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Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire

H4, Health Dept. Warn Students Against Vaping

By ANNE BRANDES, VERONICA CHOULGA and TINA LI
Staff Writers

"Imagine if you got three weeks of stricts for buying coffee if you weren't over 18," upper Emerson* said. "Just like vaping, coffee makes tons of students become frustrated and get headaches, but in keeping with mainstream culture, the Academy decided it's okay to drink coffee, but not okay to vape, even if both are addictive. Perhaps vaping has more consequences, but perhaps it doesn't."

As of Oct. 8, 2019, 1,299 lung injury cases associated with e-cigarette or vaping product usage have been reported to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 49 states, the District of Columbia and one U.S. territory. Twenty-six deaths have been confirmed in 21 states, with a 17-year-old teenager identified last week as the youngest vaping casualty thus far.

In recognition of growing concern, the CDC recently gave vaping-related lung injuries a new name: EVALI, or e-cigarette or vaping product use-associated lung injury. "At this time, FDA and CDC have not identified the cause or causes of the lung injuries among EVALI cases, and the only commonality among all cases is that patients report the use of e-cigarette, or vaping, products. No single compound or ingredient has emerged as the cause of these injuries to date, and there might be more than one cause," the CDC's website states.

However, "more information is needed to know whether one or more e-cigarette or vaping products, substances, or brand is responsible for the outbreak."

VAPE, 3



Lower Hannah Love strolls through campus with her father during Family Weekend. Maegan Paul/The Exonian

New Stores Replace Water St. Businesses

By ERIN CHOI, ANYA TANG, FELIX YEUNG and AVA YU
Staff Writers

On recent weekend strolls down Water Street, Exonians have been noticing many "Help Wanted" signs tacked onto window panes and vacated storefronts downtown. While town officials claim that store closures and staffing shortages only pertain to a few businesses, other Exeter residents believe they may be a broader reflection of soaring property values and the town's deteriorating financial health.

Exeter Town Manager Russ Dean depicted the state of Exeter's current financial affairs in a positive light. "It's never really been better than right now. We just saw property values increased by about 24 percent in total and, in some categories, upwards of 30 percent," he said. "I'm in my fifteenth year as Town Manager, and I have not seen what we saw just in the past couple of years in the prior thirteen."

Dean emphasized that the town is undergoing change, not decline. "There's a lot of activity in downtown Exeter, but there's also some transitioning going on, which I think happens when the economy is good," he said. "In fact, when you fix up your front door, when you put new sidewalks in your downtown, when you take a dam out and restore the river to its natural course, all of a sudden, your desirability index increases."

Still, it has been hard for Exonians not to notice the closure of many popular stores. Offbeat Owl, a cozy haven previously frequented by Exonians seeking to unwind by painting pottery or grabbing a

TOWN, 3

Academy Begins Constructing New Telescope

By ANNE BRANDES, DANIEL CHEN, LINA HUANG and FELIX YEUNG
Staff Writers

On Friday, Oct. 4, the Academy began construction of a new telescope for the Grainger Observatory. Upon completion, the telescope will be the largest in all of New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine, serving as a major asset for students and the greater community alike. This project is the capstone of substantial planning by Director of Grainger Observatory John Blackwell, and will replace the existing robotic observatory, which now resides between the observatory's two domes.

The new observatory will allow

the telescope to better collect light and resolving power, which will increase its clarity and range, according to Blackwell. Equipped with two output ports—one with a dedicated charge-coupled device imaging camera and the other with a fiber-fed spectrograph—the observatory will have the ability to collect high-resolution spectra of astronomical objects. Additionally, this robotic system will collect data automatically during the night, depending on targets selected by the users.

Blackwell emphasized that the new telescope will dramatically advance the observatory's various projects. Grainger Observatory will "collect data

on many more targets than we have been able to see before," Blackwell said. "Some typical projects would be: asteroid orbital analysis and light curve generation, variable star research, extra-solar planet detection and confirmation, temperature and chemical composition studies of stars and more."

According to Director of Major Gifts Chuck Ramsay, the construction was funded by a generous donation. "The donor is anonymous ... There was no concerted fundraising effort," he said. "The donor stepped forward with a generous offer to fund a new telescope, and we accepted the offer."

Chief Financial Officer Marijka

OBSERVATORY, 2

PEA Launches New Bikeshare Program

By JEANNIE EOM and EMILY KANG
Staff Writers

After two years of preparation, Student Council (StuCo) has finally launched RedBikes, a campus bike share program granting adults and students with parental permission free access to a fleet of 20 bikes stationed across campus.

This project was first begun by students in a Green Umbrella Learning Lab (GULL) course from the class of 2018 as an initiative to reduce bike waste and encourage sustainable transportation, according to English Instructor and Sustainability Education Coordinator Jason BreMiller. "Initially, the team wanted to rehabilitate a fleet of discarded bikes abandoned by students during successive dorm cleanouts. When it became apparent that this model wouldn't work for a number of reasons, they had to recalibrate their plans," he said.

Upon Academy approval of the RedBikes proposal, jointly drafted with StuCo, the GULL team received \$20,000 from the Principal's Discretionary Fund to purchase the bikes. After the organizers graduated, four members of StuCo—lowers Tanya Das, Milan Gandhi, Georgie Venci and Jasmine Xi—officially became the program's coordinators, responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the bikes using the Bloom app, which alerts their administrative accounts when problems are reported.

Prior to the official rollout this year, a successful RedBikes pilot was launched on Climate Action Day last spring, during which coordinators digitally tracked the frequency of use and the average distance travelled by approximately 50 student volunteers given early access to the bikes. Manager of Sustainability and Natural Resources Warren Biggins recalled how

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StuCo Exec Outlines 2019–20 Plans at Assembly

By GIANLUCA AUDIA, DANIEL CHEN, TUCKER GIBBS and EMILY KANG
Staff Writers

During assembly last Tuesday, the 2019–20 Student Council (StuCo) Executive Board outlined their plans for the school year. Through an interactive presentation which featured chocolate bars and an ice cream social, the board sought to excite the student body with overviews of their projects in the making.

StuCo President Ayush Noori divided this year's plans into three major categories—Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI); Major Student Life Initiatives; and Committee Initiatives. While committee initiatives have always been a part of StuCo's agenda, Noori emphasized a focus on DEI and Student Life Initiatives after learning about various student interests from the 'Cookies and Convos' event last spring. "We sought to devote our resources where we had the greatest capacity to tangibly impact student life and take action on issues important to the Student Body as identified by the Cookies and Convos event," he said.



StuCo President Ayush Noori and Vice President Matthew Wabunoha present StuCo's aims. Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

So far this year, the Committee on Community, Equity and Diversity, with the help of the Public Relations (PR) committee, has already completed one of the DEI projects, a financial resource information brochure. These brochures are available around campus. CCED is also heading a workshop for student listeners

that aims to create more financial equity on campus.

This year, Student Life Committee is working on smaller events that can enhance Exonians's experiences at the Academy. "[We are working] to bring to campus hammocks, dorm whiteboards,

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Families Visit Academy for Weekend, Attend Classes

By BONA HONG, PHILLIP ORAVITAN
and MAEGAN PAUL
Staff Writers

Beneath the orange and yellow fall canopy, last weekend, students walked hand-in-hand with family members to classes, sports games, performances and more during PEA's annual Family Weekend.

Several students expressed excitement about being with their parents for the weekend. "I love Family Weekend because I do miss my parents," lower Stella Shattuck said. "They live ten hours away by car, so I don't get to see them often and it was nice to have them come up and hang out."

For many new students, especially preps, family weekend is their chance to introduce their parents to the Harkness pedagogy. "I like that parents get a glimpse of the material and the process of how we learn," prep Nathan Khu said.

Although Family Weekend is a prime opportunity for students to host their families, many parents choose not to visit for varying reasons. "My parents didn't visit this year, but part of it is [that] they don't speak English, so they wouldn't be able to really understand the discussions we hold in our classes," lower David Wang said.

Not all students had family coming. However, even without parents present, many students found ways to enjoy the weekend. "I'm a proctor in Langdell and we organized dorm activities like movie night and pizza for people whose parents couldn't make it, and that was a lot of fun," senior Sarah Barrett said. "I think it's nice to have

activities, especially since it provides an opportunity to meet people in the dorm that you otherwise wouldn't really cross paths with."

Some Exonians noticed discrepancies in how students act when parents are present as opposed to when they are surrounded only by their peers. "In my history class especially, there were more parents than students in the class," Shattuck said. "Our class is already difficult to talk in because of the heavy subject, so it was very nerve wracking to have all of the parents looking at you."

Khu observed an increase in student participation, which led to a competitive atmosphere. "My math class [was] pretty hectic because everyone fights to show their parents that they are actually contributing," Khu said.

Senior Crystal Reyes noticed a similar pattern, adding, "I noticed a couple people who usually don't talk as much become Harkness warriors, which was funny. I also saw that a lot of my teachers were more lively than usual."

Opportunities for students to impress visiting family were ample in non-academic environments as well. Almost all sports teams hosted games on campus and the musical ensembles held performances on Friday night. "I went to the a cappella showcase because my sister, [upper Abby Asch], was in it," prep Jojo Asch said. "It was fun to see her doing something she loves."

Counseling, Library Work to Install Light Therapy Stations

By MOKSHA AKIL, ALEXANDRA WANG
and NEHA NEDUMARAN
Staff Writers

Counseling Services has been working with the Class of 1945 Library since last November to develop light therapy stations that can aid student mental health during the dreary months of winter, when Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) burdens many Exonians.

SAD is a mood disorder that typically occurs during the winter months. "Over the years, we see many cases of the winter blues and Seasonal Affective Disorder," Director of Psychological and Counseling Services Szu-Hui Lee said. "We teach students how to develop coping skills to manage changes in their energy, mood, focus, etc. as weather changes."

Artificial light has been proven to be an alternative way of lightening students' moods. On floor 1M of the library, Counseling Services has set up a station with therapeutic artificial light that mimics sunlight. Light therapy affects neurochemicals linked to mood and sleep such as serotonin and melatonin. It may also help with other forms of neurochemical imbalances, such as depression, sleep disorders and jetlag.

"It is important to us that our services are not only accessible but also equitable, so we thought what better way to do this than to make SAD lights available on campus," Lee said.

Lee, Medical Director Katharina Lilly and Director of the Office of the Principal Leigh Drapeau contacted the librarians last November in order to figure out the location of these light therapy stations. "They were looking for a place that would be open a lot of hours," librarian Gail Scanlon said. "And

so they asked us if the library had an area, and we said yes."

According to Scanlon, the project has been set up in the library since February. However, the stations were not used because of the bright spring weather. Students can find information about light therapy at the Health Center, where they can also learn more about the scheduling process. The staff involved in this project have also created handouts that provide more details and instructions.

Student responses to the light therapy stations varied. "I think that I definitely get worse in the winter, especially when I walk across campus at six and it's pitch black out," senior Destiny Rogers said. "I would totally recommend light therapy to students. People are affected by this sort of thing but it's great that there is something to help."

On the other hand, some suggested the stations would not make much of a difference. "I wouldn't see myself using it, or in fact other students," lower Toby Chan said. "Maybe except for people who would be feeling the effects drastically."

Other students hoped the convenient location would boost usage. Prep Clara Gullick said, "The library is a very accessible location for students, so they can easily drop in instead of walking all the way across campus."

Senior Maggie Smyth commended the efforts of Counseling Services and other adults who brought this project to life. "As Exonians, we don't get enough sunlight or go outside enough, as it is," she said, "I just think it's an incredibly fantastic idea."

Exonians Review RedBikes

Continued from REDBIKES.1

the pilot revealed high student demand. "We had probably 200 to 250 students who tried to register for the bike share," he said.

The continued popularity of the bikes has been apparent this year, as hundreds of Exonians registered for use in just the first few days. Upper Seth Amofa expressed his gratitude for the new community resource. "I love the idea of RedBikes because it is very convenient for me as someone who plays a fall sport," he said. "Knowing that I have a RedBike available, I don't feel rushed after class to get to the fields very quickly."

Prep Sam Creelen uses RedBikes to get around on campus more quickly. "I think it is all about efficiency," Creelen said. "With RedBikes, we can spend less time in transit and more time preparing for classes or hanging out with friends."

The coordinators have encountered some challenges, however. While

the coordinators took early precautions to restrict bike routes to campus using a geo-fence, Biggins noted that some students have been taking bikes into buildings, interfering with digital tracking. "[Taking bikes inside] blocks the GPS ... We really emphasize that the bikes need to stay on campus and they need to stay outside," he said.

