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Exeter Discusses Free Speech

By SUAN LEE, KIESSE NANOR, and SAMANTHA WEIL
141st Editor-in-Chief and News Editor, Staff Writer

Crowding the walls of History Instructor William Jordan's classroom are dozens of blue and red campaign posters. One sports a 1960 photograph of John F. Kennedy; another features Donald Trump's 2016 "Make America Great Again" slogan. "Increasingly, our country is divided between blue areas and red areas where people don't talk to each other. Both sides see the other as evil or illegitimate," Jordan said. "One of the principles of my [American Politics and Public Policy] class is to get my students to see the other side. The classroom has to be a brave space."

Whether the Academy harbors enough brave spaces beyond the Harkness table is open to debate, however, Jordan contended.

Last Tuesday, Greg Lukianoff—co-author of the New York Times best-seller "The Coddling of the American Mind" and President of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE)—delivered on Dec. 10 an assembly on the growing restrictions upon free speech on college campuses. Lukianoff began, "The point of the First Amendment [is] to protect minorities and minorities of opinion in society... I'm concerned that freedom of speech, after being absolutely sacred in American society for a long time, is starting to get a bit of a bad rep."

Lukianoff attributed this shift to various factors including an increased emphasis on political correctness, the "hyper-bureaucratization" of educational institutions and a "disempowered" student population less resilient during offensive or disagreeable encounters. He added that students, once champions of free speech on college campuses, have gradually strayed from this role in recent years.

Because Exeter is a private institution, free speech is not legally protected by the First Amendment. But Principal William Rawson maintains that the First Amendment and its principles are honored

SPEECH, 2



Doomgrinder rocks out on the stage.

Communications

Holiday Performances See Changes

By MOKSHA AKIL, KAYLEE CHEN and ANGELE YANG
141st News Editor and Staff Writers

The Music Department will not host its annual Holiday Concert this year, citing concerns over inclusivity and the resources allotted for concert preparation. Historically, the performance has been scheduled for the weekend preceding winter break. Music Instructor Eric Sinclair's Holiday Assembly, typically the last before break, will also not take place.

According to Music Department Chair Kristofer Johnson, the concert's timing in December, when various religious and spiritual denominations celebrate holidays, raised concerns over the concert's majority-Christian repertoire. "Quite a bit of the music at the holiday concert was sacred [to Christian faith]," he said. "By locating [the Holiday Concert] in December, it takes on different meanings. A student who is of any other faith tradition can feel really othered and alienated by the fact that their school is endorsing this [specific faith], even if it's coded."

Johnson explained that, while nobody was forced to participate, the concert's religious affiliations and lack of an explicit opt-in/opt-out choice raised concerns. "It's not truly voluntary for the students in the ensembles to take part in it," Johnson said. "We would never compel a kid to do it if they didn't want to. But it was never framed as: 'Here is an event that has a tie to some spiritual traditions, and you can choose to take part in it or not.'"

HOLIDAY, 3

Thanksgiving Break Transportation Overbooked

By MOKSHA AKIL and MAEGAN PAUL
Staff Writers

A familiar email marks the sweet advent of break for Exonians: "Transportation Details" from Transportation Coordinator Daisy Jobarteh, where students can sign up for buses to airports or train stations. When the operation goes smoothly, students receive free, convenient transportation to their appropriate destinations. This Thanksgiving Break, however, those bound for New York experienced various inconveniences.

Some students on the three Transportation Office buses back to New York City found that the buses they had

previously registered for were now full. Consequently, they were forced to move out of their originally scheduled buses. Most bus switches were from the Penn Station bus, filled to its max capacity, to the Grand Central Station bus, though some switched from former two to JFK.

"The issue that happened is for New York I had 30 students registered for Penn," Transportation Coordinator Daisy Jobarteh said. "When I sent out the last notice, there was no way for me to close that up. Students kept registering."

Still, the final number of students registered did not come close to the more than 55 who showed up for Penn Station. As chaperones did not always check if students who came on buses

had registered, some students who had registered, but arrived later, lost their seats.

In total, eight students ended up at Grand Station when they were meant to arrive at Penn, according to Jobarteh.

The Transportation Office currently offers buses to Boston Logan International Airport, Manchester Airport, Connecticut, and New York Grand Central Station, Penn Station and JFK Airport.

Jobarteh explained that in an effort to counteract future overflowing, the office would enforce prior student registration for bus rides.

To simplify the operation, the office will also cease to accommodate non-

BREAK, 2

Brandes, Choi and Yeung to Lead 142

By LINA HUANG, AMY LUM AND CLARK WU
Staff Writers

Following this issue, *The Exonian* will transition from its 141st to 142nd Editorial Board. Following a week of deliberation, the 141st Board, in conjunction with advisers and English Instructors Erica Lazure and Ellee Dean, appointed uppers Anne Brandes, Erin Choi and Felix Yeung as Editor-in-Chief, Director of Writing and Managing Editor, respectively.

To select the most diverse, complementary and dedicated group of editors, the departing board devised a comprehensive application to review each writer's strengths, ambitions and flexibility in the newsroom. Unlike last year, editorship was open to lowers due to a shortfall of upper writers.

After announcing the new leadership, outgoing editors met with their successors to impart advice, brainstorm article ideas and discuss upcoming plans and goals.

Brandes emphasized that 142nd's overarching goal is to make *The Exonian* a more accessible and far-reaching publication.

"The three areas of improvement we have identified are writer's retention, diversity in the newsroom and collaboration between the three boards," she said. "We have a lot of ambitious goals, but with Executive Board members like Erin and Felix who are so motivated, passionate and experienced, I think we can realize a lot of them."

Choi discussed the importance of writer's retention in the quantity and quality of articles. "I think something we struggled with is recruiting more people to join us and then having them stay. It can be difficult to write for *The Exonian*," Choi said. "What I want to do is to make everyone's life as easy as possible."

Lower Daniel Chen, an incoming News Editor, supported a similar initiative to

EXONIAN, 3

Faculty Follies Returns

By TOBY CHAN, TINA HUANG, and MINSEO KIM
Staff Writers

Lights, camera and action!

Students entered the Assembly Hall last Friday expecting another speaker or club presentation. Instead, teachers reenacted Exeter students' Snapchat and Instagram use in a makeshift "common room," as part of the traditional Faculty Follies assembly.

After a faculty-produced video featuring the dance talents of various instructors, the infamous band Doomgrinder's booming rock and roll music swept throughout the audience. The group, lead by Classics Instructor Nicholas Unger, distracted all assembly attendees from their workloads.

Faculty Follies is an assembly event typically hosted biannually, featuring faculty members onstage in skits, videos and performances. As the word "follies" suggests, Mr. Unger described Faculty Follies as an event where "faculty make fools of themselves and bring joy to students."



Yeung, Brandes and Choi to lead 142nd Board. Teja Vankireddy/*The Exonian*

However, due to a hiatus of the event over the course of the two years past, this event was quite a special surprise.

The Faculty Follies assembly has a rich history that goes back decades. "I can tell you that Faculty Follies happened when I was a student here, in the late '80s, and I still remember it vividly because the principal at the time, Kendra Stearns O'Donnell, lip synced to Girls Just Wanna Have Fun by Cyndi Lauper," Unger said. "It goes back at least that far,

if not further back."

For the 2019 Faculty Follies, the faculty assembled various original songs, comical video scenes, skit performances and music.

This year, after a brief introduction by English Instructor Tyler Caldwell, the video displayed faculty lip syncing to popular songs. This film included History Instructor Alexa Caldwell, who adopted the role of Amazon's Alexa and

FOLLIES, 2

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Read about our faculty of the week, Sarah Herrick, 6.

WEB



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George Lukianoff champions free speech at assembly.

Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

Student Activities Seeks to Improve Transportation

Continued from **TRANSPORTATION, 1**

standard departures on the day before or after break. “I try to accommodate as many kids as I can, [such as those with] late departures for international flights,” Jobarteh said. “Going forward we will not be doing the exceptions.” Jobarteh cited issues of fairness and Academy staff being stretched thin, urging international students, ultimately a small group of Exonians, to book flights far in advance to ensure appropriate departure times.

Other measures have also been undertaken to improve student experience. “I got tons of feedback from students on different trips,” Jobarteh said. “Over Thanksgiving, we met with the President of Coach [the bus service company] to review everything that had happened that we were not satisfied with. They made promises with us.” The office is also considering potential alternatives to Coach.

An important area of improvement is greater transparency and communication during bus rides, Jobarteh explained. “The bus drivers make different stops; when they do a stop, they contact the company, who receives an updated ETA,” she said. However, Jobarteh said she does not receive this information

directly. “The only way I get up-to-date information is if I’m texting a student on the bus,” she said.

Students recalled various issues aside from bus switches on their previous trips. Prep Danna Lara commented on the lack of stops during her ride. “One ride to New York took 7 hours without a food stop, and it was just really unorganized,” Lara said.

Lower Catherine Uwakwe shared similar experiences. “On the bus from Exeter to New York, the usual stopping place is in Connecticut,” she said. “However, we didn’t stop until 6 hours into the trip due to the complaints of students on the bus.”

Uwakwe also described occasions when their bus driver did not know directions. “There was one time when the driver got lost and we drove around this sketchy area at the bottom of a highway for a while,” she said, recalling a past trip.

Exonians who have expressed difficult experiences on the bus rides hope for improvement in the future. “Make sure that there is space for all the kids signing up for the buses,” Lara said. She also suggested “having a food stop and mak[ing] sure the bus driver knows where [they are] going.”

Lukianoff Promotes Free Speech

Continued from **SPEECH, 1**

and upheld.

Rawson said Exeter’s guidelines on speech and expression are not defined explicitly in school policy, but rather are shaped by core community values. “We are guided by our school values, our Harkness pedagogy and our DEI vision statement. The vision statement contains wonderful language about cultivating empathy, understanding and respect, developing facility with diversity of thought, perspective and experience, and engaging our differences, including differences in political beliefs,” he said.

Rawson affirmed that protecting viewpoint diversity is key to building an inclusive Academy community, stating, “We value free expression at Exeter, and understand that the promise of a diverse community is not fully realized without free expression, just as the value of free expression is not fully realized in the absence of a commitment to diversity. I would like to see us making the most of our opportunities to learn from each other—with empathy, humility and respect.”

Dean of Multicultural Affairs Sami Atif noted that power dynamics are nuanced and relevant to the debate on freedom of speech. “Free speech is about power, empowerment, leveling power and leveraging power. The nuances here are not trivial. Location, time, relationship, power and privilege are all real factors when it comes to speech. Our treatment of these important factors is telling,” he said.

Atif questioned whether free speech should, in fact, be Exeter’s priority, and suggested that the topic warrants extensive discussion. “Someone once articulated non-sibi as the premier value. Can these powerful ideals coexist? Not fully, not how the current discourse and political climate presents,” he said.

Senior Janalie Cobb characterized community discourse at Exeter as frequently “heated and unproductive to actual conversation,” noting that Exeter is often host to “a climate full of attacks, cancelling, and arguments in which parties don’t listen to each other.”

In response to the question, “Have you ever felt the need to censor yourself due to your political views?”, 52.4 percent of Exonians responded affirmatively in the Eight Schools’ Association (ESA) survey administered by The Exonian last December.

Upper Walker Meistrell identified with this experience, noting that conservatives—13 percent of the student body, according to the ESA survey—are more likely to receive criticism. “Considering how polarized our country is because of politics in general, it’s harder for the more right-leaning students to fully express their ideas and be heard,” he said.

In addition to political minorities, senior David Gonzalez noted that other underrepresented groups face similar difficulties. “There are not a lot of people of color on campus. I know many who oftentimes feel that they are the sole opinion or the sole voice in a classroom,” he said. “As a result, their opinions can also go unacknowledged and be overshadowed by majority opinions.”

