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Principal Rawson answers student questions about the Academy's history of sexual assault at Thursday's sit-in.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

## Academy Plans to Share Sexual Assault Protocol

By ANNE BRANDES, EMILY KANG and MAEGAN PAUL  
Staff Writers

After several months of deliberation and review of peer school protocols, the Exeter administration has produced an official document describing the Academy's process of responding to accusations of on-campus sexual assault, to be shared with the community by the end of this year.

Principal William Rawson and Assistant Principal Karen Lassey led this effort to clarify the reporting process for students. Lassey emphasized that this document is not a new policy, but rather an official written protocol detailing the reporting process. "We call the document a 'protocol' because we're trying to be really clear and detailed about what this process looks like," she said.

In light of last Thursday's sit-in, during which several hundred Exonians gathered to voice concern about the Academy's alleged mishandling of sexual assault cases, senior Grace Gray emphasized the need for all Exonians to be aware of Academy protocol. "I did not know a sufficient amount about the protocol without reviewing this 46 page protocol [document]," Gray said. "In fact, I believe our knowledge will not be sufficient until I can say that every single one of my classmates also extensively knows our sexual misconduct protocol."

According to Lassey, the administration shared a draft of the document with a group of students who requested it over the weekend and will be making final adjustments in response to their feedback. "Once we've finalized the next draft, we will share it with the whole community. Ultimately, it will be incorporated into the E Book, and it may also be a standalone document that's available on the website," Lassey said.

Gray reflected on possible areas for improvement upon reviewing the document. "My most fundamental change would be for it to reflect our affirmative consent policy in all of our actions: if somebody is not clearly and freely consenting to an action, the school must take some course of action, whether that means entering the reported party into a structured remedial learning and reflection program and/or disciplinary action," she said.

Gray also requested the addition of more possible courses of action once a case is closed. "We must not have a binary system in which our only outcomes of an investigation are disciplinary or no disciplinary action," she said. "Instead, we must seek to weigh impact into our decision process of each sexual misconduct case and ultimately recognize the hurt of the reporting party so that every student feels safe to report and supported by the system once they do."

Exonians Against Sexual Assault (EASA) co-head and senior Grace Carroll believes the written protocol will grant students a greater sense of security in the reporting process. "RE-POLICY, 3

## Students Protest Sexual Assault Handling

By ANNE BRANDES and ERIN CHOI  
Staff Writers

In an effort to confront Exeter's history of mishandling sexual assault, a crowd of more than 200 students gathered around Principal William Rawson on Thursday, May 9, to voice concerns, share personal experiences and pose questions in anticipation of Rawson's responses.

While the sit-in was originally set to take place in the Principal's office, the number of students in attendance quickly exceeded the space available, and they relocated to the J. Smith quad, where they commenced a Q&A with Rawson for almost three hours.

Protesters stated that the sit-in was not a response to one particular case, but to the Academy's fraught past concerning sexual misconduct, including the Rockingham Files and cases against former Exeter faculty member Rick Schubart.

Some interpreted the protest as a culmination of student frustrations accumulated over many years due to personal knowledge

or experience of the Academy not providing adequate support to survivors.

According to Rawson, the administration has taken several steps to address sexual misconduct on campus in the past year, including the adoption of a verbal affirmation consent policy, training adults and students to uphold the consent policy and scheduling subsequent consent training for all student leaders throughout the year.

The hiring of Christina Palmer as the Academy's first Director of Student Wellbeing two years ago was another significant step.

However, some students believe the Academy's progress has been lacking. Senior Chinasa Mbanugo decided to help organize the sit-in to express this sentiment. "We ... wanted to show the administration that the way that sexual misconduct is handled at our school is egregious," Mbanugo said.

After listening to student concerns, Rawson affirmed that he is invested in promoting long-term Academy change. "Certainly, I heard the students' strong statements that more needs to be done to address campus

climate and more needs to be done to build trust in the process for reporting misconduct and handling cases," he said.

Rawson clarified the current Academy protocol for responding to reports of sexual assault: once Palmer receives a report, the school's private investigator conducts an investigation supervised by Assistant Principal Karen Lassey. Meanwhile, Palmer supports the reporting party, while the Dean of Students supports the responding party. The investigator comes to a conclusion and makes a recommendation to the deans, who hold a meeting and share their recommendation with Rawson, at which point he makes the final decision under the Principal's Discretionary policy.

Several of the sit-in's organizers felt that the volume of students who attended the protest exceeded their expectations. "The number of people who turned out was extremely indicative of the state our institution is in," Mbanugo said.

Rawson said that he will continue heed-

SIT-IN, 3



Yeung, Su, Vines, Chen and Lin speak at the Lamont Younger Poets Award Ceremony.

Lina Huang/The Exonian

## 2019 Lamont Younger Poets Receive Awards

By LINA HUANG and EMILY KANG  
Staff Writers

This year's four Lamont Younger poets—prep Kendrah Su, lower Scarlett Lin, lower Felix Yeung and prep Daniel Chen—won the prizes this past Tuesday after an anonymous judging process.

The contest, created in 2004, is directed towards lowerclassmen poets to raise awareness of and to support student poetry writing at the prep and lower levels, English Instructor and Chair of Lamont Poets Committee Todd Hearon said.

Under her teacher, English Instructor Chelsea Woodard's advice, Lin chose to enter the competition. "I encouraged both sections of lowers that I teach to submit, and think it is a wonderful opportunity," Woodard said.

Lin entered her poem "Girl Before a Mirror," from a previous assignment where she modeled a poem after Pablo Picasso's famous painting "Girl Before a Mirror." "One of my favorite artists is Pablo Picasso. His stylish approach of imitating the way children draws inspire me to take on his viewpoint, and articulate my feelings through poetic language," Lin said.

Through her poetry, Lin hoped to convey a message of self-love, represented by the girl in her poem looking into the mirror and reflecting on her image. "Sometimes we tend to comply to social norms and allow others' opinions to skew our own perspectives," Lin said. "It is easy for one to zoom in onto his/ LAMONT, 2

## Bennett Fellow Reads Work

By ANNE BRANDES and VERONICA CHOULGA  
Staff Writers

Gazing across the assembled faculty and students, 2018-19 George Bennett Fellow Gwen Kirby tucked a lock of pink hair behind her ear and began reading her short story, titled "A Few Normal Things That Happen A Lot." This was her third appearance before the student body after delivering an assembly and a meditation in winter term.

The George Bennett Fellowship, chaired by English Instructor Todd Hearon, honors emeritus Academy English Instructor George Bennett by awarding a one-year fellowship to an author of outstanding promise who has not yet published a book. The fellowship seeks to provide time and

freedom for the fellow by allocating a stipend, housing, meals and benefits for a full academic year.

From a pool of more than 300 applicants, the committee selected Kirby, a writer, editor and teacher from San Diego. In addition to the Bennett fellowship, Kirby has accumulated numerous awards including publication in *Guernica*, *the Mississippi Review* and the *Southwest Review*, among others.

Hearon described how fortunate the Exeter community is to have Kirby in its midst. "It is a gift of value and generosity of which cannot be overstated to have Gwen near the beginning of her career, and it's a gift to the broader Exeter community to have a full time working wordsmith in our midst," he said.

At the final Bennett reading of the year, BENNETT, 2

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## Writer Gwen Kirby Engages with Bennett Fellow Attendees

Continued from BENNETT, 1

Kirby read a story inspired by her anger from the Brett Kavanaugh hearings. “I had an agreement with a friend with 500 new words a day, every day and when I listened to the hearings, I was pretty upset, and my friend said [I didn’t] have to write anything today,” she said. “I was like, damn the man, yes I do.”

“A Few Normal Things That Happen A Lot” explored forms of gendered harassment that are normalized every day and reimagined them in surprising ways. “[It asked] us to rethink our own experiences and try to imagine the experiences of others,” English Instructor Chelsea Woodard said.

Attendees, like senior Jadzia Tedeschi, praised Kirby’s story. “While Gwen Kirby did a great job of portraying women’s ‘badass’ self-defense against men who molested them/disrespected them, it was also very thoughtful to include how it would be nice not to have to be hard and scaly and monstrous to be respected—how effectively biting people’s parts off is hardly a reconciliatory act, a protection but also another sort of wound,” she said.

Kirby’s story made a complex topic simpler to put a finger on, Senior Ingrid Bergill said. “She’s taking inspiration from very serious things and finding ways to make them funny without making light of them,” Bergill said. “She’s still giving them the respect they deserve, but also finding ways to make them easier to understand and talk about.”

Woodard believes that Kirby is a writer

worth hearing twice. “Her story was sharp, funny and moving, and she read it beautifully and with just the right amount of humor,” she said. “Gwen is a friend and an incredible writer; I wouldn’t miss an opportunity to hear her read her work.”

Kirby reflected on the topic of feminism, one she often comes back to. In future works, she is prepared to defend her ideals. “I hope that someday I will publish your work in that book and my work will go into the wider world,” she said.

“I’d imagine people will dislike it for its content to a certain degree, and I fear that I will be regarded as someone who writes only for women, which is one of the things that I find it very distressing. However, I will challenge the way that we talk about literature, which is that the male protagonist is the universal protagonist and the female protagonists for women. I intend to get feisty at Q&A [sessions,]” Kirby continued.

Tedeschi reflected upon the importance of the Bennett Fellowship on the Exeter campus. “I feel like having full-time professional artists working amongst us is pretty extraordinary,” she said. “We may not engage with our Bennett Fellow on a daily basis, but I think it is important for them to be a part of our community, for it to be a fuller, more layered community: the teacher, the cleaner, the computer worker, the student, the advisor, the administrator, the Bennett Fellow are what make Exeter a community, not just a school.”

## Lamont Younger Poets Reflect on Their Writing Experience

Continued from LAMONT, 1

her natural flaws and set aside the beauty that shines within.”

“[The girl in her poem] is seeing all these realistic flaws but she’s not really seeing what is beautiful inside of herself,” Lin said.

Woodard praised Lin’s stylistic choices in creating a unique and personal poem. “I thought the voice of the poem was very compelling, and that there was a very delicate, precise quality to the imagery and lines,” she said.

Chen also entered the contest under the encouragement of his English Instructor Ellee Dean. Chen, who originally wrote the poem earlier this year, shared a story about his grandmother who lived through communist China. “I was inspired to write about it after my grandmother told me about how when she was a child, she would have to literally look for usable coal in burning dumps outside of factories. I found this both terrifying and incredible, and I wanted to capture this experience,” he said.

Yeung entered the contest to get involved with poetry. “I’ve always been an ‘English type,’ but I’ve never seen myself as a poet,” he said. “Poetry has been a style that has always challenged me.”

Yeung wrote about the experience he had with other travelers at the Customs and Border Control in the airport just after leaving Hong Kong for Exeter. “This poem is a love poem to America, to how this country has shaped me. Despite its shortcomings, the

United States has played a role in my maturation,” he said.

Su submitted to the contest on a whim after seeing the poster in her English teacher’s classroom. Su’s poem was based off a poem she wrote in 2018 and portrayed the effects of events through generations.

Su was happily surprised to find that she won the prize, but did not focus too much on the validation aspect. “It does mean the world that the people in the Exeter community are the ones judging my work and getting this award means more than it does getting an award from strangers,” she said. “However, I don’t think my confidence should come from awards and what other people think of my writing; it should come from within.”

The winners read their poems Tuesday night in the Library’s Rockefeller Hall alongside this year’s spring Lamont Poet Adam Vines, who gave an assembly earlier that day.

Lin notes that the Tuesday reading was a platform to spread her message. “It just warms my heart that people would come up to me and say my poem speaks to them in an insightful manner,” she said.

Lin continues that the award itself also gave her the confidence to continue exploring poetry. “Poetry let me sense the power of words opening up inside my chest when I read them out loud,” she said. “I now see poetry as a way to carry my story and message forward, across culture and beyond time, saying this is who we are and this is where and what we come from.”

