



Rawson Appointed as 16th Principal

What Does Activism Look Like at PEA?

By ANNE BRANDES and SARAH HUANG
Staff Writers

For the final question of the Exonian Encounter Committee's Martin Luther King (MLK) Day morning workshop, Track and Field coach Olutoyin Augustus gazed out at the 80 Exonians assembled and said, "Walk the line if you consider yourself an activist." While many peered around the room or shifted their feet, only one student, a member of Exonian Encounters, stepped forward.

For many in the Exeter community, the word "activism" is a charged, complex term that carries multiple definitions and connotations.

Augustus believes that activism can take many forms and derives her own definition of the word from GenZ activist Anjali Appadurai. "We defined activism as 'the practice of addressing an issue by challenging those in power,'" Augustus said, recalling the MLK Day workshop. Augustus takes her own interpretation a step further from Appadurai's, extending the definition to "the practice of addressing an issue by challenging those in power and those who have power," she said. "I believe everyone has some sort of power,"

ACTIVISM, 2



Principal William Rawson addresses his vision for school at Friday's Assembly.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

Trustees Elect Rawson to Permanent Post

By ANNE BRANDES, ERIN CHOI and EMILY KANG
Staff Writers

After several months of deliberation, the Board of Trustees has appointed Principal William "Bill" Rawson as the 16th Academy Principal—a decision that President of the Trustees John "Tony" Downer announced in an assembly address on Friday, Jan. 25.

According to Downer, the Trustees had planned to begin a nationwide search for the next principal this month but ultimately decided to heed "unsolicited" input from many Exonians "to consider extending Principal Rawson's service by naming him the Academy's next principal," he said.

Downer said that The Trustees undertook "extensive research" by consulting department heads, staff members and dorm heads, speaking with the Deans' Council and contacting alumni through the General Alumni Association (GAA). "Those engagement efforts conveyed to us a chorus of pronounced support for selecting Bill Rawson," Downer said.

The Trustees deemed Rawson the optimal choice for the Academy's next principal based on his leadership for interim principal. "Principal Rawson has immersed himself completely in the Exeter community with an abundance of interactions with students, faculty, staff, parents and alums," Downer said. "[He] has established a solid foundation of trust and goodwill with each of those groups."

Rawson affirmed his personal commitment to sharing his positive Exeter experience with students. "I come with a deep appreciation for how attending Exeter was a transformative experience for me, a deep respect for the profession of education generally and a deep appreciation for what all the adults on campus do to support the mission of the school," Rawson said in an interview with *The Exonian*. "I think that respect and appreciation, as much as anything, informs how I try to serve as principal."

Downer recognized Rawson's multiple ties to the Academy as indications of his projected success. "As a former student, Bill has the deepest gratitude for and appreciation of his years at the Academy," he said. "As an alum, for decades, Bill has been intensively

RAWSON, 3

Community Reflects on Lost Dorm Traditions

By VERONICA CHOUGA and PAUL ROGERS
Staff Writers

Senior Ella Parsons reminisces about a time when Amen Hall's basement would come alive every winter with the beat of music and dance—the famous "Red Hot" Amen Rave, organized by upperclassmen in the dorm. Seniors would purchase inflatable pools and glow sticks as preps waited for their turn to invite a guest. However, the dance was discontinued after Parson's prep year and the dorm faculty, concerned about fire hazards and the exclusive nature of the dance, curbed students' efforts to revive it in the winter of 2017.

Exeter has a long history of dorm traditions. While some traditions have stood the test of time, the Academy has halted many others, like Amen Rave, due to concerns about student safety. Some dorms have since established new traditions, while others have tried to hang on to their age-old practices regardless.

Soule Hall has long strived to improve its traditions. "Soule has had a bit of a spotty past in terms of hazing," senior and Soule resident Adrian Venzon said. According to Venzon, hazing traditions were often a way for "upperclassmen to command respect," but they were also an excuse for older students to abuse young students and promote a toxic

dorm culture.

One past tradition involved Soule seniors setting up Evening Prayer dates between preps in their dorm and preps in traditionally girls' dorms, such as Hoyt. Venzon, who opposed the tradition, considered the practice unhealthy and improper for all students. "Very quickly, you realize that the tradition is not very appropriate," Venzon said. "One, it's heteronormative, and, two, it's just uncomfortable."

However, Venzon noted that Soule is more infamous for other traditions, such as Prep Fight Club, in which "[Soule upperclassmen] would make the preps fight each other." While Soule has had other similar traditions

TRADITIONS, 2

Committee Plans Library Renovations

By ERIN CHOI, EMILY KANG and LUCY WEIL
Staff Writers

Renovations on the Class of 1945 Library will begin in the summer of 2019, turning the basement into a center for archives and special collections by 2020. Additional renovations will be completed by 2026.

The new basement plan calls for exhibit cases to display rare objects, a secure vault, a reading room, a classroom, a technology suite, conservation areas, office space and secure storage rooms.

According to Academy Librarian Gail Scanlon, the Library Renewal Committee has been discussing renovations since the late 1990s, consulting with architects, designers and librarians across the country. "Our library is widely regarded as one of the most significant twentieth-century modernist buildings in the United States," she said. "The Academy has a responsibility to preserve our historic building."

PEA commissioned distinguished architect Louis Kahn to design a contemporary structure that would enhance the campus after the school outgrew the Davis



Upper Alexander Kish presents his research at Exeter's first STEM Day.

Courtesy of Jenny Yang

Library in the 1950s. Kahn's project began in 1965 and opened in 1971 as the grand, eight-story building we know today.

A faculty committee led the original planning process for the library's construction. In their mission statement, the committee noted that a good library serves as a hub for learning at an academic institution. "The quality of a library, by inspiring a superior faculty and attracting superior students, determines the effectiveness of a school," the document reads. "No longer a mere depository of books and magazines, the modern library becomes a laboratory for research and experimentation, a quiet retreat for study, reading and reflection,

the intellectual center of the community."

Additionally, the document highlighted that the building should not only preserve knowledge, but also serve as a space that fosters intellectual growth and the people pursuing it. "The emphasis should not be on housing books, but on housing readers using books," the document reads.

To achieve this purpose, the committee had recommended various accommodations such as garden space and ample seating areas. In designing the building, Kahn tried to optimize natural lighting. All the while, he ensured that the building would both maintain the classic brick aesthetic of the rest of the Academy

LIBRARY, 2

Students Host Exeter's First STEM Day

By ERIN CHOI and LINA HUANG
Staff Writers

Booths and posters adorned the Agora on Saturday, Jan. 26—Exeter's inaugural Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Day. Student organizers filled the day with presentations from professors of renowned universities, student presentations at the Tech Fair and fun challenges created by Exeter's STEM clubs, encouraging interested STEM students to pursue their passions.

When asked about the reason she wanted to help organize STEM Day, upper Penny Brant discussed her desire to create an opportunity for students to appreciate and learn about the STEM field, especially in the context of the real world. "We decided to organize STEM Day because we felt that at Exeter, we often focus too much on competition and achievements but forget the beauty of STEM," she said. "We wanted this day to be a day where people can come together and celebrate their interests in STEM in a non-competitive environment."

Similarly, upper and co-Editor-in-Chief of MATTER Magazine Anjali Gupta decided to participate because she felt that

STEM, 10

INSIDE

NEWS

Read about the creation of Instabite, the new campus food delivery service. 3.

SPORTS

Read about Track and Field's record breaking meet. 11.

LIFE

Read about Staff of the Week, Partick J. Garrity. 9.

Read about Exonians' trip to meet Angela Davis. 10.

OPINIONS

Lower Emmanuel Tran criticizes Zionism in America. 6.

Upper Kennedy Moore reflects on the transience of fame. 4.

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Students and Faculty Share Differing Views on Activism

Continued from **ACTIVISM, 1**

so challenging each other is also a form of activism.”

According to Augustus, the nuances and lofty connotations of the term “activist” can discourage students from identifying as one. “I think some people are challenged with identifying with this term because it carries with it the weight of expectation,” she said. “Perhaps, if someone can’t see the direct and immediate results of their activism, they may not feel like they are good at it or that it is worth doing. Also, some may believe that an activist or ally can make no mistakes or fall short in any way, for fear of being seen as a fraud or fake.”

MLK Committee Co-chair and Religion Instructor Hannah Hofheinz offered an alternative definition. “Activism is ultimately a central part of the work that we do to make a better world for ourselves and others,” he said.

Hofheinz articulated that true activism extends beyond good deeds—that it must promote positive change. “The key is that activism is about actively changing the world, not simply bringing good into it,” he said. “For instance, this is why charities can be immensely important for their good works, but they are not necessarily activist organizations unless they are also seeking to change the structures of the world to make it better.”

Senior Nkemjika Emenike identified awareness and conversation as important aspects of activism. “Activism is more than just protesting, it’s having the conversations

that her years at Exeter have honed her convictions. “I think coming to Exeter has definitely helped identify what it is exactly I am passionate about and what I can do to help out the causes I feel are worth raising awareness about.”

While Hofheinz has also dedicated his time and energy to activist initiatives, especially through the MLK Committee, he does not consider himself an activist. “Activism is important to me, and I continually seek and embrace opportunities to participate in the work,” he said. “I do not,



Activism is about passion and commitment. Those you are trying to get the message across to... need to be able to see the drive behind activism for it to make a difference.

however, consider ‘activist’ integral to my identity. I do not believe that you have to be an ‘activist’ per se to be deeply committed to the work of activism.”

Senior and Divest Exeter co-head Hillary Davis believes that, for many Exonians, clubs like Divest Exeter that promote agendas for societal change serve as an outlet for activism. “By doing extensive research, developing a proposal, creating a petition and designing a website, [Divest Exeter] has proved our commitment to taking steps toward fossil fuel divestment,” Davis said. “Activism is about passion and commitment. Those you are trying to get the message across to, those who matter the most, need to be able to see the drive behind activism for it to make a difference.”

Alternatively, senior and Democratic Club co-head Bryce Morales does not believe involvement in a political club, despite the passion and dedication of its members, necessarily makes them activists. Morales deems activists to be individuals who engage in meaningful protest without ulterior motives—a description that does not align with the typical politician. “I think, generally, a difference between the role of a politician and an activist is that the politician is paid,” he said. “There is a salary if they win their election. Activism tends to be a bit more organic and just outside the political process.”

Morales noted that there is a clear

distinction between activism and the realm of politics. “When people say activism, you think of marches, you think of rallies or specific special interest groups. I usually think of March for our Lives, for example, [which is] not really within the political process. They’re trying to make change from [the] outside,” he said.

On the other hand, senior and Feminist Club co-head Reina Matsumoto voiced that honest discussions about societal issues alone can be an integral part of activism. “It comes down to whether you consider learning as activism,” she said. “Hopefully, after discussing, [students] will do more research and take action outside of our discussions.”

According to senior and Exonian Encounter member Adrian Venzon, some Exonians tend to doubt or question their peers who identify as activists. “I think that there’s a sentiment of skepticism around people who are self-described activists,” Venzon said. “People sometimes wonder ‘what are you really doing?’ I’m guilty of this judgement as well.”

Matsumoto agreed and expressed how liberally the term “activist” is used at the Academy. “Sometimes, I feel like activism at Exeter is pretty limited in that it doesn’t have a large impact,” she said. “I’ve heard people identify as activists who do not act on this aspect of their identity.”

English Instructor and self-described activist Mercedes Carbonell further elaborated on this skepticism and its nuances. “I see stigma and hear stigma in the associations people make and the words people use when they talk about activism, primarily in the use of ‘angry,’ ‘militant,’ ‘radical,’” she said. “At the root of so much of this is fear, on all sides, in all realms. We need to get to that fear, to talk about it,



Activism is more than just protesting, it’s having the conversations no one else is willing to have.

to be vulnerable with one another about those fears.”

Emenike agreed with Carbonell and suggested common misconceptions about activism. “I think many people see activism as this very violent, dangerous thing, that activists are going around attacking

people for their differing beliefs and their opinions,” Emenike said. “Dr. King had a target on his back because he believed in what, at the time, was considered a radical idea: racial equality. This didn’t happen three hundred years ago, it happened fifty years ago, and this idea of violent radical-



I believe everyone has some sort of power, so challenging each other is also a form of activism.

ism has followed activists, the same way that it followed Martin Luther King Jr.”

Augustus believes that, regardless of varying definitions, many Exonians are interested in activism but struggle to identify suitable outlets or opportunities. “I heard many voices saying they don’t know what to do or how to do it and, even if they started doing some things, they might not identify as an activist,” she said. “I’m not sure that we need to use this term to encourage action, but there is a level of commitment to the action that is necessary to ‘move the needle,’ if that is the purpose.”

Upper Helen Xiu agreed, recalling her own hesitation to identify as an activist before she became involved with Exonian Encounter. “Before joining Exeter Encounter, I didn’t identify myself as an activist just because I felt like to label myself with that term meant that I had to commit my life to activism,” she said. “But after Walk the Line, I realized that even the smallest work of activism can make you an activist.”

