



# The Exonian

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"The Oldest Continuously Running Preparatory School Newspaper in America"

Vol. CXLI, Number 27

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire

## Michael Shafer '71 Receives John Phillips Award

By MOKSHA AKIL, ANNE BRANDES and LINA HUANG  
Staff Writers

"If you don't do something, who will?" Michael Shafer '71 asked, leaning over the assembly stage podium.

Shafer has embodied a lifetime of service in the five decades since he received his Exeter diploma, whether by teaching at Rutgers University in Political Science or founding Warm Heart, an organization based in Phrao, Thailand offering health care, education, microenterprise and environmental sustainability initiatives for an underserved local community.

For these contributions and his dedication to the non sibi mission, President of the General Alumni Association (GAA) Ciatta Bayash '97 presented Shafer with the John and Elizabeth Phillips Award at last Friday's assembly. Previously titled the John Phillips Award, this honorable distinction annually recognizes one PEA alumnus or alumna "whose life demonstrates founder John Phillips' ideal of goodness and knowledge united in noble character and usefulness to mankind," according to the PEA Alumni website.

For Principal William Rawson, the award serves as a pertinent reminder of the great potential all Exonians have to make a concrete difference. "Shafer once sat in this room [as a student] with no certainty about his future, no sense of the impact he might have in the world," Rawson said. "Now, 51 years later, he is here and just received the Academy's highest honor."

In his acceptance speech, Shafer articulated both tremendous gratitude and slight embarrassment at "being recognized for leading my life, a life that I think should not be exemplary

AWARD.2



Members of the Afro-Latinx Exonian Society share their experiences at Oct. 22 assembly. Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

## Sze, O'Byrne Elected as New Trustee Leaders

By TUCKER GIBBS, LINA HUANG and MAEGAN PAUL  
Staff Writers and Contributing Writers

Morgan Sze '83 and Deidre O'Byrne '84 will serve as President and Vice President of the Board of Trustees, succeeding current President Tony Downer '75 and Vice President Wole Coaxum '88 on June 30, 2020. Downer announced the decision in an email to all Academy students and faculty this Tuesday.

Downer emphasized the important role Trustee leaders play in overseeing Academy operations and defining its broader institutional direction. "[Sze and O'Byrne] will play a critical role as the school journeys into a promising future which pairs our foundational values with creative initiatives to assure the relevance, leadership and unmatched quality of an Exeter education," he said.

Principal William Rawson reflected on the great dedication and expertise Sze and O'Byrne will bring to their respective positions. "They bring considerable wisdom and experience to their duties as trustees, as well as a deep commitment to the mission of the school ... I am confident they will provide excellent leadership," he said.

While Downer and Coaxum's terms were limited to three years at the time of their appointment in 2017, the lengths of O'Byrne and Sze's tenures have not yet been determined. Rawson noted that while most Trustees serve in official board positions for two or three years, bylaws allow for President and Vice President tenures to be extended by a maximum of another three years. O'Byrne

TRUSTEE.3

## Academy Hosts Consent Workshops for Student Body

By ANNE BRANDES, JEANNIE EOM, TINA HUANG, AMY LUM and PHILIP ORAVITAN  
Staff Writers and Contributing Writers

Students attended workshops on affirmative consent led by Director of Student Well Being Christina Palmer, the Dean's Office and outside consultants over the past two weeks.

After a student-led sit-in last May against the Academy's history of mishandling assault and the lack of sexual education, students and faculty have discussed possible programs over the summer and into the school year.

The final product resulted in discussions with the Sexual Harassment & Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP) and HAVEN, the largest violence prevention and support services in New Hampshire. The program was constructed around the 9 Principles of Effective Prevention.

On the logistics side, Palmer took feedback from several different cohorts of the Academy to inform elements of the workshops' format. "Organizing the entire student body into groups of 50-55 students was quite an undertaking," she said. "Student feedback had us work harder to ensure division by grade level. Faculty

feedback provided information on any conflict they felt their dorm might have on certain dates [or] times."

Each workshop was lead by a representative from HAVEN or SHARPP who walked students through a presentation and introduced the 24-hour crisis hotline for confidential support. "The Academy has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with HAVEN, as well a strong relationship," Palmer said. "The MOU formalizes both our commitments to work together to provide trauma-informed services to our campus as well as preventative programming that includes consent,

healthy relationships, dating violence and being a bystander."

A past incident of assault between two students under the pseudonyms, "Alice" and "Brian" started the conversation. Freshman Alice snuck out of her house to attend a party and got a ride from her peer's older brother who assaulted her in his car.

Exonians then voted on what percent of the fault belongs to Alice and to Brian. After students voted, the HAVEN representative concluded that even though Alice did sneak out of her house, get in

CONSENT.2

## PEA Enables Exonians to Change Names

By BONA HONG, SHEALA IACOBUCCI, EMILY KANG and FELIX YEUNG  
Staff Writers and Contributing Writers

On Friday, Oct. 18, the Academy released its Chosen Preferred Name Guidelines, enabling students and employees to change their database identification from their legal name. While all student changes must be approved by the Dean of Students Office, the new system diverges significantly from the previous one, in which individuals were listed on all Academy documents by their legal name only. All approved changes will be made within two weeks.

The initial announcement, sent out via email by Dean of Students Brooks Moriarty, clarified the intentions behind the new system. "Phillips Exeter Academy recognizes that people may use names other than their legal name to identify themselves," it read. "And so, to foster an environment that is inclusive and encourages self-expression, the Academy has established a practice whereby community members may opt to use a 'Chosen Preferred Name'



Seniors Jasper Ludington, Sam Farnsworth and Nick Schwarz (not pictured) win Negleys. Thomas Wang/The Exonian

on campus." The guidelines allow this name to be used in all situations except those where legal names are required by law.

While the guidelines will be reflected in a new name change system, it is not a policy. "The initial charge originated in response to the Trustee Diversity Vision Statement," Director of Student Information and Gender Inclusion Working Group Co-Chair Sarah Herrick said. "However, this is not a policy, but rather a set of guidelines to practice when addressing members of our community, recognizing that people may use names other than their legal name to identify themselves."

CHOSEN NAME.3

## Seniors Win Negley Awards in U.S. History

By DANIEL CHEN, VERONICA CHOULGA and TUCKER GIBBS  
Staff Writers and Contributing Writer

Seniors Samuel Farnsworth, Jasper Ludington and Nick Schwarz were awarded the 2018-19 Negley Prizes for their outstanding History 430 papers about the National Rifle Association (NRA), black businesses in Durham, North Carolina under Jim Crow segregation and the Fighting Words Doctrine, respectively.

In their final term of the year long United States history sequence, students spend a month writing a comprehensive, 10-15 page research paper on any topic of their choice—a massive academic undertaking commonly known as the "333." Recipients of the prestigious Negley Prize, awarded annually to the year's best 333s, were selected this year by a committee of history instructors after an extensive, three-month review of 22 nominated papers submitted for special consideration.

Farnsworth decided to explore the history of gun control in the U.S. by analyzing the impact the NRA had on juris-

NEGLEYS.3

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### WEB



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## PEA Participates in Consent Workshops

Continued from **CONSENT, 1**

the car and did not explicitly say “no,” the situation was 100% Brian’s fault.

Palmer elaborated on the purpose of the anecdote. “The scenario was used as some people get confused about the difference between, one, making poor decisions that might put yourself at risk and, two, making decisions to commit violence against others,” she said. “There are no poor decisions where the consequence should be sexual assault.”

HAVEN Education Manager Emily Murphy elaborated on the focus of the workshop. “Most people want to end sexual violence but not everyone sees how they play a role in that—we want to empower students that they can make a difference,” Murphy said. “Conversations about consent are helpful for all of us—knowing how important it is, what can impair our ability to give consent as well as the relationship between body autonomy and consent are fundamental to healthy human interactions.”

Students, such as upper Anna Rose Marian, felt that the workshop was an improvement from the prior year. “The workshop was not only informative but engaging, as they based it more on real-world stories and presented realistic scenarios,” she said. “The material they prepared helped the students really digest what they were hearing.”

Lower Alana Reale appreciated Exeter’s efforts in bringing HAVEN to teach students and get them thinking about these topics. “This workshop is doing a good job in that it’s trying to foster discourse on the topic, or at least to raise awareness,” she said.

For some students, the workshop presented new and vital information. “I thought that it was very needed, and I am very glad the school did it,” lower Jake Draluck said.

Consent education is vital for the student body, considering the differing levels of prior knowledge students have, senior Khine Win said. “I think especially at Exeter with the wide age gap, and also the fact that there are always new students coming into each grade, there is a big difference in how people understand sexual misconduct and consent,” Win said. “Regardless, I think the whole school should

have to participate in these programs at least once a year. Even for students who are engaged in clubs like EASA and have worked to revise policies can always use more education.”

Other students, like lower Thomas Yun, felt that the manner in which the workshops were presented was constricting. “I disliked it because I didn’t feel comfortable to ask questions for fear of being ridiculed,” he said.

The grouping was another source of discomfort, lower Harry Sun expressed. “I think it would have worked out better if it was all guys [in my group]. Someone started saying, ‘I don’t want to be that guy, but’ and I think there would have been more discussion if that was the case,” he said.

The groupings by dormitory proved beneficial for lower Lekha Masoudi. “I found that this one was a lot more helpful because doing it in dorm groups made me feel a lot more open to talking about it, rather than just talking with a bunch of random strangers,” she said.

Whether or not certain logistics of the workshop proved effective, English Instructor and EASA advisor Barbara Desmond trusts the workshops will provide important education for the student body. “I hope that the workshops offered everyone a deep look at what true affirmative consent looks like,” she said.

Palmer reiterated the purpose of the workshops. “I hope the workshop will ensure students become comfortable talking about consent and sexual violence and consider their language—if you are victim blaming or making jokes about rape, that’s a problem—because more likely than not someone you know and care about has been affected by these things, and if they hear you blaming or making a joke...are they ever going to confide in you?” she said.

Murphy concluded that education is the first step towards a more conscientious campus. “Getting a good handle on consent can help a student recognize what is okay and not okay in their own and in friend’s relationships,” she said. “And if a student has been assaulted—by anyone, on-campus or not—hopefully they will know it is not their fault and that they have the right to help and support.”

## Shafer Speaks About Service

Continued from **AWARD, 1**

but normal.”

Shafer also voiced his appreciation for the award’s new title, expanded to recognize Elizabeth Phillips’ legacy in founding the Academy in addition to her husband’s. “I was deeply touched by being the first to be awarded the ‘John and Elizabeth Phillips Award’ because I have done nothing my wife has not been part of,” Shafer said, “and I was proud to follow Ciatta at the podium to address an audience that looks much more like the America I am proud to belong to, recognizing [its] warts and all.”

Many of Shafer’s friends from the Class of 1971 returned to celebrate his accomplishments. “Mike gave a rip-roaring speech that made a big hit with the students, and certainly did with us old guys, sitting in the front row,” Ted Gilchrist ’71 said. “Very inspiring, with just the right seasoning of salty language to spice it up. What an inspiration [he is] for all of us.”

Shafer truly lives by Exeter values, Doug White ’71 expressed. “Mike’s presentation was wonderful. It was heartfelt and resonated well with the students. It is an honor to know him—and now his family as well—as he embodies non sibi every day in the Exeter community.”

White continued, “It was surreal to not only have Mike, a member of a class with a uniquely dismal start to alumnihood, be granted this most prestigious award, but to see another ’71, Bill Rawson, on the stage as Exeter’s principal. Looking around at the accomplishments of other classmates, I can see that so many have made good use of the past 50 years.”

Shafer found his way to Exeter as a new lower and baseball recruit quite accidentally in the summer of 1968, when his father took a detour to look around campus while he was in the area. After connecting with then-admissions officer Rick Mahoney over his experience as a member of the Dartmouth baseball team, Shafer became interested in the Academy. “I’m wearing a Dartmouth baseball t-shirt—then [Mahoney] says, ‘I used to play for the team in that t-shirt,’” he recalled.

Upon his arrival on campus, however, Shafer immediately suffered a knee injury and was forced to quit athletics, leading him to become involved in other areas of campus, such as Dramat—Exeter’s student-run the-

ater production. “Those days, Dramat was really a student operation and we operated out of what had been a large rectangular house. The second floor had been cut out to make a big shell, the stage at one end and the lighting booth at the other. It was a fire trap, it was cold, but it was just incredible,” he recalled.