## Day of Parent Giving Raises \$144,175; Students Receive Sunglasses

By PAUL ROGERS  
Staff Writer

Students who made a detour to check their P.O. boxes while rushing between classes this Tuesday were pleasantly surprised with a stylish pair of bamboo-patterned sunglasses and a thank-you note from the Parent Giving team.

The gift celebrated the success of the Day of Parent Giving on May 7, an annual campaign run by the Office of Parent Giving. This year’s Day of Parent Giving was one of the most successful in the department’s history, with 359 donations given and \$144,175 raised—119 percent of the donor goal, according to the givecampus.org website. Although the tradition has only existed for three years, this shows a broader trend of increased engagement between the Academy and parents.

Parent participation has increased dramatically since the creation of the Parent Giving Team. According to statistics available on the givecampus.org website, from the 2014-2015 school year to 2017-2018, overall participation has increased by over 15 percent, while the total amount raised through

donations is almost 90 percent higher—from \$925,000 to \$1,771,000. So far this year, 64.5 percent of parents have given and the last day to give is June 30.

The Director of Parent Giving Office, Laura Schwartz, ’82, P’20, P’22, expressed that the school first started making a concerted effort to connect with parents six years ago. While originally included as part of the Exeter Fund Office, Schwartz explained that the Parent Giving Office was created separately to better serve the individual needs of parents. “Alumni and parents are just engaged in a different way. But it’s also really important for parents to feel connected to the school and connected to each other,” she said.

Schwartz noted that while many parents previously knew other parents at the schools their kids used to attend, this often changes when they switch to Exeter—and this makes it especially important to maintain a connection to the school. Parent events help achieve this, Ally Goddard, Assistant Director of Parent and Alumni Relations, pointed out. “We go all over the country and the world promoting parent events to connect parents to one another and the Academy. We even bring faculty

and Principal Rawson on the road so they can hear from the school as well. Especially when they’re far away, it’s really nice to have that touch from Exeter,” she said.

Associate Director of Parent Giving, Jennifer Fogel added that parent giving events also serve as a line of communication between parents and the Academy. “I think it’s very important for the faculty and the Principal to hear from the parents what their concerns are—what they like that the school’s doing and what they’d like it to do differently,” Fogel said.

The members of the institutional advancement team emphasized that donations of any size are important, and that parent participation is of the utmost importance to show that parents are supporting the school. “We receive donations of all sizes, from five dollars to \$500,000. We just hope everyone participates in any way they can,” Schwartz said.

Among parents, there seem to be a wide variety of reasons to donate. For example, Tracy Richmond, P’20, noted that donations are important in ensuring that students of all walks of life can attend Exeter.

Karla Shetreet, P’20, P’21, added that

gifts are also a token of gratitude and appreciation for the work the school does for her children. Michael Gomez, P’20 agreed, saying “we all have kids at Exeter, so it’s important that we do all we can to support them.”

Students also seem to be satisfied in the ways they’ve been able to participate. Many parents may recognize the video that came out in conjunction with the Day of Parent Giving campaign, a collaboration between the Student Alumni Relations council and Parent Giving team that featured the council wearing flamboyantly colored sunglasses under the caption Bright Futures.

The council also gets to propose ideas for the small student gifts that come after the Parent Day of Giving goal is met. This year’s Bright Future theme was well received—Nick Schwarz, an upper, commented that the bamboo sunglasses students received were “fly as heck.”

Overall, the Exeter community seems to have embraced parent giving with open arms. Gomez summed it up nicely, saying, “I’m biased, because I love Exeter and all its done for my kids—but I think what they’re doing is really positive.”

## Assembly Committee Implements Assembly Format Changes

By TINA HUANG  
and FELIX YEUNG  
Staff Writers

Assembly Committee Chair and English Instructor Alex Myers sent a campus-wide email last month officially inviting student organizations to host assemblies next year. “I want assembly to be inclusive, to be transparent, to involve student groups, faculty departments and staff organizations,” Myers said. “This seems like a place to start.”

The vast majority of assemblies in recent years have featured guest speakers. While some view student-run assemblies as a valuable opportunity to access the diverse talents and perspectives of the PEA community, others find it to be an unnecessary use of students’ valuable time.

Myers described this initiative as part of the Assembly Committee’s larger effort to build “a ‘season’ of assemblies that represents the range of interests and experiences at Exeter.”

Myers noted additional structural changes in his email, including the shortening of assemblies by ten minutes to make time for recently implemented attendance checks and the possibility of ten-minute half assemblies. “Half assem-

blies seemed like a good way to get more groups on the stage—often, we hear from clubs who want to make a video or have an extended announcement,” he said. “This could be a way to accommodate that.”

The Assembly Committee has selected four themes for next year’s assemblies: Knowledge and Goodness, Equity and Inclusion, Building Connections and The Journey. “Our goals are to use the assembly program to build a sense of community, explore and engage with our shared values and educate the students on a wide variety of topics,” Myers said. “The themes were chosen because they seemed central to the school’s mission and values and also, somewhat, unexplored.”

Myers noted that student assembly requests would be evaluated based on their relevance to these themes.

Religion Instructor and Assembly Committee member Thomas Simpson emphasized the importance of offering a mixed program. “Assemblies offer a special opportunity for the community to gather, so it’s important for the overall program to be diverse, dynamic and generative of meaningful conversation and reflection,” he said. “As a committee, we have been working hard to solicit ideas from a wide

range of people.”

Lower and co-head of Random Acts of Kindness William Vietor believes the mission of his club ties in well with the assembly themes of Knowledge and Goodness and Building Connections. “We thought that the themes really embodied what Random Acts of Kindness stands for, and we’re excited to share that with the greater Exeter community,” Vietor said. “I’m really glad we had the opportunity to make that request in the first place.”

Some voiced concern about the short time frame in which clubs could submit assembly proposals. “I would say, because of the short time frame, [my club wasn’t] able to fully form a proposal or even a plan for what the assembly would be apart from informal brainstorming,” upper and DRAMAT co-head Paula Perez-Glassner said.

Others questioned the reasoning behind the shorter assembly block. “It seems counterproductive. They implemented the attendance check to have students come to assembly and listen to these speakers,” lower Isa Matsubayashi said. “If you’re spending so much effort on that, why shorten it? Why pay to bring in a speaker, only for them to speak for twenty minutes?”

Music Instructor Kristofer Johnson agreed. “We try to keep [Music Department] assemblies tight regardless, but this will undoubtedly put a little bit more pressure on making sure that we’ve pro-

grammed well and we’re not wasting time on stage,” he said.

Biology Instructor Townley Chisholm believed there were alternatives to reducing the length of assemblies. “Assembly is a tremendously important time for the whole school community to gather and experience a speaker or event together,” he said. “[I] would support moving to assigned seats so that attendance can be taken much faster.”

Nevertheless, students are optimistic about the new initiative. “I feel that the new process is a lot more orderly and organized and will hopefully lead to higher quality assemblies overall,” upper Thomas Wang said.

Upper Penny Brant shared similar sentiments. “I’m actually very happy to see this change as I think it’s a way of making student voices more prominent in the community. Assembly is an event where the entire Exeter community comes together, [but] not everyone on campus is aware of what different clubs and student groups are focusing on,” she said.

The Assembly Committee hopes their changes for next year’s program will open the Exeter community up to new experiences while staying true to the purpose and tradition of assembly. “[We] have [tried] to preserve what’s best about the assembly program while being open to what might strengthen the community’s commitment to it,” Simpson said.

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# Community Discusses and Reflects on Sexual Assault Sit-In

Continued from **SIT-IN, 1**

ing student voices in order to enact positive change. “Some of the issues are difficult, and some of my answers did not make students feel heard, but I care deeply and will keep trying to listen,” he said.

Lasley expressed her appreciation for Rawson’s efforts. “I know he didn’t answer perfectly. I think it’s pretty hard to stand up in front of 200 people and say everything you want to say in the way you hope to say it,” she said.

## How It Began

News of the Thursday sit-in spread quickly through Instagram stories late Wednesday evening. Many organizers and attendees appended their announcement, with a clarification that the protest was not regarding one specific case.

At 12:50 p.m., students began to congregate inside the Principal’s Office; however, as more students joined the crowd, the line wound down the staircase and out of the building. After brief confusion, the protest was relocated to the quad at approximately 1:15 p.m.

In an effort to be more easily heard, Rawson stood on a chair and delivered initial remarks, in which he emphasized that his administration values all students equally. Then, Rawson proceeded to outline the current PEA policy for responding to reports of sexual misconduct.

Following Rawson’s opening speech, students began raising their hands to pose questions to Rawson regarding the Academy’s current process for dealing with sexual misconduct as well as Rawson’s understanding and definitions of consent.

Some students asked about the validity of the current process; specifically, many voiced concerns about Principal’s Discretion, given their impression that Rawson did not appear to have received formal training regarding consent or sexual assault. Rawson, however, expressed confidence in his training, which included a session on the subject at a National Association of Independent Schools conference this spring and independent reading before coming to Exeter.

Senior Anna Clark recalled inquiring whether or not the investigation process aligned with the Academy’s affirmative consent policy. “You acknowledged that any sexual interaction that does not involve affirmative, verbal, non-coerced consent constitutes sexual misconduct,” she remembered asking. “Are you then saying that any reported case for which you decide on a non-disciplinary response was in fact based on a sexual interaction that did involve affirmative, verbal, non-coerced, continuous consent and that you do not believe the survivor?”

“To this question, Principal Rawson responded, ‘Yes,’” Clark said.

Senior Nat Love said that this was one of the most memorable responses from Rawson out of the entire protest. “I was so shocked,” she said.

During the protest, others expressed that reporting students did not receive adequate support from the Academy during and after the investigation process, often citing their own stories. About an hour into the sit-in, Rawson asked the crowd if they perceived that sexual assault was happening on campus on a regular basis. The crowd responded with a loud yes.

Collins noticed a shift in Rawson’s manner of addressing the crowd once he noted the protest’s significance. “I felt that there was a point in the afternoon in which he realized ... we were there to see change,” she said.

For some adults in the community, the perceived scale of unreported cases was surprising, according to Lasley. “There seemed to be really strong agreement in the group that sexual assault is happening all the time, every day on this campus,” she said. “I found this distressing. Equally distressing was the sentiment that there is discomfort in reporting and the feeling that reports would be overlooked; it is critical that we address this disconnect.”

## Impetus For Protest

A point of tension surrounding the protest was the question of whether one specific case fueled its organization.

Senior Hanna Pak explained that she attended the sit-in because of the way in which the Academy has handled cases of sexual assault in her four years at Exeter, as demonstrated by highly-publicized cases.

Others, like senior and EASA co-head Jane Collins, wanted to highlight the ubiquitous nature of sexual assault on campus. “I decided to attend the sit-in because I wanted to show my peers that I was with them, that I

believed survivors and that everyone deserved a process in which they were treated fairly,” she said.

Classics Instructor Matthew Hartnett doubted whether the sit-in was truly to protest a long-term trend. “There was a certain disingenuousness about it in that the stated purpose—to clarify policy—did not seem to be the aim of most of the questions and statements I heard,” Hartnett said.

Love, meanwhile, recalled how at the sit-in, Rawson, despite students repeating that they had not attended the sit-in because of a specific case, seemed to assume that anyways.

Another concern, upper Nicholas Schwarz asserted, was the tone used by the protesters. “I think that the bottom line is most of what the sit-in set out to accomplish was a good thing and most of what it in fact did accomplish was a good thing,” he said. “I just think it’s worth pointing out it could have been significantly better in some ways, if the students who lacked self-restraint and were

include an art show and a video to broadcast stories of survivors. To create the video, lower Audrey Yin posted a Google form on social media and received over 40 submissions, 36 of which were stories.

From her experience creating the video, she learned the extent of sexual assault throughout campus. “I learned that sexual assault can happen to everyone and can affect everyone,” she said. “Whether you support the sit-in or not, this is a people issue.”