Augustus believes many Exonians are committed activists, even if the individuals themselves do not identify as such. “I see activism living in scattered, disconnected places throughout campus,” she said, citing posters, social media posts, difficult conversations and attire as different forms of expression that embody activism. “I’m sure it also exists in obscure places that are blind to the teacher’s eye and yet still as powerful as a thousand signs,” she added.

Augustus concluded that, going forward, individual Exonian activists should seek to combine their efforts in a stronger, more coherent movement. “I think we need connectors to bring all these scattered acts together into something more cohesive,” she said. “We are much stronger together than apart.”



Activism is ultimately a central part of the work that we do to make a better world for ourselves and others.

no one else is willing to have,” she said. “It’s standing up when you know something isn’t right or fair and making sure that the voices of a cause are heard, even when others are trying to silence them.”

Emenike has been interested in social justice from a young age and has long considered herself an activist. “Ever since I was young, I [have] always been interested in movements that have sparked changes within society,” she said, adding

Dorms Replace Harmful Traditions with Bonding Activities

Continued from **TRADITIONS, 1**

in the past, Venzon clarified that many have been exaggerated.

Soule Prep Fight Club and many other traditions were discontinued in 2016, as the upperclassmen that year sought to dismantle the hazing culture and foster a safer environment for lowerclassmen. “[The upperclassmen] really made an effort to command respect through being good people that we could look up to,” Venzon said. “They earned our respect instead of forcing it out of us through fear tactics.”

The Academy took similar steps. “Since Soule was known to be rowdy before we came, the school purposely placed students that did not seem to be troublemakers to calm down the dorm or improve its reputation,” alumnus Brian Choi ’17 said.

According to Venzon, the administration did not place preps in Soule for the 2014–15 academic year in order to “kill the whole hazing tradition.” While Soule upperclassmen claim the dorm has improved in regards to hazing, they also said that the administration has recently held additional meetings with the

dorm on this issue.

Several other traditions involving more minor rule-breaking have also been discontinued over the years. Abbot’s tradition of throwing water balloons out of the third floor was discontinued for disturbing other students and faculty members.

In his 12 years, Soule affiliate and English Instructor Duncan Holcomb noticed that many students felt the administration’s reinforcement and addition of strict regulations was an overreaction to harmless traditions. In particular, Holcomb recalled when the dorm faculty asked Dunbar to end its Romeo’s Pizza tradition.

In the early 2000s, Dunbar residents, excluding seniors, would walk to Romeo’s Pizza past check-in in what Holcomb described as “questionable outfits.” “They were walking around the streets of Exeter at 10:30 at night dressed in fishnet stocking[s],” Holcomb said. After several years, faculty decided the tradition was not appropriate.

Holcomb, who was in Dunbar at the time, subsequently helped begin a new tradition to replace the trip to Romeo’s Pizza. “We replaced it with other things like the Dunbar

Dundaba, which they still do once a year,” Holcomb said. “They go down to the basement of the church and everyone sings or reads poetry.”

While many enjoy this new tradition, many Dunbar residents believed the Academy was being too protective when the walk to Romeo Pizza ended, according to Holcomb.

Amen has also had a history of streaking in the past, and Holcomb recalled students being upset when the school decided to end that tradition ten years ago. “The Amen students said, ‘What the hell? It’s two in the morning. It’s not a big deal. It’s something we do. It’s just wild and crazy,’” Holcomb said. “I think they felt like [the school] was [overreacting] a little bit... but I am not sure all the girls were really that into it.”

While Parson understands some traditions might be dangerous, she believes the Academy went too far by banning the Amen Rave. “I feel like it has gotten to the point where even the simplest of traditions are no longer allowed,” she said.

Considering the school’s long history of inappropriate traditions, however, English Instructor Alex Myers ’96 believes it is better

to err on the safe side. Myers described a misogynistic tradition that took place when he was a student in Webster Hall. “There was a bench right in front of Webster and the popular senior boys would sit there and they would rate every girl who came past them. They’d yell out across the Quad, ‘8.5 today!’” he said. “At the time it was like, ‘Oh, boys being boys.’”

Myers, now a faculty resident of Webster Hall, noted that the alternative is to create new traditions, like Dunbar Dundaba, that create strong community bonds. “We have a new tradition that I’ve tried to start every Tuesday night at 10,” Myers said. “We have milk and cookies for the dorm and do games.”

Many Webster students have reacted positively to this new tradition. Hassane Fiteni, a new lower in Webster, commented, “Milk and Cookies was a nice study break on Tuesdays... It was a nice time to meet other people in the dorm.”

When asked what distinguishes good traditions from bad, Myers ultimately pointed to community impact. “It’s the little things... where is it about manipulating power differential, and where is it about genuine dorm bonding.”

Academy Seeks to Update Library Facilities in Summer of 2019

Continued from **LIBRARY, 1**

while remaining modern and practical.

As a result of such deliberate planning and state-of-the-art design, the library gained recognition by many organizations, including the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Scanlon spotlighted the building’s various honors. “In 1997, the library received the 25 Year Award from AIA, an award that recognizes architecture of enduring significance,” she said. “In 2005, the United States Postal Service issued a stamp that recognized our library as one of twelve Masterworks of Modern American Architecture, along with the Guggenheim Museum and the Chrysler Building.”

To this day, the library serves its original purpose of being a space for the

entire community to learn, discuss and connect. Senior and Library Proctor Ruby Bagwyn said that the building is a reliable, inspiring place for students to work. “It’s always quiet, so it’s one of the places on campus where I’m the most productive,” she said. “I love how natural light illuminates the entire building. It feels very open and it’s also so pretty outside.”

Lower Charlie Preston expressed frustration that many Exonians do not seem to recognize the library’s architectural ingenuity. “Nobody recognizes the quality of the building. Talk to the average Exonian. No one knows the architect,” Preston said.

Nonetheless, Preston deeply appreciates the fact that PEA’s campus is home to such a historic library. “It is

amazing that we have world-class architects [designing] our buildings,” he said.

Senior Abby Zhang added that the library is an incredible center for academic research. “The library was a huge resource to me when I was writing my 333, and it’s why I loved the process so much,” Zhang said. “It’s crazy that we’re only in high school and we have all the resources to thoroughly delve into a topic that means a lot to us and produce something really meaningful.”

The summer renovations will ensure that the building continues to be an up-to-date, reliable part of campus by replacing the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. According to Director of Facilities Management Mark Leighton, the library’s infrastructure has been in use for

more years than originally planned, and has not been updated since the building’s original construction in 1971. Leighton noted that this project was “at the top of the list” for Facilities Management.

Senior Zachary Feng welcomed the news of the renovation, noting that while he spends a lot of time in the library, his carrel has not always been adequately heated. “It’s a very convenient space, but right now it’s very cold,” he said.

Scanlon expressed high hopes for the basement renovations. “I am very excited about the opportunity to bring together our treasured collections of historical materials, rare books, manuscripts, Academy records and rare objects in one secure, climate-controlled, archival space,” she said.

Student-Run Food Delivery Service Opens for Business

By JACK ARCHER, MAEGAN PAUL and FELIX YEUNG
Staff Writers

"We're building something big," the managers of InstaBite, an on-campus delivery service, claimed in a Facebook announcement. Beginning Wednesday, Jan. 23, the student-created company delivers from Las Olas Taqueria, Lexie's, McDonald's and Dunkin' Donuts to dorms each Wednesday, Friday and Saturday night.

On its launch day, InstaBite experienced technical difficulties. The company was unable to fulfill their fifty-minute delivery promise, with some orders experiencing hour-long delays due to failures in internal algorithms despite prior successful test runs. "It worked before, but on the actual day of launch, there seemed to be some sort of glitch," lower Jack Puchalski, InstaBites' founder, said. "We had to organize everything by hand, which was a little bit difficult."

Subsequent delivery dates have seen improved efficiency, with the longest delays being less than ten minutes.

Due to the glitch, student reactions to launch day were mixed. "I ordered once, and they didn't send a confirmation, so I ordered again. They charged me for both orders, so I'm still waiting to get my money back," lower Sofina Tillman said. "My food came forty minutes late. By that time, it was cold... I probably won't use the service again."

Others were more forgiving of the delays, praising the company's customer service. "We ordered food, and it came

around forty minutes late. One burrito we ordered didn't come," prep Charlie Lavalle said. "Jack was really nice about it. He refunded the missing burrito. The food was good—what you would expect."

Lower May Chen voiced a similar assessment and was appreciative of the convenience that InstaBite provides. "They were slightly delayed on launch day, but Jack was super nice about it," she said. "Honestly, I think InstaBite makes ordering food a lot more convenient. Most restaurants at Exeter don't deliver, and it's just nice to have that option now."

Students were further impressed by the willingness of InstaBite to accept changes to orders. "The service is incredibly flexible—I had to switch my delivery location and they helped accommodate it," upper Celine Jeun said.

The company's online platform also received positive feedback. "The site was visually appealing and easy to use," lower Nahla Owens said.

InstaBite is the second major delivery business to exist on campus. Prior to the 2018-2019 school year, Swyft fulfilled a similar function; however, as the seniors who ran it graduated, the service decreased in prominence.

Puchalski stated that InstaBite was not inspired by its predecessor. "When we first started this business, we didn't really know much about what Swyft was," he said. "It was only until a little later that we figured it out ... I think [the similarities] exist because ours is a good business model—it's something people want."

To manage deliveries, InstaBite utilizes an algorithm, which plots a course for runners. "The program organizes orders and creates routes for our runners," Puchalski said. "It maximizes our efficiency and gets the food to the customers as fast as possible."

Currently, InstaBite employs students in Wentworth Hall. Aside from Puchalski, the company consists of seven other students, the majority of whom serve as runners. "The best thing about [working for InstaBite] is that a route is already pre-planned for you according to an algorithm," prep Pedro Coelho said. "You're back in your dorm in around half an hour, and you get paid twelve dollars."

As the service's founder and driving force, Puchalski has been personally responsible for marketing, coding and hiring. "I wouldn't have been able to do this without the break that we had," he said. "That's when I got most of this stuff done. It does take a lot of time out of the day—it's a pretty big time investment, but I'm already seeing that time investment [start] decreasing."

Puchalski worked with the administration to legitimize his business. "We've spoken with the Dean of Students, the school's [Chief Financial Officer], as well as other people working in the Finance Department, and they have approved this," he said. "We're currently in discussions with the school lawyer to talk about some liability issues. We have to hash those out, but we have gotten approval for this business."

The undertaking has been an opportunity for Puchalski's personal growth. "For

most part, this is just a learning process," he said. "It's a learning experience for me. I've always been interested in business, and I feel like there's no better way to learn about starting a business than to actually start one."

After InstaBite's initial popularity, similar companies began to emerge. Lowerers Hassane Fiteni, Christopher Suhr and Phillip Oravitan created an Instagram page for their own service, SnapBite, named after the popular social media site Snapchat.

"I created SnapBite because I thought people wanted some food on a snow day, when people were trapped inside," Fiteni said. "Originally, it was just a one-day thing." Though he planned to continue with his venture, Fiteni shut down his business, not wanting to undergo the formal process of seeking approval from the Deans.

Suhr is uncertain of SnapBite's future. "We're still pondering whether or not we should actually go through with this idea," he said.

Parody accounts soon followed. The Ewald Dormitory Instagram page temporarily became TwitterBite, while Instagram account TikTokBites began to follow students en masse. TikTokBites advertises delivery in fifteen minutes or less, comically rivaling promises of quick delivery from SnapBite.

InstaBite welcomed competition. "I think that people have every right to start a business," said Puchalski. "It's great that we can do that in this country... Regardless, our company will be focused on delivering the best service possible."

Math Department Votes to Remove Calculator Requirement

By YUNSEO CHOI and CHIEKO IMAMURA
Staff Writers

The Mathematics Department will no longer require students to purchase handheld graphing calculators starting in the 2019-2020 school year, allowing them the freedom to choose what device to use.

The department passed this policy after much deliberation regarding its implications towards standardized testing as well as the current Exeter mathematics curriculum, which often requires graphing calculators. Under the current policy, students must bring their own handheld graphing calculator to class. The Mathematics Department recommended the TI-Nspire CX CAS calculator. Under the new policy, students would be allowed to employ the calculating technology of their choice.

According to Math Department Chair Gwynneth Coogan, the new policy was created to reduce the necessity for technological adeptness. "Many students and teachers are using other forms of technology in the classroom, and while the TI-Nspire is an amazingly capable device, continuing to require students to own and use that hand-held device when they are also using other devices seems to emphasize device use over mathematics

work," Coogan said.

Although the details regarding the implementation of the policy have yet to be finalized, the department is looking toward providing classrooms with sets of scientific calculators. The department is looking for ways to supply teachers with graphing calculators as well. "If a teacher wants to use a TI-Nspire in a classroom, we are going to figure out how to make sure they can do that so that the students can have access to that graphing calculator," Coogan said.