Venci emphasized the importance of respecting a shared community resource that has proven to be a very positive addition to campus. "We want this program to outlast us, so students need to respect the bikes and make sure to let us know if there are any problems so we can fix them right away," he said.

In the future, StuCo President Ayush Noori hopes to expand the program using information gathered through the Bloom app and student feedback. "We are continuing to collect data and will use it to improve the program," he said.

News in Brief

Upcoming Assemblies:

- 10/18: Julie Livingston '84, American Historian
- 10/22: ALES, Student Voices

Upcoming Events:

- On Monday, Oct. 21, Fall Fair will take place in Q format at Elm Street Dining Hall.
- TEDx Phillips Exeter Academy will take place on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 8 p.m. in The Bowld. Students will speak on the theme of "shades."
- Trustees will visit campus next week.
- E-Proctor applications are due on Oct. 25.

Beyond the Bubble:

The *New York Times* hosted the fourth Democratic Debates on Tuesday, Oct. 15. Twelve candidates participated.

The U.K. Supreme Court ruled that Prime Minister Boris Johnson unlawfully suspended Parliament.

New Telescope To Expand Scope of Astronomy Projects

Continued from OBSERVATORY.1

Beauchesne elaborated on the typical protocol of renovations on the Exeter campus. "Almost all other renovations are funded by the school's annual budget and are planned over a 10 year period and approved by the Trustees," she said.

The new telescope will be used to create a more immersive learning experience. "The primary users of this telescope system will be the two advanced astronomy courses: Physics 480 and Physics 570," Blackwell said "[The computer] plans the observing session and collects the data for us," he said. "The benefits of the larger telescope will be to have much higher resolution in our images and having a larger light-bucket to see fainter objects."

Upper and astronomy student Will Peeler noted that the observatory will continue to be available for the broader Exeter community. "Local families are welcome at Astronomy Club every week; families look through our equipment all the time," Peeler said.

Astronomy Club co-head and senior Anna Iacobucci added that the observatory will allow for more student-led projects. "The new observatory is an amazing opportunity for students to do new research in addition to simply observing," Iacobucci said. "There are not a whole lot of high schools who actually have access to an

observatory, and I think we're incredibly lucky to have it as a resource."

Similarly, alumni admired the plans for the new telescope, some even lamenting over the fact that they would miss the construction of it. "This project is so cool—I'd use the hell out of it," Nick Song '18 said. "Like I'd post up with a sleeping bag and you'd have to call Campus Safety to kick me out of there. I don't think people realize the tech here was already top tier—but this makes it that much better."

For Iacobucci, this new observatory will only foster her passion for astronomy even more. "One of the best parts of my Exeter experience has been the open observing nights, where community members have the opportunity to come and see stars or planets," she said. "It's impossible to forget the look on someone's face the first time they see Jupiter."

Reflecting upon the project, Blackwell concluded that the telescope will have a significant impact on the Exeter campus. "It opens a huge door to student accessibility to excellent equipment, and thus enables them access to doing excellent science," he said. "One of my constant goals is to maintain a solid connection with what professional astronomers do for a living, and provide access to this work to students. They should know what doing astronomy is all about."

Student Council Committees Implement New Initiatives

Continued from STUCO.1

charging stations, chalk for sidewalk artists, day student potlucks and potentially many more cool ideas," committee head and senior Ben Wright said.

Among committee initiatives was Student Life's recent thank-you card event where StuCo members and dorms wrote cards to express gratitude to staff members who serve the Exeter community.

Student Council Co-Secretary and upper JaQ Lai said that emphasis on Student Life was an effort to improve mental health on campus. "We're focusing on efforts that will relieve stress," he explained, reiterating the same specifics Wright laid out.

Dining Hall Committee plans to revive the dining hall recipe contest where students submit family recipes that dining halls can consider integrating into their menus. "The whole purpose is to share the cultures of the students with the Exeter community through cooking their home meals right in the dining hall," committee head Haruka Masamura explained.

After a successful Lexie's food truck last Friday, Recreation Committee is looking to continue bringing food trucks onto campus for students to enjoy. "We are also organizing more food trucks based on what students request from us," committee head Maegan Paul said.

In terms of the rest of the year, Recreation Committee's focus is on improv-

ing Spring Fling as well as reviving Beach Ball. They have decided to bring back Beach Ball due to growing interest and number of students who have reached out to them about it.

Faculty advisor Anne Rankin observed the council's intentions to fulfill the needs of the entire Exeter community in the projects slated for this year. "They are working hard to think about the whole school, not just issues that affect a small subset of the community," she said.

In order to make the plans come to reality, Noori noted the importance of committees' accountability and efficiency. "We are working on accountability and we have done so by taking attendance and checking in with the committees," he said. "These [values] are things we continuously focus on."

According to faculty advisor Laura Marshall, these measures have already affected the community, encouraging more constructive work within the committees. "I think it has translated into a lot more engagement during meetings and more productive work being done by committees," she said.

Looking into the future, Noori is enthusiastic about working with StuCo to constantly improve student life at Exeter. "This year, Council is exceptional. Council members are motivated and dedicated, so, in addition to the projects which have already come to fruition this year, we have the potential to engender lasting change in our community," Noori said.

Community Discusses Prevalence of Vaping Among Students

Continued from [VAPE, 1](#)

The relative novelty of vapes and pertinent studies presents a daunting challenge to users and health professionals. “To me, one death is too many,” Health Department Chair Michelle Soucy said. “The cause of these deaths is not fully understood yet, and that scares me.” In light of growing concern nationwide, student health group H4 has installed informative flyers in dormitory bathrooms about the health risks of e-cigarette usage and support systems in place for those seeking to quit, while Medical Director Katharina Lilly and Licensed Clinician Marco Thompson delivered this Tuesday’s assembly on marketing tactics utilized by e-cigarette advertisement agencies and the four levels of addiction: “like it, want it, need it and crave it.”

However, Exonians are not wholly convinced that the perils of vaping are substantial enough to warrant urgent help, nor that solutions to the issue of student vaping are within the Academy’s purview.

In his assembly presentation, Thompson introduced a confidential support group for students struggling with addiction every Thursday during department meeting block in the church basement. “It was my goal, along with my colleague Mr. Brandon Thomas, to create a safe and confidential space for students to speak openly about their substance use concerns,” Thompson said. “From an adult perspective, I place the utmost importance on students being able to seek the assistance they need. We would be unable to do that with this group if the space were not both safe and confidential.”

This group is not connected to the ASAP (Academy Student Assistance Program) or affiliated with the Deans. Unlike the ASAP program, there is no requirement to inform parents of a student’s participation in this group and Deans will not be notified of attendees.

To address escalating concerns, H4 designed four different styles of posters—“one from the approach of [portraying] vaping as an epidemic, one about the business side of how tobacco companies run the vaping companies, a few with quotes from current students who vape and the fourth about resources the Academy offers to students wanting help with their addiction,” upper and H4 member Ellie Griffin explained.

“We did not want the posters to feel derogatory in any way. We just wanted to spread awareness that vaping is dangerous and that the Academy is here to help with quitting,” Griffin said.

For students and faculty involved in efforts to combat student vaping, gauging the scale of the issue on the Exeter campus has been a significant challenge. Nation-

ally, vaping appears to be “an epidemic among high school students,” Soucy noted. However, Academy survey results indicate that Exeter rates are lower than the national average.

In the Youth Health Risk Behavior Survey administered in 2017, less than 16 percent of Exonians reported vaping 30 days prior to taking the survey. “I am not sure what we will find when we administer the survey again, but my guess is that our students do not use at the rates of youth in other parts of the country,” Soucy said. “I think Exonians are smart and realize how the industry has manipulated a new generation to use a nicotine product that was on its way out.”

Emerson, on the other hand, believes these figures are inaccurate and conjectured that many students do not give honest responses in school surveys for fear of repercussion. “The State of the Academy survey projected the number of students who have vaped at 10 to 15 percent, which is just not true,” Emerson said. “In my experience, the number has to be more around 40 to 50 percent. I can just count off on my head at least 50 people who vape at the Academy, and that’s just the people I know.”

Upper and H4 member Anna Jacobowitz offered an estimate closer to 30 percent. “I definitely don’t think that [vaping] is just an Exeter phenomenon,” she said. “I think this is a prevailing part of our age group nationally, and Exeter is no exception.”

Griffin attributed the prevalence of on-campus vaping to misinformation and insufficient knowledge about the potential consequences of using vape products. “There are many students who vape on campus, and I think they take the lack of long-term research on the effects of vaping as justification for not seeking out help or acknowledging the problem,” she said.

Emerson claimed that many of the studies conducted on vaping thus far have been inconclusive. “I question whether [researchers] have isolated vaping products that one can buy in the store, or if they are referencing all the vaping products one can buy,” Emerson said. “If you buy pods from online, they are often contaminated with other chemicals or products. You should only really hit products that you can buy in a store, and it’s not clear whether the studies take this into account.”

Upper Randall* agreed with Emerson, comparing and contrasting vapes with other substances that are allegedly more dangerous. “The posters around campus are not going to affect my use, because [vaping] is still safer than most other substances and the kids who did die from it were excessive users,” Randall said. “As long as my use doesn’t get out of

control, I’m not in danger of any illness.”

Students and faculty agree that vaping has become more prevalent among Exonians as of late. “Definitely between 2015 and 2018, there was a big jump in [vaping] because of the invention of Juuls and sleeker products that are easier to hide,” Randall said.

According to Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Szu-Hui Lee, this upward trend has been apparent to health center staff. “I would say that in the last two years, there’s been an increase of students talking about their usage,” Lee said. “While not everyone is struggling with this, it certainly is on the minds of a lot of students—about their own use, worries about a friend’s use, how to refuse offerings, etc.”

Upper Taehoon Lee, who believes that approximately 25 to 30 percent of the student body vapes, noted that a student is more likely to vape if they are around others who participate in the same activity. “It’s interesting because a lot of people are completely oblivious of the fact that people vape and think ‘oh, nobody vapes in my dorm,’ when in fact, more people vape than they think,” he said. “It definitely depends on who you’re around.”

Emerson, on the other hand, does not believe vaping is limited to specific social circles. “That’s the funny thing,” he said. “I don’t think it’s [only] prevalent in specific niches. Even though there are some people who you would assume [vape] more than others, it’s spread out, which contributes to why it’s so prevalent.”

Prep Barbara* says she began vaping in October 2017, before arriving at Exeter. “I was with my friends at a Halloween party and we left the party to go to a graveyard ... One of my friend’s older brothers had gotten her [a vape], and they split the cost amongst the three of them. They were all really excited that they had one and they were all posting their tricks, blowing Os or whatever they could do, so then I tried it,” she recalled.

Others, like upper Clyde*, picked up the habit at Exeter. “At first I thought, ‘wow, this is lame. Then, I started to do it at parties, when it came up. I used to use my close friend’s who vaped with them, but I got my own Juul last spring. That spring, I used it way more than I should have, to the point where it made me pass out,” he said.

Clyde soon found himself addicted. “I wanted to stop, so I tried to sell [the vape] and failed. Over the summer, I started smoking cigarettes again, and when I got back here, I got some Juul pods because they were convenient. I struggle with alcoholism and it’s been really hard, so nicotine is something I can still hold on to and use in that way because it’s not as bad. Even though it’s way more addictive, it’s not as destructive to my lifestyle,”

he said.

The Academy has taken several steps to combat vaping, Soucy noted. “I think our school is doing a good job at talking about this issue in health classes, at assemblies, in advisory groups, and we are making it clear that these devices and use of any nicotine is prohibited on our campus,” she said. “There has also been an effort to inform faculty about these devices and the kinds of products that are out there.”

“Additionally, the health center will help students who are users and/or addicted to nicotine. Whether that help comes from a health professional and/or in the form of coming to the new support group that Mr. Thompson and Mr. Thomas are running ... the process is confidential,” Soucy continued. “We want students to be healthy. It is not our goal in the health center to get anyone in trouble.”

Some students worry that this issue may be beyond the Academy’s control. “There are people who will experiment with vape and other substances—it’s pretty common for teenagers,” Jacobowitz said. “I’m not sure what the administration can do.”

Bella Alvarez ’19 voiced that Exeter adults lack a sufficient understanding of how Exonians are introduced to vaping. “One thing that is humorous to me is the way that adults [depict] ‘peer pressure’ as a means of influencing students into vaping—I’ve never found myself locked in a room with someone holding a Juul in front of me demanding that I hit it,” Alvarez said. “The subtleties of peer pressure are much more nuanced and if the administration wants to stop vaping, they [need to] present scientific evidence that illustrates the harmful effects of ‘juuling’ and allow for some sort of ‘amnesty’ program.”