Later in his life, Shafer sought opportunities to reform American higher education because of his firm belief in prioritizing student experiences. “It was about teaching, intervening, engaging with people directly and talking to them about the world,” he said. “I would say to them: ‘You can do this, you can do that,’ and then they would just look at me like: ‘I can’t do any of those things.’ In five years, they would come back to me and say, ‘How did you see that in me?’ I would say, ‘Of course I could see that in you—you were the only one that couldn’t see.’”

Students found Shafer’s remarks to be very engaging. “He talked to us like we were one of his friends,” lower Sophie Fernandez said.

Students also explained how they particularly enjoyed Shafer. “I thought that he was great,” upper James Keeling said, “He’s a character and one that people like.”

Upper Phil Horrigan agreed with him, adding how his charity work added to his likable personality. “He’s a really nice guy. And it’s great how he wasn’t trying to make us do charity but just explained what he did and why he did it.”

Others disagreed, taking issue with Shafer’s explanation of his role while a student at the Academy. “When Shafer said, ‘I was coming in as a jock so I didn’t have to be smart but now that I wasn’t playing anymore, I had to be smart.’ I found it a bit concerning,” lower Chieko Imamura said.

In the last few decades, Shafer’s perception of, and appreciation for, Exeter has evolved significantly, “partly because it was so transformative, but also because [Exeter] itself has grown so much since I was here.”

To conclude, Shafer voiced immense gratitude to the Academy for instilling in him fundamental values of service and self-confidence. “[Exeter] was hugely empowering and influential in my life. I came here as a newbie lower, and I left as a fundamentally different person,” he said. “As I think back on my life, my life started at Exeter. This is where I became an independent person.”

## Student Leaders Lead Workshop on Identity, Inclusion

By **SENAI ROBINSON, ANYA TANG and FELIX YEUNG**

Staff Writers and Contributing Writers

Post-its dotted the Hahn Room as residents and affiliates of Dunbar Hall shared aspects of their identity with their peers. Across campus, post-its reflecting the diversity of the Academy’s student body filled hallways and common room walls.

On Wednesday, Oct. 30, students participated in a workshop on identity and inclusion, led by proctors and student listeners. These student leaders completed a similar activity with Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Dr. Stephanie Bramlett in their annual August training. To accommodate the activity, Advisory and F Format were replaced by the workshop.

Bramlett announced the activity in an email to the community. “Proctors and student listeners will lead an activity designed to help you think about the identities that are most salient to you, the diversity within your dorm community and the diversity within the broader ... community,” her email read. “They have been working hard to adapt ... and design it so that it will be meaningful to you—it is a student-led endeavor. I urge you to lean into the discussion, use your Harkness skills and learn from one another.”

In a separate email to proctors and student listeners, Bramlett outlined the goals of the activities and the role of student leaders. “Your job is to think about how to present community norms,” her email read. “Of course, if there is another activity about identity that your dorm team thinks would be better for your community please feel free to substitute.” Regardless of the activity, Bramlett urged

students to engage with the twelve community norms.

Bramlett suggested to lead either an identity wheel or a saliency exercise. The saliency exercise involved students walking to post-it notes with various labels, choosing those most relevant to them. Students were asked to write their own identities under broad categorizations on post-it notes without their names, highlighting the diversity of the community. In addition, students moved to the area of identity that was either most significant to them or that society saw them as first.

Principal William Rawson outlined the administration’s goals for the workshop. “When I have participated in these kinds of activities, I have found them helpful in building self-awareness and understanding of others,” he said. “I hope students find the workshop helpful and worthwhile for the same reasons. I hope it helps build appreciation for how our differences in identity, background, experiences and perspectives enriches our community.”

Dean of Residential Life Carol Cahalane echoed his thoughts and hoped that the exercises would enrich the community’s understanding of diversity. “This will be an opportunity for all of us to reflect on our own identities and experiences and learn more about our communities,” she said. “It will only deepen our understanding of ourselves and each other.”

Senior and Main Street Proctor Johan Martinez reflected on the significance of the workshop’s activities in regards to identity. “I have found that in order to have discussions about identity, we need to understand the different people in the

discussion,” he said. “[The Office of Multicultural Affairs] do so much work to help Exeter, but they need help,” he said. “They cannot carry it for themselves.”

Senior and McConnell Hall proctor Chaitanya Vankireddy noted that the level of preparation affirmed the important purpose of the activities. “We were very prepared. We had to do the activity, talk about the activity, talk about it again, plan the activity, report our plans about the activity, have a pep talk about the activity and do the activity again,” she said. “I think the workshop is a step in the right direction, specifically for the intended goal of recognizing the overlap in identity at Exeter.”

Students noted that the workshop educated students on the experiences of others. “The central takeaways, for me, was that the same experience can affect everyone differently and that everyone obviously has different experiences because no one’s the same,” lower and Lamont Hall affiliate Riley Valashinas said.

For Hayden Campbell, an upper in Dutch House, the workshop was another way to create a better community atmosphere. “It was interesting and helpful just to hear other people’s opinions on what makes a good dorm environment and how they want to be treated,” she said. “I think we don’t always have that opportunity to share.”

On the other hand, upper and Dow House resident William Vietor felt that the use of labels was counterintuitive. “I think that trying to define myself and understand others in a series of sticky notes is counterproductive to understanding people. People are more than their [de-

mographics],” he said. “The societal labels that we were asked to define ourselves by impede us from actually understanding ourselves. I think they’re entirely prohibitive to an effective dialogue.”

Some students, however, felt that their identities were not adequately covered. “The activities didn’t really get to sexuality. A big part of me is my sexuality, and they didn’t even get to it,” prep and Ewald Hall affiliate Rupert Ramsay said. “I thought the workshop was very good, and it did cover many aspects [of identity] well, but I just feel like there are quite a few members of the LGBTQ+ community in my dorm who, like me, were personally disappointed.”

By and large, students felt that the activities were a constructive effort to better the community. “It’s good to recognize all the way people identify themselves. It creates a community where there is more acceptance and awareness. It lets people express themselves, makes them feel safe,” lower and Amen Hall resident Avery Hastings said. “It just makes this community a better space, a safer space.”

Still, many noted that this was only the beginning, not the end. “I’d probably want something to follow up, or at least a way to make sure that students really did get the meaning of it... Just because you do [the activity] one time doesn’t ensure there’s going to be this one hundred percent success rate,” Romero said. “Exeter has this wokeness, but, at times, it can be artificial because we believe that we’re all so conscious about so many things that we don’t need to take this time out of our schedules to get educated. We need to understand that we don’t know everything.”

## 2019 Blackmar, Sherman Hoar Prizes for U.S. History

*Blackmar Prize Recipients  
(3 A’s for the year):*

Braden, Saskia	Hoang, Mai
Cai, Benjamin	Holderness, Benjamin
Cobb, Janalie	Vanderslice, Audrey
Desai, Aiwen	Wu, Alan
Farnsworth, Samuel	Xu, Kevin
Gilchrist, Lucy	Ye, Junze
Gupta, Meili	

*Sherman Hoar Prize Recipients  
(2 A’s and 1 A- for the year):*

Bagwyn, Ruby	Pinciaro, Lily
Calabresi, Matteo	So, Andrea
Cho, Sophia	Sugrue, Alexis
Fleming, Caroline	Sun, Gloria
Garidipuri, Pavan	Tang, Joshua
Hawkins, John G.	Thurber, Dacha
Liu, Andrea	Tripathi, Shivani
Menken, Billy	Zhang, Jack



# Sze, O'Byrne Reflect on Exeter's Past, Future Leadership

Continued from **TRUSTEE, 1**

is currently scheduled to depart from the Board of Trustees in June 2024, Sze in June 2022.

In Sze's seven years on the board and O'Byrne's five, the two have already undertaken many initiatives to engage with the PEA community and participate in strategic planning. "I've been fortunate to have learned from our leadership among the Trustees and on campus ... in a variety of roles," Sze said. "I believe the mutual respect, shared values and diversity of experience will be helpful as I take on my new role."

As President, Sze will have three primary responsibilities. In addition to supporting the Principal and ensuring the efficacy of Trustee projects, Sze will strive to ensure the Academy's operational wellbeing while upholding its fundamental principles. "I believe we have the opportunity to take the Academy forward to define a mission that embodies the timeless values of our Deed of Gift and maximizes the impact our students and institution will have on the world of tomorrow," he said.

Sze recognized the Academy's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) statement, gender-neutral dormitory pilot and efforts to reduce its carbon footprint as salient examples of how the Exeter community has recently embodied its values of goodness and service.

O'Byrne articulated her intentions to engage with the Exeter community on a more proximate level in her role as Vice President. "I hope to help the school continue to move forward and always strive

for excellence," O'Byrne said. "I am excited to be on campus more frequently. Some of the highlights for me are the opportunities to meet students, see them perform, watch them compete and converse during dorm duty."

O'Byrne shares Sze's strong commitment to DEI, which she describes as the fostering of "a diverse and inclusive community in which each person has the tools to flourish."

In particular, O'Byrne looks forward to celebrating 50 years of co-education at the Academy next year. "Exeter should remain the lodestar for anyone seeking a community of excellence committed to inclusion in all we do," she said.

Sze arrived at Exeter as a prep in Merrill Hall in 1979, going on to participate in WPEA and the Ham Radio Club, serve as co-Editor-in-Chief of *PEAN*, an editor for *The Exonian* and take part in the Washington Intern Program. "Exeter taught me the values and independent thinking that have played such a formative role in my



Incoming President of Trustees Morgan Sze '83

Courtesy of the Communications Office

own life and my family's lives," Sze said.

Meanwhile, O'Byrne arrived the following year as a prep in Soule Hall, actively serving as a member of ESSO, a proctor in Dunbar and co-captain of the women's crew team. Looking back, she especially values the lessons she learned through Harkness in listening to understand others' perspectives and experiences. "I will always be grateful for the education I received here and feel very fortunate that I have had the opportunity in the years since graduation to try, in different ways, to give back," she said.

Since 2009, Sze has been active in various Academy committees including Investment, Budget and Finance, Buildings and Grounds, IT and the Committee on Trustees. He acknowledged the significant progress the Academy has made on many fronts in the last decade. "I'm glad to see that the Academy has become more welcoming, supportive and diverse, which is a real credit to everyone on campus and those leaders who have come before us," he



Incoming Vice President of Trustees O'Byrne '84

said. "That has made coming back to serve the Academy a pleasure."

In 2010, O'Byrne was appointed Director of the General Alumni Association (GAA) and named GAA Vice President in 2014. She has also been a member of Institutional Advancement, the Committee on Trustees and the Interim Principal Advisory Committee, and has served as chair of Audit and Risk, the Governance Review Task Force and the Student and Employee Life Committee.

Looking ahead, both Sze and O'Byrne are excited for the chance to positively impact Exeter's future. "I feel very humbled to have the opportunity to serve Exeter in this way," O'Byrne said. "I hope to help the school continue to move forward and always strive for excellence."

In the upcoming months, Downer will help Sze and O'Byrne transition into their new positions. He expressed high hopes for the future leadership of the Board of Trustees. "Our school is most fortunate to have these two exceptionally devoted, experienced and capable graduates to lead our trustees as the Exeter community moves forward into its next chapter," Downer wrote in his school-wide email.

Looking forward to a new chapter of Academy leadership, Rawson reflected on his experience working with Downer and Coaxum these past three years and expressed gratitude for their service to PEA. "Mr. Downer and Mr. Coaxum have been terrific partners and have supported me in every way possible from my first day on the job," Rawson said. "I will miss their friendship as much as their wise counsel."

## Exonians Specify Chosen Names

Continued from **CHOSEN NAME, 1**

changes should not include offensive or derogatory language, nor should they be made to avoid legal obligations or for illegal purposes," it read. Parent permission for student name changes is not required.

The guidelines come after much work by the Gender Inclusion Steering Committee and Gender Inclusion Working Group. "For the past 18 months, both groups have met frequently to complete the work necessary to fulfill the charge," Herrick said. "This work has included decision-making and priority-setting at the administration level, and systems and functional changes at the administrative level, as well as education of the entire community."

Gender Inclusion Working Group Co-Chair Karen Belton elaborated on the work involved in crafting the guidelines. "This all was completed by taking the charge from the Steering Committee, evaluating other chosen name guidelines from other educational institutions and coming up with an [Exeter] version," she said.

