



The Exonian

First Class Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Mailed from 03833
Permit Number 78

"The Oldest Continuously Running Preparatory School Newspaper in America"

Vol. CXLI, Number 9

Thursday, March 28, 2019

Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire



Julie J. Park speaks on race and admissions on college campuses during her talk on Saturday, March 23rd.

Thomas Wang/The Exonian

Muslim Community Reflects on Christchurch Shootings

By ANNE BRANDES
and CHARLOTTE LISA
Staff Writers

The Christchurch mosque shootings in New Zealand on March 15 rocked the global Muslim community mid-March after a shooter killed 50 civilians, indicating a trend of growing white nationalism. The Exeter community reflected on the attacks by facilitating dialogue about Islamophobia.

In the wake of the shootings, Reverend Heidi Heath and Principal William Rawson sent emails to students and staff expressing their solidarity. "I believe that one of the roles of Director of Religious and Spiritual Life in our community is to acknowledge these moments, help equip people with the tools to process them and to create space for impacted communities and their allies to gather," Heath said.

Rawson affirmed the Academy's commitment to addressing events that affect the Exeter community. "We cannot respond to every event that occurs off campus, but when events occur that threaten the safety of members of our community, it is important to speak out in support of those who have been threatened, and also reaffirm our values as a community and recommit ourselves to doing all we can to oppose racism and other forms of hatred and violence in the world," he said.

Because the Christchurch shooting is not an isolated tragedy, Heath voiced that communication among members of the Exeter community is vital. "I'm also acutely aware as the campus chaplain that our Muslim loved ones live with a daily level of pervasive Islamophobia and anti-Muslim rhetoric in our wider world, even when things are relatively calm," she said. "I both work to offer consistent support and care, and to help support others on campus who offer crucial resources to our Muslim students and adults."

The Academy has offered support to the Muslim community through Jummah Prayer and weekly lunches on Friday afternoons, both held in Phillips Church's prayer space. "Similarly, we support programming of various kinds across the year to lift up the voices and experiences of our Muslim

[CHRISTCHURCH, 2](#)

PEA Hosts Panel to Discuss Harvard Lawsuit

By DANIEL CHEN, VERONICA CHOULGA
LINA HUANG and CHARLOTTE LISA
Staff Writers

The Office of Multicultural Affairs hosted "The Role of Race in College Admissions: The Harvard Lawsuit and What's At Stake" panel on March 22 to address the role of race and meritocracy in the college admissions process.

Panelists included Julie J. Park, Associate Professor of Education at the University of Maryland and consulting expert for Harvard College in *Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) v. Harvard*, Roger Lehecka, former Dean of Students at Columbia University and Julie Chung '16, junior at Harvard College and leader of the Asian American Women's Association at Harvard. The panelists discussed race-conscious admissions and allegations of in-

tentional discrimination against Asian American applicants.

English Instructor and Asian Student Program Coordinator Wei-Ling Woo, who organized the panel, elaborated on each panelist's contributions to the discussion. "I took Professor Lehecka's seminar on Equity in Higher Education when I was an undergrad and I thought that both his professional experience and research interests would provide much-needed historical context; Professor Park's social science research and work as a consulting expert for Harvard on the case would provide us with data and Julie Chung would bring her unique perspective as a student and activist who is working to change the narrative around the case," she said.

Citing Jerome Karabel's *The Chosen*, Lehecka offered insight on the history of Harvard admissions and emphasized the importance of conducting a holistic review of applicants

[PANEL, 3](#)

E Book Adds Bathroom Gender Policy

By FELIX YEUNG
Staff Writer

In line with the Trustee Vision Statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Academy's Non Discrimination Policy, Exeter has introduced a gender-inclusive policy on bathroom and locker room use which will apply to all students, staff members and guests.

The new bathroom and locker room use policy outlines the need for facilities to be safe, accessible, sanitary and comfortable. "People may use the restroom and/or locker room that they feel accords with their gender identity," it reads. "Decisions about which bathroom or locker room is appropriate to use rest solely with the individual using the facility. No other person should interfere with or question that decision."

The policy, announced by Assistant Principal Karen Lassey, is the result of discussions between the administration, faculty and student body. After students were made aware of the policy, Principal William Rawson sent a similar communication to parents. The policy is now in effect, and it will be added to the E Book in the coming days.

The policy expressly outlines bathroom expectations to be enforced. Under its definition of appropriate behavior, the Academy prioritizes privacy, respect and cleanliness. The policy includes the requirement that bathroom users "[appreciate] others' need for modesty and avoiding prolonged nudity in common spaces." In addition, users must refrain "from using phones, cameras or other devices that can be used to record or transfer images or audio." Those concerned about violations to these requirements are encouraged



Ten faculty members attend the White Privilege Conference in Iowa.

Courtesy of Melissa Pacific

by the policy to contact the appropriate administrators.

The announced changes further include a modification to the housing section of the E Book. "We have added language in the E Book updating the available housing options to include boys, girls and all gender dorms and clarifying the ways in which we make housing assignments, including allowing students to elect to live in dorms that best align with their gender identities," Rawson said.

In his email, Rawson communicated that the policy was informed by the Trustees' Vision Statement. "The trustees and I share a commitment to promoting a sense of belonging for every student and adult on this campus," he said. "[The] Trustees issued a Vision Statement that makes explicit this commitment."

Rawson further shared with parents that modifications to the current housing process are on the way. "We have created a housing questionnaire that we use with all new students, explaining the available housing options and our support for all students, including transgender and gender non-conforming students," he said. "As in the past, current students may request

dormitory changes for next year. The Dean of Students Office will be sharing information about that process very soon."

Both Lassey and Rawson highlighted the fact that Facilities Management has prioritized the continued improvement of bathroom and locker spaces. "We ... will continue to enhance our facilities to ensure all members of the community can access adequately private spaces in bathrooms and locker rooms," Lassey said. "You will notice signs posted this week in those spaces that summarize the policy and expectations."

This proposal was first brought before Student Council in the winter term. "We received helpful input in that venue and from adults on campus over the last few months," Lassey noted.

Many students welcomed the changes. Senior Elliot Diaz said, "I certainly think it's a sign of support from the administration that was necessary, especially with the recent bathroom bills from many states," he said. "The fact that we're able to put this in the E Book shows that the administration is willing to risk blowback for the safety and wellbeing of its students, which is a step forward."

[GENDER, 2](#)

Faculty Attend White Privilege Conference

By ANNE BRANDES, ERIN CHOI
TANYA DAS and TINA HUANG
Staff Writers

Ten Academy instructors attended the White Privilege Conference (WPC), an international event with over 1,500 high school and college students participants, from March 20 to 23 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

According to their website, the conference examines structures of privilege and oppression at educational institutions. By offering solutions and team building strategies to operate in a classroom environment, the conference aids attendees in promoting a more equitable world.

Some Academy instructors, including Mathematics Instructor Panama Geer, have been wanting to attend the conference for several years. "I've been hearing good things about the WPC for years, so I'd been wanting to go for a while," Geer said. "My particular reason for going was simply to learn. For me, being as inclusive as possible as both a teacher and a human being is essential."

After Director of Equity and Inclusion Stephanie Bramlett and Dean of Faculty Ellen Wolff informed faculty of the conference in an email, Mathematics Instructors Kevin Bartkovich, Daniel Garvey, Geer, Jose Molina and Filip Sain, as well as Physical Education Instructors Melissa Pacific and Joshua Peterson signed up to attend. Office of Multicultural Affairs Administrative Intern Jessica Alvarez, Associate Dean of Multicultural Affairs Hadley Camilus and Music Department Chair Kristofer Johnson also joined the list, bringing the number of total Exeter attendees

[WHITE PRIVILEGE, 2](#)

INSIDE

LIFE

Read about Wheelwright Whiteout. 8.

Learn about Exeter's new sustainability initiatives. 8.

OPINIONS

Jacob Feigenberg '21 discusses college admissions. 6.

Daniel Chen '22 notes benefits of legacy admissions. 4.

SPORTS

Read about Girls' Varsity Lacrosse's jamboree. 12.

Read about Rob Gronkowski's retirement. 12.

WEB



Visit our website for exclusives.
www.thexonian.com



Follow our Instagram.
www.instagram.com/thexonian



Like us on Facebook.
www.facebook.com/thexonian

Alumna and Teacher Polly MacMullen Passes Away at 60

By CHARLOTTE LISA
Staff Writer

The Exeter community lost Polly MacMullen, 60—loyal emerita '76, committed coach, accomplished athlete and dedicated educator—to cancer on March 21. Former students and colleagues reached out extensively over Facebook and on other platforms to express the grief and pain left in the wake of her passing.

MacMullen was deeply committed to the Exeter community. After growing up on campus with her parents who taught at the Academy, MacMullen arrived at Exeter as a new lower in 1973, only the Academy's third year of co-education.

MacMullen's 50-year reunion was unfortunately only four years away at the time of her passing and fellow classmates were devastated

by the news. Pam Lester '76, MacMullen's lower-year roommate, described her as "a wonderful, supportive friend with an incredible, positive attitude." Lester emphasized MacMullen's role as the first person she ever met on campus and the lasting impact of her company, saying "I will always love and miss her."

Similarly, alumnus Tyler Weitzman '14 remembered MacMullen as his "first teacher at Exeter" who helped him adjust to Academy life. Specifically, he described her as "the person who, in my prep fall, taught me to show up to class on time, to wear my dress shirt tucked in and to finish both my breakfast and my homework before class."

Lester spoke to MacMullen's legacy and how she touched the lives of all those she taught. "Polly was always supportive, calm, reflective—and of course very very smart as well," Lester said. "When I visited her as an

adult, I saw what a good influence she was on the students."

Weitzman further illustrated the influence of MacMullen's passion for teaching young kids, attesting that her "real strong will and a strong love for her students, [made] her one of the most talented teachers I've had the pleasure to study with in my schools through Exeter and Stanford." Weitzman continued, "It is rare to find a teacher who is loving, caring and joyful with students and at once strict, smart and serious about the subject taught, and Ms. MacMullen had both in spades."

MacMullen remained involved in Exeter long after she retired, sticking around the girls' lacrosse team as the game clock keeper and continuous fan. Current head coach of the team Christina Breen, who had a close relationship with MacMullen, recalled that MacMullen was "so encouraging and invested

in our progress."

MacMullen's brother and Headmaster at The Taft School, Willy MacMullen, commented on her nature as a coach, saying "she was so proud of watching girls excel, and there was a deep, stubborn and unyielding commitment to girls' opportunities."

All those who knew MacMullen described her as tough: tough on her athletes, her students and on her illness. "She discussed her illnesses very matter of factly ... I do not think I ever heard her complain about her illness or any of her medical treatments," Lester said. Similarly, Breen added that "Polly was a tough cookie."

All those who knew her can attest to MacMullen's warm presence and enduring legacy. The editors of *The Exonian* extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Polly MacMullen. She will be greatly missed.

Academy Contemplates Islamophobia in Town of Exeter

Continued from CHRISTCHURCH, 1

community members," Heath said.

Despite Academy efforts to reduce students' experiences with marginalization, Dean of Multicultural Affairs Sami Atif noted that there have been several on-campus instances of Islamophobia in the past, from a Middle Eastern student being called a terrorist in town, to Atif's wife, Khadijah Campbell, being slurred when she crossed the street wearing a headscarf.

Campbell reflected on the incident, explaining how the scarcity of Muslims or people of color in New Hampshire has contributed to her troubling experiences. "The misconception of Muslims being foreign and not domestic is a problem the town of Exeter faces, especially due to the area having very little interactions with any other races outside of New Hampshire borders," she said.

Leena Hamad '17 described her experience at PEA. "I did experience Islamophobia at Exeter, but mostly in the form of tasteless jokes and pointed inflammatory comments made by people who knew I was Muslim," Hamad said. "The Islamophobia I've seen since has usually targeted the local Muslim community I'm a part of."

Senior Malobika Syed, a Muslim student, reflected on how her religious identity has affected her experience at Exeter. "Islam isn't really acknowledged by the general community," she said. "People conflate extremist ideology with Islam. I think many people

here are uncomfortable with talking about the specifics of any religion, for example, what the significance of a hijab or any sort of religious garb is, which can lead to making assumptions about religious groups of people like Muslims."

Specifically for new students, Atif noted, these moments impact their perception of Exeter. "You haven't had time to really firm up relationships with people and when you have these moments it can be really odd or shattering," Atif said.

Campbell remarked that she is worried for younger members of the Muslim community as the Exeter town can constrain religious expression. "I'm more concerned for my children and the Muslim students who are growing up in the town of Exeter," she said. "Islam makes up so many different cultures and races, however this town makes it very hard for any young person who practice their faith outwardly."

On the other hand, Campbell noted that support from Religious Services has been valuable for Muslim students at the Academy. "I will say the support that the students have within the religious service that has been established due to the many years of Rev. Thompson and the amazing work of Rev. Health is everything that any community should have," she said.

French Instructor Amadou Talla agreed. "We are a small group of people, and my experience with everyone has been very positive," he said. "I am grateful for the interfaith space we have at Phillips Church and for the

opportunity to hold Friday Jumah prayers with MSA members. That is a choice I did not have when I was teaching in the public school system."

Campbell said she will continue to work with religious services to create space for both Muslim community members and others curious about her faith. "What happened in Christchurch sickened me ... I know a lot of these things that happen to the Muslim community is hard, but nothing as hard as our early predecessors," she said. "This act of violence will not damper my faith or this community."

Hamad took the Christchurch shooting as a warning against hate speech and a reminder of power of words. "In light of the events in Christchurch, the emergence of far-right populist movements in the US and abroad, and generally the rise in public hate speech against Muslims, immigrants and other minorities and marginalized communities, we have to also understand that words can be incredibly dangerous," she said.

The different occasions on which Islamophobia is not addressed adds up, according to Hamad. "The shooter in Christchurch was influenced by ideas and rhetoric that shouldn't be defended under the name of free speech ... Every discriminatory comment that we let slip and fail to correct has built up to this; we can't pretend acts of hate and evil have nothing to do with our everyday lives," she said.