Lower and co-producer JaQ Lai hopes to highlight the importance of students’ emotional wellbeing. “In my mind, this is an effort to emphasize that sexual assault is ultimately about the emotional impact on those who report instances of misconduct,” he said.

A group of seven students presented a list of demands to Rawson, Lasley and Director of Equity and Inclusion Stephanie Bramlett at a meeting on Wednesday, May 15. The suggestions in the proposal include amending the definition of consent and implementing



Students congregate in front of J. Smith for the sit-in.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

disrespectful had not directed their anger towards the wrong people.”

## After the Sit-in

Principal Rawson continued to meet with students on Friday morning in the Assembly Hall in lieu of regular assembly programming. Additional support from Counseling Services, Religious Services and the Office of Multicultural Affairs was also available. The Q&A session with Rawson continued from 9:50 a.m., the beginning of assembly, until 11:35 a.m., the end of A format.

At Friday’s assembly, Rawson verbally committed that his administration would set and announce specific goals with their timelines as to how they planned to help resolve student concerns.

Senior and EASA co-head Grace Carroll remarked that some credit is due to Rawson’s ability to lean in. “I think he’s proven since the incident has occurred that he definitely has not tried to move away from the protest or tried to move on from it, which I think is really important,” she said. “And I do credit him there.”

On the other hand, Carroll noted that, at times, Rawson missed the students’ concerns. “He wasn’t validating the nature of the anger and the nature of the issues that we were trying to raise,” she said. “At its heart, this is not a question of students versus the administration. I think anytime it is phrased as students versus the administration, it’s going to hugely detract from the truth. Our intent in engaging in dialogue is to find a solution.”

Senior Niko Amber expressed that she wished Rawson had been more prepared. “I really wish that Principal Rawson prepared a statement for the assembly. I’m glad he’s answering our questions, but in some ways I think his answers to questions dug himself into a deeper hole because he wasn’t prepared,” she said. “I didn’t disagree with everything he said, but his tone was very defensive, which I found disappointing.”

## Student-driven Initiatives

Students independently arranged events to digest the sit-in. One of these was a meeting led by EASA, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day (MLK Day) Committee and the student organizers of the protest.

Lower Nahla Owens expressed that the meeting properly harnessed the student body’s post sit-in sentiments and channelled them into creating a feasible action plan for the Academy. “I felt that the club meetings after were incredibly productive in turning all of the hurt and anger and passion into a concrete list of doable requests,” she said.

Other student efforts after the sit-in

a zero-tolerance policy; for the Principal to undergo sexual misconduct training, should Principal’s Discretion remain; the creation of a council of Deans and Faculty, nominated and approved by students, to decide disciplinary outcomes, modeled after the current disciplinary process; the release of reporting statistics, including number of reports, fully realized investigations and the gender, grade and race of all parties involved; more clarity and agency for the involved students and the extension of Dean’s Leave to include continued emotional, not just physical, harm.

## Campus-wide Reflection

In the wake of the sit-in, many parties on campus reflected upon the day’s events.

Pak questioned Rawson’s words at the sit-in. “A reaffirmation of the school’s values is not an answer to a question of how you’re going to change,” she said.

Love similarly expressed disappointment at many of the answers that Rawson provided as well as his tone. “He went into full lawyer attack mode,” she said. “That was the wrong message to send when you’re standing in front of students because as a principal and as students, we’re all working towards the same end of bettering the school.”

Meanwhile, lower Alec Tracey said that, while he was dissatisfied by some of Rawson’s responses, he acknowledged that it may have been a difficult situation for Rawson to handle. “I get that he’s trying to appeal to everyone as principal,” Tracey said. “It’s hard to say what the right thing to do was in that situation.”

More than anything, senior Nkemjika Emenike hopes that the administration prioritizes each student’s wellbeing over the appearance of the administration. “I have seen the school try to cover up misconduct, and I don’t want to hear about it only when The Boston Globe points it out,” she said.

All in all, senior Ingrid Bergill felt that the sit-in facilitated new dialogue that had not yet occurred during her four years at Exeter. “I think that one thing that the sit-in did accomplish is that we got more information about the process, and we got some answers to questions, though many weren’t answered because of legal issues,” she said. She described it as “the biggest step” she’s seen in her time at Exeter.

English Instructor and EASA advisor Barbara Desmond commented, “I was struck by students’ raw anger and by Principal Rawson’s endurance and willingness to circle back and reconsider some of his answers,” she said.

Other teachers felt that the protest was not a forum conducive to constructive dialogue and as a result, will not facilitate trust in

the community. “I just don’t think the whole setup was fair,” Hartnett said. “I think it was like an ambush in a way.”

Hartnett took issue with the questions’ spirit, as they did not consider the adults working to improve the Academy. “I was struck by the tone of many of the questions, which I thought was disrespectful,” he said. “It’s hard from where I sit because I see a whole lot of adults and administrators putting an enormous amount of care and thought and effort into getting these policies right and listening to students; they’re well meaning.”

Additionally, senior Zachary Spencer noted that some students may have presumed the intent of policies. “I assumed that ... the schools policy is there for good reasons until we can determine otherwise,” Spencer said. “People, in their emotions, tend to jump to the worst possible accusation.”

Modern Languages Instructor Amadou Talla explained that, after the sit-in, he hopes that the Academy community can rebuild trust. “I believe listening to one another is at the core of that work,” he said.

## Looking to the Future

Upon reflecting on the state of the Academy, many have plans for future initiatives.

For instance, counseling services have created an updated reporting protocol—in the works since before the sit-in—that outlines both the legal and administrative response following a report of sexual misconduct. “The updated protocol clarifies the steps that are involved to ensure clear communication, strong support and fair treatment of all parties,” Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Szu-Hui Lee said. “The reporting process is emotionally difficult and inherently complicated, so a roadmap is grounding.”

Other changes, both large and small, are on the table, according to Lasley. From collaboration between students and the administration, Lasley believes that the Academy will make efforts to improve. “I feel like we can have some really concrete action items mapped out before the end of the year as well as long term changes. We had a positive and productive meeting Wednesday afternoon with students who walked us through some very thoughtful proposals.”

While senior Sophie Bunnell, co-organizer of the sit-in, hopes that student proposals will be implemented, she will also look for a campus-wide culture shift. “There are a lot of changes I hope to see implemented on campus moving forward,” she said. “I think that, as long as we continue this dialogue and hold those in positions of power accountable, we can maintain the same pushing force behind this issue that we currently have.”

Alumni are also looking for changes in the Academy’s consideration of sexual misconduct. Phillips Exeter Alumni for Truth and Healing (PATH) sent a letter to Rawson outlining their concerns and actions they would like to see Exeter take. “Exeter has undermined the relationship with PATH that both parties facilitated, beginning with Lisa MacFarlane’s tenure,” the letter read. “Only by taking care of current survivors sincerely can Exeter claim it is working towards culture change to ensure that Exeter is a safe place for youth from all quarters and that Exeter itself is a true leader in the elite preparatory school world.”

Reflecting upon the sit-in and the following events, upper Khine Win remarked that she hopes the sit-in has strengthened broader campus awareness around sexual assault. “Everyone needs to be aware of improving themselves, and students need to remember that they have an active role in the culture,” she said.

The next steps for the administration, Rawson described, will be developing a work plan to address school culture; education and training; reducing barriers to reporting; ways to support students through and after an investigative process and how the administration conducts investigations and makes decisions. “We want broad participation in this work from adults and students,” he said. “We all need to be a part of this work.”

Dean of Academic Affairs Brooks Moriarty pinpointed trust as one of the administration’s foremost concerns. “One thing that is clear ... trust is a real problem,” he said. “We need to work on that.”

Rawson described his vision for Academy a year into the future. “A year from now, I want students to feel that, collectively, we did things that really changed the school for the better,” he said. “I want students to feel, starting right now, that the conversation has shifted, that we are creating more trust and that we are headed in a better direction.”

# Exonians Provide Feedback on Sexual Assault Process Protocol

Continued from **POLICY, 1**

porting can be a very daunting thing ... This protocol allows students to envision how the reporting process will occur,” she said.

EASA co-head and senior Jane Collins explained that several EASA members had walked students through the reporting process before. “The reporting process puts students in a hard situation, because if they ask a faculty or a student over 18, [then those students] are mandated reporters and must

tell the school,” she said. “That means that they have only their friends to confide in and ask for clarification on the process. Some of the EASA leaders have served this role, but often we don’t know all of the details of the process.”

Upper Janalie Cobb believes the protocol “introduces accountability.” She continued, “Before, it often seemed that the administration acted like there was a protocol, but there was no way to confirm each step ... This way, when students want to amend the process,

there is a tangible document to edit.”

The Academy has made other initiatives in the past to clarify the reporting process. Collins recalled a flow chart that was pinned up in every dorm a few years ago, detailing steps to take when sexual misconduct takes place.

Compared to the flow chart, the written protocol details the reporting process in greater depth, Cobb explained. “The fact that the protocol is 46 pages should show everyone

that it is more detailed than the single page flowchart,” she said.

Gray believes this initiative is integral to the Academy’s larger progress on clarifying the reporting process. “My main takeaway is that Exeter’s problems with handling sexual misconduct are greater than one person,” she said. “We must address every person involved in this process, including past and present students and adults, to achieve holistic improvement.”





# ExonianHumor



## How to Handle the APs

By FIONA MADRID  
*Actually Tries Her Hardest*

1. Instead of studying what you don't know, just solidify what you do know. Typically, you don't actually have to get a high percentage to get a five. The curve is wicked high. And if you practice the 60% of categories you're actually comfortable with (to a point where you could never get one question wrong) you should be good.
2. Mess up your whole test by forgetting to bring #2 pencils. At that point, just don't fill in your name. Whoever said a one was the lowest score you could get was caught in last season, my friend. Just be the one person to get a zero, the you'll finally find that one way you stand out.
3. Get really sick, like have a seizure, during the exam so that your score is cancelled. (If you know, you know)
4. Bribe someone in your testing room to cheat so that your score is cancelled, but it's not actually your fault.
5. In your free response, plagiarize sonnet 18, except adapt it to fit whatever subject you're taking
6. If you're taking a math AP, just doodle a bunch of random numbers on the back and hope that they're significant so the sketchy MIT math guys recruit you. #yesiwatchglee #amiproud? #sometimes
7. If you feel like you're rushing, stop and take a deep breath. Do you guys remember prep health? I do. It taught me the importance of meditation and mental health. So, if you feel yourself start to wander off, don't send your thoughts away. Accept them. Acknowledge them. And focus on your breath. Feel the contact of your body with your chair. Send away the crippling anxiety to your surroundings. The AP is no longer important. Just breathe. At least, this is what my meditation app tells me to do. Probably why I have such a high GPA XD
8. Discuss what was on the AP in a finsta post and tag college board.
9. Really, the AP doesn't matter. It doesn't affect your GPA, so what's the point. Focus on your day-to-day homework and major assignment before you even look at a practice question. College credit? Unimportant. Live for the now. Tunnel vision, amirite?
10. Don't take the AP. Fun fact: no American schools actually require them.

## TFW Your "Mother's Secret" Blossoms

By NICK SCHWARZ  
*Can Relate*



To clarify:

Using the TFW meme is an Exonian Humor weekly tradition.

That's why you see it every week.

You don't like it, WRITE FOR HUMOR

## Dorm Cancels Tea, (Don't Say and That's the Tea, Just Don't, It's Too Easy)... and That's the Tea

By NICK SCHWARZ  
*Broke His Own Rule About "Obvious Jokes"*

A shocking development from Southside earlier today: an unidentified girls' dorm has opted not to hold its annual dorm tea. Said a resident faculty member, "You know, it just dawned on me: where did this tradition come from? It just seems to be something we've just assumed we would always do, because that's what happens in other dorms."