Griffin hopes that spreading word of non-disciplinary response options will encourage more students to seek help. “I think the Academy should keep raising awareness of the dangers of vaping and emphasizing that asking for help will not land you in disciplinary trouble and that your parents do not necessarily have to be notified,” she said.

Upper and H4 member Haruka Masamura encouraged her peers to utilize the abundance of available resources and actively confront their addictions. “I’ve heard that ‘juuling’ is almost like a cup of coffee everyday for working adults: some people need it just to get through the day,” Masamura said. “However, with other resources like counselors on campus, I hope that students can find the root problem that made them first go into vaping, and from there, be able to quit vaping entirely.”

*Asterisks denote name change to preserve anonymity

Local Businesses Face Staff Shortages, Higher Rent Fees

Continued from [TOWN, 1](#)

scoop of Dippin’ Dots ice cream, closed this past summer. Denimrack, a local clothing store, will also move out of its current location at the end of this month, resorting to an online-only sales platform.

According to Dean, these recent and impending store closures do not constitute a worrying trend. “Businesses are going to come and go, depending on what the business is and what the model is... We’ve had a few closures, which is pretty normal. These are all scheduled to be replaced, and we have many new businesses popping up,” Dean said, referencing the town’s balance sheet, improved borrowing rates, lower unemployment rates and higher wages as other indicators of financial prosperity.

Denimrack is set to be replaced by Donut Love, a donut business which has another store in North Hampton, while Offbeat Owl will be replaced by Hempire, which sells Cannabidiol and hemp products for medicinal purposes. Exeter’s Economic Development Director Darren Winham attributed the closures to climbing living costs in the Exeter locale. “Water Street is a high-end retail thoroughfare... Retailers are having trouble countrywide, and to pay that amount of [rent], to live in that space, you have to make so much more each month to justify it,” he said.

Some town residents similarly suggested a correlation between recent transitions and the hefty financial obligations that come with setting up shop in Exeter. “I think there’s been a really high turnover rate for businesses on Water Street because property tax is so high. Exeter relies heavily on property tax because, when there’s no income or sales tax, they rely on that,” artist Natasha Stoppel said. “My bills in New Hampshire are triple what they were for the same living situation in Oklahoma

and Georgia. I do believe it is the reliance on property tax that makes the rent astronomical.”

Dean challenged the suggestion that Exeter’s rent and property taxes are higher than that of neighboring areas, however. “Towns like Newmarket and Exeter have very similar tax rates. It’s hard to imagine a big difference, in terms of being a burden to business,” he said. “The rents are set by the marketplace—whatever landlords are going to charge them... Rents are high because we have very little supply and high demand for space.” Given a recent incline in property value, Dean anticipates a reduction in tax rate in Exeter’s near future, but clarified that this may not necessarily lower the dues owed by taxpayers.

In addition to high rent, local businesses have been struggling with understaffing. “What everybody wants—whatever business customer I deal with—is staff. A lot of people seem to be short staffed. Everybody’s hiring, but nobody wants to work,” Citizens Bank Small Business Relationship Banker Olga Bergere said.

Beyond the downtown locale, staffing shortages have also been an issue in the Academy’s dining halls. “We are experiencing staff shortages in Dining Services. Operations are working fine, but being short staffed for extended periods of time can take a toll on employees who are taking on extra shifts to support operations,” Director of Dining Services Melinda Leonard said, noting that the recent hiring or promotion of five employees has provided some relief.

Denimrack owner Marybeth Kushner noted that understaffing was not the cause of her decision to close shop. “If you do walk up and down the street, there are quite a few businesses with ‘help wanted’ signs in the window,” she said. “We actually have quite a few

people that come in on a weekly basis asking if we’re looking for part time help, so for us, staffing hasn’t been an issue.”

A high demand for labor in the Exeter vicinity as a whole has caused business owners to operate more competitively when it comes to employing and retaining workers. “I don’t think it’s just getting them in the door—you have to retain them. You’ve got to offer them benefits,” Krypton Comics owner Joe Galvin said. “When the economy’s not great, people are looking for jobs—they’re looking to stay with a job... Right now, I think the employees have the advantage.”

Winham believes that understaffing issues have been exacerbated by Exeter’s high housing prices. “We have in this state a workforce and housing crisis... If you make six [to] eight bucks an hour with tips, you still have to rent an apartment. And if you’re renting a two-bedroom apartment in Exeter and you’re paying the market rate, you’re probably in the vicinity of 2,000 dollars a month,” he said. “That’s a lot of money. And it’s very hard to make that money with a working wage.”

Demand for housing in Exeter also typically exceeds supply, making it difficult for interested hires to find convenient living arrangements. “When 27 Chestnut Street opened, there were ninety-six units, and it was leased out on the first day. Townhomes on Franklin Street have also all been sold,” Dean said. To address these issues, Exeter has sought to offer alternative, lower-cost housing options. “We have such a diverse housing stock already that I think it’s genuinely helpful to the situation that we’re in, where values are so high and housing is in short supply. I think we offer some different options within the housing strata,” Dean said.

Dean also noted the widespread availability of mobile homes in the local

area. “We have a thousand mobile homes in this town... I think a lot of [people] actually choose to live in a mobile home because it supports the economic lifestyle that they have made—they have something they can call their own,” he said.

Dean voiced pride in the wide variety of housing options Exeter offers to the local workforce. “We are the leader in the area for workforce housing—Newmarket and Exeter both do a lot,” he said. “We work with developers that are looking to build housing to try to get them to come into that workforce dynamic, which can be done by restricting deeds to a certain percentage of your income. You’re only able to buy a unit if you make below the threshold income.” Dean has facilitated several town discussions as of late about affordable housing and socioeconomic disparities to gather feedback from residents.

However, some believe that the people who attend official town meetings do not reflect the diversity and disparate financial circumstances of the town population. “I think there’s an educational gap for some people—it’s hard for them to understand the policies. I just don’t think that they can afford to go,” Stoppel said. “The people represented in government are more financially stable. Because if you’re living in Exeter and you’re struggling to live here, you’re not going to have time to go to the meetings and talk about those things.”

Ultimately, Stoppel urged local residents to rely less on town governance and be proactive as individuals in fostering a healthier and more stable financial climate. “I don’t think it’s just about bringing down financial costs for buildings, but it’s also about businesses working together to promote each other, to promote the town of Exeter as a place to visit,” she said. “I think that will promote a better financial future for Exeter.”



ExonianHumor



Types of People at Assembly

By JACK ARCHER
something funny

1. The person who uses assembly for power naps
2. The prep trying to finish their Bio homework
3. The psychic who only comes when they get checked
4. The person who never comes but doesn't get checked anyways
5. The person with three dickeys who now goes to every assembly
6. The prep who sits in the senior section
7. The lower who sits in the prep section
8. The senior who... just kidding this never happens
9. The Phone Collector
10. Preps who wield questions so powerful that the student body applauds before they even talk

Alum Starterpack: Mark Zuck

By SAM WEIL
Go Zuck Yourself

I'm really riding the high of my successful first humor article last week! So, I'm going to continue to give advice to those who would like to follow in the footsteps of our most famous (and controversial) alumni. Today, let's talk about Mark Zuckerberg, or the "Zuck" as some call him. Here is what you need to become one of the richest and short-term thinking men in the world:

1. Be, like, very intelligent. Understand something innately unique about the human addiction to comparing themselves to others.
2. Then, exploit that human flaw and create a platform under the premise of "connecting people."
3. When your business gets huge, make it so that your employees never want to leave the campus and the business becomes an industrial machine.
4. Buy a green egg and Facebook-Live yourself grilling meats, mentioning your intent to grill meats over 30 times. (Look that video up it's a classic.)
5. Pretend that your platform is not giving means to extremists and enactors of genocide.
6. Get a really bad haircut the day before you are called to congress to testify about Facebook's role in modern day politics. People will be so distracted by your new doo that they'll forget your sub-par answers.
7. Sell third party developers information about your consumers so that you make coin and they lose their rights to privacy. It's a really effective trade if you think about it, and it really aligns with non sibi.
8. Live in Browning House to really cement your not so great status in history.

TFW IT'S TOASTED

By JASPER YU and BEN CAI
Never Toasted



Seriously. Submit.

The Addictions They Didn't Mention

By BENJAMIN GORMAN
Addicted to Humor

This Tuesday, the Academy was treated to yet another anti-drug assembly, featuring Dr. Thompson talking about the intricacies of addiction as well as Dr. Lilly raising awareness about the dangers of vaping as well as Machiavellian tactics in advertising the product. According to Lilly, as research on vapes and Juuls, a popular brand of vapes, is still growing, "you can never really know what they're putting in there. [Lilly's] friend found 20 bucks and a puppy once in their vape, but, like, there's probably something a lot worse inside."

After Lilly made sure every prep knew that "it's never cool to juul," she passed the baton off to Thompson who said something about addiction, but I was too mesmerized by his sweet angel voice. After a friend told me what he said later, Thompson said that addiction is a culmination of consistent use that can affect more adolescents than one would expect. Also, to my dismay, it turns out the slide with wings and a halo around Thompson was purely my imagination.

Although informative, it does seem like the assembly was not received too well by the student body. Some were disgruntled at the

graphic of cigarette prices over time, stating that inflation was not mentioned once and that their four year old nephew Joshua could've done better. Others wished Thompson had talked more about the factors leading into addiction and how these sorts of problems manifest themselves, believing that there's more to it than just a the synthesis of teenage impulsivity and the expectations adolescents set for themselves, but who cares what they think? More interesting is the opinion that Thompson was too limited in his presentation, keeping the lecture centered around all the "boring addictions" that we've already heard plenty about. After I regained composure from them insulting my golden boy, I decided to hear them out.

Upper Michael D. Jordan* believes the lack of attention to bee-esting addicts to be a giant misstepping on the academy's behalf. "I've got a lotta friends who can't get enough of those black and yellow monsters. It's ridiculous; they'll sprint halfway across the quad because they thought they heard some buzzing over by those flowers. I'm pretty sure they're the real reason why bees are dying out." Beekeep-

ing club refused to comment on the situation, but the fact that half of them refuse to wear a suit while they're on the clock tells me more than enough.

On a similar vein, lower Michael V. Jordan* states that he doesn't think the presentation did enough to quench his vicious habit of eating glowing rocks he finds outside the dumpster by Szechuan. "I just think the mild mannered stuff doesn't work," he stated. "There used to be really scary pictures, like people with teeth rotting in their skull and holes in their chest. No way I'd be eating all these calcified chartreuse mineral delights if they brought that back. I mean, I'd probably still wolf these puppies down during H-Block, but at least I'd consider stopping like a little bit more."

Finally, we interviewed Michael G. Jordan* about his anime addiction and how he felt represented in the assembly. Jordan erupted, asking if "[we] could stop with this already," and that, "it's not an addiction, [he] just likes watching shows from now and then." Ok, sure, buddy.

*Names have been changed for this article, not really for the protection of anyone but we thought it'd be funny if they were all

Class Rep Event Starter Pack

By RYAN XIE
Reps - this is a joke, please don't hate me lmao

- | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Dodgeball | 6. | 11. |
| 2. | 7. | 12. |
| 3. | 8. | 13. |
| 4. | 9. | 14. |
| 5. | 10. | 15. |

The Story Of My Elbow

By DOROTHY BAKER
In the aaaaarmmmmssss of an aaannggeeeellllll

People have always told me to bend and snap, but when I was performing my goalie dive, my fans (mom and dad) were not impressed. My elbow had, so to say, popped off. Tragically, it occurred just before the soccer team's annual preseason endurance run. I had a short tenure in the health center where the nurse attempted to "fix" my temporary sling while I was wearing it by tightening it exponentially, resulting in a new tear in my ligament. He then proceeded to try and call an ambulance, to which my Venmo account and I passionately declined.

A chaperone was called to take me to the Emergency Center. The chaperone came, greeted me, complimented my chicken shirt, and then helped me into the car. I auxed the entire ride. While I had to miss all of the fun preseason workouts, I did have the opportunity to receive a nifty bracelet and eat the iconic health center toast. During the one and a half months wearing a sling, I learned how to receive sympathy like Sarah McLachlan, and live life half-reached. With only one arm, I was no longer able to: fly my kite, clap, color in the stress charts am-

bidextrously, do jazz hands, tie my shoes, or play patty cake. However, I was able to: come to class late (can't open the door), avoid helping people, have a conversation starter, and skip assembly for OT appointments. Now that I am healthy and fixed, I realize just how lucky I was to be broken. Because of the injury, I now have fourteen dickeys from the club soccer program, all excused by the "trainers." Having a sports opt with a sports credit is fantastic. I also make a fun new sound everytime I move my elbow joint. Moral of the story: break your elbow.