Talla noted the ubiquity of Islamophobia. "In the face of recent anti-Muslim rhetoric in the media, it has been

increasingly harder to live out one's faith as a Muslim without feeling threatened," he said. "For that reason, I am glad there is a physical space at Exeter where Muslim students can come together for spiritual and emotional support."

Hamad expressed that Exeter should take further steps to facilitate community-wide conversation about the shootings. "I think the administration needs to offer spaces for students, faculty and community members to reflect on these incidents—and not just for Muslims but for the entire community," she said.

Religion Instructor Nuri Friedlander reflected on the importance of truly processing the personal tragedies and real-world consequences of the Christchurch shootings and similar incidents targeting Muslims worldwide. "There are so many stories you could write, like ... what it was like for Muslim students to come back to campus having had this happen, where maybe they felt vulnerable. Or these 51 people who lost their lives—those are all individuals. Do we know their names?"

History Instructor Aykut Kilinc voiced his hopes for community-wide support and the necessity of "showing solidarity, remembering the victims and making a stand against violence." Kilinc elaborated that this tragedy is a reflection of a wider political atmosphere that he characterized as dividing.

"I truly hope that we try to find a way to get together all of us and talk about what makes us human beings," Kilinc said.

PEA Implements New Policy Outlining Gender Inclusivity

Continued from GENDER, 1

Prep Kiese Nanor believes that the policy will recognize the differing needs of the student body. "It allows people who don't identify with the gender they were assigned with at birth to express themselves in a way that is more comfortable for them," Nanor said. "How much time do you actually spend in the bathroom? It's just a place to do your business—not others', yours. This just makes the system more equitable."

Student Council President Ayush Noori agreed. "It is undoubtedly a step in the right direction to create a community where everyone is welcomed, respected and made to feel safe," he said. "Student Council was grateful for the opportunity to provide our input in this indispensable policy."

Despite the benefits of the policy, some students were concerned about its

effectiveness. "I have friends who are non-binary, and they already use the bathroom that's closest to them. This policy doesn't really affect them. It's not going to stop people from giving them dirty looks whenever they walk in just because the policy has changed," upper Ari* said.

Senior Ollie Young noted that the policy changes come rather late as he is already more than comfortable using the mens bathroom after undergoing gender confirmation surgery. "If this policy had come out about a year ago, it definitely would have made me more comfortable using what is labeled as the mens bathroom," Young said.

"You can't have social change with simply 'legal' change ... You can pass whatever policy you want, but that won't affect internalized feelings," Ari continued, elaborating that the administration should make other efforts to directly address transphobia and ensure all students feel

safe and supported at the Academy. "I think this is a good first step, but there needs to be more education for people in regards to people who are transgender or gender non-conforming."

In order to create a completely inclusive environment, upper Sam Park believed that the administration must also pass a gender neutral V's policy. "I think the next step is to bring forth that ever elusive V's policy that will abolish excluding people from dorms and visitations. All of our V's are illegal according to the current policy because non binary people are not accounted for. A common joke is that we can get V's anywhere but, depending on the faculty member on duty, the fact is that all of our V's can be illegal."

Nonetheless, upper Nani Esi Donkor voiced that the housing policy modifications were a good first step. "I'm glad that they're seeking to further accommodate students in terms of housing and that

they're explicitly identifying that there are dorms available for students of all genders," she said.

Similarly, Young felt very optimistic about the policy change and hopes that gender non-conforming Exonians will feel more empowered. "I think it's nice to have a school-sanctioned reminder that you don't question people when they're trying to use the bathroom," Young said. "I really hope that people will follow that and understand that it's not time to start a fight or question someone's decision."

Upper Pepper Pieroni commended the school's progress towards inclusivity. "This is a huge win. We haven't been able to get a V's policy. We've got all gender dorms, but even with that we've had to jump through a lot of hoops. This is huge for Exeter, and I'm proud of the community," he said.

*Asterisks denote name change to preserve anonymity

Faculty Learn to Apply New Knowledge from Conference

Continued from WHITE PRIVILEGE, 1

up to 10.

Johnson attended the conference to promote conversation in the Exeter community. "I've been very interested in examining the practices of the music department through this lens, and attending the conference gave me time, framework and vocabulary to advance conversations with my colleagues here and elsewhere on these topics," he said. "Attending the White Privilege Confer-

ence invites you to start by reflecting on your own circumstance, experience and privilege."

The conference consisted of workshops, keynote speakers and panels over the course of three days. "There are a multitude of workshops on topics relating to privilege, whiteness as a potentially positive and anti-racist identity, social justice in action, examinations of practices and curriculum through this lens," Johnson said.

Pacific expressed that the confer-

ence exceeded expectations. "[It was] one of the best conferences I have been to and I know this because I was engaged all day," Pacific said. "Not once did I pick up my phone and look at work emails or text messages."

After attending three workshops on intersectionality, improper use of statistics and using love to combat white supremacy, Geer returned to campus wanting to learn more. "Frankly, I'm still processing the conference and I came home with more books that I want to read and more that I want to learn. I'm excited to get to that," she said.

While the conference prompted valuable discussion, prep Diwura Adesanya questioned whether the workshops would effectively enact change. "White privilege is often present and most people with white privilege don't realize they have it," Adesanya said. "The conference is to show Exeter is doing something, but I haven't exactly seen it showing up in class that they're more sensitive to student treatment."

Prep Shalom Heady is confident that the conference will make a difference in faculty and student relations, however. "The conference can teach different teachers about inequalities that

many people face and the workplace and in the social place," Heady said. "Most people in my classes try to be as sensitive and knowledgeable about certain things as possible, and people aren't afraid to be corrected when they make a mistake ... I think that creates a very safe and comfortable environment."

In addition to the WPC, Heady hopes that Academy instructors will consider attending a conference on heteronormativity in the future. "We live in a heteronormative society, and not many teachers realize that they are being ignorant when talking about things, and sometimes, even in that ignorance, they really make a student feel uncomfortable," he said.

Bartkovich concluded that he is optimistic about change, recalling a quote he distinctly remembered from the conference: "Change moves at the speed of trust."

Johnson voiced his gratitude for the opportunity to attend the conference. "It is not always comfortable, but I feel fortunate to have been given time and space to work on this," he said. "It is important to me to advance my own teaching and the work of the department to serve all of our students more fully."

CLYDE'S CUPCAKES

FREE DELIVERY on cake orders! *PEA only

STUDENT SPECIAL!
FREE Soda or water with purchase of a cupcake *one per customer, in-store only

(603) 583-4850
clydescupcakes.com

104 Epping Road
Exeter, New Hampshire

Monday-Friday
Hours: 10am-5pm

Weatherspoon to Serve as Director of Exeter Summer

By MIMI HARIPOTTAWEKUL
and FELIX YEUNG
Staff Writers

After a two-month selection process, Religion Instructor Russell Weatherspoon is set to serve as the new Director of Exeter Summer, replacing Elena Gosalvez-Blanco.

Upon Gosalvez-Blanco's departure for a new position at Yale Young Global Scholars at Yale University, a selection committee worked to find an internal replacement. Dean of Faculty Ellen Wolff headed the committee, with support from Assistant Principal Karen Lassey and Dean of Enrollment and External Relations William Leahy. "Our search focused on finding an experienced leader and educator who would be able to step into this role with confidence, courage and curiosity," Leahy said. "We, of course, are extremely excited with the

appointment of Mr. Weatherspoon, who brings a wealth of experience to this role."

Prior to his appointment, Weatherspoon served for 30 years in a host of roles for Exeter Summer. Starting in the English Department, Weatherspoon has taught in the Humanities Department and served as the Campus Minister. "I have a sense of the development of the Summer School through all of these decades," he said.

Despite his experience, Weatherspoon did not expect this transition. "I was nominated, and the [Search Committee] contacted me. They acknowledged that serving in this role was certainly not in my mind," he said. "I got into a series of conversations about the program, about what was needed, and agreed to be considered." Ultimately, Weatherspoon was convinced to take on the job due to the small student body, which he felt would offer a more

intimate community.

In the transition period, Weatherspoon plans to soak up as much as he can. "This office has a staff of people who prepare for each summer as it's coming... They're a year-round staff," he said. "I'm looking forward to simply learning from them and from others so that I can help Exeter Summer be a smooth-running, widely-enjoyed and profitable experience."

While he is eager to begin his tenure, Weatherspoon is disappointed that he will not be able to return to the classroom. "One of my initial questions was whether or not I would have enough time to teach one course. Like the rest of my colleagues, I was drawn to this school for the teaching," he said. "When I found out that [the appointment] would preclude my being able to be in the classroom, that was a real challenge... But there are things that need to be done to help create the experience of Exeter

Summer. I realized I needed to take that on."

Though he does not have a "grand scheme," Weatherspoon plans to prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion. "Our program has sought to have a very diverse student body—not just nationally, but also internationally. This provides a lot of opportunity for people to be exposed to things that they might not have been able to be exposed to," he said. "It's an opportunity to learn about other people's cultures, languages, religions, foods, turns of phrase and expression, politics and notions about sexuality."

To many Exonians who attended Exeter Summer, Weatherspoon's promotion is a welcomed one. Upper Yasemin Kopmaz recalls the summer days of Harkness discussion with fondness. "He was my favorite teacher [at Exeter Summer]," she said. "You could ask anyone in the summer program, and even if they didn't take his courses, they would know him."

Seniors Present Official and Unofficial Meditations

By ERIN CHOI
Staff Writer

"Man hands on misery to man/ It deepens like a coastal shelf/ Get out as early as you can/ And don't have any kids yourself." With sunlight streaming through the the stained-glass windows of Phillips Church, senior Camilla Pelliccia began her senior meditation with a poem by Philip Larkin, captivating rows of Exonians with a powerful and intimate reflection on her family and their vulnerabilities.

Pelliccia is the first of 12 seniors to present their senior meditations this school year. Over the spring break, the Meditation Selection Committee selected meditations written by Camilla Pelliccia, Isadora Kron, Sumit Chandra, Jacky Cho, Andrew Liguigan, Gwyneth Crossman, Nkemjika Emenike, Alan Wu, Gillian Allou, Aaron Willard and Elliot Diaz, who will be reading their pieces in the listed order.

The senior meditation, considered the pinnacle of the Exeter English program, is a months-long winter term assignment for seniors and post-graduates to reflect on their life experiences. While most students who takes a winter senior English course needs to write and read a meditation aloud to their class, only a select few are given the privilege and honor of presenting their piece to the larger Exeter community in the spring.

Many of the selected seniors initially found it challenging to capture their personal reflections in one paper. Many of them scrapped nearly completed drafts, changed topics late into the term or grappled to piece together different ideas.

Pelliccia, who wrote about her family members and the "things that haunt them,"

recalled how she struggled to land on a topic. "Writing was really a strange process because there's just so much to reflect on; it's your whole life," she said. "I was actually writing a nearly completely different meditation up until about three days before I turned mine in."

Wu, who explored the concept of loneliness, also said that his meditation changed dramatically throughout the writing process. "The first version of my meditation was a disaster and I eventually deleted a good half of it," he said. "After meeting with my teacher about it, I finally found the strand and began placing all the beads in an order that made sense."

Crossman, whose meditation is about the necessity of fictional personas and characters within reality, noted the unique challenge of writing a speech versus a traditional paper. She said that some of her paper was transcribed from her "rambling" into her phone's microphone about her topic. "I learned that writing for a silent reader and writing for speech are almost two different endeavors, and with the latter, it's often helpful to start with speech as well," she said.

However, many agreed that challenging themselves to consolidate nuanced ideas in an eight-to-twelve page paper ultimately contributed to their personal growth and understanding.

Kron, who wrote about her family history and the way it has influenced her family dynamics, said that she understood herself better after writing her meditation. "The meditation writing process was one that I found to be very introspective and reflective," she said. "I wrote about something that I hadn't really given much thought to before, so ultimately, I think I learned a fair amount about myself and my

mentality towards my topic."

Emenike, who wrote about her mental health disorder, said that writing something to be shared pushed her out of her comfort zone but was ultimately a cathartic experience. "When writing my meditation, I knew that it was something I wanted to share with people. I was forced to slow down and reflect on the truly defining moments in my life," she said. "It was therapeutic in that way."

After such deep reflection and challenging writing, many seniors were extremely proud and pleasantly surprised when their pieces were selected.

For Chandra, being selected by the Committee had been his goal since the beginning. "I knew I wanted to write a powerful meditation and deliver it in the church ever since attending last year's senior meditations, so being selected means so much to me," he said. "It feels surreal."

Liguigan was less focused on the opportunity to read his piece in church, as it was not his main motivation while writing. "Although I knew there was a small chance I'd get chosen, the main audience in my mind was always my mother," he said. "At the outset of the assignment, I sort of made myself forget about the public aspect of it, and I wrote this piece specifically for my mother and for myself."

Pelliccia, who kicked off this term's program in her March 23 meditation reading, said she was initially anxious about reading her meditation in public due to the intimate subject matter of her piece. "I was really nervous about being selected because my topic was very personal," she said.

However, once she delivered her meditation, Pelliccia found the reading experience to

be immensely rewarding. "Reading was actually a really amazing experience. Everyone was so supportive and I felt really comfortable," she said. "I feel as though it also brought me closer to the Exeter community."

Additionally, Class of 2019 Representatives and seniors Janeva Dimen, Adrian Venzon and Dylan Yin have organized their own unofficial weekly readings for seniors whose meditations were not chosen but still want to share their pieces. This spring, reading session opportunities will be held in the church every Tuesday night during the previous time slot for Evening Prayer.

Seniors hope that by sharing their meditations—whether in the traditional setting or at the Tuesday night readings—they will be further connected to the rest of the community.