Spanish Instructor Mark Trafton contrasted his citizenship rights with community expectations on a residential campus. “As a citizen, one enjoys some pretty broad freedoms about going into the town square and speaking one’s mind. But I don’t know that the same freedom of speech would ever exist here. That would come under a different set of standards,” he said.

Upper Emilio Abelmann called for Exeter to strike a balance between supporting young students and being tolerant of controversial opinion. “If someone wants to engage in offensive speech, they should be able to express it to some extent,” he said. “[Regulation] hinders the efficiency of the campus to promote different ideas and do what it’s supposed to do, which is to be educational.”

While History Instructor Alexa Caldwell voiced similar sentiments, she questioned how the sometimes contradictory ideals of free speech and safe community spaces should translate to practice. “What kind of rules or barriers should be outlined to encourage freedom of speech and also protect students from harm or hurt? It is from hurt and pain that growth and learning happen. But I also realize there are varying levels of hurt and pain.”

History Instructor Aykut Kilinc described his own efforts to balance his right of expression with his duty as an authoritative figure. “We work with minors—children. I highly regulate what I say in front of my students,” he said. “On the other hand, I wouldn’t want to ... create a structure in which we have bureaucratic control over what is virtuous and what is not.”

Jordan emphasized that for open dialogue to prosper, community members need to accept mistakes as part of the learning process. “One way of doing that is to give equal weight to intent and impact,” Jordan said.

Rawson hopes to find a balance where students and adults can have difficult conversations about complicated topics but also conduct themselves respectfully. “I see no reason why we cannot have both safe spaces and learning spaces, where we expect to challenge each other and learn from each other. Learning can be uncomfortable, having our ideas and beliefs challenged can be uncomfortable, but it doesn’t have to be unsafe, not if we see ourselves and each other as learners, and speak and listen with empathy and respect,” Rawson said.

Döömgrinder Takes the Stage

Continued from **FOLLIES, 1**

Principal Rawson, who lip synced to the song Roar by Katy Perry dressed in a lion bodysuit.

Caldwell assumed the role of creating and editing the video and explained how he collaborated with other faculty to plan the performance and event. “It is so fun to have the opportunity to interact with other faculty during the creation of the project,” he said. “Especially when we have to try to find a spot on campus where there won’t be any students so the follies will remain a surprise.”

Afterward, faculty performed a humorous skit about students and social media as an opportunity to emphasize the importance of sleep and balance in their schedules, featuring Science Instructor James DiCarlo on the banjo.

Following the skit, Instructors in Spanish Diego Ardura and Pedro Perez-Andreu serenaded the audience with tunes from a ukulele. Soon after, the serene performance was interrupted by an explosive rock concert by Döömgrinder, featuring Unger violently smashing the aforementioned ukulele on a cinder block, marking his reincarnation as Döömgrinder lead Victor Von Doom once again.

Unger described his character as the lead of Döömgrinder. “It’s a pretty well-established character; I’ve done this at least four other times,” he said. “My first time was fifteen years ago. My character’s name is Victor Von Doom, and we’re a death metal band with faux German accents, so it’s kind of a parody of heavy metal bands that are ridiculous and have big hair and funny accents and do crazy things.”

Andreu-Perez praised how both faculty and students alike could enjoy the

community-wide energy from the assembly. “Perhaps we should be singing and dancing more,” he said, “I love the time I can spend with my colleagues being a little silly, laughing, and trying to get ready for the students. It is so much fun!”

Physics Instructors Tatiana Waterman, who was part of the skit and video, shared how Faculty Follies was a great tool for bringing students together. “I have stage fright, but this is one good cause for which I am willing to be uncomfortable,” she said. “It breaks a barrier of sorts between faculty and students, without crossing boundary lines.”

Upper Joe Laufer explained that the assembly was an entertaining variation to typical assemblies. “Faculty Follies is a nice break from the usual very intellectual, very rigorous academic assembly,” Laufer said.

Lower Tommy Seidel loved when senior Sam Kim jumped on stage with Döömgrinder and began to play alongside them. “Sam Kim is a living legend now,” Seidel said. “The part where he came up was very hype.”

Overall, the Faculty Follies assembly event served as a nice moment for the school community to bond together, and for students and faculty members to share laughter together, Caldwell reflected. “Seeing the students’ reaction to Faculty Follies—their laughter, their surprise, their excitement—is an incredible experience and a delight for the faculty.”

Lower Chieko Imamura concluded by appreciating the willingness of the faculty to perform and reach out to the students. “It’s a really great thing to remind Exeter students that teachers are not always those people who just give a lot of work.”

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PEA Faculty Attend NAIS People of Color Conference

By **TUCKER GIBBS, ANNA TRAN**
 and **AVA YU**
Staff Writers

Last week, several faculty were absent from class because they were attending the annual National Association of Independent Schools People of Color Conference (PoCC) hosted in Seattle. The Academy sent a group of around thirty faculty to PoCC this year as part of the school’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative.

In accordance with the overarching theme 1619-2019: Before and Beyond, which acknowledged the 300th anniversary of the first arrival of enslaved people in North America, the majority of seminars and workshops during the conference’s four-day program touched on the influence of North America’s past on its present. “Workshops were based on reflections of where we were, where we are, and how much work has

yet to be done to reconcile the atrocity of the enslavement of black people,” Science Instructor Kadeine Peterson said.

One of the many workshops presented at the conference was created by Exeter English Instructor Courtney Marshall, whose presentation, A Home Away From Home: Diversity and Inclusion in the Dorms, explored “the ways dorm spaces [think] about issues of diversity and the types of initiatives we do in other parts of campus,” Marshall said. “Oftentimes the topics are about building affinity spaces or things that pertain to classroom teaching so I’m hoping to get more people more experienced with talking about dorms.”

The Academy sends a wide range of both faculty and staff to the conference annually. Some instructors, like Marshall, have attended PoCC the past, but faculty and staff who had not attended were also encouraged to sign up with Dean of the Faculty Ellen Wolff and

Director of Diversity and Inclusion Stephanie Bramlett.

After deliberating the applications, Bramlett and Wolff send a select group of faculty, with the size of the group increasing each year.

Faculty who attended the conference praised the depth of its program, which is intended to bring allies and people of color together. “The sheer number of workshops to choose from was incredible,” English instructor Tyler Caldwell said.

Marshall credited PoCC as a source of inspiration for developing her educational practices. “Another thing that happens at this conference is that I get to see things that other teachers do that I can then possibly bring [into my class] because I was teaching The Art of Protest and I wanted to have some ideas for things for people to do for my class,” she stated.

For Peterson, one of the main takeaways was that “colonization erased the history of

scientific progression of non-white European peoples. I have already begun to incorporate some of what I learned at PoCC into my lessons this term and plan on taking a more in-depth look at the biology curriculum as a whole,” she said. “As a black scientist, it is really important to me to tell the entire story of the field that I love and not just a deliberately scrubbed version.”

Caldwell enjoyed the opportunity to converse with other educators. “I appreciated the workshop because it provided time and space for us to discuss how we might foster dialogue back at school in a way that engages faculty, students, and alumni/ae,” he said.

Peterson appreciated that at the conference, she was able to take away new insights and feel validated as a black instructor. “Not only does it serve as a great opportunity for professional development and learning,” Peterson said, “it also helps to reaffirm me in my work as an educator of color.”

141st Exonian Board Bids Farewell to the Newsroom

Continued from [EXONIAN, 1](#)

change the culture of the publication to prevent overworking. “People adopted an imbalanced work approach,” he said, “My goal is to make writers feel like they’re enjoying writing articles and not stressed about deadlines.”

Yeung expressed a similar commitment to recruiting new writers and working with returning ones. “I think our writers are crucial. We want more writers. We want as many writers as we can. Anyone who hasn’t written, just write—write for any section. It will change your experience at—and perception of—the Academy,” he said. “I want to keep working with our writers, elevating their skills and strengthening their commitment to *The Exonian*.”

In addition, Choi shared the Executive Board’s plans to upgrade the visual elements of *The Exonian*. “We want to further integrate photography, art and layout into the way we run things,” Choi said. “When you pick up a paper, you won’t just see text ... All these different things will tell the story together.”

Yeung echoed Choi’s sentiments, focusing specifically on *The Exonian’s* website. “We want a more modern look—a website whose caliber matches that of our

writing,” he said.

In addition to improving the paper’s graphics, the 142nd Board hopes to diversify its writer pool. “I would like to see more diversity, different people, different backgrounds,” Opinions Editor Dennis Kostakoglu Aydin said. “I would also like for everyone to be able to give their opinions and throw out their ideas because if you’re going to have a good conversation, you need to have a wide variety of opinions.”

The Exonian’s 142nd Board will also be instituting a new role, Operations Manager, to coordinate with the Editorial, Business, and Digital Boards. According to Brandes, upper Maegan Paul will be assuming this position and will “sit in on all meetings, report to the editorial Executive Board and talk to us about how everything going.”

Paul expressed her looking forward to this brand new development. “The [142nd Board] really wants to change the way the paper is run, what it looks like and who feels like they’re part of it,” she said. The outgoing board looked forward to see the result of this coordinated strategy. “The Editorial, Web and Business Boards will really coalesce

and work together to become a stronger team,” News Editor Sam Weil said. “They will prioritize *The Exonian* and make the paper the best they can.”

These different initiatives, perspectives and skill sets were pivotal in choosing the board, senior and departing Editor-in-Chief Suan Lee said. “The new Executive Board members are all incredibly dedicated, experienced and thoughtful individuals, which are all very necessary qualities. Together, they really complement each other in skill set and area of expertise,” she said.

The new board’s entrance ends the 141st Board’s year of close relationships and late nights in the newsroom. “In these last few days, I’ve talked a lot with my fellow editors about how our own board turnover seems like it happened just yesterday,” senior and departing News Editor Angele Yang said. “Looking back, we’ve grown so much together, as individuals and as a team, learning about each other’s strengths and weaknesses. I’m so proud of how much time we dedicated to the paper, how we accomplished so many of the goals we set out to do since the beginning of our tenure and how we published extensive, hard-

hitting articles that ultimately benefited the community.”

Dean also lauded the 141st board’s drive and initiative. “I’m thankful to have been a part of their discussions—every issue inspired them to make the paper, meaning both the product and the process, even better,” she said

Throughout their tenure, the 141st Board has found a love for pickle chips, hosted dance videos and often stayed back in the newsroom late enough to be escorted back by Campus Safety. “Every week we have a tradition called cornucopia, when Ms. Lazure or Ms. Dean would bring in a basket of food at 2:00p.m.,” outgoing Managing Editor Mai Hoang recalled.

Lee voiced heartfelt gratitude for the 141st Board. “I have a lot of pride and gratitude for what the 141st Board has accomplished this year. At the beginning of our tenure, we resolved not only to do justice to *The Exonian’s* 140 years-long legacy, but to improve the paper and leave it in even stronger shape than when we found it,” she said. “I have great faith that the new board will succeed in doing the same.”

Teachers and Students Plan Community Conversations

By **ANYA TANG** and **RACHEL WON**
Staff Writer and 141st Director of Writing

After Grill employees provoked widespread controversy and backlash with their “Make America Great Again” wall costume on Halloween, Principal William Rawson took swift action to outline a series of responses—one of which was set to take place on December 9. Named Listen Up: Community Conversations, the response will take place later this winter.

On Nov. 6, Rawson sent an email to the Exeter student body announcing a new series of programs aimed at practicing empathy and listening skills. “It is imperative that we emerge from the painful experiences of [Halloween] determined to learn from those experiences and grow as a community,” Rawson wrote. “Community engagement in the creation of these programs will be vital to their success.”