Math Instructor Panama Geer voted in favor of this policy—for her, it addresses the important issue of equity. Currently, Geer restricts the use of graphing calculators on tests, providing each student with the same scientific handheld calculator so they are evaluated purely based on math skills. "Some calculators can do algebra while some can't," Geer said. "The kid who has the fanciest calculator could bring that to the test while another kid may have to bring a second-hand, mid-level calculator instead. That didn't feel fair."

The issue did not have to do with students needing to buy expensive calculators, since those on financial aid have the ability to purchase TI calculators with the stipend. "The equity issue of the calculators in my mind is not about affordabil-

ity. We wanted to level the playing field between the technology," Geer clarified.

Additionally, Geer noted that students were already using technology other than the recommended TI-Nspire. "While we require TI-Nspire, there are a lot of students who are bringing other technology, and with the steep learning curve, TI-Nspire wasn't being used as universally like the previous model [TI-89] was," Geer said. Prior to the current policy, every student was required to purchase a TI-89 until Texas Instruments stopped producing the model.

The department must now restructure the way in which students learn how to use graphing calculators for standardized testing, such as SAT or AP exams. Several alternatives have been suggested during department meetings, including a crash course on calculators or classes tailored to acquainting students with calculators.

Prep Jacob David, currently enrolled in the 31X math course, was wary of the change, arguing that the issue of availability could be solved through other alternatives. "I don't think that changing that rule will really change anything. [Now] they say you have to buy a graphing calculator, but people just borrow their friends'," he said.

David expressed his concern that many students may become reliant instead on online graphing devices, such as Desmos, that are not allowed in standardized testing. "You can use a graphing calculator on the SATs and in any situation, it is accessible," David said. "There is not going to be a situation where people are going to have Desmos, but not a graphing calculator."

Other students reacted positively to this change. Prep Sophie Fernandez explained how the graphing calculators' smaller screens and elaborate functions make them harder to use. She named Desmos as a much more efficient calculating device. "For me, Desmos is a lot easier to use... Graphing calculators can be really complicated," she said.

Fernandez said that she and her classmates use graphing calculators to verify simple calculations instead of plotting graphs. "We don't use graphing calculators for graphing purposes," she said. "We use it only for algebra and we do everything else on Desmos."

Despite conflicting student reactions, the modified calculator policy was established under the department's efforts to improve student experiences by alleviating the stress behind the devices that students bring to the classroom.

Trustees Cancel Principal Search; Opt to Extend Rawson's Tenure

Continued from RAWSON, 1

his years at the Academy," he said. "As an alum, for decades, Bill has been intensively involved as a class officer, at the regional level, as a GAA Director and officer, and as a long-serving Trustee."

History Instructor Michael Golay noted that Rawson's 40-year "hiatus" from Exeter will help him examine the school from a fresh perspective without being entrenched in old approaches to tackling issues. "Exeter is a hard place to live, work, teach and study and we tend to lose sight of the bigger picture because we get wrapped up in the day to day," Golay said. "Rawson, as both an insider and outsider, will be a very good thing for the Academy."

Downer noted that while the roles of interim principal and principal are quite similar, Rawson will now have a more solid platform from which to shape Exeter's future. "As Principal, he has an open-ended time frame enabling him to undertake longer term planning as well as giving him more time to effect the implementation of those plans," Downer said.

Rawson is enthusiastic to oversee the completion of more long-term initiatives. "With my appointment as principal, I now will be able to see many more projects to completion, which is exciting, and the community does not have to worry about a near-term change in direction that might hinder long-term thinking and planning," he said.

One such initiative is advancing the Academy's agenda on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. "Meaningful progress on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, acting on the vision statement adopted by the trustees last year, is a critical priority for this year, and is essential going forward to sustaining and strengthening our commitment to

excellence in all aspects of Academy life," Rawson said.

History Department Chair William Jordan hopes that Rawson's permanent appointment will provide stability after the relatively short tenures of the two previous principals. "We need the continuity, and we need a person we can trust," Jordan said. He added that due to Exeter's wide spectrum of opinions, it was rare for faculty to agree on one person. "As much as any group this diverse can trust one person, I think he's it," he said.

Department heads, dorm heads and several other faculty and staff members were asked to offer input on Rawson's tenure and the possibility of a more permanent position over phone a month ago.

The Deans' Council, a group composed of various student leaders on campus, gave input on Rawson in a closed meeting on Jan. 8 with the Trustees. "We met in person with the Dean's Council and had a fulsome discussion with them on the topic," Downer said, adding that the group offered "a chorus of pronounced support for selecting Bill Rawson."

According to Student Council Vice President and Deans' Council Chair Michaela Phan, the Council's vote on appointing Rawson as principal was unanimous.

Science Department Chair Alison Hobbie expressed her support for Rawson's appointment, citing his active outreach in the community. Hobbie recounted one instance when Rawson was conversing with staff members. "One day, I saw him sitting at lunch with a group of male custodians, getting information on what their job is like," Hobbie said. "He is reaching out and being present for the adults and students on campus."

English Instructor Courtney Marshall

particularly appreciates Rawson's proactive efforts to engage with faculty. "I think he has been very diplomatic and fair with faculty," she said. "More importantly for me, he's been warm and welcoming to students. I loved his address at opening of school and his 'I'm new here too' shirt that he wore at move-in."

Senior Chandler Jean-Jacques noted that Rawson also displays extraordinary willingness to communicate with students. "I see him a lot on campus, whether that is at sports games, in the dining hall or just around," she said. "Also, he has sent emails regarding certain incidences and they seem genuine, showing that he cares about what happens on campus."

Student Council Co-Secretary Ayush Noori believed that "it's the small things that matter." Noori said. "I think that's what really distinguishes Principal Rawson. He's invested in us as a school and he's invested in us as individuals."

However, some expressed concerns that Rawson's appointment did not adequately factor in sentiments of the entire community.

Valerie Wagner '83 does not think the Trustees gave all alumni a legitimate opportunity to voice their opinions. While she acknowledged that the GAA directors contacted alumni in December, she also noted that "there was a short turnaround for the input" and many did not have time over the holidays to submit their thoughts.

Wagner called attention to the irregularity of Rawson's appointment procedure. "Mr. Rawson was appointed without a full national search process after serving as interim for only six months," she said.

David Knopf '79 voiced similar concerns. "When Principal MacFarlane left, I understood that the Academy would have an interim principal who could ad-

dress issues head-on without considering his or her long-term prospects there, and that there would be a nationwide search for the best candidate to serve as the next principal," Knopf said. "I regret that the Trustees chose not to conduct that search."

Wagner questioned Rawson's qualifications for the position. "When you compare his qualifications to those of John Palfrey at Andover, an experienced and published educator with a national profile, one has to wonder whether Mr. Rawson would have fared well in a truly competitive search process given that his primary professional background appears to have been as a lawyer representing chemical, oil and pesticide companies." She further expressed disappointment that Rawson has not yet responded to the petition signed by over 400 alumni in 2018 regarding Exeter's response to sexual abuse allegations.

Current Exonians echoed the alumni's opinion. Upper John Doe* said, "During my conversation with the trustees, they made it seem as though they were actively looking for a principal with racial literacy experience. It was disappointing to find that the decision had already been made."

Lower JaQ Lai, meanwhile, expressed concerns that only a handful of students were given a chance to weigh in before the decision. "I'm seeing a trend of Deans' Council and the Student Council Executive Board being seen as a full representative of the student body. While that's their role and purpose, at least right now those groups aren't as representative of our interests and the greater community," he said. "Those groups don't include all the voices that need to be heard in conversations like these."

Asterisks denote name change to preserve anonymity.

Tiger and Ted: American Love Stories

Kennedy Moore '20

Guest Contributor

In 1960, John Updike wrote a *New Yorker* article titled, “Hub Fans Bid Kid Adieu,” paying tribute to the baseball legend, Ted Williams. The piece is now recognized as perhaps the best sports article of all-time. It captures something ethereal about sports heroes like Williams—the last at-bat, in which he hit a home run out of Fenway Park. Reading about this beautiful but tragic end to Boston’s love affair with The Kid, I was struck by the similarities between Ted Williams and Tiger Woods. There is something about their icy relations with the media, adversity-fraught careers and acute level of success that profoundly matters.

My father used to tell me about Ted William’s legendary eyesight and his ‘Happy Zone,’ an imaginary square in the center of the strike zone that represented the only pitch locations he would swing at. I would stand in front of the hockey net in my driveway for hours, trying to find a way to apply this concept to ice hockey.

Later, I watched YouTube videos of Tiger Woods interviews, hanging on to every word as he described the nine shot shapes he practiced imposing on the golf ball and the equations he used to factor the adrenaline of big moments into his club selection. Something about their precision and Calvinist work ethic fascinated me. Ted Williams maintained a pristine batting average and ceaseless discipline at the plate through winning seasons and losing seasons.

With hundreds of millions of dollars in the bank and 14 major championships to his name, Tiger Woods kept the same icy, almost psychopathic, look in his eyes on Sunday at the Masters that we saw from the 18-year-old boy who first walked amongst the Augusta pines. These men didn’t merely play golf or

baseball and they certainly didn’t just play for the money. They played the game of greatness. They didn’t only play against Phil Mickelson or the New York Yankees. Some argue that they played against Secretariat, Babe Ruth and Muhammad Ali. I don’t think the rest of us will ever understand why people like that do what they do. That might be what makes us love them so much. As John Updike said, “Gods do not answer letters.” I was nine years old when the Tiger scandal broke. I don’t remember whether or not I fully understood the situation. I wrote a letter to the Big Cat that read something like this:

*Dear Mr. Tiger,
SportsCenter says you and your family’s mommy are fighting. My daddy and mommy fight sometimes, too. They always stop fighting soon. SportsCenter says mean things about you. James says they will love you when you start winning again. I hope you start winning so everyone can love you again. James and I still love you. James is my brother.
Your friend,
Kennedy*

Tiger never answered my letter. It must have been discarded amongst the \$60 million checks from the Nike corporation or the divorce papers from his wife Elin. I like to think that someone in his PR team took a pause, considering the note fondly, before tossing the red construction paper in a waste bin.

Tiger’s sex scandal culminated in years of cold relations with fans, media and even friends. He never signed autographs after tournaments nor did he interact with the media more than his endorsements required. Ted Williams had a similar relationship with the world. He despised the publicity of professional sports. He refused to tip his hat to the crowd and was pitted in a perpetual war of principle with the media. Even in his last game, he looked down at the turf solemnly, refusing to

acknowledge the Fenway faithful. If Tiger had lived during Ted’s time he might have been able to keep the same level of privacy. I used to watch the police cams of Wood’s DUI, helicopter footage of Tiger lying in his driveway on Thanksgiving morning.

Tiger has been much more benevolent since his recent comeback. He signed autographs and told dad jokes during long press conferences. A Disney cartoon tiger was replacing the apex predator that I grew up watching. At the British Open, Tiger was on the prowl for the first time in years. On his way from the range to the first tee, the cameraman lingered on him for a moment too long. A row of small children waited eagerly with hats, posters, and sharpie markers. Tiger waved for security to remove the children. With one sweeping motion of his hand, he wiped away any visions of a new Tiger. Some part of me, deep down, was silently happy.

As John Updike said, “Nevertheless, there will always lurk, around a corner in a pocket of our knowledge of the odds, an indefensible hope, and this was one of the times, which you now and then find in sports, when a density of expectation hangs in the air and plucks an event out of the future.”

After leaving for the Korean War during the prime of his career, Ted returned to major league baseball only to battle through years of missed championships and endless injuries. While Ted gave two of his prime years to his country, Tiger gave four years of his career to his addictions. The addiction to practice that made him so great eventually took a toll on his spine. At the same time, addictions to painkillers and sleeping pills, as well as personal moral failings, ravaged him off the course. I watched the Dubai Desert Classic on TV, head in hands, as Tiger swung his driver violently and dropped to his knees. On the internet, I could watch the police cam of Tiger’s DUI, helicopter foot-

age of Tiger laying in his driveway on Thanksgiving morning.

After all of the years of heartbreaking losses, and injuries, Ted Williams made it to home plate at Fenway Park for the final at-bat of his career. A 28-year-old John Updike sat behind the Orioles dugout. There was something fatalistic about the scene. Maybe the best sports writer of all time, at the outset of his career, collided in time and space with one of the greatest moments of his lifetime.

As The Kid walked to the plate for one last time, the crowd maintained a biblical roar until the pitcher drew back his arm to throw. The first pitch was low. The crowd tried not to get its hopes up for what would likely be an anticlimactic end to their love affair with Ted. The second pitch was in the happy zone, and Ted belted it over the right field wall, and into the cannon of Boston religion.

At the 2018 Tour Championship, Tiger walked down the 18th fairway with a two-shot lead. The outnumbered security guards gave way as thousands of fans broke through the ropes that lined the fairway. Like Moses walking through the parted sea, Tiger led the mass of fans down the stripe of Bermuda grass fairway. He tapped the ball into the cup and raised both hands in the air to the crowd. As he tipped his hat to the crowd, his lip began to quiver as he fought back tears. People everywhere were filming the moment on their iPhones. No *New Yorker* columnists were in the crowd. I called my father on the phone to revel in the moment. Tiger had seemingly done the impossible: turning back time.