Wu hoped that his message on loneliness would resonate with and validate other Exonians' experiences. "I was really proud of my meditation and wanted to share it to a crowd of people not only because it would give me an opportunity to unveil a certain part of myself, but also because I feel like others who have had similar experiences as I have can feel less alone and misunderstood," he said.

Senior Emily Cloonan, who shared her meditation at the first unofficial Tuesday night reading, said that she appreciated the chance to share her vulnerabilities and stories with other seniors. "It was a really strange experience at first, coping with the idea that all of these people know my family's deep dark secrets, but everyone was so kind and engaged," she said. "I remember hearing about the seniors reading their meditations to each other in the past, and I think it's an important and loving tradition that we have here at Exeter."

Sixteen Exonians Win National Scholastic Awards

By LINA HUANG and AMY LUM
Staff Writers

This year, 16 Exonians received 31 national honors at the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for their writing, including an American Voices Award, 16 Gold Medals, 1 Silver Medal with Distinction and 11 Silver Medals. The categories included poetry, short story, flash fiction, personal essay and memoir, critical essay and journalism.

Upper Ayush Noori, the recipient of one gold and one silver medal, wrote about his grandmother. "Sharing my grandmother's courage is meaningful because I don't want her voice to be forgotten. Grappling with her lifelong

struggle is a fundamental expression of my own truth, identity, and history. I believe it's important to be vulnerable and share that with the world, so we create spaces for other people to be vulnerable as well."

Prep Danielle Sung, meanwhile, used the competition as a means to experiment with her recently recognized interest in writing. "Ever since I came to Exeter, I realized that I was more into writing than I thought," Sung said. "My writing piece is about art and about how numbers can't express art and everything you do."

In contrast to Sung's experience, senior Jenny Yang has had a long-time investment in writing. "In elementary

school my mom would always make me keep a journal and write whenever we went anywhere, and then in high school I started doing it more seriously," Yang said. "It forces you to dig deep into your mind to look for ways to describe what you're trying to say, whether that's an image or a feeling."

Upper Penny Brant's gold medal essay on her experience as a person of mixed race garnered support from her acquaintances. "My sixth grade math teacher, who is also a person that is of a multicultural background, wrote me an email and told me that that piece really resonated with him," she stated. "I was very glad to see that my piece was able to cross so many barriers."

2019 National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Recipients

Isabella Alvarez '19
Julie Mae Angevine Fernandez '20
Mark Blekherman '19
Anne Brandes '21
Penny Brant '20
Daniel Chen '22
Rajrishi Das '19
Robbie Herzog '21
Mai Hoang '20
Aimee Hong '20
Ayush Noori '20
Nicholas Schwarz '20
Kendrah Su '22
Danielle Sung '22
Alan Wu '19
Jenny Yang '19

Students Gain New Perspective on Affirmative Action

Continued from [PANEL 1](#)

instead of solely considering academic performance. Chung shared observations of the Harvard campus climate and how it has been affected by Harvard's admissions history. Finally, Park addressed the recent allegations against Harvard's admissions process, sharing her opinion on the validity of SFFA's claims.

SFFA sued Harvard College for intentional discrimination of Asian-American applicants, offering evidence that Asian-American candidates receive lower average "personality ratings" and are held to higher academic standards, according to Harvard's internal statistical review.

Woo invited the panel to Exeter after Dean of Multicultural Affairs Sami Atif requested programming in response to the Harvard case. "My goal was to provide students with more information and perspective so they could understand the nuances of the case, which is very complicated," Woo said.

However, upper Lilly Pinciaro voiced that the panel's time constraints prevented a comprehensive presentation. "It was helpful, but I'm still not comfortable claiming an opinion because I feel like it's such a nuanced issue," she said.

During the panel, Lehecka explained that elite schools like Harvard have considered factors beyond

academics in their admissions process.

History Instructor Betty Luther-Hillman agreed with Lehecka's conclusion and voiced that his speech about the implications of Affirmative Action offered a new take on the issue.

Coach Olutoyin Augustus was intrigued by the perspectives of those highly involved with the cases, such as litigator Dr. Park. "What I really gained was more in terms of how the litigators were looking at the case and what kind of evidence they were looking to show to prove the claims," Toyin said.

Senior Amelia Lee, Asian Voices co-head, walked out of the panel with an altered definition of Affirmative Action. "I've come to understand it's not necessarily about the student—my grades or what I have to say—but really just about the college and their agenda," Lee said.

Lee felt that the intentionality of admissions officers in creating a class pleasing to university benefactors was discouraging for applicants with no prior connections to schools. "We're just certain numbers that the college wants to start filling... It goes all the way down to the socio-economic status among other criteria. Their athleticism, legacy and all of that," Lee said.

Prep Moksha Akil shared personal experiences of peers undermining her academic ability in reference to Affirmative Action.

"I've heard a lot of people allude to the fact that I'm only here because of affirmative action," she said. "I'm an average student. The only thing that made me stand out was that there aren't that many Black-Indian kids at school." Akil noted that Affirmative Action can make students feel that their ethnicity was responsible for their acceptance. "Affirmative Action is tough for me—it's helpful, but I also feel like I'm not standing out because of my academics or my extracurriculars, just what I am on the outside."

Luther-Hillman shared similar sentiments on the unfairness of college admissions. "The speakers helped to explode the myths that... some 'fair' college admissions process could exist," she said.

Pinciaro commented on the timeliness of the panel. "I know that it's certainly an issue that a lot of people on campus feel personally," she said. "I have friends who are worried that their race is going to be something that negatively impacts them in the college admissions process so they feel that they have to work harder to compensate for that."

Other attendees raised concerns about the panel. "I would have been interested to hear more about the evidence that SFFA is presenting in their claim that Asian Americans are discriminated against in the admissions process at Harvard," Luther-Hillman said, recognizing the one-sidedness of the panel.

Senior Bryce Morales was similarly disappointed by the lack of diverse opinion on the panel. "I think the issues were pretty well covered, but it would have been more interesting if the panelists had more contrasting views," he said. "I asked a question about what they considered the role of these elite institutions of higher education in America to try to expose some deeper, foundational disagreements between the panelists."

Many nonetheless appreciated the panelists' transparency. Lower Erin McCann went into the panel expecting data against the SFFA that would offer Harvard's perspective and paint a more complete picture than the "warped statistics from the SFFA." "The panel was that and beyond," McCann said.

The discussion resonated with numerous attendees and offered eye-opening insight on the intricate and unpredictable nature of college admissions. "I would definitely like to see Exeter hold more events and panels like this," McCann said. "More people should have gone."

Toyin concluded that students and faculty must examine Exeter's practices with a similar level of scrutiny. "We can look very closely and be very critical of Harvard and the things that they're doing. But when it's in our own backyard, do we recognize it? Are we asking those questions? And can we stop doing it, or are we afraid?"

College Scandal: Get You an Aunt Becky



Daniel Chen '22

Columnist

The college admissions process is not equitable and it has never been. Advantages come great and slight—from sharing your last name with a campus building to living in a better public school district with greater educational opportunities. The recent college admissions scandal only goes to emphasize the dramatic macro-level influence of America's elite.

50 individuals nationwide were recently accused of cheating the college admissions system. Many of these individuals bribed college coaches to falsely recruit applicants. While much of the backlash is rooted in the idea that more qualified applicants have had their spots wrongly stolen, it is important to remember that a majority of the incidents cited in the indictment affidavit did not have any impact on non-recruitment admissions for the named universities. And, even if they

did create inequality in the process, this inequality is not necessarily bad—in fact, it is quite possible it had the opposite effect.

The colleges and universities pertinent to this scandal are private organizations. There are many legal avenues of admission advantages, such as donations and legacy. In an email titled “My Hero” from Harvard’s Kennedy School Dean David Ellwood to Harvard’s Dean of Admissions William R. Fitzsimmons, Ellwood wrote: “[Redacted] and [redacted] are all big wins. [Redacted] has already committed to a building.”

“My Hero,” indeed. Private higher education is not a clean, noble system. It is a business that will take customers if they can pay. “Holistic” review, rhetoric commonly repeated by Harvard in its defense in *Students for Fair Admissions vs. Harvard*, must be contextualized. “Holistic” simply refers to other modes a student’s presence can help the school. Affirmative action is one side of this: diversity is an essential component to any successful institution. But privilege is another end.

But who’s to say this privilege is bad?

Yes, for every student admitted off of their parent’s wallet or last name, another student who has poured countless hours into grades, testing and extracurriculars is rejected. Yet, just

Private higher education is not a clean, noble system. It is a business that will take customers if they can pay.

as Exeter cannot survive without the generosity of our donors, benefactors at colleges are what provide students at elite institutions with a first-rate education, plentiful resources and an extensive network. Money is the qualifier for an institution to be “elite,” and it is important not to devalue the wallets they come from.

I would argue that the injustice in rejection for a handful of deserving and hard-working applicants is dwarfed by

the drastic quality increase to school life provided by the continuing support of trustees and donors. Yes, it is unequal.

But colleges—private businesses—do not have an obligation to or claim to be equal in admissions.

Does this justify the actions of those indicted in the recent scandal? I don’t believe it does; it’s a very real crime to commit fraud through standardized testing and backdoor payments to coaches.

But this is wrong because it did not operate within the scope of legal business activity, not because it is discriminatory and an evil manifestation of capitalism. This discrimination is not sacrilegious to the American Dream. In fact, it is a necessity for the American Dream to exist. Without the continued support and generosity of rich trustees, students will never have the opportunity, education and resources to become successful themselves. It is a minute price to admit the children of those who are responsible for fueling the success of future generations.

The Brexit Blame Game

Stephen McNulty '21

Columnist

For the first time in my life, I’ve followed British politics for two weeks as more than a casual spectator. Broadly speaking, I have come to one consistent conclusion—the blame for the Brexit catastrophe lies squarely in the hands of Theresa May and the Conservative Party writ-large.

In fact, this crisis began with a reckless Tory political gamble when then-Prime Minister David Cameron agreed to support a referendum in order to win over voters from UKIP, a far-right, anti-immigrant, Eurosceptic party in the 2015 general election. He did so despite opposing Brexit himself and campaigning against it. It makes one wonder why Cameron would call the referendum in the first place, if not to shore up support for a Conservative government. And it certainly would imply that the Tories knew exactly what they were getting Britain into—there was never a clear solution offered for Northern Ireland, there was never a clear answer about customs protection and there was never a clear deal put forth. So that’s the first problem with Brexit, caused by the Conservatives.

The second problem? Immediately after the referendum passed, which the government should at least have been prepared for the possibility of, Prime Minister Cameron resigned and tossed off the hat to Theresa May. And so, she came into office proclaiming that “Brexit means Brexit.”

Unfortunately for her, no one truly

understood what Brexit meant to begin with, because no one made that clear. The proponents of Brexit simultaneously expressed a desire for a deal of some sort, while still enumerating plenty of dealbreakers—the Leave camp wanted no jurisdiction for the European Court of Justice, no free movement of people, no financial contribution, regulatory independence and an independent trade policy. Such a relationship would be unprecedented; no other nation shares a similar relationship with the EU, either

Broadly speaking, I have come to one consistent conclusion—the blame for the Brexit catastrophe lies squarely in the hands of Theresa May and the Conservative Party writ-large.

on its inside or outside. Of course, this all was supposed to be tremendously easy; in fact, Brexiteer MP Liam Fox said that a free trade deal with the European Union would be “the easiest in history.”

Of course, at some point along the line, the Tories must have realized that toying with the fate of the British economy for extra votes may have backfired. They must have known that negotiating this deal wouldn’t be so easy as the Brexiteers, who they enabled, had thought. So, sensing the moment was right, Theresa May called a snap election to “strengthen her hand” in Brexit negotiations. And what happened? The Conservatives lost a majority in Parliament, and were forced into a coalition

with the hardline Democratic Unionist Party, the political project of none other than the bigoted Ian Paisley, who said of Catholics: “They breed like rabbits and multiply like vermin.” This is the founder of the DUP, mind you.

Needless to say, that backfired, and now there is no clear support in Parliament for any sort of proposal, in large part because backbench Conservative MPs, the very ones elected on the promise of a referendum, refused to back any of Theresa May’s deals, all of which tried to straddle the line between a soft and a hard Brexit. Naturally, her plans contained no provision for the issues of Northern Ireland’s political status other than kicking the can down the road. This is problematic because any deal that leaves open the eventual possibility of a hard border on Northern Ireland would undermine the spirit (and if it actually happens, the text) of the Good Friday agreement, the treaty holding together Ireland’s fragile peace. Any violation of the Agreement or any hard border on Northern Ireland would risk reigniting the sectarian violence characteristic of the Troubles. That would be unacceptable. And if Britain were to have no hard border on Ireland, but one in Britain, it would leave the entire Irish isle outside of the customs jurisdiction of the UK, including the North, drawing the island one step closer to reunification. Of course, hardline Unionists (those who support British rule in Northern Ireland) would never tolerate this. And to which party do these hardline Unionists belong? The DUP.

Welcome to Brexit. There’s no real solution that will please a majority on

the Northern Irish issue, or on any of the countless others that define this debate—customs, trade policy, free movement, the list goes on. So, what is the solution for Mrs. May? What is the way around the fact that there is no deal with majority support under a government whose mandate she herself spoiled? Political brinkmanship, of course!

When May’s deal was rejected by the largest defeat in Parliamentary history, and then again in the third largest defeat, May reasoned that if she could hang the prospect of a disastrous no-deal over Parliament, they would buckle and end up supporting her own at the last minute. And then Parliament dashed that dream of hers as well—it voted to reject a no-deal under any circumstance, despite May using a three-line whip, the harshest means possible of keeping her party in line, and voted to delay Britain’s exit from the EU. So, in her time as Prime Minister, May has called an unpopular and disastrous election, negotiated a deal that had no chance of passing, tried to force the country to the brink of a no-deal to pass her plan and failed to keep her own government in line with her agenda. In short, she has ruined any pretense of effectiveness.