These programs developed into what are now known as the Community Conversations, a series of student-led discussions aiming to fulfill the goals Rawson outlined in his all-school email. “Thoughtful dialogue across difference is a skill and like any skill, we can always get better at it through practice,” Dean of Student Life Brooks Moriarty stated

in an all-school email.

English Instructor Mercy Carbonell explained the importance of the event. “Any time a community pauses to reflect on promoting empathy is a chance to draw together and come to know one another in new ways,” she said. “To listen without judgement, to understand our assumptions within the act of listening, to shift from listening to debate is a revolutionary act, one that will allow us to meet those we have called ‘other’ in new ways.”

The student group involved in designing these Community Conversations works closely with Moriarty, Director of Equity and Inclusion Stephanie Bramlett and Assistant Dean of Multicultural Affairs Hadley Camilus in order to develop students’ listening skills. “We’re trying to get everyone involved in a really genuine way rather than through a series of activities,” lower Mali Rauch, a member of the student planning group said. “We don’t want it to feel forced.”

The structure of the conversations focuses on understanding others and sharing perspectives. “We honestly just want students to go up and share. There’s going to be no names, and students are allowed to anonymously share their stories completely from their point of view,” lower and fellow group member Emma

Chen said.

Although the community conversations were initially planned in response to the protests sparked by the costume, the program plans to prepare students for topics beyond the specific incident. “This is not a direct response to the Grill protests and it’s not going to be focused on the protests, but we hope that the skills that this teaches students can be applied when we’re thinking about future issues,” Rauch said.

These community conversations were planned not with the intention to reach a consensus on topics, but rather to create a common listening space. “It’s not really forcing people to all suddenly agree, but to listen if there’s any points of emotions” Chen elaborated.

The first Community Conversations was planned for Dec. 9, but they were postponed and rescheduled for later in the winter term. “The reason we postponed it was so that we could take more time because this is really important that we do it right the first time,” Rauch said. “We just hope students will put aside what they assume about these kinds of workshops.”

The group further hopes that taking more time to perfect the workshops will allow for more student voices to be heard. “We are planning to send out requests for

students’ stories[...] of when they were listened to, not listened to and how they would like to be listened to,” Chen said. “One of the major reasons we wanted to push this back was to give students time to think about it and to encourage more people to submit [responses].”

The student group organizing the programs also had concerns about the lack of engagement from the community in regards to the conversations. “A lot of kids are really quick to become apathetic about the workshops and not put everything into it,” Rauch said. “We want students to put aside those preconceived notions and just try.”

However, the group is still hopeful for a positive student reception. “We just want to have students open their hearts to this program to accept it,” Chen said. “We’ll definitely stress that you don’t have to agree with others’ politics but that you should empathize and be respectful.”

At its core, the Community Conversations seek to encourage students to develop listening skills and constructive communication by focusing on the value of empathy. “We think empathy is really important,” Rauch said. “It’s a value that should be taught whether or not it’s being practiced already.”

Students, Faculty Discuss Significance of Holiday Concert

Continued from [CONCERT, 1](#)

Principal Bill Rawson affirmed the Johnson’s reasoning, explaining that students should not have to make a choice to perform based on their faith. “Reasons included concern about burden on students during a very difficult time in the school calendar, the fact that almost no students other than performers attended the off campus event and a feeling that an event as important as this one should be held at a time and in a manner that is equally inviting for all performing students,” he said. “Making it optional for performers is not sufficient—a marquee event should not be held in a way that forces some performers to make a choice.”

Interim Director of Religious and Spiritual Life Heidi Heath said the process for the decision was collaborative between both Religious Services and the Music Department. “Mr. Johnson from music and I began collaborating last spring to explore a different model of programming,” she said. “For a number of reasons, it made sense to move to a different programmatic model—primarily, the time and energy required of our students at an already busy time of the year and the school’s commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work.”

Johnson further cited concerns over financing and time. “We spend an enormous amount of time and energy and money to produce it,” he said. “It’s a time that’s really, really difficult for students because of all of the projects they have going on.”

After discussion with students, the Music Department chose to wait a year before returning to deliberation on a concert for the season. “We voted as a group not to do [an alternate plan],” he said. “[We will] wait a year to see what could

come up [as a way to] help my colleagues feel like we [are] doing something really meaningful [and] inclusive.”

Music Instructor and Symphony Orchestra Conductor Rohan Smith provided the following statement to *The Exonian*.

“I honor the importance of inclusion in our community and believe that our school is taking many important and positive steps in this regard. While I fully respect the intention behind the cancellation of the Holiday Concert, I personally regret this decision. The nature of music, of singing and playing, is that of reaching out, of invitation and of sharing. It is the opposite of exclusion of any kind. We have an incredible well of goodwill in our music community. The Holiday Concert has always been an event full of this goodwill, eclectic and inviting in its sharing of traditions. By removing it, we disappoint a very large number of people in the extended community who derive joy from celebrating the season through music. I hope that, in the future, we will find a way to restore this tradition in a way that respects all in our community.”

Though he was unable to comment on the reason for its discontinuation, Sinclair provided some information on the tradition of his Holiday Assembly. “The Holiday Assembly was a time for the entire Exeter community—students, staff and faculty—to gather in the Assembly Hall during the last Assembly before Christmas break and sing together,” he said. “As the song leader, I would present a program of mostly well-known secular songs that I thought would be easy and fun for everyone to join in on.” Songs performed previously include “There Are (Songs To Be Sung),” “Deck The Halls,” “Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer,” “Santa Claus Is Coming To Town” and “My Dreydl.” A holiday musical sing a

long was held Tuesday night.

Students in ensembles that have performed in years past, including Concert Choir, Symphony Orchestra, and Concert Band, were divided on the decision. “I think that celebrating the holidays is important, and the Holiday Concert is a tradition at Exeter,” senior Ayush Noori, a singer in Concert Choir and StuCo President, said. “That being said, it’s equally important to respect the fact that people may not feel comfortable with explicit religious expression by the school. So that’s a hard balance to find.”

For some new students, the decision felt like a missed opportunity. “I can’t really say much because I’m a prep, and I don’t really know what the Holiday Concert would’ve been like, but I feel like any performance is a great experience for everyone,” prep Isabella Vesely said. “A Holiday Concert could have been a great opportunity to have fun playing festive music with others and to get to know people better.”

Johnson acknowledged student disappointment concerning the lack of a Holiday Concert this year. “It wasn’t that they wanted to be doing holiday music in December, but they liked doing more popular music and doing something non sibi in the community,” he said. “They liked that it was something really off the beaten track of what they usually do for ensemble concerts.”

Rawson explained that additional opportunities to perform would be present throughout December. “Mr. Johnson and Rev. Heath also collaborated on new and expanded offerings in Phillips Church, including the new Holiday Sing that was a smash success, the Candlelight Service that saw a significant increase in attendance and the Hanukkah celebration that will occur after the winter break,” he said. However, instrumentalists have not

performed during winter term thus far, and the Faculty Appreciation Concert and Carol Sing are restricted to some student-led a cappella groups. Though a poll was sent to Exeter instrumentalists to perform at the Candlelight Service, not enough interest was shown.

Johnson clarified that while Candlelight Service was an explicitly Christian service, the Holiday Concert was more ambiguous and popular by nature, making it “something that we have to scrutinize.”

The Music Department received suggestions about possible future concerts. “We’ve heard that message and the idea that we could do a pop concert or a video game music concert or a film music concert or something really different, but it would be fundamentally inclusive,” Johnson said.

Students in ensembles engaged in discussions with Rawson and Johnson about the decision. “We ended up meeting with a number of student instrumentalists that just wanted to speak to me and to [Rawson] right before the end of the fall term,” Johnson said. “The conversation was excellent. I think the students quickly came around to: ‘These are the things we really loved about doing this event.’”

Overall, Johnson’s initiatives and decisions were influenced by the goals of school leaders. “I am cued by our Trustees, the leadership of the school and by my students to try to think critically about issues of equity and inclusion,” Johnson said. “This is the sphere in which I work, and it was impossible for me to ignore [the Holiday Concert] and not raise questions.” While some lament the loss of an Academy tradition, Johnson is eager to produce a more inclusive musical experience for students at Exeter.



ExonianHumor



10 Things That Stress Me Out

By JACK ARCHER
Might be an upper one day

1. The bell in the Academy Building is slightly offset from the bell in Phillips Church, so every Mediation, you can hear this strange double ringing.
2. I'm gonna be an upper next year.
3. I checked a sleep tracking app I haven't used in a while, and it says my sleep debt is 222 hours.
4. I read a narrative I wrote in prep fall, and it's way better than anything I've written this term.
5. In the space of a week, our campus went from Winter Wonderland to first day of fall term. Like where did all the snow go?
6. Nvm it's back.
7. One day, you will get the best grade you will ever get, and from then on you will never be able to match that, leaving you incomplete for the remainder of your years as a student.
8. That day could have already passed.
9. I think my day was in fifth grade.
10. The last time someone who was not an editor submitted to the Humor page was October.

Biggest Ls of 141

By BEN GORMAN
Only on 141 for 1 term

1. Like 30 people asked who Joe was
2. [quote about how it's disappointing]
3. Photoshopping the sky blue on a cloudy day, then getting lectured on photojournalism ethics by Ms. Lazure
4. Photo always asking communications for photos
5. Grad issue cover was done on Rachel's VSCO

When everyone's stressed for Heck Week but you're stressed for Every Week



By BEN GORMAN And JACK ARCHER
Isabella's a humor editor?

TFW You Don't Feel So Good

By BENJAMIN GORMAN
Can only snap on my right hand



I'm literally begging you to submit to Humor.
We'll publish any article you send I promise.
Please.
please
exonianhumor@gmail.com

Introducing (Roasting) Our New Editors

By JACK ARCHER And DANIEL CHEN
Butthurt

Editor-in-Chief:

Anne Brandes: Snagging another bullet point for her debutante presentation.

Director of Writing:

Erin Choi: Back from the grave.

Managing Editor:

Felix Yeung: Too nice.

News Editors

Daniel Chen: Only in it for the street cred.
Bona Hong: Jeannie?
Emily Kang: The swimmer who lacks drip.
Senai Robinson: Somehow managed to lose his backpack on Day 1.

Opinions Editors

Dennis Kostakoglu-Aydin: The second-best Dennis at Exeter.
Stephen McNulty: Has begun singing his opinions on the path.
Emmanuel Tran: Still thinks *The Exonian* is based in the Middle East.

Life Editors

Benjamin Cai: Couldn't get a life last year.
Zane Ice: *The Exonian* hobbit.
Morgan Lee: Has only written two *Exonian* articles before.
Ella Malysa: Will never know the pain of US History.

Sports Editors

Sydney Kang: Has a harder time walking than swimming.
Charlotte Lisa: Ditched *The Exonian* for StuCo.
Ginny Vazquez-Azpiri: A lowerclassmen (enough said).
Cooper Walshe: Finally, the last Walshe.

Humor Editors

Isabella Ahmad: Still salty about Caroline Calloway.
Jack Archer: Who?
Ben Gorman: At Lexie's more often than school.

Copy Editors

Killing Tang - You read that wrong.
May Chne - Case in point.

Rawson Calls Santa Useless Old Man

By BENJAMIN GORMAN
Jewish

Everybody has the perfect gift they want for Christmas. Some ask for practical things, like a new guitar or a new pair of earbuds. Others reach higher, asking for the newest gaming console or a brand new iPhone. On rare occasions, people will ask for the impossible, like a dragon or an 11.0 GPA. Whatever it be, asking Father Christmas for a gift is a sacred act, something children pine over for hours.

