



Viet Thanh Nguyen discusses "narrative scarcity" for lower class Asians in the entertainment industry.

Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

Pulitzer Prize Winner Nguyen Gives Assembly

By DANIEL CHEN, ERIN CHOI
and LINA HUANG
Staff Writers

"I was living in a time of narrative scarcity," Pulitzer Prize winning novelist Viet Thanh Nguyen declared to an enrapt crowd at assembly this Tuesday. "There weren't enough stories, weren't enough words. This is the experience for minorities in America."

Nguyen, a Vietnamese American author and refugee, shared his personal experiences and broader insights on social justice, empowering members of the community to tell their stories. Both his assembly and evening Haley Lecture were met with standing ovations. Nguyen also answered questions over lunch at the Latin Study and met with Asian student groups in the Library Commons on Wednesday. Exonians appreciated his unique viewpoints, humor and honesty.

Nguyen won the Pulitzer Prize in 2015 for his debut novel, *The Sympathizer*, narrated from the perspective of a communist spy in the immediate aftermath of the Vietnam War. He also authored the non-fiction work *Nothing Ever Dies* and the collection of short stories *The Refugees*. Currently, he is a professor of American Studies and English at the University of Southern California, a critic at large for *The Los Angeles Times*, and a contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times*.

English Instructor Tyler Caldwell, who teaches a senior English elective on Viet Thanh Nguyen, arranged his visit to PEA. During his introductory speech, Caldwell recalled how last winter, he and nine students in the course travelled to Dartmouth College during a snowstorm to listen to Nguyen speak. Caldwell contacted Nguyen the following April to invite him to Exeter.

"He is a sought-after author; a number of colleges have invited him this year. We were incredibly fortunate to have gotten him not only for one day, but for two days," Caldwell said. "I think it's all because of the nine students who I took to see him last winter; they impressed him so much."

Nguyen's reflections on the "Asian Invasion" story resonated with senior Jacky Cho. "There aren't lots of stories about the Asian American experience and I think his assembly

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Academy Debates Displays of Wealth

By MOKSHA AKIL, ANNE BRANDES,
BONA HONG and ANNA TRAN
Staff Writers

In a swarm of students hustling from one class to another in the frigid New Hampshire weather, several sport fur-lined parkas with a red, white and blue Canada Goose patch or Moncler's iconic fashion house symbol. Amidst worldwide debate, some Exonians view these \$1,000-plus jackets as class markers, while others see them simply as insulation from the cold.

Last November, the headmaster of the Woodchurch High School in England banned Canada Goose and Moncler jackets with the intent of levelling the playing field for students from disparate socioeconomic classes. In a school with 46 percent of their 1,427 students unable to afford the steep price of a luxury jacket, Woodchurch has

begun a larger initiative to "poverty proof" their school.

Perception of expensive coat brands varies across campus. Associate Dean of Multicultural Affairs Hadley Camilus noted that, while some students feel some consternation about these items, wealth disparity is a staple of high school life that should motivate rather than discourage. "Speaking from my own experience in high school, I noted that peers had 'fresher' sneakers or clothes than I did," he said. "I never allowed the clothing somebody else wore to determine my own worth."

Camilus explained that these class markers are also an inevitable reality of elite schools like PEA that cost \$53,000 a year for boarders. "[Differences in financial aid] are going to create moments where those who don't have as much are forced to reflect on what they don't have," he said. "Thankfully, adults are reflecting on this issue and thinking about ways to minimize

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PEA Engages in 29th MLK Day Workshops

By YUNSEO CHOI,
EMILY KANG
and MOUHAMED GAYE
Staff Writers

Last Friday, the Academy celebrated its 29th annual Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Day. The central theme of this year's program was Gen Z Activism. The night before, the event kicked off with an MLK dinner for the guest leaders and the MLK Day Planning Committee that was followed by UnSilenced, a series of performances in which PEA community members expressed their feelings on topics of justice.

This year's keynote speaker was Andrea Taylor, President and CEO of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) and mother of Trustee Wole Coaxum '88. In addition to the opening ceremony, students were required to attend Precious Knowledge—the Half-and-Half workshop led by Priscilla Rodriguez, Eren McGinnis and Jose Gonzalez—and a workshop of their choice, ranging from "Poetry as Protest" to "The Community and the Police."

The community gathered in Love Gym for the Opening Ceremony, where seniors Chinasa Mbanugo and Elliot Diaz delivered their commencement speech. Taylor followed with her keynote speech, "The DNA of Gen Z: Agency, Creativity and Legacy", which focused on the historical background of youth activism and the power of youth today in the political and social justice landscape.

Many PEA members received Taylor's message positively. MLK Committee Co-Chair and English Instructor Mercedes Carbonell said that Taylor was able to "offer some historical legacy that we want to remember and is authentic in her belief in Gen Z activists."

MLK Day Planning Committee member and senior Malobika Syed felt as though Davis appropriately addressed this generation's responsibility to advocate for social justice. "I



Senior Adar Tulloch introduces speaker David France and his youth orchestra.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

would say that the keynote speaker hit the nail on the head. Especially in today's climate there is a lot of importance on Gen Z activism. This is our time to take responsibility and accountability," Syed said.

However, some students were less responsive to Taylor's speech. "I think it was fine but it was a rather dry speech," lower Zach McConnell said. "I have no doubt in her qualification, her experience and her knowledge but I just don't think she did the best job in sharing or presenting that."

David France's Revolution of Hope, a visiting youth orchestra from Boston, and Exeter's Concert Choir and performed as well before the students dispersed to attend their workshops.

During the Half-and-Half workshop held in Assembly Hall, Rodriguez, McGinnis and Gonzalez spoke on their fight to keep the Mexican American Raza Studies Department from being removed by the Tucson High School board while examining Paulo Freire's levels of consciousness: naive, magical and critical.

Lower Nina Weeldreyer was touched by their story and said it gave her a new perspective on the education system. "It was just a rude awakening of how America advertises itself as this great big melting pot of ethnic and cultural differences but behind the scenes makes every

effort to silence the voices of diversity to remain in control, and the lengths they will go to to ensure that, even at the costs of young people's educations," she said.

Among the workshops of choice, Poetry in Protest was another popular option, with poet Theresa Davis leading a moment of reflection on the invisible workers whose jobs often go unappreciated in society. Through poetry, Davis connected the idea of valuing invisible workers with the idea of "turning down money and compromising values to the Montgomery board where people refused to give their money...in order to force change."

MLK Committee member and upper Alisha Simmons felt that Davis left a lasting impact in her workshop with her presentation of poetry as a source of lesson in creating justice. "It really displayed how powerful words can be in showing a different perspective or using them as protest," Simmons said. "It means so much to me to be here especially as someone who identifies...as a queer, black woman poet"

Another popular workshop, led by musician David France, demonstrated how music could be used as a platform for social change. France identified the four principles that shaped the lives of Martin Luther King, Gandhi and Mother Theresa and explained how they led

MLK, 2

Student Body Elects Eight DC Candidates

By DANIEL CHEN
and MAEGAN PAUL
Staff Writers

Out of 31 initial candidates, lowers Seth Amofa, Graham Guite, Louis Mukama, Nahla Owens, Senai Robinson, Kilin Tang, Meredith Thomas and Marymegan Wright have advanced onto the next round of the Discipline Committee (DC) selection process through a school-wide election held on Tuesday.

After an extensive selection process which will include interviews with members of the DC, a number of candidates will be chosen to serve on the committee to alleviate the burden on current upper and senior Committee members, who have been "working overtime" this term, according to senior and DC member Euwie Park, because of students that are either abroad or have left the Committee to serve other commitments.

As a result, the Committee has not yet decided how many candidates will be selected to serve on the DC. According to Dean of Residential Life Dean Carol Cahalane, the number will depend upon the Committee's needs and the availability of the people who are chosen, including any plans to be away next year.

Throughout their campaigns, many candidates chose to highlight qualities such as empathy and reliability. "My main platform [was] tailoring the consequences to the individual, keeping in mind their experiences, being empathetic towards them and realizing that everyone has their own struggles but also focusing on giving people room to grow," preliminary candidate and lower Alana Yang said.

Wright acknowledged that students with discipline cases may be dealing with

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Exonians Reflect on Implications of Socioeconomic Status

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the emotional weight that comes with not having as much as some others on campus.”

History Instructor Amy Schwartz, on the other hand, is morally opposed to Canada Goose and Moncler jackets due to the unethical treatment of animals that is a reality of the manufacturing process. “I don’t like the idea of insulting my students or making them feel judged, so I try to joke (rather awkwardly) with them or simply ignore the issue,” she said. “Down is one of the absolutely cruelest fibers we could possibly wear. I thought that in 2019, fur was not something that any normatively kind and reasonably socialized person would be willing to put on.”

Schwartz stated that she is, admittedly, complicit in the issue of animal cruelty. “I too wear down, and I always have, although these days I only buy it used,” she said. “There is possibly some hypocrisy in how I feel, but I wish there were more conversation and reflection about the impacts of our consumption.”

The cost is also a dilemma, according to Schwartz, who sees the coats and other similar displays as an obvious flaunting of wealth. “It seems totally inappropriate to me on this campus, but of course that would suggest I am blind to all the other abundant markers of wealth that people wear and display,” she said. “Poorer and middle-class students and their families thus feel that they must sacrifice other things to buy the jacket and keep up appearances, or they simply cannot do so.”

Students’ opinions also vary due to their experiences with these high fashion coats prior to Exeter. Lower Bizzie Lynch described the climate of her prior school, where displaying wealth was a normalized aspect of school life. “Coming from an NYC private school, I’ve seen a lot of people wear brand names to seem cooler and show off their parents’ money,” she said.

Others, such as lower Nahla Owens, had not before experienced this expensive outerwear culture. “In all honesty, I didn’t even know these brands existed before I arrived at Exeter,” she said. “I personally don’t focus on clothing much, especially coats, because I am from the South.”

According to senior Alan Wu, there seem to be two dominant reasons that students wear these coats. “As far as I understand, they do have functionality as heavy duty parkas designed for extremely cold conditions,” he said. However, Liu believed that the efficacy of the design evolved into an obsession for fashion represented by the patches on the sleeves. “Over time, that patch became a representation of that luxury and thus status and had transcended its original purpose. Once this general perception settled, people just sort of caught on to the trend—maybe even without knowing what’s entirely happening,” he said.

However, senior Eugene Hu, who owns a Canada Goose himself, noted that his coat had nothing to do with flaunting wealth. “Speaking for myself, I buy clothing of these brands for their quality, not their price,” he said. “I haven’t noticed anyone feel uncomfortable around those who wear these brands.”

Lower Charlie Preston took Wu’s thoughts a step further, noting how the coats have even transcended the purpose of



Students wearing high-end brands, such as Canada Goose, Moncler and AirPods, sit in Grill. Photo illustrated by uppers Sam Weil, Johanna Martinez and Charlie Venci.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

fashionability. “I don’t buy it when people say that those coats are for fashion because if that were the case, there wouldn’t be this obsession with spotting the fakes,” he said. “Spotting fake jackets, shoes or bags is just a way of trying to make people feel bad for pretending to have money they don’t have.”

Preston noted that, at times, expensive coats are simply a way to differentiate one group of people from another. “Wearing Canada Goose or Moncler marks you as one of the exclusive ‘in-group’ that has them,” he said.

However, Canada Goose and Moncler are not the only visual indication of wealth on campus. Obvious markers of class are evident outside of down parkas, said lower Christina Xiao, who recalled witnessing a student scoff at a peer in head-to-toe designer clothing. “I wonder if they were upset because it seemed like that person was trying to show off their wealth too blatantly, or even if there was a bit of jealousy at not being able to afford the same clothes,” she said.

Owens has observed similar trends, noting how even outside visual markers, socioeconomic differences can add stress to students’ Exeter experience. “This wealth disparity can create worry around being able to afford eating out, purchasing gifts around the holidays, going out anywhere in general, participating in club events, purchasing gear, perhaps even being able to do laundry, while their wealthier peers do not have to experience that,” Owens said.

While Xiao notices the wealth disparity, she feels that Exeter proactively discusses these problems. “Many people think about it or express their opinions often here, so it doesn’t seem like a big problem to me,” she said. “However, I’m assuming that there are people who don’t feel comfortable about this, but haven’t spoken up because there’s almost a stigma against having financial aid or not

being able to afford these clothing brands.”

Discussions about wealth in general are fraught for people regardless of their socioeconomic status, according to Preston. “We talk about how rich people are, or how much financial aid people are on, and I often find that people are defensive about their economic status, even if they’re on the higher side of the economic spectrum,” he said. “It’s an uncomfortable thing to talk about, but because personal finance is so important to our society as a whole it becomes important to us as Exonians.”

Similar to Preston, Wu also feels that the Exeter campus reflects the larger society in trends of wealth gaps. “The issue of wealth disparity is one of the largest issues facing the country and that only extends into what we see here,” he said. “It shouldn’t be considered overdramatic to say that the wealth disparity or inequality in this country is becoming ridiculous.”

While students noted that the visual indications of wealth are a problem, many feel that the way Woodchurch High School tackled the issue does not reach the core dilemma. “If someone has bought a coat, the administration has no right to take it away as long as it is not obscene,” Preston said. “Getting rid of coats isn’t a solution, the solution is to get rid of income disparities and to take care of each other financially.”

Xiao added that once you take away coats, other visual and non-visual markers of class remain. “These coats can seem like a status symbol, but if you want to eliminate that feeling, you’d be better off having a strict school uniform,” she said. “And even then, jewelry/watches can still contribute.”

One such class marker that would remain, she detailed, is AirPods, wireless Apple earphones that have recently become more popular. “I don’t think there will ever be a time

where Exeter isn’t considered an ‘elite’ high school,” Xiao said. “I feel like there will always be some expensive thing that [middle-upper class] people can afford to buy that ends up becoming popular. Another example is AirPods, which are [prevalent] now since a lot of people got them over the holiday season.”

Classical Languages Instructor Paul Langford also spoke to the dress code. Even though students may feel uncomfortable about wealth dynamics, Exeter will probably not change the uniform to accommodate wealth differences. “I would imagine that it’s hard, especially as a teenager, to be acutely aware of different levels of resources from student to student,” he said. “However, we are past the point of changing clothing requirements simply because the faculty would not approve a motion to do so.”