According to Director of Technology Studies, Scott Heffner, the Department of Information and Technology has "spent about 1,000 hours of IT time over the course of 2019 working on system changes to support a chosen preferred name." The changes have been included on websites such as LionLinks, Canvas, and Exeter-Connect, as well as documents, including departmental report updates. "While the work was substantial, we believe that setting the tone that the Academy will be inclusive to all people is important," Heffner said.

Moriarty noted the numerous benefits of the new system. "We [now] have a technology solution that allows members of the community to be listed on class rosters, in school directories, and in communications by a name they choose, instead of being tied to how their legal name appears in our database," he said. "This is helpful to people whose chosen preferred name accords with their gender identity, to people who have an anglicized first name that they want used in the community, and to anyone—adults and students—whose legal name may does not match the name they want to go by in the community."

Similarly, Principal William Rawson noted that the policy advanced the Academy's overarching goals. "We see the policy as one way to support a strong sense of belonging for everyone in the community," he said. "We believe we are a more inclusive community when everyone can be addressed by preferred pronouns and preferred names. This is consistent with our vision to be a community where all members of the community, adult and student, can bring their full selves forward."

Prep Val Whitten was among the first to make use of this system. "I've always felt like my name was too long and formal ... Since Exeter is a fresh start, my name being Val has made the transition easier," she said. "The new [system] is very excit-

ing as, sometimes, it's difficult to decide which name you want to say or write down for formal or informal things. With the new [system], I can use the same name all around."

Similarly, lower Aletheia Zou highlighted the impact of a name on the quality of life. "My name is Aletheia. It affirms the identity I've made for myself," she said. "I'm glad the administration are making a conscious effort to be inclusive, especially for people who change their names for gender identity reasons. It's another affirming sign that Exeter is supporting its students and their personal growth."

Upper Eli Lembo characterized the guidelines as conducive to acceptance. "I was so happy when Dean Moriarty made it official, because it's not easy changing your name," they said. "You feel validated. It's saying the act of choosing your preferred name is official and welcomed by the school and the community, which is always a good feeling."

International students also noted that, without the name change guidelines, they often faced mispronunciation of their legal names. "Being an international student, my legal name can be hard to pronounce for students and faculty," lower Felix Zou said. "I'm personally extremely glad that the Academy pushed out this [system], because it means no more teachers awkwardly trying to pronounce my legal name on the list of students."

However, students with similar experiences noted that name confusion was a minor inconvenience. Upper Alex Alexandrovsky said, "I don't like the American pronunciation of 'Alexey.' There are plenty of names that don't sound good to me, and if I'm going to be called something, I would prefer to like the sound of it." He continued: "I'm not going to go out of my way to [change my name] though."

Faculty members felt that the policy would allow class introductions to go more smoothly. "I think the impact is positive for students, who can be called by the name they prefer to be called without having to announce it or correct the teacher on the first day of class," English Instructor Johnny Griffith said. "It allows me, as a teacher, to have one of my first interactions with students to be as positive and productive as possible."

The Chosen Preferred Name Guidelines underscore the Academy's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. "I think that this [system] is a long time coming—it is a wonderful step in the right direction," Director of Equity and Inclusion Stephanie Bramlett said. "I'm particularly grateful to the Gender Inclusion Steering Committee and the IT Department for all of the hard work they have done to make these changes possible."

Herrick echoed Bramlett's thoughts. "This is an institution-wide change, and I am proud of the collaborative work that has been done to help foster an environment that is inclusive and encourages self-expression," she said. "As our community lives and learns together, it is important that everyone feels supported and respected."

## Negley Winners Discuss Papers

Continued from **NEGLEYS, 1**

prudence in the Supreme Court. "The NRA is an organization that's always interested me," he said. "I knew that I wanted to write about politics or the law, and gun control is an intersection of the two."

Farnsworth said that his perspective on the topic would have been incomplete without the shared wisdom of his now-retired History 430 instructor Kwasi Boadi. "Dr. Boadi had a great analogy that carried through [in my paper]: throughout history, a pendulum has swung between liberty and equality," Farnsworth said. "When you grant people more liberty, they end up abusing it in a hierarchical way...but on the other hand, when you get more equality, you have to put up more restrictions on groups of people. The cultural context can play a vital role in determining where the pendulum is and should be at any given time."

Farnsworth elaborated on the specific thesis of his paper. "The NRA has been a major player in the debate surrounding the right to own a firearm in America. Regardless of your stance on gun control, it is worth studying how the organization began and its role in the gun debate today," he said.

Committee members commended Farnsworth for writing an essay that "made them think," adding that his scholarship was "detailed and thorough." "This essay moved easily between historical context, internal maneuverings at the NRA and the legal issues," members said.

Meanwhile, Ludington wrote about Durham, NC's black-owned businesses in the Jim Crow era. His main focus of study was "[trying] to put into context the idea that while the existence of a strong black community and business district was very impressive during the time, it was still very much circumscribed by and at the mercy of whites."

Much of Ludington's research was conducted using research material from libraries at the University of North Carolina and Duke University, as well as several prominent North Carolina companies. His research led him to a person at North Carolina Mutual, who Ludington recalled was very excited about his paper. "She gave me a book on the company's history that is extremely hard to find and asked for me to send my paper to the company after I finished it," he said.

The committee lauded Ludington's willingness to take the risk of pursuing a more obscure topic and his ability to make effective use of the few resources available to him. "[The essay made] terrific use of primary and secondary sources," committee members said. "[He chose] a rather daring topic since the source availability was less obvious than is true for some topics."

Schwarz wrote about the ambiguous legal lines between free speech and

hate speech through a narrative of the "fighting words doctrine," which sought to define the difference. "The doctrine arose from an incident that happened 17 miles from Exeter. A Jehovah's Witness anti-war protester was harassed by a mob and the police were clearly on the side of the harassers," Schwarz said. "When the protester objected to the police harassing him, he was arrested for using 'Fighting Words' against the police."

The case eventually reached the Supreme Court and came to be known as the Chaplinsky Supreme Court case. "Laws against Fighting Words [a term for words considered provocative] are often used by local law enforcement to quash dissent and minority groups," he explained. "The Court radically restricted the doctrine. The lesson for today is that laws to curb speech all but inevitably end up being used to punish dissent and to squelch protest against authority."

The committee praised Schwarz's scholarly fortitude, saying that "this paper made complicated jurisprudence understandable. The author raised absorbing questions about whether democracy is at times best preserved by curtailing civil liberties."

Members continued, "[Schwarz had a] strong connection to the important context of the rise of WWII-era fascism and the evolving understanding of the clause as the context changed."

Selection Committee co-chair Meg Foley explained that Negleys are awarded based on individual merit, with less consideration for the total number of prizes given. "We just decided 'is it prize-worthy?' and if it's prize-worthy, it's prize-winning. It doesn't matter if there are six prize-worthy papers or three," Foley explained.

Some standards of evaluation have remained constant over the years. "[Negley-winning papers] have to meet the standards for research, citation, clarity and writing. We're also looking for compelling history and really interesting source use or really artful writing, but it's not the same combination of things that necessarily means a paper is prize-winning," Foley said.

Both the History department faculty and this year's Negley recipients noted the importance of regarding rigorous research and high-quality scholarship as an end goal, in and of itself. Worrying about awards only "put an undue amount of stress on younger kids, which can certainly harm their mental health, especially in a stressful time like upper spring," Farnsworth said.

Foley concluded by voicing great praise and admiration for the extraordinary writing and research abilities of Exeter students. "It's a real pleasure to read all of these great papers," she said. "There were three winners, but it's helpful to know there are so many great papers that have attributes that are really exciting. Student writing is strong right now."



## In Defense of Standardized Testing

Sophia Zhang '23

Guest Contributor

Why is standardized testing bad? Some say it makes students unwilling to learn. Others say it judges everyone with the same, potentially flawed, standards. That it makes arbitrary judgement calls about what's important and what isn't.

But one response undermines all these arguments: standardized tests are a taste of the real world. The real world enforces pressure and sometimes unreasonable standards that we all must adhere to. The real world doesn't have the time or energy to treat us all like each of us are our own, special person.

Is it really possible to care for each and every one of the 2.2 billion children on this planet? Is it really possible for a school to write a personalized plan for each child? Is it really possible for the world to take each individual, analyze what they can do, and give them their own special spot?

Unfortunately, the answer is no.

So how can we make the best use of the harsh taste of reality offered by standardized testing? It is indeed possible for us to find a sweet spot, where we help each child reach their full potential by using these tests as a tool? We need to recognize that standardized testing is necessary, and that we therefore need to change our outlook on this inescapable reality.

Dr. Laurie Barron of Smokey Road Middle School is a good example. When she first joined her community, Smokey Road was the lowest-achieving school in Georgia and also had the highest number of discipline referrals. To change this, Dr. Barron came up with a four-step plan:

1. Make sure students come to school.
2. Make sure students feel safe.
3. Demonstrate to students that the school values them and what they love.
4. Build a curriculum that will help students succeed.

It is important to note here that no



step involves boosting student grades or argues that academics define achievement; rather, every step focuses on cultivating a safe and comfortable learning environment. As Dr. Barron put it, "our approach was that if football was the most important to you, then we were going to do whatever it takes to keep you in football." Smokey Road focused on making students feel valued, and in doing so, their students' test performances began to improve, amid other accomplishments. Dr. Barron reached her goal of helping her

students learn better and attained higher test results along the way. This is a prime example of how test scores should only be a tool to measure how far you've gotten, not the end goal.

On top of that, if preparation for standardized testing does not constitute a majority of the curriculum, it can also bring a lot of benefits. One such benefit is pressure management. Although feeling pressured is a natural part of studying, that pressure is typically amplified over time. Tests are a different situation, where

learning to calm yourself down in a high-stress situation is crucial to performing well—a great replica of many real-world situations where learning to take a deep breath and slow one's heart rate can be useful.

The current standardized test system fails mostly in this respect because of just how overly hyped standardized tests are. If you don't get a good grade, it is implied that you will be a huge disappointment, and your future could be ruined. That amount of pressure can cause heart-breaking tragedies. This is why I say that the key here is to understand tests as only a tool. It's normal to get nervous because you still want to perform to the best of your ability, but it's important to acknowledge that although tests are important, they will not be a determining factor in your life.

Another benefit of testing is that you learn skills that are only acquired with a lot of practice. For many standardized tests nowadays, you need not just the answers, but also the skills. Take AP U.S. History exams, for example. For almost all the questions, although you do need knowledge about U.S. History, the more important thing is to analyze the text and think like a historian. Just to be clear, tests are obviously not the only way to teach students this skill, but tests can be helpful in mastering it. Using a skill over and over again is the road to mastering it, and practicing for standardized tests can put you on that path.

So, at the end of the day, the current standardized testing regime—which is churning out over 700,000 illiterate, depressed high school graduates a year—isn't doing so because standardized tests themselves are inherently harmful. It's because we've become so accustomed to treating tests as a measurement of all our achievements.

The term "tests," or even "standardized tests," shouldn't draw out as much disdain as it does now. If we understand how to use them correctly—as a way to measure progress—then they can become another powerful tool that we wield in the journey of learning.

## What Canadian Politics Reveals

Dennis Kostakaglu-Aydin '21

Columnist

Last week, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau narrowly won reelection despite having faced numerous challenges to his campaign. He had to battle negative press generated by the discovery of his old blackface photos, as well as criticism from his Conservative opponent, Andrew Scheer. However, one of the most intriguing challenges Trudeau faced was from political opponent Maxime Bernier, who painted himself as a far-right

**One of the most intriguing challenges Trudeau faced was from political opponent Maxime Bernier, who painted himself as a far-right presidential candidate not too different from our own President Trump.**

presidential candidate not too different from our own President Trump.

Bernier has consistently proven to be unpredictable. In the past, he had leaned towards some liberal

tendencies—for example, he marched in a gay pride parade in 2016. However, last year, Bernier began to reinvent himself. Originally a member of the CPC, the Conservative Party of Canada, he left in 2018 to create his own party and his own brand. He took a more conservative stance, promising to stop giving foreign aid to other countries and to ensure that immigration into Canada doesn't erase the Canadian identity. This rhetoric should sound familiar—Bernier is the latest in a string of nationalist, populist politicians who have emerged in the last couple years. He has company in U.S. President Donald Trump, U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and members of "Alternative for Germany," a German far-right political party that has lately gained some ground.