Principal Rawson knows this dedication all too well. For the past 54 years, Rawson has written nothing else on his list except the Yamaha YZ65 GYTR 100cc dirt bike, and every year on Christmas morning, he's found everything but the two-wheeled metal stallion underneath his tree. "It's simply not fair," Rawson stated. "I've been nothing but Santa's little

angel. I say please and thank you, eat all my veggies and only eat dessert once per decade. I've reached my limit this year." On Tuesday morning, Principal Rawson made an executive order declaring Santa Claus, otherwise known as Saint Nicholas, an enemy of the academy. Not much else was said on the matter, but students have reported seeing construction on top of the Elizabeth Phillips Academy Center, suspiciously resembling anti-sleigh guns. Rawson has also been sighted leaving Walmart with a slieu of hunting supplies, reportedly muttering something to himself about "Rudolph won't know what hit him."

The Academy Deans, although unaware that Principal Rawson could even make executive orders, were not

surprised to hear of his declaration. "We knew Rawson had a vendetta against that jolly old fart," they reported. "He sends an angry essay about it every year. At first we thought he was just joking, but he kept sending pages and pages of emails berating the bearded man. We tried to buy him a bike one year but he told us it wasn't 'jolly enough.'"

Student response has been minor, with most denying Santa's existence. An anonymous lower reported that "only little wittle teeny weeny wimpy babies believe in Santa, and I am not a baby." In general, though, students have decided that Rawson's declaration is "useless, seeing as [they're] not even on campus for Christmas." Regardless, I appreciate Rawson's ability to send a message.

Victor von Doom Censored; "No Bat Biting," Academy Says

By ZANE ICE
Die hard Döömgründër fan

Many students may have been shocked to see famed 80s German death metal band Döömgründër, led by frontman Victor von Doom, make a surprise appearance at last Tuesday's assembly. Preceded by Faculty Follies, of which an anonymous student said was "not rad," the band put on a performance that was decidedly radical.

While the act featured copious amounts of loud, distorted guitar riffs and tight leather pants, the most notable aspect was von Doom's antics. His use of outlandish, screamed vocals and his reckless destruction of a ukelele ignited controversy around campus. While some

appreciated the novelty of the assembly, some questioned its influence on the school. According to an anonymous report, students were reportedly found making the "devil-horns" hand sign while smashing Academy property. "We've actually locked up our whole collection of musical instruments for the week," a representative from the Music Department said. "We have to be extra vigilant during these strange times."

Despite how extreme Döömgründër's performance may have been, their act was actually toned down due to concerns from faculty organizers. "Victor von Doom actually

wanted to bite off the head of a bat, referencing Ozzy Osbourne's infamous onstage incident," an anonymous faculty member reported. "Now, I'm pretty metal myself, but that may be too far."

In response to the performance, a group of students formed the organization Students Against Teachers Antagonizing Nature, also known as SATAN. "Our goal is to preserve the Academy's reputation of promoting good morals at Assembly, and not this demonic death metal," a student spokesperson said. We asked von Doom for comment, but only received a demo tape featuring the band's new album, "Umlaut."

Quotes of the Week

"I think my quote conformations will be in by Thursday afternoon."

- Every staff writer ever

"French fries are just a handle for ketchup."

- Mary Timmons '21

"Fishy fishy cross my ocean."

- Anne Brandes '21



ExeterLife



Upper Hassane Fiteni puts final touches on his group's gingerbread house.

Lina Huang/*The Exonian*

Students Compete in Gingerbread Contest

By LINA HUANG
Senior Reporter

Students rushed to don their gingerbread creations, armed with frosting to ice one last roof in the last few minutes of the Gingerbread House making contest on Saturday. Teams of one to four students constructed and decorated a variety of gingerbread creations, from houses to graveyards, to be judged in three categories: Traditional Holiday, Phillips Exeter Academy and Holiday Horror.

The judges, all professional bakers, awarded prizes to three art pieces: a Christmas in Hawaii, a replica of The Bowld and a “bloody” red house, as well as honoring a gingerbread Tesla car.

The event was initially proposed years ago by Student Council, but has since been adopted by the Student Activities Office as its popularity expanded. “It’s a de-stress event, but also a fun holiday event,” Recreation Committee co-head and upper Maegan Paul said. “This past week has been taxing for a lot of seniors, so I think it’s really great to just let go of all of that on a tube of frosting and then eat some festive snacks with friends.”

Assistant Director of Student Activities Kelly McGahie emphasized

that the categories were designed to engage all students. “Holiday Horror was made because sometimes people would make a house that would fall apart and they’d just stick a fork in it. Phillips Exeter was a non-holiday-themed category that students could enjoy, and then Holiday Traditional was there if people wanted to do the green and the red and the candy canes,” she said.

Faculty provided icing, gingerbread and a host of decorations for the contest. “I am responsible for ordering the supplies for the event and setting up the tables with all the necessities. During the event, I make sure to restock the candy as needed. I take pictures of the students and assist whoever may need help,” said Student Center and Transportation coordinator Daisy Jobarteh. “It’s a sticky situation, but it’s a lot of fun. Students seem to really enjoy it, and this year I felt the competition was very strong.”

For senior Paula Perez-Glassner, this was her last year attending the event, so she and her friends hoped to create a showstopping gingerbread house. “My favorite part about the event was getting to work with my friends and building something crazy and collaborate in a funny way that’s reflective of the Exeter

spirit of working together,” she said. “I thought the houses that won were great; I loved especially the music building one, as I spend a lot of time there.”

Meanwhile, prep Cindy Su stumbled into the activity when she and her friends were looking for a way to laugh and unwind. “I loved seeing our gingerbread Academy Building come together, and being creative with the different decorations available,” she said. “I worked so hard on our building and making sure it wouldn’t fall over, and we ended up completely covering our hands with frosting by the end of the event as a side effect of the intense decorating. Everyone was sweating all over and put so much care and effort into their creations.”

In light of college applications for seniors and frequent major assignments looming overhead, lower Maxine Park praised the lightheartedness the event encouraged. “For the students who participated, I think it gave them something fun and more relaxing to enjoy in the moment. I guess fun little moments like these are what ultimately make the stress of high school—and especially dark New England winter terms—survivable,” she said.

The competition became particularly

animated as the event came to a close and students rushed to put finishing touches of candy or fan heavy globs of icing to help their structures solidify, but students were smiling throughout the chaos of the event.

Faculty chaperones, including Mathematics Instructor Stephanie Girard, appreciated the spirit of friendly competition. “Everyone is a winner at this event. Whether they submitted their creation or not, whether they got first place or not. Nothing can take away from all the fun that was had with good friends that night,” she said.

For Jobarteh, the creative ideas and enthusiasm were a highlight of her experience. “I love walking around and looking at what the students come up with for designs,” she said. “I hope it brought everyone who participated a ton of joy.”

Perez-Glassner emphasized that the event’s competitive element never took away from the enjoyment. “It’s super low stakes which allows students to feel excited about it, but also not disappointed if their house doesn’t win,” she said. “Even if they don’t want to submit their house to be judged, you can still just make something cool with your friends and eat some sweets.”

MYERS WRITES NOVEL ABOUT TRANS EXPERIENCE

By MOKSHA AKIL, JEANNIE EOM AND ANYA TANG
Senior Reporters and Staff Writer

Exeter residents filed into the Water Street Bookstore on Dec. 4, awaiting the launch of *Continental Divide* by English Instructor Alex Myers. *Continental Divide* documents a transgender man’s journey understanding masculinity and its role in societal acceptance. This journey leads him far west to “prove” his identity.

Myers, who came out the summer before his senior year at Exeter, recalled the Exeter community’s treatment of his identity. “I received a ton of support from both faculty and peers, from the first day that I came back to campus,” he said.

Though the Academy put thoughtful effort into making him feel accepted, Exeter was not as accessible for transgender students as it is today. Myers remembered that while some faculty members and peers were incredibly supportive, others would deliberately misgender him or call him by his former name. “That was really frustrating, especially when it’s your teacher... and you don’t want to be too confrontational,” he said. “But I also didn’t want to just take it.”

Of Exeter, Myers said, “It’s a school designed basically for boys. There were a lot of points where I felt like, ‘I don’t know how I’m supposed to navigate this.’ And the school said, ‘Yeah, we don’t know either.’”

The Academy’s support system for transgender students has evolved since his time as a student here, Myers said. “The school [today] recognizes some of the support that a student needs so the student doesn’t have to come up with their own support mechanisms,” he said.

The reception of Myer’s book has led him to further discover and connect with the transgender community, he noted. “Writing this book and thinking about it has made me feel that we’ve made progress,” he said. “And in

other ways—I don’t know if it’s progress—but the experience has changed a lot. There is an immediate community available.”

Myers hopes that the message of his book will reach audiences across a broad range of identities. “Whether you’re transgender or cisgender, whether you’re queer or straight, I hope that people think about who they are, understand themselves and feel like they have the words and the concepts they need to get what’s inside out to other people,” Myers said.

Myers’ book launch also led fellow educators to attend and become more proximate to the transgender experience, especially in the New England schools where the transgender community may be underrepresented or excluded. “I don’t believe we’re at the same level with the Academy as far as our understanding and openness and awareness,” Cooperative Middle School psychologist John Potter said. “I hope we can do this more: normalizing [this idea] and lifting it up. It’s important and I hope that’s the effect.”

Exeter alumni were able to meet Myers as an author after knowing him as an educator at the Academy. “I know that there’s a relationship between the Academy and the trans community, especially since Mr. Myers got there,” Aidan Wolff-King ’17 said. “Mr. Myers is an educator and he is becoming more of a voice in the literary community... and making these [queer] narratives known.”

Bookstore owner Dan Chartrand felt that the book launch would help foster a welcoming culture in the town. “The mission of the bookstore is to build a diverse and vibrant community around the written word,” he said. “Myers’ book launch has been a successful stepping stone in moving the Exeter community forwards.”

COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR CAROL SING

By JEANNIE EOM, LINA HUANG and ANYA TANG
Senior Reporters and Staff Writer

Members of the Exeter community settled into Phillips Church on Tuesday as the holiday Carol Sing event began. In Essence, an Academy capella group, welcomed the attendees alongside Music Instructor Eric Sinclair, wowing the crowd with holiday favorites. Music Instructor and Chapel Organist Barbara Flocco then led the audience in a spirited sing-along. A reception in the Stuckey Room followed the event.

Flocco, along with Interim Director of Religious and Spiritual Life Heidi Heath, organized the event as an opportunity for the Academy to gather and spend time to celebrate the music of the holiday season, especially in light of the cancellation of the annual Holiday Concert and Assembly. “Pastor Heidi and I put our heads together, and we decided it’d just be nice to have a kind of an informal get-together and sing to celebrate the upcoming [winter] break and holidays,” she noted.

Students and town residents alike tramped through the snow to hear the Exeter students sing. “I think people look forward to this—I was actually amazed that they came out in this weather, especially the older folks,” Flocco said.

In fact, the event’s attendance exceeded expectations, a pleasant surprise indicative of the community’s support for the event. “We actually didn’t prepare for as many people to show up, so we were a little overwhelmed with the number of attendees and our snacks might not have been as many as we should have,” she said. “It’s a wonderful expression of the warmth of this community.”

Senior and In Essence Co-Head Jasmine Liao also noted the Academy’s decision not to hold a Holiday Assembly this year as a reason for the event. “Usually, we’ll have a Holiday Concert and a Holiday Assembly that takes place,” she said. In Essence took on the event after the success of their Evening Prayer last year—a performance that featured several Christmas and Holiday-themed songs.

The event invited the audience to participate in a series of sing-alongs to popular tunes ranging from “Jingle Bells” to “Sleigh Bells” and ended with “Twelve Days of Christmas,” which featured a series of audience solos. “My favorite part was the ‘Twelve Days of Christmas,’ when everyone had a little solo... I’ve never seen or heard it before, so I think it’s super cool,” Liao said.