But we both knew deep down that this wasn’t true. He probably was not going to win another major; his quest to catch Jack Nicklaus in the majors count was still likely dead. The Tiger we once knew was still gone. There were still no real gods; Tiger certainly wasn’t one, but for a few moments, he made us believe there were again.

Afghanistan: The New Vietnam

Bella Alvarez '19

Columnist

Costing the United States around \$168 billion dollars and over 58,000 American patriots’ lives, the disaster that was the Vietnam War should have been a grim and final warning—never forget, never repeat. It was a battle that the US didn’t stand a chance at winning, and yet, five presidents oversaw the overseas combat before finally retreating in defeat. Famed broadcast journalist Walter Cronkite once remarked on the tragedy of Vietnam that “I remember the lies that were told, the lives that were lost—and the shock when, twenty years after the war ended, former Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara admitted he knew it was a mistake all along.” Vietnam veterans are often outspoken about the horrors they experienced in combat; thousands of these brave men and women remained forever altered by the grim brutalities they witnessed.

Since its inception 18 years ago, the Afghanistan War has claimed the lives of more than 2,300 U.S. soldiers and injured more than 20,300 service members. Each day, the war costs American taxpayers around \$273,972,602.74, totaling an unimaginable \$2.4 trillion as of 2017. Operation Enduring Freedom—its code name—began after the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers and has metastasized into something cata-

strophic and barbaric. Hundreds of thousands of Afghan soldiers have died while fighting the Taliban alongside American troops. The casualties, both economic and physical, extend beyond the damage they have done to the U.S. and have surely caused irreparable harm to the Afghanistan community.

I want to make my stance clear: if these “peaceful talks” are to continue, the United States must remain firm in its demands, vigilantly protect the people of Afghanistan and uphold our promise to defend freedom. To blindly trust that an unsparingly violent and radical terrorist group will keep to our conditions and cease all acts of terrorism would be a grave mistake.

On Monday, Jan. 8, Taliban and U.S. officials have come forward with a formal statement agreeing to work within a framework of peace talks and negotiation to withdraw American troops from the country. U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, wrote in a *New York Times* commentary piece that “The Taliban have committed, to our satisfaction, to do what is necessary that would

prevent Afghanistan from ever becoming a platform for international terrorist groups or individuals.”

This sentence, in and of itself, sounds completely ludicrous and is in complete opposition with the entire reason that the U.S. first began Operation Enduring Freedom. Three years after the commencement of the war, President George W. Bush said that “The only way to deal with these people is to bring them to justice. You can’t talk to them. You can’t negotiate with them.” Again and again, this catch-all phrase has been used by various politicians, presidents, and senators — “We don’t negotiate with terrorists.” It astounds me that after

almost 20 years of war, trillions of dollars spent, and thousands upon thousands of lives lost, the U.S. is eager to engage in negotiations with the very same terrorist group they vowed to destroy.

I’m not advocating for a prolongation of the war in Afghanistan. But I want to make my stance clear: if these “peaceful talks” are to continue, the U.S. must remain firm in its demands, vigilantly protect the people of Afghanistan and uphold our promise to defend freedom. To blindly trust that an unsparingly violent and radical terrorist group will keep to our conditions and cease all acts of terrorism would be a grave mistake.



Illustrated by Pepper Pieroni/*The Exonian*

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Thoughts on Presidential Candidates

Dennis Kostakoglu Aydin '21
Columnist

Once again, election season has descended upon us. Presidential candidates from all sides of the political spectrum are vying for the ultimate political position in the country and arguably, four to eight years of hell. So far, well-known politicians like Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris, as well as lesser-known ones like Julian Castro, have announced their desire to run. However, to be a candidate for president is just a demanding a job as the presidency itself, and requires many characteristics which few of the current candidates have. For example, Elizabeth Warren's weakness has shown to be her failure to relate to all members of the Democratic Party, which may ultimately lead to her downfall. While she is a competent politician, most Americans still vote

Yet, Harris is not the only politician that has a fighting chance against Trump. Pete Buttigieg, the gay mayor of South Bend, Indiana, has also chosen to run.

for their own affiliated party unless the candidate's platform is especially relatable to them.

Replacing Warren, Kamala Harris is now one of the biggest names in the Democratic Party. Due to her status as an African-American woman, she holds a very special place in the roster of presidential nominees. If she does well in the race and gains the support of the Democratic Party

(who must now prove their supposed commitment to inclusivity), then she will be regarded as the Democrats' best chance to break the glass ceiling, expounding off of Clinton's ill-fated attempt in 2016.

I hope Democrats nominate Harris. The difference between her and Clinton is that Harris has something that Clinton never did—likeability. Unlike Clinton, who comes off as the stereotypical “politician” and manipulator, Harris' relatively unchecked past affords her public likeability. As for the Republican Party, its members must finally find their self-esteem in order to prevent Trump's reelection. However, it is likely that Trump will be re-elected

Finally, there is Joe Biden. If Biden ran for president, Democrats would come out in droves to support him, and rightfully so. The ex-Vice President is very popular among Democrats, and after Obama, his ratings in the party have not decreased much.

because he panders to the Republican base extremely effectively.

Yet, Harris is not the only politician that has a fighting chance against Trump. Pete Buttigieg, the gay mayor of South Bend, Indiana, has also chosen to run. He is a veteran of Afghanistan and served during his term as mayor, which benefits his public image. Although Buttigieg fits the Democratic bill, one of his main challenges will be his lack of name recognition. If he can overcome the challenge of obscurity, then it's quite possible that he will do very well in the race as well.

Buttigieg's problem is exactly the

opposite of Beto O'Rourke's, who has the popularity to run but is unsure of whether he actually wants to. He has been roaming the country lately, trying to answer that same question. Assuming he wants to run, he would have a good chance in the race. He is well-liked, and his pro-LGBT, pro-immigrant, pro-choice stances allow him to garner support from across the Democratic voter base. However, the biggest question regarding O'Rourke is whether the time is right—he lost the Senate race in 2018, and while some might argue that it is best for him to capitalize off his success, he may find a greater chance of success through another Senate race in a few years. O'Rourke is young, at least in politicians' terms, and he has a lot of time. If he can base his reputation off of more than just “getting really close to beating Ted Cruz” and make a name for himself,

I hope Democrats nominate Harris. The difference between her and Clinton is that Harris has something that Clinton never did—likeability. Unlike Clinton, who comes off as the stereotypical “politician” and manipulator, Harris' relatively unchecked past affords her public likeability.

then he might have a better shot at the presidency with more experience and knowledge.

Finally, there is Joe Biden. If Biden ran for president, Democrats would come out in droves to support him, and rightfully so. The ex-Vice President is very popular among Democrats, and after Obama, his ratings in the party have not decreased much. He would be an excellent

choice for president. The only problem with Biden is that he is an old, white, Catholic man in a time when old, white, Catholic men are being driven out of Congress by young minorities. If he ran for president, Republicans would argue that Biden does not accurately represent his Democratic voter base. This hypocritical argument would also serve to further separate the Democrats and Republicans, making the existence of bipartisanship even more difficult.

I'd love to see Biden run. However, he came of age in a political world when to be white, male, and Catholic was to have your Congressional seat assured. The world is changing, and Biden should not run for President solely based on his popularity within the Democratic Party—not because he's too old or because he might lose, but because of how his candidacy might reflect upon the rest of the party. It's time for Biden to take his winnings and leave the candidacy in the hands of candidates like Harris, Buttigieg, and O'Rourke.



Pepper Pieroni/The Exonian

Season Eight of *Game of Thrones* Must Preserve Author's Vision

Sebastian Bango '19
Former Opinions Editor

When George R. R. Martin wrote the first draft of *Game of Thrones* over two decades ago, he envisioned a fantasy tale that would break away from the genre mold set by predecessors like J. R. R. Tolkien. Instead of a magical war between heroes and monsters, Martin forged a grounded medieval world in which good versus evil was an internal struggle—a world where your least favorite character could organically become your favorite, then immediately die. Any fantasy elements present in Martin's world are either lost or woven into legend when the story begins. Martin does introduce more magic as the series progresses, but their delayed and gradual arrival allows less traditional fantasy themes to take precedence in the foundation of the tale, which is what draws so many people to its storyline.

Even after magical elements become major components of the series, none of the action rivals the high fantasy, biblical spectacles of a *Lord Of The Rings* book. Instead, the intrigue of the series generally falls to the political drama of a feudalistic society at war. Some of the themes present in the series could be interpreted as jabs at classic Tolkien-esque fantasy tropes: characters' morals are never black and white, religion is a corrupt institution and women are in a constant struggle to be seen as equals. This contrasts the holy, patriarchal and righteous tones that reside in Tolkien's world.

Another one of the elements of Martin's world that endears itself to a reader such as myself, is Martin's commitment to hyper-logical storytelling. Hyper-logical storytelling within a fantasy world may appear to be an oxymoron—our laws of physics do not permit the existence of flying dragons or shadow demons—however, Martin's hyper-logical storytelling style simply means he establishes his own “in-world” rules and commits to them. He then builds the world and the characters around these pre-established rules. The story then organically stems from the established elements interacting—much like the clockwork universe theory pioneered in the age of

enlightenment in which God built the world like a clock, positioning all the intricacies of our world and then vanishing to let the world run on its own.

The vast amount of information that accompanies this approach to

Some of the themes present in the series could be interpreted as jabs at classic Tolkien-esque fantasy tropes: characters' morals are never black and white, religion is a corrupt institution and women are in a constant struggle to be seen as equals.

storytelling allows the reader a type of three-dimensional mobility within the world. While ultimately, the story is in the hands of the author, the community feels validated in exploring all aspects of the world through theory and speculation. In a medium where an author may take upwards of seven years to provide any new material, this type of community discussion is essential for maintaining interest in the property. Having completed the most recent installment in *A Song Of Ice And Fire*, *A Dance With Dragons* over three years ago, around 80 percent of my interactions with the world derives from community debate and discovery. My ability to participate in this community is rooted in my knowledge of the validity of the theories in question pertaining to the pre-established rules of the world. I would no longer be invested in this series to any degree if I did not find refreshment from this community.

Now enter David and Dan (aka the Double Ds), showrunners for the TV version of the *A Song Of Ice and Fire* series, *Game of Thrones*. These men tackled the thought-to-be-impossible task of adapting the expansive fantasy series for a mainstream TV audience and have done an incredible job. Seasons one through four of *Game of Thrones* are arguably some of the best television ever put to screen. By 2016, the series had accumulated 38 Emmys.

The adaptation was successful in bringing this literature to life. However, when the show surpassed the

books, many of the core elements set so firmly by Martin began to slip. This has come to head in this seventh season where the Double Ds have seemingly forgotten the foundations of the world they have been inhabiting for the past seven years.

The first sin was the general homogenization and subsequent polarization of the characters. Once the guiding hand of GRRM (George R. R. Martin) disappeared in season five, the Double Ds began to purge their characters of the moral conflict that made them so special. By season seven, Tyrion Lannister, the egotistical, patrician, prostitute loving, dwarf crippled by inherent tragedy has become the most moral man in Westeros. Void of any internal conflict, he exists purely as a rational progressive voice on the Queen's Council only faltering when the plot calls for a contrived obstacle. The same type of homogenization has occurred across the cast; the Double Ds polarize the characters into obvious teams of good and bad for their eventual ultimate battle versus a practically faceless embodiment of pure evil.

Hyper-logical storytelling within a fantasy world may appear to be an oxymoron—our laws of physics do not permit the existence of flying dragons or shadow demons—however, Martin's hyper-logical storytelling style simply means he establishes his own “in-world” rules and commits to them.

This contradicts the very foundation of Martin's vision.

The second sin is the writer's disrespect of logic within the universe. This past season, a plethora of illogical events occurred, ranging from unearned character decisions to impossible events, to blatant contradictions of established “in world” rules. While I could rattle off a dozen examples of each—and if you don't believe me, I urge you to contact me—the most insulting continuity error put to the screen was the writers' handling of the capabilities of dragon glass. Dragon glass and Valyrian steel both have par-

allel magical properties due to dragon fire's involvement in their creation.

Previously, it had been established Valyrian Steel could kill White Walkers—icy creatures which serve as the ultimate force of evil in the show's plot—but not their zombie thralls, the wights—see the battle of Hardhome for reference. However, in season seven, all of a sudden both materials had the ability to kill wights. This information totally piloted the plot lines of over half the cast. This delegitimizes months and months of fan theories built upon the former information. It also set a precedent of the Double Ds' disregard for “in-world” rules.

Seasons one through four of *Game Of Thrones* are arguably some of the best television ever put to screen. By 2016, the series had accumulated 38 Emmys.

In a medium fueled on fan speculation and discussion, these types of writing decisions give an air of “why bother” to the community; this corrupts the foundation of that which I have become so endeared.