Reflecting upon the nature of class markers, Wu concluded that the meaning of Canada Goose or Moncler would change if the patches on the sleeves were taken off. “[These coats] are a marketing ploy to get wealthy people to purchase coats whose functionality is honestly equivalent to that of a \$300 coat from a different brand for an extra \$900 or whatever just for that patch on their sleeve,” he said. “It’d be interesting to take off that Canada Goose patch from their coats and ask if they would still buy them or even still want them.”

As this is not quite feasible, however, another way to address this issue is allowing students to wear these items as long as they are conscious of the wealth they represent. The most important thing is awareness. “[Schools should] make sure the students who wear them are aware of what it means and let them make the conscious choice,” Wu said. “If they don’t care or don’t see a problem, let the other students do the work of making them understand.”

Nguyen Discusses Asian and Refugee Media Representation

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definitely allowed me to put into words what I was feeling,” Cho said. “It was nice to hear you’re not the only one who’s struggling in this way.”

Upper Richard Huang noted that Nguyen’s empowering message was relevant to many Exonians. “Especially at such a diverse school, we struggle to find an identity,” Huang said. “[Nguyen] came to this school and spread the idea that you can find your identity and you don’t have to hide yourself or pretend to be someone you’re not.”

Meanwhile, senior Jenny Yang said that Nguyen’s visit was well-timed, noting the creation of affinity group Asian Voices (AV) last year and a MLK Day workshop last Friday on Asian American activism. “There has been a spark or movement of Asian students on campus standing up and speaking out,” Yang said. “[Nguyen] invited people who previously

weren’t in AV or hadn’t considered these things to join the movement and consider the stories they had to tell or stories they were listening to.”

Many students found Nguyen’s lectures and responses both relatable and enlightening. Lower Rachel Saltman appreciated the witty humor with which Nguyen interspersed his heavy, often hard-hitting reflections. “[His] impact on our school is bringing attention to the Asian American community because that wasn’t talked about at Exeter a lot,” Saltman said. “He added comedy into it, which I think students here enjoy. They don’t enjoy just listening to someone on stage speaking.”

Prep Audrey Gonzalez added that Nguyen, unlike some Assembly speakers, was very honest in sharing his views and experiences. “He was blunt,” Gonzalez said. “He said what other assembly speakers were sugarcoating or avoiding.”

Senior Daniel Kang, currently enrolled in

the English elective on Nguyen’s works, appreciated how he approached every issue with a fresh, analytical perspective. “Nguyen is exciting to me because he isn’t afraid to think critically about the systems that shape everything Americans, Asian Americans, Asians and humans have come to know,” Kang said.

Senior Adrian Venzon hopes Nguyen’s appearance exposed more Exonians to interesting stories and representations. “He’s such a brilliant author and he has a lot of insight that he can share with us,” he said. “The school can learn how to truly analyze the narratives we are exposed to and think about the biases and underlying issues that come with them.”

Similarly, senior and AV moderator Andrew Liquigan, who is also taking the Nguyen English elective, appreciated how Nguyen shed light on narrative scarcity, the lack of diverse or accurate representations of minority groups. “There is some level of narrative scarcity at Ex-

eter,” he said. “People aren’t aware that dialogue’s important.”

Caldwell agreed that Nguyen helped underrepresented viewpoints be heard. “He’s very interested in how to empower or give rise to those voices that have for so long been excluded or forgotten or unheard,” Caldwell said. “He has a very powerful and very distinctive voice; he is intelligent, funny and wonderfully blunt.”

English Instructor and Asian Student Program Coordinator Wei-Ling Woo said that the underrepresentation of Asian viewpoints in Exeter English classes is an example of a nationwide narrative scarcity. “I think [the underrepresentation] is, in some ways, a reflection of American society at large,” Woo said. “[At Exeter] there are definitely teachers who teach works by Asian or Asian American writers, but I recognize that not every student might be getting the same experience because we don’t have a set curriculum for each term or grade.”

Students Compare and Contrast MLK Day Speakers

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him to “create the orchestra that uses music as a vehicle for social change.” France himself is an advocate for social justice and the founder of the Roxbury Youth Orchestra, a youth orchestra that targets inner city children and “seeks to democratize access to classical music.”

Other students attended an Asian American activism workshop hosted by alumna Julie Chung ’16. For the workshop, Chung used the Harkness method to aid Asian American students in finding their place in the diverse scene of activism and race. “Rather than a race-first politics, I explained how I saw that my Asian American identity gave me access or a platform to discuss certain issues and connect with certain communities,” Chung said. “In the end, I wanted them to understand that my liberation is tied to

your liberation.”

Upper Aiwen Desai, who attended the workshop, appreciated Chung’s confrontation of racism within minorities. “It’s especially eye-opening to hear about others’ experiences with anti-black racism in their communities,” Desai said. “I knew that anti-black racism was prevalent in the Asian community, but I had never been in a space dedicated to talking about the problem.”

Six student leaders from BCRI hosted a workshop highlighting the legacy of Birmingham hero Reverend Fred Lee Shuttlesworth. Sydney Cook, one of these six students, explained their goal of spreading the message of love in activism. “The biggest message I wanted to leave at Exeter was probably the importance of learning, as well as love,” she said.

Following last year’s controversial keynote, much of the student body was curious about how this year’s MLK Day would turn out. Syed believed that these year’s events catered to a larger audience whose opinions may not be as polarized. “[Both years] served different purposes and were both important in their own ways,” Syed said. “Last year’s MLK Day was very polarizing, which left the campus kind of shook. Whereas this one united people a lot more because it wasn’t as polarized or charged.”

Senior Eugene Hu agreed, saying that both years had their pros and cons, especially with the mandatory Half-and-Half workshop. “I liked the keynote better, but I think that the mandatory workshop was not as intense or as thrilling as the one last with the Asian American improv comedy artists,” Hu said. “Overall it was good,

but when compared to last year, I would prefer this year.”

Lower Logan Valenti suggested that as a result of the controversial speech last year, this year’s speakers were rather toned down. “Both keynote and the assembly felt like they were trying to dial back, and try to go in the opposite direction with the most neutral thing for the keynote,” said Valenti.

Despite varying opinions, Carbonell hopes that students were able to take away the general message of activism from this year’s celebrations. “My hope for our community is that there is a moment in the day when we each feel something shift, settle in, sway in a pattern that allows us to rise up,” she said. “As Zora Neale Hurston’s prophetic line states: ‘There are years that ask questions and years that answer.’”

Disciplinary Committee Nominees Prepare for Evaluation

Continued from DC.1

external problems and wanted to be a resource for those students. “I would hope that I could be a person that [students] feel comfortable with and know that [the case] is going to be completely confidential,” Wright said.

Robinson hopes to gain a more holistic view of the process and to judge cases from the student’s perspective. “If [I were] sitting in front of a group of my peers, admitting to my mistake, not knowing what course of action would follow [and] knowing how hard it [had been] to get into this school,” Robinson said, “I would be scared to think of losing my position here.”

Current Discipline Committee member and upper Tise Okeremi stressed the importance of student members in the discipline process. “You speak on these

issues as a student, as a fellow Exonian,” she said. “We’re really all about how the student can grow and how we can help them.”

Similarly, senior Matthew Kang, another DC member, expressed that “while students aren’t allowed to be a part of the final vote, our voices are heard and taken into account.”

Wright focused on that specific aspect of the role. “My goal was to appeal to the student audience. Especially as a student DC [candidate], that’s [whom] you’re trying to help. You are a student, and you’re trying to appeal to the faculty as a student,” she said.

Yang noticed similarities in candidate platforms, and noted that students all promise to “listen to [the student on trial’s] story, and understand what’s causing them to do what they do and see

their growth over time.” At the elections booth, students audibly expressed confusion over who to vote for because of the lack of diversity in thought.

The high volume of candidates this year was unusual, leading some to question their true motives. “People literally go up to you and say that they’re doing this for college,” Yang said. “That’s kind of upsetting.”

Amofa decided to run because of his concern for his peers. “I really like talking to people and have always been interested in getting to know people on a friendly level,” he said. “I think it’s nice for us humans to have a warm welcome for others.”

Robinson’s dedicated interest in the discipline process compelled him to run. “Ever since I was a prep, I just wanted to be involved in this process.

I wanted to be there for actual people,” Robinson said.

Even before the nominees were announced, Kang expressed trust in the many candidates. “I have full confidence that the new members will do a great job,” Kang said.

Okeremi agreed and expressed her determination to include the best possible students in the committee. “I really care a lot about [the DC], and I want people who I know will help this system and are in it for the right reasons,” she said.

The eight nominees will advance to the final selection process, in which students and faculty on the DC will choose the five students who will join them for the next two years. Once elected, the students will begin to fully participate in cases by the fall of their upper year.

Evening Prayer Moved to Friday After Community Input

By ANNE BRANDES, DANIEL CHEN
and FELIX YEUNG

Staff Writers

Interim Principal William Rawson, with input from the Student Council Executive Board, has rescheduled Evening Prayer (EP) to Friday evenings after student backlash and a low turnout at the first Sunday EP on Jan. 13. Going forward, EP will be held at Friday, 9:30 p.m., on most weeks and 8 p.m. on weeks with Saturday classes.

The administration initially moved EP from Tuesday to Sunday due to concerns that the original time interfered with study hours and check-in. Students were upset by this change, however, as several clubs meet on Sunday evenings and, to many, Tuesday EP offers a much-needed break in the middle of a busy week. “[EP] serves as a study break for people to gather their thoughts, re-

flect, maybe take a much needed break from a major assignment—whatever they’re working on on the previous part of the night—and be together as a community,” senior Dylan Yin said.

Reverend Heidi Heath, the EP officiant, is confident that the Friday time will better accommodate student activities. “I believe that the Friday evening time slot is a much better compromise than the Sunday evening time slot,” she said. “It maintains the integrity of what many students love about EP but conflicts with significantly less clubs and events than Sunday evenings.”

Heath said she is confident the community will be able to recreate the Tuesday EP atmosphere on Fridays. “The Tuesday time slot has a deep history in Exeter tradition,” she said. “I believe we can maintain our connection to EP history across generations of Exonians in its new time on Friday nights.”

Rawson expressed similar hopes. “I hope students will make a success of the Friday time and find that EP can continue in a positive and meaningful way on Fridays,” he said.

Student Council Co-Secretary and upper Audrey Vanderslice explained that the time was chosen to balance student and faculty concerns. “Principal Rawson, specifically, was very responsive...each time we reached out to him,” she said. “It was really helpful for us to see where [the administration was] coming from, and they were very attentive to what we had to say.”

However, Asian Voices (AV) and Afro-Latinx Exonian Society (ALES) members, whose meetings conflict with the new EP time, voiced concerns. “This decision must have been made either without checking what clubs were meeting at that time—which is not responsible—or being aware that the time change conflicted

with Asian Voices and thinking that was a worthy sacrifice to make,” AV member and lower JaQ Lai said. “I don’t think either of those situations are acceptable.”

Senior Tara Weil, who organized Evening Performance, a continuation of Tuesday Evening Prayer for seniors, voiced concerns that the Friday time may undermine EP’s popularity. “On Fridays, people are going out to dinner, hanging out with friends, getting V’s until 10,” she said. “And if EP is competing with that, I don’t think it necessarily would win.”

Yin agreed with Weil’s sentiment. “People are naturally looking [forward] to a Friday anyway; it removes the idea that EP is this time to stop in the middle of the week,” he said.

According to Rawson, no future discussions concerning the Friday time are currently planned. “For now, I hope we focus on making Friday EP a success,” he said.

Families Take Survey to Assess Wellbeing at Exeter

By ANNE BRANDES
and FELIX YEUNG

Staff Writers

For the first time last Saturday, the Academy, in conjunction with Pacific Consulting Group (PCG), administered a “family survey” that will allow students and parents to assess various aspects of Academy life.

Unlike specific surveys from past years, such as the Youth Health Risk Behavior Survey (YHRBS), the Family Survey has a broader focus and seeks to conduct a more holistic review. The Academy will administer the survey every two years to accumulate longitudinal data.

Interim Principal William Rawson described the survey as a way to gauge, understand and improve student and parent experiences. “Understanding how students are experiencing Exeter is important to our efforts to support students,” he said. “We hope the survey results will help us understand how we can best communicate with and engage parents, and how we can help them support their students.”

Dean of Enrollment William Leahy spoke to the broad nature of the survey, describing it as an overview of the Exeter experience for both students and parents. “The Academy is eager to collect data as it relates to the overall experience of all students at Exeter,” he said. “We are also looking forward to surveying all parents and guardians in order to better understand their experience with the Academy.”

A committee, co-chaired by Leahy and Dean of Students Melissa Mischke, created the survey questions with input from PCG. Responses were collected by the consulting group to preserve anonymity.

Mischke emphasized the breadth of the survey questions. “Because our whole organization took the survey, a whole bunch of different areas are addressed,” she said. “For students, it’s not simply your academic areas, and for the parents, it’s not simply your child’s academic areas.”

PCG will review the responses and report trends to the administration next term. “The results are being analyzed by [PCG, who has] deep experience with

this type of research,” Leahy said. “They will analyze the data and provide us with a detailed analysis while also protecting the privacy of all respondents.”

The administration hopes to apply takeaways from the survey to current initiatives and strategic planning. “We will use the results of this survey, along with other data points, as we reflect on programming, strategic directions and future initiatives designed to deliver the best educational and residential experience for current and future Exonians,” Leahy said.

Mischke agreed, adding, “We’re hoping to see what people are thinking, what areas we’re doing well in, all right in and need work in,” she said. “It’s a way to pause, reflect and ask, ‘Do these results match what we’re already working on?’”

Many Exonians view the survey as a step in the right direction. “I hope the administration is listening. I feel that they could learn a lot from what we have to say,” lower William Vietor said. “The range of questions was thoughtful—it’s important to consider all aspects of Academy life and take

student opinions into consideration.”

Still, others questioned the consulting group’s role in the survey-taking process. “I wish the administration had personally reviewed each student’s response,” upper Smayl Makyshov said. “The fact that they are outsourcing removes our voice[s].”

Mischke elaborated on the administration’s evolving mission to simultaneously monitor students and grant them sufficient independence. She detailed how this balance has shifted in recent years with parents requesting to be more involved in aspects of student life. “Back in the day, parents dropped their kids off, went back home and there was very little communication,” she recalled.