I don’t typically like to play the blame game, but it sometimes can be helpful—if we know what the problem is, we can remove said problem. And in this case, the blame for Brexit lies squarely at the feet of the Conservative Party, and the inept and reckless Brexit policy pursued by two of its governments. There is only one solution to the Brexit crisis—a general election and a Labour government.

The Exonian

SUAN LEE
Editor-in-Chief

RACHEL WON
Director of Writing

MAI HOANG
Managing Editor

ERIK PORRAS & ALEX URQUHART
Business Board Co-Heads

JOY LIU & KELLY MI
Chief Digital Editors

News Editors

Benjamin Cai
Sam Weil
Angele Yang
Angelina Zhang

Opinions Editors

Johanna Martinez
Andrea So
Cooper Wolff
Jack Zhang

Life Editors

Ginny Little
Candy Tantichirasakul
Nikita Thummala

Sports Editors

Leah Cohen
Caroline Fleming
Charlie Venci
Milo Walshe

Humor Editors

Fiona Madrid
Nick Schwarz
Ryan Xie

Head Photography Editor

JaQ Lai

Head Art Editor

Pepper Pieroni

Photography Editor

Helena Chen

Grad Issue Manager

Isabella Ahmad

Faculty Advisers

Ellee Dean
Erica Lazure
Sarah Anderson

Head Copy Editors

Janalie Cobb
May Chen
Anna Fahey
Morgan Lee

Advertising & Outreach

Samuel Chang
Maggie Smyth

Subscriptions

Andrew Sun

Operations

Bianca Lee

Accounting

Milo Walshe

Business Advisor

Erica Lazure
Avery Reavill

The Web Board staff members are listed on *The Exonian’s* website: www.the-exonian.com.

To subscribe to or advertise on *The Exonian*, contact exonianbb@gmail.com or call 603-777-4308. A subscription to the paper costs \$75 off campus and \$125 overseas.

The Exonian welcomes Letters to the Editor sent to the care of exonianletters@gmail.com.

The Exonian reserves the right to print Letters to the Editor in a timely fashion and to edit them for content and clarity.

Exeter Morality and Approach to Discipline



Cameron Frary '20
Guest Contributor

To discuss the Academy's recent disciplinary reform and any forthcoming changes, it is crucial to first define the ideology behind disciplinary action and then, to tailor the process to that ideology. I'm not focusing on "restorative justice" or any other style of discipline, but the idea of discipline itself. So, why do we discipline students? In

But with members of the Committee still lamenting the volume of work associated with their posts, perhaps some students are not learning what is right and what violates one's honorable position at this Academy.

seeking an answer, perhaps we should look to our past for some wisdom.

Our second Principal, Dr. Benjamin Abbot, preserved his disciplinary ideology in a simple phrase: "resist beginnings." To resist the beginnings of unruly conduct, the great Principals of our school (Benjamin Abbot, Gideon Lane Soule, Harlan P. Amen and Lewis Perry) outlined their expectations for a student in essays, letters and speeches. In his 1895 essay "The Spirit of the Place," Principal Amen wrote that every student, "once accepted on satisfactory credentials,

is believed to be honest, faithful and high-minded until the contrary becomes evident." The student is "expected to show that decent and courteous behavior which any orderly household requires," and, "without the proclamation of numerous rules,

The rules and disciplinary processes, in a uniquely compiled form, should represent the values that we as an institution hold dear.

expected to be merely the good citizen." Ideally, the mentioned mediums would be the only ones required to communicate "the spirit of the place," but occasionally messages must be sent through disciplinary action.

The other of Dr. Abbot's maxims, "gentle in manner, decisive in action," lends itself as a model for the actual measures taken by the Discipline Committee. Dr. Abbot intended and practiced the use of minimal force in lessons of right and wrong. Unruly students were required to sweep each night and, in the winter, carry firewood up from the basement. Now, as evidenced by the trends presented by the Discipline Committee in the fall, the school is already quite gentle in its manner. But with members of the Committee still lamenting the volume of work associated with their posts, perhaps some students are not learning what is right and what violates one's honorable position at this Academy.

In the 1965 book of essays, *Exeter Remembered*, several contributing alumni from classes spanning the prior six decades referenced Principal Gideon Lane Soule's maxim, "the Academy has no rules—until they are broken." Edmund Blair Bolles, member of the Class of 1908, acknowledged that phrase might be a "frightful cliché," but elaborated the virtues of the ideal. He wrote, "the implication is good—that a [student] of fourteen or fifteen years has sense enough to know the difference between right and wrong, or at least between what he might reasonably want to get away with and what he cannot." While some may say that the expectation of a young teenager to know the difference between right and wrong is ill-advised, I firmly believe that most youth rise to the standards set for them. Principal Amen wrote that a student must "make reasonable effort to learn, or go where the demand is less urgent." Exeter is not for those who don't desire to improve themselves.

While Dr. Amen asserted that "earnest study and [honorable] con-

To do that, a more perfect set of rules and processes would shift the focus from the consequences of violations to a clearer communication of the "spirit of the place."

duct" were two of the main facets of the spirit of Exeter, he stipulated that

"if [a student] fails to 'catch the spirit of the place,' [they] should forfeit the rights and privileges of a worthy member of the academic community." When an unwilling student is replaced with one eager for our academic and moral instruction, the application of Dr. Amen's attitude could only advantage the Academy in its goal of educating "youth of requisite qualifications from every quarter" in "the great end and real business of living."

While Dr. Amen asserted that "earnest study and [honorable] conduct" were two of the main facets of the spirit of Exeter, he stipulated that "if [a student] fails to 'catch the spirit of the place,' [they] should forfeit the rights and privileges of a worthy member of the academic community."

The rules that govern the student body are an underutilized asset in the education of morals. The rules and disciplinary processes, in a uniquely compiled form, should represent the values that we as an institution hold dear. And while we should try to reduce the number of disciplinary cases through a student body more respectful of our values, we should hold students accountable to the Academy's values. To do that, a more perfect set of rules and processes would shift the focus from the consequences of violations to a clearer communication of the "spirit of the place."

The Instagrammed Degeneration of Charity

Felix Yeung '21
Guest Contributor

The tattered encampment of Zaatari, just thirty minutes away from Amman, Jordan, holds host to nearly 80,000 refugees. Occasionally, it becomes the site of much attention, as a well-known figure descends upon the camp to "slum it" with those less fortunate.

The notion that the privileged can simply waltz into areas of abject poverty is ingrained into the Western mentality—it is a mentality that is rooted in imperialism.

This is a palpable manifestation of the savior complex.

The notion that the privileged can simply waltz into areas of abject poverty is ingrained into the Western mentality—a mentality rooted in imperialism. Nevertheless, this trend is no longer exclusively Western. It has seeped into the minds of a generation of youth across the globe, aided by the diffusion of Western media, norms and practices. Among these practices is that of voluntourism, a combination of volunteering and tourism.

I'm sure that members of our community have taken part in voluntourism—willingly or not. This is not a condemnation of those who have. Rather, I hope to highlight the fact that there are two approaches

to volunteer work: one that elevates the "giver," and one that elevates the "receiver."

Furthermore, voluntourists tend to act in a manner that is largely patronizing. They treat themselves as though they have been divinely anointed to save the poor souls that are in need of their generosity.

There is a difference between service and voluntourism. The former espouses genuine interaction and connection, while the latter involves self-aggrandizement and ego. One is non sibi, the other is not. In my view, the metric for voluntourism is threefold: intention, action and impact. As students endeavor to better the global community, they should keep these three things in mind.

The ends should be new experiences, not a new Instagram post. Those who take part in service should eschew all notions of heroism and commit themselves humbly to be exposed to a different set of circumstances.

Firstly, the intentions behind service work should be to legitimately better a community and broaden one's awareness of the issues facing

that society. The result should be new experiences and not a new Instagram post. Those who take part in service should eschew all notions of heroism and commit themselves humbly to be exposed to a different set of circumstances.

Before taking part in service abroad, students should also work closely with those they intend to serve. If students simply decide that a need exists—and they impose this need upon those who they are serving—their actions do not constitute service. Hence, serving others involves a constructive partnership between the "giver" and the "receiver."

Before taking part in service abroad, students should also work closely with those they intend to serve.

The actions of those who engage in service differ from those of voluntourists. This begins with dress. It is critical that those who conduct service dress in a way that maximizes comfort for both parties. I've noticed that more often than not, the celebrities who travel to distant locations for photo opportunities still don the glitz and glamor that defines their regular lives. That should not be the case. The way that voluntourists dress may amplify the disparity between the privileged and those less so.

Furthermore, voluntourists tend to act in a manner that is largely patronizing. They treat themselves as though they have been divinely

anointed to save the poor souls that are in need of their generosity. This type of behavior deprives those in need of the dignity that is essential to fostering respect. It continues the narrative of superiority and weakness that currently encumbers many in communities that are suffering. This condescension is further a hindrance to building connections, to understanding the experiences of those whose lives differ from our own. Without authentic, equitable interaction, service becomes a sham.

Lastly, the impact of service is empowerment. Service endeavors to bring those who need it self-sustenance.

Fortunately, I had the chance to travel during the summer, escaping the infernal heat, and enjoying the beautiful climate the rest of the year.

Conversely, voluntourism focuses on the "hole-filling" work that seems to ameliorate the problem without addressing its roots. Instead of helping, voluntourism fosters further dependence.

These differences may seem subtle, but they are deeply felt by those who are on the receiving end of both voluntourism and service. At the end of the day, I'm not saying that people should not go out and help others. Still, when considering acts of non sibi, Exonians should make sure they're taking the time to make sure their work is truly service-based.

Why the Devin Nunes Controversy Matters

Dennis Kostakoglu Aydin '21
Columnist

This week, Republican Representative Devin Nunes filed a defamation lawsuit against Twitter and two Twitter accounts called—and I kid you not—Devin Nunes' Mom (@DevinNunesMom) and Devin Nunes' Cow (@DevinCow). As basis for the lawsuit, he claims that the accounts have “attacked and defamed him,” and Twitter is responsible for managing such clearly dangerous and hateful accounts.

Nunes says that the accounts called him things like “treasonous cowpoke” and tweeted comments

“@DevinNunes your district is looking for you? Are you trying to obstruct a federal investigation again? You come home right this instant or no more Minecraft!”

like “@DevinNunes your district is looking for you? Are you trying to obstruct a federal investigation again? You come home right this instant or no more Minecraft!” This is obviously satirical. SNL does this on live TV, and the actors get paid for it.

However, Nunes' response is troubling not only due to the fact that he is calling for Twitter to hold the accounts accountable, but also that he is calling on the government to force Jack Dorsey, Twitter's CEO, to release the names of the people who run those accounts so Nunes can further punish them, despite their rhetoric being protected under the First Amendment. These clear signs of disregard for the Constitution are problematic. Many news outlets have already touched on them, saying that the case is not likely to get far in the courts.

Fox News reported that Nunes' legal team filed a complaint stating that “a presence on Twitter is essential for an individual to run for

Fox News reported that Nunes' legal team filed a complaint stating that “a presence on Twitter is essential for an individual to run for office or engage in any level of political organizing in modern America.”

office or engage in any level of political organizing in modern America.” Nunes has a point when he says this, because Twitter—and all social media, really—gives you a way to speak directly to your constituents, and to

the people who might be voting for you. Although Trump usually uses Twitter to speak to his followers about events that he deems unfair to his image, he has also used Twitter as a platform to speak to ordinary people since the early days of his candidacy. Due to media platforms like Twitter and Instagram, candidates can reach a very broad audience, and it's much easier to read what they post on social media than to buy tickets to and attend one of the candidate's speeches.

The problem with this simpler speechmaking, however, comes when people like Trump use that platform

Trump has repeatedly attacked people who insult him, most recently Kellyanne Conway's husband, George Conway III, who tweeted that Trump's mental state was worsening.

to enhance a message of hate. Trump has repeatedly attacked people who insult him, most recently Kellyanne Conway's husband, George Conway III, who tweeted that Trump's mental state was worsening. (Trump tweeted that Mr. Conway was a “husband from hell” in response.) If Trump was a private citizen, this would be slightly disconcerting. But he's the president of the US, and to be reckless like Trump while holding that station has far-reaching consequences.

The president is someone who is looked up to as a leader. Thus, when he attacks someone for slandering him, others believe that those actions are acceptable. It sets a dangerous precedent. In addition, Trump's bla-

As a result, he is inadvertently responsible for Nunes' lawsuit. Trump's actions allow others to follow in his path. It's extremely ironic, too, because Nunes is suing Twitter as a result of Trump's always-fire-back personality.

tant disregard for the First Amendment (we need look no further than the staple of his vocabulary: “fake news”) perpetuates the idea that if someone is attacking you by saying mean things about you, you have the right to silence them, regardless of what the Constitution says. As a result, he is inadvertently responsible for Nunes' lawsuit. Trump's actions allow others to follow in his path. It's extremely ironic, too, because Nunes is suing Twitter as a result of Trump's always-fire-back personality.

It's during times like this that the American people should understand, that although Trump's actions can be funny, or honestly quite bizarre, they also have dangerous consequences.

On Our Minds: Affirmative Action

Jacob Feigenberg '21
Columnist

I previously opposed Affirmative Action and similar programs. As an Asian American, I wasn't fond of the idea of losing my spot in an elite college to someone because of the color of my skin. The pressure of getting into college was intimidating enough without any meddling factors; I needed something to blame just to keep my sanity. “It's reverse racism, right?” I would joke with my friends. “It's unjust. Just because someone is black or Latinx, they can steal my spot at Harvard.”

My mom told me before the end of family weekend, “Don't check off a box for ethnicity on your standardized tests. Just leave it blank.” So on the PSAT, I didn't fill out the bubble for ethnicity, as if that was the secret

So on the PSAT, I didn't fill out the bubble for ethnicity, as if that was the secret sauce to getting me into the college of my dreams.

sauce to getting me into the college of my dreams. I didn't really like giving up an aspect of my identity, but the college rat race has forced us to do ridiculous things.