So with *Game Of Thrones* tumbling towards a generic, contrived fantasy finale, I have some suggestions for the Double Ds. First, stick to the canon: re-establish the rules and let the strong characters drive the plot rather than the plot drive the characters. The generic “Good versus Evil” finale can be remedied by pivoting to an “Order versus Chaos” finale. *Game of Thrones* has set up a world of men that is rife with sin; this chaos is a product of the unchecked freedom of the world's inhabitants. Reveal that the White Walkers are a tool of the Children of the Forest—a hive-minded entity representing complete order in the absence of freedom. The final conflict between the two parties, instead of neglecting the sins of the characters, acknowledges human corruption as a product of the freedom enjoyed by man. This could still allow for a massive battle between man and monster that would appeal to the crowds, but paint it in a more nuanced context that would respect the vision of George R. R. Martin.

Free Palestine!

Emmanuel Tran '21

Columnist

On the Sunday before MLK Day, *New York Times* columnist Michelle Alexander decided to dedicate her piece on the legacy of Martin Luther King to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Alexander is a well-known writer and thinker whose primary work is focused on incarceration and drug laws in America, particularly how these policies harm the African American community. Her piece effectively analyzed the links between the fight for justice in America and the struggle for equality in Palestine. I won't attempt to address the Israel-Palestine conflict in this article but, I would encourage anyone interested to know more about Zionist oppression to take a look at her piece.

The more interesting part of Alexander's article was not the point she made, but rather the extreme responses to her article by the Zionist establishment. I believe Alexander expressed her argument well, and made it relatable on a factual and emotional level. However, her position that the Zionist government is oppressing the people of Palestine both in the occupied territories—Tel Aviv, the "State of Israel"—and in the "free regions" (West Bank), is not new. She must delve further into the assumptions she bases her argument upon.

Alexander's article was too moderate for me because it operated on the assumption that the formation of the Zionist regime and the confiscation

of Arab inhabitants' homes without compensation was entirely legitimate. Abraham Foxman, former head of the Anti-Defamation League B'nai Brith, called her "biasedly obsessed" with Zionism. Yet for some Zionist and Jewish organizations, this was already too offensive: many accused Alexander of anti-Semitism and attempted to smear her. The American Jewish Committee called her piece "shameful." This reaction was only the most recent example of how a network of Zionist political and financial organizations are crushing free debate around Palestine.

All over the Western world, and

All over the Western world, and in particular in America, there is a group of extreme institutions which have dedicated themselves to defending Zionism.

in particular in America, there is a group of extreme institutions which have dedicated themselves to defending Zionism. That network was best documented by professor John Mearsheimer in his book "The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy." They analyzed the disproportional defense of Zionism by the U.S. Government. One example of this is the U.S.'s repeated vetoes of U.N. resolutions condemning certain actions of the Zionist regime, even when an overwhelming majority of world nations, including our own allies like France or Britain,

supported them. Using significant and detailed research, Mearsheimer and his co-writer Stephen Walt explained how groups like The Zionist Organization of America, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy and Hadassah influence politicians with money and mass mobilization with the goal of protecting the Zionist regime even when that goal is not in line with American interests.

In recent years, that network has both waned in power and become

All of this is incredible progress toward the ultimate goal: a free and peaceful Palestine stretching from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean, and one government to protect the holy places and the peoples who reside in this ancient land.

much more visible in their attempt to suppress opponents who are growing in number. Mearsheimer and Walt's experience is a great example of the clampdown on free speech. Despite both writers' reputations and resu-més (Mearsheimer is a University of Chicago professor, while Walt teaches at Harvard), they weren't able to find a publisher for the long form article, which later became the foundation for their book. *The Atlantic*, the magazine which commissioned their piece, refused to publish their final result. Eventually, the foreign *London Review of Books* published it. Immedi-

tely following publication, magazines and organizations—from the "New Republic," then owned by pro-Zionist writer Martin Peretz and billionaire capitalists Roger Hertog and Michael Steinhardt, to the Anti-Defamation League—began a campaign against Mearsheimer and Walt.

More examples of this piled up over the years. President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, activist Noam Chomsky and the Black Lives Matter Movement have all been singled out over their perspectives on Israel and Palestine. One of the most egregious targets of the Zionist lobby was former CNN political commentator, Temple University professor and Black Lives Matter activist Marc Lamont-Hill, whose comments on the need for a "free Palestine" led to his dismissal from CNN.

These cases seem to get more and more frequent, most likely because of the waning support for Zionist violence in America. Groups including religious organizations and political parties are beginning to question the actions of the Zionist regime. The movement to boycott banks and companies that operate in the Zionist occupied territories (the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) is growing. All of this indicates incredible progress toward the ultimate goal: a free and peaceful Palestine stretching from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean, and one government to protect the holy places and peoples who reside in this ancient land.

We must be vigilant about the attacks on the defenders of free Palestine to ensure that this goal is not thwarted.

Standing Ovation at Assemblies

Erin Choi '21

Columnist

The speaker steps away from the podium. Sparse applause follows. I reach for my backpack as the clapping abates, ready for the sweet release of two words: senior class. Suddenly, two students downstairs get up on their feet and clap more loudly than the entire hall had clapped just seconds ago. Then, a surge of upperclassmen stand. I try to remain seated but everyone upstairs gets up, too. Not wanting to seem disrespectful, I stand up and sling my backpack over my shoulder. The speaker wasn't that bad, I guess. "Senior class!" Everyone runs for the stairs as they discuss what they're going to get at Grill.

Regardless, I will be honest: I don't enjoy most assemblies. No doubt, the speakers are admirable, and we can draw inspiration from their lives, but not every accomplished person is an engaging public speaker.

I can't remember the last assembly I went to where we didn't give the speaker a standing ovation.

It's been said that Exonians don't appreciate the assembly speakers that the

school pays to give us a 20-minute lecture. After all, twice a week, we have the opportunity to learn from distinguished adults—often alumni—about how to be more successful, smart or *non sibi*. I've heard that we're being ungrateful by dicking assemblies. Maybe they're right. If it weren't for a bi-weekly required appointment, or if we didn't go to PEA, we would find these speakers distinguished and riveting.

Regardless, I will be honest: I don't

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enjoy most assemblies. No doubt, the speakers are admirable, and we can draw inspiration from their lives, but not every accomplished person is an engaging public speaker. In fact, even the most incredible adults may seem boring or disinteresting to us when they ramble on about their own achievements and drill into our heads that we Exonians are the future leaders of the world. I know that most students feel the same way: bored, distracted and, above all, jaded. If you watch closely, you will notice how only a handful of people stand up and clap on their own will, while most of us

look around before reluctantly joining in, already forgetting about the lecture and checking our phones instead.

I'm not sure, then, how it became a

A notable exception to my criticism is Exeter's reception of more engaging speakers such as Viet Thanh Nguyen. As soon as he stepped away from the microphone, the entire crowd rose up and provided thunderous applause without hesitation.

pattern that no matter what the student body thinks of the lecture, the speaker receives a standing ovation. Since they haven't been to any other assemblies, the speakers likely think they're special enough to receive the universal gesture of outstanding recognition from us.

A notable exception to my criticism is Exeter's reception of more engaging speakers such as Viet Thanh Nguyen. As soon as he stepped away from the microphone, the entire crowd rose up and provided thunderous applause without hesitation. But what was more important was the fact that his speech sparked praise and discussion afterwards. Within 20 minutes, Nguyen had narrated personal experiences, shared his unique viewpoints and sustained everyone's attention with wit and humor. For once, people genuinely connected with him.

Doesn't Nguyen's inspiring presence, then, deserve an exceptional reac-

tion distinguishable from the reception of blander, less-appreciated speakers? Why can't we simply offer a generous round of applause to most speakers as a way of showing our gratitude and respect?

None of us should feel pressured to stand up just because someone else did

None of us should feel pressured to stand up just because someone else did so and we are scared to be perceived as disrespectful—in fact, it's nearly impossible to elicit an actual consensus in support of a speaker from an ideologically diverse group of teenaged critical thinkers.

so and we are scared to be perceived as disrespectful. In fact, it's nearly impossible to elicit an actual consensus in support of a speaker from an ideologically diverse group of teenaged critical thinkers. Standing ovations should be reserved only for those by whom feel personally moved.

The moment even a small section of the student body that wasn't inspired by the talk stands up to clap, the standing ovation at any Exeter assembly loses all meaning. It's incredulous that Exeter's student body, proud of its intelligence and ideological diversity, thoughtlessly sends messages of unanimous awe twice a week.

Let's make our standing ovations rare and genuine.



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Students play poker at Abbot Casino.

Helena Chen/The Exonian

STUDENTS GAMBLE AT ABBOT CASINO

By **MOKSHA AKIL**
Staff Writer

Amidst the hustle and bustle of Abbot Casino, groups of Exonians bet their chips on gambling games in hopes that the luck of the dice would be on their side. Outside Grainger auditorium, well-dressed students line up in front of a sheer backdrop to have their photos taken.

All the members of Abbot Hall started preparing to host the event early in winter term. Unlike in other dorms where the privilege of hosting dances or teas is usually assigned to proctors, the uppers of Abbot Hall took on the responsibility of organizing Abbot Casino. To streamline the process of preparing for the event, the uppers organized their dormmates into groups and made sure that each person would be available to tend a booth.

Several weeks leading up to the event, the uppers began to communicate with Assistant Director of Student Activities Kelly McGahie and Student Center Coordinator Daisy Jobarteh, to ask for help organizing the details of the event. Together, McGahie and Jobarteh helped the student organizers get various 1920s-inspired decorations to bring the theme of the night, The Great Gatsby, to Grainger Auditorium.

Although the members of Abbot Hall prepared for the event extensively, some students felt that the atmosphere in the beginning of the night was a little uncomfortable. Upon entering the event, some Exonians were apprehensive to take a seat at the empty game tables. "It was a little awkward at first, but it eventually seemed fun for everyone," prep Nina Potter said.

As the event approached its zenith, Exonians piled more red and blue chips into their cups as some placed their last bets on the table. Suddenly, the lights turned off and a few Exonians stole poker chips from the tables of various dealers. When the lights returned, chips were scattered around the auditorium, having been thrown and stolen from their cases. In attempt to restore order, an announcement declared that the booths were going to be shut down if the students did not return the chips to the dealers. Despite the lack of poker chips at some tables for the remainder of the night, the gambling and conversation soon resumed.

In addition to the booths in the auditorium, many students enjoyed taking photos to commemorate the event. While some students opted to take photos themselves, student photographers Arun Wongprommon and Eva Carchidi

ran the photo booth while student photographers Helena Chen, Oliver Hess and Paula-Perez Glassner snapped candid photos of the casino-goers. With the photographers' help, the students were able to take home high-quality pictures of themselves to commemorate the event.

Although Abbot Casino photos are an annual affair, the attire of the students in the photos was different from years past. Formal attire was not required at this year's event. The message was delivered via an all-school email from the residents of Abbot Hall. When asked about the Abbot uppers' intention in changing the dress code, upper Billy Menken explained their decision was made to ease economic barriers faced by members of the student body. "We heard questions about whether students could attend if they didn't own a coat or blazer, and we wanted to make sure the event was inclusive," he said. "We simply encouraged students to dress their best."

Abbot Hall upper Zane Ice said that the dorm was focused on inclusion for this year's event. "We just wanted to make it clear that we didn't want anyone to not come because they didn't own a suit or a fancy dress," Ice said.

Because of the less formal atmosphere, many thoroughly enjoyed the event. Prep

Anna Tran particularly appreciated the Abbot Casino experience. "The craps table was really fun, and the dealers truly made the experience more authentic," she said. In addition to Abbot Hall residents, some tables had dealers from outside of the PEA community that helped create the authentic atmosphere of a real casino.

Another highlight for many Exonians was magician Oscar Liu, a senior in Peabody Hall. Ice explained that the Abbot uppers were looking to give the event a new facet for students to enjoy. "We wanted to focus on improving the overall experience of the event, as opposed to just the games themselves, so we for the first time officially [invited] a magician as well as student photographers," Ice said. Instead of going back to their dorms when they ran out of trips, students could sit back and enjoy Liu's magical performances for the rest of the night.

Overall, Exonians were glad to take advantage of the opportunity to learn a bit about casino games for a night. The magicians, photographers and dealers all contributed to the dynamic atmosphere of the event, and students appreciate their hard work. "I thoroughly enjoyed Abbot Casino, and I'm excited to attend the event next year," Potter said.

POETRY SLAM

By **SARAH HUANG, SENAI ROBINSON and BRIAN SON**
Staff Writers

Upper Maurena Murphy's footsteps echo through the walls of the Bowld. As the crowd settles, she clutches the microphone and recites her final poem: "Dear Straight People." In the audience, students start to hum and nod in agreement.

When asked why they decided to organize the event, upper Elizabeth Kostina, co-head of Exeter's poetry club Word!, the Poetry Slam as an opportunity to revive a "lost art" at Exeter. "It was just something that I really wanted to do... We didn't seem to have [a poetry slam] on campus, so I figured I'd just start a club," Kostina said.