Added a proctor, "It seemed like a weird thing, it's a somewhat expensive dorm event we take for granted."

Most of the dorm, caught by surprise, was not pleased. "This means no gratuitous Instagram photos in sundresses, with over-used tea puns and jokes about how our dormmate is our real date," complained a Lower.

"No spring is complete without playing Spikeball in grass-stained J-Crew shorts," agreed an Upper.

Even students outside anti-tea dorm expressed their surprise. "Some dorm is getting rid of its tea? Gee, this place will be a mess once I'm gone," said Senior Miranda Derossi. "But that's none of my business," she added, turning and taking a swig of tea.

## How to Watch *The Bachelorette*

By FIONA MADRID  
*For Ms. Dean*

This Monday was a pretty good day for me. My dad watched my lacrosse practice and took a few kids to Capital Thai. I didn't have much homework because the AP Calculus test got me out of all my classes—and we all know that no one studies for APs. The day was coming to a nice close. I lay sprawled on the common room floor, watching Jeopardy and answering some pretty tough ones if I do say so myself.

But then, I heard Ms. Dean's voice down the hallway. Never have I ever felt so much disappointment as when Ms. Dean strolled into the common room, asked "Oh is Jeopardy over?" and changed the channel to the season premiere of *The Bachelorette*. My day, my beautiful day, was now going to end on a reality dating show.

I decided should sit on the couch, which offered the worst view of the TV in the whole com-

mon room so I could "do Latin homework." But as my frustration with how Ovid depicted Polyphemus grew, I found myself looking at the screen. They had just begun to introduce the men, and so naturally, there was a shirtless man on the screen playing with a cute pup at the beach.

"Pup!" I squealed.

"No! He's just using it as a prop," someone else in the common room said. And suddenly, we all hated the man with a cute dog. The next man was showing us around his farm, pointing at his cows and saying things like, "these are the closest things I have to girlfriends." This sparked an automatic response from the common room. On top of that, Ms. Dean commented that he seemed inauthentic. "What farmer wears a leather jacket with a scarf in a barn? This seems fishy." It was a strange idea, that we could all pass

judgements not based on the men, but based on the way they were trying to present themselves. This struck me.

And then I realized where I had seen this before: The Hunger Games (also, the race for presidency, but it be like that). *The Bachelorette* contestants use all the same tactics of getting fan support as the tributes use to get sponsors. Exploiting their family members, pets and traumas.

As I came to this conclusion, I began to imagine all of the girls in the common room wearing the crazy Capitol outfits. We were in The Hunger Games and the men were fighting to the death for a woman. It made watching the *Bachelorette* more entertaining, and after inserting myself in the alternate reality, I hated myself a little less for being so captivated by the show. My childhood self got to relive some excitement.

## The Club Sport Starter Pack

By RYAN XIE

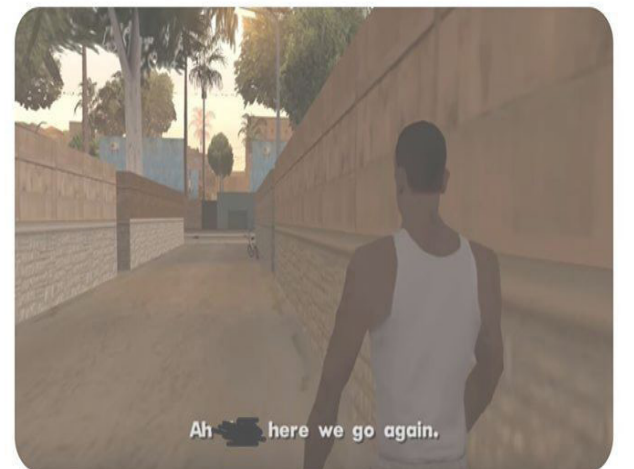
*PEC 131: Ultimate Frisbee*

1. The kid who never comes and never gets dicked
2. The kid who didn't come one time and got a dickey
3. The one who's really good at the sport
4. The one who seems like they're good but is not actually good when you put them into perspective with interscholastic teams
5. The group of friends who only come as a group or only dick as a group
6. The one prep who has to do a club sport because spaz doesn't work with his/her schedule
7. The kid who is trying to switch out of the sport
8. The try hard

## WeeFee

By RYAN XIE  
*Stillwells*

Exonians when PEAGuest is down



## Quotes of the Week

"Jeremy Xu could lie in 15 different languages."

-Ginny Little '20

"My parents don't love me when I'm mad."

-Abby Asch '21

"I feel like you should have an allergy to grass or something."

-Chloe Minicucci '21

Sam Lew: "What's a GMO?"

Gabe Wong: "What? Oh, Sam... It's a potato chip flavor."

"I was gonna skip my French AP, but then I realized I hadn't done my bio homework."

-Mai Hoang '20

"Hey, you're not Jesus."

-Jade Goulet '20





Mia Kuromaru '20, Isa Matsubayashi '21, Haruka Masamura '21 and Michael Singer '20 take a picture with visiting poet.

Courtesy Isa Matsubayashi

## POET G YAMAZAWA PERFORMS SPOKEN WORD

By ANNE BRANDES and  
LINA HUANG  
Staff Writers

The wooden beads of George Yamazawa's necklace gleamed in the assembly stage spotlight as his voice boomed across the Assembly Hall.

Born in Durham, North Carolina, Yamazawa is one of the top young spoken word artists in the country. He has already been honored as a Kundiman Fellow, National Poetry Slam Finalist, two-time Southern Fried Champion, two-time Individual World Poetry Slam Finalist, and has ranked second at the Ontario International Poetry Slam.

This past Friday marked the fourth time Yamazawa has performed on campus. Assistant Director of Student Activities Kelly McGahie called his first performance at Exeter "captivating."

"The first time I tried to bring him here, the school said that they would love to have him come for MLK day and do a workshop," she said. "He performed a poetry set in the Assembly Hall for the students [during the evening]." McGahie asked Word!, Exeter's spoken

word club, to perform alongside Yamazawa. Upper Elizabeth Kostina enjoyed the opportunity to work with Yamazawa and the resulting artistic bond. "Performing was a great way to connect with G on a more personal level since slam poetry is very personal to the author," Kostina said.

Kostina also noted that inviting poets like Yamazawa is an important part of Exeter's devotion to the arts. "Getting someone to come here, pay their expenses, etc. is not easy and it does allude to the fact that Exeter is very capable of supporting these performers," Kostina said. "The fact that these performers agree to come here is also amazing because it means that Exeter has an audience for that performer, which speaks to the huge spectrum of people at this campus and that the artist's work will be appreciated. In that sense, there is a 'support' system for performers due to the diverse population of this campus."

Audience members praised Yamazawa's performance. Kostina explained that the quality of his performance forged a connection with the audience. "He has this rapid-fire delivery which stems from his rap background, but it is

a great performance technique," Kostina said. "Listening to him talk and interweave personal anecdotes into his in-between bits of poetry and then switching to his slam which is also so personal and provides an amazing window to understand him...listening to him makes you feel like you've got the inside of the joke."

Lower Julia Dobbins also enjoyed the student performers and the issues they touched on in their works. "It takes incredible courage to get up onstage and say what they said. They raised our awareness for real issues through slam poetry," Dobbins said. "They poured their hearts out that night and it was amazing to experience."

Dobbins noted Yamazawa's smooth transition between poems. "I really enjoyed that he wasn't going from poem to poem," Dobbins said. "He flowed into each poem he planned to perform by using conversation as a transition. Hearing him talk in between poems made him a very down-to-earth and enjoyable performer to watch."

Some were moved by the topics of his poems, as prep Josephine Elting said, "He was

telling you a lot of important ideas that people try to tell you throughout your entire life in such a short amount of time and this was really effective way of doing it. I took out of it knowing who you are and being aware that you are who you are and some people might judge you for that for different reasons, not necessarily bad reasons, and that you just need to know that and do your best to be who you are and the person you want to become."

Prep Jacob David enjoyed Yamazawa's unique style of performing. "While his spoken word performance was astounding, I most enjoyed his casual storytelling," he said. "It felt like we were engaging in conversation with him."

At the core of his performance, Yamazawa explained, is his love of human connection. "I do this because I love like human connectivity," he said. "I think I've learned how to ensure every person feels part of the conversation. I think the fluidness in which I try to treat the audience comes from years of performing. As a listener, I know how it feels to want to feel engaged with the artist of stage."

## PUZZLE HUNT

By JACK ARCHER and AMY LUM  
Staff Writers

On Friday, the Forum was packed with students on the edge of their seats as they waited for the official beginning of the 2019 PEA Puzzle Hunt. The Hunt, a weekend of puzzles and mysteries, challenged multiple teams to split off into their allocated rooms and to spend the next few days cracking puzzles. The event ended on Sunday evening with five teams finishing and Team Zucchini Fam taking first place.

Puzzle Hunt is a student-run event based around solving increasingly difficult puzzles. Answers from past riddles are used to solve later ones, which ultimately lead to one final mystery, the "Meta Meta."

The preparation for this event began at the end of last Spring, when the PEA Puzzle Hunt Headquarters (HQ) team was decided. Led by Seniors Andrew Loevinger and Miranda Derossi, members of HQ instantly began writing puzzles and planning out the storyline. "A good amount of preparation went into this year's hunt," HQ member and senior Bryce Morales said. "The past week or two, we've really [been] putting in lots of time finishing the puzzles and putting everything together."

Since its inception four years ago, Puzzle Hunt has received very positive feedback. "[Puzzle Hunt] is a very popular event, with over 100 people participating," Student Activities Director Joanne Lembo said. "All the storylines are thought up by the Puzzle Hunt organizers. The adults are involved only to chaperone and help with logistics."

Both students who were new to the Puzzle scene and experienced solvers had a good time this year. Upper Penny Brant appreciated the opportunity to participate in the event for the very first time. "Originally, I didn't want to participate in Puzzle Hunt because it was AP weekend, but, I ended up going to just see what it was. It turned out to be a very fulfilling and educational experience that I was really happy to get."

Upper Alta Magruder expressed her appreciation for the break Puzzle Hunt gave her. "Exeter is stressful. You're constantly using your mental brain power," she said. "Sometimes, you need to use your brainpower for something good. You have to use

your brain and your mental capacity for fun stuff and Puzzle Hunt is one of them."

Three-time Puzzle Hunt participant and upper Claudia Sanchez agreed. "Puzzle Hunt always exceeds my expectations. Prep year, I was a bit over my head, but, each year we've been doing it, we get more of an idea of how to go about solving problems," they said. "It's really just a great experience to spend time with my friends [and] even though it's mentally exhausting, it's really fun."

Derossi mentioned that one of her favorite aspects of the PEA Puzzle Hunt is that people can choose [to] dedicate as much time as they want to solve puzzles. "One of the greatest things about Puzzle Hunt is that it's as much commitment as you want. If puzzles aren't really your thing, you can just go in with a group of friends and try for like an hour or two and then stop. But if you're really into it, you can keep going for the whole weekend. It's really just a way to spend time with your friends, in the same room, just trying to solve puzzles."

Four-time Puzzle Hunt participant and senior Piper Bau echoed Derossi's statement. "I really like being in the same room as my friends and working together to figure something out," she said. "There's something really fun about the environment in the room you solve puzzles in. Puzzle Hunt isn't something you can do by yourself; you have to do it with other people."

To some, Puzzle Hunt has more significance than a game. "[Puzzle Hunt] teaches you the values of thinking outside the box," Brant said. "I think a lot of the time, things are very straightforward here, but Puzzle Hunt makes you think differently. It's really fun to get to know the people on your team, especially if you have a bunch of people from different backgrounds."

Sanchez also encourages new puzzlers to join future hunts. "[The PEA] puzzle hunt is really just one of the best weekends of Exeter, of the whole year. If you can get a group of your friends together and do it, it doesn't matter if you don't completely know what you're doing, HQ will make sure you have a fun time and will help you along. Just getting one puzzle done is a great experience."

