



# The Exonian

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Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire



Reverend Heidi Heath welcomes students to the inaugural Evening Prayer at Phillips Church on Sunday, Jan. 13.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

## Exeter Invites Gen Z Activists for MLK Day

By ERIN CHOI, EMILY KANG and MORGAN LEE  
Staff Writers

Exeter will celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day on Friday, Jan. 18, dedicating the entire morning to this year's theme, "Gen Z Activism," to showcase how young adults have participated in social activism within their communities. For the first time in PEA history, student speakers will also be staying in student dormitories on Thursday night.

All Exonians will attend a keynote address in the morning and two workshops in the afternoon. This year's keynote speaker is Andrea Taylor, President and CEO of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) and a trustee of Boston University, The *HistoryMakers* and *New York Public Radio*.

Co-chair of the MLK Day Planning Committee and Religion Instructor Hannah Hofheinz lauded Taylor's expansive knowledge in both the history of activism and current movements through her work with students in the BCRI. "Our keynote speaker is a remarkable woman with a lot of expertise and wisdom," Hofheinz said.

Along with the keynote, all students will attend the documentary screening of *Precious Knowledge*, filmed by Eren McGinnis, which features Tucson High School's struggle in retaining its Mexican American Raza Studies Department in 2008-2009. While their efforts were unsuccessful and the department was ultimately removed, McGinnis underlined the importance and impact of educating students about Mexican American culture and history.

For the rest of the day, students will at-  
**MLK, 2**

## Students Preserve Tuesday EP Tradition

By DANIEL CHEN, NANA ESI DONKOR and ALLISON KIM  
Staff Writers

In response to the recent Evening Prayer (EP) time change to Sunday evenings, students organized an alternative event, Evening Performance, for the first time on Tuesday, Jan. 8. Evening Performance will continue on Tuesday nights from 9:20 to 9:50 p.m., and Evening Prayer will be held on Sundays from 7:30 to 8 p.m.

Senior Tara Weil organized Evening Performance after several students had voiced their disappointment over EP's change in time. Prior to this, she and senior Paul James contacted Rev. Heidi Heath about restoring Evening Prayer, who then redirected their request to Interim Principal William Rawson with her full support. The email has yet to be discussed between the two parties, but is planned to be a part of dialogue soon. Weil gathered a group of performers to

create Evening Performance to continue the Tuesday evening tradition for her fellow seniors.

Students of all grades had the option to attend Evening Performance on the night of Tuesday, Jan. 8 due to a special schedule the following day that allowed for 10 P.M. check-ins. Audience members described it as "the last actual EP," as future Evening Performances will be held after 9 P.M.—a time when only seniors will be able to attend before required check-in.

The administration's concerns over Tuesday Evening Prayer centered around the event being after check-in for the majority of students, interrupting study hours. Rawson said, "It was our hope that EP could be conducted on Sunday evenings in much the same way and that students would find the experience equally meaningful and uplifting."

Many Exonians, however, feel that Sunday EP does not fulfill the same needed break that Tuesday night provides. "It serves as a study break for people to

gather their thoughts, reflect, 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 and Evening Performance co-organizer Dylan Yin said. "But by putting EP on [the] weekend, it removes the idea that it is this time to stop in the middle of the week."

Rawson accompanied Student Council to both the final Tuesday EP and the first Sunday EP. "We hoped to show him what EP was about—what exactly he was changing and have that as part of the dialogue as we continue our discussions," senior and Student Council President Elizabeth Yang said.

"I really appreciated being invited to EP both times," Rawson said of the invitation.

According to James, who also helped organize the event, Evening Performance was not intended to be a protest, but a continuation of the beloved tradition. "It

**EP, 2**



Students perform "Hottentodded"—a play by Charly Simpson '04.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

## PEA Reopens Grill Despite Recent Thefts

By DANIEL CHEN and MAEGAN PAUL  
Staff Writers

After closing on Dec. 17 due to a rise in theft, the convenience store section in Grill reopened and resumed normal operations this Tuesday. Grill staff will compare the inventory with sales on a daily basis and may reclose the space if theft continues.

Interim Chief Financial Officer Marijka Beauchesne, Head of Campus Safety Paul Gravel, Interim Dean of Residential Life Carol Cahalane and Dean of Students Melissa Mischke restored Grill to its full capacity after receiving student input at a Deans' Council meeting last Friday. Council members also suggested initiatives to prevent theft through discussions with students and a reinforcement of community values.

The group noted that although the individuals responsible for the thefts were of a small number, the combined losses were detrimental to Grill's entire operation. They suggested that the few weeks of restricted access may have deterred students from stealing in the future. "The purpose of reopening Grill was to see if this period of closure would change the amount of stealing," lower and Deans' Council member Abby Asch said.

After the first closure of Grill, most employees were assigned to other projects such as working in the facilities department and dining halls, but their salaries have not currently changed. Upper and Deans' Council member Ayush Noori stated that if the council must "shut [Grill] down for a second time, then it's very possible

**GRILL, 2**

## Faculty Engages in "Decoding Racial Anxiety"

By ANNE BRANDES, PAUL ROGERS and FELIX YEUNG  
Staff Writers

Faculty participated in "Decoding Racial Anxiety," a workshop led by Director of Equity and Inclusion Stephanie Bramlett, on Wednesday, Jan. 9, discussing prevalent racial issues on campus.

Director of Student Well-Being Christina Palmer explained that the workshop, an initiative on behalf of the Trustees' Vision Statement, aimed to advance faculty understanding and engagement in diversity, equity and inclusion. "Faculty will be even more sensitive and aware of how might each student be experiencing their class, course content and interactions at the table," she said.

The Committee on Equity and Inclusion opted to host two training sessions, upon news that Dr. Howard C. Stevenson of the University of Pennsylvania's Racial Empow-

erment Collaborative was unable to visit due to illness.

In both sessions, faculty members were encouraged to journal about their racial identity, background and experiences. Bramlett also introduced terminology relevant to racial anxiety and literacy. "Racial anxiety is what people of all races may feel before or during a conversation about race—the feeling that we might be judged, misunderstood or discriminated against," Bramlett said. "Racial literacy, defined as the ability to read, recast and resolve a stressful racial encounter, helps us overcome racial anxiety."

Many faculty members described the workshop as a success, especially in the communication of its purpose and significance. Bramlett voiced her satisfaction with the afternoon and hopes for further discussions on identity. "Feedback from both sessions has been quite positive," she said.

Science Department Chair Alison Hobbie noted that, "Racial interactions happen in any context. [...] When you have twelve students and a teacher sitting around a table, or when you have twenty-four faculty members sitting around a department meeting, it's helpful to recognize and reflect on a moment that is racially charged."

History Instructor Michael Golay agreed on the workshop's applicability. He recalled an instance that took place in the classroom during a discussion about the Cherokee Indian Removal of the 1830's. One of his students asked, "Are we supposed to feel sorry for these people?" "It's hard to know how to react at the moment," Golay shared. "[The workshop] was instructive to recall those kinds of episodes and think about how we might deal with them next time they come up."

Another part of the workshop's success  
**FACULTY, 2**

### INSIDE

#### CORRECTION

Last week, in an article about the closure of Grill, *The Exonian* omitted quotes from Interim Chief Financial Officer Marijka Beauchesne due to a production error. *The Exonian* apologizes for this mistake.

