



# The Exonian

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Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire



English Instructor Willie Perdomo recites his poetry in the Class of 1945 Library Commons.

Moksha Akil/The Exonian

## Perdomo Shares *The Crazy Bunch* with Academy

By FELIX YEUNG  
Staff Writer

"You remember, that was the summer of Up Rock, quarter water, speed knots, pillow bags, two-for-five, Jesus pieces and Bambú. The Willie Bobo was turned up to ten, and some would've said that a science was dropped on our summer ..."

English Instructor and acclaimed poet Willie Perdomo began a reading with the opening lines of his latest poetry collection, *The Crazy Bunch*, transporting an enraptured audience to his hometown of East Harlem Tuesday in the Library Commons.

An ode to his upbringing in the lively New York neighborhood, the poetry collection chronicles one transformative weekend in the

lives of several young teenagers. "Perdomo returns to his beloved neighborhood to create a vivid, kaleidoscopic portrait of a 'crew' coming of age," promotional materials read. "In poems written in couplets, vignettes, sketches, riffs and dialogue, Perdomo recreates ... a series of tragic events: 'That was the summer we all tried to fly. All but one of us succeeded.'"

Of Perdomo's five published works, this is the first he has dedicated entirely to his childhood friends. "I wanted to honor hip-hop music. I wanted to honor my favorite movie, *Cooley High* ... And I wanted to honor the kids that I grew up with in East Harlem," Perdomo said. "It took some time for me to do it. Sometimes, you're driven to tell a story that you've been waiting to tell. You just needed a little bit of time,

a little bit of distance, a different vantage point"

To build authenticity, Perdomo utilized context-specific imagery. "If you teach in the English Department, that's what we teach—we teach specificity," he said. "Every time I worked on the book, it felt as if I was hanging out up town with my childhood friends and reliving some of those pivotal and transformative moments in our young lives."

English Instructor Mercy Carbonell, who delivered opening remarks at the reading, noted that East Harlem was never far from Perdomo's heart. "I think that, in order to embrace dislocation, one must dream. Willie told me [that] over the phone," Carbonell recalled. "For Willie, the landscape of East Harlem was right around the corner. As it always is."

PERDOMO, 2

## Girls' Tennis Reports Unfair Treatment

By ANNE BRANDES,  
VERONICA CHOULGA  
and MAEGAN PAUL  
Staff Writers

For the past few years, Girls' Varsity and Junior Varsity Tennis have been scheduled during E/F blocks, while the boys' teams are scheduled for G/H. Amidst mounting criticism, Director of Athletics David Hudson cited staff scheduling as the driving consideration for the disparity in scheduling.

The girls' team has been requesting a rotation of the G/H blocks for the past two years, but was told by the Athletic Department that they missed the deadline both times. While some girls' team members acknowledge programming difficulties in light of scheduling concerns and a Varsity B coach redelegated to the boys' team, others—upper and manager Isabel Hou included—feel that the treatment of the girls' team is "blatantly unfair."

Lower Emily Baxter questioned whether bias might have a role in these decisions. "I think it is unfair how they prioritize the boys," Baxter said. "I would consider it sexism."

Senior Reina Matsumoto explained why G/H sports are preferable, saying, "G/H sports are fairly sought after, but it especially makes a difference in the spring for tennis, where we're playing at the hottest time of the day and the sun is directly overhead." Matsumoto also pointed out that the sun's positioning during E/F formats makes serving more difficult because the ball is harder to see.

During E/F, facilities used by Girls' Tennis are also occupied by track and field. Prep Cecilia Treadwell, a member of the girls' tennis team added, "The problem is that ... time and place conflicts with track and field, especially when it is raining outside ... Boys get to play G/H, which ensures them to not have a conflict with any other sports."

Hudson noted that, as this is his first year in the role of Athletic Director, he was not aware of

TENNIS, 2

## Global Unites Founder Visits, Speaks on Unity

By LINA HUANG  
and LOUIS MUKAMA  
Staff Writers

Founder of Global Unites, Prashan De Visser, visited campus last Wednesday, April 3, after being invited by Exeter's own Unites chapter, to impart his knowledge on conflict resolution and its application to Exeter's community. Speaking about his organization's work, De Visser shared his vision for healing the deep political, racial, socio-economic and religious divisions in America through Global Unites.

De Visser began by telling his story of growing up amidst the hatred and radicalization of Sri Lanka's civil war. His experience drove him to search for an alternative to violence in the form of collaborative peace among young people.

Global Unites began when De Visser realized the radicalized divisions within Sri Lanka and acknowledged their effects on his perception of other Sri Lankan groups. "It was one of the key moments of change for me, [from] being a person who was filled with the prejudice and hate towards that community to start thinking maybe I need to question my inherent prejudice," De Visser said. "I had to question what I had been taught."

For himself and the broader community, De Visser decided to end these cycles of violence in Sri Lanka by bringing together youth of different backgrounds. The effects were promising. De Visser saw youths who, after being roommates, classmates and friends with others from groups they hated, began to question their biases.

From there, the organization expanded to nine countries, including a budding branch in the United States.



Senator and presidential hopeful Cory Booker poses with Exonians.

Helena Chen/The Exonian

Hunter Carroll, head of U.S. Unites, was inspired by De Visser several years back and joined after realizing the divisions in his own country. "I looked at the U.S. culture and particularly the 2016 election; regardless of where you stand on that, I think most people agree that it was a very divisive election and that our country is very polarized. That just didn't settle well with me," he said.

The idea behind Exeter Unites began a few years ago when upper Alayna Thomas heard about De Visser's project and its tangible impact. "We had a conversation and I was really inspired by his story," she said.

This year, Thomas finally established the club and hoped to inspire Exonians by inviting De Visser to speak. "We don't want to be just for people who are members of the club. We want to work towards changing our whole community," she said. "So I think it was great to see that the people who attended the dinner enjoyed hearing Prashan's story and were eager to make changes and help to apply his mission here at Exeter."

De Visser explained his mission as

pushing youth to be proximate to others who are different from them. He stressed that with Exeter's diverse community, it is important to spend time with people who may be different from your regular circle. "Let's try to make conversation, create opportunities and not to try and prove each other wrong or [be] condescending, but to be respectful and to have just meaningful conversations to hear each other out."

Russell Weatherspoon, faculty adviser of Exeter Unites, echoed De Visser's call for diversity. "Obviously we have a very diverse school population here," Weatherspoon said. "One of the reasons why is [that] we hope [that] Exonians will listen those whose stories and opinions are not as readily available where they call home."

Upper Kileidria Aguilar found De Visser's message applicable to her participation in several on-campus initiatives with similar goals, such as the Unite! coalition and an Asian women's affinity group. "Mr. De Visser brought a global viewpoint to the realm of activism that I was never exposed to in depth," she said. "I did learn that there is a way to solve

DE VISSER, 3

## Student Council Committee Heads Turn Over

By VERONICA CHOULGA  
and EMILY KANG  
Staff Writers

Student Council (StuCo) has undergone an overhaul in recent weeks, as newly elected representatives and committee heads officially assume their positions. Student Council President and upper Ayush Noori, who led his first Council meeting this week, announced the new committee heads in an email last Wednesday, April 3.

Twenty-four uppers and lowers will be leading StuCo's ten committees: Budget, Dining Hall, Elections, Public Relations, Policy, Student Life, Recreation, Technology, Committee on Community, Equity and Diversity (CCED) and Mental Health.

Noori eliminated the Constitution and Assembly Committees this year. "We felt that the work that they were doing was not appropriate for the committee structure and did not require them to meet every week, so we are pursuing other avenues ... to continue student involvement with assemblies," Noori said.

While class, dorm and day student representatives are elected every spring, committee heads undergo a separate application process that consists of a written application and recommendations from previous the committee heads. Typically, the appointments are jointly decided by the outgoing committee heads and executive board members.

However, StuCo faculty adviser Laura Marshall articulated that "it is ultimately up to the President to appoint all committee heads." The 2018–19 StuCo Constitution confirms this, as it states that it is within the power of the President to "ap-

STUCO, 3

## INSIDE

### OPINIONS

Lower Dennis Konstakoglu Aydin writes about diversity in media. 7.

Upper Cameron Frary describes the life of John Phillips. 7.

### LIFE

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Read about Consent Fest. 5.

### SPORTS

Read about Varsity Softball's victory against Dana Hall. 10.

Read about Varsity Golf's triumph over North Hampton. 10.

## WEB



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## News in Brief

### Upcoming Assemblies:

- 4/12 alumnus Matthew McGill '92, Supreme Court Review
- 4/16 Asian Advisory Board

Faculty received a new Assembly Attendance Program proposal which will be implemented this term.

Presidential candidate and New Jersey Senator Cory Booker visited the town of Exeter last Sunday, April 7.

PEA Daniel Webster Debate Society won 1st Overall at Belmont Hill Invitational.

Two Exeter Launch Club Teams advanced to Global Demo Day for MIT Launch.

New England Association of Schools and Colleges will visit PEA next week.



Robert Lim '89 shares his journey as a combat surgeon. See an exclusive interview with Lim on page 5.

Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

## Perdomo Draws from Adolescence in New Poetry Collection

Continued from PERDOMO, 1

While the collection is centered around his upbringing, Perdomo noted that *The Crazy Bunch* was not generalizing any community at-large. "I want to be clear that this is just a specific moment. This does not [emblemize] the lives of young black and Puerto Rican males who lived in the country ... at that time," he said. "It does speak for the dynamic that was prevalent at that time. It was a violent, violent time, but I want to be clear that it is a zoom-in look at the lives of these young brothers—not a whole population, not a whole race, not a whole ethnicity."

The reading attracted much interest. The Gender-Sexuality Alliance (GSA) encouraged its members to attend during its regular meeting time. "Mr. Perdomo is a part of our [school] community, and we want to be supportive of him. Identities intersect with one another; the representation that he provides is important representation," GSA co-head Elliot Diaz said, noting that Perdomo's reading, though not explicitly related to gender or sexuality, was an important voice for club members to hear.