One of the faculty members who played a significant role in helping Kostina advertise the competition was Student Activities Coordinator Kelly McGahie. They described her first experience working with Kostina to revamp the Poetry Slam last year. "We actually brought in two folks from Manchester who did an event called 'Slam Free or Die' at one of the bars in Manchester," they said. "I'd actually worked with the man, Mark, on another occasion to bring some poets here—both locally and from Chicago."

Similarly to last year, student poets could only perform non-original works, after some members of Word! notified Kostina about feeling uncomfortable with presenting their original poems. However, the poets were still encouraged to express themselves, even through the words of others. Regardless of their experience with slams, the event was open to all interested participants.

Upper Blane Zhu has been interested in poetry for several years but has never gotten the opportunity to explore slam poetry specifically. After receiving McGahie's email about the event, he immediately reached out to Kostina. "Starting from ninth grade, I've been starting to dip into poetry, and I thought this would be a very fun time to incorporate poetry with performance," he said. "It would be a good chance to not necessarily showcase my talent, but have an opportunity to use my voice and get more of a sense of what poetry can be."

While searching for his poem selections, Zhu tried to find pieces that he personally connected with most. "A lot of them are quite

angry and about really dark topics, so I tried to keep it more on the light side while channeling the energy that they bring to those topics," he said. "I chose poems that I felt like I could represent and that somehow has some sort of relevance to me." To Zhu, poetry slams was a way for many students to connect with not only others but also with themselves.

Lower Rose Chen's process in selecting her poem paralleled Zhu's. Though she became a finalist in last year's Poetry Slam, she wanted to continue to express her voice through poetry. "Slam poetry generally tends to be social justice related. But this year especially, I wanted to do poems that weren't necessarily in line with that, but were very in line with my own voice," Chen said. Other contestants and participants of Slam simply see it as an opportunity to do what they enjoy—perform.

Sarah Hardcastle, another co-head of Word!, affirmed their desire to bring slam poetry to Exeter in the form of an organized club. "I've always really loved writing. It's been a way to work through what I need to work through but also to bring ideas and important topics to the table in a creative way," they said. "I'm also an actor, so spoken word poetry appeals to me because it weds stage performance and the actual craft of writing together."

Beyond the annual event, Word! not only serves as a platform for student slammers to perform but consistently works with its members to develop their writing, acting and overall presentation of slam. "The club also tries to focus on writing slam poetry—and not just slam poetry, but all poetry, and talking about performance aspects of it," Kostina said. "We try to write a lot, and I know that one of my goals for next year is to have two slams—one being non-original works to inform other people what a slam is."

For this year, as well as in the years to come, Word!'s major goal would be to get more people involved, expanding from purely veteran performers to first-timers who just want to try something new as well. "It's really awesome to see these people emerge from the shadows and take in this new genre," Kostina said. "That's a good feeling."

TRENDWATCH

By **LEAH COHEN and RAMYANEE MUKHERJEE**
Contributing Writers

Last Saturday, Exonians braced the New England winter to gamble at Abbot Casino. Students played rounds of poker, blackjack, and roulette in Grainger Auditorium, taking the opportunity to also show off their stylish outfits.

Senior Hilary Davis and upper Alisha Simmons kept warm despite the chill outside with cropped white fur jackets. Simmons paired her hooded jacket with a tan ribbed dress while Davis rocked hers over a black dress and paired it with simple silver jewelry.

Upper Morgan LeBrun lit up the night with her striped, sequined pants accented by yellow racer stripes down the sides. She kept up the sparkle with her black shimmer top. The dark red accents in her hair completed the dazzling look!

Others took the Gatsby theme of the night very literally. Upper Lucy Gilchrist wore an authentic roaring '20s black dress with lace trim, accessorizing with a string of pearls around her neck. Also dressed in a period-inspired outfit was prep Siona Jain, who wore a black dress that had crisscross straps with white puffy sleeves underneath.

Outside the Exeter bubble, fashion week is about to start! Though named "fashion week," the event is actually a month long, with four weeks of fashion shows that take place in New York, London, Milan, and Paris. Starting on Feb. 4, designers will be showcasing their fall/winter collections to a crowd consisting of magazine editors, critics, celebrities, and social media influencers.

This season, we're both looking forward to the Tom Ford show in New York City. The brand will be combining both their menswear and womenswear collections in one show so we're predicting that there will be some hot new looks that can be worn by anyone!

Across the ocean, Paris is heating up as their Fashion Week begins. Name-brand couture brands like Chanel, Givenchy and more, have started to show off their Spring/Summer looks for 2019. We're looking at some exciting seasons coming up later this year, especially as the weather gets warmer! For now, though, we'll focus on some trends to break out for the cold.

We know that these dreary New England winters can bring moods down but neon colors are back. It's super easy to incorporate them into your look with a bright puffy jacket, a cozy sweater, or even a pair of socks under your boots. A subtle pop of color could be what you need to brighten up your day.

Speaking of staying warm, we know it's tough out there with the New England freeze finally hitting, so stay ahead of the winter storms with some fur. If you're feeling adventurous, revamp your look by combining fur with animal prints. We suggest faux leopard and cheetah print jackets, which are fluffy enough to keep you toasty throughout the season!

Overall, the biggest part of any fashion event is the street style. With photographers combing the streets and snapping photos of celebrities on their way to shows, fashion month is known for being the perfect time to experiment with style and dress boldly. Just like photographers on the streets of fashion week looking for the next "it" look, we are going to be on the lookout for Exonians who embrace their own style, as well as embody the trends from outside the bubble of Exeter. So, while you're walking the paths of Exeter or running to class, keep it stylish and you may be featured in our next column! We're excited to see what Exonians have in store for the rest of the chilly winter season!

SeniorSpotlight

NIKO AMBER

By ANNE BRANDES
and YUNSEO CHOI
Staff Writers

Learning Swahili, cooking in class and discussing pan Africanism in Ghana, senior Niko Amber began to recognize how Western cynicism impacted her life. When she came back to the Academy's campus this winter, she returned with a renewed sense of self and happiness. As the only senior who attended the program, Amber spent fall term as an ambassador at SOS-Herman Gmeiner International College in Ghana.

More than anything, her experience in Ghana taught Amber to value each aspect of her life by achieving a more holistic outlook on and off the Exeter campus. "The school in Ghana had a significant amount of work but people didn't look at everything as a life changing decision or think that if you do badly on a math test your life is over," she said. "I think having sort of a slower pace of life where people were just genuinely more happy really helped me come back."

Amber continued to explain how her positivity and introspection grew during fall term. "I think it was one of the biggest impacts on my time at Exeter," she said. "I learned so much about the cultural differences between the regions because I think the US or the Western world in general generalizes the African continent."

History instructor Kwasi Boadi, who chaperoned her in Ghana, described how capable Amber was during her term off. Reflecting on how she conducted herself, Boadi concluded that she had proven herself to be both calm and resilient. "[She is] an extremely pleasant young woman, imbued with a strong sense of purpose," he said.

At Exeter, she has continued to maintain her clear voice and genuine character across classrooms, Democratic Club and the crew team. As Boadi playfully said—"You underestimate her at your own risk."

Yet four years ago, when prep Amber first arrived at Exeter, she did not have any idea what she wanted to do. "I think I've changed in my four years here. I signed up for 21 clubs my prep fall club night but now, I've found my passions [and] I'm really happy about that," Amber said. "In a lot of ways, I have become the person I am."

Through the path of exploring who she is, Amber found her strength in advocacy. "I was always pretty vocal about things and people," Amber said. "I think working through Exeter has helped me find my voice even more. I will speak up for things I believe in."



JaQ Lai/The Exonian

Amber brings that unique voice to the Harkness table. After instructing Amber in his Pre-Colonial Africa history class, Boadi commended her scholarly qualities. "[She is] genuinely interested in all things African, brilliant, curious and conscientious," he said.

Senior Alan Xie, one of Amber's history classmates, expressed admiration for her depth of engagement and contribution. "She is very interested in history, and would consistently bring good contributions to class," he said. "Niko is not afraid to participate and voice her opinion, and I think that she has a good presence around the table."

Amber's adviser, classical languages chair Nicholas Unger, also attested to her clever and caring personality. "She strikes me as an incredibly thoughtful person, well-informed about the issues of the day, whether it's the state of healthcare in this country or the state of student life on this campus," he said. "She is always willing to engage with you with generosity of spirit and clarity of mind."

While Ghana prohibited her from meeting the new students in Gould House during the fall term, Amber has gracefully jumped into her role as proctor during winter term. "Gould House is such a close community," she said. "The girls are great and I love being Proctor. Even though I just came after being abroad, everyone's been really accepting of me."

Lower and Gould House resident CarlyMae Buckner described Amber to be a supportive friend who encourages those around her to be their best self. "Niko balances the line of having fun and getting stuff done which is a great thing to have in a proctor," she said.

In clubs, she has also managed to voice her opinions as the co-head of Democratic Club. "I don't think I knew my political allegiance before I came to this school," Amber said. "I think Dem Club has been one of the most important clubs to me during my time here. I have learned so much and it has helped me express my opinions and also formulate my own ideas about the American political sphere."

Senior Madison Kang described the plethora of knowledge that Amber draws on to determine her political opinions. "I sometimes sit with her at lunch and she has a wealth of knowledge about the world beyond the Exeter bubble," she said. "While many students get caught up in campus, she also makes sure to stay informed."

Beyond academics, Amber is also a prominent athlete on Exeter's girls' crew team. "I think crew is a very unique sport because it's an endurance sport but we are also working together," she said. "I would have never rowed crew had I not attended Exeter."

Fellow crew member upper Alayna Thomas spoke to her love of crew and

impact on the larger team. "In general, she's super funny, encouraging and welcoming to people on the crew team," she said. "She fits in really well because of her sense of drive, which comes entirely out of team spirit. It really helps to have people who are like Niko and willing to work super hard for the team."

Crew captain and senior Amelia Lee added how both Amber's energy and spirit add to the team. "On and off the crew team, she is one of my best friends who always tries her hardest to be the best at what she does," she said. "She brings her bubbly chatty energy while off the boat and translates that wildness to power when we are practicing."

Other friends of Niko can also speak to her outgoing nature. Senior Anna Shattuck described her presence in the interactions she has on campus. "She knows how to light up a room in a way," she said. "Niko is unique in her style and personality. She is a positive force on the Exeter community."

Senior Gavin Sabalewski concurred, describing how Niko's unique nature allows her to manage the strenuous nature of Exeter life. "She is unique because of her incredible ability to balance Exeter's rigorous academics with her extensive social life," he said. "As one of the most outgoing and well-known people on campus, she can always be seen laughing with friends in the dining hall, playing music from her speaker in Grill, or cheering people on at sports games. Somehow, she still finds time to grind in the library and complete her work to the best of her ability."

Even with her strong academics and extracurricular activities, Amber has managed to maintain strong friendships within PEA. "Niko is always there for me," lower Sarah Pasche said. "She is honest, trustworthy and only wants what is best for her friends. She is incessantly willing to help you out when you're feeling down."

Kang noticed similar trends, mentioning that Amber truly stands out from a crowd due to her outgoing nature. "I've never seen a person so well known by the rest of the school," she said. "She always tries to meet new people and is very engaged with the Exeter community."

After Exeter, she will continue to pursue her passions for politics, philosophy and economics. Reflecting upon her time at the Academy, she encourages other students to do the same. "I hope people can take time to see how privileged they are at this school and take advantage of every opportunity that Exeter offers to try to find things that make them happy."

StaffSpotlight

PATRICK J. GARRITY

By ERIN CHOI and
FELIX YEUNG
Staff Writers

Associate Director of Communications Patrick Garrity considers himself a storyteller. In charge of managing the Academy's online presence, he showcases the spirit of Exeter to those beyond its walls. "I want to present Exeter in the best light possible. I want to show [that] it's a place of excellence, a place of diversity, a place with all the different and amazing things that this school has to offer," he said. His hard work at the Academy has directly impacted the school's social media presence: under Garrity's management, the number of people following Exeter's accounts on different platforms has grown to the thousands.

A New Englander by birth, Garrity found his passion for journalism early in his life. His interest in writing deepened over the years, and he ultimately chose to pursue a career as a journalist. "I was in journalism for over twenty years," he said. "I've worked in some very different places." Most notably, he served as an Executive Producer at NBC News Online, the online arm of the national news provider.

However, Garrity chose to leave the hectic New York City lifestyle for his family. "What brought me [to Exeter] is that I'm married with two little girls. They're now five and seven," he said, smiling. "We wanted to find a place a little quieter—to give them a backyard behind the house."

Garrity currently runs the Academy's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages in addition to providing content for the Exeter website. "I do a variety of jobs—we all kind of wear a lot of different hats here," he said. "I manage digital content, and that [means] sharing that stuff on social media."