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# Day Student Driving Policy Presented at Faculty Meeting

By YUNSEO CHOI, LINA HUANG  
and CHARLOTTE LISA  
Staff Writers

The Student Council Executive Board presented a draft policy during faculty meeting on Dec. 17 that would allow licensed upper and senior day students to drive boarders with parental permission. The proposed draft, revised from last year's version, is one of Student Council's biggest undertakings this year.

According to the current E Book, boarding students are restricted from riding in motor vehicles with licensed faculty members, licensed drivers over the age of 21 for day trips, and day students over 18 for overnight out-of-towns. The draft policy, if passed, would grant boarders greater access to off-campus activities.

According to Student Council co-secretary and upper, Audrey Vanderslice, the current board appended last year's draft with additional rules, specifications and safety measures, including details on weather and permitted motor vehicles.

The Executive Board hopes this proposal

will strengthen relations between day and boarding students. "Right now there is this disconnect, and it is challenging for day students to become integrated members of our community," co-secretary and upper Ayush Noori said, drawing on his own experience as a day student. "I hope this policy [will] be integral to helping remedy that."

The draft policy, a product of two years' worth of extensive work, passed with a unanimous vote of approval in Student Council.

However, faculty had a wide range of opinions to offer, both against and for the policy, and will hold another meeting for further discussion before taking a vote.

Science Instructor Anne Rankin expressed concerns about the greater risk of accidents involving young drivers. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), motor vehicle accidents are a leading cause of death for American teens.

Mathematics Instructor Laura Marshall also voiced concern for potential pressure on day students to provide rides for their boarder friends. "We don't want day students to be

taken advantage of," Marshall said.

Some faculty were supportive of the initiative, according to senior and Student Council President Elizabeth Yang. "Of course many of them have concerns of safety. On the other hand, many of them recognize driving as a typical, and potentially beneficial, part of high school life," Yang said.

Upper and day student Allison Pendleton recalled instances where the absence of a day student driving policy prevented her from taking friends off campus for socializing activities since her parents, who are unavailable most days due to work, could not drive them. "We were all very hungry after Winter Formal, but I couldn't take any of my friends to get food," Pendleton said.

Upper and boarder Valentina Fernandez explained that the new policy greatly aids boarding students, especially during the snowy and freezing months of winter when they may wish to visit nearby stores. "If it's just too cold to walk to get even the most basic necessities that you cannot get in Grill or the bookstore, you don't have any options,"

Fernandez said.

Upper and boarder David Kim argued that driving is essential to an authentic high school experience, adding that it will help to strengthen community bonds. "I know that at other public high schools, driving your friends is a high school experience," he said. "I think we should get an opportunity to also get that experience with our day student friends."

Senior and day student Gabby Allen agreed with Kim, adding that the policy will allow students to become more involved off campus. "I think there are a lot of things in the area that kids don't take advantage of that they would if [they] could drive. It just gets you more involved in the outside community," Allen said.

The future of this policy remains uncertain, but students are hoping for the best. "I think it is very hard to tell whether or not it's going to pass," Vanderslice said. "Different faculty and different members of the administration have different takes on whether it would pass or not, but we remain hopeful that the faculty will vote yes."

# Students Anticipate Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration

Continued from [MLK.1](#)

tend the workshops they selected through an all-school online form in December. The focus of these workshops range from what it means to be a productive ally to creating art for social change.

The night before Friday's main events, student leaders from the BCRI will stay overnight in various dorms to further connect with the Exeter community. Tonight, Jan. 17, Exonians will also present "UnSilenced," a performance that features students' cultural or racial experiences through various styles of artistic expression.

Hofheinz hopes that hosting BCRI students in dorms will further show Exonians that students of their age have the ability to make an impact. "They are our peers with this idea of Gen Z activism and what it means to have high schoolers step into their own and form their own networks and tackle the world in the way you all see it needs to be tackled," she said. "[The goal] is to build those relationships."

Senior and member of the MLK Day Planning Committee Elizabeth Yang said that by focusing the day on Gen Z activism, the committee hopes to equip students with the tools needed to become more involved in social justice. "It's about showcasing the various young people around the world doing incredible activism today as a muse to inspire Exonians to tap into that aspect of their lives," Yang said.

According to Co-chair of the MLK Day Planning Committee and English Instructor Mercedes Carbonell, student-led movements such as Black Lives Matter and March for Our Lives highlight the current relevance of youth taking action for the committee. "Listening to our MLK [Day Planning Committee] student members, I am hearing a call not merely for dialogue but also for action," she said.

To engage all Exonians, the committee chose a diverse group of speakers that would cater to a variety of students. "We were conscious of creating workshops

that appealed to a lot of different types of people," senior and MLK Day Planning Committee member Chandler Jean-Jacques said. "We really tried to make the focus of each event different so that everyone can find something that speaks to them."

At the workshop "Asian American Activism: Where Do We Fit?" alumna Julie Chung '16 will explore the role of Asian Americans in social justice and racial conversations today. As a junior at Harvard University, Chung studies social anthropology and also participates in, leads and writes about various initiatives to support women and people of color. Yang said, "I have witnessed and learned about her activism at Exeter and also beyond. That's why I thought it was a great idea for us to reach out to her and invite her back with our theme of Gen Z Activism. She's one of the young activists we know and actually interacted with."

To address the complexities of race and the police in America, the committee

invited two black police officers, South Carolina Police Officer Aaron Allston and State Trooper Chris Houston. At this workshop, students and invited speakers will discuss the relationship between police forces and the communities they work in as well as racial dynamics within the police department.

Upper and Vice President of the Afro Latinx Exonian Society Johan Martinez will introduce Allston and Houston. "I am excited to see their perspective on shootings and other unjust murders," Martinez said.

Hofheinz hopes the day will bring the community together as well as help Exeter as a whole think about questions of race and how the school can fit into the story of creating change. "It is an experience for the Exeter community to have an opportunity to be with one another in the midst of these questions," she said. "I hope that MLK Day this year will give that moment of being and thinking and doing together, [and give Exonians the opportunity to] hear each other."

# Community Discusses Alternative Times for Evening Prayer

Continued from [EP.1](#)

was not a boycott, not a motion against the performers who put so much work into EP. It was, above all, a celebration of our fellow students and the EP tradition," James said.

Senior and performer Adrian Venzon hoped that those who made the EP time change will take into consideration the performers' deep affection for the timing of the Tuesday evening event. "We took it in our own hands to preserve the Evening Prayer we've experienced since coming here," Venzon said. "I hope that the fact that we were willing to throw this together overnight and that the turnout [being] so amazing will show the adults on campus who want to change EP that we aren't going to take this change sitting down."

In turn, Heath appreciated how students "took the initiative to offer something meaningful as a testimony to what EP means to this community."

Perhaps demonstrating student dissatisfaction with the new Evening Prayer time, the first Sunday EP was met with

considerably less turnout than usual. Rawson acknowledged that the time change may have affected the attendance and empathized with those who performed in the new time slot. "The attendance on the first Sunday EP was sparse compared to the final Tuesday EP, and I felt badly for the performers, who were outstanding, as were the performers on the Tuesday," Rawson said.