According to *Time Magazine*, 15 percent of college-age Americans are black, but they constitute six percent of students at Ivy League schools. On a related note, Latinx scholars make

up 22 percent of the college-age population, but only 13 percent of them take up spots at these elite schools. Even with efforts to be more equitable in the admissions process, people of color are still underrepresented at top colleges.

Asian Americans make up seven percent of the US population and 20 percent of spots in the Ivy League. Even with so many spots “robbed” by beneficiaries of Affirmative Action, I believe it's safe to say that qualified Asian Americans get their fair share of admission into elite schools. Ac-

Asian American students scored an average of 1223 on the SAT, while black and Latinx students scored 946 and 990, respectively.

ording to a College Board report on the high school class of 2018, Asian American students scored an average of 1223 on the SAT, while black and Latinx students scored 946 and 990, respectively. But everything must be taken with context.

Black students have been historically disadvantaged and continue to face disadvantages in the schooling system. According to the Brookings Institution, about half of black children are born into families that grade in the bottom quintile of household income, while only one-tenth of white people are in the same quintile. Lower income, due to a multitude of factors including mass incarceration and workplace discrimination, forces

many people into the barebones public school system. Lower income also limits their ability to afford test-prep courses and attend summer programs for academic enrichment—a common luxury for wealthier whites and Asian Americans. These social and financial barriers make it challenging for many

Between 2009 and 2015, the elite institution's acceptance rate for legacy students was 34 percent, as opposed to their much lower admission rate of 5.9 percent for all applicants.

black students to break this cycle of poverty. Without Affirmative Action and similar programs, this cycle would spiral out of control.

Today's college admissions process is a race on an unlevel playing field; programs like Affirmative Action are meant to minimize the inherent advantages of the privileged, not for white or Asian American students to pay reparations. Affirmative action is not the problem.

Today, according to Harvard, legacy students constitute 14 percent of their student body. Between 2009 and 2015, the elite institution's acceptance rate for legacy students was 34 percent, as opposed to their much lower admission rate of 5.9 percent for all applicants. According to Cappex.com, this surplus is consistent with other Ivy League schools, averaging at about a 15 percent difference. From

a business standpoint, admitting a lot of students whose parents pay for a good chunk of the respective college's endowment is a logically sound idea. But even if many colleges are private

Whether it's the fake rowing recruits or donating money for a new wing in a building with their name on it, the privileged have gone under the radar amid the Harvard lawsuit. While legacy over admittance is one of many problems with the college admissions system, Affirmative Action isn't one of them.

institutions designed for profits, they are also schools; they hope to prepare us for the complex jobs that make the world run. If the purpose of collegiate education is to prepare the next wave of global leaders and usher in an age of economic prosperity—what are we doing?

I won't delve into the politics of proposing free universal education, but I think it's worth pondering why we have colleges that lose sight of their mission when presented with financial incentives. Whether it's the fake rowing recruits or donating money for a new wing in a building with their name on it, the privileged have gone under the radar amid the Harvard lawsuit. While legacy over admittance is one of many problems with the college admissions system, Affirmative Action isn't one of them.

Nadeau's

**Subs!
Salads!
Wraps!**

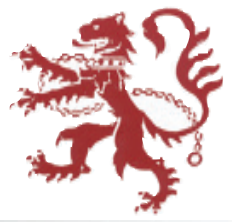
**Next to Walgreens
48 Portsmouth Avenue Exeter, NH
603-580-4445**

Order online at nadeaussubs.com!

**Hours
Mon-Thu, Sun:
11AM-8PM
Fri, Sat:
11AM-8:30PM**



ExeterLife



Phillips Exeter Academy's Field House.

Courtesy of ReVision Energy

BIG RED GOES GREEN

By **AMY LUM**
Staff Writer

Through classes and projects over the past year, Exonians have been making many efforts to improve Exeter's sustainability policies. With two more LEED-certified buildings on campus added last year and new dining hall initiatives to address food waste, many feel that Exeter is moving towards a greener future in all aspects of campus life, including possible future careers.

Upper Erin Ahern, a co-head of the Food Waste Reduction Club, said that the diversity of the environmental job market is a large draw to the on-campus clubs. "It's interesting because there are a lot of angles you could go into," she said. "You could go into the policies, law, engineering or the hard science of it. I think those are all really cool fields."

Upper and co-head of the E-proctor program Alayna Thomas focused on the depth of jobs available in the environmental field. "With all

of the innovation that's happening and all of the the technology that's allowing us to be more sustainable, a path is forming for us to go down for the future," she said. "I believe it's important for us to recognize that and really try to pursue a way of growing that will help humankind but will be sustainable and beneficial to the Earth."

One club, Divest Exeter, is working on getting Exeter to eliminate fossil fuel companies from the school's endowment portfolio. According to seniors and co-heads Sophie Faliero and Hillary Davis, the club "wants the school to divest within a certain number of years, but [understands] that it can't happen right away" and that "there are certain steps that the school can take to move towards the goal [of divestment]."

Faliero and Davis explained that there are multiple smaller goals that the club also wants to achieve. "I want to open up conversation between the administration, the trustees and the students about environmental issues, because I feel like there's no dia-

logue there right now," Faliero said.

Faliero isn't the only one who believes that change takes small steps: Ahern also recognizes that improving environmental awareness at Exeter is a long process. "The problems are not [going to] be solved overnight; it takes time to put in all these different changes," she said.

Ahern encourages the entire student body to continually change small aspects of their lives in an attempt to become more eco-friendly. "Consciously try [to] not waste food, try to minimize your use of paper and take shorter showers," she said. "If you do them every single day, then that's a lot added up."

Senior Heidi Lichtl, a former student of Human Population and Resource Consumption: Implications for Sustainability course, thinks that these small actions can easily become habits. "One of the big things we talked about during class was changing our daily actions," she said. "Hopefully, through the signs we put up in the dorm—if people pay attention to

them—they can just start getting in the habit; that's just something we do."

Thomas also noted how easy it is to remind others to be environmentally friendly. "If you see somebody who has a habit that's not great, such as leaving the water on while they brush their teeth every day... speak kindly to them," she said. "It would be good to have a community on campus that's constantly encouraging each other to do things that are good for the environment."

In addition to student efforts, the Academy itself is taking steps to become more involved in environmental wellness. Newly elected Student Council President and upper Ayush Noori, who is involved in the upcoming Bike Share program, believes the school is very invested in becoming more green. "Programs like GULL [Green Umbrella Learning Lab] are exactly the right steps," he said. "They allow students the opportunity [to make a difference]. I think we're lucky to have the opportunity to engage directly in environmental change."

SPRING TERM GUIDE TO FUN

By **MAEGAN PAUL**
Staff Writer

The sun is out and so are the spikeball nets, which means that spring term is here! Seniors are starting to become more relaxed, and the overall mood of campus is much happier than it was during winter term. This is the time to thrive, and I have some tips for you to get the most out of the best term at Exeter.

The most important thing you can do is to go outdoors. Not only are you getting extra sunlight, but getting outside can also be a way for you to be more social and meet new people. It doesn't matter if you are going for a run or doing homework on a blanket in the quad—just spending some time in the fresh air will surely have a positive impact on your mood.

As you have likely seen already, people have begun to play spikeball and frisbee with their friends. If playing games isn't exactly your thing, try playing music instead! Playing music in the quad is much better than blasting it in your dorm room late at night, but make sure to play the "clean" version of the song!

Student Council's Recreation Committee has a lot in store for the coming weeks, so make sure to participate in those planned activities. Beach Ball is an event that started just last year but was an incredible hit with students. It's returning on April 6 and is sure to live up to the hype of last year. I've also heard that there is a possibility for another outdoor movie event similar to the "Black Panther" screening from last spring, so look out for that!

Spring also happens to have the greatest number of sports teams available. Although using this term as a time to relax sounds enticing, working out can be extremely rewarding in the end. Pushing yourself to reach new goals by doing some form of physical activity will help you feel healthy this term—both mentally and physically.

If you're not doing a sport this term, you can still go for a run on the cross country trails or on Swasey Parkway.

If you're looking to go off campus, there is a lot to do in Portsmouth and Boston, and both are accessible by car or train. Portsmouth has a myriad of cool shops and restaurants, so it's a great way to spend a chill Saturday. If you're looking for some new dining options, seafood restaurants such as Row 34 in Portsmouth are absolutely amazing! It is a bit pricey, though, and entrees there are typically around \$30. A lot of the shops near there are smaller businesses and offer some really interesting items for a one-of-a-kind outfit.

Boston is much farther; however, as a big city, it has more to offer than anything closer to Exeter does. The Boston Calling Music Festival will happen from May 24-26, and it's already shaping up to be one of the best music festivals this year. Headliners include Twenty One Pilots, Travis Scott and Tame Impala, so there's a wide variety of music for all to enjoy. A personal favorite artist of mine, Mitski, will also be at the festival that Saturday.

In addition to music events, Boston has several renowned theaters that you can visit if you enjoy performing arts. Shows range from Shakespeare plays to those of modern writers, so you can watch performances from all different time periods.

I hope these tips will help you have a relaxing, fun and memorable spring term. If you're a senior, make sure to enjoy these last few weeks at Exeter with the people who made it worthwhile. For younger students, take some time to forget about whatever is stressing you out and live in the moment. As the prologue of one of my favorite books, *My Antonia* by Willa Cather, reads, "The best days are the first to flee."

WHEELWRIGHT WHITEOUT

By **MAEGAN PAUL**
Staff Writer

When the clock struck 8:30 p.m. last Saturday night, 50 Wheelwright residents wearing white t-shirts adorned with a glow-in-the-dark "W" welcomed students into Grainger Auditorium to kick off the 2019 Wheelwright Whiteout Dance.

To advertise the dance, the Wheelwright residents created a large banner and hung it on the balcony of Jeremiah Smith Hall. Senior and Wheelwright proctor Hannah Littlewood expressed excitement for the setup. "It's really fun with the black lighting," she said. "The proctors always make t-shirts for the dorm...it's a cool dorm bonding event."

Assistant Director of Student Activities Kelly McGahie was also very pleased with the decorations. She praised the efforts of the organizers from Wheelwright. "Wheelwright did a great job of explaining what they wanted," she said. She also noted that the level of energy and commitment of the dorm members was commendable. "They all showed up on time to bring the stuff over to decorate, and they were enthusiastic for it," she continued.

After a successful dance last year, Wheelwright proctors sought to recreate the atmosphere for this year's event. They believed that bringing back the same DJ would ensure that the music quality would be high. "I definitely think the DJ was the best part," said Littlewood.

This choice garnered praise from the public as well. "I thought the dance was really fun. The music was really good, too," senior Ela Ferhangil said. McGahie recognized the DJ's appeal and style. "[The students] liked him because they like the black light cannons that light up the whole room," she said. "They also liked the fact that he mostly does music requests."

Lower Hassane Fiteni complimented the dance, adding comments about his enjoyment of the music. "It was fire music," he said. "It really got you moving, and people were vibing with it." In addition to the fluorescent lights, the DJ also brought

strobe lights that he synced with the beats of some songs. As people flooded onto the dance floor, the room easily became crowded and felt energetic throughout the dance.

Students requested songs varying from Beyoncé's hit "Single Ladies" to The Killers' "Mr. Brightside" to the widely popular song, "Mo Bamba" by Sheck West. A large crowd gathered near the DJ booth where students rushed to the center, but the Wheelwright girls maintained a fun dance circle that invited everyone. "It was a smaller dance when you compare it to some of the bigger ones where we don't have a wall up, but I thought it was perfect for the space. I thought the energy was good," McGahie said.

However, the room felt small for some. "I know that some people really like having it only in half of Grainger, but it was so hot in there," Ferhangil said. Yet, despite the lack of space, many Exonians had an overall positive experience at the dance.

Reflecting back on her four years of events at Exeter, Ferhangil thoroughly enjoyed this year's dance. "Honestly, this may have been my favorite Whiteout," she said. "The music was really good, especially in the beginning, [and] the energy was up."

McGahie attributed the success of Whiteout to the continual dedication of the Wheelwright girls to the event each year. "I think that's key to any successful dance—it's to have the people that are planning it actually show up," she said. "It was a good dance to me [and] a nice, chill way to start spring term."

The DJ closed the night with "Fire Burning" by Sean Kingston and gave Wheelwright a shoutout for hosting the dance. People slowly filed out as the song ended and took their final photos in the lobby.

Whiteout was the last school-wide dance for the class of 2019, but the energy of the night made sure that every student would remember the incredible, neon dance for years to come. "Wheelwright's an awesome dorm," Fiteni asserted. "It was great to see a lot of my friends organize such an incredible dance."

SeniorSpotlight

DYLAN YIN

By JACK ARCHER, BRIAN SON and JANALIE COBB

Staff Writers and Head Copy Editor

There are few in the PEA community who frequent the music building as often as senior Dylan Yin. A proficient musician, he has participated in multiple singing groups and orchestras throughout his Exeter career as well as setting examples as a curious learner in the classroom and a dedicated leader on campus.

Hailing from Shanghai and New York City, Dylan has been playing instruments for most of his life. Many students on campus know Dylan through his remarkable performances across campus. Senior Hannah Pak met Dylan through Interlochen—a summer immersion program for the arts—and they have remained good friends. “Honestly, some of my favorite memories with him are the ones we share performing together [at Interlochen],” Pak said.

Dylan Yin’s exceptional talent has earned him praise on campus. Upper Ben Gorman complimented Dylan Yin’s performance at the Exeter Association of Rock (EAR) assembly, saying, “He was so good ... That was crazy.”

According to his sister, lower Audrey Yin, Dylan Yin is widely recognized as a role model both in concert choir and in PEADQUACs, the co-ed a cappella group on campus. “He’s a big leader in concert choir, and a lot of the other basses come to him. In PEADQUACs he’s called the ‘papa quack,’ and he fits the role really well!”