However, Instagram is his favorite social media platform. "I simply love photos," he said. "I especially like still images, so I really feel like Instagram gives a great platform to



Courtesy of Patrick J. Garrity

show off a still." Garrity hopes to capture the everyday lives of students and faculty at the Academy and share the photos with the wider community.

To capture these images, Garrity utilizes both planned events and moments that arise. "There is method to the madness," he said. "Although, I will say this: walking by a place, [if] I see a cool photo, I'll snap it...Sometimes, it's as simple as that. I put up a photo [on social media] of a place or a person that I know will resonate."

Garrity also undertakes longer-term projects that showcase the vibrancy of the Academy community. In particular, he is proud of his work on the Throwback Thursday posts, in which he would match an archival image with a present location. "I got to dig through the archives and find old photos, and I saw what the school was like. It helped me learn much about the school as

a new employee—as much as anything," he recalled. "I didn't realize it, but the photos crossed generational lines, and I really enjoyed that. We're going to try to resurrect that [project] again—that was an outlet for me creatively."

Director of Communications Robin Giampa praised Garrity's artistic nature and talent for promoting the Academy and connecting with different people. "Mr. Garrity understands Exeter and what makes us special, and knows what stories and platforms work with which audiences," she said. "With his keen sense of humor, he is definitely a good addition to the team."

Videographer Christian Harrison expressed his admiration for Garrity's distinctive style. "I admire how quickly he can come up with a good post. The way he talks and his voice for social media [are] very good."

Students agree with Harrison's assessment of Garrity's skills. "I like the tone of the account," said upper Kevin Xu. "It's not overly formal—it's lively, but it doesn't go overboard."

Responding to comments and following the student body is also part of managing the Instagram account. Garrity says he tries to balance playfulness with a respect for privacy. "I want the students to feel free to have a conversation on their own without a 'big brother' hanging over them," he said. "It's a fine line between being engaged and being over-present."

Prep Daniel Han appreciated the effort Garrity makes to connect with students. "[Being followed by a Phillips Exeter account] made me feel accomplished," Han said. "I really like Mr. Garrity. He followed me without me even asking him [first]!"

Harrison also noted Garrity's commitment to following Exonians, recalling an encounter between Garrity and the Student-Alumni Relations Council. "[Garrity] handed them the phone and said, 'All right. Here you go. Follow yourselves.' And they passed it around the room, and everyone followed themselves."

Despite his frequent presence online and at student events, Garrity wishes he was more able to make a personal connection with the students. "That's one of my faults—not developing those relationships," he said, citing the contrast between being an objective reporter versus representing an institution in a positive light. "It goes back to when I was a journalist—you're always taught to keep a distance. That's a learned behavior, to be a fly on the wall. I need to retrain my brain when it comes to that."

Garrity still enjoys his role as a facilitator between the Academy's social media followers and current students, and he emphasized the importance of social media in drawing together the community. "I want to be in contact with our student body, and being connected to them [through social media] is always fun [for me]," he said.

PEA'S FIRST STEM DAY

Continued from STEM, 1

STEM's real-world implications are not often discussed at Exeter. "Talking about STEM is incredibly important because Exeter tends to lean more towards the humanities side, yet STEM is what is going to most radically change the world in the next few decades, as Exonians join the workforce," Gupta said. "It's important to showcase STEM clubs at Exeter so more people are interested in joining them and learn about STEM, breaking down the stereotype that STEM is only for a certain type of individual."

Meanwhile, senior and fellow organizer Arun Wongprommoon hoped the event would engage students to explore STEM regardless of their current knowledge and passion about the subjects. "We have good courses, have good opportunities, good teachers, and our students are very skilled in STEM but we don't really showcase that to the whole school so everyone can see how STEM is playing out in the real world today," he said.

Prep Mana Vale noted all the effort that went into planning STEM Day. "I personally didn't do a whole lot, but I know my peers wrote up a budget and wrote up a plan and proposed it," she said. "We got it approved and then had to organize every plan. They had to email out a ton of competitors from all over the area and only a few responded. They had to do a lot of logistical work."

Upper Panda Atipunumchai, mean-



Upper Nathan Sun presents his Tech Faire project.

Courtesy of Jenny Yang

while, emphasized how events were only made possible through support from various students and adults. "People are really enthusiastic about STEM and an event like this has happened before, so people were very enthusiastic to help," she said. "Funding-wise, the teachers were very willing to help us—Ms. [Alison] Hobbie in particular."

Attendees, including prep Aletheia Zou, felt like STEM day helped broaden her view of how STEM is implemented in the wider community. "[The day] brings STEM out of the classroom into the wider school community," she said. "I know a lot of people complain, for example, that biology class is just memorization. So they don't get to

see the human side or the side that has real people solving real problems."

Vale also emphasized the importance of the event. "STEM just means endless possibilities to me," she said. "There's so much you can do with it. You can combine it with other fields that are non-STEM to be interdisciplinary, like projects and stuff like that. It's really cool what you can do with it."

Recognizing the interest of STEM within the community, prep Garrett Paik noted the impact of STEM day on the Exeter community. "I think there's a lot of kids on this campus, especially [those] that are really interested in STEM," he said. "Speakers occasionally come and talk to us

about STEM but I think it's really nice to have a whole day devoted to just that. People who are interested can go check it out and hear more about different areas of STEM. I think it's also good for people that aren't really that into STEM to see what it's all about."

Though Paik recognized the day's significance, he believed many improvements could be made. He noted how the presentations could have had more clarity, considering the limited time for their lectures. "In terms of the speakers, what they discussed was really interesting but I could see how it would be really confusing," he said. "I didn't think [the presenter] did a very good job of explaining a lot of the topics that he covered. Maybe they should focus on doing something a little bit simpler since there are only 20 minutes to talk."

Furthermore, organizers were also disappointed by the low turnout and plan to make student interest one of their priorities next year. "We should start advertising in advance because it was made up pretty quickly within a few months," Atipunumchai said. "Getting more people is certainly something we want to do. Maybe reach out to more clubs for the help of their members."

Despite all the difficulties and challenges of the event, Brant ultimately found organizing to be a fulfilling experience. "Being able to plan this event was a very rewarding process and it taught me a lot, and it was great to see that it actually made a positive impact on our community," Brant said.

ClubSpotlight

QUEER UMBRELLA GROUP

By FELIX YEUNG
Staff Writer

The Queer Umbrella Group is a series of affinity organizations providing support for queer students on campus. Initiated by Joanne Lembo, the Director of Student Activities as well as PEA's first LGBTQA+ coordinator, these constituent groups hold independent meetings for those who identify with particular gender identities or sexual orientations.

Students join the Queer Umbrella Group with a diverse range of needs. "For some, it is literally a lifeline—the one place on campus where they do not need to hide a part of themselves," Lembo said. "For others, [the club] serves as a social space."

Exonians questioning their identity may connect with other students who have already gone through a similar experience. "It was able to connect me to older kids, specifically upperclassmen, who served as my role models and mentors for figuring out my identity," senior Elliot Diaz said. "I'm very glad that it exist for students who feel that it would be helpful."

The need for queer affinity groups was affirmed by the Youth Health Risk Behavior Survey (YHRBS) administered in May 2017. "[The results] showed that [queer] students are more likely to feel anxious or depressed and less likely to connect with or feel supported by adults on campus," said Tyler Caldwell, an advisor to the Gay Male Affinity Group. "Though we might discuss [these] issues in the classroom, I think it is vital that we have time and space to express and talk about those issues in a more relaxed setting."

Certain social dynamics can prevent students from expressing their true gender and/or sexuality. "Unfortunately, there are still pockets of this campus where it is not safe to come out," said Lembo. "Many dorms are safe and welcoming, but others are not [as accepting]. Likewise, many sports teams can be welcoming, but others are not [as safe]." When incidents arise, affinity spaces become an important resource for many students.

Furthermore, these groups can also assist members in dealing with strenuous situations outside of campus. "The group may support a student who's questioning, or maybe out, on campus and nervous about going home for vacation," Alex Myers, an advisor for the Transgender Affinity Groups, said. "That's one of the times that I try to meet with the affinity group—just before vacation. [...] We'll just talk about some strategies for the dinner table."

Unlike other on-campus organizations, the Queer Umbrella Group stresses reflective, not academic, dialogue. "There's no agenda, [and] there's

no mission statement. It's just a group of people sharing an experience. It's not meant to be an [academic] discussion," upper Alisha Simmons said. "These [groups] are more for just existing." As affinity groups, the clubs rely on their safe and optionally-confidential conversations rather than public displays of activism to provide support for students. "Due to the personal nature of participation in an affinity group, I would not want to force students to engage with this aspect of their identity in public ways if they are not yet ready," Caldwell said.

The groups also serve as a space where students and adult advisors can share stories and offer advice to others. "I go to the Queer Woman Affinity Group, and it's just really nice to talk to adults who have lived lives as queer women," Simmons said. "It's nice to see this representation."

Faculty advisors are heavily invested in providing a community for their affinity group's members. "When I was coming to terms with my sexuality, I did not have that whatsoever," Jessica Alvarez, an advisor to Queer Kids of Color, said. "I didn't really have a space that allowed me to be in a community with others who were going through the same thing. Being able to help foster that sort of community has been really rewarding."

Lembo stressed, however, that discussions remain heavily student-led. "[The Queer Umbrella Group] is not 'run' by adults—we merely keep the list and coordinate meeting times," she said. "The discussion is driven solely by the students."

The confidentiality and intimacy of the Queer Umbrella Group is a distinguishing factor in many students' decisions to attend the groups. "If you're questioning and you don't know who to go to, these [groups] are confidential," said Simmons. "We're not allowed to release the names of who is in them." The privacy of such a group allows students to be vulnerable and honest in the relaying of their personal experiences.

Ultimately, the Queer Umbrella Group gives queer students a space in which they are visible. "At Exeter, we're all students here, and we're all doing homework, and we have that in common," said Myers. "Being queer can be easily made invisible, and [the groups are] a chance just to be heard, seen and felt."

Throughout its years of existence, the Queer Umbrella Group has kept the same message—one that Lembo views to be paramount to the club's effectiveness in caring for its students. "We see you, we hear you, we value you and we are here for you," she said.

ANGELA DAVIS ADDRESSES EXONIANS

By ANNE BRANDES and LINA HUANG
Staff Writers

Last Wednesday, nearly sixty Exonians traveled to the University of New England to hear Angela Davis' speech, "Freedom is a Constant Struggle." The activist, academic and author touched on the work of Martin Luther King Jr. and the important role of activists in uniting the factions of modern society.

Dean of Multicultural Affairs Sami Atif originally found out about the talk through the Muslim Student Adviser Khadijah Campbell. "Ms. Campbell informed me that Dr. Davis would be speaking in our area," he said. "We were excited that over 60 students took part in our series with 57 attending the keynote remarks."

The preparation for the lecture began with a series of prior events geared towards educating interested Exonians about Angela Davis' writing. "[Dean Atif] wanted to make sure the students who are attending had at least some background information about Angela Davis rather than attending on the basis of just name recognition," Office of Multicultural Affairs Administrative Intern Jessica Alvarez said.

The first event was a screening of the Black Power Mixtape, a film that documented the perspective of Swedish journalists who came to the United States to report on the Black Power Movement. The journalists focused on the movement's leaders, including Angela Davis, and brought mainstream attention to their stories of urban unrest and revolution. "The film was a really great overview of civil rights activism during that time," Alvarez said.

A lecture, presented by Atif and English Instructor Courtney Marshall, also preceded Angela Davis' talk. They covered issues and discussion points concerning Black Feminism and Prison Abolition. "Both topics are pivotal components to the legacy that Angela Davis embodies," Atif said.

Upper and lecture attendee Lilly Pinciario described the mission of the talk. "[During the] lecture Ms. Marshall and Dr. Atif talked a little bit about the prison industrial complex and economic interests," she said. "It acted as an overview for people [that] didn't have as much knowledge about Davis. It was a great time to educate people about history."

At 10 a.m., Jan. 23, several Exonians missed the last half of Wednesday classes to travel to Angela Davis' lecture. Senior Chandler Jean-Jacques described that the theme of the talk resonated with her. "I appreciated how the focus of her speech was the intersection of race and gender," she said.

Jean-Jacques also noted the similarity between prior Exeter speaker and Pulitzer Prize Winner Viet Thanh Nguyen's focus and Angela Davis' message. "Similar to Viet Thanh Nguyen's assembly speech, Davis talked about the military industrial complex, and how the destruction the US causes overseas greatly impacts the country domestically, regarding low-income Americans and the motivations behind refugees/immigrants," she said.

Pinciario also drew on the parallel between the two speakers, noting how dilemmas with representation were mentioned by both speakers. "Nguyen's point that people should not expect one person to speak for a large group of people was echoed in Davis' speech," she said. "She mentioned that idea within the American democratic system; I hadn't connected those two."

Senior Isadora Kron gravitated towards the thoughts that Davis mentioned in her speech, largely because some of these ideas were new to her. "She spoke about a lot of ideas that I had heard of but never delved into like abolition feminism," she said. "Davis also really opened my eyes to a lot of concepts, even though I've read a lot about her."