Perdomo's reading also drew several attendees from in-town, who shared high praise for the author. "He opened up a world to me that is not

my world, but which I can connect to because we have all been adolescents trying to find a way to grow up in the world," Exeter resident Nancy Rockwell said. "It's always a challenge, but, in his world, it's perilous and dangerous and different than mine."

Senior Linus Manchester shared Rockwell's sentiments. "He has a distinct rhythmic style, combined with creative word choice and vivid subject matter," Manchester said, explaining how these devices brought Perdomo's work to life. "For him, it is real. It's a compilation of real experiences."

Perdomo's colleagues shared similar praise

for Perdomo's work. "[The reading] made me feel proud to be a member of the English Department," English Instructor Sarah Ream said. "I think it's the mark of a really fine writer to be able to provide us with that experience, even if we haven't experienced it ourselves."

Sandra Guzman, Perdomo's spouse, expressed her appreciation that many students were in attendance at the reading. "At the center of the story are teenagers—[students are] going to immediately understand this world. You don't know these people, but you really feel," she said. "It was special for him to share this with the young minds in the room."

## Girls' Tennis Seeks Parity in Scheduling and Coaching

Continued from TENNIS, 1

the issue. "Now that we are three weeks into the spring season, I can't do much during this next season," he said. "If it needs to be on the radar, we will go into next year with this as an objective to try to address."

While Hudson acknowledged the G/H preference, he explained that the boys' varsity team can only hold practices during G/H due to boys' tennis coach Frederic Brussels' staff room obligations, which limit his availability.

Hudson emphasized the importance of staffing constraints and preferences when devising a schedule. "I think staffing for each sport is at the top of my priorities in terms of scheduling," he said. "If a coach cannot attend a certain time slot, that would be a primary consideration when deciding if a team gets G/H or E/F."

Health Instructor Shane LaPointe added that coaches, who often teach or work other Academy jobs, must be carefully accommodated. "We want to support the best possible coaches we can get for our students [while] balancing at the same time the very real concern of how to juggle multiple Academy positions—like teaching or working as a staff member—at one time is high on our list of priorities," she said.

On the other hand, lower Catherine Fortin, both a squash and tennis athlete, noted that Brussels' boys' team rotates with the girls' between E/F and G/H block during the winter season. "I play squash, too, and we rotate with the boys each year. They'll have E/F one year, then G/H," she said. "But Girls' Tennis has had E/F sports for many years, even though after



Varsity Tennis captain Katie Yang plays tennis during E/F.

Helena Chen/The Exonian

each season they request to rotate again."

Hudson voiced that the complexity of scheduling may have contributed to programming issues. "At times, changes one made for a staffing issue may, over time, become less pressing ... however, the schedule remains the same," he said. "At times, one loses the rationale of why it was done in the first place, and then three years later it bubbles up and we wonder, 'Why are we doing this?' There are so many moving parts."

The girls' tennis team requested that the athletic department switch practice times with the boys both in the 2018 and 2019 seasons but, according to girls' varsity teammate and senior Elizabeth Yang, was declined. "When we asked for the change again this year, they said it was too late," she said. "And so we got a bit

frustrated as a group—why were they telling us it's too late to ask for the change this year when we already had last year?"

In addition to time slots, Yang noted that in the beginning of the season, there was also contention regarding coaching assignments. Hudson explained that the department moved coach Gayatri Ramesh from the girls' varsity B team to the boys' varsity B team due to a request.

Members of the girls' varsity tennis team questioned the lack of transparency around the move. "The players really didn't know that Coach Ramesh was going to be coaching the boys' team this year until a decision was already made," Yang said. "The girls' team had really admired Ms. Ramesh as a coach, so we were hurt that we did not hear more information or have more say ... the girls' team didn't have a

JV coach until very recently."

Ramesh cited the boys' team structure as a reason for her move. Boys' Varsity A and B practice together with eight players on each team, a method Ramesh finds preferable "as it allows players to learn from each other." Ramesh added, "In the future, I hope that the girls' and boys' Varsity A and B could practice at the same time, as it could prove beneficial to all teams."

When asked about the miscommunication surrounding scheduling and coaching changes, Yang expressed that students' voices should be included in conversations about future seasons. "I hope that Exeter Tennis continues to become more transparent in communicating between the Athletics Department, the coaches and the players so that we all have an equitable and enjoyable experience," she said.

Upper Tia Stockwell added that even while she understands how students would believe there is bias in the block and coaching assignment process, "I don't want to use the term 'sexist' to describe the actions of the Academy or whoever has the power to assign practice times to each team, but it almost seems that way," she said. "E/F has been the practice time since I've been here, and I don't even know how long before."

Hudson acknowledged student concerns and encouraged students to maintain dialogue in the future. "Students should feel free to come to me directly," Hudson said. "Athletes, captains, coaches and the Athletic Director should always maintain an avenue of communication when members of the Exeter community are concerned."

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# De Visser Inspires Academy

Continued from DE VISSER, 1

global problems through a global collective, if only people [would] have the urge to lead together toward a goal that helps one another.”

However, Aguilar questioned De Visser’s belief that educating youth is the only effective way to affect change. “I agree with his message that children should be prepared to face the issues past generations have left us with, but I disagree with his ideology that there is no way corporations and governments can be held accountable for their own contributions to the problems the common people face,” she said.

Despite these questions, Exeter Unites aims to apply De Visser’s message about youth coalition to small, community-level movements. Exeter Unites Vice President and upper Tia Stockwell clarified that “Exeter Unites is starting at a smaller scale, so we’re working within our own community to further unite different social groups because we all know there are divisions; we want to do what we can to diminish the limiting mindsets [people] have.”

The campus is already feeling tangible

impacts from De Visser’s speech. Student Council President Ayush Noori, who sees Global Unites’ relevance to the Academy’s mission, hopes to implement De Visser’s example into Student Council’s current initiatives. “It’s our duty here to train Exonians who can leave our community and bring to the world values of compassion and being able to see good in other people,” Noori said. “I think that’s precisely what Mr. De Visser is doing—training teens to see the world in that light.”

In the future, Thomas hopes Exeter Unites will address these issues with the help of a large body of students. “I hope that [students] see the incredible potential that exists here at Exeter for a mission like that of Global Unites to really build up our community,” she said.

“I hope that they realize that education and betterment of our students includes not only succeeding in the required classes for graduation, but also might include things like gaining [a] better understanding of the diversity within our school community and throughout the world,” Thomas said.

# E Proctors Raise Awareness About Recycling at Exeter

By CHARLOTTE LISA and LUCY WEIL  
Staff Writers

With Climate Action Day soon approaching, Exeter’s E-proctors, one of the most active environmental clubs on campus, posted recycling awareness posters in hopes of encouraging their fellow students to, in small but effective ways, help curb the climate crisis.

Though Exeter’s impact on the environment has gone down compared to prior years, the school’s waste output remains high. So far this year, Exonians have produced roughly 195 tons of trash waste, compared to the 232 tons produced throughout the whole 2017-18 school year. There are still six weeks until the end of the school year. The student body per capita output increased from four pounds per person last March to 5.2 pounds per person this March—a 30 percent increase. In terms of recycling, so far this year Exonians have recycled 72 tons of trash, compared to the 110 tons over the course of the whole 2017-18 school year.

In light of these statistics, the E-proctors have decided that the best route to decrease the Academy’s carbon footprint is to spread awareness.

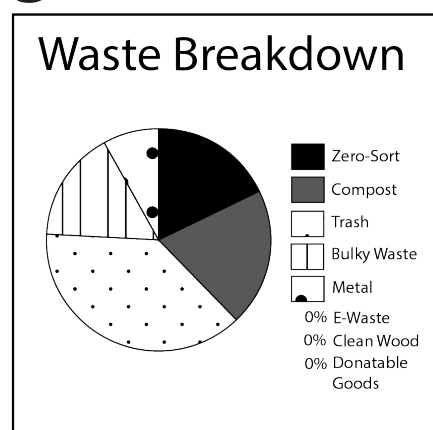
As an E-proctor, lower Bea Burack highlighted the campaign’s role in a larger effort to promote environmental consciousness by first educating students about environmentally aware decisions. “I think there are a lot of people who recognize [environmental issues] as important issues,” said Burack. “But I see a pretty big disconnect between this awareness and actual action.”

The posters provide students with a visual reminder of what items can and cannot be recycled, with pictures of commonly used items sorted into recyclable and non-recyclable groups. Hanging above trash and recycling bins in dorms, the posters highlight the problem recycling plants face when non-recyclable materials end up in their processing facilities.

E-proctor and upper Alayna Thomas described Exonians’ general uncertainty when it came to determining if an item is recyclable or not. “Even though I was an E-proctor, I still wasn’t quite sure what could be recycled, so that can make people hesitant,” Thomas said.

Such uncertainty leads to an overall hesitance in recycling at all. In the future, the E-proctors hope to organize a dorm waste competition to further encourage recycling.

For the past year, the club has made an effort to reorganize its structure. Ac-



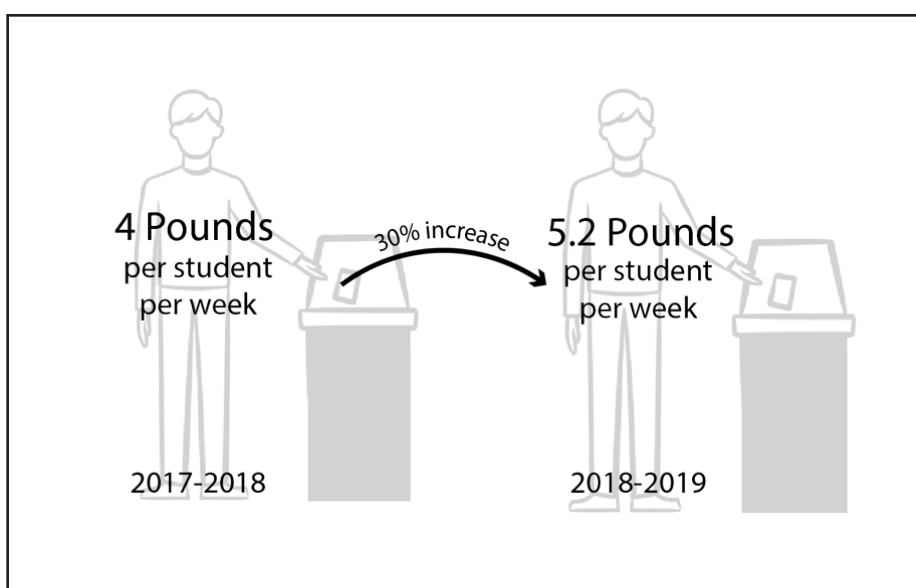
ording to Thomas, this restructuring has been the principal reason behind why the initiative has taken so long to come out. “Our ideas for the initiative are ones that we have had in our minds for a while,” Thomas said. “As far as implementing them, the reason why we are going step-by-step is because we are trying to work with all of the E-proctors that have signed up for the club.”