Meme Zone

By RYAN XIE
Ex Day Student

By RYAN XIE
We all know one friend group like this

When you're hanging in the common room and a couple starts getting frisky on the couch



Me and the boys all applying to the same school early, knowing we won't all get in



Quotes of the Week

"What's the library called?"
-Sam Weil '20

"I just lost my tooth."
-Zane Ice '20

"Did you find it?"
-Helena Chen '20



Members of the Society of Orpheus and Bacchus perform songs for Exeter families.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

Yale A Capella Group Performs at Exeter

By ANNE BRANDES and
FELIX YEUNG
Staff Writers

After Yale's Society of Orpheus and Bacchus (SOBs) performed song after song from their regular repertoire, tenor Matt Walak gave fellow tenor Kiscada Hastings a task: mimic the sounds of animals from the barnyard and the jungle. When tasked with the most challenging sound of all, the giraffe, Hastings pulled a maple leaf out of his breast pocket and put it in his mouth.

On Saturday, Oct. 12, the capella group performed on a Friday night performance over Family Weekend, after they were invited by the Office of Student Activities. The group traveled from New Haven and hosted a 45-minute concert in the Forrester-Bowld Music Center.

The event was organized by Assistant Director of Student Activities Kelly McGahie. "I think, on Saturday night, the weekend itself is winding down," she said. "The athletic events are over, there's not a lot of activity but there are definitely people here. I think people really appreciate having something to do that's on campus and that they don't have to pay for."

This recent performance was the group's second at Exeter. "It was popular last

year," McGahie said. "We had a full audience and everyone seemed to be very happy when they left. Last year, it was really special when they did their contractually obligated [alumni song]." After last year's performance, four SOB alumni from the audience performed with the group to conclude the event.

Winston Venderbush, the group's Musical Director, noted that performing at Exeter was a special opportunity. "I'm from New York City, so I have a bunch of friends who go to Exeter—it's a school I'm familiar with. Last year was the first time I ever had the chance to visit," he said. "The concert last year was probably one of my favorite concerts for the entire year, so we wanted the opportunity to come back and perform for you."

Several students, including upper Oliver Hess, voiced his awe of the performance. "I was impressed that they came all the way from New Haven to perform for us and then [performed] a 45 minute show," Hess said. "Their performance solidified the fact that I know that I want to pursue a cappella in college, for sure."

Additionally, the SOBs' practice of inducting both new and experienced a cappella singers made an impression on senior and Exeteras co-head Kevin Xu. "It was inspiring just to see them because it shows you how you can reach high levels of musicianship,

even with new singers," he said.

SOBs Business Manager Benji Rewis noted the high musical standard of his group. "We definitely have a rigorous process of auditions and a high musical bar," he said. "We really care a lot about personality as well because we spend a ton of time with each other and tour like four times a year."

On top of the inherent musical talent of the singers themselves, rigorous rehearsal is required to achieve the group's signature blend. "Everyone's got a different timbre of voice, a different style and a different background in singing," Venderbush said. "We do a lot of exercises—we work on building chords from the ground up. We do rehearse six hours a week, so it's a big time commitment and learning how to blend in a cappella group is a very distinct challenge."

For their concert, the group drew from its archive of arrangements from their 81-year history. "All of our arrangements were done by current or former members of the group, so as Musical Director, I select our repertoire for the year," Venderbush said. "I try to strike a really nice balance between newer stuff and also pay homage to the older. I love pulling out songs that are older, more traditional."

In addition to the group's standard repertoire, the show showcased a distinct lineup

of soloists. "[Soloists] are not the same for every performance," Venderbush said. "If you are someone in the group, you learn a solo, you're ready to do it and you want to in a concert, you can get out there and go for it. It's pretty spontaneous, and that's what we like to do to keep it exciting and entertaining."

Senior Ayush Noori admired the group's professionalism. "The group had incredible rapport, tight harmonies and made beautiful music," he said. "Not only do these performances invigorate us, they also inspire us as singers and show us the power of individual people when they get together in a group to make something meaningful."

Vocalists at Exeter appreciated the opportunity to enjoy a vocal performance by a trained group of singers. "Regardless of whether the genre is pop or classical, I think it's good if Exeter groups get exposure to visiting performers," Xu said. "This performance group is very strong in its body language and humor."

In the future, the SOBs will continue to share their music on tours with high school audiences. "We love bringing our work to many people," Rewis said. "Some of our best concerts are the ones where you go to high schools, where the audience is very interested in our group."

BOOK REVIEW: THE IRON KING

By MARINA AVILOVA
History Club Book Review Contest Winner

The Iron King, the first book of the *Accursed Kings* series by Maurice Druon, was written in 1955. George R. R. Martin called it "the original Game of Thrones." But, even though the novel is ground-breaking in both its accuracy and description, it is still very underrated in the English-speaking world.

The book unravels the chaotic and entirely human instigators of the Hundred Years War. Philip the Fair, a king who revolutionized the workings of the French society, is caught in a web of secrets and intrigue. A court split in two, unruly princes and their unfaithful wives, Italian bankers taking over the French economy every situation is manipulated by a lonely queen across the channel. The curse of the last templar, Jaques de Molay, finally throws the kingdom into dark times.

Druon digs deep into the narrow streets of Paris to acquaint us with this spectacular part of history. The

Hundred Years War fundamentally changed Medieval Europe, breaking down feudalism and knighthood. Its beginnings, filled with greed, passion and betrayal, are made all the more interesting by Druon's engaging style of writing, sometimes also called "the best in France since Alexandre Dumas Pere."

The Iron King is a wonderful book that can captivate the reader and pique their interest in medieval history. Filled with references to the politics, customs and art of the time, each subplot is woven into a thrilling story about the grim curse. I highly recommend this book and its series sequels to anyone who likes adventure and history. Although some books in the series cover only a few years in history, each one is packed with action and fascinating facts about medieval society. *The Iron King* serves as an introduction to the modern world, by way of a thorough exploration of history's forefront leaders.

TV REVIEW: "MODERN FAMILY"

By FELIX YEUNG
Staff Writer

I feel a tinge of sadness each time I watch an episode from "Modern Family"’s eleventh—and final—season. A show that once showed signs of genius has become a shell of its former self. Nowadays, the exploits of the Pritchett family can be summed up in one word: unfunny. As hard as it tries, Modern Family struggles to do what it once so effortlessly did: bring laughter to those who watch it.

In its earlier seasons, "Modern Family" had an uncanny ability to find a balance between storylines, characters or even the specific emotions of one character. In the Dunphy household, Julie Bowen's control-freak Claire Pritchett complemented the lovable goofiness of her husband, Phil Dunphy, played by Ty Burrell. Each of their children similarly brought disparate but compatible personalities to the household. Somehow, their differences once brought out the best in each of them, and the actors played off one another with sophistication. Alas, this is no longer the case. In an attempt to bring back the show's former charm, the writers have grossly exaggerated each personality. Frankly, it all just feels rather forced—no longer do the characters demonstrate any synergy.

Perhaps, the death of "Modern Family"’s appeal lies in the fact that it is no longer testing and breaking boundaries. When it first began airing, it was radically representative; it made people feel seen. For (perhaps) the first time, queer relationships, interracial marriage and mixed-race families existed in one piece of television—one medium for expression. Nevertheless, television has moved into a space where

representation is not shied away from. In many ways, television is now more representative than film—with shows like "Fresh Off the Boat", "Black-ish" and "This is Us" delivering more compelling characters and better writing.

The amount of time that "Modern Family" has aired may also be the reason for its inability to entertain. While the writers have attempted to inject freshness to the show with the introduction of new characters (including a set of baby twins), the show still feels stale. The narrative devices that were once hailed as fresh and imaginative have themselves become gimmicks. While this is a statement of the show's cultural impact over the years, the show cannot be excused from failing to redefine itself. After eleven years, the toolkit gets old.

"Modern Family" also—unwisely—killed off one of its best guest stars. In every episode she starred in, Shelley Long's Dede Pritchett was a highlight. While the show attempted to defy expectations by centering an episode around her death, she was, in my opinion, not the right character to kill off. It felt rather tangential and slightly disappointing to have a non-lead die after months of teasing over the death of a "major character."

Thankfully, the show is coming to an end. After a celebrated run (which includes consecutive Emmy nods), the show has found itself in a nadir, and the writers and producers have shrewdly opted to put the show out of its misery. The only question that remains is if the show can find any of its former glory in its final episodes. For the many fans who have followed the show along the way, I sure hope that it does.



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SeniorSpotlight

JASMINE LIAO

By LINA HUANG, AMY LUM and
ELLA MALYSA

Staff Writers and Contributing Writer

It's easy to spot senior Jasmine Liao on the quad catching a frisbee. Her frequent assertion that Ultimate Frisbee is a real sport, much to the denial of her friends, is an apt representation of her cheerful and eccentric personality. If you're ever curious about Liao's level of commitment to Ultimate Frisbee, ask her to show you her "battle scars." She will gladly display them.

Liao entered the Academy as a new lower, coming from an international school in Hong Kong. After arriving, she found that Exeter was different from what she had imagined, and learned to adjust her expectations and workload accordingly. "My lower year, I was that ambitious, annoying lower that signed up for all the clubs; I was in debate and [Model UN] and Mock Trial and [*The Exonian*... it was just a lot." Liao realized it was too much to sustain and chose to refocus on the things she cared more about.

Liao remains involved in many groups around campus. Besides being a co-head of Mock Trial, she manages Student Council's Instagram as a committee head of PR, serves as section leader of Concert Choir, is a co-head of ESSO Kids Create and acts as a proctor in Moulton House.

In Mock Trial, during her upper year, Liao forged strong relationships with lowerclassmen as the leader of C team. Lower Michelle Park, a member of the team, remembered Liao as "one of the sweetest, most compassionate and friendly people [she] know[s]." Park also noted Liao's prominent role as a leader. "She knows how to command an audience or group of people without being aggressive—she's mastered the art of quintessential assertiveness... She was always so loving, warm, easy to approach and welcoming, yet at the same time she knew when to take control and lead a situation."

Liao first attended ESSO Kids Create as a lower to change her pace from more academically oriented clubs. "It turned out I actually really, really liked it; it was really fun, and the kids are really cute," she said. "You can take a break from all the busy schoolwork and really focus on the kids, because if you walk into the room with worries and sadness, that is going to impact the kids, so it forces you



Helena Chen/*The Exonian*

to be happy," she said.

Instructor in Math Stephanie Girard is Liao's current adviser and math teacher for upper spring. "Jasmine presented problems regularly and was always willing to tackle the more challenging problems, even when she was not 100% sure of her approach," she said. Girard also mentioned Liao's involvement in advising newer students in the dorm.

In Moulton House, Liao's presence has helped to create a welcoming and lively environment for its residents. Alicia Gopal, an upper in Moulton House, has grown close to Liao in the common room, where Liao often chats and helps others with homework. "[Jasmine] has a very welcoming and warm personality... she's always very supportive, but also if you're doing something wrong she'll let you know, but in a good way," she said. "For example, if you're talking to her about some situation that happened today, she'll tell you what you should've done and she'll help you get to the right place."

Gopal also admires Liao's unwavering

support when times are rough. "One day, a couple of girls, including myself, in our dorm—we were having a really bad day, and [Jasmine] has a projector in her room...so we watched 'High School Musical' at one in the morning. That just gave me a great sense of relief and hominess for a day that was not that great," she said.

As an international student, Moulton House upper Zofia Kierner met Liao during orientation. "If you have any questions about homework, she'll put her homework aside and just spend time working on your homework with you. Every time you're in the dorm she will greet you, ask you how your day was; if you pass her in the hallway she'll hug you or wave at you, she just brings a really welcoming environment," Kierner said. "[Jasmine] really helped me ease into the social aspect of Exeter, or the dorm life aspect, because I've never really lived in a dorm before."

Given the close-knit community in Moulton House, Liao's dormmates have come to love many of her quirks which

have helped to strengthen their bonds. Upper Emmanuelle Brindamour recalled an instance when Liao created an opportunity for the girls to collaborate. "One day in our common room, she said 'Guys, you need to help me! My cat, Pumpkin, disappeared, and I am really worried and confused where the cat went because I live on the 30th floor of an apartment building,'" Brindamour said. "So then she got us to all look at Google Maps street view of her apartment in Hong Kong to look at the shape of her apartment and investigate any possible escape routes Pumpkin could have taken."

