out a successful Class A run this Saturday, taking home second place at a championship tournament at the Hyde School. Many of Big Red's wrestlers placed at the top of the podium: upper Christian Petry won the 106 pound weight class, senior and co-captain Tyler Morris

won the 132 weight class and senior George Harrington won the 285 weight class.

However, it was not just the top place finishers who had outstanding performances. Petry said that this tournament "was especially impressive, given where the team was at the beginning of the season. We had a lot of guys come onto the team pretty raw, and we've

done a good job of getting better throughout the season."

Prep Jonathan Jeun agreed. "For five weeks, our team has been looking forward to this tournament, and the success has made the struggle worth it."

In addition to being first in his weight division, Morris was jubilant about the number of wrestlers the team qualified for New England. "I couldn't be

Paula Perez-Glassner/The Exonian

any more proud of the growth of my team through the season. After the tournament, I said to Coach Hudson, 'If you told someone we'd qualify nine kids for New England and take second at Class A's, they would've laughed in your face.' The team definitely overachieved."

Harrington had a particularly impressive final match, wrestling in one of the last

matches of the entire tournament. Jeun noted that the fatigue was settling on the whole team, but Harrington "pulled through against a tough opponent to claim first place."

Harrington's fellow winners had remarkable matches as well. Morris took down almost all of his opponents in the first period, while Petry pinned one of his opponents in fewer than 15 seconds.

Senior Grant Goodall's performance was a prime example of how hard he has worked in his entire Exeter wrestling career. Despite struggles at first, he was able to stick with the sport and push himself to keep improving throughout the years. This weekend, Goodall came in third place. "It's a good testament to the program, him taking third. I was proud to watch him," Petry said.

Prep Chris MacArthur described how the team's dynamic helped them bring home second place, expressing his appreciation for the leaders. "The captains really helped the team. Tyler popped off, but he also helped get everyone cheering for each other."

Throughout the entire tournament, the team pushed each other to perform their best and do what was necessary to gain a competitive edge. Morris emphasized that the team was a family. "I have 13 brothers in the starting lineup that I'd take a bullet for, and I truly believe they'd take a bullet for me as well."

Big Red will travel in two weeks to compete at the New England Championship, with hopes to do as well as they did in Class As, if not even better.