Upper Erin Ahern is optimistic about the impact of this project if enough students take action. “I see a lot of people at Exeter who don’t recycle, so it could have a great impact on Exeter if people learn more about it,” Ahern said.

Despite this, some Exonians still feel that climate action on campus remains lackluster. Lower Erin McCann pointed to the lack of discussion as a source of inaction. “It is easy for people to forget that we are in the middle of a climate crisis, when we are privileged at Exeter to have clean water, clean air and are overall relatively unaffected by climate change that has very real and devastating effects on people around the world,” she said.

McCann emphasized she hopes for the administration to take a more active role in encouraging and practicing environmentalism on campus and providing an example to follow. McCann wished “this school was more transparent and conscious about how much [food and power] waste we produce.” Lower Bea Burack, meanwhile, commented, “I think that the administration could be doing a lot more to promote sustainability, such as selling sustainably made products in the bookstore and supporting composting in all dorms.”

Despite these initiatives, McCann noted the need to take action on a broader scale to initiate social change. “To some extent people are still unaware of the complexity and urgency of environmental issues, and they may oversimplify environmental issue to as simple as turning off you lights or taking shorter showers or recycling,” she said.



# Exonians Discuss Student Council Election Results

Continued from STUCO, 1

point any student he/she wishes, at any time, to serve as a Committee Head.”

Noori appointed several candidates to committee head positions they did not apply for—a decision also made by the previous two years’ Student Council presidents. “Just because someone applied for a committee head ... doesn’t mean that they have the requisite skills for that position,” Noori said. “It is the responsibility of the executive board to select the most competent pool of committee heads who can make a tangible impact on student life. The Constitution gives us the right to make those judgement calls.”

Upper Smaiyl Makyshov, who has worked for Elections Committee since the fall but was selected as Policy Committee head, expressed his initial surprise. “I worked at Elections Committee in the past, but the Executive Board made it clear that I was a better fit for Policy Committee given the poli-

serve the community. “I think the final decisions are phenomenal committee heads who are wonderful people and leaders who have great potential to do impactful things.”

Apart from committee head appointments, the efficacy and accountability of dorm representatives have come into question amidst elections taking place this week. Dorm representatives serve as a link for communication between StuCo and dormitories; their responsibilities include dorm budget planning, attending weekly StuCo meetings and updating dorm mates about StuCo initiatives.

Upper representative-elect, lower and Abbot Hall resident Josh Lum raised concerns that the dorm representative election process reflects a lack of serious regard for the position, recounting the latest election when Abbot residents discredited the voting system by casting ballots for someone who was not a candidate. “The people who were running gave semi-serious

2019-2020 StuCo Board	
<b>Budget Committee</b> Cristia Molina, Asha Alla	<b>Student Life Committee</b> Tina Fernandez, Benjamin Wright
<b>Dining Hall Committee</b> May Chen, Haruka Masamura	<b>Recreation Committee</b> Tise Okeremi, Cooper Walshe, Maegan Paul
<b>Elections Committee</b> Serene DeSisso, Ursie Wise	<b>Technology Committee</b> Orion Bloomfield, Andrew Woo
<b>Public Relations Committee</b> Jasmine Liao, Candy Tantichirasakul, Kelly Mi	<b>Committee of Community, Equity and Diversity</b> Mai Hoang, Benjamin Cai, Renee Bertrand
<b>Policy Committee</b> Summer Hua, Smaiyl Makyshov	<b>Mental Health Committee</b> Lucy Gilchrist, Joy Liu

cies that I proposed when running for StuCo Exec president,” Makyshov said. “After having a thorough conversation with Ayush, I was convinced that the Policy Committee would be the best fit for me among all positions available.”

Makyshov was not required to re-submit another application with a new statement detailing his goals specific to the Policy Committee.

Lower Haruka Masamura was similarly puzzled when asked to lead the Dining Hall Committee, considering her year-long work with the CCED. Masamura voiced uncertainty about how Noori had made a connection between the two seemingly disparate committees. “Since I applied for CCED, I do not have clear plans for Dining Hall Committee as of now,” Masamura said. “Ayush did mention that Dining Hall Committee used to be one of the most popular committees and he wants it to go back to the way it was.”

According to StuCo President Ayush Noori, “creativity and ingenuity,” “skills and experience,” as well as the “potential to do impactful things” were important qualities he sought in prospective committee heads. “It was a multi-faceted decision but we strive for it to be equitable and to create a committee head pool which will work really well together,” Noori said.

In spite of alleged abnormalities in committee head choices, Noori looks forward to working with the new heads, who he believes are well-equipped to

speeches with some humor, but when the voting came everyone was saying to vote for one guy who wasn’t even running as a joke,” Lum said. “Someone added at least four fake ballots for that candidate and he ended up winning, but still didn’t want the position.”

For Bancroft dorm representative and upper Ramyanee Mukherjee, the problem lies in the student body’s vague understanding of what responsibilities the position entails. “I think people take the election seriously, but people don’t take the position itself as seriously, which is why not that many people run each year,” she said. In Bancroft, there were only four candidates for three positions.

Since taking on the position, Bancroft dorm representatives admitted that they do not always fulfill all their responsibilities, such as sending out email updates on the Council’s progress. “It is hard to be sending out emails every single week when there isn’t really a lot of significant stuff covered in Student Council,” Mukherjee said.

Whatever the problem may be, Noori said that StuCo is working to address these issues in various ways. “We are already reforming the ways we send the agendas and minutes in the coming year and we are trying to make it more accessible so that dorm reps can give that commentary,” he said. “It is a problem the council faces and over the next year we want to very strictly codify the responsibilities of dorm reps.”

**The \$10,000 Initiative**

Student Council is annually endowed with a budget which allows us to execute our mission. Previous Executive Boards have invested funds towards a project which can have a lasting impact in our community, and Student Council has now saved approximately \$10,000. We invite every Exonian to contribute their innovative ideas for how these funds could be used. Think out of the box! Please scan the QR code below to submit your proposals. We look forward to receiving your vision for our community.

The winning submission will be awarded a \$25 GIFT CARD.

- Student Council Executive Board 2019-2020



# ExonianHumor



## Student Council Launches Bike Sharing Program

By RION SHAY

*Signed Up for the "RedBikes: Rollout!" Workshop Right When the Climate Action Day Signups Came Out Because He Knew It Would Fill Up Quickly*

Last Tuesday, I broke my leg riding one of these bikes. I'm suing StuCo.

Just kidding.

Last Tuesday, Student Council finally launched the Bike Sharing program, 37 years after the idea's first conception and proposal in 1982.

Upper and Merrill resident Fiona Madrid was very pleased by the convenience that the Student Bike Sharing Program brought her. "I was about to be late to English class, but luckily there was a bike outside of Merrill that I hopped on and rode to Phillips Hall."

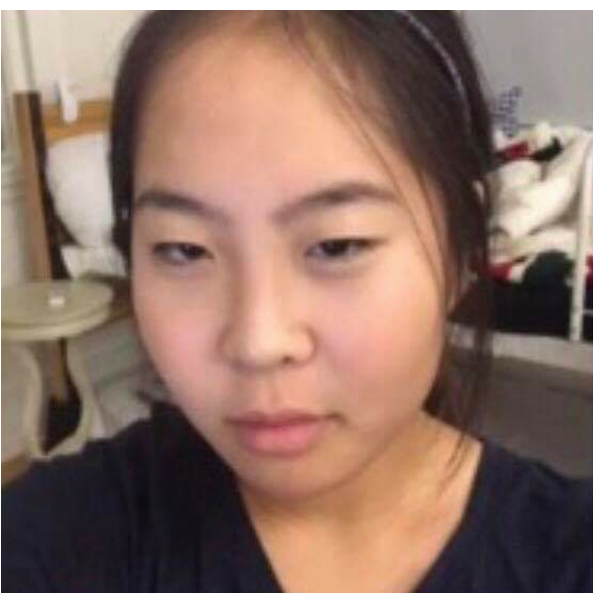
Other students disliked the bike implementation. Several Main Street and Ewald residents remarked that the bikes took away from their experience. "Everyone else is riding the bikes, so I feel like I have to as well. I am no longer able to spend 25 minutes walking from my dorm to the outdoor fields," an anonymous lower said.

Unfortunately, around 2/3 of the bikes were stolen by middle schoolers from the town of Exeter over the course of this week. Upper Nick Schwarz was thoroughly disappointed. "Ya know, I thought they had enough bikes already, always riding their bikes down Main Street and near Swazey/Stillwells," Schwarz commented. "But I guess they can do a lotta cool tricks on their bikes, like wheelies."

TFW Mr. Myers says "Senior Class" and There Is an Audible Sigh of Frustration from the Whole School and You Feel Accomplished for Being Devoted to Assembly and Also Schadenfreude

By FIONA MADRID

*Responsible Upper Who Goes to Assembly Because She Actually Likes It*



exonianhumor@gmail.com

## What Font Are You?

By FIONA MADRID  
*Very Proud of Her Font*

When it's 8PM and you're just now starting a paper that's due the next day, what do you do?