Yang noted that the time change may not be permanent, and that those on Student Council are still communicating with Rawson regarding compromises. "As of right now, the Sunday time is being treated as a trial, almost. We are in conversation about a potentially better time, something else that students and faculty can agree upon," Yang said.

Weil remains optimistic that the Sunday time will be a temporary change. "I have full faith in Principal Rawson," she said. "He's done a lot for the community. I really like him as a principal. I just don't agree with this particular decision."

Student Council is proposing alternative days from Tuesday and Sunday EPs. "Something that adults and students are entertaining is the idea of Friday EP at 9:30, because that does not interfere with check in and is not during typical study hours," Yang said. "Students have voiced that they prefer that time over Sundays at 7:30."

Yin, however, believes that EP being moved to Friday would change little about the issues with Sunday. "I think moving it to Friday would have similar detriments because it's at the end of the week. People are naturally looking forward to Friday anyway and I know more than a couple clubs meet on Fridays," he said.

Evening Performance organizers are excited to continue hosting the event on Tuesday nights. "The attendance and efforts that went into setting up the event are a testament to its importance in the community," James said. "Hopefully, the school leadership team will recognize the merits of returning EP to the original time. Until

they listen to the community, students will take up the responsibility of preserving this important Exeter tradition."

Weil listed many meaningful experiences she has had during her past three Tuesday nights. "EP has been such a big part of my Exeter experience," she said. "It's where I've had some first dates. It's where I've had really good times with friends. It's where, if I'm having a bad day, people take me out and they're like, 'Hey, let's just sit here and knock everything back.' It's integral to my Exeter experience."

Evening Performance audience members commented on the emotional value Evening Prayer held and the significance of the tradition being continued by Evening Performance. "EP sometimes has moved me to tears, in times when the music is very intense and I have a lot on my mind," Yin said. "EP has been a time where I've been able to force myself out of my dorm, leave my homework for a bit, listen to some nice music and be in a space where everyone is silent together and can reflect."

# Teachers Partake in Workshop

Continued from [FACULTY.1](#)

was the accountability that Dean of Faculty Ellen Wolff instilled in faculty members, according to English Instructor Courtney Marshall. "We were told that contributing and advancing diversity, equity and inclusion is in our job description—we cannot opt out of this," she said. "That was very powerful."

Despite the positive results of the workshop, faculty remarked that there is still much to improve in terms of diversity, equity and inclusion. English Instructor Wei-Ling Woo observed that conversations at Exeter are still stigmatized and avoided. "Talking about race at Exeter is fraught," Woo said. "I find this odd and difficult as a person of color. In the future, I hope we can normalize such conversations."

Marshall, meanwhile, noted that the competitive nature of Exeter is not always conducive to inclusion. "When a place like Exeter is so competitive to the point where people aren't sleeping, they're skipping meals and constantly trying to get ahead, how do you talk about diversity of thought and including more people?" she asked.

English Instructor Mercy Carbonell hopes that all of Phillips Exeter Academy will continue to evaluate how the school can empathize with community members of color who feel alienated. "We need to spend time thinking about how this elite space constructs definitions of race, in a way

that is different than other communities [...and] consider how it feels, looks and sounds as a person of color in historically white, predominantly wealthy spaces"

Similar to Carbonell, upper Tatum Schutt emphasized that in order for the workshops to be effective, faculty must not check out of difficult conversations. "I've found that many faculty, worried by the way their racial illiteracy will make them appear among their colleagues, choose to disconnect from the discussion or even ignore the conversation altogether rather than take risks," she said. "These risks, however, are crucial for forward progress—change cannot occur if faculty are not willing to challenge their internal biases."

Despite the difficulty of confronting racial tensions, faculty members such as Physical Education Instructor Olutoyin Augustus see this training as an important step in moving the school forward. "When we speak our truth, it can be painful to others," Augustus said. "I don't enjoy those experiences, but I honor them in how they create an opportunity to further our learning"

In the end, the workshop reminded PEA adults of their role in fostering discourse in academic or social settings. In Augustus's words: "We need to dig deep into what race means for ourselves, what it means for our community and what it means for students in the way that we teach."

# Grill Resumes Operations

Continued from [GRILL.1](#)

down for a second time, then it's very possible that Grill staff hours and pay will be affected." According to senior and student leader of the Deans' Council Michaela Phan, the council is considering creating posters that describe Grill's financial losses and inform students that theft "is serious and that it affects people."


Several Deans' Council members proposed the idea of installing security cameras similar to those added to the post office when several box doors disappeared in the previous school year. However, Phan noted that many "were hesitant to install security cameras because we didn't want to create an atmosphere on campus of students being watched constantly." She clarified that last year, cameras were installed in the mailroom because the damaging of P.O. boxes is a federal crime, whereas Grill thefts are not.

Noori expressed the council's desire for a

permanent, cultural change around stealing. "We didn't want a bandaid because we felt things like security cameras or posters in Grill don't insinuate a cultural shift," he said. "The problem itself is a lack of respect for Grill."

Asch agreed, adding that Council members noticed a "need to instill better morals in this community [...and have] more discussions based around them." Those at the meeting emphasized the importance of student involvement in improving campus culture. The Council has proposed conversations with Grill employees and dorms, but has not reached a conclusive decision.

According to Director of Dining Services Melissa Leonard, no new measures will be implemented in the near future to prevent future theft. "We are tracking our inventory more closely against daily sales to check if the stealing is still happening," she said. "The hope is that no measures are needed at this time."



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## A Slipping Facade

**Sofia Etlin '21**

*Columnist*

In recent times, leftist media has taken the US—and Exeter—by storm. After *The Boston Globe* incident, the Exeter administration has been scrambling to modify policies to fit the “woke” agenda—a move that any minimally important institution these days has to take in order to avoid scrutiny. The image Exeter’s deans and faculty want to uphold is undoubtedly one of care and equality for all. This only makes the visitations policy currently practiced by its gendered dorms even more insulting.

In the first week of winter term, a friend from a gender-neutral dorm and I decided to have a sleepover in my dorm. We were upstairs when there was a knock on my door; it was my dorm head telling us that she was unsure of what the policy was surrounding sleepovers with members of the genderless dorms. She proceeded to make them leave. The problem wasn’t that they lived in Kirtland—we’d had many sleepovers from people who lived in Williams and Kirtland Houses before. The problem was that the name of this non-binary person was Jake\*, not Katie\*, that they had short hair instead of long hair and that they didn’t have a visible lump on their chest. The dorm head was confused; she didn’t know what to do with people whose gender she could not easily determine.

Later that week, there was a mandatory dorm meeting in which our dorm head finally clarified the confusion. This is how I understand her message: if we wanted to have a sleepover with someone from a gender-neutral dorm, we would have to 1) ignore their gender identity, 2) ignore any attempt that person might have made or might be actively making to change their sex and 3) invade that person’s privacy and disregard any discomfort or dysphoria they might feel. We would have to ask that person what their biological sex was, and, if their genitals did not align with ours, they would not be allowed to sleep over.