Senior Ella Fishman, a co-proctor in Moulton, noted Liao's organization skills, musical talent and charming idiosyncrasies. "She makes her notes color-coordinated, organized, aesthetically pleasing. She [also] hums all the time, and it's always oldies. Also, if she has any homework assignments that are audible, she will never do them outside the shower because it's something she can do while showering," she said. "Just knocking out two in one."

Upper Helena Mandeville met Liao through music sports and grew close with her by splitting a bag of Hot Cheetos every day after class ended. "She's really into music and she's really talented, and she really loves helping people," she said. "She would go and buy you a cookie if you're really sad."

Kierner recalls Liao's unique senior meditation writing process. "I noticed all the typing she was doing, but nothing was showing up... she said she was typing all of it in white ink so that she doesn't second-guess anything that she's writing," she said.

Liao's eccentricity also extends to food. "First, ketchup and mayo is the best combination ever," she claims.

Liao also enjoys cooking with her friends, either making snacks like cookies or using subscription boxes from Hello Fresh, a service that sends three meals worth of ingredients and a recipe card. "Last week, I made bibimbap, and burgers and tacos, and I didn't have to buy anything [else] because was already in the box."

Above all, Liao hopes to return the favors her upperclassmen gave to her and share the lessons that she has learned. "I want to inspire people to pursue things that they really wanted to, and not to burn themselves out," she said. "I just want to be that chill senior, always just friendly."

INTERVIEW WITH CHEF PIERRE

Interview Conducted by EMILY KANG and SABRINA KEARNEY
Staff Writer and Contributing Writer

Could you tell us about your culinary journey? How did you end up at Exeter?

I am originally from Montreal, Quebec and French is my native language. My family, as well as many others in Quebec, have a large French heritage, so our food culture is very important. ... Coming out of secondary school, I was faced with a dilemma: should I continue to pursue a career in marketing or should I go to culinary school? I decided to become a chef and took a three-year course at the Institute of Hospitality and Tourism of Montreal, and since then I have been cooking for 32 years. ... I worked across Canada ... in Winnipeg and Vancouver. I also traveled to Indonesia and Europe, and I opened my eyes to more cultures of food. Then one day, my sister, who lived in the US, called me and said that she wanted to open a restaurant. ... We decided to open a restaurant in Algonquin, Maine for 17 years. I later went on to become the executive chef at a beautiful inn in Kennebunkport, Maine. But, as I grew older, I realized that I wanted different working hours than I had before. When I worked at restaurants I worked mostly at night, and I was looking for a job that would let me go home earlier. I always had an interest in cooking at an institution with young adults where I could maybe have an impact on their lives with food. I thought getting a job at Exeter would be a long shot because my background was French and fine cuisine but they decided to choose me. So it has been about a year since I have been appointed as executive chef.

What is some of the work that you do as the Executive Chef here at Exeter?

I am in charge of designing recipes that go into a system that generates the ingredient orders. We have about 5000-6000 recipes in the system which we edit, correct and modernize. I try to be as authentic as possible through my recipes. I also have to delegate the work to the cooks, train them and schedule their work, because we have two dining halls, a retail service

(Grill) and a catering service. Behind the scenes, students may not notice, but we do a lot of catering as well. Essentially, I have to oversee the work that the dining hall does so that it flows nicely and fluidly.

How did Pancakes with Pierre come about? What was the idea behind the event?

In the past, I believe that there were events with pancakes with the principal. However, the principal wasn't available, so I wanted to share breakfast with the students in a fun way. Hopefully, we can do it again. Students and dining hall workers have such busy lives, but if we continue to have occasional events we can bring our community closer together.

Are you planning on any events with students in the future?

Having events with students requires a lot of planning, but we are working on creating more events. We are hoping to have basic cooking classes. We are open to any suggestions that can allow people to connect with [the] dining hall.

What are some events that you are proud of this past year?

I was proud of Jazz Brunch and Lunar New Year. They were both tremendous successes.

What are some foods that you enjoy to cook or eat?

Coming to the United States, I was exposed to more cultures, such as Southwestern and Mexican styles of food here. It is funny—I cook a lot more foods from other cultures instead of the French and Mediterranean styles that I used to cook. I love to cook duck and fish for my family. My family tries to be healthy with our meals like we are here.

What is your favorite part of the job?

I love working with different people, whether they are students or faculty. Everybody is friendly and there is a good, positive atmosphere. We have a great team in the kitchen that works really hard and that is what motivates me.

QUOTE BOX: FAMILY WEEKEND

By FELIX YEUNG
Staff Writer

"The kids are so passionate about what they're engaged in. Lilly [Buckner]'s roommate is Shantelle [Subkhanberdina]. Last night was the first time I saw her sing—it was so wonderful to see her light up and show her power. It was so vulnerable, to lead and show her strength."

Brooke Windsor Buckner P'21, P'22

"I like seeing my sister making mistakes. I want to call her out."

Henri Kpodonu S'23

"There was a Madagascar hissing cockroach in [psychology]...When I usually see a cockroach, I run away. Dr. Thurber passed it out to demonstrate habituation. He used the example of holding a cockroach while wearing a heart rate monitor."

Alice Yurke P'20

"The a cappella showcase was really great—to experience it with my family was special. We love music as a family. Usually, I'll see them by myself, but for the whole family to be here to enjoy what the campus has to offer, is really nice."

Catherine Uwakwe '22

"This is a place that has become very spiritual to me over time. My son is in the same dorm that my father was in—it's three generations ... But, now, people can be who they want to be. The door in the quad? That would never have happened when I was here. I see it incarnate in everything."

Mitch Bradbury '78, P'20

"Will this embarrass my son? If so, I will gladly give you a quote."

Susan Gorman P'20

"My parents weren't here, so I was sad. I feel so much better because my friend's family is here."

Yasemin Kopmaz '20

"I really enjoyed the conversation on poetry in [Instructor in English Tyler Caldwell's] class. Every student participated and every student used a lot of evidence to back up their point. People elsewhere do not have that ability."

Claudia Quaresma P'23

"Our daughter told us she was going to do homework, but she told her friend—who was with us and on speakerphone—that she was free."

Allison Jones P'23

"The dining halls are crowded and hectic. I feel like I'm going to lose my parents."

Annie Shin '21

"Astrophysics is the most fun class I have ever sat through, despite multiple degrees."

Mark Peeler P'21

"I'm a day student. Parents' Weekend is just every other weekend."

Lucy Gilchrist '20

"I've talked to my daughter more this weekend than I have in a while. And she's a day student."

Ted Gilchrist '71 P'20

"In calculus, it was fun to look at squiggly lines that meant absolutely nothing to me."

Kate Sides P'22

MUSICAL REVIEW: "MEAN GIRLS"

By MAEGAN PAUL
Staff Writer

Many of us have seen the classic movie *Mean Girls* featuring Lindsay Lohan, but it took on a new form on Broadway about 18 months ago. The musical is based on Tina Fey's book about the original movie. Despite its well-known predecessors, the *Mean Girls* musical manages to bring some creativity to its newest form.

It opens powerfully with the dynamic duo of Barrett Wilbert Weed and Grey Henderon playing the roles of Damian Hubbard and Janis Sarkisian, respectively. The audience is introduced to the story's outline through the song "A Cautionary Tale." The two complement each other fantastically and the chemistry on stage is undeniable. Not only do the two provide an excellent source of comedic narration, but their voices are well up to standard for a high-profile play on Broadway.

By the fourth song, the audience finally meet the Plastics, Regina George, Gretchen Wieners and Karen Smith. I personally find the staging of this particular number to be better than the movie's introduction. It starts

with a powerful riff, and both Cady Heron and the audience feel truly starstruck by the Plastics. Taylor Louderman enters the stage beautifully as George. George in the musical is much more arrogant than the character in the movie, but the new personality fits within the musical.

An interesting shift comes as Wieners speeds up the song with a hyper verse. It suits the "worker bee" persona assigned to her in the musical.

Smith is established as the comic relief from the moment she steps on stage, and her ditzzy and flowery verse embodies this perfectly. The notes aren't difficult or impressive, yet it sounds like she's trying too hard. I'm not sure if actress Kate Rockwell is performing the songs as they are written, but most of her singing in the show sounds like she wants to not seem smart. Rockwell does perform this role well, and is always a noticeable presence on stage.

Aaron Samuels is as dazzling as the crowd expects, and Kyle Selig perfectly suits the role. He won Prom King back in high school, and definitely gives the audience guy-next-door vibes. This rendition of Samuels is quite like

that of the movie which doesn't make him stand out too much. Kevin Gnapoor is still hip, but not so hopelessly urban. However, I'm not sure if I prefer this version or Gnapoor from the movie. Cheech Manohar acts well, but this may be another stylistic choice from the director.

My favorite song was one of Smith's because of the high energy. In "Sexy," she breaks out of the "dumb blonde" stereotype for a while in preparation for Halloween. The sexy versions of famous women are funny and the choreography here is terrific. The upbeat song brings us to the Halloween party with flare, and she finally has some power. Smith also begins to have some political zingers. Of course, she mentioned her white privilege and a Trump Cheeto joke, but it's all fitting.

Hubbard gets his own song, which lightens the mood. He and the girl ensemble members unite to stop Heron from her obsession over Samuels. They also have a fun tap break during their confessionals and Smith has another powerful moment as she begs boys to stop objectifying women. The audience of mostly girls loved this line, like her others, and the cast fed on this energy while

they began to talk directly to us.

Heron's party is a wonderful trainwreck, and the progression towards the end of the show settles in. Sarkisian's heart is broken and Samuels is disgusted by the plastics, so this is a great climax. George plots her revenge in "World Burn" and sings in the style of her theme song from "Meet the Plastics." Weed delivers again during her emancipating song about being authentic and the cast gathers to support her. Viewers also experience another basic moment of girl empowerment, which is done so obviously that it keeps the song from reaching its full potential.

The show ends well with "I See Stars" and peace is restored rather quickly. The song is exceptional but sounds like a basic musical ending. Since the storyline can't be changed because the show's based on Fey's book, another song arrangement would have been stronger here.

Overall, I enjoyed the show and wouldn't discourage anyone from buying tickets, but there were moments that could have been stronger. The cast is full of talented people, and this was a wonderful musical deserving of its place on Broadway.

MATTER MAGAZINE: NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

By MAX TAN
Contributing Writer

How has the universe evolved? What is our planet's place in the cosmos? On Oct. 8, three physicists who have grappled with these questions received the Nobel Prize for their research. Half of the award was given to James Peebles, the sitting Albert Einstein Professor of Science at Princeton University, for his work with essential theoretical frameworks and models in the field of cosmology since the mid-1960s. The other half was given to both Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz, researchers at the University of Geneva in Switzerland for their groundbreaking "discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a sun-like star" in the 1990s.

Back in the 1960s, cosmology, the study of the origin and evolution of the universe, was a newer contender in the realm of astronomy. Models of an expanding universe and the Big Bang theory existed, but there was a lack of connection between the theoretical and experimental analysis. That changed in

1965 when Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson discovered the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB): a light source that was measured to be emitted when the universe was just 380,000 years old. Peebles used this intriguing source of energy to help support the Big Bang model of the Universe. From the present energy of the photons from CMB, he and a few colleagues inferred temperatures up to the magnitude of 1010 in degrees Celsius. Not only that, but Peebles also made innovative calculations in Big Bang nucleosynthesis: the study of materials created between protons and neutrons during the explosively-hot, early stages of the universe. He ultimately concluded that only five percent of the universe is known while the other 95 percent is consumed by the mysterious concepts of dark matter and dark energy.

Peebles contributed even more to the field of cosmology in the 1970s by developing cosmic structure formation.

From the different thermal patterns in the CMB, Peebles developed theoretical frameworks that could predict where galaxies would develop. He continued to make developments in almost every major theory of cosmology: cosmic inflation, models of dark matter (cold dark matter) and understanding dark energy. In all, he can be quoted as "laying the foundation for all modern investigations in cosmology, both theoretical and observational." Without his work, our current knowledge of the whole universe would be greatly depleted.