- I approach these kinds of papers with a relaxed mindset. After all, there are 8 full hours before I have another commitment, leaving me plenty of time. Sleep? Irrelevant. I can take as long as I need. Take as many youtube breaks as I want. This works pretty well for me. I get A's.
- I work until 11PM, assess the situation and give myself a good amount of time to finish and polish in the morning. I don't take breaks. I commit. Actually, now that I think of it, I don't often find myself in this situation. I work pretty hard. That said, I feel like I can never predict my grades though, no matter how much time I put in.
- I work very efficiently, sprawled over my bed with

papers everywhere. At least for the first hour. Then I pass out at about 9PM with all of my limbs hanging in mid-air. I usually wake up from my nap at 2AM, realizing what I've done, but go back to sleep and grind out a perfectly crafted paper that will probably get an A+ at 7:42. And yes, the A+ exists.

- I don't do the paper, and I come to class the next day arguing all the reasons I protest graded writing assignments. My teachers love me, so I get away with it.

Do you sport?

- Outdoor fitness!!!! (or another form of PE class)
- I enjoy the JV athletics
- I work pretty hard on my own to stay in shape. I'm about 6' with a medium build. Some people call me Dark and Stormy.

D. Tri-Var

How involved are you in extra-curriculars?

- I finessed my way into a leadership position on a pretty respectable club
- I am very involved in a variety of artsy/writing/affinity clubs
- I participate in the more ~refined~ clubs on campus. MUN, Ethics, *Exonian*...
- ESSO is my jam.

Where do you get your food?

- Elm
- Weth
- Grill
- I order out

Ok! It's time to analyze your results. If you got mostly A's, then you are Times New Roman. Mostly B's? Garamond. Mostly C's? Georgia. Mostly D's? Comic Sans. Enjoy your new spirit font.

## Leaked From Faculty Meetings: DC Reform

By NICK SCHWARZ

*Laughed Way Too Hard At A Copy Editor's "Take A Leak" Joke*

*The Humor Editors have discovered the leaked minutes from all the faculty meetings this year. Rather than be "Responsible Journalists," and turning them over to News, we decided to keep them for our own section. Each week we will release the minutes from another meeting. This week's issue: DC Reform*

9:52- Dean Cahalane finishes outlining proposal, which seems to not really change much of anything except changing the name of the process to the "Community Conduct System."

9:53- Unnamed English teacher puts on their "master of English rhetoric" hat, points out that the last major name

change, calling extended class formats "long" instead of "fat," didn't accomplish anything, as students still didn't want to do math for twenty extra minutes and go to lunch at 1 p.m.

10:00- Religion Department suggests that a more substantial change would include students on probation battling in bubble-wrap sumo suits during assembly break. Murmurs of excitement from the crowd.

10:05- Buzzkill Latin teacher points out this would be a major liability concern. After a French teacher responds by saying that the buzzkill teacher's "face is a liability concern." Stupid classics department. Back to the drawing board.

10:18- Health Center Nurses propose "Just getting it all over with and put the entire student body on med-leave. It's fool-proof."

10:28- Music instructor suggests PEA, "take Harkness to a whole 'notha level," and have students govern themselves, turning proctors into "super-soldier policeman, enforcing laws passed by STUCO."

10:32- Deans point out this plan will inevitably devolve, pointing to Stanford Prison Experiment. Music teacher simply says "yeah, I know. That's the whole point!"

10:40- Meeting adjourned, entire faculty scared of said music teacher.

## How Exonians Torture Themselves

By RYAN XIE  
*Optimist*



## Quotes of the Week

"That's actually genius."

-Fi Madrid '20

"You know what's actually genius?"

-Ryan Xie '20

"You, except only as a child."

-Fi Madrid '20

"That's a big drop right there: Child Genius to Humor Editor."

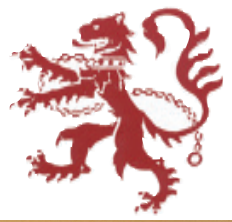
-Daniel Chen '22, on Ryan

"Do you know what anthology means?"

-Sam Weil '20

"Isn't it that store in Portsmouth?"

-Charlie Venci '20



Students greet attendees at Consent Fest.

Paula Perez-Glassner/The Exonian

## EASA Hosts CONSENT FEST FOR COMMUNITY

By DANIEL CHEN and MAEGAN PAUL

Staff Writer

Exonians Against Sexual Assault (EASA) hosted its second annual Consent Fest in Phelps Commons, colloquially known as Agora, this past Friday night. A variety of clubs and teams set up booths with infographics and posters to inform Exonians about the role of gender and sexuality in their respective fields.

EASA's own booth provided free black "Got Consent?" bracelets and took orders for the matching black "Got Consent?" t-shirts. EASA co-heads and members walked around Agora wearing the shirts, including the special edition created for Dunbar's Back in Black dance in September.

EASA co-head and senior Grace Carroll described the intent of the event and the different groups it spotlighted. "Consent Fest is meant to bring the discussion around consent and sexual violence to a bigger part of the Exeter community," she said. "We invited an intentionally diverse group of clubs to participate, most of whom looked at the intersections between issues of consent and whatever interest their club focuses on." Co-head and senior Jane Collins explained with an analogy: "Consent Fest is basically a 'science fair' for topics related to sexual assault, harassment and gender violence."

The Dance Company created posters highlighting specific issues regarding sexual assault within dance groups around the

world. "It was great to be included because sexual assault and harassment is such an important issue," lower and dancer Christina Xiao said. "Being able to educate other people on how it plays out in the dance world was great for bringing awareness."

They also spoke about the power dynamics often associated with sexual assault. "In ballet, especially, the majority of dancers are female but the schools and companies are led by men," upper and dancer Khine Win said. "This extreme population divide breeds an unhealthy culture [where] many women are afraid to speak up and put their careers at risk." In their personal research of the dance community, Exeter's Dance Company found that the environment sometimes held dancers back from coming forward to expose their maltreatment.

The ESSO Club Amnesty International, a chapter of the global organization, took an active approach during the festival. The group spotlighted the poor conditions of sex workers in the Dominican Republic and asked students to sign a petition by Amnesty International to help them. Although the sex working industry is legal in the country, it is not heavily regulated and women are often abused not only by customers but law enforcers. Later in the night, Amnesty International also featured a petition to request Denmark lawmakers'

acknowledgment of sexual assault cases.

Only a few steps away, the wrestling team discussed sexism in the sports community, with a poster of transgender wrestler Mack Beggs, who had been denied the right to compete in both assigned and chosen gender.

On the other side of the agora, Exeter's Feminist Union highlighted sexual assault statistics for the Military. Notably, the booth examined sexual assault for all genders and brought the experiences of men to the forefront of their viewer's attention.

This year, the Afro-Latinx Exonian Society (ALES) created pamphlets describing the struggles of women of color and sexual assault. Decked out in the classic ALES black and gold, members discussed popular cases such as Anita Hill's accusations against Clarence Thomas and many more.

On the front of the pamphlets read, "We believe all women," a statement becoming increasingly widespread with the #MeToo movement. ALES also wished to inform others about the origins of the movement and how many people often forget that a black woman began the hashtag.

As the time neared 8 p.m. in the evening, DRAMAT began to perform two short excerpts from plays. Upper Alisha Simmons and senior Ava Harrington recited a scene from "Actually." In the play, Simmons

played the role of an African American girl who had a crush on Harrington's white character. Throughout the scene, the two had several soliloquies that informed the audience about the aftermath of their encounter. Harrington's character finally confessed that she falsely accused Simmons' character of rape. Simmons was then questioned and the audience was left without a conclusion; instead forced to think about privilege and how it can be easily abused.

Seniors Nat Love and Jake Blaisdell, meanwhile, represented a young girl and serial kidnapper, respectively, in Julia Cho's "BFE," which will be performed in its entirety on May 3rd for the DRAMAT Weekend of Women. The room was stiff as Love's character became increasingly nervous and begged for freedom with drastic measures. The scene pieced together aspects of true cases and left undertones that stressed the gravity of the lesser known ones.

EASA hopes to continue Consent Fest in the future, in conjunction with other consent-related initiatives. "EASA worked with Dr. [Christina] Palmer's office to rework the upcoming Bringing in the Bystander training that the upper class will undergo this week," Carroll said. "We wanted to make sure an opportunity to discuss and evaluate Exeter's culture of sexual violence wasn't lost."

## BEACH BALL

By MAEGAN PAUL

Staff Writer

Inflatable flamingos and palm trees dotted the lobby of Phelps Science Center this past Saturday. The second annual Beach Ball, hosted by Student Council's Recreation Committee, welcomed students to the dance floor with bright lights and upbeat music. In addition to the free sunglasses that were also available last year, the group promoted attendance by offering free shirts to the first fifty students that arrived at the dance. The blue shirts featured a colorful beach ball on the front with the name of the dance beneath it and the date, "04.06.19," on the back.

Students rushed to Grainger Auditorium even before the dance started, and all shirts were gone within the first five minutes. Many did not stay for the rest of the dance. Although members from Student Council and the Student Activities office attempted to discourage these actions, students left the science center through alternate exits. The fact that some students were away over the weekend to attend games or public speaking tournaments exacerbated the situation.

Upper and Recreation Committee Head Tise Okeremi expressed her disappointment, stressing how the shirts were meant to promote the dance. The dance started off slowly as some students left after discovering that the free shirts had already been distributed.

Upper Talia Rivera recognised the disadvantage of having the full Grainger Auditorium open. "This year, because we didn't have the partition in Granger, it looked very empty," she said. "I feel that, if the partition were up for this year's Beach Ball, it would have felt more full."

Although the busy lives of Exonians prevented Beach Ball's large turnout from last year, some of the attendees enjoyed the extra space. "There was a lot of free space," said Okeremi. "I played a dance Dodgeball, which was really fun."

Like the dance last year, the DJ booth was well decorated. The lasers and fog ma-

chine set the mood of summer and were often synchronized with the music. Club T Productions, an entertainment group featured at other dances this year, brought an exciting and rare idea. Students were allowed to request songs, similar to the Wheelwright Whiteout dance a few weeks ago.

As a result of Exonians' diverse music tastes, the genres of music played ranged from EDM to rap and 2000s pop. Unsurprisingly, some songs were played several times due to popular demand. "Thotiana" by Blueface and "Mo Bamba" by Sheck Wes blared through the speakers three times each, while songs like Sean Kingston's "Fire Burning" played twice.