Mischke hopes the survey will aid the administration in accommodating all community members and their various needs from the school. “We live in a different world today where parents are incredibly invested in every moment of a student’s life,” Mischke said. “Through this survey, we are seeking how to best compromise parents’ and students’ interests.”

Faculty Vote on Two Potential 2019-2020 Pilot Schedules

By JACK ARCHER,
ERIN CHOI
and MAEGAN PAUL

Staff Writers

Faculty voted on Jan. 21 to pilot the Super Long Block schedule proposal for the 2019-2020 school year instead of the Equal Impact schedule.

According to Co-chair of the Schedule Committee Scott Saltman, the goal of the schedule change is to prioritize student health by starting classes later and reducing overall time Exonians spend both in classes and on homework. “The overall goal is to improve the pace of life and student well-being here,” Saltman said. “We consider sleep to be a major component of that.”

The newly proposed schedule significantly shortens the academic day and also reduces weekly class periods. With an exception of beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesdays, classes would start at 8:45 a.m. and the day would end at 5:20 p.m. To achieve this schedule, however, the reserve block would be paired with a regular format, creating a 95-minute “super long” block.

In addition, the Super Long Block

schedule reduces weekly class time by nearly 40 minutes. Currently, classes that do not use the reserve meet 195 minutes per week, and classes using the reserve meet 245 minutes per week. In contrast, Super Long Block would shorten class times to 157.5 and 207.5 minutes, respectively.

Co-chair of the Schedule Committee Laura Marshall explained that class time was something the committee decided to sacrifice. “We can’t create time. We can only reallocate time,” Marshall said. “In order to create more time in the morning, it has to come from something. And so, based on the priority rankings in the faculty surveys, we decided to have that come from class time.”

After initially considering to pilot the new schedule in the spring, the Schedule Committee decided that piloting the schedule through next year would be more effective because teachers would then have more time to adjust their current curriculum to accommodate for less class time. “[The faculty] have to decide what might they remove from the curriculum, or how they might rework classes,” Saltman said. “Some things might have to go a little bit faster, and some things might have to be dropped.”

It is not certain that the pilot will

run, however. Though they have voted for Super Long Block instead of Equal Impact, faculty will vote next week on whether to implement Super Long Block versus the current schedule for the 2019-2020 school year.

Some expressed discontent at the reduced class times and felt that the school had compromised academic rigor. Biology Instructor Townley Chisholm described the reduction in class and homework time as a “fatal flaw” of both proposed schedules. “PEA students will not be able to achieve their academic goals such as getting into selective colleges or learning at a deep level,” he said.

Chisholm also said that it would not be possible for courses such as Advanced Biology or Accelerated Chemistry to cover the same amount of material or adequately prepare students for standardized tests.

Some students, however, appreciated that the school was prioritizing student well-being. Lower Lydia Thibault felt that Exonians should have more leisure time. “We need fewer [assignments and academic commitments] and more free time instead of more classwork and less time to ourselves.”

Upper Thomas Wang also noted that students should have more time to devote

to their extracurricular passions. “I ultimately think Exonians are more productive outside of class than in class because the vast majority of us have something we’re really interested in,” Wang said. “Free time is especially helpful in the afternoon. The earlier we get out, the better it is.”

Senior Jenny Yang, however, thought that the school day should not end earlier. “One part of Exeter is teaching you how to be independent and use your time well throughout the day,” Yang said. “Having more free time throughout the day rather than a large chunk at the end of the day will teach you to use your time better.”

Moreover, lower Sofina Tillman doubted the practicality of a 95-minute class block. “The Super Long Block is useless because your teacher can’t give you homework for two days in one night, so you still will essentially lose one class per week,” Tillman said. Faculty members also shared this concern. “I’m not sure how I would use it,” Math Instructor Joseph Wolfson said.

Lower Oia Eng added that students may not be able to focus for such a long period of time. “I don’t know how effective a 95-minute class will be and if students will be fully engaged for that entire time,” Eng said.

Discussions on Race: Important or Impotent?

Emmanuel Tran '21

Columnist

Over my one and a half years at Exeter, I have taken part in many school-organized discussions about race. These events are wide-ranging and strange. Sometimes, they are boring repetitions of dogma designed to make us feel good about ourselves. Other times, they are extremely inflammatory, yet somehow devoid of real content. Only occasionally have these discussions educated me and advanced my understanding of complex political issues.

Unfortunately, voices such as mine are often left out of the debate surrounding these workshops. While I am sure that plenty of people have also had a diversity of reactions to whatever school-organized events they've taken part in, school-wide discussions about social justice are a key element of the Exeter experience. Conversely, there are people who deem these discussions as useless and think they should be scrapped altogether.

Neither of these positions is inherently invalid. However, ignoring more nuanced perspectives has led to an unhealthy and negative dichotomy which results in unnecessary polarization. In my experience, some people are too blinded by their support for the educational principles which underpin events such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day to recognize when they are poorly executed. Conversely, I have also met people who turn specific bad experiences with one speaker, or disagreements with how an event is planned, into proof that even trying to have good discussions about controversial issues is pointless. When a good speaker or presenter comes to campus, they dismiss him or her without even considering their arguments or giving them the benefit of the doubt.

Given the stridency of these two viewpoints, I often find it hard to express criticisms of certain events because I fear that it could be misconstrued as an attack on the campus organizations which organized that event or worse, as a failure to recognize the necessity of campus discourse. But I know that there are others at Exeter who have had experiences similar to me. Those of us who have had a mix of positive and negative reactions to these type of events need to be heard and represented because of the unique perspective we can bring to the table.

Friday's Martin Luther King Day mandatory workshop and the talk given

by Viet Thanh Nguyen demonstrated how some school-wide discussions of social justice issues can be extremely valuable. On Thursday, I read up on

Given the stridency of these two viewpoints, I often find it hard to express criticisms of certain events because I fear that it could be misconstrued as an attack on the campus organizations which organized that event or worse, as a failure to recognize the necessity of campus discourse.

what the MLK mandatory workshop presenters and Nguyen planned to speak about, researching both topics so that I would have some background knowledge.

When I found out about the focus of the MLK workshop I was honestly confused. What did the history of the ancient and modern Latin America have to do with Martin Luther King Jr.? Aztec myth was certainly interesting, but it seemed more like something a religion 999 course would discuss than an all school assembly. Sure, I could see the connection to modern political and racial debates, particularly the current immigration controversy. But given last year's MLK day and its focus on hotly contested issues, I expected something more "newsworthy" or well-known to be featured, such as the detainment of immigrant children or the rise in hate crimes. I thought that the school just wanted to avoid controversy by picking a topic that couldn't leave anyone offended.

On the other hand, the author Viet Thanh Nguyen's presentation excited me. Given my father's background as a Vietnamese refugee I felt proud and happy that his experience was being honoured and discussed. And I thought that Nguyen's writing on "hot-button" cultural issues would spark discussion and result in a campus which would be more aware of the themes he addressed in his work.

Still, as I walked into the assembly hall for the mandatory MLK workshop on Friday, I was not sure what to expect. It started slow and at first, the academic speaking style of the presenters making me expect a dreary, boring lecture. However, as the talk went on, I became engrossed in their speech. On an intellectual level I found the history of the Aztec empire and the subsequent Span-

ish colonization of the new world fascinating. I enjoyed the videos of real high schoolers talking about their connection with their ethnic studies program because it helped me understand the debate on a more human level and empathize with them. Finally, I liked how the presenters extrapolated on this one issue to make wider points. I left that lecture in a thoughtful, positive mood.

While the mandatory workshop pleasantly surprised me, Viet Thanh Nguyen's speech had the exact opposite effect. Because of both my personal connection to the topic he addressed

The speech was a shallow "feel-good exercise" full of contradiction and hypocrisy.

(Vietnamese refugees) and the positive reviews he had received from the media, I came prepared for what I thought would be an emotional, informative and eye-opening experience. But when he began to speak, I quickly realized that my hopes were unfounded.

The speech was a shallow "feel-good exercise" full of contradiction and hypocrisy. Nguyen criticized American war movies for not doing enough research on the complexities of Vietnam. Yet, his accounting of the history of the war belies that same type of simplification. He continually referred to the war as "America" vs. "Vietnam," ignoring the existence of the nation of South Vietnam

Nguyen filled his speech with cliché Asian gags about B+'s and weird smelling food. Finally, his attempts at portraying the suffering and culture of refugees were repetitive and not particularly vivid.

and the millions of Vietnamese people who did favour American military intervention.

And that is only one example of his hypocrisy. Nguyen filled his speech with cliché Asian gags about B+'s and weird smelling food. Finally, his attempts at portraying the suffering and culture of refugees were repetitive and not particularly vivid. In a way, this is to be expected, given that he was re-

markably privileged in comparison to other Vietnamese refugees. When he talked about the offense and anger he felt watching *Apocalypse Now*, I could only think about the stories my father and his siblings tell about the time they were almost abandoned in Guam, or the time they witnessed firsthand Ku Klux Klan members handing out leaflets at the grocery store. Yet, I heard fellow students going on and on about how amazing this writer was, nodding along to every point no matter how little sense it made and accepting his version of history without question.

These two interactions were present in my mind when I began to write this reflection. However, as I have thought about them more, I finally came to make sense of a vague emotion which I had felt since prep year and understood why some social justice events left me feeling disappointed while others helped me understand ideas I had not even thought of before. In short, I realized the essential difference between the MLK mandatory workshop and Nguyen's speech. The workshop was an educational exercise designed to teach us something about the world which I didn't know much about before. While the presenters certainly had their own ideological viewpoint which they expressed quite articulately, their talk was something that could have value for all, even someone who disagreed with them. Fundamentally, they realized we were capable of having our own unique views and didn't craft their presentation to make us agree with them. They aimed to help us understand an issue. If we didn't agree with them that was fine because that choice did not come from our own ignorance.

Nguyen, on the other hand, seemed more interested in himself and his monologues than the people whose lives he chronicled. He spent more time talking about his own life than giving voice to the community which he claimed needed to be heard. He did not talk much about refugees who he knew. And he glossed over the various criticism levelled at him in a few sentences.

The vast difference between these talks has convinced me that in order to have truly meaningful conversations about social justice, we should seek out speakers and presenters who bring some sort of unique knowledge or perspective to the table. Perhaps that means that flashy, well-known media personalities are not our best bet. Overall, I think that focusing on learning about specific issues and discreet topics will pay off in the long run.

Reflections on MLK Day

Jasmine Liao '20

Guest Contributor

I sat in the front row of Love Gym listening as Andrea Taylor spoke. But, as I periodically turned around to look, I couldn't help but notice that one third of the student body was falling asleep. Behind me, a lower had completely dozed off. The drone of Taylor's tame words echoed throughout the gym. The scene was a stark contrast to last year's incendiary keynote speaker. After what seemed like an hour, she finished speaking. The students sitting in the front portion of the gym jumped up to their feet, while the rest of the student body slowly got up to join them. Taylor received a standing ovation that, in my opinion, was given more likely for her achievements than the speech itself.

As the students filed out into the corridor outside the gym, almost nobody talked about her speech. To be frank, the material of her speech was rather unmemorable: I wasn't able to recount anything she said about Gen

Z activism. It's also the case that most of the student body felt divided on the quality of her speech; either you understood and liked it, or you found it boring. I believe that many walked into the gym wanting to engage with Taylor's speech, especially after the incredible Unsilenced performances from the previous night. But the simple fact is, I, along with many others, did not learn a lot from her speech. I do not know how to be a Gen Z activist—was I hoping she would tell me how to be one? Considering the title of her speech, yes. I did my best to listen and engage, but to me, her words didn't come through. In the dining halls afterwards, barely anything about her, MLK, or Gen Z activism was heard—because there was nothing to talk about.

This is not to criticize the merits and hard work put in by the MLK committee, Andrea Taylor or any of the workshop leaders. Great things have been said about Asian-American activism, Hottentodden, Exonian Encounter and many more. I am sure, however, that many in the student body share the same view: MLK day

was boring, or, at least, the required portions were. Precious Knowledge, the mandatory workshop, was lacking a takeaway. I didn't understand what to take from the workshop other than the fact that political cartoons can display multiple viewpoints, something I already understood. I felt that the lengthy discussion about Paulo Freire's theory of conscientization was mediocre at best, with many students leaving with "what was that all about?" as we walked out of assembly hall, going about our days as if nothing ever happened.

In contrast to MLK day last year, this year was a complete 180° turnaround. The mandatory workshop last year, Stir Friday (an Asian-American comedy group), was dynamic, fun, engaging and had a lot of lessons that stuck with us. It was well suited for a high school audience, in comparison to Precious Knowledge, which seemed like a college lecture. In addition, the keynote speaker last year, Lourdes Ashley Hunter, was much more effective in terms of creating discussion among the student body due to the surrounding controversy. This is not

to justify Lourdes Ashley Hunter's actions in any way or to say that her methods are the only way to spark controversy. The name-and-shaming of a faculty member and the lashing out toward a white student were definitely unacceptable behaviours from a keynote speaker. The key difference between the two speakers, however, is that one gave us something to discuss, and the other didn't. Last year, all the classes I had the next day were discussions on what happened. Everyone had something to say, and it was useful because the student body was leaning into the discomfort of the issue. Open discourse between people allows for the flow of ideas and, in turn, allows new ideas to form and ideologies to change.

At the end of the day, Taylor's message may have been heartfelt and her merits may have been incredible and Precious Knowledge may have had "cool" information and lessons, but it did little for the student body. As I sat in my common room after check-in, I couldn't help but feel disappointed, not by the discussions surrounding the day, but by the lack of them.

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College Admissions Today: "The Hunger Games"



Jacob Feigenberg '21

Columnist

It's that time of year again! Many of the lower class butt heads to add a valuable item to their college resume. Flyers blanket the hallways, each carrying variations of the same slogan: "You should vote for me because I believe in fairness, respect, and empathy."

It seems as if the high school student's experience, indeed the whole educational system in America, has been reduced to checking off boxes on a list.