Today we see exoplanets—planets that orbit other stars—being observed regularly around the sun. But in the 1990s, astronomers were struggling, fruitlessly searching for years for these unobservable exoplanets until Mayor and Queloz came along. To detect such a planet, astronomers had to measure minuscule shifts in light, caused by the exoplanet's star. With the help of a custom-built device, they could

detect the light from 142 stars at once to hasten their search. In October 1995, they discovered the first exoplanet ever to orbit a sun-like star in the constellation Pegasus. Their discovery jump started the current database of over 4,000 exoplanets found (just in the Milky Way) that have forced theoretical physicists and astronomers alike to research and reconsider why certain planetary systems exist. Eventually, through the initial discovery of Mayor and Queloz, we can hope to capitalize on answering the ever-looming question of the possibility of other life in the universe.

For a more detailed look into the work of the Noble winners, they will each be speaking during a two-hour Nobel Lecture in December of this year. Although both of these discoveries seem to have been in the distant past, both have been fundamental in our current look at both the past and present of our universe. What other secrets will we pull from the universe's expanse?

AlumniSpotlight

DAVIS ROBINSON

By GIANLUCA AUDIA, LINA HUANG
and TINA HUANG
Contributing Writer and Staff Writers

Davis Robinson '57 is a living example of the long-lasting effects of non sibi. As the Legal Adviser to the United States Department of State, Robinson established the Iran-US Claims Tribunal in The Hague and presented two major cases before the International Court of Justice. Since then, he has been working as a United States Foreign Service Officer.

Robinson was born in New York City and grew up in Greenwich, Connecticut. After the financial crash in 1929, Robinson's father lost his job on Wall Street. He was subsequently offered a job at the Academy, to teach under the newly acquired Harkness gift. Many of Robinson's family members attended Exeter after his parents settled down near the Academy, including his older brother Thomas and his godfather Howard Gross. "It was just sort of understood that I would go to Exeter, so I went in the fall of 1954 as a prep," he said.

At Exeter, Robinson was a resident of Cilley Hall for two years and switched into Soule Hall for his senior year. He was involved with PEAN, played tennis and squash.

Robinson graduated from the Academy at 16, turning 17 in the summer before attending Yale. "When I got to Yale, I was very immature socially," he said. "That's where coeducation, of course, has done such a great deal for the Academy," he added.

Barnes Ellis '57 was Robinson's classmate both at PEA and at Yale. Ellis recalled Robinson's pervasive interest in history. "There was a time when he spent the summer out here in Oregon, which happened to be the summer [during] Nixon's impeachment proceedings, so he and I were just glued to the television," he said.

At the time, Instructor in History Emeritus Jack Herney led the Washington Intern Program, where Robinson arranged for Washington grandees to speak to the interns "including Potter Stewart, a Supreme Court Justice, which was a special treat for the students, of course, since we



Courtesy of Google

met Justice Stewart in the Supreme Court itself," Herney said. "He always remained a strong supporter of the intern program and other PEA educational programs."

In terms of his memories on campus, Robinson especially remembers the Volkswagen caper, which prompted a dean to dub it the greatest senior prank in the history of the Academy.

In this plot, Robinson, along with a group of students, decided to take the "brand new Volkswagen bug" of Instructor Valentino Bassetto. At around 11 o'clock in the evening, a group of students lifted the Volkswagen and carried it up onto the stage of the assembly hall without leaving a scratch on the car.

However, a German instructor was still in the building when the students left the Volkswagen. At around midnight, he went through the assembly hall and, seeing the car, immediately called Dean Robert Kessler, who, along with the football coach, the swimming coach and the wrestling coach, brought the car down, damaging it in the process.

As assembly was required, Robinson

expected the car to be there in front of the whole student body, but was surprised to see it missing. "When we went into the assembly, the next morning, of course full of ourselves, the car was gone," he said. "And the faculty, to their everlasting credit, decided they'd say nothing. So no mention of it was made until we got our diplomas in June, where the dean got up and said to the senior class: that was the single greatest prank in the history of Phillips Exeter Academy."

Ellis was then the Student Council President, and remembers the event from a different perspective. "I get a visit from Dean Kessler, and he said some students carried this vehicle up and put it up on the stage. He wanted to somehow get it down before chapel started the next morning," he said. "It was something the conspirators always laughed about, and it was an episode for which our class was quite famous."

Robinson's interest in geography and history initially began after he began collecting stamps. "It show[s] how the world has changed," he explained. He then went on to explore Foreign Relations and the Foreign

Service at Yale University.

His non-sibi attitude, combined with his interest in world affairs, led Robinson to pursue Foreign Service as a career. In his senior year, he took his Foreign Service exam and immediately proceeded to Washington to take his oral exam after graduation. With the rapid timeline, he entered the Foreign Service in September of 1961 at a very young age.

In the beginning of his career, Robinson was posted in Egypt and Jordan, where he worked in the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency during the negotiation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and as a Staff Assistant to Secretary of State William P. Rogers. Even after his varied accomplishments, he decided to take a leave of absence to further his education and attend Harvard Law school.

While at Harvard, Robinson kept with his non sibi roots, serving as president of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau. After Harvard, Robinson returned to the Foreign Service for a couple years. However, he got married and had a child and decided to pursue practicing law.

In the states, Robinson practiced law in multiple firms, from Wall Street to Washington. This allowed for him to experience the two important sectors of law, public and private, that would be integral to his later work.

This experience in the public sector would soon pay off. In 1981, President Reagan nominated and confirmed him as the legal adviser to the US Department of State, essentially the general counsel. During this time, he represented the United States in the US-Iran claims tribunal and during two other international court cases. Reflecting back, he described his role as "the best single legal job almost on Earth."

In 1982, Robinson retired from his private firm, in which he was a partner. Later, he served as an international arbitrator in high profile cases.

Throughout all his successes, Robinson retained Exeter's values and teachings. "I think it was drilled into us that we were extremely privileged to attend such a great school, and with that privilege is the responsibility to contribute to society in some positive fashion."

Discard Labels, Celebrate Identity

Felix Yeung '21

Columnist

In my daily interactions, I am often faced with a question I find rather bizarre: “When did you discover your sexuality?” I am asked this question as if there was some point in my life in which I underwent an epiphanic experience, as though some identification just came to me, burrowing itself deep in my psyche.

No, I do not know the precise moment I found out who I was. There was no point of realization or discovery. Rather, I went through a process of self-acceptance, in which I cycled through shame, fear, anxiety and, eventually, affirmation. The apprehensions I felt in this process were only exacerbated by the pressure to define myself at all times.

We forget that people fall in love with other people, not genders or sexes. The only reason that these labels exist is because heterosexuality is so ingrained as the norm that we cater to the dominant culture by defining ourselves as the same or different.

By now, I realize that labels are reductive. The need to define sexuality belies the fact that those of all sexual orientations—homosexual, heterosexual, pansexual, bisexual, etc.—experience the same desires, the same attractions and the same yearn-

ings for love and human connection. In attempting to fit ourselves into categories of sexuality, we accede to the notion that, somehow, there is some difference in the fundament of those who are straight and those who are not. We forget that people fall in love with other people, not genders or sexes. The only reason that these labels exist is because heterosexuality is so ingrained as the norm that we cater to the dominant culture by defining ourselves as the same or different.

Now, I have been cautioned against representing my thoughts as those of any community-at-large. I do not purport to speak for anyone but myself. I should not have to speak for anyone but myself—I should not have to bear the burden of representation. The assumption that a person speaks for a greater community when they state their beliefs is a fallacious one. Communities, by their nature, comprise a mosaic of experiences. I am sure that many individuals who read this piece will find that their views are irreconcilable with my own.

However, I find it important to articulate my sentiments on this topic. Just as there are those who may take issue with my thoughts, there are others who, like me, feel that the pressures to define and label the fluid human experience of sexuality unduly constrain self-discovery. How are today's youth meant to explore their identities when they are constantly expected to define themselves every step of the way? How are we meant to live in authenticity when we do not even know who we are?

When we create confines within which we can operate, we rebuke the understanding that identities can shift and expand. Just because someone may not feel attracted to someone of the same sex does not mean that they never will.

To expect labels of ourselves and others is to deny all the opportunity to come to self-actualization.

Furthermore, labels isolate us. We should not forget that while labels tell us who we are, they also tell us who we are not. They, by definition, exclude us from other labels that are in some way different from our own. In subscribing to various labels, we tell others that we are not like them, and they are not like us, even if we do not intend to. This type of labeling helps—but does not cause—those who are hateful to emphasize differences between themselves and others when there are few to begin with. They support the false assertion of the small-minded that there is some natural disconnect between those who identify one way and those who do not. Why does this need to happen? In short, it doesn't. We don't need to define ourselves in strict, or even lax, terms.

Of course, the bonds that tie the queer community together require some form of self-identification. The realities of being

In these times, it is apt to seek recourse and consolidation in those who understand, who have had similar experiences and fears.

queer today are that some people may face forms of hatred and intolerance. In these times, it is apt to seek recourse and consolidation in those who understand, who have had similar experiences and fears.

Moreover, events like Pride celebrate togetherness and recognize the history

of discrimination that queer people have faced. Queer youth may also seek the counsel of those who have gone through similar journeys of reflection and self-understanding. Absolutely, there is strength and value in solidarity. Nevertheless, self-identifying as part of a community does

Nevertheless, self-identifying as part of a community does not require people to subscribe to more specific labels within that community.

not require that people subscribe to a more specific label within that community.

In an idealized society, labels would be wholly unnecessary. Still, to engender such a society would necessitate a radical reconception of how most people teach their children about love. To this day, we focus on love between groups—a man and a woman, a man and a man, a woman and a woman and so on. What would happen if we taught love as a connection between two individuals? What would happen if we defined love without specifying what specific groups of people it happens between, no matter what those groups may be?

As I see it, this reconceptualization would free a whole lot of people from an unnecessary burden. It would free people from the burden of definition, the notion that, no matter what, we must define ourselves as something: gay, straight, bisexual, lesbian, pansexual, etc. It would allow us to remember that, no matter what, we are united in our personhood, our experiences and our natural wants and desires.

It's Time To Ban Tobacco

Stephen McNulty '21

Columnist

“We don't smoke that s***. We just sell it. We just reserve the right to smoke for the young, the poor, the black and the stupid.” — RJ Reynolds Executive, asked why he doesn't smoke, 1992

So, what did he sell, exactly? An addictive carcinogen, simply put. That carcinogen, the CDC estimates, causes 480,000 deaths in the United States yearly, 7 million worldwide yearly deaths and some 20,000 worldwide daily deaths. It remains the most obvious and prevalent risk factor for hosts of diseases, including cancer.

Some will, invariably, retort that I am fearmongering. Smoking rates have declined, in large part due to excise taxes,

They will point to fanciful graphs, arranged with neat little colors set along nice best fit lines, and cry “progress!” They will calculate the slopes of those best-fit lines and wave them in my face. “Look—our m value is negative! Reform works.” And so they will miss the entire point.

public smoking restrictions and changing social attitudes. They will point to fanciful graphs, arranged with neat little colors set along nice best fit lines, and cry “progress!” They will calculate the slopes of those best-fit lines and wave them in my face. “Look—our m value is negative!

Reform works.” And so they will miss the entire point.

He will, in due time, learn that it was all part of a plan, that his mother was one of “the young, the poor, the black, or the stupid” chosen by a corporate conglomerate whose profit model depends on hooking people to lethal substances. He will find out that the red bandana she wore was a marker of a blight she never asked for, but that was very deliberately thrust upon her.

As a person who has had close family members die of smoking-related illnesses, I can only begin to express how unsatisfactory this “progress” is. Forward progress is no consolation to the nine year-old child sitting at a parent's deathbed, wondering why his mother had to die. He won't find out the real reason for years later. He will, in due time, learn that it was all part of a plan, that his mother was one of “the young, the poor, the black, or the stupid” chosen by a corporate conglomerate whose profit model depends on hooking people to lethal substances. He will find out that the red bandana she wore was a marker of a blight she never asked for, but that was very deliberately thrust upon her. And, in a matter of a few years, he will realize that none of this had to happen.

Tobacco companies are responsible for killing millions every year, then. They've attempted to exert influence over entire governments, especially in the

developing world, often at prohibitive costs to anti-tobacco activists. They've spent decades cherry-picking studies and downplaying the scientific consensus on smoking—we've already seen lobbyists gearing up for another fight on vaping. So, we shouldn't pretend that we aren't aware of the problem, because we know exactly what it is. Perhaps, I should refer to the problems, pluralized: Philip Morris International, British American Tobacco, Imperial Brands, Japan Tobacco International and China Tobacco—together the “big five” tobacco companies.