"Right Here" by lower Osiris Russell-Delano was requested and many of his friends happily sang along. Similar to the ALES dance, this was an opportunity for a larger audience to hear work from such a local source.

Although many took advantage of the opportunity to hear their favorite songs, others were not as interested. Lower Anabel Ramsay recounted her initial disinterest in the dance. "It was hard to really get a feel for the dance because the music was so different and random," she said.

Rivera held similar thoughts about the experience and commented on the work of those who organized the dance. "I really liked the look of Beach Ball, but it was just the actual music and the lack of people that kind of brought it down," Rivera said. "Last year's Beach Ball was actually so much fun because there are just so many people. I guess it was [that popular] because it was a new dance and a lot of people wanted to check it out."

StuCo's Recreation Committee hopes to continue Beach Ball and learn from both years. As the end of the school year continues to move closer, Beach Ball stands as one of the last dances for the senior class. Although the original founders of the dance won't get to see its future, Student Council is sure to continue the great work of this year and the past year.

Exclusive Interview

## ROBERT LIM

By MAEGAN PAUL

Staff Writer

**You have said that you partially joined the ROTC program because it helped with paying for college. Did you have any sort of idea going into college about what you wanted to do?**

One of the things that I discovered about Davidson, and what convinced me to join [ROTC], was that a lot of people on their Hall of Fame for ROTC students were physicians. I know [Davidson has] a long history of getting students into medical school but also dealing with the military background. ... I knew I wanted to do medicine and I feel that it's about paying for it. And ROTC was a big help to my family.

**Can you go into more depth of exactly what you do both for civilians and for the military?**


Sometimes it's the supply issue, sometimes... there are some cases that a trauma surgeon cannot do because they don't have the expertise. Sometimes it has to do with the rest of your mission. But we try to make it so it's only a resource problem. ... That being said, every situation is different. If you're the only provider and there are 40 patients coming in and all three of them need emergency surgery then chances are a

bunch of them are going to die. There's no way around that.

But you never know what's going to come in, how much you're going to need something. ... So that all comes from your collective intelligence and it tells you that 'yes we can treat this guy, or no we can't treat them.'

**What keeps you motivated to do this important work?**

I would say over the years, this has changed. At first, I was just thinking that I wanted to get out there and make sure my patients are alive. And then later on I wanted to make sure the system was a little bit better. But now I really want to [help] people in the future and work towards making it better not just for the surgeons and the patients but for the whole system. ... I was not going to be an academic after I graduated—I wasn't the greatest resident. And to see me doing this now is a completely different change in what I envisioned for myself. ... But ultimately ... the soldier needs help and I'm happy to help my fellow surgeons in getting to the next level. I've been given these gifts, ... I really haven't embraced them too well until the last five or six years. And that changed my life.



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## SeniorSpotlight

## CHANDLER JEAN-JACQUES

By EMLY KANG and  
CHARLOTTE LISA  
Staff Writers

Every week, four-year senior Chandler Jean-Jacques sits down in the WPEA broadcasting booth to co-host her eclectic show, *Chandora's Box*. As she discusses humorous articles and BuzzFeed quizzes, listeners are drawn in by her vivacious personality and easygoing nature. Jean-Jacques' natural individuality shines out in her famous pair of sparkly silver Converse shoes as she walks all around campus, leading Exonians in everything from sports to social justice.

Upon her arrival to Exeter, Jean-Jacques quickly discovered that she had a passion for activism and current events. Since her prep year, she has been a member of the Afro-Latinx Exonian Society (ALES) and *Woke*, a club which explores the intersectionality of feminism. Her interest in advocacy grew substantially after she became a member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day (MLK) Committee her upper year. "[MLK Committee] made me start thinking more about how I could impact my community through organizational efforts," she said. Her endeavors to promote social change on and off campus have led her to become a cohead of *Woke*, a board member of the dialogue-centered magazine *Unite* and a member of the Equal Justice Initiative Thanksgiving break trip this past fall.

Jean-Jacques bolsters her commitment to social activism by keeping up with current events. After finishing the U.S. history sequence her upper year, she was looking for a way to apply her new knowledge to current events. She was able to further explore the news through the class *American Politics and Public Policy* with History Instructor William Jordan. "I really enjoyed that class because we got to talk about U.S. policy in U.S. history in a more nuanced way and apply it to current day situations," she said.

Jean-Jacques loves to have these



JaQ Lai/The Exonian

conversations outside of the classroom as well. "One of the reasons I like Exeter is because the people here are willing to have conversations about different topics, whether that be news or current events or just what we are learning about in class," she said.

In fact, these conversations led to a friendship with fellow senior Malobika Syed. Syed and Jean-Jacques met in an English class lower year and got to know each other through their discussions. "Our discussions in class eventually blossomed into a friendship," Syed said. "Our discussions during meal times are always iconic."

Jean-Jacques' ability to connect with others can also be seen in her athletic prowess. As the captain of both the girls' varsity lacrosse and squash teams, she aims to bring her teammates closer together while helping them hone their skills. Her advice comes from a place of experience since Jean-Jacques has played lacrosse, her main sport, for twelve years. "I would say that, throughout my years of lacrosse, the four years at Exeter have been the best with lacrosse so far," she said. "I really appreciate how not only the coaches, Ms. Breen and Mr. Hayes, have been supportive, but people on the team have been much more

supportive compared to past teams that I have been on."

Girls' Varsity Lacrosse Head Coach Christina Breen praised Jean-Jacques' leadership abilities, and the growth she has seen in Jean-Jacques since prep year. "Chandler joined the team as a prep when she was reserved and quiet—more willing to observe than to chime into the action," Breen said. "Now, she is front and center with all team events, both on the field and off." Most of all, Breen said, "Chandler leads by example."

Lower Marymegan Wright, a dormmate and lacrosse teammate of Jean-Jacques, noted Jean-Jacques' contribution to the team as a valuable player and supportive captain. "Chandler always works as hard as she can in practice, and she's very supportive of all of her teammates," Wright said. "She always has great advice to offer and is such an approachable person that you can really go up and ask her about anything."

Fellow lacrosse captain and senior Bella Hillman emphasized the impact of Jean-Jacques' positive energy as well as her innate ability to "always lift up the people around her."

Dormmate and senior Isadora Kron also praised Jean-Jacques' hard work and dedication for their weekly radio show. "She is always prepared for the show and works really hard to make sure it goes well, and her sense of humor makes it fun for me as her co-host to participate as well," Kron said. "When we do *Chandora's Box*, it always just feels like an hour spent hanging out with Chandler, one of my closest friends, not like the radio show that it actually is."

Although Kron has known Jean-Jacques since her prep year, she believes that Jean-Jacques' good-natured personality has not changed. "I think that she is one of the most positive, exciting people at Exeter. You can tell that she is excited because it comes across in everything about her," she said. "The excitement she gives off is very tangible, and I think that she makes the people around her happy with her presence."

## FacultySpotlight

## PANAMA GEER

By TANYA DAS and  
FELIX YEUNG  
Staff Writers

As a child, Math Instructor Panama Geer did not believe in infinity. "I think I was pretty little. I remember my dad telling me about infinity, and I just said, 'That's not possible. Things have to end.' I decided I would prove him wrong," she recounted. "I would just start counting, and, eventually, I would get to the end... In the mornings, I would wake up and write down the number that I left off on. Then, I would keep going. At some point, it dawned on me that I was not getting anywhere." This experience left Geer with an appreciation for mathematics.

As she grew older, she realized her desire to pursue mathematics, though her passions lie both in it and fine arts. "In my mind, they're so much the same thing. I've always thought of math as a language in which you can describe the world, and I think art is very much the same," she said. "Both my parents were artists, and I grew up with dinner table conversation that was [about] the arts and art history. [Art] has shaped how I view the world." In college, Geer pursued both interests, earning a dual degree.

To this day, Geer remains highly artistic. "Her father was a talented painter. She can repair antique furniture, sew anything imaginable and create interesting pieces of artwork," Math Instructor and colleague Laura Marshall said. "She once told me she completed a PhD in mathematics just to annoy her dad, a hippy artist, but she is passionate about mathematics and brings her creativity to it."

After college, Geer spent two years at the Hotchkiss School, where she discovered a desire for more knowledge. "I wanted to learn more to be a teacher... I wanted to learn more math, and that was something I didn't have. I think the more you teach, the more you realize how much there is to know," she said. For her area of study, Geer picked applied mathematics, hoping to better explain how math could be used in other realms. After earning graduate, postgraduate, and postdoctoral degrees, Geer returned to education.

As a teacher, Geer delves deeply into every problem that she assigns. "I think that's probably a hallmark of what I do... I [want students to] understand the why behind a concept," she said. "[Mastery] allows you, if you really understand the core of an issue, to extrapolate, to use



Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

those ideas in some totally novel way. I think that's the value of studying math."

Furthermore, she tries to accommodate different styles of thinking. "It wasn't until I became a teacher that I really appreciated the variety of ways that people absorb information... the different ways that people come to understanding," she said.

Many students consider Geer one of the most caring faculty members on campus. "One time, I went to Dunbar [for help]... I told her how I was struggling to speak in the discussions, and, afterwards, she would actually help to include me in class," upper Erin Ahern said. Though Ahern had struggled in previous courses, Geer helped her "fall back into love with math," providing her with a support system.

Geer's support transcends beyond the academic. In the aftermath of the election of Donald Trump, Geer took the time to address the wounds that some students were carrying. "It was a difficult and extremely divisive time for the country, and that tension was reflected in our class... Emotions were fraught. She noticed that, put aside her role as a math teacher, and became, most simply put, a life teacher," upper Tatum Schutt recalled. "She addressed the climate in the room, facilitated a difficult conversation about the direction of our country, and demonstrated to my class what grace and compassion looks like

in trying times... I am thankful that our paths crossed."

Her kindness has further been felt in her role as an advisor. "One night, someone took my food out of the [Dunbar] refrigerator—I was planning on eating that for dinner. Upon hearing this, Ms. Geer went into her house and made me pasta so I wouldn't go hungry," upper Serene DeSisso said. "Where I am from, kids tend not to have good relationships with adults because they don't trust their intentions. Ms. Geer has been the greatest rebuttal to this belief by being an amazing advisor, teacher, and friend." Geer's compassion has allowed DeSisso to trust adults on campus.