## TRENDWATCH

By LEAH COHEN and RAMYANEE MUKHERJEE  
Sports Editor and Guest Contributor

Hey, Exeter!

If you read our column two weeks ago, you know that we were anxiously waiting for the Met Gala. This year's theme was "Camp: Notes on Fashion." Camp, an ambiguous term, can be interpreted as a mix of pop culture and high fashion — think bold fonts, neon colors and outlandish shapes.

The exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum opened to the public last week and houses over 250 pieces, including garments dating back 400 years. "Camp: Notes on Fashion" explores what camp is, how it came to be, and the people who define the over-the-top aesthetic. But while us normal people were waiting for an inside peek of the gallery, we had to settle for watching celebrities, designers, and models galore strut their camp up the pink runway of the Met.

After looking through nearly every look, we have compiled a list of our favorites, those who missed the mark and our honorable mentions. We'll start with our favorites — the stars who were not afraid to completely embrace the night's theme and go crazy with their look.

Broadway actor Billy Porter and Grammy award-winning singer Lady Gaga proved to be the best dressed everyone will be talking about. Porter arrived in style on a litter with six shirtless men on either side to carry him. His golden outfit complete with 10-foot wings and a 24-karat gold headpiece was a nod to Ancient Egypt. Before the event, Porter gave Vogue an exclusive interview about his look and described what "camp" means to him. "Camp is often used as a pejorative," Porter said. "What I love about having it at the Met Gala, and contextualizing camp, is [that] it brings honor to a word and genre that can be discounted very often or thought of as cheesy. When it's done properly, it's one of the highest forms of fashion and art."

Next on the carpet was Lady Gaga, with what people are calling "the greatest Met Gala entrance of all time." Gaga's 15-minute long entrance showcased four different outfit changes. The singer arrived in a poofing hot pink cape complete with a matching oversized pink bow. Walking up the carpet, Gaga stripped off the cape to reveal a simple black gown underneath. But she wasn't finished; with her black dress off, she revealed a tight-fitting, long hot pink dress

again. Gaga whipped out a retro cellphone — a possible nod to her 2009 pop hit "Telephone." For the grand finale, Gaga stripped off her last layer to expose black crystal lingerie complete with matching platform boots. Throughout her costume changes, Gaga's over the top gold lashes definitely beat out everyone else's makeup for the night. With her entrance, Gaga proved that she is and always has been a "camp" icon.

Now for the stars who didn't quite get the theme: model Karlie Kloss who rolled up to the carpet in a mini gold tube dress with black puffy sleeves. Kloss, who usually is dressed to the nines, didn't get the "camp" memo. The model looked like she was ready to head off to a college sorority party — not the Met Gala. Next up: actress Emma Stone. Styled in a Louis Vuitton metallic silver jumpsuit, Stone was dressed for a trip to the moon. With a gold belt strapped across her waist, her outfit was oversized and not in a flattering way.

And to close we have a few who weren't the best dressed, but also not the worst. "Teenage Dream" singer Katy Perry was the "light" of the Gala. We don't really know if we should consider Perry's chandelier outfit "camp" or part of an electric supply store. We just have a question for you Katy: how did you sit down? Her look was definitely not "lit." Lastly, everyone's favorite actress, Zendaya. Always beautiful and classy, Zendaya transformed into Cinderella in a blue ball gown that glowed thanks to Tommy Hilfiger. Normally, we would fast track Zendaya right to the best-dressed list. But, her dress and her idea looked a little too familiar. Flashback to Met Gala 2016 when actress Claire Danes dazzled in a gown by Zac Posen. Both dresses lit up with LED lights and transformed from elegant to exquisite. Well played Zendaya, but Claire Danes definitely won this round.

While we have a whole year until Met Gala 2020, we have more than enough couture and over the top looks to obsess over until then. "Camp" was hands down the best Met Gala theme we've seen so far.

Nearing the end of the year, prom is quickly approaching! Stay tuned for our upcoming prom review.

See you on the path!

XOXO

Leah and Ramyanee



## SeniorSpotlight

## PRISCILLA EHRCOOD

By ERIN CHOI  
Staff Writer

“Going to one specific market made my host mom really happy: she’d get fruit from a specific vendor, and then she’d have these specific apples from that specific person, and then she’d make an apple tart. It was satisfying and fulfilling for her.”

As senior Priscilla Ehrgood recalled her experience as a School Year Abroad (SYA) France participant last year, she mentions that the focus on small choices in France helped her become more spontaneous. “Focusing on the smaller things helped me not get too caught up in a big overall plan,” she said. “If you’re thinking more about what direction your life is going, you don’t really have room to have fun at a market—then it’s just a chore.”

Ehrgood, who came to Exeter four years ago with seemingly fixed plans, will soon graduate having fulfilled her largest initial goals: becoming fluent in French and earning the Classical Diploma. Although “on paper” she may have followed her plan, she will leave campus with heightened appreciation for relationships and the small joys of life. All the while, she has improved the lives of everyone around her with her witty humor and consistent selflessness.

Prep year, Ehrgood had planned out every aspect of her Exeter career. A unique challenge of Ehrgood’s schedule was that she hoped to reach advanced levels of French, Latin and Greek. Having taken both French and Latin in middle school, Ehrgood was intrigued by the structural elements of the different languages. “I’ve always liked patterns and puzzles, and language seemed like a way cooler version of a puzzle,” Ehrgood said. “I loved the introductory levels of both languages because it involved figuring out how self-expression works and examining how a sentence works.”

As she advanced in both languages, Ehrgood’s interests evolved from grammatical structures to cultural and literary insights. Her desire for French language and cultural immersion inspired her to take a huge detour from her original four-year plan with her decision to attend the SYA France program for her upper year. “In my middle school, there was very much a set path that everyone was supposed to follow,” she said. “But then, [when I came] to Exeter and [was] around different types of people from different places with different ideas of what kind of paths were set out for them already was really amazing for me. That was part of the reason I was interested in France.”

Spending a year in France surrounded by both French locals and other American peers prompted her to re-examine her priorities and approach to daily life. Specifically, she



Helena Chen/The Exonian

recalled that she was surprised by the relative insignificance in European culture of success at work. “I remember my English teacher was telling me a story: she had lived in Spain and was trying to explain the difference between an American office and a Spanish office,” Ehrgood said. “She said, ‘Well, in America, you want to come in earlier than asked and stay the latest so that you can look like you’re really dedicated to your job, right? In Spain, if somebody worked overtime, they would ask, why would you do that? You could be doing other things with your life.’”

Ehrgood applied this principle to the focus around work at Exeter. “I think Exeter is very much aligned with the first way [of thinking]. Everybody needs to take on the second way a little more sometimes.”

She noted that being away from PEA for a year helped her recognize how unusually fast-paced and work-centric it was. “It’s so crazy because anytime you want to talk with somebody at Exeter, they always say ‘I only have half an hour, I have to go do this, I’m so stressed about this,’” she said. “But a lot of my friends at SYA didn’t think that school had such a big place in your life. We would just go out and the conversation wouldn’t be about what you’re stressed about; it would just be about how you’re doing. It was refreshing to be around people who thought, school is school, and now, life is life.”

Returning to campus for her senior year, Ehrgood now approaches Exeter life with different priorities. “I emphasized my friendships more in the fall because of my experience in France; I had a better work-life balance than I

had had at Exeter my first two years,” she said.

Ehrgood said she was most delighted to come back to Wheelwright Hall, where she serves as a dormitory proctor. “I’m really happy to have the people in this dorm because a lot of the people are open and kind. We have different interests and paths and social scenes but at the same time, we’re able to come together,” she said. “I was nervous coming back after a year and not knowing two grades but all the new people are awesome.”

Former Wheelwright proctors Clara Lee, Alexis Gorfine and Alexis Lee ’18 recalled that Ehrgood was endlessly generous. “For as long as I’ve known her, even when things are difficult, I’ve never seen her stop being kind,” C. Lee said. “Kindness is a difficult thing to cultivate, but Priscilla has it in spades.”

Gorfine described Ehrgood as a reliable and supportive friend. “She is one of the sweetest and most caring people I’ve ever met,” Gorfine said. “No matter what was going on in her life, she always made time to be there for me, even when she was in France.”

A. Lee said that someone who did not know Ehrgood would probably be able to identify her: “Just enter a room and point to the person who seems most genuinely kind,” she said.

Senior and fellow Wheelwright proctor Michaela Phan also emphasized Ehrgood’s consistent selflessness. “In the dorm, her door is always open to everyone at any time. She’s always there for people,” Phan said. “Despite being so selfless towards others, she still has her own personality.”

A. Lee offered insight into Ehrgood’s unique character, describing her humor as “jokes that I

feel my grandma would really enjoy.”

Meanwhile, English Instructor and Ehrgood’s advisor Barbara Desmond praised Ehrgood’s charisma. “Put her in a common room full of Wheelwright students, [who are] all cranky about a 10 p.m. dorm meeting and eager to get back to their homework, and she can command and hold everyone’s attention,” she said.

In addition, Desmond, who taught Ehrgood for the first time in the Iliad English course, said she appreciated Ehrgood’s “gracious and knowledgeable” presence in the classroom. “Priscilla always has the right thing to say at the right moment, and she pulls it off with so little fanfare. She is humble, but she does not hide,” Desmond said.

Ehrgood has extended her love of learning to others by participating in ESSO Tutoring, through which she teaches French. To further pursue her interest in education outside of Exeter, she has also worked at a nursery and interned for an education non-profit.

She noted that teaching younger students always sparked inspiration and joy for her. “Tutoring French was a lot of fun because I was able to both remember why I like French [...] and to share that with somebody else and have them be excited about it too,” Ehrgood said. “I would feel really proud of the student when she got something right, remembered something or made a connection. I find that really rewarding, being able to teach somebody something and have them be excited about it and feel proud of themselves.”

Ehrgood translated her love of teaching into a passion for education policy reform in the summer after her lower year when she interned at All The Kin, a Connecticut-based nonprofit focusing on helping provide low-income families a good education.

Spurred by this experience, through which she learned about the structural issues in the education system, Ehrgood hopes to pursue a graduate degree so she can become involved in public interest law and help reform education policies. “Certain people at Exeter take a good education for granted, and it’s this really incredible thing that people can get but it’s distributed really unevenly to different populations,” she said. “Realizing the gravity and the greater implications of education during that internship motivated me to pursue education policy instead of just education.”

If Ehrgood is taking one lesson away from Exeter, though, it’s that there is no point in her making another four year plan. “I want to go into college just with a sense of doing things that would make me happy and interest me and then figuring things out from there,” she said. “It’s worked out pretty well.”

## FacultySpotlight

## FERMÍN PÉREZ-ANDREU

By YUNSEO CHOI and FELIX YEUNG  
Staff Writers

Instructor in Modern Languages Fermín Pérez-Andreu has always appreciated the gift of education. “Education can be an equalizer. It is easy for people who have means to have a good education to continue in a very good situation and position in society,” he said. “For people with no means, education is a way for them to get out of that situation.”

Pérez developed this view of education during his childhood years. “Up to when I was five years old, we didn’t have a shower or a bathtub in my house. The political system in Spain, which allows everyone to access public higher education at a very low cost, allowed me to be in a different situation later [in my life],” he said. Pérez was inspired to give back to the community by becoming a teacher after witnessing the immense effects of his own education.

Pérez now believes that education also strengthens the bonds between people. “By having more education, we can have a world where we can listen to each other better. By listening to each other, we have more chances to solve problems,” he said.

As an instructor in Spanish, Pérez strives to create these links by presenting a range of topics in his courses. “Teaching Spanish, especially in the upper levels, you’re getting into different kinds of topics, and that makes it fun,” he said. Pérez has used everything from soap opera-style television series in “The Telenovela,” a course he developed, to dressing up as Miguel de Cervantes on Halloween to teach his students.