So, if any other corporate practice were responsible by design for addiction to a lethal substance and deaths of millions per year, what would we do? We would ban it, and we would lock its purveyors in jail for criminal negligence. I just really can't see any other way. So, it

They are evocative of the “great” spirit of the Marlboro Man, annoyed by any attempt to force solutions down their throats. They proudly live life at the edge and demand the “right” to smoke (without perhaps knowing who was intended to share among that right).

would seem that the real policy solution would be a full ban on the sale of tobacco. Mind you, not the consumption—no one should be jailed for an addiction.

And out of the woodwork comes another round of opponents. These ones aren't quite the types to shove graphs in your face, at least. They are evocative of the “great” spirit of the Marlboro Man,

annoyed by any attempt to force solutions down their throats. They proudly live life on the edge and demand the “right” to smoke (without perhaps knowing who was intended to share among that right). Of course, these people just simply aren't in touch with the real sufferings of smokers—some 68% of smokers wanted to quit, the CDC reports, and some 55% had made a recent attempt to quit.

And here, too, fall those who shudder at the thought of repeating Prohibition. Unlike alcoholics, the majority of smokers want to quit. Many of them have also indicated an openness to quitting if presented with the opportunity. Now, Prohibition's failure can be partially traced back to a failure to address the underlying social problems that cause drunkenness and alcohol addiction. I do not presume to make the same mistakes of the past—we should absolutely provide tremendous assistance to those overcoming addiction. But we also shouldn't pretend that the two situations are analogous, because they simply aren't.

Small-scale policies to restrict smoking itself have thus far yielded some dividends. The CDC and WHO have publicly praised the efficacy of smoke-free zones on several occasions, and foreign attempts to keep tobacco off the shelves seem to be yielding dividends.

Further, there is a moral issue at hand. Perhaps, if I am being honest, a degree of selfishness is involved here as well. Listening to the clip in Dr. Lilly's slideshow, I could hardly hold back a sea of expletives, the likes of which this Assembly Hall has probably never seen before. There is something so disgusting and criminal about Big Tobacco that we ought to do everything in our power to stop it. And even if I was wrong, even if a ban were to be entirely ineffective, an utter waste of time, we could at least say we took a stance.

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The *Joker* Isn't Violent

Neha Nedumaran '22
Guest Contributor

Despite mounting controversy and security concerns, *Joker* laughed its way to the bank on opening weekend, grossing \$93.5 million in domestic tickets. Critics claim that *Joker* is dangerous and irresponsible for painting a nihilistic, overly sympathetic picture of a white man whose descent into brutal villainy echoes the backstories of real mass shooters in America.

This seems to stem mainly from the 2012 shooting in Aurora, Colorado, which occurred during a midnight showing of the Warner Bros. superhero movie *The Dark Knight Rises*, which starred Heath Ledger as the Joker and renewed the character's status as a cultural icon. The Aurora shooter never actually confessed to police that he was "the Joker," contrary to a false public memory that emerged from miscommunicated reports that he had dressed up as the character.

Still, *Joker* has an IMDB score of 9.0, a Rotten Tomatoes audience score of 90%, and a Metacritic user score of 9.3. Critics take the impact of this movie far too seriously, implying that in its effort to address societal issues, the film actually glorifies a killer and has the potential to encourage copycat attacks,

particularly from incels who might feel they have a kinship with the movie's main character.

Joker features one of the worst possible scenarios that could happen when someone with a mental illness has 100% provocative circumstances and zero support systems. It is a wildly uncomfortable, dread-inducing and brutal depiction of the story of Arthur Fleck (played by Joaquin Phoenix), a mentally deranged man who unintentionally sets off the last spark of a battle between the politically corrupt and disenfranchised members of society.

But nothing in *Joker's* violence is attractive or gratuitous. It is not the intention of the movie to hold him up as a hero or automatically link mental illness with villains, but rather to serve as a commentary on society's treatment of vulnerable people and its volatile consequences. The film doesn't apologize for anything and it shouldn't be asked to.

Understanding why someone felt justified to do villainous things does not equal glorifying their actions, and certainly does not condone it. While *Joker* treads the line between accepting consequence and condoning violence, and does subvert these lines occasionally, our real response should be how much more society needs to do to help those who suffer from mental health issues and why we continue to act as if society is unable to provide assistance

and guidance to those who truly need it. Unfortunately, the root cause of these issues is much deeper than the content of our entertainment and too complex to be swayed one way or the other by any one film.

There are no dangerous movies, only dangerous people who don't know the difference between reality and entertainment. Movies should be able to touch on difficult subjects and provoke complicated conversations. The audience is mature enough to be able to differentiate facts from fiction and we shouldn't need to police art by speculating whether someone is going to be negatively influenced by it. Phoenix mentioned in an interview regarding the controversy, "If you have somebody that has that level of emotional disturbance, they can find fuel anywhere." The *Joker* itself cannot inspire someone to participate in horrific criminal behavior that they weren't already planning to or thinking of doing in the first place. It's easy to blame a movie about violence because of how analogous it may seem to the violence of reality, but it's also a very biased argument.

And is the medium of film more impactful than the written word? If we are going to start censoring media out of fear that it might inspire certain people among us to perform acts of copy-cat violence, then we can't limit it to movies. And then where do we draw the line from there?

It's a lot easier to avoid acknowledging the societal failings that have given rise to America's mass-shooter crisis. A violent movie grounded in no semblance of reality is apparently so problematic that discussions to ban its distribution arose. Yet, very real, frequent, violent murders with automatic weapons at schools, churches, concerts, malls and theaters are somehow not problematic enough to induce a change in U.S. gun policies. This controversy has proven, yet again, how difficult it is for Americans to accept responsibility for the fact that we have no one and nothing to blame but ourselves for the epidemic of mass shooters. Problems with mental illness and gun violence are societal challenges that can not be adequately addressed by censorship.

This is not a superhero comic book movie, this is an origin story of a villain, one that we all know well. Unless you thought Ledger's *Joker* was warm and fuzzy, there should be no surprise here. Anyone who is questioning whether *Joker* should have been produced, because of what Aurora and the multiple other mass shootings have taught us, is attacking the wrong amendment. Don't curtail the First because of the current legislative paralysis over the Second. How many non-US countries are worried about its release? Oh right—none. *Joker* has just become mired in America's gun control problem.

Measure Yourself by More Than Just Your Grades

Jonathan Meng '21
Guest Contributor

With the early cum laude list revealed just last week and midterm grades coming out a few days ago, it feels like an especially opportune time to reflect on grade point averages. Exeter is obviously a school filled with exceptional students, most of whom have learned to expect grades of A+ or A's. However, as most students settle into their time at PEA, they learn to accept grades centered somewhere around the B+ range, with *The Exonian* reporting that the Class of 2017 graduated with an average GPA of 9.254 out of 11. These numbers, inflated beyond belief because vestiges of previous grading systems still remain in the E-Book with honors awarded

However, as most students settle into their time at PEA, they learn to accept grades centered somewhere around the B+ range, with *the Exonian* reporting that the Class of 2017 graduated with an average GPA of 9.254 out of 11.

at 8.0, high honors at 9.0, and highest honors at a 10.0, are still regarded as one of the best indicators of a student's academic achievement. This perception even though rampant grade inflation

clearly shows how subjective all of these letters and numbers truly are.

Exeter is a highly competitive school. It is extremely common for students to

I'm not writing this op-ed to say that your grade point average doesn't matter, in fact, it's probably one of the few numbers that people will quickly look at to try and understand how your academics are going at this school.

discuss grades, bemoaning tough classes, sharing struggles to reach this or that letter grade. And I'm not writing this op-ed to say that your GPA doesn't matter: in fact, it's probably one of the few numbers that people will quickly look at to try and understand how your academics are going. Still, it is quite important to put this number in perspective. Your time at Exeter is the sum of all its parts, and though it may already be cliché, the grades, especially of just one term, don't really define you.

It can be very easy to fall into the "GPA Trap," as a previous columnist put it, but what you must keep in mind is how relative each grade really is. The main problem I see with Exeter's current system is how little it accounts for the difficulty of each class. In the "normal" four-point system, more difficult AP classes are graded with a maximum score of five not only to offset the difficulty

of only in that class, but also the time lost that could be spent on other classes. However, Exeter's current system makes false equivalencies, leading us to compare grades from MAT21T to those in 31X, or intro and "death" chem grades. As someone who has made both of those mistakes, I can honestly tell you that those comparisons are worthless, either leaving you with hurt feelings that result from disappointment in your own academic accomplishments or an unjustified sense of pride that comes from believing that vastly different courses can be looked at in the same light.

It's also critical to keep in mind that each person will have differing successes in their journey to cultivate a "good" GPA due to course selection as previously noted, the luck of the draw and your personal academic strengths. As an upper who has heard quite a bit from our school's previous two valedictorians and quite a few of those who received early cum, even for

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those who easily average above 10.7, there are frequent disparities between each term, especially in English. With a new lineup of teachers every term, your A in a class one term can easily be bumped to a B+/A- the next time around, justifying many students' concerns at the beginning

of each term about how "easy" a teacher or course is. Your personal academic strengths also play a role in your GPA, with many of my more STEM-focused friends complaining that although there are different levels of math and science to place each student, in no such distinctions exist for the humanities.

While Exeter is well-known for its classes and teachers, far more significant is the people you meet here, the connections you gain, the clubs or teams you join and the fun you have.

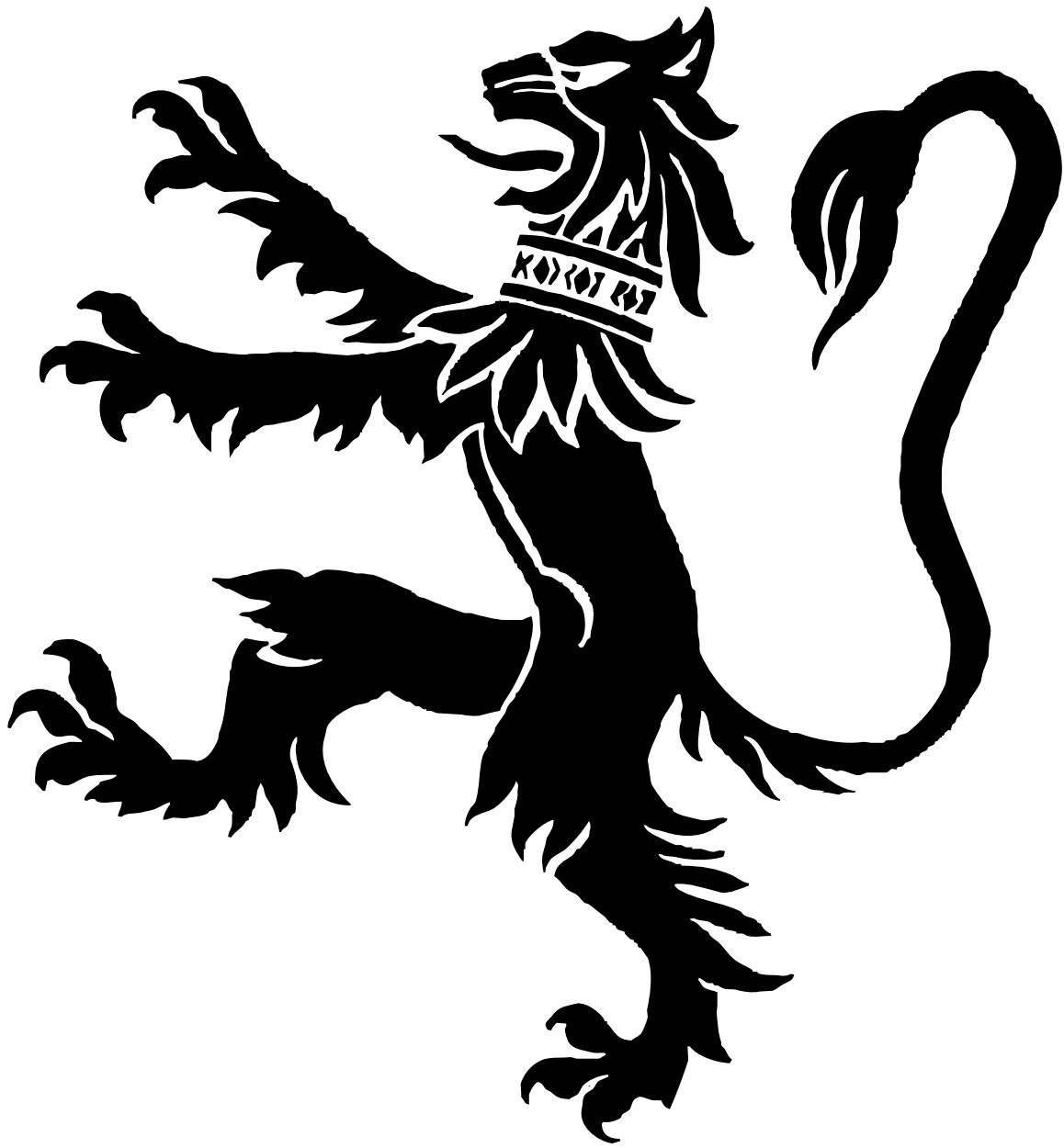
At the end of the day, your GPA should just be a marker on your path through Exeter and not the 'end all be all' to aim for. While Exeter is well-known for its classes and teachers, far more significant is the people you meet here, the connections you gain, the clubs or teams you join and the fun you have. To paraphrase the words of some of my wiser friends with GPA's higher than I can dream of, Exeter isn't about grinding for each grade to maximize that number on your transcript. In fact, many of them have advised me to ignore my GPA completely and instead focus on taking classes that I enjoy, even if they result in some of the worst grades; because this is the time in our lives where we'll be able to have the most fun. If you succeed in that, it is the grades that will follow.