Dylan Yin doesn’t just shine in the music building; in class, his natural curiosity is a valuable asset to his peers and teachers alike. “Dylan is one of the most genuinely inquisitive people I’ve worked with in the classroom,” Biology Instructor Erik Janicki said. “He asks really thoughtful questions that make it clear he is really trying to understand things because he wants to know how things work.”

As curious as he is, Dylan Yin also has no shortage of answers. “Dylan is also a student



Paula Perez-Glassner/The Exonian

who is willing to tackle others’ questions,” Janicki added. “One of the really nice things about Dylan is he is not afraid to make a mistake. He and his classmates get a lot of opportunities to learn from these mistakes.”

Dylan Yin also sets an example as a student leader, ready to help anyone. He is both a proctor and a student listener in Wentworth Hall, where he enjoys helping and caring for others when they need it. “I try to express to people that they are loved—that they are not alone. As cheesy as it is, a simple act of kindness can literally mean the world ... I’m passionate about loving others,” he said. “In life, there is no avoiding people. Every job or class involves working with people.”

Both in and out of the music building, Dylan Yin’s friends greatly appreciate his kindness and warmth. “Dylan is the kindest and most supportive friend out there,” upper

Paula Perez-Glassner said. “He is so caring and makes an effort to make sure everyone is doing okay and is ready to talk if they aren’t.” Upper Ayush Noori also highlighted Dylan Yin’s empathy and positivity. “Dylan is reliable. If you need something, Dylan will always go out of his way to help you.”

Janicki commented on Dylan Yin’s selflessness throughout his term abroad in Stratford, England. “He consistently had the group’s best interest in mind. These traits of his are not personas that he puts on,” Janicki said. “That’s who he is.” Senior Paul James, who accompanied Dylan on the term abroad, also noted his compassion. “Dylan and I stayed in the same cottage during our time in England and made a point of cooking together and spending long nights talking in the living room,” he said. “I couldn’t have asked for a better roommate.”

Dylan Yin’s girlfriend, senior Tara Weil, expanded on his selflessness, commenting that when she returned from a trip to South Africa. He went to meet her at the airport at 5 a.m. just to spend an hour with her while she waited for her layover. “He tried to buy a ticket to Chicago so he could accompany me to the gate and then return it, but they didn’t let him,” she said.

Dylan Yin’s love and appreciation extends to the Academy, as well. “Exeter is full of amazing students, faculty, administration and staff who each possess a unique story in the bigger story of our Exeter experience,” Dylan Yin acknowledged. “They each can show you a new way of thinking, of learning, of feeling. Because of these people, I am challenged every day.” This understanding inspired him to give back to a community that has helped him grow. “He frequently spends time having interesting debates among friends, checking up on people to offer help in any way he can and helped introduce me to some great pieces of music I would never have appreciated otherwise,” James said.

To Dylan Yin, Exeter has given him opportunities, opened doorways to discover academic passions while making lifelong friends and provided an outlook on life that promises a positive and hopeful path for him. But, it was his understanding and empathetic to others that allowed him to enjoy those opportunities. When asked how he’d characterize himself in one word, Dylan Yin chose “Hopeful,” because he knew that “if [he] can realize the basis for respect and for kindness, that’s a start.”

According to his sister, Dylan Yin has accomplished just that. “He’s the nicest person I know,” Audrey Yin said. “Last year, I was having a hard time, and I remember that, whenever I called him, he would pick up and always suggest that we do something. I feel like he’s my best friend, and he’s the person I love the most ... I don’t want him to graduate.”

RECOGNIZING SPRING IN EXETER

By MADISON KANG

MATTER Magazine Editor-in-Chief

The first Sunday of spring term, 50-degree temperatures and fair skies graced the Exeter campus. The ice sheets on Squamscott river subsided and a robin flew over Bancroft Hall. Exonians embraced this transitional weather as they set up Spikeball nets on the South side quad and finished reading assignments on the benches outside of their dormitories. “It’s still sweatshirt season, but it’s sweatshirt, no jacket, season,” said senior Isadora Kron during her stroll along Swasey Parkway with friends.

With last week’s vernal equinox, the Northern Hemisphere officially entered spring. Besides astronomical cues and Exeter spring traditions (dorm teas, senior meditations, Thursday afternoon trips to the farmer’s market, etc.), here are some more inconspicuous natural changes to inaugurate this year’s springtide.

Fresh Tracks in the Exeter Woods
Embark on an expedition through the Phillips Exeter Academy Woods while there is still snow on the trails. Snow is an immaculate canvas for fauna footprints,

and it creates a time-stamp for the creatures rustling from their winter torpor. Some common tracks in the woods are those of raccoons (identifiable by five long, splayed toes with small sharp punctures from their claws), woodpeckers (with two toes pointing backwards and two forward), the small half-inch by half-inch handprints of squirrels and the deer hoof prints like upside-down hearts.

Vernal Pools

If, by the time you set foot into the woods, the snow has melted away, there is another springtime hallmark left in the wake of the melted snow—vernal pools. Fed by spring rainfall and the water left behind by the winter snow, vernal pools are seasonal wetlands that evaporate by mid-summer. Until then, the miniature ponds are fertile nesting grounds for various amphibians such as the spring peeper (a small chorus frog common in Eastern United States and Canada), wood frogs and salamanders. These amphibians are often frozen frigid throughout the winter—“frog-

sicles” according to Biology Instructor Christopher Matlack—but defrost as temperatures rise. Once fully thawed, female amphibians must search for a safe place to deposit their eggs. The vernal pools offer a sanctuary for their defenseless spawn, since predatory fish do not occupy the pools, and the environment remains moist for months, long enough for the eggs to hatch and the young to mature.

Flora on Campus

Perhaps the most noticeable indicator of spring is the blossoming of various flora around the Academy grounds. There are daffodils near Phillips Church, morning glories behind Webster Hall, crocuses on the faculty side of Wentworth Hall and the voluminous, photogenic dammans shrub in front of Kirtland House, just to note a few exceptionally floral areas on campus. History Instructor Meg Foley’s advisees enjoy plucking fading marigolds, yarrow and camellias from the flower bed in her front yard. They arrange the buds in radial formation, creating a floral mandala. A

mandala is a colorful way to spruce up the paths and brighten passerby’s walks before the petals brown or blow away, and it is a quick, fun activity to do with friends this spring term.

Woodcock “Skydance”

Look upwards for the thespian “sky dance” of the male woodcock, a plump bird distinguished by brown and black plumage and a long beak. The American woodcock breeds in early spring, with males launching into their courtship sky dancing at dawn and dusk. The woodcock makes a buzzy peent call at short intervals as he begins a spiraling display flight. Each spiral becomes smaller and the peenting gets louder as the male flies upwards, until he is a distant blot in the sky. Suddenly, the bird plunges downward to its original position just a few feet off the ground, warbling throughout its precipitous plummet. Let’s hope that in the next two months, our seniors’ grades do not experience the dramatic downfall of a male woodcock’s sky dance.

ClubSpotlight

HISTORY CLUB

By DANIEL CHEN

Staff Writer

Every Wednesday at 6 p.m., PEA’s historians gather in instructor Kent McConnell’s room to discuss, listen to and learn about history. From competing in History Bowl, a history-centric version of Quiz Bowl, writing essays for National History Day and listening to lectures about authoritarian dictators, students find themselves immersed in history unable to be found in just the classroom.

History Bowl is one of the primary focuses of History Club, with one team from Exeter recently qualifying for the national tournament. “A moderator will ask questions and we’ll have to figure out what even they’re talking about,” team member and lower Charlie Preston said. “We’ll all slap the table and try to get the right answer.”

Earlier this year, History Club traveled to Brown University on Feb. 23 to compete in the Rhode Island History Bee and Bowl Division. Upper Jason Huang won in the Varsity History Bee division, and the Exeter History Bowl Team placed as semifinalists. “That got us into nationals,” Preston said.

Co-head and senior Luca Cantone expressed his admiration for the students who had competed. “I’m not particularly good at History Bowl,” Cantone admired. “We are very lucky to have a number

of students who have a very broad understanding of a broad knowledge of historical trivia.”

The club hopes to attend the National History Bee and Bowl from April 26 to April 28. Last year, the club was restrained by its financial resources. “Last year we qualified two teams to nationals. We weren’t able to go,” co-head and upper Jason Huang said. “This year, we’re trying to secure the funding.”

A treasured part of History Club is the insight into unconventional historical areas through lectures. The past winter term, a lecture series by Mr. McConnell and the co-heads focused on “Authoritarian Dictators.”

Preston expressed his intrigue at a lecture given by co-head and senior Calvin Chai-Onn on Idi Amin. “Idi Amin was an authoritarian leader of Uganda, and he was just very, very strange,” Preston said. “He ended up living in a hotel in Saudi Arabia for the last few years of his life!”

Preston also appreciated the depth and contextualization he has learned from lectures. “Mr. McConnell once did a lecture on the Salem Witch trials, how widespread they really were,” Preston said. “He showed us a map of all the people that were accused. Now he has

a course about that! Hopefully kids will sign up.”

Cantone also expressed that the enjoyment of lectures extends to delivering them as well. “I think part of our club’s role should be to teach interesting, off the beaten track sort of topics in history. I think the lecture series is effective in teaching these kinds of history,” he said. “I lectured on Indira Gandhi this year. The way I framed my talk on her was her position as an authoritarian leader in a democratic country and how quickly the norms of democracy eroded in India.”

Cantone believes learning about historical figures such as Gandhi is significant in observing the present. “I see parallels in that today, in our democratic norms being weakened by all sorts of forces—by corruption, by partisanship,” he said. “I think it’s important to look to history as I did in that talk and use history as a medicine for our own ills.”

Additionally, Huang noted the freedom history affords as a subject of study. “If there’s one part of history that you don’t find particularly interesting, you can always just move on to another period or other empire,” he said. “You don’t need to get stuck in like one section

of history. It’s not like Math—if you get stuck in Calculus, then you’re not going to be moving forward to abstract math.”

History Club’s passionate and dedicated members continue to inspire and draw Cantone’s admiration. “Even though so many of us take history classes here, I’m not sure many people would assume that history club would [exist],” he said. “The fact that we come together on a weekly basis or multiple times a week to share history and our love of history. I’m proud that we’re in a space where that’s possible.”

The space of History Club has allowed Cantone to reflect on the themes of history as a whole, and what it means to study the subject. “I think the main lesson of history is a look at how humans behave and how we—you rise and revise when you fall,” he said. “We’re capable of great things of advancing ourselves. History can be very inspiring to look at, to look at people in the past who’ve done amazing things and try to draw some from that for our own lives.”

Huang encourages all Exonians interested in learning more about history to try out the club. “You should join if you’re curious about the world around you, about what factors shaped did it, or if you just want to have fun!”

MOVIE REVIEW: TYLER PERRY'S “A MADEA FAMILY FUNERAL”

By MAEGAN PAUL
Staff Writer

After beginning his career in 2002 as the insanely hilarious character Mabel “Madea” Simmons, Tyler Perry is finally hanging up his gray wig and colorful dresses. For his fans, his final send-off for the character was *A Madea Family Funeral*, the tenth and final film of the Madea series.

The film was released on March 1 and has already surpassed its projected return of \$20 million by at least \$30.7 million. However, reviews are mixed. Rotten Tomatoes awarded Perry a score of 13 percent while CinemaScore gave him an A- overall. Those average to a grade you would hate to see at midterms.

I desperately wanted to love the film and support such an amazing director. Personally, I have seen all of the Madea films over the years and even watched the filmed versions of the plays. I once went through a phase of wanting to star in his productions, but alas, that excitement has seriously dwindled.

Perry’s reputation has diminished not only in my mind, but in the mind of many others who once adored him. During season 11, episode 2 of *The Real Housewives of New York City*, Dorinda Medley sends Luann de Lesseps a quote by Perry in an attempt to salvage their friendship. The message read, “When

you haven’t forgiven those who’ve hurt you, you turn your back against your future. When you do forgive, you start walking forward; - Tyler Perry.” Medley is ultimately left without a response, and de Lesseps and the others laugh because the quote was from Perry.

I must admit—I was also thrown off by the use of the quote and couldn’t take the situation seriously. The story behind his quote is actually quite sad, as it is about him forgiving his father for an abusive childhood. I understood the gravity of his situation, but the response from the show’s viewers and stars provide some insight into their perception of Perry.

Some just think of Perry as a funny man in comical drag, but I believe he is more than that. The actor has been an important figure in the black community and a relatable presence in mainstream theater. Although Simmons is often a comedic character, she typically conveys important messages in all of her films. She acts as an honest, aunt-like figure who gets to the point. In this particular movie, we saw less of that comedic relief and more of the logical thinker.

Perry plays four separate characters here, and the first one we see

was new to me. Simmons now has a second brother, Heathrow, who is a chain smoker with a hole in his throat that has also lost both legs. The jokes about his disabilities made me uncomfortable, and I did not want to laugh at them. I know that he is a fictional character who continues with activities detrimental to his health, but I simply could not enjoy anything about him.

We also get to see Simmons and the classic banter between her friends—Bam and Hattie Mae—and her brother Joe. They joke about Hattie’s cougar mentality and Joe’s creepy ways, so it feels like this will be another standard Madea film.

Her lawyer son, also played by Perry, is pulled over by a white police officer, and I could feel tension in the audience. No one has ever died or even been close to death yet in his film, so we were unsure of the outcome. Rest assured, he did not die, but it served as telling commentary on how the first thing we expected was for him to be shot.

The circumstances of the actual death in this film are very strange. Two affairs are exposed to the audience and they all walk a fine line of incest. The Simmons gang made jokes as usual, but I wasn’t too happy about the recurring

mention of dying while cheating on a significant other. The excessive details in an attempt of a joke felt drawn-out.

In the end, the affair was revealed to everyone and we get that typical motivational speech. The wife explains the hardships she went through in her toxic relationship and the cheaters are given a stern talking-to about how they should treat people. The film ends with a random Mike Tyson cameo followed by credits and bloopers.