While Geer's affability goes above and beyond, they come naturally to her. "We have this incredible group of students who really want to learn... The kind of kids who have that desire are just kids I want to be around and work with. I can't help but like them because they're enthusiastic about things that I'm enthusiastic about," she said. "I do care deeply about my students, but I can't imagine why anybody wouldn't." In eight years at the Academy, Geer has seen students blossom, and she has enjoyed supporting them in that process.

In addition to her teaching, Geer has served on the Curriculum, Appointment and Leaves, Hiring, Retirement Planning, and Admissions Reading Committees at PEA. "[Committee assignments] change

a little bit year to year... They all serve different purposes, and the thing that I like about [them is that] I get to see different avenues of the school," she said. "[With this awareness,] I also get to interact with students in different ways." Beyond that, she also advises Fight Club and Random Acts of Kindness club.

Over the summer, Geer also participates in constantly evolving the Math Department's materials. "There's a purpose [to everything.] It's very carefully constructed, and I really wanted to understand it," Geer said. "I knew there [were] a lot of brilliant colleagues who had spent a lot of time doing that. And the more I got into it, the more I appreciated the subtleties of what we were doing. I wanted to contribute and continue to hone it." This work allows Geer to engage with her colleagues on a purely mathematical level, all the while improving her ability to probe her students on all aspects of a given problem.

Despite these responsibilities, Geer prioritizes her family above all else. "For me, the biggest thing is my family. We put a lot of time just getting my kids back and forth to soccer practices... We spend time on the weekends going to soccer games," she said. "Every weekend is taken up by going away to a soccer game, sometimes as far away as New Jersey. That's a great family pastime, to just get all of us together so we can root for each other."

Her ability to strike a work-life balance has brought her the admiration of her colleagues. "She throws herself into her work, [where she] is serious and thoughtful and engaging..., but she is also fiercely protective of her personal life and her family," Chair of the Department of Mathematics Gwynneth Coogan said. "She sets a great example for all working humans, especially those on [boarding] school campuses, of how to find the balance that allows you to give your all to more than one endeavor."

Geer is able to devote herself to the community because of all the joy it has brought her. "I feel really privileged to be working with these students and with the colleagues that I have here, to have the opportunity to do something that I feel can make a difference in other people's lives," she said. "I think a lot of us here feel that kind of privilege. It's hard not to in this community." This appreciation is reciprocated in each student whose life she has touched.

## Pete Buttigieg: Towards a Christian Left

Stephen McNulty '21

Columnist

If you've been following the budding 2020 election, you've probably heard of Pete Buttigieg—the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana—who is running for President. Apparently, his campaign has caught a bit of lightning: Buttigieg has appeared on countless talk shows and major events with an outsider message uniquely connected to his personal background. Buttigieg, if elected, would be the youngest President ever at age 39, and America's first openly gay Commander-in-Chief.

To a certain degree, "Mayor Pete" has built a campaign around his identity, arguing that America, in essence, needs a millennial president to bring a youthful vigor and reform mindset.

However, there is another aspect of his suddenly popular campaign that intrigues me even more, which ties back to religion. For context, it's worth examining the often misunderstood role of Christianity in American political history. Some, including certain members of the Exeter community, often subscribe to a rather one-sided narrative—that at every turn, Christianity has stood more or less as an enemy to progress,

that organized religion subverts freedom and that it was only with the dawn of secular culture that progress began. Such a narrative is naive, to say the least, and fundamentally misconstrues the role of religion in politics. In reality, there have been Christians on both sides of plenty of major issues. Sure, segregationists and bigots favored the usage of extremely-hardline "Christian" rhetoric. But civil rights campaigners invoked God just as much, claiming him for their side of a cosmic struggle bending towards justice. Similarly, Christians, in particular Catholic immigrants, formed a formidable part of the New Deal coalition and other movements for total economic justice.

The notion of a religious right was actually popularized around the 1980s and is basically nothing but another Reaganism; in essence, it sought to build a political coalition around two issues—abortion and same-sex marriage. The marketing was swift and severe: one could not be Christian and vote for a Democrat, the Reaganites argued. It became unimportant that Reagan repeatedly invoked language that demonized the poor in order to more or less rob them with widespread deregulation. It became unimportant that Reagan was actively involved in the funding of Latin American interventions. It became unimportant that Reagan slashed

the top tax rate while raising taxes on the middle class eleven times. In the face of the murder of children, they contend, how can any of that matter?

In case you couldn't tell already, I'm a card-carrying liberal. And if you've ever had a conversation with me, I've probably brought up my Catholic background. I see my identities very much intertwined—I worship a poor Judean who gave out free healthcare, ultimately to die an innocent victim of the death penalty. It lends credence to the notion of a religious left—a loose coalition of individuals who see in Christ's message a powerful call to social justice, particularly for the poor and oppressed. We see in the Gospel a call for the liberation of the poor, the marginalized, the hungry, the victimized.

Unfortunately, this Gospel message has been pushed to the side. In its place, a group of ideologues has attempted to hijack political Christianity and transform it into a two-issue movement. Now, I contend that one can absolutely be both Christian and conservative. As difficult as I may find it to rationalize voting for someone in favor of capital punishment, the very sentence that killed their Lord and Saviour, there is still a valid theological argument for a conservative Christianity. But, no singular party should maintain a stranglehold on religious dialogue

in America.

This is where "Mayor Pete" comes in. You see, Buttigieg lives in the same state as Vice President Mike Pence, who has repeatedly invoked "Christian" rhetoric to justify conversion therapy and discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community. Despite coming under fire, as one might expect, Buttigieg has refused to back down, articulating his religion in a beautiful reconciliation of his faith and his sexuality in a speech at the LGBTQ Victory Fund Brunch: "That's the thing I wish the Mike Pence's of the world would understand: that if you have a problem with who I am, your quarrel is not with me. Your quarrel, sir, is with my creator." In that very same speech, Buttigieg said that his marriage to another man has actually brought him closer to his own God and spirituality.

It's hard to understate how transformative that message is. Buttigieg's frank and direct approach to religion is what Democrats need in order to break a conservative monopoly on religious politics. I worship a God who preached to the poor, to lepers, to the outcasts, to tax collectors, to prostitutes, to outsiders, to ethnic minorities, to a people marginalized as one of the poorest regions of the Empire. It heartens me to see that I'm not the only one.

## Paving the Way to A More Inclusive Hollywood

Dennis Kostakoglu Aydin '21

Columnist

A couple weeks ago, Jordan Peele released his second black horror movie, "Us", to critical acclaim. Peele has rocketed to fame in recent years for his first horror movie "Get Out," which was also released to rave reviews and currently holds a 98 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes. Both films are revolutionary in cinema history, not just because of their success, but also because they feature African American and Black leads.

However, this has caused some controversy. Recently, Peele said to a crowd of about 200 improv comedy students at the Improv Comedy Brigade Theatre that "[he] didn't really see [himself] ... casting a white dude as the lead in [his] movie. Not that I don't like white dudes. But I've seen that movie." At first glance, this might

seem like an example of blatant inequality to some. However, there is an important distinction to make. In "Get Out," many of the characters are white, as is in "Us." The problem with this quote is not that it exemplifies inequality. The problem comes when people challenge it. What Peele is saying is that he doesn't want to cast a white lead. He is not saying he doesn't want to cast white people, period. And I agree with his reasoning.

There are so many movies, not just horror, with white leads. It's not black superiority to cast a black lead in a movie, it's equality. It's giving someone like Lupita Nyong'o the same chance that Matt Damon would have. And most importantly, it is teaching the audience a lesson in ethics. It allows people to see characters who they can see themselves in and whose experiences reflect their own. Simultaneously, it also allows others who are not of the same racial background to expand their view

beyond the stereotypical roles that actors of color are generally cast in. This is the real lesson that Hollywood needs to learn, and what Peele is trying to spearhead.

For decades, Hollywood's problem has been that they are only willing to pander to a certain audience through their films—an audience of white people. Take Disney, for example. In the 20th century, it was rare for a movie to be centered around a non-white princess. Jasmine, in 1992's "Aladdin," was the first. And the first black Disney princess did not appear on the big screen until 2009, with the "Princess and the Frog." Hollywood is too set in their ways, and more importantly, they've allowed their audiences to become accustomed to seeing only white actors in major films.

People have been pushing for concrete progress for years, and we have finally begun to witness changing media representation for people of color. Idris Elba being considered for James Bond

and Noma Dumezweni for Hermione in "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" are two examples of how we, as a society, have started to shift into more inclusive casting for prominent roles. However, as much as we have grown, Hollywood has ingrained into the collective American psyche, the belief that white people should always star in films. Just as we as a society need to change our mentality of who we deem worthy to occupy these roles, it is up to Hollywood to make a greater effort for true racial equality on the movie screen. This is what Peele is doing, and hopefully other directors and producers will follow suit. Film is a medium which many people observe on a daily basis, and it has the power to change people's minds about issues. We can't and shouldn't blame Peele for effectively using it as a platform to advocate for greater inclusion.

## Defending LGBT+ Rights in Foreign Policy

Stephen McNulty '21

Columnist

Relatively recently, the small Southeast Asian Kingdom of Brunei enacted laws to punish homosexuality by death. And it is far from the only country to do so—a litany of hardline reactionary states, particularly in the Middle East and Northern Africa, have also criminalized homosexuality, some sentencing up to life in prison or death for same-sex sexual activity. I think I need not explain the sheer depravity of these laws, but it's worth remembering when discussing issues like the broad "human rights," where LGBT issues have often been overlooked or ignored entirely until recently.