Nationalism is a questionable political ideology. Nationalists gain power by amplifying the anger and fear of the common people. Their greatest strength is their generally unified platform, one that appeals to a group of core voters that can be found everywhere. Because nationalism is based on the idea that your own country is more important than all others, nationalist candidates tend to be anti-immigrant and are focused mostly on preserving their own "identity," and every country has citizens who feel this way. Bernier panders to this nationalistic base. One of his promises that gained traction was his declaration not to allow immigration to destroy the Canadian identity. This is

only one of many statements that bring grave concerns.

In 2018, Bernier promised to take Canada out of the Paris climate accords, and while he was denied the ability to do that, Justin Trudeau doesn't exactly have the right to gloat about climate action either. Trudeau's actions to combat climate change have been flaky at best. Climate activist Greta Thunberg met with Trudeau this September to discuss, among other things, the bill for an extension of the Trans Mountain Pipeline, a pipeline similar to the Keystone

**Politicians were never able to appease everyone, but it is now plain that appeasement will just lead us down a dead end.**

Pipeline with the potential to create massive oil spills which could greatly affect wildlife and the indigenous peoples living in Canada. Like many people, Thunberg was frustrated, because the Trans Mountain bill was passed a day after the Canadian parliament passed a motion declaring a national climate emergency. Of course, Trudeau agreed with Thunberg, saying that they "need to do more."

It's problems like this that give rise to nationalism. Trudeau may have

been reelected as Prime Minister, but his government is a minority government. The reason that Canadian conservatives were able to gain a majority over liberals was because, according to Trudeau, Canadians care about issues such as climate change and the environment, and they showed that they care.

Trudeau now has to take action to help prevent climate change or risk losing power completely. This is not a world for politics anymore. Politicians were never able to appease everyone, but it is now plain that appeasement will just lead us down a dead end. Politicians now have to make the right decisions, because otherwise, the consequences will be disastrous. And when politicians don't make the right decisions, it's up to the people to put them back on the right track.

Bernier, fortunately, lost the election in Canada, but that doesn't mean that we shouldn't forget about him. The world will be seeing more nationalists attempting to get elected in first-world countries, which has been increasingly difficult to combat. In fact, pretty much the only way to successfully combat nationalism is to unilaterally fight against it. If we care about issues like climate change and fighting nationalism, we should stand together, and take action together. Unity is a source of strength when faced with adversity. Otherwise, we should expect to see a lot more copies of Bernier, all around the world.

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## A Call For Transparency

Felix Yeung '21

Columnist

What happened, Bill Barr? When did you fall in line with Trump's brand of mistruth and political reprisal? Sure, you've always been in favor of maximizing executive power. But an investigation into your own Justice Department? Really?

**To open a criminal investigation sets a dangerous precedent—that any action to check the power of the President may elicit reprisal by the very body meant to protect the law of the land.**

For months, Attorney General William Barr has stewarded an administrative review of the Justice Department's investigation into the FBI's handling of Russian collusion. Last Thursday, that review became a criminal investigation. At its head are Barr and veteran prosecutor John H. Durham—a duo who, despite their deep roots in American government, have somehow abandoned their values to serve at the whim of the whiner-in-chief.

The desire to protect the chief executive is unsurprising for Barr. After all, he did write a few years ago that "[the President] alone is the executive branch." Nevertheless, to open a criminal investigation sets a dangerous precedent—that any action to check the power of the President may elicit reprisal by the very body meant to protect the law of the land.

Evidently, Barr's criminal investigation comes at a convenient time. As House Democrats investigate the President for abuse of power, the Justice Department will attempt to run a counternarrative, one that paints all allegations against the President as part of a "deep state" conspiracy. Congressional Republicans will have a field day as they vilify civil servants who made legitimate attempts to better this democracy by investigating what they believed to be illegitimate activity. All the while, the President's own illicit actions will receive less airtime.

Yet, the problem runs deeper than public perception. In opening this investigation, Barr will likely create a culture of even more fear within the Justice Department and various intelligence agencies. Those who do crucial work to defend this nation, who take risks to do so, will be constantly wary of potential retaliation from higher powers. Barr's actions show that the force of the Justice

this country's intelligence officers are unable to separate their personal opinions from their professional lives. The insinuation should insult us all. The

**Durham has supposedly asked about anti-Trump bias within the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Central Intelligence Agency. These questions suggest that intelligence officers are unable to separate their personal opinions from their professional lives. The insinuation should insult us all. The civil servants that work tirelessly for this nation deserve better.**

civil servants that work tirelessly for this nation deserve better.

A core contention of the investigation, that agents misled an intelligence court judge into providing a wiretap warrant on Trump advisor Carter Page, is also concerning. Much of the information used to gain the wiretap remains confidential. Hence, the investigation's invocation of this warrant application runs the risk of tarnishing the intelligence community's reputation over information that is not readily available to the public.

Now, Barr's work has also given legitimacy to various conspiracy theories, many of which are regularly touted by President Trump himself. These unfounded allegations include rumored cooperation between intelligence agencies and foreign agents to "set up" individuals like Page. In fact, Barr traveled to Italy to ask the Italian government whether they, as President Trump alleges, had a role in the instigation of the Russia investigation. Government officials in Australia and the United Kingdom have also had discussions

with Barr. Barr's reliance on some ridiculous assertions sets the precedent that the Justice Department may launch investigations on spurious claims made for political gain.

Barr's involvement of foreign governments in these matters may also diminish the United States' standing internationally. The accusations levied against certain allies may sow animosity. They may also lead allies to question whether the United States will sacrifice long-standing relationships for shifting political necessities. Frankly, these concerns are some of the most worrying of all. The United States does rely on its stature and relationships to maintain its supremacy.

The opening of a criminal investigation into the origins of the Russia probe are just the tip of the iceberg in Barr's questionable activity of late. After all, he was named in the whistleblower's report on Trump's quid pro quo with Ukraine, in exchange for an investigation into Joe and Hunter Biden. Nonetheless, this wasn't always the case. After his first stint as Attor-

**The opening of a criminal investigation into the origins of the Russia probe are just the tip of the iceberg in Barr's questionable activity of late.**

ney General, Barr had this to say about Boyden Gray, who served with him as White House counsel: "He appreciated the independence of Justice. He never called up about a criminal matter or did anything inappropriate."

What happened, Bill Barr? Why did you become just one of Trump's many cronies? And, if he fails to deflect his crimes, who will be left to protect you? Will you survive his fall?

**Congressional Republicans will have a field day as they vilify civil servants who made legitimate attempts to better this democracy by investigating what they believed to be illegitimate activity.**

Department, supposedly a neutral body, may be wielded for blatantly political purposes, at the expense of legitimate investigative work.

This investigation also undermines public trust in government institutions. In his interviews, Durham has supposedly asked about anti-Trump bias within the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Central Intelligence Agency. These questions suggest that

## Don't Regulate Hate Speech

Emily Gaw '20

Guest Contributor

Recently, Facebook announced its intention to create a "Supreme Court" in order to combat hate speech on its platform. Like many, I have a strong aversion towards hate speech and would rather that it never see the light of day. The idea proposed by Facebook entails a group of people—selected by Facebook—who have the final say in what should or shouldn't be taken down, with the ability to override Mark Zuckerberg's opinion. I am sure that they will appoint people with adequate ability in measuring society's tolerance for disagreeable speech. However, it oc-

**Hate speech is effective only when it reaches a receptive audience.**

curred to me that the real Supreme Court would probably not regulate speech at all. It follows that the entire idea of the regulation of hate speech is the wrong way to address the subject.

One could argue that in the last 60 years, prior to the emergence of the internet and social networks, there was no free speech in the United States. No doubt, we could converse freely. But conversations are not speech in the practical sense. One could only converse with those we knew or those immediate to us. Speech that can influence was mostly available to those who controlled the news channels—the editorial boards of the major newspaper and television companies.

In the past, the limiting nature of these print and television news publications made mass input impossible. With the advent of the internet and social media, however, this is no longer true. These new technologies give all voices the possibility of finding an audience, arguably the first time that free and un-

fettered speech, and its ability to reach a wide platform, has been possible in human history. Thus, having a "Supreme Court" of Facebook seems to return us back to consensus speech of the few. The question is not only whether we can trust these individuals on which speech

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**Is it okay to allow the millions of members of Facebook—one of the first platforms for truly free speech—to be edited into another newspaper-like source by its "Supreme Court?"**

should be blocked, but also whether we want to lose the opportunity to know that those who disagree with us exist and perhaps lose our chance to understand why.

Hate speech does not become magically more persuasive just because it appears on Facebook. Hate speech is effective only when it reaches a receptive audience. Facebook is responding by creating this "Supreme Court" because of past incidents where its platform was utilized to reach and mobilize receptive audiences. Facebook has removed mul-

iple postings promoting hateful speech, however in August 2018, Facebook removed a political posting of a group organized to confront white supremacy. Facebook stated that it was necessary to prevent "inauthentic operators" and to prevent another white-supremacy related march similar to the one in Charlottesville, Virginia that turned deadly. Ultimately, we will never know if the removal of this post prevented a second Charlottesville-like march, and whether or not Facebook made the right call.

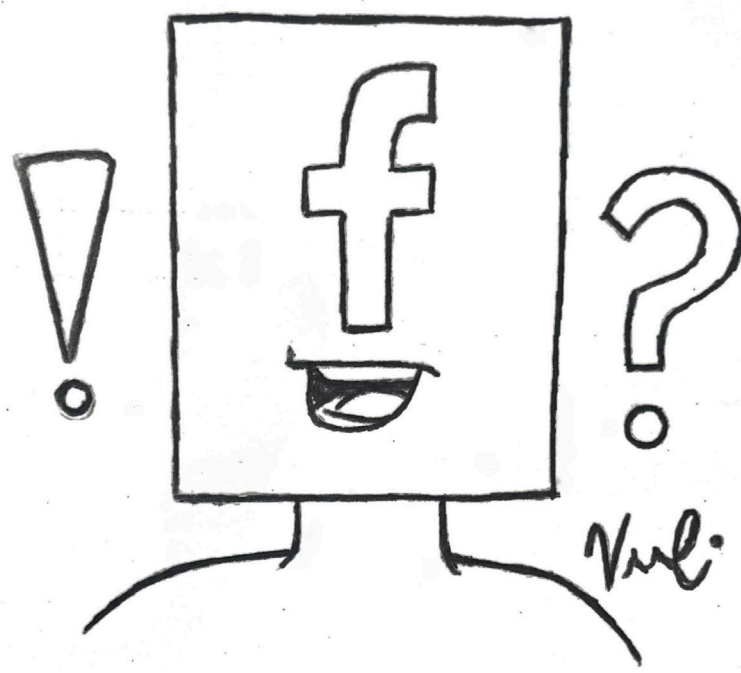
The lack of "Supreme Court" censorship in the first Charlottesville march did, however, give us an opportunity to determine how many of those white-nationalists in Charlottesville were there because of economic insecurity or poor educational guidance. I dare say that none of the marchers were investment bankers or startup founders.

Is the failure of the police in Charlottesville to control violence a good reason to suppress the messages given out by free speech? Is it okay to allow the millions of members of Facebook—one of the first platforms for truly free speech—to be edited into another newspaper-like source by its "Supreme Court?" Should we again go back to a time when speech was controlled by a few corporations?

It is too easy to deny our fellow citizens their clarion calls by imposing paternalistic censorship boards. Rather than bury it, should we not deal with the discontent that lies beneath? Perhaps that is impossible in our practical world, but one would hope that our government—police force, social workers

**It is too easy to deny our fellow citizens their clarion calls by imposing paternalistic censorship boards.**

and members of the education system included—would at least attempt at a solution that preserves what is arguably the most fundamental principle of the United States: free speech.