The official Visitations Policy written out in the E Book states the following:

“Unauthorized visiting, commonly referred to as illegal visitations, by boys in girls’ rooms or by girls in boys’ rooms, or any abuse of visitations, may result in disciplinary action.”

The administration has created gender-neutral dorms, yet it somehow seems to forget that non-binary people exist on this campus.

The E Book says boys and girls, not those with vaginas and those with penises. However, according to this new policy, only people with the same genitalia can be in each other’s dorms outside of V’s hours. That means that either the current official policy is transphobic and says that to have a penis means to be a boy and to have a vagina means to be a girl or the school’s facade of “equity and inclusion” is slipping as the deans realize that their policies don’t match

up with the promises they have made. To quote Exeter’s Genderbread Lion poster: “Gender is one of those things that everyone thinks they understand, but most people do not. Like Inception. Gender is not binary. It is not either/or. In many cases, it is both/and. A bit of this. A dash of that.” However, if I identify as a girl, would I not be a “real” girl in their eyes if I had a penis and were too young to have surgery?

A dean I spoke with, who would prefer to remain anonymous, said that all sleepovers should be banned because students don’t need sleepovers. A classic case of a non-solution. If we don’t know what to do with trans people that we claim to accept, then let’s take away everyone’s freedom!

First, it starts with sleepovers. But then, what if you’re a trans boy and you enter a boy’s dorm in the middle of the day? That can’t be allowed either because you have a vagina, so the school would ban all visitations to other dorms outside of legal V’s hours. But, then, what about the people in your own dorm—if trans men can’t visit them, then why should you be allowed to do so? Students should then no longer enter their neighbors’ rooms outside of legal V’s hours. All this may sound ridiculous and far-fetched, but it only serves to highlight the reason why banning all sleepovers is such a nonsensical avoidance of an apparent discrepancy between what the administration claims to care about and what it actually cares about. If the school decides to go down the path of “equality by equal

restrictions,” at what point will it draw the line?

“How could I explain to parents that there’s a boy [trans girl] sleeping over in a girls dorm?” the aforementioned dean asked me.

At this point in the conversation, PEAs priority became clear to me. The administration wants to be as “woke” as possible while still complying with the conservative values adopted by the parents of many Exonians. They would do anything to maintain Exeter’s reputation and continue to attract students even at the expense of the safety, comfort and very identity of the students themselves. What is even more concerning to me is the lack of discussion surrounding this reality. The school is enforcing a transphobic interpretation of the visitations policy and keeping it under wraps.

This policy that the administration is trying to conceal is wrong. For a school that claims to be all-inclusive, that claims to respect its students, that claims to be a safe space, that claims to want students to be their full selves, this policy is not only comedically hypocritical but something that exposes the reality of what it means to live at Exeter.

The very least the school could do would be to allow V’s at any point in time and sleepovers based off of people’s gender identity. If you identify as a girl, you should be able to go to girls’ dorms and vice versa. Those who are non-binary could visit both or neither throughout the day. This is the least—the least the deans could do to show that they care.

## Ineffective Handling of Grill Theft

Grill is not necessary and will not resolve the underlying issues responsible for the uptake in Grill theft.

Why exactly does theft necessitate Grill closure? Some speculated that the school does not have enough money to support Grill if they aren’t turning a profit. Some said faculty members are trying to “teach us a lesson” and educate us morally. It has now become clear that the latter is the case, according to administrative members quoted in last week’s *Exonian* news article. But the question remains—should we be punished for what a few kids did?

Personally, I think this is not an ethical response. If everyone is punished for the actions of a few, there is no incentive for good behavior. Why would people not steal if they are going to be punished for it anyway? It is unjust to punish an entire group of innocent people just because a few did something wrong.

On top of that, punishing everyone will not necessarily encourage students to stigmatize theft culturally or report incidents of stealing. I suspect that the school believed that students would lash out at Exonians who steal because of their anger

about the inconvenience of Grill being closed. This, to a certain extent, seems logical enough: when Grill is open, students aren’t affected by stealing. We have no reason to tell friends or people we know not to steal. However, this move could easily backfire. Many Exonians have questioned the fairness of this closure; in my perception, we ended up with a situation where students blame the administration for the closure and focus their ire on them rather than on students who steal.

There is another more complex dimension to this debate. We have been told over and over again that people who steal are the “bad guys”, that they are truly responsible for the closure. This narrative has been reinforced in settings such as advisee meetings and classroom discussions. But I think we need to have more sympathy for people who are stealing and try to better understand their motivations. I don’t know why people steal. I can speculate based on the various other problems that have surfaced at this institution. I am specifically referring to the significant socioeconomic disparities that continue to plague our school.

Grill is quite expensive. I know many Exonians who can’t afford to buy food or drinks from Grill. At the same time, Grill is, in my view, a key part of the Exeter experience: many Exonians go there to eat, socialize or work on homework. Not having the money to participate in this experience can be a humiliating experience. This problem has been acknowledged many times before and solutions have been proposed. For example, some Student Council candidates have proposed stipends for Exonians who need the money. But there has been no significant action on this issue. If Grill was cheaper, or if every student could afford to buy food there, then maybe theft would not be that big of an issue.

In sum, closing Grill is neither a moral nor effective response to theft. Rather than seeking quick, temporary fixes, we should try to expose the root of this problem, whether it be overpricing, economic inequality or something entirely different. Then, the administration should craft specific responses to whatever that problem turns out to be. Regardless, closing Grill is neither an ethical nor effective way to combat theft.

**Emmanuel Tran '21**

*Columnist*

Yesterday morning, I awoke to an email that turned the exhausting prospect of my 8 a.m. class into a glorious day. When I first read it, I couldn’t believe my eyes: Grill had finally reopened! I would finally be able to spend all my money on San Pellegrino and Ruffles again. The first words the cashier said to me, however, burst my bubble. “Tell people not to steal,” she said. At that moment, I knew that in a few days, Grill would once again be closed, and the entire school would be punished for the actions of a few individuals.

At first, I felt angry towards whoever was going to steal from Grill, because I knew that someone, somewhere, would. However, after some thought, I realized the problem was not a few “bad apples,” but instead the entire school policy towards Grill operation. At first glance, this seems like a sweeping, irrational statement to make. If you think about the moral and economic elements of this question, however, a clearer picture emerges: closing

## Affirmative Action and Socio-Economic Status

**Jonathan Meng '21**

*Columnist*

Affirmative Action is a set of policies and practices that work to help disadvantaged communities reach higher levels of education. It allows schools and employers to use race as a factor in admissions and help those who have suffered from discrimination. Heavy scrutiny recently befell this process in the *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* lawsuit, with the plaintiff arguing that Harvard has been discriminating against Asian Americans.

According to Princeton Sociologists Espenshade and Radford, Asian Americans have to score 140 points higher than whites, 280 points higher than Hispanics and 450 points higher than blacks on the 1600 point SAT to have the same chances of getting into top colleges.

But income, not race, is the most important factor in reaching higher levels of education. A Stanford study found that the difference in standardized test scores between a child from a family in the 90th percentile of family income distribution and a child in the 10th percentile is double that

of the gap between black and white students. A different study by the Century Foundation found that in terms of SAT scores, socioeconomic obstacles were seven times as large as those created by race.