Some, including senior Jane Collins, described Davis' speech as inspirational. "She was talking about how we, as Americans, always think we're the center of the universe, which is something I think I need to think about more," she said. "Davis pointed out there are not only other human rights violations going on in our country, but also so many more in other countries that we are often hesitant to speak out about. So I think that was a good reminder for me to be thinking about more than just our own country."

Another aspect of the talk that Pinciario enjoyed was the group of Exonians who attended. "I originally made the assumption that the people who were going to attend would be all the people who are generally known as activists on campus," she said. "I was pleasantly surprised by the people who attended and appreciated that the talk was open to all of the Exeter community."

In the future, OMA will strive to continue to offer events such as this, despite the large time commitment these trips would entail. "I think we would love to continue events, but already with that it's time consuming," Alvarez said. "At Exeter, it's really hard for students and faculty to carve out that space intentionally to take these field trips."

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: LIZ WILLIAMS, ISSY WISE & TINA WANG

By EMILY CLOONAN AND ASHLEY LIN
Former Sports Editors

The success of the record-breaking, music-blasting, frozen-haired Girls' Varsity Swimming and Diving team ("NEGS") is largely due to the credit of its three co-captains, seniors Tina Wang, Liz Williams and Issy Wise. Under their skillful leadership, the team has snagged four wins so far this season and is eager to continue their top-notch record.

Wang, Williams and Wise are the epitome of three peas in a pod, and it's not just because their names compose a perfect trifecta of 'W's. Upper Rose Coviello commended the captains for their heartfelt leadership and enthusiasm. "When we come into the locker room, they try hard to bring everyone's energies up. At the end of the swimming sets, if we have one more round left, we all yell 'LAST SET,' which is a great motivator and helps the team bond in the final few, tough moments," she said.

The captains use their spirit to push the team through hard workouts and promote a healthy team dynamic. "I think the captains are dedicated, as well as approachable and relatable. They're always so lively and ready to bring the mood up during the hardest sets and the longest practices," lower Ursie Wise said.

Williams, who consistently wins her 500 freestyle by half a pool length, is a passionate and hardworking swimmer who inspires her teammates to follow in her footsteps. Williams "clearly loves everything about the sport and makes everyone feel important to the team even if they aren't the fastest," upper Maddie Machado said.

Upper Wynter Sands spoke to Williams' charisma and optimism. "I remember during my prep year Coach Mills was giving the boys' and girls' teams a pep talk before one of the meets, and Lizzie confidently finished it off with, 'Be cocky. We're going to win,'" she recalled.

When Wang isn't powering through the 50 freestyle and Wise isn't soaring through the 100 butterfly, they are actively encouraging and motivating the team alongside Williams. Senior



JaQ Lai/The Exonian

Ashleigh Lackey highlighted her captains' dedication to the team and noted that Wang and Wise "make funny videos for the team before big meets like E/A and New England's to hype the team up."

Machado added that Issy Wise's liveliness "makes practices really fun and lighthearted when we could otherwise be feeling unmotivated or too tired to get in the water."

Ursie Wise, on the other hand, praised Wang for being "the really kind, approachable captain that you can talk to about anything."

According to Lackey, the captains' contrasting, yet compatible personalities function as a cohesive unit and push the team to success. "Liz, Tina and Issy work really well together. They spend a lot of time talking with each other and the coaches to make the team environment the best it can be," she said.

Recent graduate and last year's NEGS captain Maddie Shapiro underscored the valuable qualities that made these three such incredible candidates for the captainship. "I thought that those three would have such a great dynamic together because they all have such different, but wonderful personalities. They each have strengths that help compensate for

another's weakness, which is such a great thing to see," Shapiro said.

All three captains began their swimming careers at age six with different goals in mind. Wang first entered the pool in hopes of strengthening her lungs at her doctor's suggestion. She has not looked back since.

Williams became passionate about swimming after she joined a team coached by her family friend. "I would only go if my friends were going, and I had no idea it would become such an important aspect of my life," she said.

Issy Wise first found herself in the pool at age two, though it wasn't until she turned six that she joined a team. "According to my mom, I just jumped in the pool and started flailing around," Wise said, adding that her mother, who used to swim, is a big inspiration.

Williams commended her team's strong collaborative spirit, noting that swimming and diving are typically viewed as individual sports. "I love swimming for my teammates instead of for just personal goals. A lot of times, I don't swim my best events, and I might not always be swimming the fastest, but that's not my goal. My goal is to score as high as I can so my team does well," Williams said.

In a similar vein, Wise identified strong team spirit as the best part of her Big Red swimming career. "The coaches are hilarious and the team is so supportive of one another and kind," Wise said.

The three captains agree that coaches Lundy Smith and Chelsea Davidson have been integral to their PEA experience. Wang values the open relationships she has with the coaches. Wang described Davidson as "one of us" and added that Smith brings the team a lot of laughs. "I can't really remember my favorite memory, but it probably has something to do with Lundy [Smith] being funny. Maybe the time he brought a fancy toilet plunger to the pool and called it an award, and said he would give it to the person who 'plunged' (dove) the furthest. Or maybe when he told us his Chinese name means 'delicate orchid'. Or when he and I got matching balaclavas," Wang said.

The team is sure to miss their beloved captains next year. "They have such a positive presence both in and out of practice. It makes me sad that I'll be without them next year, but I'm thankful they were such great role models so I can try to do the same for the newer kids on the team as I get older," Ursie Wise said.

Big Red Track Teams Win at Home Meet Both Teams Sweep Scarborough High School in Close Match



Upper Lucy Gilchrist and lower Kerstin Hyer race around the turn.

Helena Chen/The Exonian

By MAEGAN PAUL
Contributing Writer

Big Red cheers on from the sidelines as prep Bradley St. Laurent flies around the last turn of the 1,000 meter race. He sprints towards the final home-stretch and makes one last stride across the finish line, coming in at 2:46—a new prep record for the event.

Last Wednesday, Big Red hosted a meet against Scarborough High School in the William Boyce Thompson Field House. The boys' team pulled out a close win with a score of 53-52 and the girls' team swept the competition with a score of 74-25. Scarborough proved to be difficult competition throughout the day and challenged the

Exeter team, preparing them for the upcoming meet against Hyde, Governor's and Landmark High School.

The team went into this meet after a hard week of training. "Lately we have had some of our hardest practices of the season, primarily because soon we will begin our taper for the E/A meets," St. Laurent said.

Despite the rigorous training sessions, the team still produced some amazing results. "[Prep] Kaylee Bennett and [lower] Marymegan Wright both ran awesome 300 meter races, coming in first and second for the entire meet. Wright also ran a 7.44 second 55 meter dash. This was one of the fastest times recorded by Exeter in the last ten years or so," lower Evie Houston

said. Wright's dash time secured her a spot at February's Eastern States Indoor Track and Field Championship.


"[Senior] Numi Oyebode threw a shot put distance of 35 feet, 8.5 inches, to win the girls' shot put," Houston added.

Although the boys' team won by a smaller margin, they still showed impressive grit and came out on top with some great results. "The 4 x 800 was really cool because [lower] Varun Oberai was fifty meters behind the leading runner. But after his four laps he came back to take the lead. And then [upper] Jinwoo Kang outran the rest of the competition to win the relay. That got everyone really excited and it motivated the rest of the team as well," St. Laurent said.

St. Laurent's new prep record was also the talk of the meet. "I was just trying to stay on pace and run accordingly to my plan," St. Laurent said, reflecting on his 1,000 meter race plan. "We were not sure that I had broken it until Coach Hall announced it two days later in practice. It was a really cool moment for me."

After a successful day, both Exeter teams were ecstatic

to end on top. "Everybody participated, so that made it especially exciting," Makyshev said. But the Exeter team is not stopping now—Big Red is just getting started. Coaches and teammates have been pushing each other in practice to work up to their greatest potential preparation for the upcoming Exeter-Andover meets early February.

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ExonianSports



Boys' Squash Sustains Winning Streak

By MEREDITH THOMAS
Staff Writer

Exeter Boys' Varsity Squash made quite the racket this past Saturday in their hard-fought match against Noble and Greenough School. Despite Nobles being the higher ranked team in the league, Big Red was able to snatch a 4-3 win.

The team recognized the importance of being focused and confident. During the matches, "everyone played their own game, focusing on their own success rather than how Nobles was playing," senior and co-captain Sam Michaels said, adding that the team "played to [their] strengths."

Upper Sam Lew agreed, saying, "Nobles has had a history of beating Exeter squash, but our team stayed confident and, before the match, we were saying 'Yes, we can beat them.'"

Nobles proved to be a tough competitor. In order to come away with a victory, multiple players had to overcome tough competition, including seniors Don Assamongkol and Henry Tan. "They came in with the right mindset and in the end were able to outlast their opponents by never giving up," Michaels said.

Assamongkol, seeded fourth on the team, played a pivotal role by winning the match that decided the final winning score. "He played a good game and won convincingly," senior Weldon Chan said. Chan also commended Michaels' performance, saying that "[he] played a tough game but managed to scrape a 12-10 win in the fifth game."

Lew, ranked first on the ladder, commended the bottom half of the varsity team's brilliant performance. "Four through seven—they all played great and played some of the best squash that I've seen this season," Lew said.

Team members have had more success this season than they have had in the past four years. "We're all there to hype each other up before each match. Even though it's an individual sport, we are still very



Upper Sam Lew prepares to strike the ball.

Helena Chen/The Exonian

much a team and I think we've done a better job this year in bridging that gap," Tan said.

There are five four-year seniors on varsity, all of whom share support and expertise with the team. Close friends even off the court, they have built the foundation for a successful season by bringing the team together and maintaining a balance of fun and serious competition. According to upper Ryan Xie, the seniors "lead the team well."

Michaels also commended Lew for his dedication to mentoring the team's less experienced players. "Sam, being the best

player by far, often gives the whole team, including JV, pointers on their squash game," Michaels said.

Lew, in turn, recognized the team's seniors for their valuable leadership. With their guidance, "the team has been focused on winning as a team more than winning against each other," Lew said.

Big Red has won six out of eight matches so far, and has its sights set on the National Tournament at Westminster Academy in Connecticut this weekend. The players are determined to go in with

the same level of confidence and focus that allowed them to triumph over Nobles. One of the teams Exeter will be facing at the tournament is Andover. The team is amped for some intense competition with Big Blue.

"The past few years, Andover has beaten us, but Nobles just beat them so we are very confident that we will come out on top," Michaels said.

"We know that the team has the talent to go far this season, but this Nobles match showed us that we can go all the way," Tan said.

WEDNESDAY SCORE REPORT

Boys' Hockey	2
Holderness	1
Girls' Hockey	2
Dexter	0

Girls' Squash	6
Milton	1
Boys' Squash	0
Andover	7

Girls' Basketball	47
Governors	30
Boys' Basketball	78
St. Paul's	36

Are You Ready for Super Bowl Sunday?

By ABBY SMITH
Senior Sports Reporter

"I am blessed to live in a time where Tom Brady is alive." - Ada Brown '20

"Do I hate New England weather? Yes. Do I hate this geographic location? Yes. Do I stay here for the Patriots? Yes." - Dennesha Rolle '20

"Who actually wants to see Maroon 5?" - Keaghan Tierney '20

"I hope the Pats lose so I can see Juliana's face." - Isaac Choate '19

"I hope the Pats win so I can see everybody's face when they are crying tears and making excuses even though everybody knows this is the greatest team." - Juliana Merullo '19

"I freaking love Tom Brady." - Frankie Getman '21

"Winners never lose." - Kathryn Kester '19

"The Patriots are the greatest franchise in football." - Zeb Tilton '20

"Wait, when is the Super Bowl? Wait, who is in the Super Bowl? The Patriots are in the Super Bowl? I'm supposed to be stoked about this right? The Los Angeles Rams? That is kind of an anti-climatic name for a team... aren't Rams just sheep? The Patriots are... patriotic." - Isabella Ahmad '20

"The Patriots got bodied by the Eagles last year and Tom Brady can't kiss my children on the lips." - Niko Amber '19

"Patriots? More like Patri-ain't it." - Alan Xie '19

"I just think he's so old. Like so old. He's like 40." - Sarah Pasche '21

"They hate us 'cause they ain't us." - Rachel Saltman '21

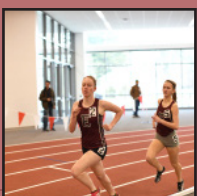


Exeter football charges up the field.

Numi Oyebode/The Exonian

Inside This Week's Sports Section

Winter Track



Boys' and Girls' Track swept against a strong Scarborough squad last weekend.

Helena Chen/The Exonian

Athlete of the Week



Seniors Tina Wang, Liz Williams and Issy Wise lead this year's girls' swim team.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

Super Bowl



Exonians share their thoughts on the upcoming Super Bowl this Sunday.

Numi Oyebode/The Exonian

Boys' Squash



Boys' Squash tops Nobles 4-3 for the team's fourth win in a row.

Helena Chen/The Exonian