Flocco expressed her appreciation for Sinclair’s performance at the event, which traditionally is the highlight of the annual Holiday Assembly. “You can’t beat Mr. Sinclair,” she said. “He is just an institution around here. He’s been here for many years and it was great to have him.”

The performers were met with much applause, and Liao noted the event’s great success. “Everyone got involved... I think that went really well,” she noted.

Upper Alicia Gopal shared similar sentiments. “I think it was really nice to see some of my friends that were really stressed out these Hell Weeks—it was great just to loosen up and be very lively,” she said. In the dark of the New Hampshire winter night, Carol Sing offered some holiday relief to groups of tired Exonians.

SeniorSpotlight

JACK LIU

By CLARK WU
Staff Writer

Growing up in Dublin, Ohio, a young Jack Liu “hated eating vegetables,” brother Brandon Liu ’17 recalled. “Our parents always got really mad at him for it. But now, he’s really athletic. Now, he runs, like a 17-minute 5K.”

Health is not the only area where Jack has grown. Despite initial apprehensions about coming to Exeter, Liu has become a leader around campus, known by all who ever find themselves at the cross-country trails or the Music Building.

“I was scared of trying something different and of going far away from all my friends and people I know,” Jack said. However, Liu soon found his stride as a musician.

His brother recalled the speed at which Jack could pick up a tune on the bass guitar. “I watched him start messing around with it, and then I went to school ... I came back for the next break ... when I heard him playing I Want You Back by the Jackson 5,” B. Liu said. “And it was so nice. It was perfect and super clean.”

Liu has become a leading figure in Exeter’s musical scene, as Co-Head of both the Exeter Association of Rock (EAR) and Exeteras, an all-male a cappella group. Liu remembers being introduced to the latter through Marichi Gupta ’17, then a dormmate in Webster Hall.

For his part, Gupta was impressed by both Jack’s musical skills and his personality. “[Jack] was a funny dude and insanely musically talented,” he recalls. Specifically, Gupta was surprised by Liu’s arrangement of Sunday Candy for the final assembly prep year. “There was some really cool chromatic stuff going on that was just beyond me theoretically. For the next three years, I’d walk around with that in my head and say ‘God, I wonder how Jack did that. Then, I took [Music] Theory III at the University of North Carolina, and I finally understood.’”

Nowadays, Liu takes a leading role in Exeteras rehearsals and makes a special effort to include new singers. “Jack is truly one of the most welcoming people I know at Exeter,” said lower Daniel Han. “I’m a new member to Exeteras this year, but I can say with certainty that it has become one of my favorite activities in the week, and Jack



Will Vietor/The Exonian

has a lot to do with that.”

Han recalls one night where Jack’s leadership style was on full display. “I have one distinct memory of jamming with him after an Exeteras rehearsal,” Han said. “We were trying to figure out the most effective way to produce a sound with vowel structure and whatnot, but it turned into us just singing and laughing and messing around with bad-sounding stuff on a piano.”

To that end, Jack has used his musical opportunities to find lasting friends, such as senior Beez Dentzer. Dentzer recalled that she and Liu became close through the Concert Choir trip to Coachella Valley in 2017. On that trip, “all of the preps played team building video games on Jack’s laptop in the back of the bus and it really brought everyone together,” she said. “Jack and I still have breakfast together in Elm every day.”

Liu has also thrived as a choir member, in part because of his free spirit: “One time in the music building, a bunch of us were messing around and sight singing some new sheet music,” Dentzer said. “We ended up making a chamber group called MF Leggiero and surprised our choir teacher by caroling

at his house.”

Choir Director Kristofer Johnson noted that Liu is an “incredibly motivated and self-motivated musician. As much as any singer that I have taught at Exeter, he has been game to do whatever. He’s an incredible contributor who’s cheerful and excited to always do more music.”

Liu’s running career at Exeter is no less remarkable. B. Liu ’17 underlined how Jack’s dedication and sense of purpose “drives him by osmosis.” “He always works so hard,” he said, “I love training with him because I get just a little bit of that.”

Running has allowed Liu to bond with some of his closest friends. Senior EJ Porras, a fellow cross-country and track runner, recalls his fondest memories of running together. “We were adding on mileage and popping downtown when we started talking about Jack’s immigrant parents. I realized that he was pretty similar to me and that we valued pretty much the same things,” he said. “From then on, I saw this spark in Jack. I wanted to be more like him. He wasn’t afraid to go out and do all the things he wanted to do.”

Porras also stressed how much Jack

has grown as a leader on the team. “He’s become more outgoing, and he’s so good at reaching out to people who are younger than him,” he said, “We were chatting one day, and he expressed his love for being a mentor.”

Lower Charles Falivena still remembers, to this day, his first encounters with Liu on the cross country team. “Jack’s been an enduring spirit on the team that I’ve looked up to since day one,” he said. “He was the first guy on the team to introduce himself to me, and it really meant a lot to me ... He and I met up relatively soon after and just screwed around in the Round Room—I was on drums, he was on bass. I really felt like I belonged on the team with Jack there.”

Liu’s advisor, History Instructor Alexa Caldwell, echoed this sentiment. In the dorm, “Jack has been challenged to get to know his peers, to do more in the dorm beyond his room,” she said. “Despite his incredibly busy schedule, he has done a wonderful job at making an effort to not only know fellow Webstonians but to be available to them.”

In addition to being a committed singer and runner, Liu’s passion for math is well known to students and teachers alike. Porras noted math as “one of the key pillars that define Jack.”

Notably, his love for Harkness math classes stemmed from rocky beginnings. “Prep winter, on my very first test, I got a 51%. I was like, ‘Wow, I really go to school at Exeter,’” Liu recounted. “It was then when I realized that I could and should get more out of these classes. This method forces you to think not just about getting an answer, but how to articulate your understanding and process in front of the class.”

Caldwell attributes Liu’s success to his independence and discipline: “From the start of his ninth-grade year, Jack established himself as an independent, organized and mature prep. All this is to say that Jack is an independent and self-sufficient kid.”

Liu’s experience as a piano accompanist in the EAR concert his prep year perhaps sums up his growth throughout his Exeter career. “I’m telling you, man, I missed all the notes and all the chord changes and stuff,” he said. “I may have looked like a fool, but, in the end, it’s just putting yourself out there and doing something you truly love. Simple as that.”

FacultySpotlight

SARAH HERRICK

By SHEALA IACOBUCCI and TINA LI
Staff Writers

While few on campus may recognize her face, Sarah Herrick’s name is familiar to anyone who has ever made a last-minute schedule change. Without her work, the daily bustle of the Academy would come to a halt.

As Director of Student Information and Registrar, Herrick explained that she is “a steward for student information and provides an office to manage the volume of the work that takes place.”

Herrick fills the role as the head of the Student Information Department, a position created and offered to her three years ago. In this capacity, she forms the schedule for each student, balancing the individual needs of the entire student body. “It’s finding a place for a thousand students in six classes in a limited number of classrooms, with a limited number of faculty—and you’ve got to make it all work. That’s both challenging and rewarding,” Herrick said. “I really enjoy that.”

Herrick had developed her organization skills after getting a degree in Sociology at Providence College. Working for concert-hosting company Live Nation, she scheduled music events at colleges nearby. “What I really enjoyed about that [job] was working with the students and the administration at colleges,” she says. It was then that she decided to go to graduate school at Boston College.

While getting her second degree, Herrick applied for a position at the Academy, just planning for it to be “a nice solid job” while she was in graduate school. However, the job turned into much more. “I’ve found that Exeter has been a great fit for both my personal and professional interests and also for my degree in higher education,” she said.



Courtesy of Exeter Communications Office

For most of her time at Exeter, Herrick worked in the College Counseling Office (CCO). While there, she liaised between the Academy and colleges, organizing interviews and college fairs. At the same time, she connected with students on a more personal level. “I love the face-to-face contact,” she said. “Through the work that we did with students, [CCO] became a place they enjoyed going and where they felt safe and comfortable.”

Working at Exeter has been an important learning experience for Herrick. “[Growing up, I] lived mostly in the South and the Midwest, where

boarding school or prep school is not such a common thing,” she explained. “When I was reading about Exeter, I had one idea or perception of what this place would be like. Having been here for 15 years, I’m glad that what I perceived initially was not the case. It’s just a wonderful community of students and colleagues.”

Her current position has also brought her in touch with many instructors. “Work[ing] so closely with the department chairs on the curriculum, course registration and scheduling [has] allowed me to see a whole other side of the school that I

wasn’t really a part of when I was in College Counseling,” she said.

Her colleagues praised her for her competence and compassion. “I admire her ability to see the personal needs in each request when dealing with so many numbers,” History Instructor Leah Merrill said. “She has a hard job, one that gets increasingly difficult... She handles it with grace and goodwill.”

Assistant Registrar Maria Korogodsky noted Herrick’s dedication and knowledge of the Academy. “She knows how this school works,” Korogodsky said. “She knows a lot of departments and their rules, and ... she understands the community very well and wants it to run as smoothly as possible.”

Herrick noted that her work was a team effort, stressing her appreciation for the administration. “[The] underbelly of this job is a great group of colleagues,” said Herrick. “I have a lot of respect for the work that everyone does to keep this place functioning.”

Many students appreciate Herrick’s efforts to make the process of changing classes or rearranging schedules easy. “Based on my interaction with her, she is quite helpful and willing to help students with any problems they might have,” says lower Lila Busser.

Korogodsky also emphasized Herrick’s compassion towards students looking for guidance. “I think she tries to connect with the students,” Korogodsky said. “If you were to come in and speak to her about a scheduling issue, and she doesn’t really know you, she’ll just ask you random questions like ‘How’s your term going?’ She is really caring.”

Herrick continues to approach her crucial work with patience and empathy, bettering the community and ensuring that it runs as smoothly as possible.

SENIOR SUPERLATIVES

Each year, *The Exonian* prints a list of Senior Superlatives highlighting some of the memorable people in the senior class. This year is based on nominations of the 141st Board.