Affirmative Action could work much more effectively by considering socioeconomic status instead of race. While our current system of affirmative action has succeeded in increasing black and Latinx/Hispanic enrollment, it often does not help those who need it most. A family with more money, regardless of their race, is able to invest more in their children, allowing them to pursue extracurriculars and hire tutors to beat out poorer families in the college application process.

Because of this, at competitive schools like Yale and Harvard Law, only 5 percent of incoming students come from the bottom 50 percent of the socioeconomic spectrum, while 60 percent come from the top 10 percent. Meanwhile, Daniel Fisher of *Forbes* reports that 86 percent of African-Americans at selective universities are in the middle or upper class. This shows us that those in poverty who need and deserve the most help are still being shut out of these institutions. Instead of helping a large portion of

the disadvantaged, race-based Affirmative Action is just giving many wealthy blacks and Latinxs an advantage over their peers.

It’s unjust to ignore the fact that every single race has members distributed at different points on the income spectrum. Our race-based Affirmative Action completely overlooks the struggles of each individual and groups people together just because of their race. Doing this also categorizes generally poorer students from already underrepresented countries such as the Philippines and Vietnam with “model minority” applicants of Chinese, Japanese, or Korean descent. Since the lives of people from these countries differ wildly, placing them in the same checkbox inflicts major harm on the chances of marginalized Asians being accepted.

Because of the many distinctions between people in one racial group, giving an affluent black or Latinx applicant benefits over a low-income white or Asian does not make our society more equitable. Instead it continues to only give opportunities to those who already have the most resources. This exacerbates the already substantial wage gap and continues the stratification of the American people,

causing more unnecessary divides within our country.

When implemented, this focus on income as opposed to race promotes greater economic diversity while also continuing to create racially diverse student bodies. According to a 2012 study by Century Foundation, seven out of ten public universities that used socioeconomic-based Affirmative Action were able to maintain or even increase their proportion of black or Latinx students. Additionally, this system offers a more concrete standard for student aid and can relieve some of the racial tensions that we observe in the SFFA v. Harvard case.

But the greatest benefit of class-based Affirmative Action is that it will allow for more class mobility within the United States. Since income-based Affirmative Action will always help those with the least resources, it will make it easier for the poor to attain higher paying jobs, bringing them out of poverty.

No child should be held responsible for the actions of their ancestors. Basing affirmative action on socioeconomics rather than race will be a great step towards a brighter future with help given to those who truly need it.

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## Governor Sununu: Step Up or Step Aside

Sadie DiCarlo '21

Columnist

Low-lying islands are flooding, leaving their residents homeless. Rainforests are dying. Glaciers that have existed for thousands of years are finally cracking under the pressure of human activity. We are experiencing the highest number of wildlife extinctions since the loss of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Thankfully, momentum is building all across America. People are realizing that if we don't act soon, it will be too late. But the question is, how will we act?

In California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont, carbon-pricing programs are being used to successfully reduce emissions. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a coalition of Northeastern states, was the first mandatory cap-and-trade program in the United States, with California starting the first multi-sector cap-and-trade program. It is currently being used to limit carbon dioxide emissions in the power sector.

Carbon pricing is a bipartisan-supported method that shows great potential for reducing carbon emissions. The fundamental concept behind it is if you tax something, people will think more carefully about how much they

actually need it and what cheaper, better alternatives there are. This has been very effective in previous cases. Just look at what happened when the government put a tax on cigarettes: millions quit. And, our forefathers during the Revolutionary War definitely realized how much they needed their tea when the British government taxed it.

However, carbon is not tea. There are better alternatives. If we put a tax on carbon emissions, society will be forced to look beyond the gas pump and find cheaper, greener energy options. Just last week, four congressional representatives, two republicans and two democrats from the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus, introduced a bill for a federal-level carbon dividend. On both sides of the aisle, people are recognizing that we need to take bigger steps. We need to stop this tide before it drowns us.

Even here, in our little corner of the United States, we are starting to feel the effects of these global changes. Winters are becoming warmer, the maple syrup season is getting shorter and coastal flooding is increasing. Our state government has tried to put legislation in place to counter this, but, their efforts have yet to bear any fruit. They also tried to implement a bipartisan-supported solar bill that would help towns install solar panels and save tax dollars, as well as a Republican-led, energy bill that would allow for owners of large solar panel arrays to be rewarded for sending power back

to the grid. This would lower taxes for the town. Surprisingly, these efforts were met with failure, but not because of the disagreement between parties—in fact, both parties endorsed these plans which benefited the environment and the economy—but because of one man.

That man is our governor, Chris Sununu.

In his two terms as governor, Sununu has worked to distance New Hampshire from climate legislation and proved that he cares more for monetary increase than his citizens or his state. He has publicly declared himself a climate skeptic, saying to NHPR, “I don't know for sure. And I've studied this at MIT. I studied earth and atmospheric sciences with some of the best in the world. And I've looked at the data myself . . . Is carbon the leading reason why the earth has warmed up pretty much continuously over the last 150 years? I'm not sure. It could be.”

Evidently, Sununu thinks his own skepticism as one engineer justifies disregarding what ninety seven percent of the scientific community has established: that the climate is warming due to human activity.

And Sununu is not just talk. He has acted on his beliefs, and in doing so, he has not only hurt the environment but has also hurt New Hampshire's economy. The bills he vetoed would have helped lower taxes and were supported by his own party. So, the question is: is Governor Sununu really such a climate denier that he would forgo lowering taxes in order to oppose an environmentally friendly law? Or is

there another reason?

In some cases, it seems that there is. For example in April of 2018, Sununu released a “state energy strategy” which called for more reliance on nuclear and gas and, despite constituents asking him to address climate change in this plan, there was no mention of it. Something of note here is that the Seabrook nuclear power plant owner, NextEra, has donated over \$50,000 to Sununu. It seems that from Sununu's past history of energy and environmental policies, he puts the wants of his wealthy corporate donors above the people of New Hampshire.

As a kid in New Hampshire who is passionate about climate change and worried for the future, it is hard to sit by and watch our state be governed by someone who pays more attention to powerful donors than to the world I will inherit. True to form, when asked about President Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accords, our governor said “To be honest it's nothing I've really thought about. It's a federal issue at this point. I'm focused on the 603, and what we do here.”

My apologies, Mr. Governor, but that is not how climate change or governance work. Federal issues are 603 issues. We are all affected by this crisis. We need everyone in this fight—everyone and every state, no matter how small because the climate is warming and it is our fault.

Step up or step aside.

## A Closer Look at the American Judicial System

Felix Yeung '21

Columnist

Robert J. Lynn. James P. Bassett. Stephen Breyer. Of these names, two are justices on the New Hampshire Supreme Court. The last serves on the United States Supreme Court. Certainly, their names are foreign to most Exonians—just as they once were to me.

Few institutions of the American government are as trivialized as the judiciary. The people of our courts are the silent lawgivers of the country. The precedents they set today will have ramifications that far outlast their tenures. Hence, it is imperative to consider the criteria by which we raise those in power to such lofty heights.