Pérez sees humor and performance as defining aspects of his approach to education. “In class, you have to be a little bit of a performer ... There is material to cover, and that is important, but sometimes you have to understand the rhythm of the class and add some [flair],” he said. “You have to have a certain enthusiasm that will become contagious to your students.” Though he sees Harkness as inherently collaborative, Pérez believes that instructors must set the tone of the classroom.

In his attempt to engage students, Pérez created an alter ego: Super Señor. Instructor in Modern Languages Inna Sysevich remembers when this masked warrior helped her when her students were attempting to see the results of a Book Prize early. “They [were] pretending to



Paula Pérez-Glassner/The Exonian

ambush me, and I [was standing guard] with the box. Mr. Pérez happened to look in, and I said, ‘Please come help! I am being ambushed,’” she said. However, Pérez ran off in another direction, leaving Sysevich curious as to what he was doing. “He came back in seconds wearing superman’s outfit—Super Señor. Apparently, [he] had a Superman cape in his closet.”

Pérez also has a now well-known catchphrase that adds to his affability. “It occurred to me to say that [students] should go to bed early because, the next day, they had to be fresco como una lechuga, ‘fresh as lettuce,’” he said. “I noticed that people found it funny, so I had to take advantage of this joke.” Today, numerous alumni say the phrase back to him at reunions.

Pérez’s commitment to engaging students has left them with fond memories. Though he once saw Spanish as just a graduation requirement, senior Jeremy Xu’s class with Pérez changed his approach to the language. “I really started looking forward going to classes every day,” Xu said. “Mr. Pérez is an active teacher, and he is passionate about teaching Spanish.”

Anna Reaman ’18 shared a similar experience with Pérez, who she described as “one of the best teachers I have had [or] will ever have in my lifetime.” As a student, Reaman appreciated his ability to convey the richness of Spanish culture. “[However,] what makes Señor so special is that he truly takes the time to

engage with every one of his students and never fails to bring the light to the classroom,” she said. “Outside of the classroom, Señor greets everyone he sees with an exceptionally large grin and a roaring ‘Hola.’”

Each week in Dow House, students are greeted with this same warmth from Pérez. Prior to his role as a dorm affiliate in Dow, he worked in Wentworth Hall, Webster Hall, Abbott Hall and Ewald Hall. “At dorm activities, he’s present, he’s there with the student, sharing light conversation, making people laugh. He has a really great connection with the students, and that’s impressive,” Dow House Dorm Head and Instructor in Modern Languages Amadou Talla said. “He’s a positive spirit.”

Pérez puts his values on education into other aspects of his life as well. “He has a keen ability to assess what would be a just and productive response to conflict,” his wife, Instructor in Modern Languages Ellen Glassner said. “I trust him fully to give me guidance ... Sr. Pérez really is as truly kind as he seems. He is one of the most sensitive, patient and thoughtful people I know.”

Moreover, Pérez is keenly interested in the arts. “Many years ago, I used to paint with acrylics,” he said. “Then, I started doing work on the computer ... I made designs for posters, t-shirts that people could buy on the Internet.” Currently, he is working on a graphic novel for his classes. While he joked that these endeavors

“are not going to take me out of teaching,” he sees art as another way to appreciate the world around him.

Pérez puts his creative talents to good use when it comes to gift-giving. Instructor in Modern Languages Kayoko Tazawa recalled a gift this “man with many talents” gave her when she had her second child, incoming prep Kevin Tazawa-Goodchild. “When I had a baby, Kevin, [Pérez] painted a picture for him. It is actually still in his bedroom,” she said. “[Pérez] is very creative ... He is a performer, an artist.”

Similarly, Pérez employs his artistic talent in his teachings. According to Tazawa, Pérez’s classroom is furnished with such tools as green screens, costumes and reflecting boards that he makes use of to generate films with his students. “He doesn’t do anything halfway—just look at the quality,” Tazawa said. “We hear the noise all the time, so I am sure his students are having a great time.”

Friends also describe Pérez as an original spirit. History Instructor Bill Jordan reminisced about a game that the two used to play, which they called puffball. The game involved a large foam ball and followed the rules of squash. “It was right on our speed—there was no way we could play squash ... We had no shame. Most people, men especially, would probably be embarrassed to play something like puffball,” he said. “But we were proud.”

Though Pérez is usually very animated, his family knows another side of him. “At home, he is very laid back and just likes to spend time with our dog or reading philosophy books,” his daughter, upper Paula Pérez-Glassner, said. “My best memories with him are going on little adventures together and just driving around, talking in the car, going mini golfing or [getting food from] Las Olas.”

Jordan also admires Pérez’s intellectualism. “He is an intellectual who’s interested in ideas, in thinking about ideas. And he’s not trying to impress somebody to show that he’s smart,” Jordan said. “He’s very down to earth, so he could have these conversations with anybody. That’s the kind of person I like to be with.”

As he ends his twentieth year at the Academy, Pérez’s reason for staying remains the same. “It’s the students,” he said. “Besides the facilities, the professional development opportunities, what I have enjoyed a lot is to have the kind of students that I feel that I can really teach.”



## Dissecting *The Exonian's* CCO Article

Stephen McNulty '21  
Felix Yeung '21  
Columnists

Like many, we looked with interest at the publication of the College Counseling article—we'd heard the rumors of a "hit piece" and vaguely knew about some long-term project. After its release, we realized that students sensationalized the piece. Despite the stated intentions of the Board outlined in Suan Lee's editorial, much of the student body has treated it as a spotlight on corruption in the College Counseling Office (CCO), when it was nothing of the sort. We contend, however, that *The Exonian* made blunders in the presentation of its work that unwittingly empowered the sensationalizers.

To clarify, we defend *The Exonian's* right to pursue an investigation of CCO, particularly in light of Operation Varsity Blues. We appreciate the effort and dedication that went into producing a piece of this depth and length and don't intend to attack any of the piece's authors, all of whom we must presume came into the project with only the best of intentions and pursued the investigation to its fullest. The authors are our peers and friends.

Unfortunately, we contend that the article couldn't be properly described as an investigation into CCO. A quick Ctrl+F search illustrates this well—the name "Dolan" is referenced fifty-three times, while "College Counseling Office" and its shortened form, added together, only get fifty mentions. The name "Hernandez" appears three times, "Terhune" twice, "Manderlink" twice, "Hoven" twice, and "Einhaus" seven times. Furthermore, it includes a prominent section that traces Dolan's time at the Academy. Intent aside, this article reads more like an investigation of one private individual than of a department. To that point: after release, the name on everyone's tongue wasn't Einhaus, Hernandez or Terhune—it was Dolan.

*The Exonian* did explain their focus on Dolan, citing her "long tenure as the Dean of College Counseling and her reputation among students as Exeter's most well-connected counselor" as basis for comparison. Yet, we're unconvinced

that one's reputation or tenure should open them to a personal investigation of this nature. *The Exonian*, being a high school community publication, has obligations that other newspapers don't. We would expect that it not single out, by name, a specific individual for accusations of personal misconduct. The reasons are numerous, but foremost, it hampers the community trust that *The Exonian* should be fostering.

The article also has real consequences for a community member—Dolan herself. A seemingly incriminating investigation, when pulled out of context, could come at steep personal cost, particularly considering that *The Exonian* is available online. Any interested party could access an investigation littered with student rumours. Regardless of whether these claims are substantiated, an article seemingly focused on Dolan could mar her professional standing. We wish that *The Exonian* had limited its contextual background and broadened the article's statistical and anecdotal focus to include other counselors.

Moreover, the article placed purely speculative student quotes near statistically-insignificant results, particularly around parental connections and grade point average. The authors have fair reason here—the article was designed to compare claims to evidence. Unfortunately, it put many readers in a somewhat paranoid mental framework, amplified by the existing drama behind the piece. Thus, many Exonians treated small deviations from the average as validation for the spreading of rumours.

At the same time, many of Dolan's own quotes do not address the statistics themselves. Whatever the reason, no authoritative voice provided commentary on the statistics themselves. *The Exonian*, in giving so much airtight conjecture. Perhaps *The Exonian* could have separated student claims from the statistics entirely in a separate section, delineating it as perception instead of reality.

We further question how *The Exonian* chose to use student quotes to measure opinion instead of a similar survey. If the article's focus was to gauge student perception and compare it to the realities at the CCO, wouldn't an empirical measurement of both be necessary? The

*Exonian's* reliance on certain quotes primed the reader to believe that these sentiments were shared by a majority of the student body, when the reality could've been to the contrary.

The article's statistics are mixed at best. To the paper's credit, some data is quite compelling, especially the section on Trustee assignments. However, other case studies didn't carry the same statistical gravity. Two years of data is not enough time to prove or disprove a perception, particularly in terms of racial bias.

To be fair, *The Exonian* did not attempt to analyze or claim such a pattern. In its place, students did. And this carries some problems, because the graphs looked more alarming than the statistics behind them. On some counts, the difference between the student body makeup and Dolan's counselees, placed in terms of actual counselees, is negligible. Even in the most glaring cases, she was only off the mark by a few students. We don't mean to discount the potential existence of a disparity—rather, we point out that the prevalent student response to some of the data was based on statistically insignificant information that did not show a tremendous disparity to begin with.

It does seem strange to us that an individual, lauded by many faculty members we've spoken to for her commitment to equity, would be biased in selecting counselees. In the end, the reasons may be more complex than they seem—the racial makeup, for instance could've been coincidental. Personal conversation with the article's authors indicate that they might agree. The overarching narrative was a misconstruction of the data that doesn't really fit in with the results or the rest of the article.

In light of that and its special obligations as a community publication, *The Exonian* should've put its data into better context. If they translated the graph into actual counselees, for instance, some of our preconceived notions would have been shattered. Regardless, should only two years of data get a chart to begin with? It is our belief that *The Exonian* should have acknowledged its limitations more formally, pointing out where data sample sizes were small and providing a formal rationale. It

shouldn't have drawn special attention to that less than significant data by placing it in a sizable graph.

Finally, we have questions about the authors' choice to hide their names. Though understandable, anonymous journalism is inconsistent with the pursuit of transparency outlined in Suan Lee's editorial. While the Executive Board may have attempted to protect its staff writers, journalism compels authors to take responsibility for their work and remain open to criticism. Moreover, those staff writers who didn't participate in the article were automatically associated with it by virtue of the byline—and we certainly had no choice in the matter.

For all our criticism of *The Exonian*, we believe that this saga reflects more poorly on the student body's tendency to sensationalize. The Board made an effort to encourage students against misinterpretation of their statistics and to quell vitriolic student reactions through their editorial, which we admire them for, but many failed to heed their call. The Board even asked staff writers to not sensationalize, but many continued to spread the "tea." Certainly, some of the article's structure may have fanned these flames, despite the Board's efforts to prevent just that.

Exeter's popular response speaks to the misguided priorities of our student body. *The Exonian* regularly features material that should be just as concerning as potential bias in the College Counseling Office: poor mental health, theft, and so on. Yet, it took an article on college for the paper to spark a reaction in the community. Are we so hell-bent on getting into a "good" college that we eschew discussion on equally-pressing issues to condemn CCO? What does that say about us—as students, as people?

We believe that *The Exonian* should exercise its right to free journalism. Concurrently, we believe *The Exonian* did not present its findings in a way that primed the student body to react appropriately. Yes, we are splitting hairs in our analysis of *The Exonian's* investigation—our suggestions for improvement may seem trivial. Nevertheless, with a subject matter of this gravity, splitting hairs might just be the necessary thing to do.

## Social Media is Not a Right

Dennis Kostakoglu Aydin '21  
Columnist

Earlier this month, Instagram and Facebook purged their sites of far-right leaders such as Milo Yiannopoulos and Alex Jones. In addition, they have banned any information regarding Infowars, which means that sharing, liking any posts or following any accounts relating to Infowars is not allowed anymore on the two platforms. In response, many of the banned leaders' followers have brought up the issue that Facebook's actions pose in regard to the First Amendment. Under Constitutional law, they say, Mark Zuckerberg has no right to ban these people from the platforms because they deserve the right to speak freely.