Cutest Couple



Josh Riddick and Izzi Robbins
 Runner-Ups: Leah Cohen and Sam Chang

Most Non Sibi



Suan Lee
 Runner-Up: Dawson Byrd

Most Sibi



Ryan Xie

Class Clown



Kaleb Washington
 Runner-Up: Sophia Rosati

Most Liberal



Tatum Schutt
 Runner-Up: Saskia Braden

Most Conservative



Nosa Lawani
 Runner-Up: Chris Haworth

Best Dressed



Andrea So
 Runner-Up: Jinwoo Kang

Eternal Prep



Isabella Ahmad
 Runner-Up: Henry Pallatroni

Preppiast



Carsten Bressel
 Runner-Up: Tia Stockwell

Most Changed



Mahdi Hamad
 Runner-Up: Fi Madrid

Perfect Exonian



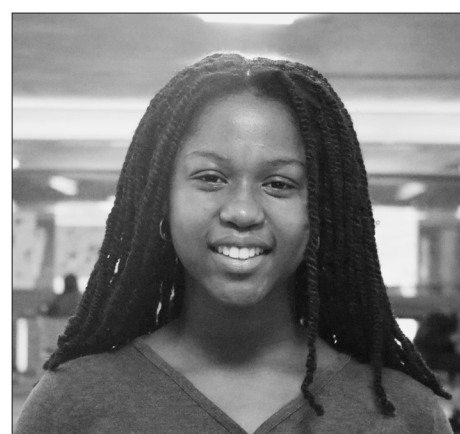
Audrey Vanderslice
 Runner-Up: Matt Wabunoha

Class Genius



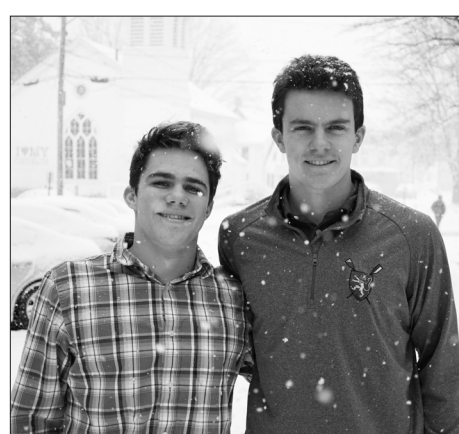
Guptae (Anjali and Meili)
 Runner-Up: Billy Menken

Closet Genius



Nana Esi Donkor
 Runner-Up: Jasper Ludington

Best Bromance



Charlie Venci and Milo Walshe
 Runner-Ups: M. Wabunoha and K. Washington

Best Bramance



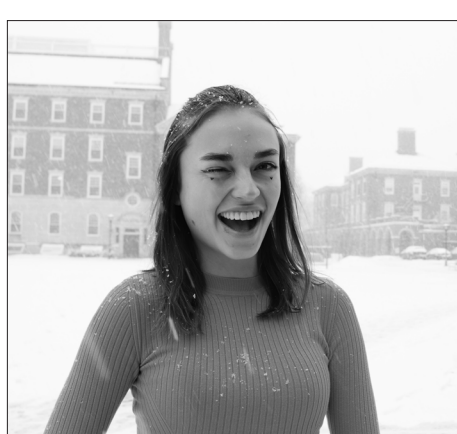
Isabel Hou and Mimi Lavin
 Runner-Up: Beez Dentzer and Angelina Zhang

Harkness Warrior



Llamo Dixey
 Runner-Up: Paul Husinga

TikTok Star



Patty Fitzgerald
 Runner-Up: David Kim

EP Queen & King



Morgan Lebrun and Sam Chang

MOST LIKELY TO...

Thank you all for a great fall term featuring a new V's Policy, RedBikes, dorm renovations, composting bins and presidential debates with Yang and Steyer. Cheers to the Class of 2020!

Win an Oscar



Nick Schwarz
Runner-Up: Elizabeth Kostina

Win a Grammy



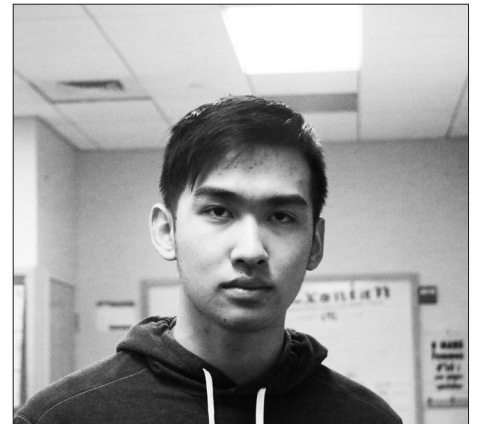
Paula Perez-Glassner
Runner-Up: Orion Bloomfield

Be a Reality TV Star



Caroline Fleming
Runner-Up: Ada Brown

Be a Cult Leader



Jack Zhang
Runner-Up: George Harrington

Become President



Benjamin Cai

Solve Climate Change



Mai Hoang
Runner-Up: Saskia Braden

Teach at PEA



Pepper Pieroni
Runner-Up: Lucy Gilchrist

Peak Before Exeter



Zane Ice
Runner-Up: Ryan Xie

Be an Olympian



Andrew Benson
Runner-Up: Will Coogan

Cure Cancer



Ayush Noori
Runner-Up: Chaitanya Vankireddy

Be a Supreme Court Justice



Janalie Cobb
Runner-Up: Ben Holderness

Bring Up Classics in Every Class



Angele Yang
Runner-Up: Pepper Pieroni

Win Nobel Peace Prize



Blane Zhu
Runner-Up: Oluwatise Okeremi

Be the Teacher's Pet



Gabriel Wong

Become a Pop Star



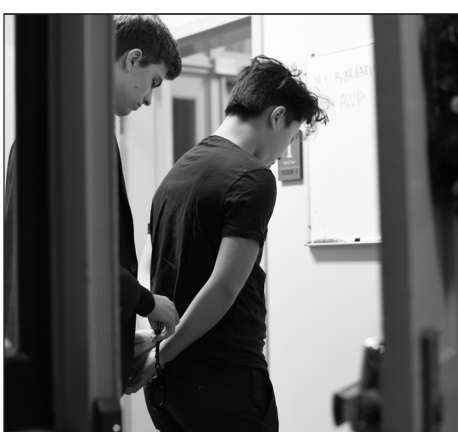
Katherine Lee

Be on Stricts After Grad



Jeb Holland
Runner-Up: Sebastian Beck

Become the Next Mark Zuckerberg



Thomas Wang
Runner-Up: Penny Brant

Become an Exeter Principal



Cameron Frary

Be on the Cover of Vogue



Elizabeth Fier
Runner-Up: Justin Li

Socioeconomic Class: Exeter's Taboo Identity

Jaekob Harper '21

Guest Contributor

When I walk down our paths in the winter, the peers I encounter wear coats worth more than my family's monthly income. I hear students mocking and complaining about the food in our dining halls when, for me, it is the most stable food source I've ever had. We have teachers who mock public school education when, before Exeter, that was all anyone I knew had experienced. These truths are uncomfortable and demoralizing.

At Exeter, we don't talk about class like we talk about other identities. It's a personal mission for this school to bring diversity—our male to female ratio is practically one to one, and we have one of the highest percentages of students of color in the nation. While we still have some ways to go, Exeter has, at least in those aspects, begun to look like the real world. The school boasts that almost half of students receive financial aid, but its worth remembering that Exeter's tuition is \$55,402. For contrast, the Census Bureau lists the US' median household income at \$57,652. The fact that over half the school can afford a tuition that totals 96% of the average American's yearly income is proof enough that we are far from being financially representative of this country or the world at-large.

The school takes active steps to af-

firm the identities of students of color and members of the LGBT+ community. ALES, LAL, the GSA and others are all well-established organizations that provide support and community for their members. This school did not, however, have a similar group for its low-income students until this fall, when I founded one. We currently sport three members. Our school has plenty of resources for low-income students, but they are not adequately presented to the students who need it. Exeter will devote entire courses and assemblies to exploring issues of race and gender (which, do not misunderstand me here, I deeply admire), but class is thrown to the wayside.

The result is this: students who should be proud of making it into the best high school in the nation without resources like tutors, lessons, school and summer opportunities instead find themselves feeling like they have to hide their background. Instead of celebrating these students, we have created an environment where every individual is either rich or pretending to be rich.

The first thing our Exeter community needs is to start a meaningful discussion about how our words and actions affect those that don't come from the upper-class background that much of this campus is used to. We need to understand that you can't say you're broke when you still have \$20 in your pocket. We need to understand that, for some, Exeter isn't some mental labor camp—it's a haven. Exeter is the place where you are guaranteed three meals a day, the place where you know

there is a real bed for you to sleep on and a place where you never have to worry about what utility is going to be shut off next simply because you can't afford to pay for it.

This is not a responsibility exclusive to students either. Teachers have a profound impact in making their students feel like they are truly part of this school. I praise the teachers here, but this is one area that may need the most work. Asking students not what they did but where they went during the break is one of the most demoralizing moments for low-income students. After all, they get to listen to their peers pine over their summer spent in Paris or Tokyo while they have never been able to go on vacation. It is incredibly hurtful to low-income students to hear their teachers insult community colleges and public schools when that is all their family has ever known. These are the sorts of things that force low-income students into hiding.

We also need to hammer it into our community that, more often than not, the worst thing you can do to a low-income student is give them pity. Low-income students do not want their wealthier friends to pay for them everywhere they go. Many low-income students would rather exclude themselves from activities entirely than be what they perceive as a burden on those around them.

Finally, I urge the administration to think about the Exeter experience from a low income student's perspective. When students on full financial aid are expected

to pay for their flights, when summer programs require students to find and pay for their own housing, when the admissions process is nearly dependent on the student physically visiting the school and when the resources available are hidden, the boundaries are more glaring than the opportunities. The school should not assume that students and their families

Instead of celebrating lower-income students, we have created an environment where every individual is either rich or pretending to be rich.

have access to the same finances—and if it does, it may lose out on some students entirely.

To low-income students, Exeter is the chance of a lifetime—a chance to move up in the world from the life that their family has led. These students should be celebrated for their dedication, welcomed into our community and given the support they need. They should not be pitied, they should not be singled out and they should not feel like they have to hide their background. Exeter can become a more welcoming space. It can become a space for all, regardless of where they come from or the size of their parents' bank account.

The Power of Free Speech: A Societal Paradox

Maxine Park '22

Guest Contributor

At Exeter, we are faced with a paradox: the power of free speech leads us to misuse it in ways that ultimately render it powerless.

The administration has given us the power of free speech. Students can organize discussions, coordinate protests and express their opinions through student-run papers and magazines. Despite these liberties, it has become clear, especially with the recent costume controversy and Grill protest, that many on both sides still feel that their perspectives are oppressed or unheard. This begs the question: what are we missing?

When the Founding Fathers ratified the First Amendment in 1791, they were convinced that justice could be pursued through intellectual dialogue. They prioritized freedom of speech to facilitate such dialogue between people of all perspectives—not simply between those in the majority (to be sure, the Founding Fathers' definition of "people" needed significant revision over the centuries). However, freedom of speech is simply one dimension of effective dialogue. While communicating our beliefs is important, dialogue relies just as much on our ability to listen. With freedom of speech, we are not only given the power to express our own perceptions of truth, but we are also given the responsibility to listen to the perspectives of others.

Today, it appears we have forgotten this responsibility: to listen. Why?

One reason is that technology has significantly altered the way we discuss, share and interact with information. As a generation that has grown up with Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and the like, we have been conditioned to receive and provide instantaneous responses. While immediacy is convenient, it degrades the quality of our dialogue with each other. With a simple push of a button, we share and respond to information without thought or responsibility. Furthermore,

instantaneous responses do not facilitate time for rational thought. Since it is difficult to make both instant and informed decisions, we often find ourselves expressing our beliefs more emotionally than rationally. While understanding emotion is critical in dialogue, purely emotional responses are less credible and make others more dismissive of our opinions.

This leads us to a second predicament: habitual impulsiveness, caused by technology, has made us less willing to listen to opposing views. We have no difficulty exercising freedom of speech to fight for our own opinions through tweets and posts, but when responses are simple likes or dislikes, it is easy to ignore dissenters. Seldom do we step back and consider issues from our opponents' points of view. Our psychological biases make it even more difficult to empathize with those who disagree with us. However, by immediately refuting the perspectives of our opponents, we neglect our responsibility to listen in the quest for dialogue that leads to understanding. In a way, we now erode freedom of speech through a new sort of censorship: the censorship of opinions by our own psychology.

How can we resolve this paradox? The answers may lie in understanding the psychology and the technology that causes it.

First, we need to slow down. Exeter is a community of activists and intellectuals, and as such, it is a community of passionate controversy. Our natural—and very human—response to disagreement is often annoyance or anger. When we're driven solely by emotion, however, psychological biases overcome rationality. Instead, we must decelerate and give ourselves time to diffuse emotions. No matter how unjust a perspective may seem, a rational response is much more difficult to dispute than an emotional one.

Second, we need to be comfortable with discomfort. More specifically, we must learn to confront opposing opinions, not with disregard, but through dialogue. At assembly, author and free speech advocate Greg Lukianoff advised us to "seek out smart people with whom you disagree."