I stayed in the theater for a while after the final scene in hopes of catching a farewell message. The rest of the audience also waited, but nothing ever came. There was no conclusion to Madea’s role, Perry didn’t have any final remarks and there was just a lack of closure.

The initial hype around the film was pretty exciting, as one of the posters featured an image of Simmons mimicking the famous photo of Beyoncé announcing her pregnancy with the twins. We all knew this was the last Madea film, so we expected it to be great. As I mentioned earlier, there are quite a few mixed reviews, so I suggest you see it for yourself! It was not the film I was hoping to see, but it was worth the cost of a ticket. Perry is a great director, and I’m sad to see the end of an era.

PENDULUM LAUNCH PARTY

By LINA HUANG
Staff Writer

Exonians gathered together in Phillips Church on Wednesday, March 20 for the unveiling of the seniors’ edition of *Pendulum*, Exeter’s literary and arts journal. The publication included an assortment of poems, short stories and photographs from members of the class of 2019.

Senior and poet Eugene Hu has submitted to *Pendulum* in the past and viewed this issue as a final opportunity to be published. “I pulled out this piece that I had written during upper year and then it actually ended up making it into the senior edition,” Hu said.

Photographer Arun Wongprommoon felt a similar way. “At first I was reluctant, but then I felt that I would want to at least be involved [in the publication] before the opportunity to participate disappears because I will be leaving Exeter,” he said.

For writer and senior Sarah Liberatore, it was the process of crafting her piece that compelled her to submit it to *Pendulum*. “Even though [my piece] was written technically for class, I felt like I had written it for myself ... I was excited at the possibility of sharing that with other people,” she said. “I was really delighted that I was able to do that with *Pendulum*.”

Senior Kristen Richards’ writing process, however, focused around *Pendulum*’s prompt: “...therefore I am.” “Usually when I’m writing, I start with a phrase that comes into my head or very cool words,” she said. “However, it was different when writing for *Pendulum*.”

Richards had hoped to make the prompt the center of her piece. “For this poem in particular, I wrote it with the idea of ‘therefore I am,’ and I was trying to sculpt around that and around my own identity. The only way I could really define my identity at that time was through the natural world, so I thought about how I could weave that into a poem.”

Richards said that the release event at Phillips Church provided a different medium to express her works. “I’ve never read one of my poems out loud to people,” she said. “Most of the time, I just give it to them to read. I wanted to branch out and try something new [this time].”

Wongprommoon, however, felt apprehensive about sharing aspects of his identity to the magazine’s readers. “I don’t usually show my photos to anyone except my family,” he said. “This is a new audience, and I didn’t know what to expect from it.”

On the other hand, the opportunity to share unknown aspects of his identity attracted Hu to *Pendulum*. “It’s more about expressing vulnerability than anything else. I wanted to serve as a reminder that it’s okay to feel weak at times,” he said. “The important thing is getting back up while you can.”

Hu was especially interested in the impact that poetry can have on the wider community. “Since I’m thinking about doing something related to writing perhaps in the future, I think that it is important for me to think about how to craft my work so that it is presentable to others,” he said. “*Pendulum* is a way for me to see whether I’m at that point where I can stop just writing for myself and start to do something for others.”

To Liberatore, writing is also a medium to articulate complex ideas. “It can be really hard to share what you’re thinking and what you’re feeling to other people. Writing is a way for me to work through those things on paper instead of just letting things float around in my head,” she said. “It’s hard, but it can be really rewarding to just get that out on paper and go through the process of polishing my piece.”

Meanwhile, senior and *Pendulum* contributor Jadzia Tedeschi focused on the opportunity to listen to the different stories other seniors wrote. “I always liked reading my peers’ work and discovering interesting talents amongst our peers,” she said.

Senior and poet Sumit Chandra aspires to motivate others to explore unfamiliar subjects. “I never know what feelings I can evoke for specific members of my audience, but I think back to certain poets I have watched perform—they never could have known how much they had inspired me to begin writing,” he said. “Hopefully, through sharing stories from my life, I can reach other people with similar stories.”

BATTLE ROYALE VIDEO GAMES

By NOEL GOMEZ
Guest Contributor

In today’s day and age, video games are one of the most prominent sources of media across the globe, on the Internet and in our everyday lives. You probably know of games like Mario and Minecraft and may have even played them. However, there is a new game that has quickly risen to prominence over the past few months: Fortnite. The game was released in September of 2017 by developer Epic Games, and it quickly gained popularity, both among the gaming community and beyond. Since then, the game has become intertwined with many aspects of our lives—music, popular culture, dance, social media, television—and has earned its reputation as one of the most successful games in recent years.

What many do not know is that this game is part of a much larger video game genre called battle royale. The category is vastly inspired by *The Hunger Games*, a trilogy of novels by Suzanne Collins. The books chronicle a group of children isolated in an arena who are forced to fight to the death until only one remains. The battle royale genre replicates this idea by having each player drop onto an island (usually from a plane) and quickly find weapons to eliminate all other players. Games like Minecraft have included battle royale-style events within the wider gaming interface for a while.

In the last three years, though, the genre has resurfaced from games like H1Z1, Player Unknown’s Battlegrounds (PUBG), and Fortnite. These games expanded on the idea by constantly adding new gear, “powerups” and different modes over time to make the game more interesting and up to date. The gameplay style allows gamers to participate in hundreds of games, each one different from the last. This means that there are technically unlimited possibilities for gameplay, so players are rarely bored with the game. The fact that only one player can claim victory per match also creates an appealing reward system for players, and as a result, they keep competing until they win.

Fortnite is so popular that it has garnered over 200 million players around the world and has made an estimated \$2.4 billion since its launch. This record amount of profit made it the top-grossing free-to-play game in the world and helped Epic Games’ net worth to reach \$8 billion. Since its release, Fortnite has also hosted tournaments, featured cross-over events with companies like Marvel and attracted the attention of many famous faces like artists Drake, Marshmello and Travis Scott.

The game doesn’t have all good reviews, though—its close relationship with popular dances has led several celebrities, including rapper BlocBoy JB, to file lawsuits against Epic Games. JB is currently suing the company over the use of his dance moves in Fortnite without his approval. Despite the controversies over the use of various artists’ work in the game, Fortnite has kept its position as a giant in the videogame industry and has inspired the birth of a multitude of other similar games.

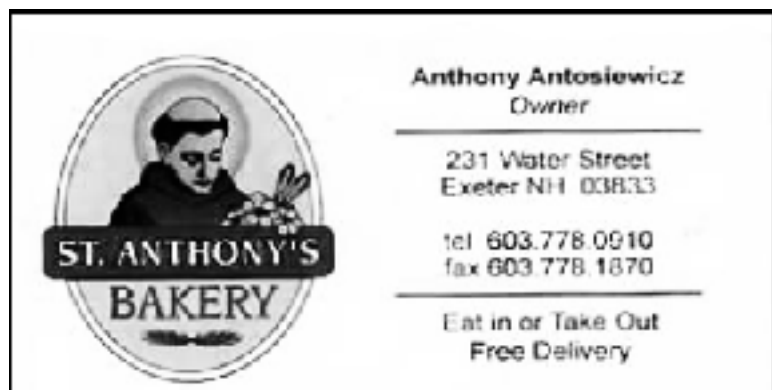
After the world witnessed Fortnite’s rise to fame, many of the gaming industry’s top developers decided to follow suit with their own battle royale games. Well-known multiplayer game franchises like Call of Duty and Battlefield added their own takes on battle royale to their latest video games in an effort to compete with Fortnite’s monopoly on the genre.

Upper James Long attributes the wide-scale production of these new battle royale-style games to Fortnite’s innovative design and its subsequent influence on popular culture. “Fortnite is one of the biggest out-of-nowhere successes in gaming history. Its success has made battle royale games the dominant multiplayer game style, as opposed to former team-based games like Overwatch and other first-person shooters.” Call of Duty’s Blackout mode (a form of battle royale gameplay) was released in the fall of 2018 and gained a large fanbase after launch, many considering it a more realistic version of Fortnite with the feel of the Call of Duty franchise.

Another recent success was Apex Legends, a game released by Respawn Entertainment this past February. The game was a “surprise release,” and it accumulated over 25 million followers in just a few days. It added a whole new dimension to the battle royale genre, building off of the class-based team play of already-popular games like Overwatch. While none of these other games have quite been able to reach the popularity and widespread success of Fortnite, the competition for the number one battle royale game continues to unfold. Fortnite and Apex Legends have an advantage as they are both free-to-play games that make their money from in-game purchases rather than an initial cost, but it remains to be seen if one of these new takes on battle royale will dethrone Fortnite.

Personally—although I do enjoy battle royale games—they are nowhere near my favorite type of game. I prefer traditional multiplayer games like first-person shooters. However, today’s popular games are shifting more and more to being completely online multiplayer games, as seen by the rise of battle royale games. People prefer to just stay at home and play with their friends online rather than in the same room—a more social gameplay method made popular by Nintendo through games like MarioKart.

Of all of the battle royale games out there, I enjoy Blackout the most because of its similarity to the traditional Call of Duty that I grew up playing and also because of its reliance on real-life tactics and strategy to win. I played Fortnite for a while as well, but the play style was too foreign to me, and I quickly became tired of it. Fortnite is tailored more for the younger generation with its funny animations, music and dances, and it will shape the gaming style that they will grow up with. Overall, the new wave of battle royale games have truly revolutionized gaming and undoubtedly had long-lasting effects on the culture surrounding gamers everywhere.





ExonianHumor



Fetal Pig Dissection Practice Session Starter Pack

By RYAN XIE

Left Behind in Winter Term

1. Opening your pig and smelling the amazing scent of preserved juicy goodness
2. One really good demonstration pig that everyone crowds around
3. A really bad pig that confuses everyone about where things are
4. Students filming the dissection because the last practice day is 3 DAYS before the actual test
5. Not being able to find the hepatic duct
6. And not knowing what any of the membranes are (peritoneum, anyone?)
7. The one kid who spent a few too many hours studying and is definitely not flexing on everyone in the lab room
8. The neglected human skeleton that everyone forgets to study
9. Taking pictures of everything
10. Feeling good about knowing where the epiglottis
11. Body parts that you swear were never covered in class
12. Stealing other people's plastic aprons
13. And other people's forceps
14. Diagrams that do NOT match with what you actually see

If Exeter Was...

By NICK SCHWARZ

Still Salty About The Analogies Section of the SSAT

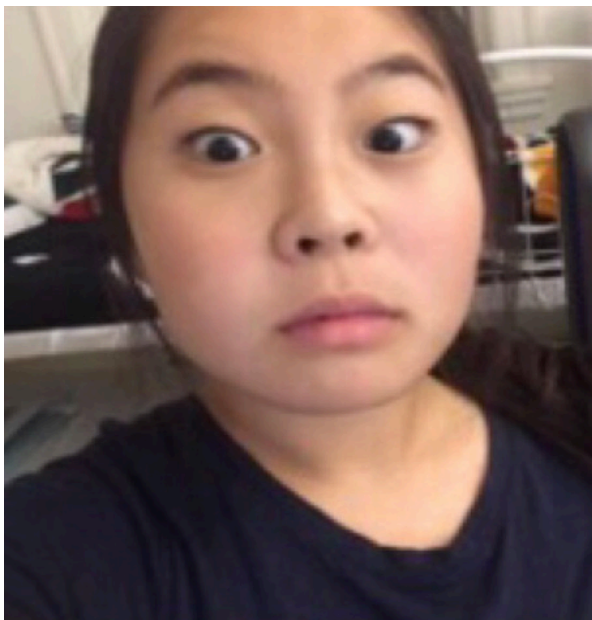
1. A city: Detroit. Dark and cold, no nightlife, but a proud history of manufacturing (academic) machines. Then China made the machines better. Welp.
2. A restaurant: Subway. Tastes ok, good for you, but you hardly feel like a king while eating it, and you're exhausted when you're done.
3. A clothing brand: Old Navy. A successful establishment, tries to be affordable to all, but the cool kids will laugh at the athletic selection.
4. A president: Franklin Pierce. HAHHAHAHAHA OUR ONE PRESIDENTIAL ALUM WAS A FRAT BOY PARTY ANIMAL WHO LOW-KEY STARTED THE CIVIL WAR.
5. A Sports Team: Oakland A's/Green Bay Packers. Though there are the Miami Heat, Detroit Lions, and a few others, the proud old-fashioned allure and cold home-field makes sense. As for the A's, the owner's an alum, but the team is most famous for a nerdy scouting philosophy, and our little-brother relationship with the blue school is analogous to Oakland and the Giants.

TFW

You Want to Get Exactly Three Meatballs but Elm Only Serves Them in Groups of Two

By: Ryan Xie

Running out of ideas here



	Humor	News
Low Effort	👍	👎
Many Readers	👍	👎
Low Paper Use	👍	👎
Two Day Studs	👍	👎

Please write for humor. exonianhumor@gmail.com

Prep Signs Up for 30+ Clubs at Club Night; Club Heads Refuse to Take Him off of the Email Lists

By RYAN XIE

Totally Didn't Happen to Him

During Club Night, prep Johnny Spaz signed up for more than 30 clubs, ranging from Student Council to American Culture Club to How to Harkness Club. Although he was hoping to expand his horizons, his experience was not the best.

"I knew Exeter had so many opportunities for me, and so many amazing people to meet." For this reason, Johnny Spaz signed up for a wide range of clubs. "For starters, my parents wanted me to sign up for the big clubs. This meant Student Council, *Exonian*, Debate, Mock Trial, and Model UN."

Spaz sees a potential future for him in these clubs. "Having been class officer in fourth grade, I really think I have the character and charisma to become Student Body President. I see a lot of changes that would greatly benefit the student body. I definitely plan on running for Prep Rep and giving preps more representation in Student Council.

With that one year experience under my belt, I hope to become Lower Rep and then Secretary and then President! I also hope to become Editor-in-Chief of *The Exonian*, Debate Co-head, Mock Trial Co-head, and Model UN co-head!"