# ExonianHumor



## Top 8 Exeter Halloween Costumes

By BENJAMIN GORMAN

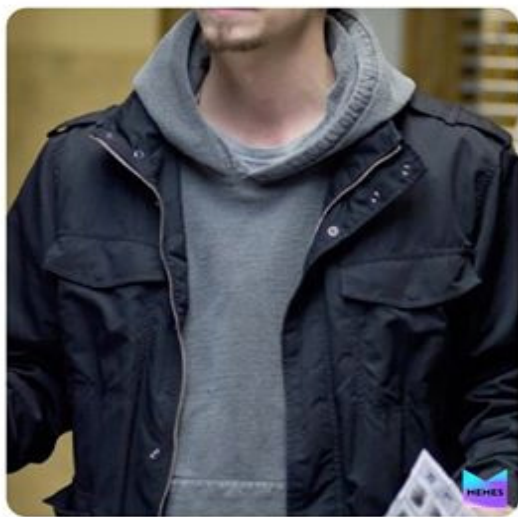
*I'm not wearing a mask it's just my face*

- 1) The Science Building whale. It's robust, it's chic and, most importantly, already on theme.
- 2) A lion. Why not be basic?
- 3) Naughty PRaw. It's a nuanced take on authority, bound to illicit commentary and discussion among onlookers.
- 4) Mark Zuckerberg's ghost. Rumor is he's still alive, but one gaze into his eyes and you'll be convinced otherwise
- 5) Garfield the Cat. There's no real connection to Exeter, I'm just a fan.
- 6) Nimble nurse PRaw. It's provocative, profound and shows our principal's dedication to bettering this school.
- 7) Andrew Yang. Just because it's nice to rep the alumni.
- 8) Cheeky pirate PRaw.

## Meme Zone

By RYAN XIE  
*Got Fake AirPods*

Nobody:  
Every Exie boy's style when it gets cold:



## TFW You Still Don't Know Why Humor Uses The Same Picture Every Week

By RYAN XIE

*Got called out on PEA Confessions*



## Who You Gonna Call?

By BENJAMIN GORMAN

*I am so afraid of those ghosts*

"OH MY GOD!!!! AH-HHHHHHH!!!! HELP! HEEEEELPPPP!!!! SOMEBODY HELP ME! IT HURTS! IT HURTS SO BAD! HELP ME!!! HE-"

These were the screams Phillips Exeter Academy woke up to on Monday morning. Normally, screaming like that means someone's roommate woke them up when they had a sleep-in, but it turns out this incident wasn't quite as harmless.

Prep Andrew Goughs reported that his friend, Larry Labar, "just started floating, like, into the sun." Goughs continued, "the fear in his eyes was like he already knew this was the last the world was ever going to see of him, like Icarus, but falling upwards." This report was corroborated by a separate group of students looking out the window from Spanish class on the fifth floor who saw Larry clinging to the window and begging to be let in, tears streaming down his face, snot dribbling out of his nose. "He looked pretty pathetic, to be honest," said one

of the students, "but I'm still never gonna forgive [Labar] for leaving me on read that one time. He's probably okay anyways so it doesn't matter."

Labar hasn't been seen since. While a few members of campus are beginning to worry (like Mary Mabar, who relies on Labar for the answers to math hand-ins), for the most part nobody cares. Most conversations about Labar have consisted of people wondering why they haven't seen Larry in a while, but then thinking the Early Decision deadline is Friday and I have like three tests on Monday so he can wait.

Only two parties really seem to be interested. The first is Dean Coole, who revealed his intense spiritual power at the This I Believe assembly. Coole stated that the Labar incident is, "one of the most powerful spiritual occurrences [he's] ever seen in [his] life," and that Labar "must have awakened an incredibly evil spirit." We asked Coole if he believed he could exorcise it, but the look on his face re-

vealed that it was far beyond his psychic powers. Coole added that he could have prevented it with just a few salt circles if he had known Labar was cursed, but now, "the boy's just gonna have to live with the clouds for a while."

The second party interested is Ghostbusting Club, led by president Bingo Bongo. When asked on the club's inaction regarding Labar, Bongo answered, "[they] never got a call that something strange was happening in the neighborhood." "Besides," continued Bingo, "[they've] been pretty useless ever since the school cut [their] funding." Bongo then recounted the previous feats of the club, highlighting when they exorcised a giant marshmallow man, as well as the invisible man who was sleeping in his bed. After being asked what message he would like to relay to those who called the club "Losers with Lasers," Bingo warned that the paranormal incident with Labar was not the first, nor would it be the last.

## Comedy Area

By BENJAMIN GORMAN

*Carrying this week*

when you get 4 hours of sleep over 5 days but at least it's Halloween



when everyone's being joker for Halloween but you're joker all year



## Dorm Depot: Advertisement

By JACK ARCHER

*Future Editor in Chief*

Come one, come all, come someone please we're nearly bankrupt, to Dorm Depot, the one stop shop for all your dorm room needs! By shopping with us, your dorm will look exactly the way it did on the final day of school last year. That's a good thing, right? Here's a brief sampling of our wide variety of products, carefully designed with you in mind. Because you have money and we want it.

**LED Lights:** A strip of glowing, pulsing LED lights to make your room permanently LIT \*hits dab\*. Also, there's a setting to make them change color fast enough to give you an epilepsy seizure when you want to dick your 8 a.m.

**Butterworts:** There's no better way to decorate your room than with a plant so high maintenance that it serves as the perfect way to procrastinate on all the actually important things you need to get done. Have fun catching bloodworms to keep these suckers fed.

**Febreze spray:** Keep your room smelling clean and fresh, while continuing to add to the pile of dirty socks beside your dresser! Even better, our custom model doubles as pepper spray for when that one friend refuses to leave.

**Printer:** Our specialty printers are fully equipped and ready to print all of your last-minute assignments right before class. It also comes

with a wi-fi jammer so you don't have to worry about setting it up wrong—it will screw up your entire dorm's wi-fi no matter what!

**A chair:** You can tell your parents it's for your "friends" to sit on when they "visit you" all you want. We all know it's reserved for empty pizza boxes and clothes that aren't dirty enough for the laundry, but are too dirty for the closet. You have no friends.

**Ti-UnNspired:** Utilizing state of the art sensor technology, this high tech calculator automatically registers high stress situations such as a math test or the SAT, and drains its battery immediately to help you stay away from electronics and focus.

## Quotes of the Week

"Preps these days will never know about hte glory days of floor pong."  
- Anonymous

"I'm adopting; nine months is too long"  
- Mai Hoang '20

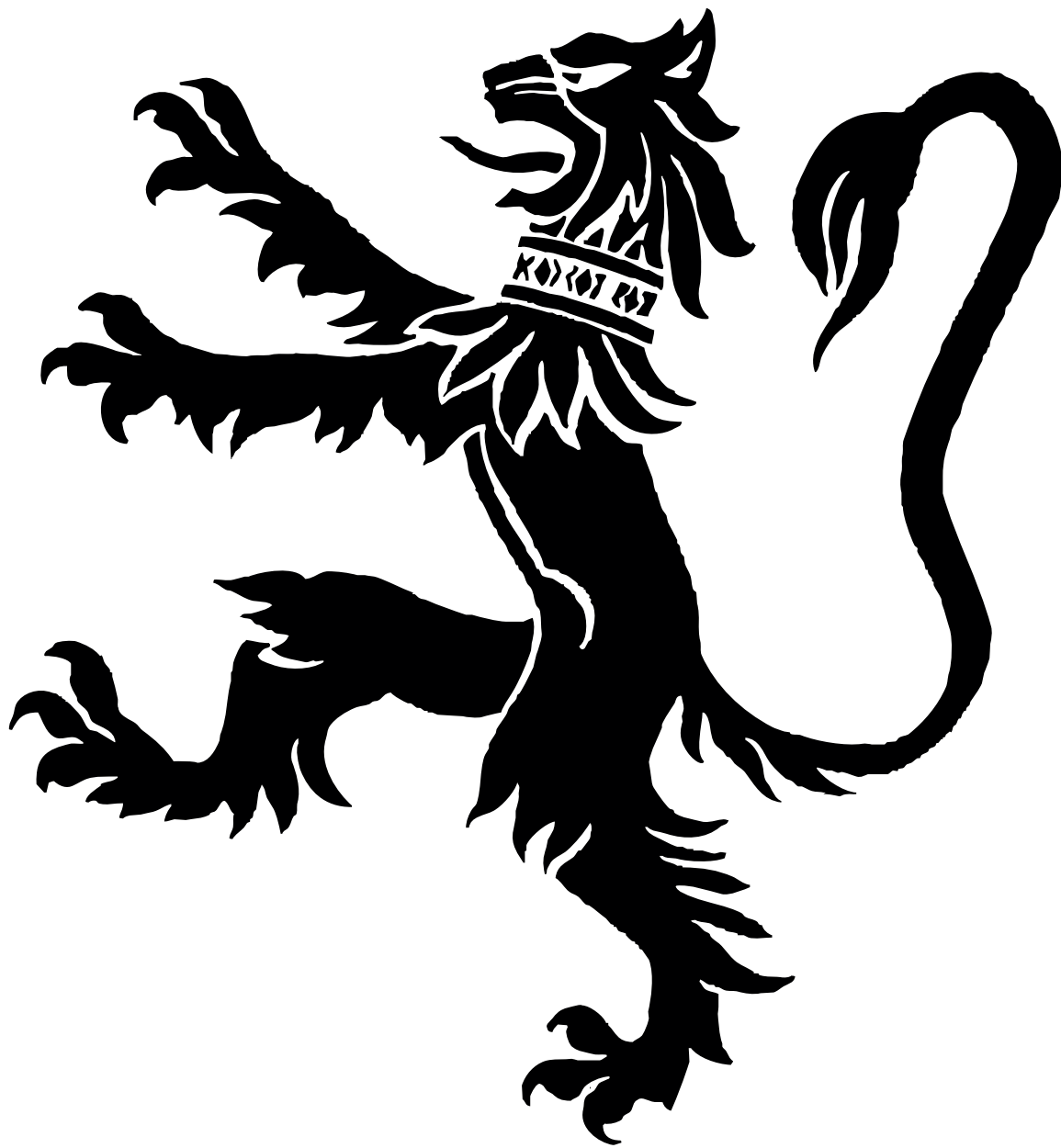
"Actually, it's ten months. They *lie* to you."  
- Ms. Dean

Stop looking at the humor page to procrastinate.

Do your homework right now.



RALLY  
— *for* —  
EXETER



coming soon





PEAMUN XI Committee Chairs are introduced in Assembly Hall.

Courtesy of Chai Vankireddy

## PEA Hosts Model United Nations Conference

By ANNE BRANDES, EMILY KANG and CLARK WU  
Staff Writers and Contributing Writer

Delegates hailing from thirty schools in New England and beyond gathered in the Assembly Hall for Phillips Exeter Academy's 11th annual Model United Nations (MUN) conference this past weekend. In a speech welcoming students to the conference, senior and Secretary General Mai Hoang confessed to the assembled students that she has never won a significant award at a conference. "I truly believe MUN is for everyone, whether you enjoy the competitive aspects of the club or not," she said.

Hoang's words reflected the broader mission of Exeter's annual conference—to introduce new members to all that MUN does. "This is our way of giving new delegates experience in MUN before we go to the longer and harder conferences off campus," upper and Comptroller Philip Horrigan said. "I hope that Exonians will improve their speaking and leadership skills and that all our delegates come away from the conference loving MUN and hoping to go to more MUN conferences."

Upper and Director of General Affairs Alana Yang added that the confer-

ence was also an opportunity for experienced students to grow in leadership skills. "More experienced [MUN members] have an opportunity to chair a conference," she said.

Another purpose of the conference is to raise funds for the rest of the year, lower and Outreach Manager Pedro Coelho noted. "PEAMUN is how we fundraise; there's a fee for delegates to come over," he said. "We use this money to go to other conferences and fund much of what our club does...[O]ne of the main objectives this year is to invite as many delegates as possible to PEAMUN."

Preparations for the event began in the spring term of last year, according to co-president of Model UN senior Chai Vankireddy. Vankireddy viewed the planning as one of the biggest challenges in organizing the conference. "It's a lot of work which includes coordinating with departments from our school such as IT, campus security, booking services," she said.

After opening assembly, the conference split up into two groups. The first group included GA1, Congress of Vien-

na, Indira Gandhi's Cabinet and the Roman Senate. The second included GA2, Olade and the North Korea Cabinet. Each committee was chaired by a returning MUN member.

Upper and committee chair Caleb Richmond explained that chairs and vice chairs had to prepare materials for the conference months in advance. "I had to spend the summer writing a background guide and plan everything the committee was going to go," he said.

For prep Sreesa Virinchi, PEAMUN means more than a first conference. Virinchi, already a Model UN delegate for more than four years, elaborated on his passion for the activity. "I think that it does seem like a foolish prospect: kids trying to be top notch diplomats in the biggest global organization there is," he said, "but more than that, it develops not only your communication skills but it also allows you to truly apply public speaking to a more practical context."