This is troublesome, both from a moral and foreign policy perspective. Generally speaking, the United States has articulated a foreign policy of human rights, forming strategic partnerships with other nations while recognizing basic civil liberties, freedom of conscience and expression among them. The United States has, generally speaking, been the greatest proponent of an international order bent towards the respect of human rights. The so-called "Pax Americana" has seen a steady rise in the number of democracies worldwide; in the twentieth

century, the world saw the building of international institutions to protect human rights and promote development, which improving attitudes towards religious, expressive, political, and often even LGBT freedoms. This century also witnessed the rise of a majority democratic world order—it is estimated that some sixty percent of the world's nations are now democratic. And yes, American intervention, both economic and military, has arguably speeded up that advance. The United States helped stabilize Europe with economic aid following World War II, defended the democratic governments of South Korea, Israel, and Taiwan from invasion, secured the protection of the Baltic States, provided more financial assistance to Africa and the Americas than any other nation in history, and ushered in the most peaceful period of time in human history. And yes, it is the most peaceful time in human history. Though it may not seem like it, international wars haven't really occurred with much frequency at all following World War II. The reasons behind this are that global economic systems are more intertwined today than ever, and because international institutions have arisen to address such conflicts. Who funds most of these institutions? The United States. So let me be clear—I do believe that American foreign policy in this century has been, though not

perfect, a great lever for global stability in our time.

When America stands up for those rights on a global scale, tremendous things can happen. When the United States and the West writ-large have applied pressure for change, we have oftentimes see real progress occur. One need not look further than democratic support for Poland's Solidarity Movement to discern as much. Unfortunately, in the process of leading such an international order, the US has often gotten itself into relations with bad actors. The most infamous example here is Saudi Arabia, quite literally one of the most repressive regimes on Earth. There are still legitimate reasons to engage with Saudi Arabia—they remain one of our few Arab partners and a key ally in combating certain terror groups throughout the Middle East. Having stable partners in every region of the world ensures both the safety of Americans and the security of regions, and there absolutely is value to that.

But at the same time, America often invokes a moral authority when it speaks—one fitting of the "leaders of the free world." But it is rather hard to hear America condemn human rights abuses in Sudan, for instance, while they continue to support grave war crimes in Yemen with resupply runs. Very similarly, it is very hard to listen to American support for human rights while they turn a blind

eye to the gross violation of gay rights. And this dichotomy given in reply, that America must entirely support every action of the Saudi government or declare war on it immediately, is tremendously silly. We can apply pressure on our allies for reform—we do it all the time. In fact, it's easier to pressure countries with whom we have an established relationship to take a stand for human rights. It is a bargaining chip, and that was the very premise of Obama's decision to normalize relationships with Cuba.

It's high time we made it clear to the world that the United States will stand by LGBTQ+ individuals throughout the world—their rights to life, to civil equality, to freedom from discrimination. Real human rights. In addition, we must make clear to our allies that American support is no blank check -- it involves engaging with an agenda for the world rooted in freedom and liberty. That agenda includes eliminating homophobia and transphobia. Yes, Brunei is in ASEAN. Yes, Brunei is part of a crucial counter-balance to Chinese aggression in the South China Sea. But, that does not mean turning a blind eye to the stoning of gay people. Rather, the situation in Brunei is a reminder that the United States must include the LGBTQ+ community in its message—a message that has brought tremendous good for numerous people around the world.

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## John Phillips: A Sketch

Cameron Frary '20

Columnist

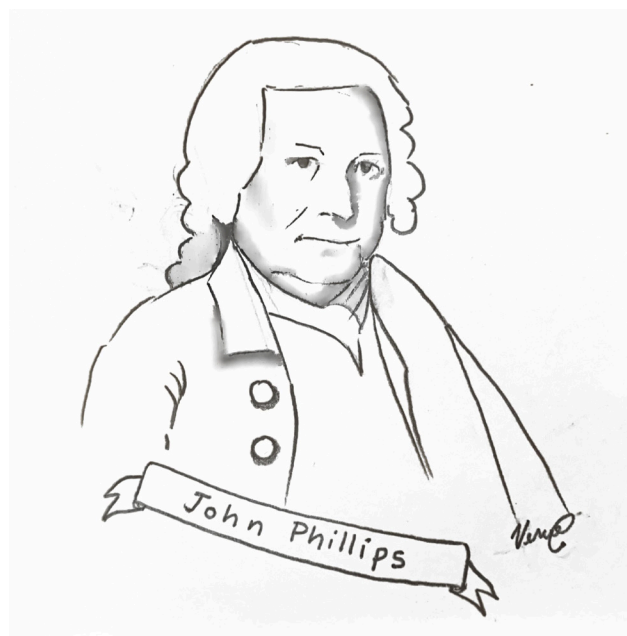
Having read parts of several volumes on our Academy's history, I falsely believed myself something of an expert on the school. However, I had foolishly skipped the first few chapters—the ones about the Phillips family and the founding of the Academy—thinking I was already well-acquainted with the story. My own ignorance shocked me into writing the following column, so that others, possibly as unknowingly ignorant as I was, may better understand the father of our school.

John Phillips was born in 1719, and for the first decade of his life, he took religious and academic lessons at his father's parish in Andover, Massachusetts. Evidently, Phillips Sr. should have chosen the schoolhouse over the pulpit; at the age of eleven, young Phillips enrolled in Harvard University, the youngest of his class by two years. He was not handicapped by his youth. While there, Phillips won several awards and was selected to deliver the Salutatory Oration at his commencement in 1735. After graduating, he returned to his hometown and taught school for one or two years. While he was in Andover, he stood behind the pulpit, but despite his steadfast piety, he decided that a life in the ministry would not suit him. His brief inquiry into medicine yielded no special affinity either. Three years after leaving Harvard, he returned and earned his master's degree in 1738 at only nineteen years. Soon thereafter, he left his hometown for Exeter.

At 21 and in a new town, Phillips did not have a clear idea of his profession. Having briefly taught in Andover, Phillips continued to teach for about three years after his relocation to Exeter. Shortly after his 1743 marriage to Sarah Gilman, the widow of the wealthy

Nathaniel Gilman, he had a two-story house built on Water Street. He quit teaching and stocked the first floor with goods. As Myron Williams wrote in his 1957 book *The Story of Phillips Exeter*, he "had begun his long and prosperous career—first as country storekeeper, then as an importer and exporter of food, manufactured goods and lumber and finally as a speculator in lands and, as a banker, lending money at the pleasant rate of twelve and fifteen per cent." By 1765, John Phillips was the wealthiest man in the town.

Despite the images some might have of a wealthy colonist, the Founder was not miserly. New Hampshire Governor William Plumer wrote that Phillips was "a man of many talents ... mild in his temper, easy and courteous in his manners and in conversation modest and unassuming. He had a strong aversion to every thing that had the appearance of splendor, pomp and parade, but was particularly prudent and frugal—always preferring the useful to the showy." He was not a greedy loyalist but instead a generous benefactor to noble causes. For that, we have his religious upbringing to thank.



In that age, religion and the accompanying moral education dominated social life. Thus, our Founder felt the obligation to contribute to causes that might aid the education of religious principles. In his diary, he wrote that "being sensible that a part of my income is required of me to be spent in the more immediate service of God, I, therefore, devote a tenth of my salary to keeping school and to pious and charitable purposes."

It was in this mind that John Phillips gave significant tracts of land and sums of money to Eleazar Wheelock for his school for Native Americans in Connecticut and to his newer college: Dartmouth. His numerous contributions to the latter include some four thousand acres that the college later sequestered to create a professorship in the Founder's name. For his gifts and service as a trustee, the college honored him with a doctorate-level degree in law. His contributions to Dartmouth College were so great that they were noted on his grave, alongside his positions as "Founder of the Phillips Exeter Academy" and "Associate Founder of the Phillips Academy at Andover." Yes, John Phillips was an Associate Founder of Phillips Academy, Andover.

It was with the goal of providing educational and moral guidance that the founder of our sister school at Andover, Judge Samuel Phillips (Dr. Phillips's nephew), began to consider establishing an academy. Laurence Crosbie, Class of 1900, speculates that in the "low ebb" of education during the revolutionary years, "Judge Phillips recognized the need [to establish educational institutions] and set his mind to fill it." The message resonated with our Founder, to whom "the logical conclusion of Religion [was] Education."

In 1776, Dr. Phillips wrote to his nephew on the topic of "our proposed establishment" and preemptively donated what adjusts to about \$330,000 towards to foundation of Phillips Academy Andover. Two years later, Judge Phillips founded Andover, with our own Dr. Phillips as "Associate Founder." In Dr. Phillips's will, he gave approximately two-thirds of his estate to his academy and one-third to his nephew's. The remaining amount of the estate was so meager that, despite having signed away her dowry, Elizabeth Phillips, his second wife, protested to the Trustees of both Phillips Academy and Phillips Exeter Academy.

Dr. Phillips's allocations of his wealth aptly summarize the dedication he had to the cause of education. At the 1903 General Reunion of Exeter alumni, President William Jewett Tucker of Dartmouth observed that "it is one thing to go down into the market and make a million in a day and turn over half of it to an institution; it is another thing to set one's self day by day and year by year to earning and saving, till one at the last can reckon up his earnings and his savings by the thousands, and then turn them over to the just and sure future." John Phillips did the latter. From the inscription on his grave comes this concise description of his energy and character: "Actuated by his ardent attachment to the cause of Christianity, he devoted his wealth to the advancement of letters and religion. His appropriate monuments are the institutions which bear his name."

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# ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: SAM WILLMAN & OLIVER BERGERON

By TESSA SHIELDS  
& CLARA GERAGHTY

Staff Writer & Contributing Writer

Senior captains Sam Willman and Oliver Bergeron are leading the 2019 varsity baseball team this spring. So far, the team has put on stellar performances, maintaining a 4-1-0 record this season. The team's only loss came on opening day against Tabor, one of the strongest opponents in the league. However, the team hopes to continue the win streak that is following their first game.

Much of the team's achievements can be traced back to the leadership of Willman and Bergeron. Although they serve as the captains now, the duo has not always possessed the talent that they do today. Bergeron and Willman both started playing baseball when they were three years old. "My brother, my dad and I would spend hours hitting tee balls at the local high school," Willman recalled.

The two co-captains fell in love with the game of baseball in their younger years, when they first started throwing the ball around. The extreme focus and concentration that the game requires of players allowed for Bergeron and Willman to disconnect with the outside world. Their focus was singular: to beat their opponent. Standing on the diamond creates a whole new atmosphere and enables the players to "feel like little kids again," according to Willman.