Indeed, the ideal member of the committee reflects the aforementioned qualities. Who doesn't? It's not like any one person in this school would punish their fellow peer out of spite—not with such high stakes. As a result, we had an extraordinary 31 candidates in the running. So, how does one eventually arrive at the final four positions for the DC board when most of the thirty candidates carry more or less the same ideals? Of course, like clubs, those who are more exceptional than others are generally rewarded with these positions of power. Despite this, if most of the 31 members meet the requirements for four positions, why not choose four at random?

Yes, the DC committee is more than just influencing the futures of their fellow Exonians at their mercy, but from what I hear around campus, people are disregarding the value of these positions: "My résumé's looking a little empty so I should probably run," or "I have to get this spot if I want to get into X university." It seems as if the high school student's experience, indeed the whole educational system in America, has been reduced to checking off boxes on a list.

The DC race is just one of these many boxes, and, indeed, one of the "milder" ones. There are many others. Let's start with standardized testing.

The self-declared "not-for-profit" organization College Board pried 750 million dollars from American families in 2014 alone, according to their 990 tax exemption form. Although I could not find more recent information, one can imagine the number has grown since. College Board CEO David Coleman takes home a salary of over 1 million dollars each year thanks to the hundreds of SAT and AP books, prep courses and registration fees that families pay for. Academic grades and teachers' recommendation letters are often inflated and biased, giving rise to the need for an objective standard of evaluation. This is the perfect business opportunity for firms like College Board to pounce on. Because the SAT is, according to the people selling the test, the most "accurate" metric of intelligence, families are

Because the SAT is, according to the people selling the test, the most "accurate" metric of intelligence, families are more than happy to pay ridiculous amounts to see their children go to an elite college.

more than happy to pay ridiculous amounts to see their children go to an elite college.

Thanks to the structure of college applications, extracurriculars are now necessities for admission into competitive schools. And not just any extracurriculars—"official" clubs like Model UN, Mock Trial, Debate, Student Council, DC and *The Exonian* are praised by admissions teams for their competitive, hierarchical nature. Or at least, that's what it seems. On the other hand, support groups and small interest clubs don't seem to have half as much clout, for lack of a better word. This limits those seeking success to a short list of "ideal" clubs and discourages many from pursuing their true passions. Don't get me wrong—many people on this campus are courageous enough to break out of this restrictive college box. It is no use denying, however, that there

is a stigma driving many American students to pour their efforts into a

College admissions has become a multimillion-dollar industry because college degrees are virtually mandatory to acquire a high-paying job.

handful of clubs.

The college checklist also contains hours of pointless, lifeless volunteer work. Though ESSO has undoubtedly provided opportunities for students to make an impact on the community, the admissions process has diminished good work to mandatory work. Because of this, I see more and more of my peers partaking in ESSO clubs in order to reach a higher position in its bureaucracy; "I have no interest in some of the volunteer work that I do, but I push through anyways with the sole objective of crossing an item off of my college list" is the common narrative.

College admissions has become a multimillion-dollar industry because college degrees are virtually mandatory to acquire a high-paying job. But now, degrees are more accessible than ever; as a result, those looking to be wealthy must differentiate themselves from others. We are spending thousands of dollars and hours in the hope of obtaining the ticket to "success" in life: a degree from an elite institution.

Because spots at top colleges are limited, there are many people who are equally, if not more qualified for a position at these colleges. This is an extension of the discipline committee elections, the mock trial board turnovers, and all other competitions that lead up to it. I remember quivering when one teacher told me that after watching "The Hunger Games" for the first time, she was reminded of the college admissions process. There are no guarantees, which is why we never cease trying to improve our chances. Though we know that all of our hard work, time and money may be for naught, we have no choice but to keep feeding this cruel, money-making system.

The Critical Flaws of the Proposed Schedules

Dennis Kostakoglu Aydin '21
Jonathan Meng '21

Columnist

There are two new schedule propositions being passed around in Student Council. The first one, aptly titled "Super Long Block," revolves around the creation of 95 minute blocks by stacking two similar periods on top of each other—for example D and its reserve, W.

This schedule usually begins the day at 8:45 a.m., and the final block ends at 5:20 p.m. Lunch and break periods would remain as they are now, but regular class periods would be 45 minutes long instead of 50 minutes.

As Exonians, we believe that these proposals will not benefit the Exeter community in any way.

Firstly, there is an inconsistency with each day's start time. The school day starts at 8:45 a.m. on every day except for Wednesday, when it starts at 8:30 a.m. This change would mean that students could easily overlook the earlier start time and as a result lose one-third of the total class period due to oversleeping. For the students who sleep through these classes, dickies will pile up, and they will be missing valuable time in the classroom. The added sleeping time would result in a greater number of students staying up later because they believe they can wake up later. For those who sleep through classes anyway, this would also add to their problems as the later they stay up, the more tired they are and the later they wake up.

In the status quo, 50 minute classes can already shorten important discussions that are forgotten by the next class. On the other end of this spectrum, some classes would struggle to fill 95 minutes with engaging material. Having this extended block only for classes that use reserve instead of every class will also cut down on some very helpful all-class study sessions and teachers that have special events during their long blocks may lose that time as well. Some students have also expressed worries that spending 95 minutes in one class could be mentally exhausting or boring.

The other schedule proposal, titled "Equal Impact", is more complicated, but essentially boils down to allowing Exonians to sleep in by shortening lunch and breaks by about twenty minutes. The end of the school day remains at 6 p.m. Equal Initiative means that any free time that Exonians have to themselves—crucial time for doing homework and catching up on well-deserved naps—is shortened. Now, while we would still have our free block, our break time would be condensed, and so we would not be able to finish as much homework as we would normally be able to. Clubs that meet during these times would be forced to deal with shortened meetings.

Finally, the worst part of Equal Initiative is that the end time for the school day is still 6 p.m., which means that people will still be doing a majority of their homework at night (unless you don't eat anything during the day and spend all that time on homework). This is problematic because doing homework and studying at night after a long, tiring day, means that you will be less apt to understand lessons.

In conclusion, the ideas that have been presented so far are flawed, preventing students from doing their homework in a timely manner or disadvantaging students who have sleep troubles. In these times, while progress is necessary, it might be better to abide by the age-old maxim, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

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A New Religious Test

Stephen McNulty '21

Columnist

The United States constitutional law has always been opposed to “religious tests” for public office. Of course, this has not always deterred societal prejudices from interfering in confirmation hearings or otherwise rearing their heads into the government. A prominent example comes to mind in the presidential candidacy of Al Smith in 1928. A devout Catholic, Smith was accused of having “dual loyalties” between Rome and the United States. His nomination brought out the worst anti-Catholic tendencies in Americans, many of whom espoused the oft-repeated claim that the Vatican was anathema to American liberty.

We could talk about the fact that the United States to this day has never had a non-Christian president, how anti-Semitism still runs rampant or how significant portions of our country would not feel comfortable voting for an atheist. The list goes on.

Of course, we’d be lying in pretending that Catholic Americans are the worst victims of this sort of treatment. We could talk about the fact that the United States to this day has never had a non-Christian president,

how anti-Semitism still runs rampant or how significant portions of our country would not feel comfortable voting for an atheist. The list goes on.

And in comes that old dual loyalty canard used against Catholics (and, to an even greater extent, Jews) for the longest time—that one cannot be a faithful Catholic and a loyal American.

Yet unfortunately, a new sort of anti-Catholic religious test has arisen in disguise. Consider, for instance, the confirmation hearing of Judge Amy Coney Barrett, a Catholic conservative, to the 7th Circuit Court back in 2017. Judge Barrett, in line with Church teaching, is personally opposed to abortion. When pressed on whether her religious views influenced her judicial philosophy, Barrett said that “it’s never appropriate for a judge to impose that judge’s personal convictions, whether they derive from faith or anywhere else, on the law.” That should have been the end of the story, but of course, it wasn’t. In her line of questioning, Senator Dianne Feinstein told the nominee that “the dogma lives loudly within you, and that is of concern.” And in comes that old dual loyalty canard used against Catholics (and, to an even greater extent, Jews) for the longest time—that one cannot be a faithful Catholic and a loyal American.

And it would be one thing if this

were some sort of limited instance. But it isn’t. Fast forward to December—this time, another Catholic was up for nomination, and his name was Brian Buescher. Buescher, also a circuit court nominee, holds memberships in the Knights of Columbus, a two-million-strong service organization of faithful Catholics that has, throughout its long history, advanced the cause of legal equality for black and Jewish Americans, stood against the Ku Klux Klan’s attempt to hijack

In doing so, they made their position clear—that one cannot hold membership in a faith-based Catholic organization and properly serve as a judge.

public school curricula and led countless charity operations.

Shockingly, the Knights of Columbus keeps their views in line with the Vatican’s on such issues as abortion. Senators Mazie Hirono and Kamala Harris, the latter of whom is a presidential candidate in the 2020 election, both spoke of the “extreme” views of the Knights, despite those views being no different from the official teachings of the Church. Both requested that Buescher withdraw his membership in the Knights “to avoid the appearance of bias.” In doing so, they made their position clear—that one cannot hold membership in a faith-based Catholic organization and properly serve

as a judge. In short, they too believe that Catholics have dual loyalties, and that they lack the ability to separate their religious views from their jobs. That same test could be applied more broadly—the Catholic Church holds the same “extremist” views that the Knights hold. Could we not then say that one should withdraw their membership from the Catholic Church in order to be considered for a government position? There is no difference: both are insidious religious tests.

Worst of all, when criticized and rebuked by the Senate at-large, Hirono accused those who called her out to hold “the alt-right’s position.”

Worst of all, when criticized and rebuked by the Senate at-large, Hirono accused those who called her out to hold “the alt-right’s position.” Apparently, enabling Catholics to serve in government is comparable to enabling fascists? Does this make the Catholic Church a hate organization? The implications are certainly unsavory.

In the name of fairness, however, I want to end this with a disclaimer—in writing this article, I do not mean to assert that Catholics face the worst discrimination in this country. Thanks to the efforts of groups like the Knights, this is no longer the case by any stretch of the measure. But, we ought to oppose a religious test wherever it may arise, whenever it may arise because we never know who will be subject to it tomorrow.

Current State of Mueller

Dennis Kostakoglu Aydin '21

Columnist

Amidst all the grassroots campaigns to undermine Trump’s presidency, the American people have largely avoided talking about the Mueller investigation into Russian efforts to infiltrate the 2016 Presidential elections. Robert Mueller runs a tight ship, which in many ways is the opposite of the current White House—on task, on target and leak-free. As a matter of fact, there is very little known in terms of where the Mueller investigation might be heading or if it has been making headway at all. If you look closely at what has

Robert Mueller runs a tight ship, which in many ways is the opposite of the current White House—on task, on target and leak-free.

been made public, however, you can try to guess.

One important facet of the investigation is the possible fate of Michael Flynn, the disgraced National Security Advisor for all of 24 days. Flynn agreed to cooperate with the special counsel on Dec. 1, 2017. Since then, his sentencing has been consistently pushed back—the most recent deferral began on the 18th of December. In fact, the Mueller investigation recommended that he be given a lesser sentence because he cooperated extensively with the special counsel. The public also knows little about Michael Cohen, who, according to Mueller,

made “significant efforts” to help the investigation. However, Cohen was sentenced to 3 years in prison.

There are a couple of reasons why Flynn has not been sentenced yet and Cohen has. One, Cohen apparently didn’t tell everything to the prosecutors in his case. “Significant efforts”

The public has little idea in terms of what direction the investigation is heading in. However, we know that Mueller started with Trump’s associates, and, more recently, his business practices.

does not necessarily indicate that he was of much help to the special counsel either. Second, Flynn isn’t of interest to Mueller because he was involved with Trump. Flynn had dealings with Sergey Kislyak, the Russian ambassador to the United States. Cohen went to jail because he was Trump’s fixer—someone who did a lot of Trump’s dirty deeds.

The special counsel is supposed to inquire into whether or not Trump worked with Russia—and Russian officials—to influence the outcome of the 2016 election. It has nothing to do with whether or not Trump paid a

It has nothing to do with whether or not Trump paid a couple of pornstars hush money.

couple of pornstars hush money. Simply put, what Cohen did was wrong.

Since he has no connection with Russia or the special counsel’s agenda, he is ultimately of no use to Mueller. These reasons are actually quite important when we look at what Mueller has uncovered so far.

The public has little idea in terms of what direction the investigation is heading in. However, we know that Mueller started with Trump’s associates, and, more recently, his business practices. Flynn was indicted on charges of lying to the FBI about his relationship with Russian officials. There have been other people who have pled guilty, and even a few that have been sentenced. Besides Cohen, George Papadopoulos, Trump’s former campaign advisor, served a 14 day sentence and Alex van Der Zwaan, a Dutch lawyer, served a 30 day sentence last May. Both of these individuals were connected in some way to Russia. Papadopoulos served for lying about making contact with Russian officials in order to get dirt on Hillary Clinton and trying to set up a meeting with Putin and Trump. However, both deals fell through. Van Der Zwaan was jailed because he lied about a report his law firm, Skadden Alps, put out in 2012 regarding the former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

Recently, Chief Justice John Roberts stopped a contempt order of a mystery company on order of the Mueller investigation. The corporation is apparently attempting to stop a subpoena for certain information by the Washington D.C. District Court, by saying that they do not have to give up the information because of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. In addition, the company is saying that to give up this information violates the laws of the country in which the company is located. Basically,

this mystery company from another country has dealings with the Mueller investigation, which is ultimately supposed to investigate Russian interference and has now been prevented from being forced to release information regarding criminal activity the company might have engaged in.

Up until now, Mueller has been picking off individuals and these individuals have been telling him all he needs to know about the companies they interacted with. We’ll prob-

Yet, based off of the little we do know, we can attempt to guess that he’ll continue his work by investigating the companies that people like Papadopoulos and Flynn are connected to, so we’ll be seeing a lot more companies like the mystery Company A.

ably be hearing a lot more of this type of interference as Mueller begins to widen his scope and look at the bigger picture. We cannot know for sure where he is going to go. He’s too careful to let anyone know that. Yet, based off of the little we do know, we can attempt to guess that he’ll continue his work by investigating the companies that people like Papadopoulos and Flynn are connected to, so we’ll be seeing a lot more companies like the mystery Company A. This investigation is very methodical, and there’s still going to be time before Mueller finally decides to move. But until then, we can at least try to follow his careful footsteps, even if they are barely visible.



Join the Exonian!