Prep Ming Thompson, a new member of the club, appreciated the welcoming atmosphere of MUN and felt encouraged to attend the conference. "[Other

club members] are very inviting and they make it very easy for you to want to come a second time or third time. They make it really, really easy to learn," she said.

Additionally, leaders of MUN have taught her to become more proactive in learning. "No one knows exactly how MUN works, [so] I'm learning not to be scared to talk and voice my opinion," she said.

PEAMUN also serves as a bonding platform for both new and returning club members. "We only go to a couple conferences a year. PEAMUN gives us an opportunity to work together and get closer to one another," Yang said.

Reflecting on PEAMUN, Coelho feels exceptionally proud of his MUN community. "It's a big privilege for us to have enough people interested in the club to the point where we're considered at the same level as large clubs like [the Daniel Webster] Debate Society and The Exonian," he said. "We try to keep a consistent growth rate every year, and think there's always that one new group of people who come in who you know will carry on the club into greater heights."

## ALBUM REVIEW: JESUS IS KING

By ZANE ICE  
Life Section Editor

The rollout for Kanye West's latest album, "Jesus is King," was characteristically chaotic. Two release dates announced by Kim Kardashian had already passed. After Kanye tweeted out a release date of Thursday at midnight, I was one of the many fans who stayed up late that night refreshing Spotify, hoping that Kanye would fulfill his promise this time. However, 12:00 and 1:00 passed with no release—even though Kanye, on Jimmy Kimmel's show, announced that it was out. Twitter and Reddit erupted in memes, and eventually I gave up and went to bed, increasingly impatient to hear Kanye's long-awaited gospel album.

There was much to be excited about. Since September 2018, with his announcement of "Yandhi," the sequel to 2013's "Yeezus," a steady stream of leaks and bootleg tracks had surfaced online. In addition to these compelling, albeit unfinished, songs, Kanye had been regularly performing with his "Sunday Service" choir, performing gospel songs, new songs and repurposed versions of his old songs, rewritten to be about his faith. Some of the performances and leaked tracks ended up going viral, displaying a surprising amount of fresh production ideas from Kanye.

In addition to this slow burn of releases, his two most recent albums, "Ye" and "KIDS SEE GHOSTS" with Kid Cudi, piqued my interest more and more over the year since their releases. Taking a more personal, subdued approach while discussing his mental health more candidly than ever before, Kanye had reinvented his rap identity once again, dismantling the braggadocio that he had displayed since his 2010 opus "My Beautiful Dark Twisted

Fantasy." Although the production wasn't as expansive or epic as it was on his previous works, I still appreciated the fact that Kanye seemed to have turned over a new leaf.

Enter "Jesus is King." Just as suddenly as he announced it, the album appeared on streaming services around noon on Friday. After seeing the notification while at Wetherell, I rushed back to Abbot to listen to it, ready to kick off the weekend with Kanye's glorious production. As I made my way through the 11 tracks, however, I slowly came to the one realization I wish I didn't have to: Kanye should've delayed its release even longer.

The best comparison I've heard is that "Jesus is King" is like the paper turned in late by the smart kid who wrote it the night before—it clearly has good ideas, but overall I'm disappointed that, with all the wait, it couldn't be more polished. For one, the initial mix was awful. Although legendary hip-hop engineer Mike Dean updated it within 24 hours, mostly resolving it, my first listen through was plagued by out-of-place vocals and muddy kick drums.

Now, it would be hypocritical of me to judge the album by its first release—considering that "The Life of Pablo," which was similarly "fixed," is my favorite Kanye album. Still, some ideas even in the updated album are massively underdeveloped.

"Follow God," for example, features a compelling soul sample and a catchy hook. However, the song structure is so repetitive that Kanye manages to make a one minute 45 second song feel like an eternity. Similarly, the gorgeous choir vocals of "Water" feel empty within a meandering track that doesn't know what it wants to do.

There is also the question of lyrical topics. While Kanye has always been plainly Christian in his music, this is his first album that is explicitly gospel, both lyrically and sonically. Nearly every lyric

on the project is religious, whether they are direct biblical quotes or similes concerning Chick-Fil-A. While Kanye has never been known for dense, meaningful lyricism, his effort on this album reaches a new low. Half of the lyrics could have been written by any Christian artist, and the other half are shoddy explanations of why he charges so much for his luxury clothing line.

However, Kanye's characteristic grandiose production shows up on multiple tracks. Despite Pusha T's offbeat vocals, "Use This Gospel" manages to repurpose one of the leaked tracks into an epic ode to faith (featuring a sax solo from Kenny G!). "Selah" and "On God" are also highlights, with some of the best vocal performances on the whole album. Practically every track, in fact, features some very compelling ideas—including the childish "Closed on Sunday," which features a haunting guitar melody.

Perhaps the closer, "Jesus is Lord," is an apt representative for the whole album. It builds up slowly with beautiful layered horns, with Kanye delivering an admirable

singing performance. However, just after 49 seconds, the song abruptly ends, leaving you in silence and wondering why Kanye couldn't have just spent a little more time on it.

"Jesus is King" is my least favorite of Kanye's albums. However, this is really not saying much, as until now Kanye has showed incredible consistency in his projects. While I do like listening to much of this album, it simply cannot compare to "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy," "Late Registration" or any of his other classics. The few songs that stick with me do so because of Kanye's innovative production using the "Sunday Service" choir and the unabashed positive messages present all over the album. That is why in good faith I cannot truly criticize Kanye's creative process surrounding this album; I know it stems from a much happier and healthier place than those surrounding any of his previous albums. I hope that Kanye remains happy with what he has found in religion, and keeps refining this gospel sound. Until then, I will stick to his old material.



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## SeniorSpotlight

## ALISHA SIMMONS

By SABRINA KEARNEY  
and FELIX YEUNG

Contributing Writer and Staff Writer

Senior Alisha Simmons stands at the intersection of art and social justice. Through her commitment to activism and expression, she has left an indelible mark in her three years at the Academy.

From a young age, Simmons explored a wide variety of artistic passions. “I’ve always been a performer—basically since birth. I started singing as soon as I could talk,” she said. On a whim, Simmons entered a local pageant at seven years old, and won the talent portion.

Since then, Simmons has continued to experiment with different modes of expression. “I did the school announcements in middle school. That was my public speaking thing,” she said. “Still, I never really got the chance to be fully immersed in theater ... We didn’t have a drama department at my school.”

Simmons arrived at Exeter determined to take full advantage of the Academy’s vast artistic and extracurricular programs. She signed up for DRAMAT, the Gender-Sexuality Alliance and a cappella on her first Club Night lower year. “Those were the three things that my old school didn’t provide. I knew I wanted to do them coming in, so I dove in headfirst.”

Now, Simmons participates regularly in theatrical productions, which have taught her how to empathize better with others’ experiences. “It’s like a superpower. It’s like shape-shifting and being able to become someone and really understand someone,” she said. “You learn how to understand this other person, tell their story. And then, once you’re on stage, it feels effortless.”

Simmons is an active musician at Exeter. “I have been writing songs—that has always been my emotional outlet,” she said. “Over the summer, I wrote and produced an album, and it’s one of the most personal things I’ve ever done. It tracks my journey to self-love.”

Simmons’ twelve-track album, *it’s not me, it’s u*, cycles through various styles and genres to tell her story. Outside her own musical endeavors, Simmons serves as co-head of In Essence, one of Exeter’s a cappella groups.

Much of Simmons’ artistic talent is rooted in her creativity and courage. “We went to Cuba and we had just gone to a salsa class earlier that morning,” senior Khine Win said. “Suddenly, we saw this band playing and Alisha said, ‘Let’s dance.’ And then we just danced, right



Maegan Paul/The Exonian

on the street. There were a lot of tourists there, but they were all clapping for us.”

Simmons uses art as more than an outlet for herself; in fact, art is the medium through which she instigates social change and shares pertinent messages with a wider audience. Recalling her first DRAMAT show, *For Colored Girls* by Ntozake Shange, Simmons said, “It really shaped my entire Exeter experience. It’s a play that highlights the experiences of black women... To see all of my peers with me on stage and to tell these stories was powerful.”

Since then, Simmons has directed *Unsilenced*, acted in last year’s Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day play *Hottentotted* and performed poetry for *Bullets into Bells*, a recent poetry reading featuring reflections on gun violence.

Upper Nahla Owens became closer to Simmons while co-starring with her in *Hottentotted*. “We were able to relate about the highs and lows of being black women in America, and it was inspiring to see someone who has been through still be willing to do the work to improve the lives of black women in America,” Owens said.

Beyond artistic advocacy, Simmons lends her voice to a number of other causes. Last spring, she was an active participant in a three-hour student

sit-in protesting the Academy’s history of mishandling sexual assault. “It was a really important moment in the community because it highlighted an issue that is otherwise kind of hush hush,” she said. “That statement actually made a difference. We made a difference and set an example for younger students.”

Simmons’ work in social justice also includes participation in the Gender-Sexuality Alliance. “The queer community here is much larger than I had ever seen before. They helped me realize that I’m normal, that I’m not alone in my experiences and that it’s okay to be gay,” she said. “I want to pay that forward.”

English Instructor Mercy Carbonell reflected on her experience serving with Simmons on the MLK Committee. “[Simmons] has brought her commitment for racial, economic, and LBGTQ+ justice to the fore. She has revealed her gift at organizing others as she did in her creation of *Unsilenced* [and] has proven her ability to make essential distinctions for program change,” Carbonell said. “She comes up with ideas, writers’ voices, dreams ... a creative, critical and celebratory pulse that allows the work we have done to feel wonderfully alive.”

The impact of Simmons’ advocacy has not gone unnoticed. “Alisha has

given much to our community in her time here,” Director of Religious and Spiritual Life Reverend Heidi Heath said. “Whether on stage at the theatre, performing at Evening Prayer, one-on-one in conversation, delivering stunning poetry on gun violence [or] asking for more accountability from our leaders, she has been a crucial part of making Exeter better than when she found it.”

Senior Elizabeth Kostina agreed. “Alisha is fun-going, hardworking, generous, kind-spirited—but, most importantly, an activist in every sense,” she said.

Simmons emphasized the importance of leading by example. “I want to be something to younger students. I make statements to show them that anybody can make a change, [that] anybody can speak up and everyone’s voice matters,” she said.

Simmons continued, “I’m also a student listener—it’s special because it’s about being there for people who might otherwise not have someone to talk to. In these ways, I can be that person that I wish I had when I was younger.”

Her capacity for heartfelt empathy is one of the most radiant aspects of Simmons’ personality. “Alisha’s spirit captures you as soon as you meet her. She is smart, has a razor sharp wit and seeks to connect deeply with each person she enters into conversation with,” Heath said. “She is hilariously funny, never afraid to tell it like it is and doesn’t back away from the hard conversation. In other words, she’s a person you absolutely want to know.”

“It is hard for me to imagine us without her here next year,” Heath continued.

Win similarly emphasized Simmons’ ability to connect with others. “She’s super bubbly—easy to talk to, always there to listen and super wise, but humble about it,” Win said. “I’ve worked through a lot of things with her help.”

Today, Simmons continues to impart the lessons she’s learned at Exeter to the next generation of Exonians. “I want to emphasize to all of the preps and new lowers that everything will be okay,” she said. “I’ve definitely had moments where I felt like I’m not supposed to be here, that I shouldn’t be here. But I want to tell them that they are supposed to be here. They will find their place.”

Carbonell summed up Simmons’ presence in a few, heartfelt words. She said, “She is a beautiful soul, one who walks into a place and offers the chance for transformation, for stillness, for humility, for wild and generative ideas.”

## MATTER MAGAZINE: FADING CORAL

By ISABEL CARDEN  
Contributing Writer

Although we may not encounter them in our day-to-day lives, coral reefs are an incredibly important aspect of ocean environments, as well as society as a whole. According to the NOAA, coral reefs have a \$3.4 billion value every year, including fisheries, tourism and the coastal communities it protects. The largest barrier reef in the United States, the Florida Reef Tract, is said to protect communities as far inland as Louisiana from storm surge and flooding. Not to mention that coral reefs are home to 25 percent of all marine organisms. But the health of coral reefs is rapidly declining. Warmer water, ocean acidification, pollution and disease are all contributing factors to coral bleaching. In fact, the world’s largest reef, the Great Barrier Reef has suffered greatly from bleaching, with only about half of it still alive today, according to *National Geographic*. It is

projected that by 2050, over 90 percent of all coral will be dead.