Recently, the Executive Council of New Hampshire's confirmation of Daniel St. Hilaire aroused controversy. His outspoken

opposition to Planned Parenthood brought on the rebukes of two Executive Councilors: Andru Volinsky and Congressman-elect Chris Pappas. Furthermore, he was pressed by Volinsky on a disciplinary matter. These proceedings, while small in scale, illustrate the flawed, highly-politicized rationale of many legislative bodies in confirming judges.

Firstly, judges are often screened through analyses of their supposed political leanings. To assess a judge in this fashion is problematic, to say the least. Rather, the onus upon the judge should be to prove their cognizance of the sanctity of the law, as opposed to their political appeal. The preservation of timeworn precedents is of vital importance; part of a court's clout lies in the near permanence of its decisions. Consequently, in the selection of a judge, a body must discern whether or not this individual regards the laws they are sworn to protect with adequate deference.

Along with a respect for the law comes a thorough understanding of it. American jurisprudence is complicated, to say the least. Nevertheless, a respectable judge must have a grasp of it. If he or she does, recognizing valid legal arguments will come easily.

Of course, the mere continuation of the status quo is not just. At the national level, precedents set by *Korematsu v. United States*, *Plessy v. Ferguson* and *Baker v. Nelson* have each been rightfully overturned.

Therefore, a judge must be able to discern when the spirit of a foundational law—in most cases, a state charter or the Constitution—has been misinterpreted. Alternatively, a court may have to take an activist approach in righting an unmitigated wrong. In United States judicial history, the humanity of judges has often been a catalyst for change. I do not subscribe to legal moralism, but I do believe that there are times when the letter of the law must be bent towards justice.

Now, this leads me to my second point.

The politicization of the confirmation process includes a deep-dive into a nominee's character. Before I go further, I am not saying that judges with histories of major law violations should be confirmed. No respect for the law can come from one who flouts it. In some cases, allegations of inappropriate behavior like Brett Kavanaugh's are enough to disqualify a candidate. Still, the personal lives of nominees—even morally questionable areas—should not be dredged up to the extent that they have been in the past, particularly at a state level.

Ultimately, Americans must consider the role of the judiciary. The members of a court shape an enduring understanding of the law. As a result, it is more than important for political bodies to keep politics out of the confirmation process. For the sake of the people, judges should be professional, not political.

## Re-examining Elizabeth Warren

Isabella Ahmad '20

Columnist

It has been exactly two weeks since a new Congress was sworn in on Capitol Hill, adding to the air of anticipation for the presidential election, which is just two years away. More Americans voted in this term's Congressional elections than ever before in the history of non-presidential elections. *TIME Magazine* attributes this record to an increase in Democratic participation—a significant phenomenon, since Democrats tend to vote in significantly fewer numbers in midterm elections compared to presidential elections.

Yet, though Democrats outnumber Republicans by 36 representatives in the House, midterm results proved that the Democratic Party has once again failed to connect with rural America. For the most part, they have evoked civic passions exclusively in the urban, educated elite.

As someone vigorously opposed to the Trump administration, many aspects of the election results did please me. However, when thinking ahead to the 2020 election, it is clear that it will not be enough for President Trump's challenger to be just any Democrat—they must

be a unifier who is able to mobilize more than one group of people. As potential challengers emerge, one candidate in particular garners pessimistic thoughts: Elizabeth Warren.

Warren announced her bid for candidacy on New Year's Eve. A Massachusetts senator since 2013, Warren, subjectively, strikes me as crass, self-righteous and, most significantly, divisive. I am not alone in my distaste for her. In fact, in 2016, Warren had the second highest disapproval rating of all New England senators. Though she was re-elected in 2018, more people in Massachusetts voted for Republican Gov. Charlie Baker. “[It]’s embarrassing to earn less votes than a Republican governor in the bluest state in the nation,” said political consultant Ryan Williams. Another political consultant, Eric Fehrstrom, agreed: “These results might raise a real question in the minds of Democrats about whether or not Warren could do as well [in 2020], especially in some of the must-win states like Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.”

Of course, in the United States, a politician's popularity is laced with overtones of sexism and are not necessarily indicative of their political strength, as the great number of comparisons drawn between Warren and former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton prove. Still, just or not, the existence of these comparisons should

instill skepticism in Warren's ability to win a presidential election. Even before she was elected into office, Democrats were hesitant to put their faith in her—in 2010, former President Obama declined to nominate Warren as the permanent director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, despite it being an agency that she created and led.

There is also the matter of her ridiculous claim of being Native American, which began when she listed herself as a minority on the Association of American Law Schools directory. She still adamantly defends this claim to this day. In fact, she allowed *The Harvard Crimson* to describe her as “the first woman with a minority background to be tenured.” I winced while reading an interview during which she commented on her grandfather having “high cheekbones like all of the Indians do.” The Cherokee Nation itself released a response to Warren advertising the results of her DNA test: “Using a DNA test to lay claim to any connection to the Cherokee Nation or any tribal nation, even vaguely, is inappropriate and wrong. It makes a mockery out of DNA tests and its legitimate uses while also dishonoring legitimate tribal governments and their citizens, whose ancestors are well documented and whose heritage is proven. Sen. Warren is undermining tribal interests with her continued

claims of tribal heritage,” wrote Chuck Hoskin Jr, The Cherokee Nation's secretary of state.

If you are a white person somewhere between 1/64th to 1/1024th Native American, you are not a person of color. The claim is especially ironic as Democrats tend to champion themselves as unyielding advocates for minorities.

However, releasing the DNA test was not Warren's only instance of depicting herself as someone she is not. For example, she is very vocal about refusing donations from lobbyists, though in reality, there is an asterisk next to this promise. While she does not accept donations from federal lobbyists, she has accepted thousands of dollars from many of the state and local lobbyists of Massachusetts. When asked by *The Washington Examiner* whether or not she would still accept local lobbyist funds if she had a chance to run her campaign again, her office declined to comment.

It amazes me that so many headstrong, diverse and opinionated politicians unseated centrist incumbents who do not wholly represent the values they claim to in the House elections. In my view, to support Sen. Elizabeth Warren for President would be a regression on this front. Democrats need to put forward a more consistent, popular and unifying candidate to turn out victorious on Nov. 3, 2020.

## Administration Ignores Students over EP

Daniel Chen '22

Columnist

The rescheduling of Evening Prayer to Sunday evenings is a disappointment—not only because it removes a much-needed midweek break, but because it indicates the administration's troubling lack of consideration for the student body's opinion.

The administration wrote in an email announcing the time change, “This transition maintains the integrity of what is special about EP.” It is obvious from the backlash and student reactions that it does not. The email cited the need to conform to check-in times and study hours, but the fact that EP does not align with these restrictions is an essential part of its identity as a tradition on this campus.

For underclassmen, it is an exciting opportunity to be able to check out, but even more so a motivation to take a break from homework and relax on one of the calmer nights of the week. Because students only have half a day of classes on Wednesday, they have significantly less homework on Tuesday nights, allowing

them to take a short break from work without a great impact on their academics. In the context of promoting study hours, Tuesday is a practical option.

I would even say that the fact that Evening Prayer does interrupt study hours in the middle of the week is key to its identity. Reverend Heidi's prayer for a good week is uniquely impactful as a flicker of hope in the midst of the otherwise incessant grinding; its interruption creates an appreciated time to slow down, reflect and relax. Sunday, the start of a new week, does not fulfill this purpose of Evening Prayer. In addition, its interference with extracurricular activities such as *The Exonian*, Mock Trial and a variety of musical groups presents another difficulty. Clubs are now forced to accommodate for this change or compete with Evening Prayer for attendance.