Writers' meetings every Sunday from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Forum!



ExonianHumor



Things That Get Under My Skin

By FI MADRID
Dying Upper

1. The weird stripes that were all over the paths before the snow. Even though they're gone, the thought of them makes me uncomfy.
2. How the carpets in the doorways, the ones you're supposed to wipe your feet on, are now completely soaked and effectively large mounds of slush. I mean, they're supposed to prevent the humiliation of biting it, and they just make my boots... more wet.
3. How track athletes still wear shorts when it's 3 degrees to prove that they have ~superior genes~.
4. The improper use of semicolons in prep narratives; semicolons connect two independent clauses, by the way.
5. The fact that my first college counseling meeting is on my birthday.
6. How it's so cold that my scalp hurts.
7. How I seem to be failing at everything even though I have already gotten U.S. History out of the way.
8. How people aren't taking my research for my Silicon Valley Ethics Class seriously because it's about pornography censorship.
9. How MLK Day felt powerful, and now it feels like we're pretty much back in the same place.

TFW your parents are now "Joseph" and "Linda"

By FIONA MADRID
Assembly Enthusiast



Submit to the Humor Page:
exonianhumor@gmail.com.

Campus Cults, Part 3: Mock Trial

By NICK SCHWARZ
Now Hiding From Janalie Cobb

Pretend Hearing. Make-believe Lawsuit. Made-up Case. Use all the euphemisms you want, there is no escaping the terror of Mock Trial. This cult is perhaps the most unapologetic, and it makes no effort to disguise its cult-ness. One can find its members hunched over their computers, unflinchingly typing away because they know that any sort of break, even a one-second break, will endanger their mission. That mission, of course, is dressing up in formal clothes that are much too big, riding a bus to Nashua at the crack of dawn and deflating the egos of unsuspecting students from NH public schools—none of which take Mock trial nearly as seriously—by means of scored oratories about fake people who may or may not have committed fake infractions. But don't tell any of this to your average Mock Trial-er; to them, it is all too real. Their conviction that this activity will give them a leg up come college application time stems from their blurred conception of reality. There are two kinds of Mock Trial-ers:

1. The lawyers, intellectual types who wear long black coats and ties on campus, without exception. If they weren't in your history class, you'd swear they were prospective students on a tour.
2. The witnesses, who probably wouldn't do Mock Trial if they hadn't been kidnapped and hypnotized by the lawyers, because they, unlike their scowling counterparts, do not find it difficult to show emotion, an essential quality in a witness. One last point: Do NOT, under any circumstances, tell a Mock Trial-er that Debate or MUN is the better "diplomatic" club, even those who are involved in all three. Remember, these people know how to cover up a murder.

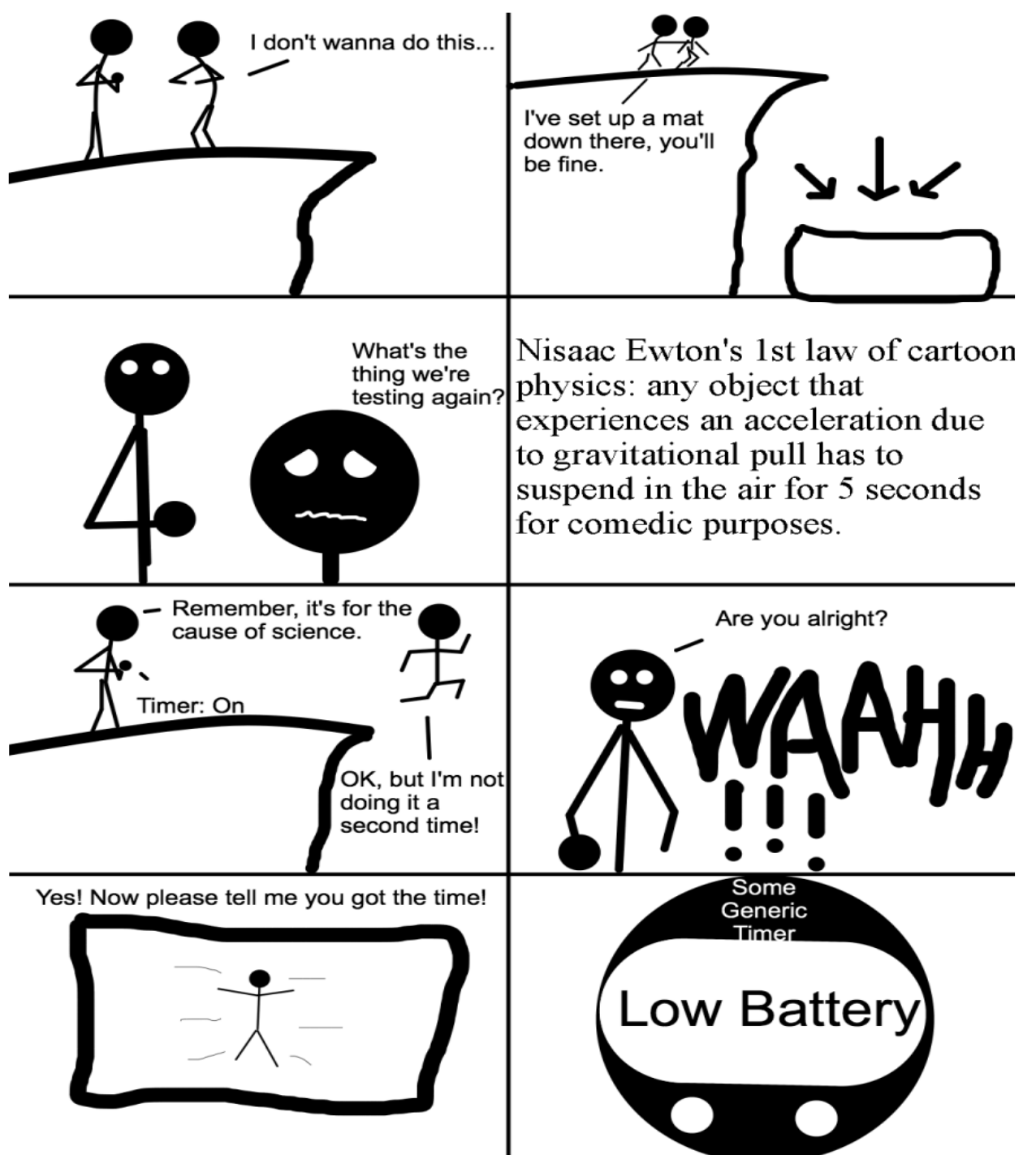
Biggest Blessings You Can Get at Exeter

By RYAN XIE and FIONA MADRID and ANGELE YANG
LiSTiCle ChILd GeNIus and Humor Editor and NEWS EDITOR

1. Getting a take-home test
2. Dicking a class without getting a Dickey
3. Snow days (here's to hoping)
4. Actually getting a package after mindlessly checking your P.O. for weeks on end
5. F free with GH sports
6. Triple sleep ins (btw there is no such thing as a triple sleep in on Tuesdays or Fridays. Go to assembly, kids)
7. Doing one math problem for homework and getting to put it up on the board
8. Chicken Parmesan in Dhall
9. Finishing your homework before the day it's due
10. People laughing at the stupid things you say, so you don't have to explain your cultural incompetence
11. Slipping on ice when no one is around
12. Grill workers putting out the freshly baked cookies right as you get in line
13. When your News Editor helps you fill up the space on the Humor Page

Last Comic Strip of the Term

By EUGENE HU
Mind Blown



Quotes of the Week

"What's a point guard?"
-Suan Lee '20

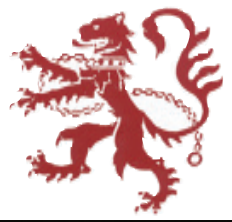
"When Vanilla Ice said, 'Stop, collaborate and listen,' he was talking about Harkness."
-Anonymous

"Sam, can you give me my AirPods back? You're not even meditating."
- Rachel Won '20

"The Humor Page's spacing is so sad."
-Fiona Madrid '20, your loving editor



ExeterLife



Students perform in UnSilenced.

Courtesy of Patrick J. Garrity

UNSILENCED SPEAKS OUT

By **EMILY KANG and DANIEL CHEN**
Staff Writers

Last Thursday, students gathered in the Assembly Hall for the annual UnSilenced event that kickstarted the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day celebrations. Performances ranged from music and poetry to film and spoken word—all connected to the theme of voicing ideas that often go unheard.

This year's event was directed by upper Alisha Simmons and lower Charlotte Lisa through a subdivision of the MLK Planning Committee. Simmons was inspired to take charge of the performance's logistics because of her powerful experience while performing in last year's UnSilenced. She believes that UnSilenced plays a key role in the yearly anticipated MLK Day celebration. "Martin Luther King Day is about learning, listening and growing. With UnSilenced, students first see their peers talk about their experiences and [then] present their work," she said.

Senior and MC Malokiba Syed views the event as an exciting precursor to MLK Day. "It hypes people up," she said. "Activism and art really goes hand in hand. It allows students to get excited and brush upon our themes without being rigid."

One of the first acts in this year's program featured new lower Nina Weeldreyer singing "Imagine" by John Lennon alongside prep KG Buckham-White.

Through her performance, Weeldreyer wished "to share a more peaceful side of the UnSilenced performances" with Lennon's timeless lyrics that yearn for a perfect world "where we all live as one without segregation, separation or violence."

Senior Sarah Hardcastle brought a different message to the table with their rendition of the song "Nina Cried Power" by Hozier. "[Nina Cried Power] was written with the input of protestors who marched in the Civil Rights movement," Hardcastle said. Through sharing powerful lyrics such as "it's not the waking, it's the rising," Hardcastle's stage stayed true to this year's MLK Day theme of Gen Z Activism and the emphasis on youth taking action. "It's not enough to just learn about an issue. You have to rise up and fight against it. You have to take action," they said.

Senior Eugene Hu tried to form a "bridge" with his spoken word performance. Using the hood of his coat to represent two separate identities, Hu recreated a conversation between polarized sides to highlight the importance of respectful dialogue in the fight for justice. He hoped that his performance was able to bring up the question of how far taking a stance can go before it becomes disrespectful. "I wanted to show that it is important to take a stance for things that you believe but if you go too extreme, it can easily become what you were condemning and fighting against," he said.

Hu drew inspiration from the problems he observed at Exeter in addition to his

own growth from his middle school years. "I thought about making an interaction of myself condemning what I did before and [if] my former self was to argue back," he said. "I wanted to show the polarization of ideas and inability to accept the viewpoints and opinions that differ and speak about the injustice occurring outside our campus."

Senior Adar Tulloch, meanwhile, brought a change to the pace of UnSilenced with a haunting rendition of Chopin's Funeral March on piano. Although Chopin may have seemed a bit out of place in UnSilenced to some, Tulloch connected the emotions of the music to his own personal experiences. "It's a very somber piece [that] Chopin wrote to describe the pain of an entire nation--of his country, Poland," he said. For Tulloch, the piece wove the story of his Jamaican roots and those of fellow Jamaicans scattered across the world. "The pain and grief related to them was the UnSilenced part for me," he said.

Lower Adia Allison performed the closing act—a soulful rendition of "A Change is Gonna Come" by Sam Cooke. Allison was inspired to sing the piece by her visit to Alabama with Exeter on the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) trip. "This song means a lot to me," she said. "Towards the end of the [EJI] trip, there was a Rosa Parks march in commemoration of her second arrest. In that march, there was a woman, and she was singing that song. It moved me a lot, and as we walked and she sang that

song with such power; I felt like I wanted to try to do something similar to that."

For Allison, the opportunity to perform at UnSilenced was incredibly moving. Allison described the opportunity to perform at UnSilenced as incredibly moving. "I was able to move people the way that woman in Alabama moved me," she said. "It made me feel like I had a purpose—that UnSilenced had [a] purpose, and that it helped people."

MLK Planning Committee co-chair and English Instructor Mercedes Carbonell praised the variety of performances—especially Tulloch's unique choice of playing the piano. "I have a lasting memory of Adar lifting the ridges of the piano, drawing forth the bench, leaning in to play and offering an unexpected performance; we do not often hear Chopin at UnSilenced."

Even audience members who were not part of the usual Exeter community found the performance impactful. Visiting student leader and freshman Sydney Cook from the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute lauded Allison's touching stage. "Adia absolutely killed it! Not only was her song choice impeccable, but her voice was amazing. While she was singing, I had goosebumps," she said.

Cook expressed her gratefulness for the chance to watch the performance during her time at Exeter. "UnSilenced was definitely my favorite part of the whole trip," she said. "Getting to see everyone display their talents was truly great, and I definitely will apply to Exeter if all of the students are that talented!"

Exclusive Interview

VIET THANH NGUYEN

By **DANIEL CHEN**
Staff Writer

From the importance of boba tea to his own experience at a prep school, Viet Thanh Nguyen shares insight and experiences in an exclusive interview with The Exonian.

Do you ever feel that the power imbalance from white people being in the majority in America will ever go away?

Demographic predictions are that the US would be a majority-minority country by around 2050. But that's assuming that our immigration laws remained unchanged. I think much of the anti-immigrant initiatives by the current administration are designed precisely to prevent this demographic shift from taking place and so I think in this environment, it's clear to the case that anti-immigrant feeling is being directed at brown people south of the border. But those of us who are not brown people shouldn't take any comfort in that. And if we were to take comfort in that, then clearly the next target is going to be brown people from other places. It's already happening, including brown Asians, but then also every other Asian group as well.

In the past, Italians used to be considered outsiders to other European settlers but then eventually became integrated into white America. Now descendants of Italian immigrants are generally seen as no different from other white people. Do you think there's a possibility that Asian-Americans will ever fully assimilate?

I think it's already happened for some Asian Americans into America, but not all of us. The most elite levels of Asian Americans have indeed assimilated into either affiliations with whiteness or could even be classified as white, or call themselves white. Now are we like Italians? That would entail our shift from our status as being a racialized minority to being an ethnic minority. Now, can that happen? I have doubts about that.

Our situation is always going to be precarious unless there's a radical change in

American society. By radical, I mean revolutionary change in terms of how race and class are organized. But given the contemporary [situation], I don't think Asian Americans will become ethnic like Italians or Irish universally.

Over time in the United States, there's has formed a Pan-African American community despite initial differences between people who came from different African countries. Do you think eventually there will be a Pan-Asian American identity, too?