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: CHARLIE VENCI & MILO WALSHE



JaQ Lai/The Exonian

By SYDNEY KANG
Staff Writer

At the end of the Andover pool, senior and co-captain Milo Walshe winds up to shoot the ball in the midst of a nervous silence. The moment the ball flies into the net and the whistle blows, Big Red erupts into thunderous cheers over confused shouts from the Andover stands. No one cheers louder than senior and co-captain Charlie Venci, who triumphantly swims over to congratulate his four-year teammate and best friend on his fifth overtime golden goal.

Milo Walshe took up the sport of water polo in eighth grade after his older brother Taylor Walshe '18 began playing. By prep year, Walshe was playing alongside his older brother T. Walshe, the captain at the time. Now, Walshe himself is leading Bear Polo through one of the most electric and victorious seasons seen in the past years. The team's phenomenal win against Andover that broke the record for longest water polo game in NEPSAC history, remains as a highlight of many this season.

In addition to the valuable skill set Walshe adds to the team, his inspiring sense of teamwork serves as a helpful source of motivation for his teammates both in the pool and out. In the words of Walshe, "What really gets me fired up about Bear Polo is when I see a teammate

make a big stop on defense or score a clutch goal. When we win, we win as a team."

Of all the memorable experiences with Big Red water polo, Walshe picked one particular memory with the team as his personal favorite. "One tradition we have is called GLOPO, which is when Coach Mills shuts off the lights for one practice a year and we scrimmage with a glow-in-the-dark ball," he explained.

For Charlie "Chazz" Venci, water polo was introduced to him his prep year after a push from Head Coach Mills. "I've been swimming since I was about four or five years old, so swimming was always my main sport. When I came to Exeter, Coach Mills persuaded me to give Polo a try in order to stay in shape for swim season in the fall," Venci explained.

Starting water polo his prep year, Venci came a long way in his four years playing for Big Red. Venci stated, "I'll be honest, it took some time for me to develop both a skill set and a liking for the sport, but, by lower year, I was a starter on varsity. Water polo was right up there with swimming in my book."

With his upbeat personality and talkative nature, Venci is known both by his teammates and friends to bring a high level of energy and fun with him at all times. When asked to describe Venci in two words, upper teammate Cooper Walshe said: "Super loud. He gives off a

lot of his energy that's translated to the rest of the team."

While Venci and Walshe share their title of co-captains of the water polo team, their close friendship that is attributed by their several years of playing together helps to create a tighter-knit bond for the whole varsity team. C. Walshe said, "They've both been playing Water Polo with each other for four years and out of the pool [they] are best friends. Their friendship spreads to the rest of the team and creates a very friendly environment."

A major factor that plays into the co-captains' excellent leadership is their ability to carry the team through any situation. Upper David Mancini credited Walshe and Venci for their responsibility over the team, saying that they "both embrace the challenges we are given head on and lead the team on the right path with great spirit and dedication." Similarly, upper Adam Tuchler praised the co-captains' shared sense of leadership, saying, "They do what any good captain should do: they lead by example."

Leading by example is exactly what Venci and Walshe do day in and day out: each works hard to strengthen the entire team. Head Coach Mills stated that both co-captains "have a tremendous work ethic and strong engines." He then expanded on each of their individual strengths, "Charlie is indefatigable and adds speed and tenacity. Milo brings

strong defense and a wicked left-hand shot."

Apart from their outstanding skill sets, Walshe and Venci prove to be vital players in terms of motivating the team. Upper Nick Garey explained, "Chazz fires the team up by giving inspiring speeches and getting fast breaks on offense. Milo isn't in the spotlight as often, but [he] is one of the most reliable and consistent players on the team."

All captains are expected to push the team to form a closer camaraderie and ensure every teammate feels welcome, and both Venci and Walshe certainly stepped up to fill this role. In particular, both Venci and Walshe welcomed the new additions to the team this season, expressing excitement for the opportunity to guide them and to see where they take Bear Polo in the future. Venci said, "We have two very strong preps on the team this year and I can't wait to see how they develop in the second half of our season." Walshe shared similar sentiments, saying that based on the impressive performances by the younger players so far, he believes "the future is bright for Bear Polo."

Overall, co-captains Venci and Walshe look forward to spending the rest of their final season with Bear Polo. Venci reflected, "My time with Bear Polo has been wildly fun. We lost a few, we won a lot more, we scored some nice goals and we're not even close to done yet."

CHAZZ'S QUIPPY QUOTE BOX

Which faculty member would you draft to your Fantasy Football team and why?

By CHARLIE VENCI
141st Sports Editor

"Huoppi... Have you seen his college lacrosse pictures?"

Sam Gumprecht '20

"Dean Atif. He'd be like Gronk."

Zeb Tilton '20

"Mr. Lincoln. He's a beast."

Matt Ngai '21

"Ms. Caldwell. She's so scary!"

Jade Goulet '20

"Coach Thomas. He rocked Ben in practice with no pads on."

Hugh McLaughlin '21

"Mr. Thomas. He's always in the gym!"

Anna Jacobowitz '21

"I'm thinking Mr. Molina because he will bring the energy."

Gannon McCorkle '20

"I pick Mr. Weatherspoon. Name value is huge in fantasy football."

Cooper Walshe '21

"I'd say Mr. Caldwell. Have you seen that man run?"

Abby Asch '21

"I'm gonna choose Coach Mills. I'm thinking he's gonna get me at least two interceptions a game."

Josh Morissette '22

"Ms. Waterman, player or coach. She's tough."

Bill Rawson '71

"Mr. Thomas. He seems like he's very quick and would be a good personality to have on the team."

Kate Mautz '22



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FIELD HOCKEY TROUNCES NMH

Big Red Fhockey Steals a 4-3 Win in Overtime



Senior Sophia Rosati winds up for a ripper.

Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

By FELIX YEUNG
Contributing Writer

Before a crowd of eager parents and family members, Big Red field hockey put on a close home game against Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH), ending Family Weekend on a high note. Clinching a victory in overtime, the team beat out NMH with a final score of 4-3.

Players noted that the team struggled with energy in the first half of the game. "We started out slow. During the first half, we were not making passes fast enough, so we kept winning the ball and then turning it over right away," upper Ellie Griffin said.

However, the second half of the game showcased a significant improvement. "I do think we really channeled in and focused during the second half," senior and co-captain Sophia Rosati

said. "We picked up the pace after our first goal and got into a groove. We tried out some different formations on free hits and positions on the field, which created movement and space."

Griffin emphasized that the team's astute tactics allowed them to make a comeback. "For the second half, we focused on making connections and cutting in front of defenders to get the ball. This enabled us to get the ball up the field and keep it on [our scoring half]," she said. "As the game went on, we got more comfortable with our passes and free hits while [NMH] became more flustered and started throwing the ball away more." By the end of the second half, the team brought up the score from 2-0 to a 3-3 tie.

It was not until overtime that Big Red definitively claimed their victory. "The game really kept everyone on the edge of their seats," upper Ursie Wise

said. "We won in [overtime]; Jill Cloonan scored the winning goal along with another goal earlier in the game."

Overtime gameplay required a slight shift in strategy. "Overtime for field hockey is sudden victory, and there are only six field players and a goalie as opposed to the usual ten. Within a minute and a half of the overtime, we scored to win the game," Griffin said. "The main strategy for overtime is to pass the ball instead of running it, and we both played good defense to win the ball and made a couple passes up the field to score."

The players noted that good teamwork was crucial to their victory. "We went into the game planning to keep communication at a high. I think we did a really great job at that throughout the game, particularly in the second half," Wise said. "I think one of our strengths is the support everyone on the team has for each other. It makes it such an enjoy-

able atmosphere."

Upper Haruka Masamura noted both technical strengths and weaknesses. "I think one tactic that worked was just passing the ball up the sides from defense to midfield to the offense to get it up the field," she said. "But one area we can work on is releasing the ball faster, since an extra second that we keep the ball before passing can mean an opportunity for the other team to take the ball away."

Griffin felt that, overall, the game was a strong one. "It was a great comeback for the team! We just need to work on playing our best right at the start of the game and not just at the end," she said.

Field hockey also wiped out the Tilton School 6-0 in a home game this Wednesday, Oct. 16. The team's next match will be an away game at the Brooks School on Friday, Oct. 18.

BOYS' XC SWEEPS AT HOME MEET

Varsity and JV Cross Country Teams Defeat NMH



Upper Varun Oberai races neck and neck to the finish line against an NMH runner.

Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

By CHARLOTTE LISA
Staff Writer

In one of the most highly anticipated races of the season, Exeter Boys' Cross Country faced Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) this past weekend and dominated, tearing up the home course to walk away with solid victories for both Varsity and JV, winning 38-23 and 50-15, respectively. NMH was as one of the team's biggest adversaries, having stolen the first place title from Exeter by one point last year. Big Red sought to avenge this loss, and avenge they did.

Undaunted and determined, the team was ready to compete come race day. As pointed out by lower Bradley St. Laurent, it was the team's first dual meet, and first home meet. "This race was our first real test against one of the strongest teams in our league," St. Laurent said. Upper Andrew Luke emphasized "we wanted our revenge for last year," noting that the team, throughout training

leading up to the meet, "kept that in the back of our minds." The team stayed focused as always, as Luke noted that "Overall, [the meet] was business as usual. Pack up, compete." Lower Alexander Kermath also pointed to the team's goals of working together to create packs throughout the race to keep the pace competitive. "Many runners throughout the team were looking to push themselves to stick onto another teammate who was faster than them," Kermath said.

In the end, a number of runners broke personal records, an outstanding accomplishment. Luke described the consistently fast pace from the start of the race, saying "We had a strong pack of our 4-8 together, each of us pushing each other along." Personally, Luke's race plan was "to start out faster than normal, which worked out well for me and the team."

Kermath, another member of the aforementioned pack formed with Luke, uppers Croix Mikofsky and Phill Horrigan and lower Bradley St. Laurent said "the race went

better than planned for me. Throughout the race, we stuck together and held great pace. This ended with personal records for all of us, including three of us breaking 17:00 minutes." He elaborated, "Our coach had been encouraging us to pack up but it wasn't until this race that we used this strategy to its full potential."

Luke also praised his team members, pointing to "the boys in the front," otherwise known as senior Will Coogan, uppers Varun Oberai and Connor Chen, before adding "a lot of the younger guys on the team broke PRs as well in their first home race, which is awesome to see for the future." Kermath continued, "Varun was our second-place runner and hit a massive PR along with Coogan who had a fantastic performance as always. On top of that, [preps] Mateo [Connelly] and Oliver [Brandes] grouped up and hit amazing personal records as well." St. Laurent also highlighted Connelly and Brandes' performances, saying "it has been amazing to watch how the whole team

has already improved just halfway into the season."

Overall, the team faced a few challenges on their home course. With only one hill loop, and an immense amount of hill training under their belts, Kermath explained, "One or two hills made the race a little bit more difficult but our training allowed us to glide through them."

As for the challenges that lie ahead of the team, they are confident in their success for the rest of the season. "This race was a success across the board and proved, at least to me, that we have a lot of potential in the races to come," Kermath said. As Luke put it, "Transitive property [says] they were the best team last year and we smoked them. We believe we can win it all this year. We were one point away last year."

Upper Croix Mikofsky emphasized "we are going to need to keep working if we want to secure a victory at interschols." Luke agreed, stating, "our team runs deep, and I believe we can beat anybody at our best."