The administration doesn't seem to understand or even care about this. While concerns with upholding check-in time and study hours are most legitimate, I fail to see how Evening Prayer has ever disturbed the community to an extent that warrants this distillation of its identity.

It is obvious there is backlash to the Sunday

time. Compared to the Tuesday Evening Performance, turnout at the first Sunday Evening Prayer was small—and Evening Performance was conceived the night before its occurrence. Does the administration believe its perceived value of complying with rigid standards of check-in and study hours outweighs the disap-

pointment of the student body?

Regardless of whether or not the administration sees the pros of Tuesday EP, the student body's overwhelming support should be reason enough for reconsideration. What happens next will send a clear message about their willingness to listen to us.

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# ExonianHumor



## Election Signature Starter Pack

By RYAN XIE  
*Lost DC Election Last Year*

1. "What's your platform?"
2. Illegible handwriting.
3. "What distinguishes you from other candidates?"
4. Spilled food on the sheet.
5. "I already signed."
6. People, who you know won't bother to stand in line for the ballots, promising to vote for you.
7. "Why should I vote for you?"
8. Competitors signing each other's sheets.
9. The one kid who won't sign.

## The Eight Stages of Eating a Bag of Chips

By JACK ARCHER  
*First Humor Article, Low-Key the Best One on the Page*

**The temptation:** It's there. Perched on the corner of your desk, just within your line of sight. Crunchy, salty goodness. Waiting there. For you.

**Giving in:** The bag is in your hands now. How did it get there? You're not really sure, but as long as it is there, might as well.

**The Inception:** There's the perfect tear along the top seam of the bag, the light reflecting off the shiny interior. Your hand plunges into the abyss and returns with a handful of your prey. The chips are thin and crunchy, and your fingertips are layered with their first coating of salt. All is well, life is good.

**Comfort Phase:** Your mouth is now accustomed to the taste of the chips, used to the massive amounts of salt you are ingesting at an alarming rate. There's no stopping now. Chip after chip, you shove each one into your mouth. The bag continues to yield yellow flakes of happiness, and you continue to accept each of its gifts.

**Shortage:** Your chip-per-handful ratio has lowered substantially. Your hand is travelling deeper and deeper to satisfy your salt-craving taste buds. Times are harder now than they used to be.

**The Funnel:** Your hands just won't do the trick anymore. It is time for more desperate measures. You tilt the bag upwards, stationing your mouth at the top corner of the bag and lean back, letting the last sediments stubbornly clinging to the bottom of the bag tumble into your mouth. You chew, you swallow. It is done.

**Regret:** You realize that now you will have to do everything with oily, salty, saliva-covered fingers.

**Grief:** You realise the bag of chips was family-sized.

## TFW the Kinnos Machine Retracts the Paper Towel After 20 Minutes

By RYAN XIE  
*Helped Bring the Assembly Speaker to Exeter*



Do you need to triple space your essay to fill

up space like we just did here?

Submit to the Humor Page.

Email [exonianhumor@gmail.com](mailto:exonianhumor@gmail.com).

## Assembly Speakers Exposed For Dicking Assembly

By ANONYMOUS  
*John Snow?*

In a surprising turn of events, the latest phenomenon in a worrying trend of increased absences is one that may seem absurd: Assembly speakers dicking their own assemblies. "Yeah, uh...we don't know how to explain this one. Essentially we're seeing assembly speakers show up to campus, and everything is going according to procedure. They check into their hotels, we give them a tour, and then come 9:45 Tuesday or Friday, they disappear," said Authority Figure and Important Person Cean Doole of the reported incidents:

In order to deal with this unsettling situation, the administration has had to resort to some extreme measures. "We've taken to

hiring body doubles," explained Doole. "And we have to send them up onstage in place of their originals. Sometimes we'll need multiple body doubles, just in case the assembly speaker convinces their first body double to go to D2 with them or something right before." According to the Oean's Office, the assembly speakers who were actually body doubles may surprise students. "That guy with the disinfectant startup that had everyone laughing, he was a body double. We actually found him in a comedy club in El Paso. That's why he was so funny! The acquisition of body doubles for each assembly speaker has taken a toll on the Academy's finances. The administration has

resorted to extreme measures in order to cut spending, including selling the chairs from D-Hall, and kicking out one financial aid student each week to cover expenses.

"Wow. I didn't think that they would kick me out like that. Apparently, I failed my body double training course? Um...I wasn't taking that course. But I guess I'll call my mom," said one financial aid student.

Your editors can only hope such disturbing trends do not continue. In the event that they do continue, said a representative for the Oean's Office, "we're going to have to start instituting assembly speaker checks twice a week." The penalty? "Death."

## Examining Campus Cults Part 2: Classics

By NICK SCHWARZ  
*Totally Does Not Take Classics*

Last week, when we examined the "Cross Country Cult" on this page, a reference to Coach Nicholas Unger mysteriously disappeared somewhere between *The Exonian* office and the printer. Although we might fob this off as sloppy editing, in reality we know it is an example of the power of the undeniable leader of the "Classics Cult."

Entering a Latin classroom, it is clear that the space is considered sacred, as each room seems untouched by time. The walls are covered not by whiteboards nor even by retro blackboards, but that weird 1970s-era green-colored board, for which there is no commonly recognized term. This is obviously fitting for the study of dead languages, although there

seems to be some controversy over the subjects' state of decomposition. When asked why he studied ancient languages no one bothered to speak in this day and age, Pepper Pieroni cryptically answered: "We've resurrected them."

Classics students complain ceaselessly of their suffering but, apparently brainwashed, keep crawling back for more. And what exactly are they cramming into their brains? This reporter observed a study group organized by Calvin Henaku ominously chanting "substantive clause of volition," "future less vivid," and exclaiming with delight over the discovery of such choice morsels as "the ablative of time when and within which," all while translating a passage about some unlucky fellow's

genitalia being crushed.

Such activities suggest there may be truth behind the rumor that students use the replica Roman weapons stored in the Classics wing in secret gladiatorial fights staged in the Latin Study (no wonder they always keep it locked) for the entertainment of Trustees. Other disturbing activities include tournaments in which prizes are given to those who can name, for instance, the infant whose father pierced his feet and abandoned him on a mountain to die, final projects devoted to studying a ritual involving the immolation of prisoners of war in giant human-shaped wicker cages, and entire weeks given over to poking in the dirt under the scorching Mediterranean sun in search of broken plates.

## The Exonian Typos

By RYAN XIE  
*Used to Be a Copy Editor*

**The Exonian Board: fails to edit newspaper**

**The Paper Version of The Exonian: typos everywhere**

**The Exonian Board:**



## Quote of the Week

"I'm tired of all of my cells dying for no reason."  
- Jason Kang, assembly speaker

"Can we get rid of the imgflip watermark in the meme above?"  
-Nick Schwarz '20  
"Who Cares"  
-Ryan Xie '20

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# ExeterLife



Exonians visit the new Lamont Gallery exhibit.