I think there already is one, for sure. That is more so probably at the second generation. The first generation strongly identifies with a national origin or a national culture of some kind. But it's really at the second generation—people that were born here. You go a certain suburbs and cities with really high concentrations of Asian American populations and the younger generation, the teenagers, they're hanging out in boba shops. Sometimes it's very ethnic specific, Chinese or Taiwanese. Oftentimes it's very Pan Asian.

Coming to Exeter, does any nostalgia or a personal imprint from Bellarmine come back? Do you see any parallels?

It's been cool. It's brought back a little bit of nostalgia because I look at your curriculum and it reminds of Bellarmine. But Bellarmine was a day school and it was all boys. It was Jesuit and it's quite different than this place. I associate [Exeter] with New England prep schools of which I read of when I was growing up. And so the nostalgia that I feel upon encountering this place is nostalgia for fiction: the whole idea of boarding school, it's a very English, very New England thing. To me it was always part of this incredible world of mystery that was part of elite American sophistication, all white as well, at least way back in the day. So to come here, it's interesting to see the physical environment also to see the student body. It must have changed radically in the past 50 years since I read about it in "A Separate Peace."

ALES DANCE

By **SYDNEY KANG and MAEGAN PAUL**
Staff Writers

As layers of snow blanketed the campus paths, students slowly entered Grainger Auditorium layered in thick sweatpants and jackets. The beat of the bass thumped against the walls: Exonians were welcomed by the sounds of hip hop and a variety of popular music to enter. The annual dance hosted by the Afro-Latinx Exonian Society (ALES).

Unlike last year, no other schools in the region were able to attend the regional dance due to the winter storm, which left over six inches of snow across campus. Upper Tise Okeremi expressed her disappointment but believed that students enjoyed the dance nonetheless. "It was unfortunate that other schools couldn't come, but [the] people who showed up seemed to have a lot of fun," she said.

Exonians who attended the dance jammed out to popular songs like "Mo Bamba" and "7 Rings". Colored lights added to the bright atmosphere and music played from the DJ booth as Jasmine Solano turned up her tunes for the night. Solano has been featured at several of PEA's dances over the past years, including the popular Back in Black hosted by Dunbar Hall as well as the 2018 ALES Dance. As an international DJ, she has performed for MTV, Sony, Apple, The Museum of Modern Art in New York City and DKNY. She has also found success touring with renowned artists such as Wiz Khalifa and highly anticipated festivals such as the Coachella Music Festival in April of 2017.

As one of few popular female DJs, Solano was invited by ALES this year for her fifth dance at Exeter. Despite the slow turnout of students at the dance, prep Tasmiah Akter enjoyed the dance and especially commended Solano. "The dance was pretty good...and the DJ was amazing," she said.

Although many praised Solano's set,

others were not as excited. "She played good songs; it's just that sometimes the good songs weren't good dancing songs," upper Talia Rivera said. She expressed her displeasure with the fact that the English version of "Despacito" played at the dance despite the Latinx theme. Plus, the song was changed before a significant amount of the original Spanish parts could be heard.

According to Okeremi, some students thought this dance to be "more of an AES dance," rather than ALES, commenting on the lack of Latinx music played at the dance. "Even [for] the ones she played, you couldn't really dance to them," Okeremi said.

Many students attributed the low turnout to the unplowed snow which had accumulated on the sidewalks, as the Campus Facilities crew's hours had ended. "There weren't as many people there as other dances," Akter added. For this reason, she decided to only stay for a short amount of time. Although a divider in Grainger had left only half of the dance floor open, the room was relatively empty.

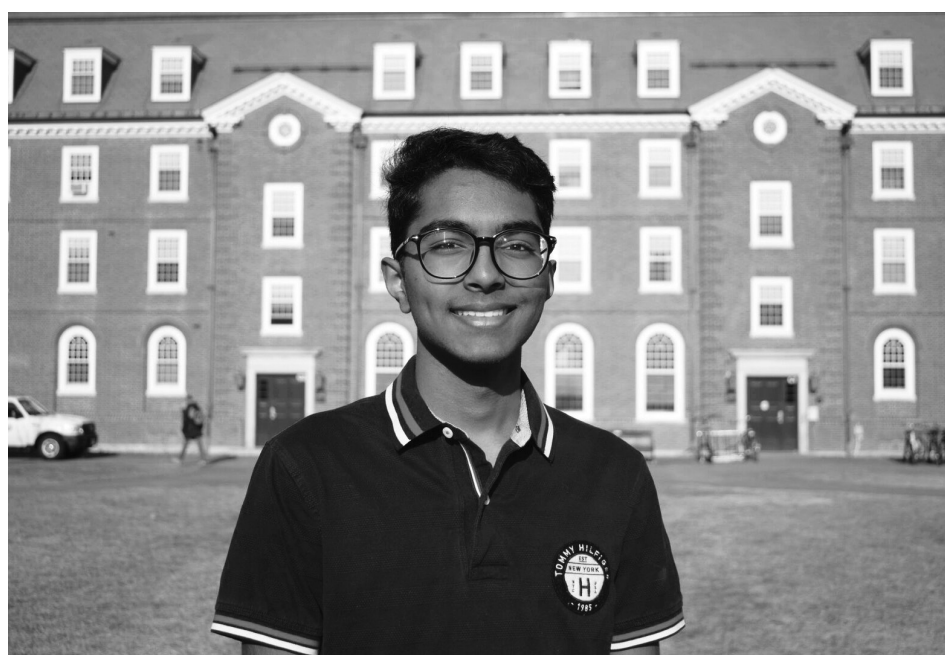
"It took a really long time for the place to fill up, and even then it didn't truly fill up," Okeremi said. "I feel like people were disappointed that no other schools came."

Despite the low student turnout, the dance was considered a success by many students because of the final song. After Solano thanked ALES for inviting her at the end of the dance, she closed her set by playing an original single by lower Osiris Russell-Delano. Russell-Delano danced on the stage surrounded by friends as students gathered around the booth. The song ended with cheers and laughter and the 2019 ALES dance came to a close. "It was really cool to see everyone in the crowd singing back the lyrics...that was really affirming," Russell-Delano said.

SeniorSpotlight

PAVAN GARIDIPURI

By MOKSHA AKIL
and JACK ARCHER
Staff Writers



Arun Wongprommoon/The Exonian

Driven by his passion for computer science and filmmaking, senior Pavan Garidipuri is regarded as one of the most creative people on campus. Over the past year and a half, he has formed relationships with many on campus—especially in his dorm, Cilley Hall. “I’ve connected with the underclassmen a lot,” Garidipuri said. “I feel like an old person talking to them but it’s also making me excited for retirement.”

Hailing from Katy, Texas, Garidipuri was drawn to the unique environment Exeter presented and the freedom to explore multiple areas of study. “My interests, in general, are very diverse, and Exeter was really the place where I could explore those interdisciplinary interests without it being out of the norm,” he said. “[At Exeter,] there’s a lot of encouragement to explore.”

Since coming to Exeter in his upper year, Garidipuri has pursued his interests by becoming the co-head of the Exeter Computing Club as well as shooting videos around campus for various events.

As a new upper, Garidipuri admitted to feeling extreme nervousness at the start of his first academic year. However, he commended the former seniors in Cilley that took him in and gave him valuable advice about Exeter.

Now a senior himself, Garidipuri hopes to provide the same support he received to the underclassmen. “I learned a lot from those seniors and I hope that I can pass it down to people,” he said. “I watched the seniors embark on spontaneous journeys around campus, and really having that bond.” To him, being an Exonian is more than just academics.

At Exeter, Garidipuri has not only found his passions but also discovered more aspects about himself. “[Garidipuri]

is open, funny, articulate, curious, kind, engaging and very bright,” said Russell Weatherspoon, Garidipuri’s advisor. “He has simply grown more firmly into being himself: a delightful person.”

Senior Sam Michaels, meanwhile, applauded Garidipuri’s kindness towards the students within his dorm community. “He is always there for his friends to help them out with anything,” Michaels said.

No matter how Garidipuri’s day is going, he is always willing to help others. “If [Garidipuri] can help in any way, he offers quickly,” Weatherspoon added. “He projects an upbeat, positive attitude regardless of how full his plate or challenging his day.”

Michaels shared similar sentiments, stating that Garidipuri frequently leaves his door open to welcome anyone in the dorm who wants to talk. Garidipuri has made a home for himself and others in Cilley Hall. “I’m really drawn to hanging out with people,” he said. “The sort of things I do in my dorm are really cool.” Well-known within Cilley Hall, Garidipuri hosts the unofficial “Cilley

Tea” in his room, where people are welcome to come drink tea and chat.

Garidipuri has produced a film documenting the adventures of the Cilley Hall residents through TV show-style narrative. Aside from individual endeavors, he has also created advertisements for club events and made videos for the school.

Garidipuri’s interests extend beyond the arts and into science as well—specifically computer science. “[He] can see ways that technology and computing connect to other fields rather than simply being focused on computing for its own sake,” said Computer Science Instructor Sean Campbell. “He was always gracious and good-humored in class. He had an easygoing attitude and a willingness to help others while both leading and supporting [them].”

As a co-head of the Exeter Computing Club, Garidipuri helps Exonians interested in computer science with algorithms and developing apps and websites. “It’s a really humbling experience because I get to learn from

a lot of the really smart people as well as sharing that knowledge to the newcomers just like where I started off,” he said.

Garidipuri also brings his skills to peer tutoring. Campbell complimented his ability to teach those with little to no background in computer science. “[Garidipuri] has a mastery of the material in computer science but also has a love of learning it,” Campbell said. “[He has] a knack for explaining difficult topics to others in a way that they can understand.”

With graduation quickly approaching, many good friends reflected on how Garidipuri has positively affected those around him. “[Garidipuri] inspires me so much creatively and as a human being,” senior Rajrishi Das said. “He’s an amazing friend. His positive energy and creativity are infectious.”

Having come to Exeter as a new upper, Garidipuri can relate to new students’ anxiety about a new school and having to find new friends. “I’ve connected with the underclassmen a lot,” he said. “I see myself in them...and I really hope they do well in their [lives].”

Looking forward, Garidipuri hopes to pursue both his interest in computer science and in filmmaking. While these two may seem very different, he is no longer concerned about having to choose one or the other. “Exeter helped me come to terms with that by making me feel that these aren’t two separate disciplines; rather, [that] I can combine them,” he said.

By combining both his artistic and technological interests, Garidipuri believes that he can make a difference in society. He credits Exeter for helping him realize that “whatever career it is, I can implement my filmmaking side and computer science side to make something, and find a way to make a difference in the world...I have to thank Exeter for that.”

FacultySpotlight

KADEINE M. PETERSON

By YUNSEO CHOI and
BRIAN SON
Staff Writers



Courtesy of Kadeine Peterson

For Biology Instructor Kadeine Peterson, education is not a one-way activity. “I wanted to learn with the students in multiple ways so that I can help them the most,” Peterson said. Though she was only appointed this year, Peterson has nevertheless become an essential part of the PEA biology department, making an impact on the community both inside and outside of the academic domain.

A native of Jamaica, Peterson and her family moved to Brooklyn, NY when she was just seven years old. Peterson described her upbringing as “very Jamaican” due to the predominantly Caribbean culture of her neighborhood.

Peterson’s parents were heavily involved in the medical field: her father worked as a pharmacist and her mother was a nurse. Their biological background nourished Peterson’s inquisitiveness. “What they were good about doing was really fostering that curiosity, so anytime I asked a particular question, they would answer,” Peterson said.

Peterson described her passion for biology as a merge between nature and nurture. Throughout high school, she continued to take biological science classes in preparation for medical school. After serving as an intern for a hospital during college, however, it became clear to her that a career as a doctor was not what she wanted. “I was majoring in pre-medicine and ended up hating every minute of it,” she said. “I had a little crisis because I had just done all these programs for 18 years saying that I was going to be a medical doctor.”

Fortunately, Peterson then landed on the path of genetics research. During her subsequent studies in this field at Cornell’s graduate school, Peterson performed various experiments on infertility in mice. It was here that she also discovered her passion for educating others. After having worked as a teaching assistant, she realized that she was more suited for a career with more human interaction than research allowed. “When you start talking to the mice, that’s when you realize that you need ‘people contact,’” she said.

Her decision to teach at a high school, though, was frowned upon by

her colleagues in research. “They told me, ‘You already did all this research,’” she said. Such commentary, however, was not enough to stop Peterson. She began teaching at a day school in Brooklyn. Afterwards, she moved to Connecticut to teach at The Hotchkiss School until joining the PEA community this past fall.

One of Peterson’s closest friends, coach Olutoyin Augustus, recalled the moment when Peterson first came to Exeter for her on-campus interview. “I was delighted that my first impressions [of her] were met with affirmation of her genuine, thoughtful spirit and passion for her field of study—not to mention her enviable fashion sense and winning smile,” Augustus said.

For Peterson, the Harkness method was what originally drew her to the Academy. Despite the unconventional role of students at the table as they become each other’s teachers, Peterson described the Harkness pedagogy as the ideal method for teaching biology. To her, the Harkness method was closely related to the research methods she utilized at Cornell. “That’s what I did at Cornell:

sat around the table and talked about science,” she said.

These efforts to make her classroom as communicative and interactive as possible are a distinguishing factor to the students in her classes. Prep Jack Ambrogio, who had Peterson in the fall, appreciated her approachable nature in the classroom. “Whenever there were questions in class, she was happy to address them. We really went in depth about anything anybody wanted to know.”

Ambrogio also commended Peterson’s ability to combine levity and learning in the classroom. “[Peterson] connects with anyone in the classroom, no matter how potentially challenging their situation is,” he said. “She brought a lot of humor to the classroom and I really feel like that lightened the atmosphere of biology [class].”

As one of the few females of color in the science department, many students appreciated seeing an academic that looked similar to themselves. “I had [Peterson] during fall term. I saw that she was African-American woman, like

myself,” said prep Olivia McMallum. “I felt a certain safety with her... and she was an amazing teacher.” As the faculty advisor of the recently-revived Students of Caribbean Ancestry (SOCA), Peterson recognizes the importance of “understanding that there are various ways that shape our identities,” and acknowledges that “it would be really nice to have a space to talk about that in a celebratory manner.”