Willman and Bergeron have high hopes for the team this season. As the runner ups in last year's League Championship, the team is looking to do even better this year and bring home a title. Along with the championship, it is always a team goal to win the team's Exeter-Andover game near the end of May.

As a captain of the team, Bergeron believes that it is his responsibility to "use the talent that [the team] has and play to our full potential." The pair has been successful in doing this, evidenced by their strong start to the season.

Upper Will Coogan was also impressed by his captains skills. "They keep their heads up in the field, and can hit really well," he said. Upper Noah Jankowski added, "Sam is a great consistent hitter for us at the plate. Oliver has some great power when hitting, and has gotten some clutch hits for us this



Courtesy of PEAN

season."

In addition to utilizing the skills that the players have to offer, the captains also play a key role in creating strong team camaraderie. Lower James McKenna described the way the captains have made his first few weeks on the team enjoyable, saying "throughout the year, they've brought us together and made everyone feel a part of the team." As a new member of the varsity squad, McKenna says he was unsure as to how he would fit in with the rest of the players. However, Willman and Bergeron made him feel welcome and included in the group, as they did with every other member of the team. With a roster full of players from every grade, creating an inclusive and welcoming environment is especially vital.

The nine seniors and seven uppers on the team also help the new lowerclassmen fit in with and learn from the older athletes. A large portion of the team will be graduating within the next two years, making it especially important that the younger teammates know how the team

operates. Jake Shapiro, the only prep and one of the few newcomers on the team, explained how supportive Willman and Bergeron have been so far during the season. He expressed how the co-captains are always willing to help and offer tips to the players on the team. "They both are very hard workers. They aren't afraid to tell us what we're doing wrong and what we can do better," Shapiro said.

Despite their devotion to the team's success, Willman and Bergeron both understand the importance of bringing humor to the game as well, something many players say helps their ability to perform well. The tight-knit team that the captains have been successful in creating has no doubt contributed to their success thus far in the season. Coogan said of his captains, "Wilman and Bergeron are two very good leaders. They always give their best effort and lead by example, but are never afraid to have fun." Jankowski added, "They are a great pair together, being best friends they both respect and get along with each other and I think that definitely spreads

to the rest of the team and creates a great atmosphere."

After graduating, the pair intend to further their athletic careers, with Bergeron going on to play Division III Baseball at Haverford College and Willman playing hockey on a junior team with hopes of continuing in the future. Until then, the two of them will maintain their focus on having a successful season.

Recognizing how important their time on the team was to them, the captains strive to create a similar experience for the other players. Willman said, "I try to make sure everyone is enjoying themselves because you can only play high school baseball once."

The baseball team recognizes how lucky they are to have such great captains that are encouraging and helpful, both on the field and off. They have started off the spring season strong, and hope to continue on the same path for the team's remaining games. With their goals for the end of the season in mind, the baseball team will work hard during practices and games to improve their abilities.

## Boys' Track Wins Meet by 100 Points

By COOPER WALSH

Staff Writer

Big Red Varsity Track gave a whole new meaning to the phrase "caught that dub" when they demolished Worcester this past Saturday 121-21. The star-studded squad also sent Governor's Academy home utterly defeated with a final score of 121-39.

"It's definitely a confidence booster to have our first meet be such a successful one," said prep Bradley St. Laurent. He noted that "the team came off of a great winter season with a lot of wins and this meet showed that we are carrying that same energy and competitiveness with us into this spring season."

One athlete who stood out to many of his teammates was prep Ethan Aguilar. "I wasn't on the winter track team, so watching Ethan run super fast for the first time was stunning. Young athletes performing sports at that degree is always impressive," senior Chimenum Tasie-Amadi said.

Lower JD Jean-Jacques highlighted the stellar performance of lower Croix Mikovsky in the 800 meter. "He must have been second or third going into the final stretch but I could see it in his face that he wanted to be in front and he pushed it and came in first," said Jean-Jacques. St. Laurent agreed with

Jean-Jacques, stating "[Mikovsky] executed his run perfectly and shattered his previous personal record."

Lower Jeremiah Swett dominated the throwing events for Big Red. Upper AK Kosoko pointed out that "[Although Swett] is naturally gifted at throwing. He is constantly lifting and working to improve his game." Jean-Jacques added that when the team traveled to Nationals, "even against the best throwers in the country, [Swett] was still at the top."

Tasie-Amadi claims that the reason he still does track is because of the team's atmosphere: "If I had one word to describe the team, it's 'high-energy.' Oh wait that's two words." St. Laurent says that during pre-meet warm-ups, everyone is "high fiving each other and getting everyone pumped up. Every group of athletes--sprinters, distance, throwers--hypes each other up and cheers each other on throughout the whole meet."

This Saturday, Big Red Track hosts Exeter High School in the battle to claim the coveted title of best in Exeter.

Tasie-Amadi said that, because it was their first meet, the team did not have high expectations. "However the results we put up are very exciting," he said.

Big Red will be dominating on the track for yet another season.



Senior Andrew Liquigan sprints to the finish.

Helena Chen/The Exonian



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# ExonianSports



## GOLF NAILS NEW HAMPTON

*Finishes Matches With a 6.5-2.5 Win*



Lower Eunice Kim swings through the ball.

Sam Weil/The Exonian

By CHARLOTTE LISA  
Staff Writer

Exeter's varsity golf team teed off this Saturday against their first opponent of the year, the New Hampton School, and clutched the victory after a day marked by rocky starts and phenomenal performances. Under a warm, blue sky, surrounded by the plush fairways and greens of Apple Hill Golf Club, the team was concentrated on delivering a strong season opener after the cold winter months and beat New Hampton by 4 points.

Upper and captain Kennedy Moore described the team's determined mentality walking into the day. "Our mindset was that we weren't going to lose a single hole. We thought: no matter what happens tomorrow, we're going to cut eighteen holes in the ground." Lower Cole Breen echoed Moore's sentiments,

saying that "The team was focused on trying to play our best and rubbing off some of the rust from winter." The team overall approached the day excited to play at Apple Hill, "one of our favorite places to launch 'em," Moore commented.

A couple of players' performances from the day were equated to the skills of highly accomplished professional golfers. At the start of the day, upper and captain Teddy Keller "Won his match with a short game display that media outlets have compared to that of Si-Woo Kim," Moore said. Keller similarly praised his fellow captain, saying "My best friend and role model Kennedy Moore flourished and will give the team great depth this year. His driving performance [on Saturday] was likened to that of Luke List." Lower Robbie Herzig applauded the efforts of his captains "Kennedy and Teddy had

stand-out days. They've been playing well in practice and it showed on Saturday," Herzig said.

The beginning of the match was indeed rocky for a few members of the team, including prep Brian Adams. "Adams had a disastrous first hole," Keller said. Herzig added, "I found it pretty funny and wild that Brian tied his first hole with an 8, which is pretty much unheard of." Nevertheless, Keller highlighted Adams' impressive ability to bounce back from the start. "[He] recovered well, showing great perseverance." Adams ended up winning his first high school match ever, which, as Moore explained, currently puts him at a 100% winning percentage for his career so far.

As Keller described, despite some struggles the top of the team's lineup faced, "Everybody else won their matches," and "the team played well overall." Herzig highlighted the team's impressive

accomplishment of "only losing two of our six individual matches."

"Some might even say that particular players played an electric round of golf," Breen said.

Heading into their next line up against Governors and Andover, the team is even more determined. The match is "a must win," Keller said. Keller elaborated on his preparation efforts, saying "I'm envisioning all my shots. When I go to bed every night I envision my shots to better my game any chance I get." Moore put the team's hopes simply: "making putts and banging putts."

The team's victory against New Hampton served as an example for their ambitions for the rest of the season, and the Exeter golf team is heading into the rest of their season as a talented and powerful force ready to out-drive and out-putt any opponent who dares to tee up against them.

## SOFTBALL DEMOLISHES DANA HALL

*Big Red Finishes Victorious: 15-1*

By SAVI KEIDEL  
Staff Writer

This past Saturday the varsity softball team took to its home plate to play its second game of the season against Dana Hall School. The girls had an incredible win, scoring fifteen runs, while holding Dana Hall to only one. Big Red played the game in perfect, high-sixties weather, and the outfield fence was lined with fans eager to watch the Exeter girls defeat their opponents.

In the practices leading up to the game, the girls focused on practicing a lot of basic mechanics such as infield/outfield drills to keep everything simple. "Coach Thompson really emphasized getting the basics down and executing the basic plays," lower Katie Moon said. The team is relatively young, with only a few returners from last year, and everyone is getting used to playing on the field together. This focus on fundamentals was to ensure that the team didn't make small errors that would lead to larger problems, especially in a game setting.

The girls have also been making sure they hustle and have intense practices that reflect the pace of a game. "Us scoring so many runs shows how driven we were to continue playing the game to the best of our abilities, and that's a really important trait in sports," upper Amanda Harris explained.

One of the standout players, prep Taylor Nelson, was praised by many of her teammates. "One play that

really stood out to me was Taylor's first hit—on her second pitch, she hit a triple that everyone thought was going over the fence! After that, we really got our bats going, and we carried our momentum into the field to win that game," prep Riley Valashinas said.

Another standout player was senior Stacey Harris. "[She] made some great plays at first, including stabbing a line drive right at [Harris's] face that I know I would have ducked at," senior Captain Juliana Merullo said.

The team calls working on the basics "everydays" and will continue to focus on them in their coming practices. The girls had to be inside for the practices this past Monday and Tuesday because of the rain, and have been limited to working in the empty ice rinks and the fieldhouse. In future practices, the focus will be on smaller mechanics like footwork, continuing to keep everything simple.

"I think all we need for a clean game is the repetition and consistency," Moon said. The girls have also been focusing on hitting, to make sure they are prepared if they start to face faster pitching, so that they can drive in runs no matter what team they have to face. The goal is to take everything one play, one hit and one pitch at a time. "It's really a game of who can make the least errors while making the other team make more errors than you," Harris explained.

"We just want to continue keeping it simple, and making sure we nail the basics, because that has been working for us so far!" Merullo concluded.



Lower Annie Small prepares to swing at the plate.

Helena Chen/The Exonian