Dialogue requires us to be respectful and rational in presenting our opinions and to be receptive to the ideas of others. While we cannot reach agreement on everything, effective dialogue teaches us to respect and actively try to understand the beliefs of those who differ from us.

And while we must be receptive, we should also remember to be actively perceptive. This requires the critical thought to accurately and empirically assess the information we are presented with every day. With the sheer volume of information we receive through technology, it is easy to fall prey to our own psychological biases. In particular, we succumb to the confirmation bias, where we readily accept information that confirms what we believe and reject information that does not. This flawed logic will often lead to belief in misinformation, which in turn leads to misunderstanding.

Through dialogue, we challenge others; through listening, we challenge ourselves. Before rendering information invalid, consider this: Are the origins of this information credible? What biases may be affecting my opinions? By developing the skills to critically assess information, we can overcome innate psychological biases and evaluate information more objectively.

As a community, we can begin to engage in these practices and develop a constructive, inclusive dialogue. By listening to others, we can learn something about other perspectives that we have not taken the time to understand before. In return, others will be more willing to listen to our own perspectives. Only then can we all truly benefit from the power of free speech.

After all, free speech is only as powerful as our willingness to listen to it.

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Last Writes

141st Board

Executive

All great things must end, and so at last our term on the *Exonian* Board abruptly draws to a close. What we shall crave—half-pineapple, half-mushroom pizza? The scent of fresh newspaper on Thursday mornings? The delight knowing our journalism has shed the light of truth into rumor? We shall crave the chill of the 11 p.m. wind on our walks to South Side, the occasional thrill of riding in Campus Safety's van past midnight, congratulating ourselves on work well done. We shall crave the rich, home-made sweetness of cream puffs from Barbara and Dave.

These are the best moments our tenure on the 141st Executive Board has brought to us, and for this, we are eternally grateful.

As we promised in our "First Writes," throughout our tenure, we have questioned the accuracy of every letter and pixel we published, although initially, our best efforts could still result in [quote about how it's disappointing]. Indeed, in terms of integrating executive edits, InDesign layout and communications with the printer, we have come a long way from then. And since the first day, always, always, before pushing the send button, we have asked ourselves— "Is our reporting fair?"

A year later, we can confidently answer, "Yes!" thinking back on our bold coverage of faculty workload guidelines, EPD's response to racial harassment, two major student protests and equity within Exeter's college process. When the question was between publishing facts and protecting vulnerable members of our community, we have tread carefully, considering the matter from all sides. When the question was between pursuing truth and shielding ourselves from potential backlash, we always pushed forward.

Signing off —
Suan, Rachel and Mai

News

In our past year as News Editors, the four of us have made our fair share

of mistakes. We have missed preprint deadlines and (accidentally) overlooked Oxford commas. We have edited articles that the public received in unexpected ways, both positively and negatively.

You might be thinking, where have I heard this before? Exactly one year ago, in our First Writes of the 141st News editors, we published the exact same paragraph.

The four of us entered the News Editor desk believing that anything could be easier than writing for *The Exonian* and that our mistakes were now far, far behind us. It turns out that we were wrong—very wrong. Portraying the newsworthy with dignity and accuracy was a responsibility that we realized we could not take lightly.

Our undying commitment to accuracy, honesty and fairness remained steadfast throughout this year, even in the low moments of juggling 333-writing, APs and Grad Issue, CCO-article investigating, covering the LAL protest and other contentious issues. From spending ten straight hours in the newsroom (with a couple breaks to go meditate with Rachel's earbuds in the literary room), to pushing articles that we believed needed one more week to become as thorough as they could possibly be, we finally comprehended what it meant to oversee all the news on campus.

Not only this, but we also learned from one another. Sam taught us the importance of meditation and naps when existing in the chaos of the newsroom for a significant amount of hours. Angelina taught us how to prepress about seven times per Wednesday (she could also calculate that number in less than three seconds). Ben taught us how to stay up into the wee hours of the morning productively slashing articles in half (Teamnosleep) Angele taught us the great importance of making sure no Oxford comma remains in the paper.

We hope that Bona, Emily, Daniel and Senai will continue in our path of creating deep bonds within the team, as well as a bombass paper every Wednesday.

The SABA continues...

Learn, Love, and Live
— Sam, Angele, Ben and Angelina

Life

Hello, lovely Life section readers!

We hope you've enjoyed reading *The Exonian's* best (and most relevant) section for the past year! From our community member spotlights to our masterful D-hall creations column, we have striven to introduce you to a variety of Exonians and bring a little more Life into your lives.

However, crafting those articles wasn't always easy. The newsroom has tested our abilities, both as editors and peers. On any given Wednesday, we've found the perfect wording for a "Senior Spotlight" or the best banner photo while bickering over our InDesign layout. There are many challenges that come with being an editor—some which we knew coming onto the board and others that were complete surprises. We recognized the need for collaboration early on and set weekly goals for each editor. Life 141's overall goal, though, was to someday create three flawless pages.

It's taken us almost a year to figure out that our "biggest goal" is something that was never worth pursuing. Looking back, we'll treasure each moment we had to teach Ginny how to use InDesign for the one hundredth time, console Candy during her dramatic meltdowns or bug Zane about his hatred for pickle chips (really, any flavored food product... his favorite ice cream flavor is vanilla chocolate chip, people).

At the end of our First Writes (included in the 141st Board's first paper), we said that we wanted Exonians to realize "that there are many paths available to [them] at Exeter." Keep looking for new paths, readers—you just may find some good friends in your search.

Thank you for being a part of our Newsroom, and good luck to Life 142—we're excited to see what you'll achieve!

- Ginny, Candy and Zane

Opinions

This year was ripe for hot takes, and 141's writers pulled through. In the realm of national politics, we heard indictments and defenses of political correctness, Trump, climate-change, AIPAC and even Get Out; Exeter particulars ranged from deconstructions of

the Academy's Christmas celebrations, opinions on the class character of Moncler jackets and debates over protests and Assembly speakers. Thousands of words every week, dozens of articles every term, all for the sake of (mostly) reasonable intellectual debate that invigorates this campus.

For this much, 141 is grateful.

But there's still work to be done. Debate and free expression shouldn't be limited to a few pages of newspaper per week. *The Exonian's* Opinions section should, in principle, ignite intense discussions that inform all Exonians. But for the spark to catch, Exeter—and Exonians—must accept freedom of speech without reservation or qualification.

That simultaneous fervor in argument and willingness to be wrong, we think, is the crux of *The Exonian*. That, we hope, was what 141 worked toward.

Humor

To the Humor Page's massive and loyal-bordering-on-worshipping followers,

When we, the Humor Editors of the 141st *Exonian* Board, took our positions, the humor page was a mish-mash of prep lanyard jokes, quotes of the week that were unchanged from the week before, and poorly cropped memes, all of which the student body found utterly unamusing. And now... well, maybe not much has changed. Maybe the Humor Editors of 141 came and went with the page seeing no major changes. But the page did change the editors, and, we hope, made a difference to you.

Our role here at *The Exonian* may be to be unserious, but the only reason we had any success was because we did take one thing seriously: the importance of seeing the comedic in Exeter's competitive and demanding environment. We wanted the page to give Exonians that vision.

But in order to show the rest of the Exeter community that light, the community had to show us a light in turn and inspire our pieces. Given this, it is only right that our last writes give thanks to all of you.

Thank you, Exeter.

Exeter, Please Be Kind

Lina Huang '22

Staff Writer

Dear Exeter,

Hell week is hell. In this mere six-and-a-half day period, I've had a math quiz, a Chinese essay, a chemistry test, a biology test and an English narrative. I've written three *Exonian* articles (including this one) and taken PEAN photos, and it seems that, taken and modified from *Campbell Biology*, 11th ed., "if the [emails I've sent] were written in letters the size of those you are now reading, the... text would fill about 700 biology textbooks." I've made schedules, remade schedules and accidentally deleted schedules. In short, I am stressed—quite stressed.

Exeter, I know it isn't your fault. I love your perfect, brick wall aesthetic. I even admire when the fire alarm goes off in your time-

worn dorms whenever someone tries to make ramen. You're a wonderful place with all the magic of the holiday season. But winter term classes started a week ago and teachers, faced with the decision of giving a major assignment either now (when the students are too sleep deprived) or later (when the students would have forgotten everything over break) decide to take the former option. Clubs, too, start a new term with much well-deserved excitement, and it's easy to be caught up in the clamor. I want to compare this combination to the thermite reaction I'm learning about in chemistry; that proves how bad this situation is.

The problem, alas, also lies in the psychology of students. Stress spreads, and stressed students, at least this writer, are less likely to hold doors open, hear your greetings on the path or help others with a lab report. The energy at Exeter steadily declines with the temperature. Stress is also a cycle. It causes more stress which leads to less sleep.

I mourn the time I spent smiling, and

I regret the fact that I spend every waking moment apprehending the next deadline. I yearn for the time I would relax with friends, walking through town on a sunny day and eating Stillwells without freezing to death. I miss the few times I enjoyed myself even in the snow, watching snowflakes falling on my face and catching in my hair until I looked like the Abominable Snowman.

Exeter winter is gloomy, and the work of these weeks is even gloomier. Ice falls from roofs and salt-snow-mud-slush covers the sidewalks. Sleep-deprived people roam around in the day and campus seems desolate after dark—when it is really just 4 p.m. I'm glad that we won't be here for winter solstice, the longest night of the year, because the creepy crescent moon in the dark sky will remind me of my lamp late at night, which will remind me of my chem test tomorrow.

The problem is also that logically, I know I can do it all. Hell weeks are not only survivable, but a period I can thrive in. The math makes

sense—I'll make it through these weeks if I sleep six hours a day, if I don't fall asleep in class and if I run to every class so that I can do homework in the two minutes before class begins. That's why, in the end, I end up feeling bad that I am most definitely struggling.

So Exeter, please be kind. Be a little looser on the next quiz. Don't ask that evil question you know everyone will be confused by. Smile now and then. This week is very stressful for all of us, so don't make winter break the light at the end of the tunnel. Don't make this the arid, water-less desert Alex the Geologist has to cross efficiently. Cancel an essay, move a paper, meet with a friend for an hour or two. Send a nice message, or think to get someone an extra slice of salami during lunch. Hell week is hell, but really, if we care about each other, it doesn't have to be.

From,
Your Stressed Student (at 12:11 a.m.)

Trump's Impeachment Isn't a Modern Day Salem

Isaac Saunders '22

Guest Contributor

In a letter addressed to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Tuesday, President Donald Trump wrote a strongly worded request to end to "the partisan impeachment crusade being pursued by the Democrats in the House of Representatives." This six-page document almost immediately became the target of a Twitter firestorm. Much of it was centered around a comparison of the impeachment trial proceedings to the Salem Witchcraft Trials, and the phrase "Salem Witchcraft Trials" rose to the top of the Twitter trending list. The direct quotation is dictated below.

"More due process was afforded to those accused in the Salem Witchcraft Trials."

This is an utterly preposterous statement, but it has been shown that Mr. Trump has a penchant for using the term "witch hunt" to compare all Democratic opposition to his rule. As an avid historian, I have taken great umbrage at his misuse of the term in the past, but his explicit comparison to Salem, a place where I was born and which I know well, has exponentially increased

my displeasure. Let me give you a little background on the Trials of Salem. In 1692, Essex County, Massachusetts was the epicenter of a string of witchcraft accusations, which originally stemmed from the accounts of five young girls. The majority of the evidence which these girls produced was spectral or spiritual in nature. Things like dreams and hunches were seen as reliable evidence by the courts. Tests such as a search for "The Devil's Mark" (some sort of skin blemish such as a freckle or mole) or throwing the accused into a body of water to see if they floated were also seen as proper reasons to convict. When in the physical court building, the trials were great theatrical displays, with individuals falling into fits of screaming, writhing, and convulsion, even as questioning was taking place. This was not accepted behavior in a judicial environment at this time, and the divulgence from the sensibilities of the Colonial American court systems in this community is as fascinating as it is confusing. By the time all was said and done, and the trials were finished, twenty people had been killed, 19 of which by hanging, one of which by torture.