There are a couple of reasons as to why this is wrong. One: there is no law or precedent for freedom of speech on social media yet. The fact is that social media is relatively new and the law is

still trying to adapt to these changes. Up until now, most of the court's decisions have been against the idea of free speech on social media—and for good reason. When you create an account on a social media platform, you are entering a site which is controlled by the CEO and the company which created it. America has freedom of speech because the only rules we set are our own.

However, on Instagram or Facebook, the rules are set by Mark Zuckerberg and the Facebook company. If you do not follow these rules, you will be expelled from the site. Alex Jones, Milo Yiannopoulos, and these other right-wing leaders have been using these sites to expound ideas which are harmful to certain people. For example, Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam—one of the banned users, referred to "Satanic Jews" in a speech he gave in response to his banishment from the social media sites. Nobody wants to be part of a network with someone like Louis Farrakhan and if customers feel that the platform gives voice to people who are divisive or dangerous, they won't buy the company's

products. As a result, it is natural for social media companies to reserve the right to kick users off their platform. In fact, it's good business.

Another reason that Instagram and Facebook were correct in removing these accounts was the fact that those accounts were spreading fake news. The people that were removed deliberately sowed misinformation every day. For example, Paul Joseph Watson, one of the banned, tweeted in response to his banishment that "I have been banned by Facebook ... I broke none of their rules. In an authoritarian society controlled by a handful of Silicon Valley giants, all dissent must be purged." Although there are people online who believe what Watson is saying, that Silicon Valley tycoons control all form of government in the US, he is still deliberately misleading the public with exaggerated information. That is an incredibly irresponsible statement and Watson is not the type of person who should be using a platform on which you can, pretty much unhindered, post any statements.

The fact is, Zuckerberg was right to do this because Instagram and Facebook are two of the most popular social media sites. When you post on either one, there are simply more people to read what you write. If you write something that has the possibility of misinforming people, you are likely to misinform a larger group of people on Instagram or Facebook rather than on other social media platforms due to their large following. The alt-right leaders that the Facebook company banned promoted dangerous ideologies and it's important to take into consideration that social media allows you to directly reach common people to whom these inaccurate ideologies may spread to.

Social media makes your viewpoints accessible. If the person who is accessible has a dangerous message which they will spread to their followers, it is duty of those who run the platform to police it as well and to remove the dangerous user before they cause any more damage to the platform. It's kindergarten logic. If you don't play by the rules, you lose your privileges.

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# Trip to Leh Ladakh: A Summer of Self-Discovery

*An Exonian retells his story of meeting the Dalai Lama*

Nivan Dhir '20

Guest Contributor

Tall, metal skyscrapers tower above people rushing to office buildings, clad in suits and ties. They return each day to the walls of their grey cubicles and piles of work. Drivers impulsively honk on the streets, each blaring their horn as if it was a way to express their discontentment with the world.

This scene could be used to describe numerous cities across the world, but for me, this is New York City. Nicknamed the "Concrete Jungle," it is a place where one lives a "prosperous and achieved" life filled with constant motion and self-centered drive. As a society, we have become content with moving alongside other individuals, some that may even have experiences that parallel our own lives without any concern for the others' presence. Each individual is more isolated by the governing idea that has shaped society and the self-serving pursuit for success. This begs the question, as a society and as an individual, what have we become?

In the pursuit of the answers to these questions, last summer, I traveled with my father to a remote part of the Asian continent to a city called Leh, Ladakh. Geographically located in India, close to the Himalayan mountains, the scenery and culture of the people felt like an anomaly compared to the rest of the world. As soon as the plane touched down on the runway, we were greeted by an airport so small that it had likely never held more than fifty people at

one time. Despite being at an airport, only on occasion could man-made sounds be heard, such as the slight conversations of people nearby or an occasional car driving by. Barren rocky lands stretched out in each direction with patches of vibrantly colored flora. In the distance, we could see colossal snow peaked mountains. Everything, from the buildings to the land they were built on, felt as though this city had been left untouched by the grasps of modernization. In that moment, I recognized how remote and special this city was compared to any other city I had been in before, especially compared to the Concrete Jungle.

That night, we settled into our hostel and walked around Leh. Ancient monasteries and a palace overlooked the surrounding areas of the city. It was almost as if the enlightened sages were keeping guard. All of the buildings were simple and compact. We strolled through streets and alleys to find dogs happily chasing one another as passersby occasionally stopped to pet the strays. We digested the sight before us, because tomorrow would be the start of a sixteen day period of staying in a monastery in a secluded village several hours from the city.

The next day, as we sped away from the hostel, the scenery began to shift. Barren rocky soil became replaced by lush green fields and crystal blue streams of water. Wild goats and cows ambled about, munching at any tufts of grass that stuck out. The ever distant mountains now felt to be within arms reach as every twist and turn in the road made the snow peaks more visible.

After a short few hours of driving and

soaking up the beauty around us, the monastery came into view. A river lay intertwined with a quaint village sprawled around a large hill where the monastery stood. Fiery reds, bright yellows, deep blues and various colors covered several ornate archways leading up to the building.

Once the car made the final turn, standing at the top of the hill was a monk draped in bright red, maroon and orange garb. I greeted him in a typical American fashion, with a big smile and a handshake. With a solemn expression that appeared utterly peaceful and content, he returned the greeting by saying "Jullay (The Ladakhi word for "Hello"), my name is Lama Gyatso, it is very nice to meet you." He led us towards his house, which was built out of white mud bricks on the side of the monastery. Inside, there was a short hall with three carpeted square rooms for sleeping, eating and praying on the right. At the end of the hall was a concrete washing area and to its left, a path to the roof, which came to be my favorite place in the house.

My trip to Leh, Ladakh was an amazing experience as much because of what was there as to what was not. Throughout the travels was an utter sense of quiet. There was no television or internet connection in such a place. The only distant contact that could be made had to be through a flip-phone. With this experience, a childlike joy returned—a joy with the world and its experiences and not with the materialistic things in it. Every day was filled with face-to-face interactions as I became more genuinely interested in the lives of the people I came across. Some

of the memorable interactions worth noting were as follows.

Two shaggy dogs and brothers with matching coats of browns, greys and black. Once members of a military base, their home had moved on without them. However, in its place came the monastery. Now every day they would find meals to eat, a warm place to rest, and a plenitude of young monks to throw sticks and play with them.

A white woman in her early forties with a clean shaven head. Many speculated about the life she left behind and her motivation to relocate to this part of the world. Most, including myself at the time, would be shocked to learn that she left her old life behind in America. A good job, a house, a car, all replaced by happiness on the face of a converted monk before me.

An elderly Asian man with a clean shaven head. One could see the wrinkles etched on his face by numerous years of life and hardships however his eyes were aged by wisdom and sparkled with joy of which could only be born from so many years of life. His words, spoken with the knowledge gained in his life, etched a valuable lesson unto me. In an increasingly competitive age one should not get lost in the pursuit of success in life. Success should be accomplished through meaningful actions of helping others. In these actions one must use their heart and mind, as putting one without the other can be fruitless.

The elderly man who I met was the Dalai Lama. The words he said still reverberate in my mind, and I hope reflect them in my actions.

## Abortion: The Underlying Systemic Issues

Stephen McNulty '21

Columnist

Recently, the Alabama State Legislature passed a measure to ban abortion procedures, except where carrying a pregnancy to term would put a prospective mother's life at risk or in cases of a severe and mortal fetal abnormality. This means those performing abortion procedures in Alabama would be subject to imprisonment, though women procuring abortion would not be held criminally liable. The law is set, when signed by the Republican Governor, to be the most restrictive in the nation—even its co-sponsors have acknowledged that the bill was crafted with the intent of forcing a Supreme Court case challenging Roe v. Wade. Surely, it is bound to bring new vigor to the American abortion debate, particularly following Georgia's controversial "Heartbeat Bill," which outlawed abortion after the detection of a fetal heartbeat.

**Those who would seek to deny women contraceptive access again are not pro-life. And those who would undermine our welfare systems are not pro-life.**

I do not intend to take a stance on abortion in this piece, though I certainly have one. Rather, I believe that there is a deeper issue behind the Alabama measure, which should be of grave concern to both sides of the abortion debate. First, however, we should estab-

lish something—no one, at least in the mainstream, genuinely believes abortion to be a good thing. Perhaps some argue it is necessary, some argue that it must be legal, etc. But they don't go so far as to call themselves "pro-abortion," and for good reason—the decision to terminate a pregnancy can be one of the most painful ones a woman can make, and the experience is often traumatic for mothers. To part with a child, to live without ever knowing what could have been, to end a pregnancy; none of these are easy. So, abortion isn't good, certainly.

**How is a single mother working two jobs just to get by supposed to also provide for a child, both financially and developmentally?**

The fact that thousands of pregnancies end in an abortion clinic speaks volumes about our treatment of women as a society—92% of abortions in the U.S. are performed for "social or economic reasons," which begs the question: What kind of socioeconomic conditions are we putting women in that hundreds of thousands of women each year feel compelled to obtain an abortion and part with their own child? Some of these conditions are economic. How is a single mother working two jobs just to get by supposed to also provide for a child, both financially and developmentally? How often will she actually be able to be present with that child? Will she be equipped to bring them up in stable conditions? In a society where universal childcare, for instance, is not guaranteed, should we

be surprised that abortion procedures are as prevalent as they are?

On the other hand, some of the conditions are social and largely a consequence of a culture that believes in "free, open sex" and devalues the importance of stable relationships. This sort of free sexuality oftentimes ends up hurting women the hardest, because women always have to bear the consequences of sex—pregnancy. When a condom fails, the man is no worse off, physically speaking. The woman is pregnant. And a lot of that sexual activity ends up being divorced from stable relationships, which is why we see significantly higher proportions of single mothers considering abortion. To clarify, this is not "their fault," as some pro-life advocates would argue—rather, it is the consequence of a culture freely willing to engage in sexuality, but not so willing to accept the responsibilities that come with that. And women are hurt by that, because someone has to deal with the realities that come alongside sex.

Of course, there is still the issue of teen pregnancy to consider. Where are our systems of sexual education failing? Why do we refuse to adequately prepare teens for their future sexual lives? It reflects the failures of both our cultural values and our education system.

We shouldn't have to live in a society where so many women have to face such a profoundly painful and difficult choice, regardless of where we stand on the abortion issue. There are absolutely steps we can take to help reduce the number of abortions in this country if we are actually willing to address the real socio-economic problems that lead women to consider abortion. Those pro-life people who would do nothing to, for instance, ensure that a mother can pay for her child's healthcare, are not truly pro-life. Those who would seek to deny women contraceptive access again

**When a condom fails, the man is no worse off, physically speaking. The woman is pregnant. And a lot of that sexual activity ends up being divorced from stable relationships, which is why we see significantly higher proportions of single mothers considering abortion.**

are not pro-life. And those who would undermine our welfare systems are not pro-life.

On the flip side, pro-choicers should acknowledge that abortion is not "women's liberation." It is the consequence of women's oppression and a society with a systematic disregard for the needs of mothers. Whether or not it should be legal is a different question, of course, but abortion is certainly regrettable. When one-third of a generation is missing because our society fails to provide mothers the socioeconomic support they need, there is a problem. Those who would seek to protect the legality of abortion without addressing its causes are not pro-choice, because no mother should ever feel compelled to seek an abortion.

So, we should reject the approach taken by Alabama. Merely legislating abortion out of existence without addressing its causes does nothing to end abortion. Not one bit—instead, it shoves abortion into back-alleys. Both sides of the debate should and can move forward, even if it's hard to believe. We just have to think beyond the question of legality for just one moment and stand together against a society that enables abortion in the first place.