The coral is an incredibly advanced, yet vulnerable animal. It has a symbiotic relationship with zooxanthellae algae that provides the coral with about 90 percent of its total food supply. The other 10 percent is retrieved by the animal itself, grabbing microscopic organisms with its tiny tentacles as they pass by. Corals possess the ability to “expel” the zooxanthellae when they are overproducing oxygen during photosynthesis. This reaction can be provoked due to stresses in the environment including rising temperatures and pollution, making humans the number one perpetrators.

Over the past 30 years, mass coral bleachings have been recorded more and more frequently. According to the NOAA Coral Reef Watch, the second global coral bleaching in our history occurred

in 2010 in reefs across the globe. Then, in 2014, the beginning of the third global bleaching brought with it record heat that affected coral reefs from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to the Marshall Islands. This worldwide event lasted for three years, ending in May of 2017. It is the longest and most detrimental mass coral bleaching in history, greatly affecting areas that were once untouched by coral bleaching, such as the northern Great Barrier Reef.

Today, the condition of the world’s largest barrier reef is dwindling. “The current rate of global warming will not allow the maintenance of a healthy reef for future generations ... the window of opportunity to improve the reef’s long-term future is now,” said the latest report from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. In emergencies such as this, immediate preventative action must

be taken in order to prevent this vital ecosystem from depleting any further. Initiatives such as building underwater fans to cool down the surrounding water and creating a film on the surface of the water to prevent light penetration are aimed to help rectify the situation. However, much more must be done to make meaningful progress. Carbon emissions must go down and with that the extraction of fossil fuels must be eliminated. Lifestyles must change.

Regardless of who you are, where you live or what you do, coral has a profound effect on your life. To imagine a world without coral would be to imagine a world without coastal communities, without a stable economy and without a diverse ocean. Moreover, preserving the ocean’s coral reefs is a responsibility that falls on every individual; our livelihood depends on it.

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# MERRILL HOSTS HALLOWEEN DANCE

By MINSEO KIM and LINA HUANG  
Staff Writers

Even from far away, students could catch glimpses of brightly colored flashes coming from the music building's windows. Fake cobwebs and chains wrapped around the balconies, bat stickers decorated the walls and a cackling skull head greeted students entering the building. Inside the lobby, orange and yellow lights projected a warm glow onto the walls as students conversed on the couches.

Last Saturday night, Exonians gathered in Powell Hall to celebrate Merrill Hall's annual Halloween Dance. Organized by the proctors in Merrill Hall, the Halloween Dance featured costumes ranging from Disney princesses to VSCO girls.

Prep Kiara Odums appreciated the chance to bond with the other Merrill residents during the setup. "We just broke up into groups," she said. "If there was a certain thing that needed to be done, two or three people would get it done and then come back to see what else would need to be done."

Senior Patricia Fitzgerald expressed that this year's setup created a fun atmosphere heightened by the dance's location in Powell Hall. "It was definitely not what I'm used to, but I liked the way the decorations turned out more here than in Grainger," she said. "I thought the room would be awkwardly small, but it somehow fit just right."

The location was a welcome change for lower Sophie Fernandez. "Powell was more of a close space, while Grainger is pretty big," she said. "I also liked the decorations because in the music building there's more places to hang them up."

At the dance, lower Chieko Imamura enjoyed relaxing with her friends after



Courtesy of Angele Yang

a long week. "I got to meet a couple of new people—which was fun—and talk to different people I haven't gotten to talk to in a long time," she said.

Similarly, Merrill lower Anna Tran typically spends Saturday nights catching up with others and valued the dorm-bonding experience. "Having a day especially with your dorm is a very warm environment, and as I invited

other dorms over, it became really fun de-stressing on a Saturday night," she said.

Lower Akili Tulloch commented on the music and decorations: "One major thing I liked about the dance was the song selection ... Also the decorations were well designed—they fit with the theme of Halloween."

At the beginning of the dance,

the atmosphere was stifled, but lower Josephine Elting noticed it became more exciting as time passed. "I think people let go, and by the end of it we were dancing and having a lot of fun," she said.

As the dance continued, a small dance showdown took place, giving students a moment in the spotlight. Prep Brooke Ottaway commented that one of the most memorable parts was "probably the dance circle [because] a lot of people showed off their skills, including me ... and it was a really nice experience."

Lower Elanor Andreasson, meanwhile, took the dance as an opportunity to celebrate Halloween. "It's a good way to celebrate because you can dress up and have fun without having to go trick or treating," she said.

The songs and impressive costumes made students excited for the upcoming Halloween celebrations on campus. Prep Gwen Serrano reflected back upon the exciting night, "The throwback songs were lively to say the least—'Dancing Queen' was my favorite, next to 'Shut Up and Dance,'" she said. "The costumes people wore were also very interesting: I saw Disney princesses, onesies, skeletons and a plague doctor!"

Imamura also noted that the dance's theme broke up the monotony of the weekend. "It was a nice reminder that Halloween was coming, which got me really excited for the week," she said.

After a long week of school work and diligent studies, the students seemed to enjoy the small release from their schedules by loosening up at the lively Halloween dance. From bopping away with the music to relaxedly munching on Crunch chocolates and Gobstoppers, there were many memorable moments throughout Saturday's party night.

## MOVIE REVIEW: THE LAUNDROMAT

By FELIX YEUNG  
Staff Writer

*The Laundromat* is messy—undoubtedly so. Sure, the film attempts to broach its rather intricate subject matter through narratives and intentional disjunction. Nevertheless, the product is just plain confusing.

Directed by Steven Soderbergh (*Ocean's Eleven*, *Magic Mike*, *Erin Brockovich*), the film unpacks the work of former law firm Mossack Fonseca. The firm's shell companies and clients were exposed by the Panama Papers several years ago, resulting in political and economic ramifications.

*The Laundromat* delves into the legal loopholes that Mossack Fonseca exploited, using characters both real and created. The characters parody the realities of those who used Mossack Fonseca's services, demonstrating the often callous and self-absorbed mindset of the elite and the helplessness of those they exploit.

Yet, some of the most ridiculous moments are lifted directly from reality. For example, the film depicts how Chinese power player Gu Kailai (Rosalind Cho) asked Matthias Schoenaerts' Maywood (based on the real Neil Heywood) to divorce his wife as a sign of loyalty.

These characters' stories intertwine through monologues by Jürgen Mossack (Gary Oldman) and Ramón Fonseca (Antonio Banderas). The fictional Ellen Martin (Meryl Streep) also serves as a

connective thread. After the death of her husband, her plight leads her into an investigation of Mossack Fonseca. By and large, though, these three anchors are not enough to bring together this garbled film.

This is not to say that the performances do not shine. The cast itself is sublime. Meryl Streep brings her signature combination of levity and realism to her character. She takes us into the world of Mossack Fonseca through a relatable ordinary lens. There is not one moment when this feels strained or artificial—Streep's confusion and frustration seem genuine. Her emotional moments, particularly those less related to the central exploration of Mossack Fonseca, are some of the highlights of this film.

Streep also does double duty as Elena, a Mossack Fonseca employee. While they may seem wholly separate, Streep's roles are united by the fact that they represent the meek in a world full of the mighty. The two are drawn into the world of Mossack Fonseca by fate, sucked into corporate conspiracy they do not fully comprehend. And, to borrow Elena's words, they are left to "clean up" the messes others leave behind—they pay for others' greed.

When the film reaches its climax—the Panama Papers data dump—, Mossack and Fonseca are forced to reconcile

with the fact that someone exposed their operation. They also concede that they are not the only ones in their line of work. Here, many questions are answered.

Yet, there is one question even they cannot answer: who was behind the data dump? In comes Elena, then Ellen, then Streep herself, borrowing the words of the original leaker, John Doe. In the end, it doesn't matter who was behind the data dump because John Doe was the everyman and everywoman. This scene, her only monologue, is where Streep truly shines.

Alas, supporting characters are sorely underused, perhaps a testament to the star-power in this film. Jeffrey Wright's Malchus Irvin Boncamper, Sharon Stone's Hannah and David Schwimmer's Matthew Quirk barely receive any screen time. Stone, an Oscar nominee, has just three lines of dialogue. What's more, Melissa Rauch's considerable comedic chops aren't exercised at all. Instead, she is reduced to extended eye contact with the camera.

The cinematography, however, is excellent. The creativity with which Steven Soderbergh frames his scenes is stunning. Characters move between realities, sharing spaces that seem neither physical or metaphorical. Moreover, each vignette has a distinctive camera style—a tint in one story, a foggy gloss

over another. These are the clever ways in which Soderbergh amplifies how the stories are both disparate and interconnected.

Similarly, the sets are mighty impressive. Each one embodies the location in which the scene is set—from Miami to Las Vegas to Nevis to Chongqing. Evidently, a lot of money was spent on this film. The one complaint I have, however, is that plots sometimes get lost in the jet-setting and constant movement-between geographical locations.

Taken as a whole, the film is hugely flawed in its execution. Yet, it manages to provide biting commentary on the way that the world works. In revealing the open secrets of the ultra-wealthy, the film paints a cynical picture of how we are cogs in the monetary machine that swirls around us. It shows us the mindset of those who have more control, displaying the portrait of human greed and desire.

Most importantly, however, the film offers its take on fundamental questions of society: What is the system we live in? Who is this system designed for? Who does it benefit? What is the role of the common man (or woman) in this system? And if we define winners in this system, who, then, must be the losers?

Still, the film doesn't answer one critical question: What in the world does a laundromat have to do with it all?



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# ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: DENNESHAROLLE, ABBY SMITH & ROBIN POTTER



Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

By GINNY VAZQUEZ-AZPIRI &  
SYDNEY KANG  
Staff Writers

Girls dash back and forth across the grassy field, passing soccer balls swiftly to each other and running drills. Throughout practice, senior co-captains Robin Potter, Dennesha Rolle and Abby Smith shout encouragement to their teammates and joke with each other. Players are training hard, but still smiling, making the time pass quickly for everyone.

Co-captain Dennesha Rolle first started playing soccer in kindergarten and carried her passion for the sport throughout her four years of playing for Big Red. In her words, her love for the sport is mainly because soccer is “really fun and there is a lot of energy.”

Rolle takes her role seriously and constantly strives to better herself as a leader as well as improve the team as a whole. She said, “To me, being a captain means that I am a designated leader of [the] team and that I have increased responsibility and jurisdiction within the team. I feel obligated to set a good example for my teammates and hold them all to a high standard across the board.”

In addition to setting a good example for her teammates, Rolle believes a major duty for captains is to foster a positive team culture. “Something else about being a captain that is really exciting is that we get to kind of create a team culture. We had amazing captains last year that set a great example for us,” she said.

“I embrace this role by trying to bring energy and intensity everyday; I think that stagnation or complacency on a team is extremely detrimental. I try to celebrate my teammates often and be quite relentless in my cheering.”

Rolle’s teammates especially appreciate her for always bringing high spirits to wherever the team goes. Lower Cecilia Treadwell said, “Dennesha is really fun and outgoing. She tries to hype everyone up and she always acts like a coach.”

It seems that Assistant Coach Ardura agrees—when asked about the qualities Rolle brings to the team, she exclaimed, “I think she’s ready to be a coach!”

Smith’s soccer career began at the young age of three. Ever since her first season on the team as a prep alongside Rolle and Potter, she has felt at home with the team. “The Exeter soccer team is the best team I have ever been on! Soxie—the team nickname Girls’ Soccer has given themselves—is like a small family,” Smith said.

Smith helps the team focus during practices and at games, bringing the drive the team needs to perform best. She said, “As a captain, I feel like it is my responsibility to keep the team environment competitive but fun for everyone. Obviously, everyone wants to win games, [which goes] hand in hand with focusing during practice or fixing our mistakes. And as a captain, it is important to be a role model for the younger players [to show them] what it is like to be a good soccer player and teammate.”

Potter started soccer at the young age of three and started her soccer career on the Exeter Rec team the same year as Rolle. The two have played together for pretty much their entire lives.

Potter described being on the team as a much-needed outlet and escape from the hectic and demanding life of an Exonian. “I look forward to practicing every day as a time to let go of anything that is stressing me out,” she said.