Since the initial whistleblower complaint was published on September

26, the Democratic party has moved towards a formal impeachment inquiry. In this, both sides of the aisle have called witnesses to testify, which will lead to the impeachment vote. Up to this point, Mitch McConnell, the Senate Majority Leader, has refused Senate Minority

To compare the relatively orderly impeachment proceedings to an event in which common judicial sensibility was quite literally thrown away is exemplary of our President's willful disregard for fact and reason.

Leader Chuck Schumer's requests to allow more witnesses to testify at the trial in the Senate. This is an outrage of the highest degree. In a trial, there are supposed to be witnesses. Without them, there is no way for the jury to form well-informed opinions and thus judge effectively and fairly. In fact, when asked about the impeachment trial, responded quote "I'm not impartial about this at all. I'm not an impartial juror, this is a political process. There is

not anything judicial about it. Impeachment is a political decision." In just a brief four sentences, Mr. McConnell has all but destroyed any hope the American people may have had of a fair trial, an incredible occurrence upon a stage of this magnitude.

To compare the relatively orderly impeachment proceedings to an event in which common judicial sensibility was quite literally thrown away is exemplary of our President's willful disregard for fact and reason. One cannot logically make any connection between the events of 1692 and those happening at this very moment, and in doing so President Trump has further eroded his credibility in truth telling and reason. Our President already has a history of bending the truth, misleading statements, and outright lies to further political statements and personal political gain. This appears to be another of these examples. Incendiary and provocative statements are the ones that make front page news, and with media outlets trying to appear unbiased in regards to impeachment, President Trump knows that his words will be taken as fact by at least a part of the media, thus furthering his aims to discredit and impede upon the impeachment trial.

Girls' Hockey Hosts Tournament



Big Red awaits the puck drop on the home rink.

The Exonian

By CHARLIE VENCI
141st Sports Editor

This Friday and Saturday, Big Red Girls' Varsity Hockey hosted their annual tournament at the George H. Love gymnasium. The team's three competitors were Brooks, Brewster and the Hill School. Fresh off a blowout win against Milton, the team took to the ice with vigor, determined to finish the weekend on a high note.

The first game against The Hill School did not initially go as planned. Despite the Rams commanding 4-1 lead when the buzzer sounded, lower Kathryn Welch praised her teammates for their work in the third period. "We went down

4-0 after the second period," Welch said. "After a motivational speech in the locker room, we fought to win the third period, outscoring them 1-0. Although we lost the game, the team connected passes and forged some scoring opportunities against a tough defense."

Senior and co-captain Abby Smith spoke highly of upper Alyssa Xu's performance. "Every game, she is an offensive threat because she has unbelievable stick skills and has a shot that can score on any goalie," Smith said.

Exeter battled back to a 6-0 win over Brewster on Saturday morning. "The highlight of my weekend was coming back from being down," senior Emma Upton said. "We found our grit and character as

a team and held each other and ourselves accountable."

Senior and co-captain Keaghan Tierney had more praise for the other members of the team, highlighting the work ethic of Smith. "I think my favorite play from the whole weekend was one that showed pure determination for the puck from Abby Smith," Tierney said. "When her teammates really needed a line change, she hustled after a loose puck to avoid an icing call so we could get fresh legs on the ice."

In the final game of the weekend, Exeter lost a heartbreaker to Brooks. The final score was 3-4. Although the team finished the tournament with a record of 1-2, many players credited individual

performances that will aid them for the rest of the season.

Tierney congratulated fellow senior and co-captain Robin Potter for her ethic over the course of the weekend. "I think Robin Potter had a really good weekend. She put up points when we needed them most and remained her composure during times when the rest of the team was flustered," she said.

Still, Smith noted there is still room for improvement. "We kept passing it around in the offensive zone or doing too many moves in front of the goal," she said. "We need to work shooting."

Big Red is looking to implement these skills at home this Friday against Stanstead Academy, another formidable opponent.

Girls' Basketball Hangs onto Loomis

By LEAH COHEN
141st Sports Editor

A Friday night game, a cheering crowd in the stands—Exeter's varsity girls' basketball team was ready to go. Big Red hosted The Loomis Chaffee School for the season home opener. Though they came off a big win over Milton Academy, the Big Red girls could not pull off a win at home. After falling to Loomis 44-39 in a hard-fought game, the team has spent the week practicing and preparing for the season ahead.

Big Red put up a good fight against Loomis, a school with a historically strong basketball team. "I thought Saturday's game was a really great challenge for us and showed what we can achieve as a team," senior and captain Mia Glinn said. "Many people thought we weren't going to have a chance against a team like Loomis, but I think we gave them some good competition they were not expecting."

Behind at the end of the first half, Big Red did not let it faze them and used the scoreboard to motivate themselves into a strong second half. With the help of the team's captains Eva Carchidi and Bethany Lucey, the girls were able to stage a major comeback. "[Lucey] took an important charge in the second half that helped us keep our energy up on the court," Carchidi said. "There was one play where we got six offensive rebounds in a row."

Similarly, Lucey commended Carchidi for her hard work down at the basket. "Carchidi had a great game on Saturday. There was a stretch where she hit three three-pointers in a row to cut down their lead on us." Players credited Lucey's play with keeping Big Red in the game.



Senior Captain Bethany Lucey prepares to shoot.

Paula Perez-Glassner/The Exonian

The game was close, but it was a tough loss for the Exeter team. After a strong season last year—qualifying for the divisional tournament at the end of the season—Big Red understands the hard work that needs to come and is ready for the challenge. "Last year, we held a lot of teams to their lowest-scoring game of the season and hope to do the same this year—we have done that for both of our games so far," Carchidi said.

The team was unanimous when it came to what was necessary in upcoming practices. "On Saturday, we struggled on offense in the first half," Lucey said. "The team needs to focus on moving the ball more to great good looks for each other." Despite the challenge in Friday night's game, Big Red is confident that, with more practice and time together, the chemistry will be quick to follow on the court.

Though the team has changed in its composition, the players remain confident. "Last season, we had a lot of great talent, lots of which has carried over to this year," Glinn said. "This season, we have to adapt... by becoming an even tighter group and trusting each other through the whole season."

The girls have high hopes for the upcoming season. They're certainly off to a strong start.

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WINTER TRACK WINS HOME OPENER Boys' Team Scores 79, Girls' Team Scores 84

By HENRY LIU
Guest Contributor

The Big Red varsity track teams won big at the first meet of the season. Last Saturday, athletes participated in the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association's annual meet, competing with a number of teams from New Hampshire. Big Red beat out Merrimack, Dover and Salem High Schools, able challengers from across the state, for an exciting start to the season.

The boys' team dragged out a 16-point lead over second-place finisher Merrimack High School and a 36-point lead over the third-place Salem High School. The girls' team also proved their skills on the track and had a successful finish. Big Red scored over twice as many points as Merrimack, the runner-up, and led Dover, in third place, by a wide margin as well.

With its sweep, Big Red set the tone for the rest of the season. "This past meet looked very strong for all of us," lower Ifeoma Ajufu said. "I anticipate a season of personal bests and even some more school records."

The team faced some adversity going in. "We have only had a week of training since we returned from the fall break. Many of our newer athletes are still getting used to the team and the training," coach Toyin Augustus said. "In addition, we had several athletes who did not compete, and they were tasked with cheering on their teammates while helping with the meet."

Still, the team defied the odds. "Though there weren't any huge expectations going into this meet timewise or distance-wise, I was honestly blown away by everyone's



Big Red forms a pack around the turn.

Helena Chen/The Exonian

performances," Captain Emy Li said. Li felt that the team's performance was a testament to its skill, something she hopes to elevate in the coming weeks.

Senior Noel Gomez shouted out his teammates on their stellar performances. "One highlight from the meet was the speedy relay by [seniors] Michael Singer, David Gonzalez and Samuel Chang and [upper] Louis Mukama. That was one for the books," he said.

Augustus further highlighted the per-

formances of upper Cristian Molina and prep Max Li. "They stood out to me because they are relatively new to our team and showed maturity and high potential," she said. "They ran with guts and heart, and I'm always proud of that kind of performance!"

Gomez looked forward to the team's continued growth, and described his hopes for reaching his individual goals. "After this first meet, I can tell that I have a lot of room for improvement," he said. "I had some good runs, but I have some ways to

go to up my performance to where it was last year." He is confident that he will match that performance, in which he ran some of his best times.

Li expressed her optimism in the coming term. "With not only some great performances right off the bat, but also all the determination and hype everyone brought to the meet, I'm just excited to see where that takes us," she said. The teams hope to capitalize on their wins to propel them through a great winter term.

GIRLS' SWIMMING LOSES TO LOOMIS



Lower Sydney Kang backstrokes through the water.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

By MILO WALSH
141st Sports Editor

Attacking the last turn of her 100-meter butterfly, lower Sydney Kang heard the roaring of the crowd. She surged off of the wall and breached the surface of the water, body lengths in front of the other swimmers. With each powerful stroke, Kang distanced herself from the rest of the field, until it was her against the clock. She touched the wall, and the scoreboard read 1:01.24, a New England record.

Girls' Varsity Swimming and Diving traveled down to the Loomis Chaffee School on Saturday. The meet was the season opener for the team, and it came down to the final 4 x 100 meter relay. Despite several individual accomplishments, Big Red was defeated with a score of 89-97.

The team had trouble shaking off the rust of break. "I think [one] challenge was getting everyone back in shape from break at the beginning of the season," prep Sofia Morais said. "Not everyone swam over Thanksgiving."

While the Exeter pool is in yards, Loomis' is in meters. This changed the nature of the events, forcing swimmers inexperienced in meter pools to adjust. The team tried to train for the meter pool by altering their practices in the days leading up to the meet. "Loomis is hard to prepare for because we don't really have the opportunity to simulate a meter pool," senior and co-captain Maddie Machado said. "We did our best to prepare well for races with a bit of specialization work towards the end of this week."

"When preparing for Loomis at practice, coach Lundy [Smith] made sure we were swimming a lot of yardages so that we would be ready for the 25-meter pool instead of the

usual 25 yards," Machado added.

During the meet, upper Leila Herman noted that some swimmers stood out from the rest. "Sydney was amazing as always, she did a great job in all her events," Herman said. "Wynter also did a great job in the 100-meter back."

Morais had highlights of her own. "My favorite moment of the meet was Claire Fu's 100-meter breaststroke, where she was neck to neck with another girl," she said. "In the last 25 meters, she pulled ahead to almost a full body length!"

Machado added that the newest swimmers smashed expectations. "The first meet of the season is always a little scary and intimidating, and I was very impressed with how our preps ... handled the pressure," she said.

Besides the individual swimmers, the team also credited their success to the energy that each person brought to the swim meet.

"The team always has great energy, if you ask me," upper Ursie Wise said. "We are all in support of one another and really enjoy each other's company!"

Wise noted that the preps contributed significantly to the team spirit. "I love the preps on the team this year! They're all so energetic and get along so well," she said. "They make great additions to the dynamic."

Despite this close loss, the team is not looking back. "More grind. Never stops," Wise stressed. "Looking forward to more meets and faster times."

Girls Swimming and Diving will race Loomis again at the end of the season. In the meantime, the teams' sights are set on their next opponent: Greenwich Academy. "We're looking forward to a restful but productive winter break," Machado said. "[We'll] come back ready to race Greenwich Academy at the beginning of January."



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