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# ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: DON ASSAMONGKOL AND SAM MICHAELS

By TESSA SHEILDS  
& SAVI KEIDEL  
Contributing Writers

Senior co-captains Sam Michaels and Don Assamongkol lead Boys' Varsity Volleyball's current undefeated season. The team has won almost all of their sets with a score of 3-0 and they hope to do the same with their last competitor, St. John's Prep, before heading into their Final Four tournament this weekend.

Both captains started playing volleyball together as preps. "It's actually really funny because [Sam] taught me how to play squash and I taught him how to play volleyball," Assamongkol remarked. Both of them played varsity squash together in the winter and this term, lead the boys' varsity volleyball team.

When asked why they wanted to serve as captains, Michaels and Assamongkol said that they were inspired by the volleyball captains during their underclassmen years. "The captains were helpful, kind, patient, and transformative in my development as a volleyball player and a person," Michaels recalled. Assamongkol added that his previous captains had shown him what good, hardworking sportsmanship was like and he hopes he can do the same for others on the team.

Lower Emilio Abelmann praised his captains' efforts to aid younger players. "By pulling the underclassmen aside, they are able to connect 1-on-1 and give personal advice to each player."

In practice, the captains' focus on keeping the energy high throughout every drill. At the start of practice, Don leads the hitters and liberos through a dynamic warmup while Sam leads the setters warmups. "Don does a great job running the warmups and is by far the leader of warm-ups. Sam also is a great leader because he's our starting setter and wins a majority of the drills," senior Cole Glennon noted.

The team is constantly striving for improvement and to make sure the team follows through with this goal, they have a team motto: "get better." "[We] focus on keeping team morale high by always providing developing



Courtesy of Don Assamongkol

players with constructive criticism when needed and always recognizing when players work hard and do well," Michaels elaborated. When asked how the captains energized the team during practice, lower and team newcomer Wiley Bahr said, "They are always giving me tips and helping me make edits to how I play."

Before games and during their warm-ups, the team plays music and celebrates loudly when their teammates hit or pass well. For example, Assamongkol screams when someone hits a good spike. "When things aren't going too well we'll help each other out on court like most team sports, but we [also] literally pick each other up if someone messes up because it's all about the next point and getting things going," Assamongkol said. Because the sport is seen as one of the more vocal sports, Assamongkol explained that the best

strategy is to "talk, talk, talk." He added that "When I can't hear myself on court because everybody's running up calling for their hits, we're in a good spot."

Glennon described that during games, Michaels runs the whole court due to his position. "He is very caring and understands and makes sure to constantly get feedback to help improve both his game and our team's performance," Glennon said. During games, Glennon described Assamongkol as a "silent leader" who is a great influence on the underclassmen. Both are the ideal teammate.

During the games and throughout the season, there are traditions that the captains love and are sure to continue. For example, the team yells specific cheers, such as "Sharkbait," for a good block. In addition, a few years ago, the team felt that it was crucial to become friends off the court, and thus a new

tradition was born. Now, at the end of each year's season, the team travels to Hampton Beach and then to Flatbread Company to have a final celebration with their seniors and as a team.

Due to the team's overwhelmingly positive energy, Head Coach Bruce Shang is more than willing to sub in as many players as he can during games so that everyone can gain experience playing competitively. "This gives everyone extra motivation to try hard because they see other first-year players getting playing time, so they know that their hard work will be rewarded," Michaels said.

Michaels believes that Boys' Volleyball's unique, upbeat environment is what differentiates them from other teams on campus. He said, "It's one of the main reasons our team hasn't lost a single game in years and is looking to win five straight championships."

## Girls' Tennis Takes Third in Tournament



Upper AJ Bravo sprints down the field.

Chiara Perroti Correa/The Exonian

By CLARA GERAGHTY  
Contributing Writer

Girls' Varsity Tennis embarked on a long journey to compete in the Villafranca Tournament at Kent this weekend. They left on Friday afternoon and returned late Saturday evening. The team battled hard throughout the long day and ultimately took home the third place trophy.

The van ride, originally scheduled to last four hours, turned into a nearly six-hour-long trip. However, the team made it enjoyable nonetheless. "If I have to be stuck in a car for at least six hours, I'm happy it's with them," upper Tia Stockwell said.

The time-consuming commute to western Connecticut was virtually im-

possible to complete in a day, so the team spent the night at the Holiday Inn — an experience that resulted in the creation of valuable memories for the players who went. "It was a good bonding experience the night we all shared a hotel room," upper Mimi Lavin said.

Of the four players who donned the Big Red uniform, Lavin and lower Emily Baxter played singles while Stockwell and senior Isobel Anderson took care of the doubles matches. "Isobel and I won our first match against Rye in the morning, where we both played very well," Stockwell said. "Potentially some of the best tennis we've played all season." The pair then went on to face off against the Loomis Chaffee School where they lost after a close match.

This didn't stop these two from continuing on to the main draw in the afternoon to play Andover. Unfortunately, after the Big Red double team put up quite the fight, Andover still stood victorious at the end of the match. Stockwell felt that despite what the score may have been, the matches were still a success.

Meanwhile, Lavin and Baxter were also putting on an impressive show. Baxter started the day off strong and showed no signs of slowing down as the day progressed. The tennis powerhouse won match after match and worked her way up to the final match, where, although she was eventually defeated, she was still able to snatch the runner-up singles title for her team. "The teams we played were pretty tough," Baxter noted. "I was happy

to make it that far."

Lavin also performed exceptionally well, making it all the way to the semifinals before she too fell to the stiff competition. "I think we probably would have come out of the Loomis match with a victory on almost any other day," she said. The tournament setup was different than anything the team had ever seen, but "we all still enjoyed cheering each other on and working to play our best," Stockwell added.

Although the team may have not gotten the results they were hoping for, the team left feeling that they had played their best and with an even stronger thirst for vengeance on Andover. "It was disappointing to lose to them," lamented Lavin, but the team will have their chance to come back one last time during E/a.





# ExonianSports



## Girls' WoPo Dominates Double-Header

*Big Red Defeats Both Choate and Suffield At Home*

By SYDENY KANG  
Contributing Writer

Hands grappling for the ball, powerful legs treading underwater, waves splashing in every direction, the clock ticks down the time left for any player to score a goal. Last weekend, Exeter Girls' Water Polo defeated not only one, but two teams at home: Choate and Suffield. The back-to-back victories marked their sixth and seventh wins of the season.

With the stunning scores of 12-5 against Choate and 13-6 against Suffield, the team certainly played to the best of their ability, showcasing what they had trained for all season. The confidence they had built up from the team's several successful games carried them to dominate the pool last weekend. Lower Ursie Wise said, "I expected that we would win both games before they began, but was impressed by how well our team played."

Earlier in the season, the team played and defeated Choate at an away game, where the competition was fierce and the win was hard-earned. Getting a chance to beat Choate once again was certainly an opportunity the team did not pass up. Prep Grace Emmick said, "Going into the game, the team was excited to face Choate again because of how competitive the previous game was."

However, due to the nature of the double-header, the team had to take the order of the games into account. "We originally thought we would be playing Suffield first, which is a much easier team to play. When we realized we would play Choate first, we were all a little more on edge," prep Lindsay Machado said. "After the Choate win, our confidence was high and we went



Upper Rose Coviello makes a pass.

Oliver Hess/The Exonian

into the Suffield game much more relaxed."

In the pool, several well-placed shots and smart passes by Big Red kept Choate and Suffield at bay on the scoreboard. Emmick said, "Both Sam [Gove] and Rose [Coviello] had amazing games, and Ginny [Vazquez-Azpiri] came through with important goals, especially in the Choate game." In addition, various players scored their first shots of the season for the team. Machado said, "Our goalie Ela [Ferhangil] made a lot of smart passes that let us score on a counter-attack. Also, Ramyanee [Mukherjee] had her first goal of the season in the Suffield

game. And Sam Gove, as always, was a force to be reckoned with."

Besides simply having a great game, the team enjoyed the energetic atmosphere all of the players brought to the pool, which has been present in all of their games throughout the season. "The team dynamic has been energetic and ready to work all season," Emmick said.

Moving forward, the team is planning on improving their stellar technique by honing in on the small details during practices. "For the rest of the season, we will be working on how to set up during [man-up] advantages, how to play whole set and whole defense and

of course working on shot accuracy," Wise said.

Big Red Girls' Water Polo looks forward to keeping up their hard work, strong mindset and positive attitude. Regarding goals for future games in the upcoming season, senior Gabby Allen said, "This is our last week! After coming in second at Liquid 4 last year, we are really determined to win the tournament this year." Senior captain Sam Gove shared these sentiments, saying, "We've mostly been running plays in practice to prepare for the final tournament. We just hope to play our best and have fun in our last weekend of games this season."

## Baseball Crushes Cushing 6-4

By CHARLOTTE LISA  
Staff Writer

The Exeter baseball team crushed Cushing Academy on their home diamond in a doubleheader this past Saturday, clinching wins in both games. Big Red won the first game 15-8 and didn't let up, finishing on top at the end of the second game, which, after extending into extra innings, ended with a final score of 6-4. Sweeping a doubleheader is no easy task and the team undoubtedly put in the effort throughout the day with consistent pitching and clutch hits.

The back-to-back games posed a special challenge for the team, who had yet to sweep a doubleheader this season. "Going into the doubleheader we had challenged ourselves to win both of the games," lower Owen McKiernan said. McKiernan described that the team faced the challenge with the impending tournament in mind, saying "we know that to win the tournament we're going to have to win two games in one day, so we took this past doubleheader as a test."

Upper Will Coogan also highlighted the important opportunity this game provided. "It was a big doubleheader win and sets us up well for playoffs," he said. Senior Andrew Dawe emphasized the mental challenge this game had posed as well. "It's always difficult to win both in a doubleheader, so we just had to stay focused and limit mental mistakes," Dawe said.

Nevertheless, McKiernan added that "Throughout both games, the team definitely had its fair share of mistakes." But in the end, "we were able to come up

clutch and take two," he said.

Throughout the day, many different members of the team delivered outstanding performances. Senior Josh Fuller threw a solid six innings in the first game and incredible hits by upper Noah Jankowski and Dawe kept Exeter in the game. "Janks [Jankowski] and Dawe both came up with two clutch hits to keep us alive in extra innings," Coogan said.

McKiernan specifically highlighted Jankowski's performance when asked about any outstanding plays. "Our catcher [Jankowski] hit a game tying two RBI [runs batted in] double in the top of the seventh to send it to extras," he said. McKiernan continued by also emphasizing Dawe's performance on the plate—"In extra innings, Andrew Dawe continued to be the best pinch hitter of all time, when he hit a double in the top of the ninth to give the team some cushion."

Another memorable moment was, in fact, upper Gabe Rodriguez missing the bus, Coogan revealed.

But the team is committed to their success and is working hard before the advent of playoffs. "Heading into our last game before playoffs, the team will be focusing on keeping mistakes to a minimal and preparing ourselves for playoffs," McKiernan said. Optimistic as well, Coogan said the team is "super excited to be playing Worcester first round of the playoffs."

With newfound confidence and determination for success, Exeter baseball is excited to travel down to Brown University to play in the Central New England Prep School Baseball League tournament this Saturday.



Upper Will Coogan throws heat.

Avery Napier/The Exonian

### Inside This Week's Sports Section

#### Girls' Tennis



Helena Chen/The Exonian

The girls' tennis team travelled to Kent School this past Saturday. Read about its matches on page 9.

#### Girls' Water Polo



Oliver Hess/The Exonian

Water polo demolishes Choate and Suffield in back to back games. Read about the tournament on this page 10.

#### Athletes of the Week



Courtesy of Don Assamngkol

Seniors Sam Michaels and Don Assamngkol are this issue's Athletes of the Week. Read about it on page 9.

#### Baseball



Avery Napier/The Exonian

Boys' Varsity Baseball took on Cushing this past Saturday. Read about the game on this page 10.