One thing that surprised Spaz was the number of club heads at Exeter. "There must be a LOT of work that these club heads need to do if they need to split it among more than five club heads. I guess there are a lot of hard workers and leaders at Exeter."

Spaz elaborated on his experience talking to club heads. "Many of the club heads were very compelling. For example, American Culture Club said that they were extremely low commitment, and that there would be a cook out at the end of the term. They also said that they would not send a lot of emails. I'm really looking forward to it!"

While several clubs promised

not to send too many emails, Spaz unfortunately did not experience this since he signed up for over 30 clubs.

"Coupled with emails about music concerts and Canvas notifications and phishing emails and IT emails, I couldn't find a thing in my inbox!"

Spaz remembers a string of emails from Quiz Bowl. "The emails were funny, but I was getting too many emails at this point. I decided to email some of the club heads to remove me from the email list."

It turned out that when Spaz tried to email the Club Heads to remove him from the email list, he accidentally replied all. "I didn't realize that I replied all. I guess I still have a lot to learn about using Outlook."

Most of the other Club Heads did not reply to Spaz's email list removal requests. "I guess they want long email lists," Spaz remarked.

Comic Box

By EUGENE HU

Comics Without Pictures

The process of creating a Eugene Hu comic strip:

(Insert 1 Goofball)

(Insert 1 Sensible Character)

(Insert Filler)

(Insert More Filler)

(Insert 1 Idiomatic Act)

(Insert useless disagreement)

(Insert more useless disagreement)

(Insert regret)

(Insert Advertisement)

(Delete dignity)

(Delete respect)

(Delete clout)

[Increase revenue by 1 dollar]

(Insert Unoriginal Punchline)

(Delete any remaining dignity)

(Delete any remaining respect)

(Delete any remaining clout)

[Decrease revenue by 200,000 dollars]

Quotes of the Week

"I guess I just dont know, what does it mean to flex on people?"

-Ms. Dean

"Doesn't Wheelright have a second W?"

-Life Editors

"Today's Humor Page low key gets worse the farther down you read."

-Ryan Xie, '20

"Isn't that how it usually is?"

- Fiona Madrid '20

"I always check for my grades days before they're supposed to come out, even though I know they won't be there."

-Everyone

"Does anyone else realize that Weth always has Caesar salad in the first week of every trimester, and then you never see it again? Food for that?"

-Ryan Xie, '20

Mad About March Madness

By **ABBY SMITH**
Senior Sports Reporter

“Tacko Fall is too tall.” - David Kim '20

“Who cares about basketball.” - Ethan Rosenthal '20

“People are obsessed with it and it takes over their lives. My physics teachers made a joke about when he threw paper in the trash can.” - Frankie Getman '21

“My bracket is going very bad.” - Jane Collins '19

“I just choose the teams with the coolest names.” - Angus Scott '20

“I play varsity basketball and I didn't even fill out a bracket.” - Eva Carchidi '20

“Why is Zion Williamson an animal?” - Molly Longfield '22

“What is a bracket?” - Maddie Machado '20

“Duke is kind of sick.” - Tessa Shields '21

“My bracket is doing horrible. I am ranked 11 millionth.” - Bethany Lucey '20

“Isn't that like basketball?” - Emily Gaw '20



Duke player Zion Williamson dunks in game against North Dakota State University. Photo courtesy of the *Indiana Daily Student*

SATURDAY GAMES

Boys' Varsity Lacrosse at Milton: 12:00 P.M.
Varsity Baseball at Governors: 1:00 P.M.
Boys' Varsity Volleyball vs. NMH: 1:00 P.M.
Girls' Varsity Lacrosse at Choate: 1:30 P.M.
Girls' Varsity Water Polo at Deerfield: 2:30 P.M.
Boys' Varsity Tennis vs. St. Paul's: 3:00 P.M.
Girls' Varsity Tennis vs. Middlesex: 3:00 P.M.

Parents!

Join the snazzy new Bungalow Club
on a special PEA Parent Membership!



Benefits of Membership

- stunning, California-inspired Clubhouse only blocks from campus
- delicious dinners & tantalizing libations
- relax and chat at the Napa fire pit, the billiards/darts/game room, plush Living Room with piano, co-work spaces
- private rooms to celebrate your student's birthday, sports team, music or dorm group, grad parties
- dinner four nights and a fabulous Sunday brunch, Live Jazz or Bluegrass brunch on third Sunday of the month

Come for a meal or a tour to check out your new “home away from home”

Call or email GM Julianna: 603-418-7851 or jaknoettner@bungalowclubexeter.com



WWW.BUNGALOWCLUBEXETER.COM
1 FRANKLIN STREET, NEXT TO BLUE MOON RESTAURANT



ExonianSports



GIRLS' VARSITY LACROSSE JAMBOREE *Finishes Day With 2-1 Record*



Lower Rachel Shu checks the opponents stick.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

By COOPER WALSH
Staff Writer

Big Red Girls' Varsity Lacrosse brought the heat back from Florida this Sunday when they traveled to the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School to compete in a jamboree. The team pulled off commanding wins against both the Rivers School and the New Hampton School. However, they suffered a tough, one-goal defeat to Sudbury.

When asked if the team worked hard during the offseason, lower Tia Reaman responded, "Of course everyone was working hard. Are you kidding me? Every weekend the girls would be at lax camps, and if we weren't there, we would play wall ball with each other." Reaman expressed the team's readiness to "fight our way to the top of the

rankings."

Senior and co-captain Bella Hillman noted that the whole team improved their mile times drastically. "Our fastest runner is Caroline Luff—she's a speed demon," Hillman said. "But it was clear that every other girl on the team was working their butts off to get their time down." Reaman agreed, saying, "The hard work has paid off and we are a speedy team now."

Hillman said that preseason helped the team find the "kinks in our game" and fix them before the start of the season. "This preseason was the best it's been in four years. The team made a really tight bond that will hold throughout the season and beyond," Hillman said.

Hillman highlighted lower Marymegan Wright on her stellar perfor-

mance during the jamboree. "Marymegan stepped up in the jamboree. Her stick skills have improved a lot and she really worked on her game to improve. She's really good at using her speed to make important plays," Hillman said. Reaman added that Wright "has a great shot and understands how to get the ball past the goalie."

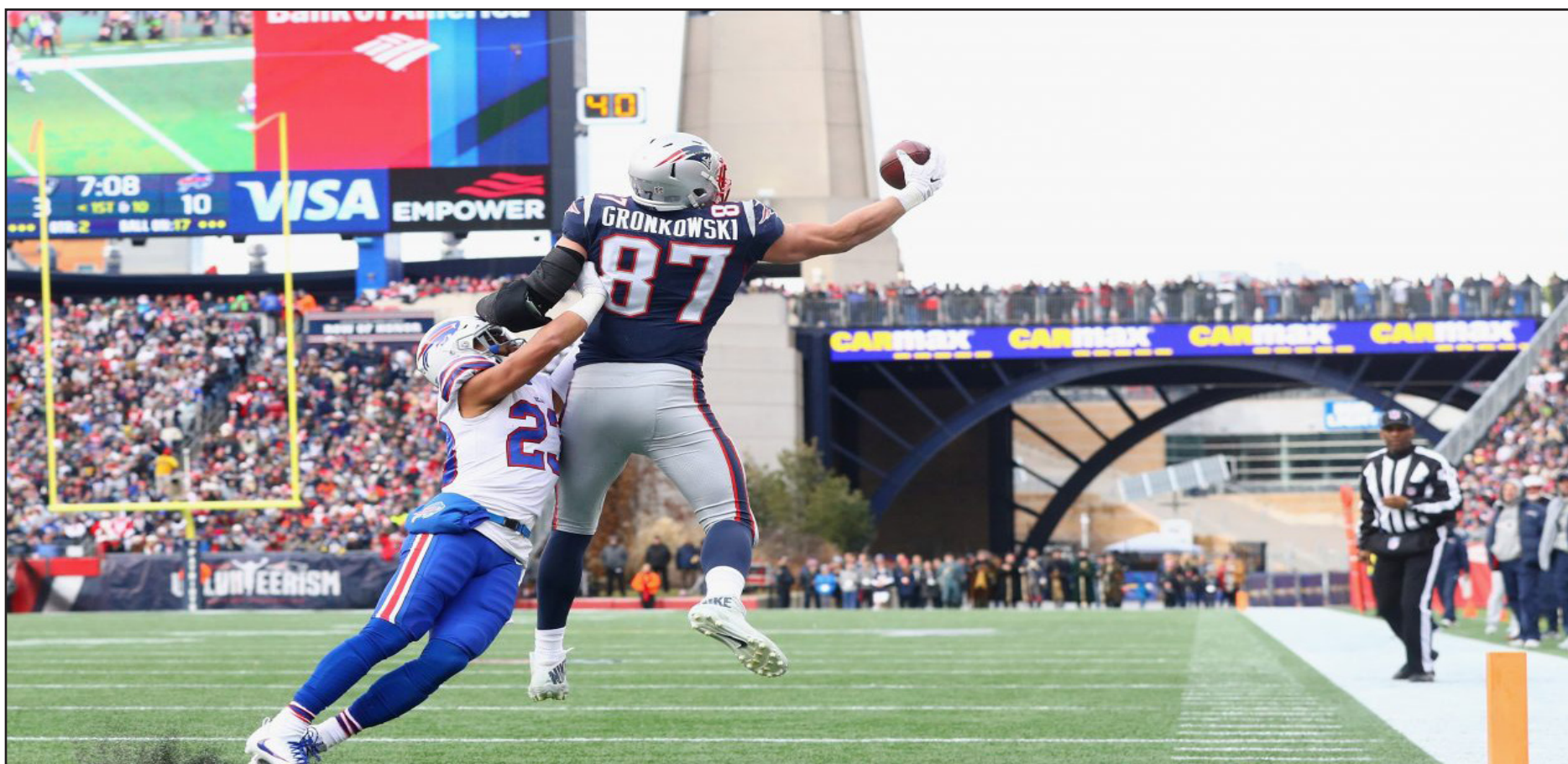
While the season has just begun, the captains have already established themselves as diligent leaders. Wright described senior and co-captain Cammie Lavoie as the "loud and directing voice, making sure that everyone is putting their all into every practice and game." Lower Alyssa Xu said that, despite Hillman's injury, "she is always on the sideline giving players tips to improve their game." Xu appreciated Hillman's guidance with stick skills and

ump fake. Reaman said that senior and co-captain Chandler Jean-Jacques "always makes sure that every girl on the field is moving their feet so that they can create opportunities to make plays."

Girls' Varsity Lacrosse is a relatively new team this year: half of its players are underclassmen. The girls are not sure how they stack up against the rest of the teams in the league; however, with their impressive games this past Sunday, they are hopeful that the upcoming season will be full of exciting wins.

The team's next game is this Saturday against the Choate Rosemary Hall School, and the girls are eager to start their first game of the season with a win. "We need to focus on winning one game at a time, and before we know it, we'll be in the finals," Reaman said.

PATRIOTS LEGEND ROB GRONKOWSKI RETIRES *Exonians React to Stunning News*



Rob Gronkowski catches a touchdown pass.

Maddie Meyer/Getty Images

By STEPHEN McNULTY
Contributing Writer

All-star New England Patriots Tight End Rob Gronkowski, famous for his skill and boisterous personality, announced his retirement from the National Football League on Monday via Instagram. In his nine years with the Patriots, Gronkowski has won three Super Bowls and reached five Pro Bowls despite of several significant injuries.

In his post, Gronkowski thanked the Patriots fans and organization over the past few years. He went on to express an uncertain optimism about his future and that of the Patriots organization at-large: "HUGE cheers to the uncertain of what's next," Gronkowski said.

Reactions to his announcement on campus varied wildly. Some, for instance, appeared unfamiliar with the player. "Who's that? Is that a teacher or something?" asked upper Charlie Pres-

ton. After being told that Gronkowski was a Patriots football player, he corrected his mistaken recollection. "Oh yeah, I love him," he said.

Members of the sizeable anti-Patriots community on campus reacted as well, generally pleased that a strong player had left the organization. "I want the Patriots to suck, so I'm happy about this," said lower Paul Rogers in a strange combination of a dig on the Patriots and compliment to Gronkowski.

When told about the retirement, others merely cheered. "Yay," said prep Braden Tingle, declining further comment.

Still Patriots opponents reacted sarcastically, including senior Sam Willman. "It's blasphemy," he said. "All I wanted to see is another spike."

Within the equally-sizeable group of Patriots fans on campus, reactions were a mixture between disappointment, understanding and fear. Among them, lower Maddy Lembo expressed

distraught upon finding out the news. "Wait, what?," they said. "Wait, really? Oh, we're screwed."

Even more distraught, some reacted quite strongly to the revelation, if somewhat sarcastically. "That's not OK," said lower Colin Vernett. "That's far from OK. My childhood is destroyed."

Others were still processing their tumultuous emotions in its wake. "I'm sad. That's all I have to say," said lower Frankie Getman, when pressed for comment.

Faculty members expressed mixed emotions. One such faculty member chose to remain anonymous, criticizing Gronkowski for retiring before free agency, the period where teams can sign up: "I wish players would make these decisions at the end of the previous season, so that teams can better prepare to replace them and move on. I'm disappointed. He was fun to watch, but I'm sure we'll see him again and

again," they said.

Others expressed relief that Gronkowski was giving himself a rest, citing the health concerns that have at times plagued his career. "It's very nice to see a professional football player that cares about his physical and overall mental health consider retiring early to preserve his well-being," said Athletics Department Chair William Glennon, after pretending to deny his knowledge of Gronkowski on several occasions.

Looking forward for the Patriots, they will be attempting to repeat their championship-winning season next year, after making several moves over the offseason, including a trade for pass-rusher Michael Bennett and the signing of running back Brandon Bolden, who used to play for the team. They will still have several obstacles to overcome, however, especially in light of Gronkowski's retirement and the departure of defensive end Trey Flowers.