Since Peterson values these close relationships with her students, an important factor in her decision to join the Exeter community was the residential component. Currently, Peterson; her husband, coach Josh Peterson; her four-year-old son Jack Maverick and eleven month baby boy Kingston, are residents of Hoyt Hall. She noted that growing up, her most memorable teachers had always spent ample time with her. At Exeter, she strives to do the same with her own students. “I deliberately chose to move from a day school to a boarding school because, as much as I loved my day school, I realized there were aspects of the students’ [lives] that I was missing,” she said.

Peterson’s role as one of the dorm faculty of Hoyt Hall is one of both attentiveness and kindness. “When she is on duty [at 8 p.m.], she doesn’t have a proctor do it—she does it herself because she wants to check in with everyone,” said lower Sarah Wang. This small action shows Wang that Peterson genuinely cares about every student in the dorm.

Religion Instructor and Hoyt Hall dorm faculty Thomas Ramsey further commented on Peterson’s important role in the dorm. “Mrs. Peterson is a great colleague to work with in Hoyt,” Ramsey said. “She is hardworking and dedicated, but she always brings a sense of humor to dorm life.” Ramsey recalled Peterson’s 800 clue crossword puzzle that she pasted on her wall in the beginning of the year as a testament to her devotion to the dorm.

Even outside the dorm and classroom, Peterson has made an impact on others. “Since her arrival, I can say from a personal standpoint that Mrs. Peterson and her family have greatly improved my level of happiness and feeling of being grounded despite the fact that I am the one who has spent the past seven years on campus,” said Augustus. “These are the kinds of relationships that bring the joy to life—necessary for thriving faculty.”

AlumniSpotlight

JASON KANG '12

By ANNE BRANDES and
LINA HUANG
Staff Writers



JaQ Lai/The Exonian

On his 21st birthday, Jason Kang '12 reluctantly entered the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Fighting Ebola Grand Challenge and began developing a color additive that would make decontamination more effective. Four years later, Kang is the CEO and co-founder of Kinno, a startup whose flagship technology, officially named "Highlight", has been used in Liberian, Guinean, Haitian and United States hospital systems.

Kang attributes his success to the team behind Kinno, noting how it was started by himself and his friends. "I'm really proud that our team at Kinno has developed a mindset that we're capable of learning anything," he said. "There hasn't been a challenge that we've come across where we haven't figured out a way to solve it."

Since starting Kinno, Highlight has been recognized by *The Wall Street Journal*, *NPR* and *PBS NewsHour* as well as rewarded with the Lemelson-MIT Student Prize and by the Collegiate Inventors Competition. Kang was invited to Exeter by the co-heads of Exeter Launch Club, Alan and Ryan Xie.

Senior Alan Xie described how he and his brother discovered Kang. "We've had the opportunity to meet many alumni from years ago through our clubs and older friends," Xie said. "After learning about him, I thought that Jason would be a good assembly speaker because he had created something great as an entrepreneur."

Alan Xie added that he thought Exo-

nians, regardless of their interest in entrepreneurship, would appreciate Kang's words. "I think that Jason was able to inspire Exonians to innovate and be entrepreneurs, as many aspiring students may feel incompetent as a high schooler," he said. "He was really able to inspire people to be more innovative and open to new experiences and to just try things out."

The assembly was met with a standing ovation—perhaps, as senior Sebastian Bango pointed out, because students could relate to Kang's message. "I really enjoyed having a relatively recent Exeter alumnus speak whose experience more closely reflected our own," Bango said. Compared to many of the assembly speakers Exeter has had in the past, Kang possessed a much more unconventional path to success.

Bango added that Kang's work inspired him by proving entrepreneurship

is more complicated and human than a string of successes. "For me, Kang demystified the entrepreneurial process," he said. "His honest presentation of his trials and errors made me feel that, as long as I believed in an idea, I could push it to success."

Lower Bianca Lee affirmed Kang's impact. "He was engaging, informative and funny at the right times," she said. "He admitted that when he was young, all he wanted to be was rich and famous, but [that], through his work with disinfectants and meeting healthcare workers in Ebola-affected areas, he realized that success is defined through happiness and improving others' lives."

Ryan Xie echoed Lee's sentiments and described how Kang's assembly will motivate students, especially the members of his club. "I think many students, my-

self included, tend to think that building a company is hard to do without help," he said. "While this is sometimes true, Jason showed that it is still doable with the right attitude and effort, since he was not an expert in his company's field when it first started."

Kang's value of hard work will aid budding Exeter entrepreneurs, according to Ryan Xie. "The amount of hard work Jason put into the company when it first launched is also very inspiring," he said. "Jason had a great point about not necessarily needing to be the best in certain field, and that there are always other opportunities and niches that you can find."

In addition to students, faculty, such as Science Instructor Townley Chisholm, noted the value of Kang's message. "I thought his message was perfect for PEA," he said. "He wasn't saying to his students to be like him. He was suggesting to them that they be open to following their paths and not worry."

Chisholm described Kang's career in biology as unsurprising, noting Kang's engagement in his advanced biology class when Kang attended PEA. "He came to class prepared every day, always eager to talk about what was going on, always kind and considerate to other people around the table and very interested in all aspects of biology," Chisholm said.

After Kang flies back to New York, he will return to Kinno. He reflected on his time working since Exeter, realizing that the next seven years will probably be just as unpredictable. "In the future, my only real criteria for myself is that I'm still working on something that I find meaningful and that it impacts people in a positive way," he said.

RESTAURANT REVIEW: EPOCH RESTAURANT & BAR

By FELIX YEUNG
Staff Writer

Nestled in the Exeter Inn, Epoch Restaurant and Bar serves "New American" fare in an intimate—though somewhat outdated—setting. Somehow, the restaurant's ambiance manages to be both inviting and off-putting. Mismatched walls, dull drapes, and bright red tables contribute to this effect. In essence, it feels like a home that's stuck in the eighties.

However, the restaurant's physical character is not an indicator of its cuisine. At any time of day, it succeeds in delivering quality dishes that leave the diner wanting more. The menu, which changes with the seasons, is a celebration of New England's finest agricultural products; Epoch's seafood dishes, consisting of a variety of ocean critters, are particularly delicious.

On the dinner menu, the North Country mussels dish (\$13.00) is an absolute staple. Though the method of preparation changes each month, these mussels are served year-round at the restaurant. The base broths are

phenomenal. The restaurant also stocks fresh mussels rather than frozen ones and cooks them to perfection.

Another highlight is the lobster roll (\$22.00), a summer menu item. A crisp brioche bun complements the tender lobster meat and a mayonnaise dressing ties the dish together beautifully. This is a dish capable of pleasing the most fervent of crustacean-haters.

Now, the restaurant's vegetarian options—though limited—are just as scrumptious. The pappardelle pasta (\$20.00), garnished with confit tomatoes, spinach, and roasted shallots, is doused in a rich sauce that brings out the flavor of the dish's constituents.

For some after-dinner indulgence, the dessert options are varied. The pumpkin whoopie pies (\$9.00) are sensually vivid, with gingerbread cake and pumpkin cream steeped with autumn flavors. A single bite reminds a diner of the turning weather of fall, no matter the season. Similarly, sampling the cookie

skillet (\$9.00) is an experience in and of itself. The molten chocolate blends with the cookie dough to craft a decadent sensory journey for the diner.

Brunch at Epoch is an absolute treat. The restaurant puts its own spin on classics, with the Dubliner omelette (\$11.00), New Englander scramble (\$10.00) and Florentine benedict (\$13.00) standing out from the rest of the options. The Dubliner, in particular, is incredibly well-balanced, with house-made corned beef hash and Vermont cheddar. Breakfast and brunch options are also served with home fries and toast.

I must say, however, that the sandwiches—popular options among the diners—are disappointing. The fried chicken sandwich (\$13.00), which came highly recommended, had a soft bun that did not work with the crispiness of the chicken. Moreover, the sauce, which came in tremendous proportions, softened some of the skin and rendered the dish

a bit of a mess.

Now, there's one qualm I have with the meals at Epoch—the hefty price tag. Just a main at Epoch can cost as much as a three-course meal elsewhere. Sure, the food is exquisite, but is it worth the hole in your pocket?

Another inconvenience is that diners at Epoch should be prepared to bring their homework with them. The service can be rather slow, even on less-than-busy nights. On one occasion, I waited thirty-five minutes for my check. Still, for a meal this pricey, the prolonged experience may be just what one wants.

Ultimately, Epoch is a dinner spot that hits the mark on its dishes. Nevertheless, it fails when evaluated for value and decor. A meal will set you, or more specifically your bank account, back a sizeable amount. Epoch is definitely not the place for a casual weekday dinner with friends. Still, every once in a while, an hour or so of sumptuousness may just be the splurge one needs.

ESSONIAN OF THE MONTH: BIANCA BECK

By ALLISON KIM and MORGAN LEE
Contributing Writer and Staff Writer

Senior Bianca Beck greets her elementary school students from ESSO Big Sib Little Sib each month with a wide smile and a welcoming hug. After their short reunion, Beck and her Little Sib go out for an afternoon of ice skating. Although Beck and her Little Sib part after a few hours, her optimism and kindness will remain with them until their next meeting.

Beck's innate leadership and natural affinity for service led her to join ESSO during the fall of her prep year. She joined her first ESSO club after the encouragement of two upperclassmen in her dorm, Langdell Hall. The passionate club members and welcoming atmosphere made her want to return the following week, and she gradually became an integral member of multiple ESSO clubs.

Beck now serves as a co-head of Big Sib Little Sib (BSLS). In the club, students are paired with adopted or culturally underrepresented children to help them feel more at ease in Exeter's demographic. Senior Gabby Brown, one of the Children's Coordinators on the ESSO Board, commended Beck's ability to empathize with her Little Sib. "Bianca is very supportive, and she's a great listener," Brown said.

Senior Yaseen Ahmed holds a similar opinion of Beck. "She really does care a lot about making sure that BSLS is the best it can be," Ahmed said.

Elizabeth Reyes, a faculty advisor of ESSO, elaborated on the qualities that make Beck an exemplary co-head. "[Beck]



Helena Chen/The Exonian

embodies goodness and dedicates her time to helping others around her do better," Reyes said. "She has helped the Big Sibs understand the importance of accountability—not just how to show up but also how to be present."

Beck also recognizes the importance of leading the Little Sibs by example, especially as a minority. Growing up in Tokyo, she found it hard to find someone who looked like her to look up to. "I really understand the value of having representation and being able to look up to someone who looks like you, and that's what BSLS gives

to children in the community," she said.

She finds joy in the impact BSLS has on young children, commenting that her favorite moments within the club are when the Big Sibs and the Little Sibs, with whom the Exonians are paired with, get to reunite at the beginning of each meeting.

As a leader of the club, Beck orchestrates all of these reunions and ensures that the Big Sibs have fun activities planned for their students. Her fellow BSLS co-heads appreciate Beck's dedication to the club. "[Beck] is positive and efficient in all she does, and has a special skill in making

people want to work. She cares a lot about the kids in her club, making sure that everything is running smoothly all the time...she's very dedicated to planning every event." Alexia Netcu, another co-head, said. "She is always the one who motivates us to get everything done with her passion for the kids."

Netcu recalled how she and Beck bonded last fall while washing pumpkins outside for BSLS on a rainy Saturday. "I remember how much we cursed the freezing rain but also how much we laughed," she said. "I can't think of many people who would have joined me outside that day [other than Bianca]. It was just another example of Bianca being her amazing and special self."

Beck credits ESSO with helping her develop her community awareness and encourages younger Exonians to join one of ESSO's clubs. "I think there's so many ESSO clubs that anyone can find at least one that you can really identify with and put a lot of energy into," said Beck. "If anyone wants to help better their community in any way, community service is definitely the way to do that."

As Beck graduates from the Exeter community, Reyes reflects on her impact and the legacy she will leave behind. "The Big Sib Little Sib program is more organized because of the systems Bianca has helped to implement...she is certainly leaving the program stronger than she found it."

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK:

PEARSON PARKER, PRESTON MACCOUX, JORDAN JONES, CAMERON SHOCKLEY-OKEKE

By VERONICA CHOULGA
and BONA HONG
Contributing Writers

Hoads of Exonians cheer from the bleachers as the boys' varsity basketball team sets up their defense for the last play of the game. As a Brunswick player attempts to take his first shot, post-graduate (PG) Jordan Jones steps up, blocking his layup and quickly clearing the ball to his teammate, fellow PG Cameron Shockley-Okeke. Shockley-Okeke dribbles the ball down the court, evading the opposing team's attempts to steal it from him. Once cornered, he thinks fast and throws the ball to PG Pearson Parker, who stands ready at the three point line. After watching the play unfold, Preston Maccoux makes a clean cut to the basket after receiving Parker's bounce pass and dunks the ball over a Brunswick defender, finishing a clean play for Exeter's basketball team.

So far this season, the four boys' basketball PGs have contributed immensely to the team. All of them came to Exeter with a great work ethic, and they continue to raise the physicality of Big Red's plays. "They're an exceptionally nice blend of ultra competitive players, but they also understand how to make each other and others on the team better," head coach Jay Tilton said. Tilton believes that all of the players have brought something different and integral to the team.

Jordan Jones began playing basketball around the age of seven, on the same team as one of his current teammates. "I actually happen to have been on Pearson's team," Jones said. Soon afterward, Jones dropped basketball altogether to commit more to football. "My freshman year I had an autoimmune illness and the doctor told me not to play football anymore. That allowed me to take basketball [more] seriously in high school," Jones explained.

According to Tilton, Jones brings a certain liveliness to the court. "He's just got this spirit about him where he plays the game competitively but also has so much fun, which is part of what makes him such a great player," Tilton said.

Upper Niko Rocak agreed, adding that Jones is "the best shooter I've seen in real life."



Numi Oyebo/The Exonian

Unlike Jones, Cameron Shockley-Okeke began playing basketball much earlier, at only three years old. "I got a little hoop in my basement and threw shots," Shockley-Okeke said. He played different sports growing up, but basketball was always his favorite.

Shockley-Okeke played in Exeter's league last year, but for one of Big Red's big opponents, Milton Academy. "He was a standout player on the very good team they have there," Tilton said.