Potter added that being a co-captain is more than being a good leader; she strives to be a good role model for everyone on the team. “I embrace this role by pushing myself to show up to each practice and game ready to work hard. I want our team to be competitive and in order to enforce that, I have to hold myself to that standard.”

She has given herself high expectations but exceeds them with her performances during games and attitudes during practices. Treadwell commented on her determination, “She teaches you how to improve your playing on the team when she gets on the field, she’s in it to win it.”

Potter’s enthusiasm and work ethic as both a co-captain and player translate to the rest of the team. “Robin is a very positive leader. She tends to finish every talk or sentence with a smile or an encouraging word,” Ardura said.

Treadwell shared similar sentiments about Robin’s helpful and caring personality, saying, “Robin is the sweetest person you can ever meet. She’s quieter out of all the captains,

but she stills plays the important role of being a role model.”

In addition to her positive spirit, Potter brings a special set of skills to the team. Coach Ardura recalled a particular highlight from the season, saying, “Robin has given us very important goals this year. I still remember a 30 yard shot to the upper right side of the goal vs. Holderness. It was incredible! Because of her position, Robin is most likely one of the players who runs the most each game. [It] requires a lot of endurance, discipline and athleticism.”

An important factor in Smith, Rolle, and Potter’s outstanding leadership and collective teamwork is their variety in approaches to leading the team. Head Coach Alexa Caldwell described, “They all have a slightly different leadership style. Dennesha is very vocal and very direct with her communication. Abby is still vocal, [but] not as loud and will give more specific comments and feedback to the group during a drill. Robin is an encourager who will have more individual conversations with teammates. All of them work really hard in practice and all three are really strong competitors.”

For the co-captains, this season in particular was filled with high hopes. Smith said, “I appreciate how everybody on the team is highly competitive, as we had high expectations for our record this year than years in the past.”

Rolle agreed, saying, “We have a lot of really good athletes on the team. We are doing better this season than we have in my past three years, which is super exciting!”

## Exeter Cross Country Stuns St. Paul’s



A pack of boys’ XC runners start out the race. Senior Maddie Machado powers to the finish line.



Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

By COOPER WALSH  
Staff Writer

The damp dirt from yesterday’s rain-fall gets pressed into the ground again and again by a procession of Big Red runners leading the pack. Varsity and JV Cross Country ran to victory against St. Paul’s School this past Saturday.

The girls’ team swept St. Paul’s off of the podium by earning a perfect score of 15 with their JV and an almost perfect score of 16 with the varsity team. While lower Sophie Cohen and upper Gia Pisano finished with the fastest times, upper Caroline Luff said that the real champions of the race were upper Alys Barton and senior Erin Ahern who “crushed the course at perfect pacing and strong form.”

Senior and co-captain Maddie Machado identified prep Matilda Damon,

lower Lindsay Machado, upper Kerstin Hyer and senior Madeline Huh as the most impressive runners.

M. Machado went on to say that while the team has some very fast runners, their greatest strength was in the depth of the team, “We have many groups of three to five runners that all race similarly, and we’ve been working on our strategy over the course of the season to capitalize on running in packs.” This strategy combined with the team’s roster composed of very young runners signals a very bright future for Big Red’s girl’s cross country team.

The team dynamic helps the runner dominate on the course. Luff says, “the dynamic is definitely the best one on campus. It is so supportive and loving and we are always having a good time.”

Machado added, “everyone on this

team brings a lot of energy and passion to both practice and meets, and racing literally side-by-side is a good way to draw off each other’s momentum.”

The boys’ side of the meet went extraordinarily well too, with fast finishes and new personal records. This was despite the fact that the varsity team was down one of their runners—luckily, prep Oliver Brandes stepped up to fill the void. Senior Eric Porras said, “he stepped up big time and had an incredible finish even beating some of the Varsity runners.”

In addition to Brandes, upper Phil Horrigan said lower Bradley St. Laurent “had a great performance and had an especially great kick.” Upper Connor Chen added that St. Laurent “has been working his butt off this whole season and really deserved this stellar finish.”

Chen also stated that “no one on the

team is out to beat a teammate, everyone is working on improving their own times to strengthen the whole team.”

Horrigan added that the team dynamic “is unique on campus, as we have a very small divide between the JV and varsity teams. Of course, we separate a little bit during practice, but we meet together at the beginning of practice, warm-up together, recover together and eat dinner together.”

While both teams are looking forward to speeding past the Smurfs this weekend, both teams have their sights set on their Interschols in two weeks. The girls are looking to reclaim their title, and the boys are still hurt after finishing second by only one point last year. Chen said, “Every runner is focused on working for that victory, and we’ll stop at nothing to get it.”





# ExonianSports



## COACHES SPOTLIGHT: CRAIG DORAN, DAN OJEDA & SHAUN FISHEL



Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

By CHARLOTTE LISA  
Staff Writer

Upon entering the Downer Family Fitness Center, one is greeted by the sound of laughter and lively music. On the right, head coach Shaun Fishel is blowing his whistle at the boys' varsity basketball team, pushing them through their last set on the assault bikes. In the back, coach Dan Ojeda leads the girls' cross country team through their free weight workouts. On the left, coach Craig Doran jokes with the boys' hockey team as players grind to increase their maximum deadlift weights receiving celebratory fist bumps along the way.

The Fitness Center's strength and conditioning team, triumvirate coaches Shaun "Fish" Fishel, Craig Doran and Dan "OJ" Ojeda play as critical a role as any other coach in preparing Exeter's team for success on the field, court, track and ice. Fish, Doran and OJ each work with a number of different teams and student groups each season to help students build a foundation of strength and endurance that enables them to excel in their respective sports.

Each coach brings vast experience as strength and conditioning professionals to Exeter, and all attest to the fact that working at Exeter with high school athletes is something extra special. Fish has been with Exeter the longest, having started in 2016, followed by Doran who began in 2018 and OJ who is new to Big Red this year. Fish highlighted that his favorite part of serving as a strength coach is "getting to work with all the different athletes who come in here—it's not just one sport or one team." All three coaches share

an appreciation of getting to work with high school athletes, who "are just starting to learn themselves and their bodies and sports," Fish said. "There is a much greater impact you can have with them, whereas most college athletes are already at their potential. I really like helping kids reach these major goals and accomplishments."

OJ echoed Fish's sentiments, describing his passion for witnessing high school students set the foundation for their strength training. "I understand that high school is when most kids figure out what they want to do," OJ said. "When it comes to exercise, a lot of kids are just starting to really exercise or strength train for the first time, so it's being able to show them how to correctly do it and see them go from not being able to squat properly, for example, to being able to squat this amount of weight and keep adding up [that is rewarding]."

OJ added that the opportunity to be responsible for his own teams has been a gratifying experience. "I've never had it that way anywhere else before—all of my other internships so far were just under someone who made the program or ran the team," he said.

Doran noted his unique position of encouraging kids to improve both in and out of the gym. "Although I love seeing the joy on kids faces when they hit PRs, excel in their sport or remain injury free, by far the best part of being a strength and conditioning coach—or any coach for that matter—is being able to help foster an environment for young adults to become better people on and off the field," Doran said.

Doran added that working specifically with Exeter students has been a privilege. "Be-

ing able to coach such well rounded, articulate and respectful kids who have a passion for learning and becoming better at whatever they do, is amazing," he said.

Each coach traveled a different road to arrive at Exeter. Fish described his fitness journey in which he lost 100 pounds. "I realized through that and through my experience as a track and field thrower, how much of an impact weight training can have. I figured that I could figure out a way to help other athletes reach that potential through fitness, and strength and conditioning seemed like the perfect mold to do that," Fish explained.

Doran had been working with the UMass Lowell Men's Hockey team when he saw an opening for a position at Exeter. "After working in the private sector, along with the collegiate setting, I had a hunch that I would love coaching at the high school level, which was true!" Doran said.

OJ is currently working through a fellowship from Merrimack College. He originally found his inspiration to be a strength and conditioning coach after a severe knee injury of his own after high school in which he tore both his ACL and Meniscus.

The variance in their paths to Exeter, is what makes the three of them a stronger team, Doran believes. "What I like most about my fellow coaches is that we all have different backgrounds, coaching styles and strengths and weaknesses, but we respect and learn from each other and have a common goal of becoming better every day," he said. "My favorite moments in the gym are when we are each coaching a team at the same time. You can just feel the positive energy—it is perfectly orchestrated chaos."

Indeed, all students who get the opportunity to work with the coaches are incredibly grateful that each of their paths led them to Exeter. Senior and gym proctor Carly Kirsch noted that her favorite aspect of the fitness coaches "is the environment they create—it's very welcoming and friendly. Even though I think the fitness center can sometimes feel like an intimidating space, the fitness coaches create a supportive environment that's fun for everyone to be in. You can work hard while still having fun."

Upper Caroline Huang similarly noted her appreciation for the environment the coaches create. "Even when I'm feeling super unmotivated, they ask how I'm feeling, if I've gotten enough rest, and how am I eating. They will also give me workout tips and just be super positive ... even when I'm having a bad day. They also always say 'hi' around campus," she said.

Senior Jon Bradbury added that not only are the coaches "super optimistic and encouraging," they are also "super knowledgeable and motivational." "They seriously inspire me to be the best that I can be everyday."

The coaches are always eager to engage with students who come through the Fitness Center doors. Both Kirsch and Huang highlighted memories of working out with the coaches, even skating and playing hockey with them.

Huang finished by emphasizing not to be intimidated by the Fitness Center. "The trainers are so friendly and nice—once you get to know them, they make your workout and day just 100 times better." She added, "getting to know them was definitely one of the best things I have done at Exeter so far."

## BOYS' SOCCER SHUTS OUT ST. PAUL'S

By FELIX YEUNG  
Staff Writer



Upper Griffin Walker dribbles the ball upfield.

Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

After 90 minutes of gameplay, Boys' Soccer sent St. Paul's School packing in a home game on Saturday, Oct. 26. With a final score of 5-0, the team added another victory to its belt, bringing its season record to eight wins, five losses and one tie.

Even before the kick-off, the team felt confident. "This was the first game in a long time that we had every regular starter relatively healthy," coach A.J. Cosgrove said. "The guys practiced very well on Thursday and Friday, and it showed on Saturday."

The team expected to have the upper hand going in. "Our main plan of action was to simply work harder than the other team," captain Jake Gehron said. "We already knew we had more talent."

The players' confidence was bolstered by a good start. "Senior Jeb Holland got things started with a tremendous run down the right flank and a great ball played in to Jake Gehron for a goal," Cosgrove said.

During the game itself, the team made sure to keep possession of the ball. "We tried to possess the ball for the majority of the game, and expose their back four," senior Finn O'Brien said. "They often left gaps over the top, and as a result, we were able to seam our strikers through several times."

Senior Michael Singer added that dominating possession was highly effective. "We didn't let St. Paul's play their game," he said. "Coach Cosgrove switched around the formation during the game, adjusting to the opposition's play style."

Players noted senior Carson Garland's playing as a highlight. "The highlight of the

game was certainly Carson Garland's goal in the first half," O'Brien said. "He left the defender in the dust and then put in a tidy finish to make the game 2-0."

Cosgrove echoed O'Brien's thoughts and noted several other key moments. "Billy Menken played a strong defensive game in the midfield, Jake Gehron scored two goals and Carson Garland, who was only playing at 87% strength according to the athletic trainers, scored a great goal that shifted the momentum in the game," he said. Cosgrove also stressed that younger players, particularly Jonathan Jean-Baptiste, played very well.

O'Brien nonetheless recognized some areas where the team could improve. "We did keep the ball well for the most part and shut down the majority of their opportunities during the game. Also, we created a lot of great chances, and probably could have put a few more goals in if it hadn't been for some shaky officiating," he said. In addition, O'Brien thought the team could improve on positioning, shape, and transitions.

Still, Gehron was pleased with his team's performance. "We were constantly applying pressure to their defense the whole game," he said. "We can always look back at games and have moments that we wish we had back. We had a few chances we could have scored. Continuing to work on our finishing will be imperative. Overall, it was a great performance."

As a whole, the game was a solid effort. "We fought with intensity and spirit for the full 90 minutes, and we'd like to keep this up going into our last stretch of games," Singer said.

The team beat Cushing Academy 3-0 yesterday and will face Holderness School on Nov. 2.