Shockley-Okeke expressed his appreciation for Big Red's strong team spirit. "At Exeter, we're able to share different moments and stories and backgrounds...we'll see each other in classes too, and that's something that, for whatever reason, I wasn't able to have at Milton," Shockley-Okeke said.

Shockley-Okeke decided to come to PEA in hopes of gaining an extra year of physical development and more practice against strong competition. "He's done a really nice job for us, and he was really good coming in, so it wasn't like we took a kid without talent and made him talented," Tilton said.

Several teammates also lauded Shockley-Okeke's athleticism. "Cam is the most athletic, entertaining dunker guy in the league," Jones said.

Tilton described Preston Maccoux,

another PG, as "a swiss army knife," or a player who does everything. "He has put in so much time into his game in the off season and even after practice," Tilton said. "He's in there everyday working on what he needs to work on."

Tilton added that Maccoux is a player who acknowledges his strengths as well as his weaknesses. His teammates described him as an amazing shooter. "Preston can shoot the ball better than anyone I've ever played with before. It's always impressive seeing him play," lower and teammate Lucas McEachern said.

Rocak agreed, recalling several examples. "One time, he shot seven three pointers in a game, and in another game, he had a huge dunk. Every game, something is going to come from him," Rocak said.

Pearson Parker's coach and teammates describe him as the most explosive player on the team by far. "The way he moves and gets to his spots so quickly is scary. It's hard to stay in front of him," McEachern said.

A fierce competitor, Parker also brings creativity to the game. "He can create a lot of actions and can pass the ball extremely well," Rocak said. In addition, he described Parker as the best point guard in the league as well as an incredibly supportive teammate. "Since I'm injured, when I told the group that I was going to get surgery,

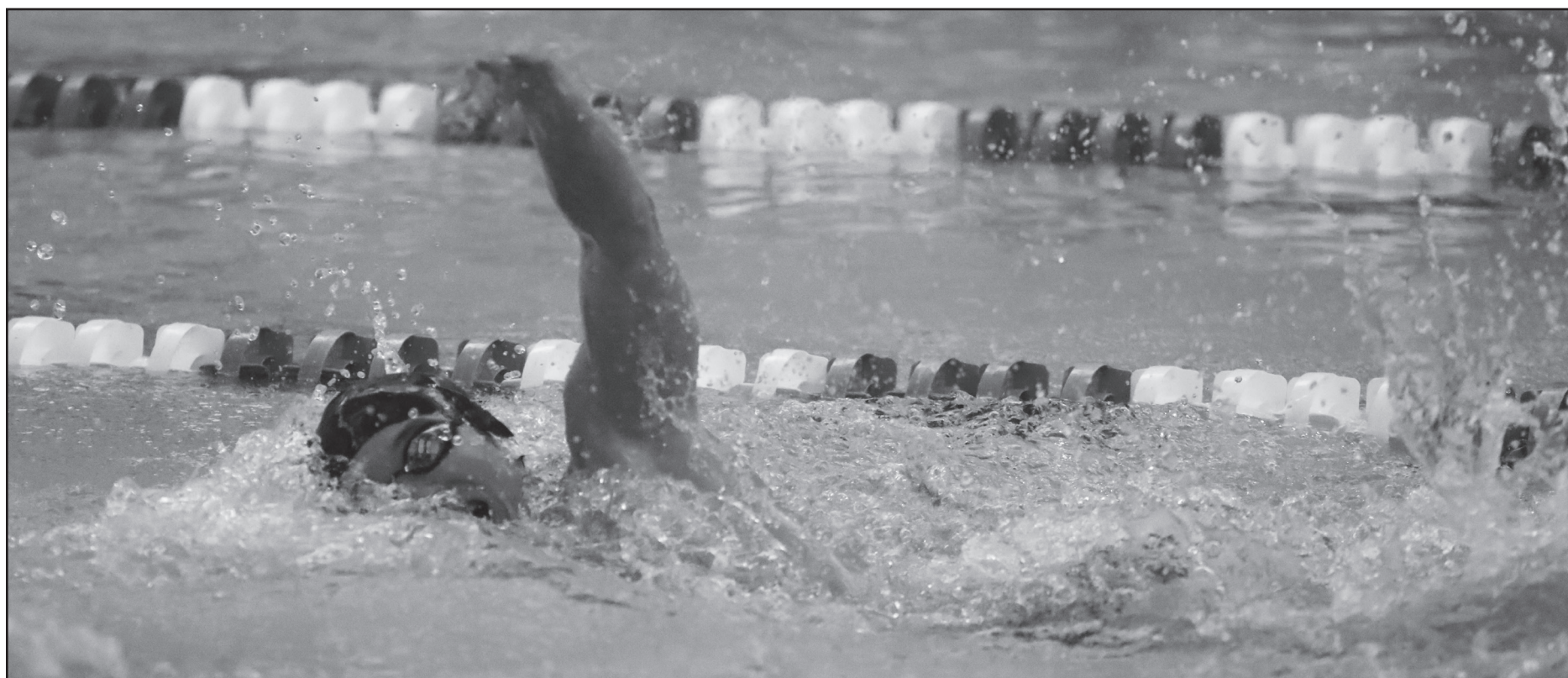
the first thing he did was call me to show support and to talk to me," Rocak said.

Not only is Parker an extremely supportive teammate, he is a great leader. "He is vocal, he has strong leadership qualities and he plays a position where he's sort of on the front end of everything," said Tilton. "Everything offensively and defensively all starts with him. He's very quick and has great court vision."

While the team's biggest goal this season is to win the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) Class A Championship, the players also hope to foster support, friendship and cooperation on the team. "I feel like, personally, I had to carry a bigger load on the team at my old school than at Exeter. Everyone here is so talented that, if I happen to have a bad game, I'm not stressing because I know that Pearson or Cam or Preston or Jasper or anyone can have a good game," Jones said.

Tilton commended the PGs for juggling the demands of both their academic and athletic pursuits. "They continue everyday to inspire me because I know what their demands are academically, and I try to do the same athletically because these guys are playing on two fronts and they're doing it very well," Tilton said. "It says a lot about their character."

Boys' Swim Sinks St. John's Prep



Senior Jared Zhang surges through the water.

Paula Perez-Glasnet/The Exonian

By JD JEAN-JACQUES
Contributing Writer

On Jan. 19, the boy's varsity swim team capped off an arduous week of training with a win over St. John's Prep. This was the team's third meet of the season and they came out on top with a final score of 101-84. With last Saturday's victory over St. John's Prep, Big Red now has a 4-0 record.

Practice leading up to the swim meet was full of difficult sets and challenging lifting sessions in order to regain speed that the team lost over winter break. "Training has been full of high yardage sets in order to whip us into shape. The first few days were tough, but we're starting to find our rhythm again," lower Cooper Walshe said.

These practices left the swimmers fired up for the meet. Lower Aren Mizuno explained, "After a long week of challenge sets and hard work, we went into the meet pretty tired but still excited to see our work pay off."

Indeed, the team's efforts paid off

as Big Red maintained a steady lead throughout the meet. Upper Andrew Sun expressed his excitement. "After we won the first relay we ran away with the lead and didn't stop until the last event of the day," he said.

Senior and captain Jared Zhang similarly expressed his enthusiasm, adding, "We won all three relays and also swept the 200 and 500 free events."

Walshe identified fiery team spirit as another key motivator. "Throughout the entire meet everyone was standing up and cheering each other on. I got really fired up when I got up onto the block and could hear my teammates chanting my name. It was hype," he said.

Mizuno appreciated the motivation from coach Don Mills as well. "Our coach had reminded us the day before about how rowdy St. Johns can get when they swim well. He said we needed to bring the energy as well, and we did," Mizuno said.

Strong performances from upper Andrew Benson and lower Joshua Yu in particular contributed to the well-deserved victory. "Joshua Yu

swam really well in the 200m freestyle. Andrew Benson raced in the 100 butterfly and the 200 IM and was miles ahead of everybody else by the time he finished. It only takes him a few strokes to get a body length lead over the rest of the pack," upper Andrew Sun said.

Next week, the team will swim against Choate Rosemary Hall at Exeter. "This week should be high intensity as we prepare for the Choate meet next Saturday," Sun said. Choate Rosemary

Hall holds a 2-2 record so far this season, but Big Red has maintained a strong record over them in recent years. The two powerhouses will throw down this Saturday at the Nekton Pool at 1 p.m.

Prep Hayden Giles captured Exeter's 'drive and thrive' mentality and expressed high hopes for the rest of the season. "[We're] 4 and 0 [right now]," he said. "And we're trying to go undefeated."



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Wrestling Tears Down Competition at Tabor *Finishes Both Matches on Top*

By EMILY CLOONAN
Former Sports Editor

This past Saturday, Exeter Varsity Wrestling traveled to Tabor Academy to face off against Tabor and Roxbury Latin. Big Red brought home extraordinary victories, with final scores of 72-6 versus Tabor and 62-50 versus Roxbury Latin.

According to senior Chimenum Tasi-Amadi, the team had anticipated the victories. “We didn’t really expect any crazy matches this weekend,” he said, though he added that Roxbury Latin proved to be a challenging opponent. “Roxbury Latin was a harder matchup than Tabor for us. Tabor was a decent match, but, for the most part, they were wins all through the lineup—a lot of the wins were by pin.”

Senior Michael Indelicarto noted strong performances from the whole team. “Almost all of our varsity guys won their matches, which was huge to help us take home the win,” he said.

Tasi-Amadi lauded upper Grant Goodall’s stellar performance. “Grant started wrestling his prep year, and he has really figured out his stuff. Watching him wrestle is always entertaining,” Tasi-Amadi said.

Indelicarto praised upper Tyler Morris for his whirlwind victory. “Tyler pinned both of his guys in under forty seconds,” Tasi-Amadi said. “On Saturday, Tyler had the fastest pin of the season so far, which was twelve seconds.”

Tasi-Amadi was another star player, according to senior Tabor Wanag. “Chim performed well,” Wanag said. “He won both of his matches after coming off of a tough weekend. He went out there and wrestled hard.”

The team’s intensity and determination during practice has brought it great success



Senior Chimenum Tasi-Amadi sizes up his opponent.

Paula Perez-Glasner/The Exonian

in its matchups so far this season. “We are going to keep practicing hard every day. We need the guys to get better every day and push each other. The sense of intensity when one person works hard—everyone else builds off of that. We get better and better every day,” Morris said.

According to lower Christian Petry, the team has been doing “a lot of conditioning to prepare for this weekend’s meet. We’re trying to get into the best possible shape we can be in, and the best possible mental state we can be in, as well.”

Winter illnesses and mid-season injuries have affected the team, but

players have been putting up a valiant effort regardless. Morris praised upper Mouhamed Gaye for stepping up and performing well in the varsity lineup after senior John Beckerle was injured during practice last week. “Mouhamed might not have gotten the result that he wanted, but I’m very impressed with the way he was able to step up into our varsity line up and put it all out there for the team,” he said.

This Saturday, Exeter will host a number of teams at the annual Bidstrup Seabrook Duals, where they will face off against highly ranked competitors including Northfield Mount Hermon

(NMH) and Belmont Hill. Morris described NMH and Belmont Hill as “big duels,” adding that Big Red is “looking forward to competing against them.”

Tasi-Amadi expressed high hopes for the team in the remainder of the season. “The meet this weekend is going to be huge—we’re not just facing off against one school, but rather a bunch of different schools. It’s going to be a lot management wise, but it’s going to be very entertaining,” he said. “After that, we’ll go into the postseason stuff—Class A’s, New England’s. Hopefully, we’ll get another Class A title this year.”

WEDNESDAY SCORE REPORT

Boys’ Hockey	0
Kimball Union	2
Girls’ Swimming	85
Dana Hall	79

Girls’ Basketball	42
Bradford	74

Boys’ Basketball	68
Belmont Hill	54

Girls’ Hockey	4
Tilton	2

Girl Squash	7
Dana Hall	0
Boys’ Squash	5
Brooks	2

Girls’ Basketball Ends Winning Streak

By ABBY SMITH
Senior Sports Reporter

Upper and girls’ varsity basketball captain Claudia Lee lines up at the free throw line. The crowd goes silent as the referee tosses Lee the ball and she gets ready to shoot. While this point will not determine the final outcome of the game, it will determine whether or not Exeter maintains its lead. The crowd holds its breath as the ball flies through the air. The swoosh of the basket interrupts the animated silence as Big Red erupts in cheers.

After traveling to Cambridge, MA on Wednesday, big red girls’ varsity basketball topped Buckingham Browne & Nichols School (BB&N) with its eighth win of the season. It was a close game with BB&N gradually recovering in the fourth quarter, but Exeter came out on top with a final score of 52-46.

The team’s stellar offense helped them run up the scoreboard. “We shared the ball well, specifically in the second half, which gave girls open shots and better opportunities to score,” upper and captain Bethany Lucey said. Lucey commended the players’ stellar teamwork, which was crucial in the second half as BB&N caught up and Big Red had to extend its lead.

Upper and captain Eva Carchidi praised Lucey and lower Emily Lau for their exceptional offense. “Bethany and Emily shot really well from the three point line. [Lau] and Angelle

[Diamond] also hit some clutch foul shots at the end,” Carchidi recalled.

The team could not have won without an equally successful defense. BB&N’s left-handed point proved to be a challenge, as it forced Big Red to “defend her a little differently,” according to lower Tessa Shields.

Fortunately, the team was able to adapt quickly. “Everyone worked hard for each defensive possession and communicated well about our rotation on the shooter,” Carchidi said, adding that Exeter’s successful teamwork shut down not only one girl, but the entire BB&N offense.

Lucey offered a final reflection on the game, saying, “We played great defense in the second half, and went on a run to start that half, putting us in the lead.”

Despite playing on enemy ground, Exeter maintained high spirits. “Everyone was excited for the game, but in the first half we did not play with complete focus and energy. In the second half, the energy picked up and we played much better,” Shields said.

Lee agreed, adding, “The team, both on the court and off the court, picked up the energy: it was a big factor in the win.”

This Saturday, Exeter will play St. Paul’s School in the Thompson Gym. Exeter hopes to continue a dominant season with two more wins next week. Lucey voiced that the team is eager to “beat teams we previously lost to because everyone has stepped up this year.”



Upper Bethany Lucey looks for a pass.

Paula Perez-Glasner/The Exonian