Thomas Wang/The Exonian

## Lamont Gallery Features Dissolving Art

By ANNE BRANDES  
Staff Writer

William Kentridge's linocut prints adorn the Lamont Gallery walls as students and faculty admire the newly instated exhibition, Universal Archive. Kentridge's belief that "there is a desperation in all certainty" manifests itself in his choice of medium for his pieces: each printed image will eventually dissolve.

Kentridge and his assistants carefully carved sketches, ranging from trees to coffee pots, onto the linoleum plates which were originally a collection of small ink drawings. These abstract subject matters reflect Kentridge's world view. "The category of political uncertainty, philosophical uncertainty, uncertainty of images, is much closer to how the world is," he said.

Another way Kentridge adds complexity to his works is by creating illusions. According to Weston LaFountain, the Interim Curator of the Lamont Gallery, Kentridge deceives viewers by cutting a watercolor-like sketch onto a rigid block. "There are multiple layers of meaning of how the prints were made," LaFountain said. "His method ties into his own philosophy of life in general and how there is very little certainty in this world and that we

live in a world of process and not hard fact."

Lamont Gallery proctor and upper Elizabeth Kostina praised the way Kentridge shows the evolution of an object. "He will take a drawing of an ordinary object, like a tea kettle that is relatively realistic," she said. "Then, he will slowly distort the image over several prints. Once you get to the final image, you wouldn't be able to recognize [that] this was a tea kettle at all."

Many of Kentridge's revolutionary ideas are rooted in his earlier life in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he witnessed the dissolution of South Africa's 20th-century system of institutional racial segregation known as apartheid. His work largely draws on the desolate industrial environment of post-apartheid South Africa, seeking to express ideas across multiple disciplines, including drawing, film and theatre.

LaFountain elaborated on the interdisciplinary nature of Kentridge's art. "[Kentridge] is this profound philosophical thinker that is able to work across many fields and combine them successfully," he said. "The 75 prints we have are only the tip of the tip of the iceberg in terms of the work that he has produced."

Another medium Kentridge explores is stop motion film, which can be incredibly la-

borious. "He does a charcoal drawing, takes a pictures of it and strings many of these drawings together into a moving image," he said. "If you put that into context, one second of animation is 24 frames per second. Some of his videos are 50 minutes long." The exhibition itself displays clips of the stop motion media that Kentridge has created.

As an addition to the exhibition, LaFountain and the gallery proctors have set up a whiteboard and video camera so students can mimic Kentridge's passion for stop motion film. "[LaFountain, myself and the other proctors] are going to try and get the people who come to the exhibit to participate in that sense," she said.

Kostina believes the difficult nature of stop motion will advance students' understanding of the exhibit. "I think a lot of people don't understand how difficult filming is," she said. "The process of stop motion is both gratifying and frustrating; I want people to see that and have a better understanding of what his art is."

Students who attended the gallery opening were extremely impressed by the exhibition. "My initial perception was that it seemed kind of mysterious and nearly reminded me of calligraphy," she said. "I thought it was really

beautiful for some inexplicable reason."

Another visitor, lower Sarah Huang, described that her favorite part of the exhibition was how one print could represent two or more subjects. "When looking at the exhibition, I realized that a print that we had thought was a bird could also be interpreted as a forest with a moon above," she said. "The different understandings possible behind the prints reminded me of how much care the artist must have put into each print."

Music Instructor Jon Sakata is leading a discussion about the exhibition with other members of the faculty. The exhibition resonates with him because of the layers of meanings in each piece. "All to say, Kentridge—known for his amazing animations—is an artist who most richly activates an animation of mind, imagination, critically and cunningly vital thought like no other," Mr. Sakata said.

When Kentridge discusses his philosophy on art, he takes the time to evaluate accepted notions and turn them upside down. "The absurd, with its rupture of rationality—is in fact an accurate and a productive way of understanding the world," he said.

*The exhibit will be on display in Lamont Gallery until Mar. 9.*

## WINTER FORMAL

By VERONICA CHOULGA and SUMMER FALIERO  
Staff Writer and Guest Contributor

Last Saturday, Exonians braved the cold walk from their dorms to Grainger Auditorium to attend WPEA's annual Winter Formal. Upon arrival, they shed their sweatpants and winter jackets to dance to live music, relax at tables and socialize with friends. Friend groups had their photos taken together to commemorate the night.

Hosted by Exeter's radio station, Winter Formal is Exeter's only formal dance of the year. Some students believe that the upscale dress-code is what draws Exonians to the event. "I think Winter Formal is something that people go to because it's a formal dance—that's why it's so popular," lower Gabriella Shetreet said. The students noted their enjoyment of getting dressed up and shopping for their attire as a good way to relieve stress after the long school week.

In addition to increasing student turnout, the attire was a major reason for the event's supportive atmosphere, according to lower Brody Faliero. "It is always fun to see all of your friends dressed up, feeling confident," she said.

Upper Patty Fitzgerald agreed with Faliero. "My favorite part was seeing so many of my friends looking amazing, and everybody was so positive! I think there was a lot of self confidence at the dance and I appreciate that." The night after Winter Formal, Exonians flooded Instagram with photos of friend groups combined with Winter Formal related captions.

However, some Exonians felt pressured to find dates for the event. "I know a few people who didn't feel comfortable going because they didn't have a date," upper Zane Ice said. Fitzgerald agreed, comparing the dance to a "mini prom." "[Going with a date] is a standard. If you don't do it, you don't really fit in without other people," Fitzgerald said. "Going alone to a dance is something which is generally frowned upon, and that extends more to WinFo because of its reputation as a date dance."

This concern was not shared by all, however. For many, Winter Formal was simply another event to relax and have

a good time with their friends. Though some students chose to ask their peers to accompany them to the dance, they did not equate it to a romantic gesture. "If you ask somebody to Winter Formal, you aren't really asking them so that you can dance with them; you're just asking them to take a picture together," Faliero explained.

Some Exonians came to Winter Formal for just that: a photo. "My favorite part of Winter Formal was taking pictures with my friends!" Shetreet said. Indeed, Faliero admitted that the event is less of a dance than an opportunity for photos. "I don't think that the actual dance is very formal, considering it's mostly a long line of people waiting to get their pictures taken," she stated.

Some students felt that live music was difficult to dance to. "A lot of people were kind of making fun of the music. I definitely think it could have been better, but a lot more people were in the auditorium dancing this year than there were last," lower Ali Hanlon said.

However, many believed that the live music contributed to the laid-back ambiance of the dance. "Many Exonians had particular admiration for the diversity of songs played. "It was refreshing to hear a mix of different genres rather than just the most popular music," Shetreet said.

Although the dance may be relaxed, the process of preparing and setting up the event can be busy. Upper Henry Pallatroni, a member of the WPEA board, commented on the marketing preparation leading up to the dance. "For me, the most important part of the whole process was promotion. The WPEA winter formal couldn't have been a success if nobody knew about it," he said.

Overall, the dance garnered positive reviews from the student body. "WinFo is something really special, and many people I know look forward to it during the first few, hard weeks of winter term," Fitzgerald said. "It's like a fun and fancy way to take a break from classwork, and this year it exceeded my expectations by far."

## TRENDWATCH

By LEAH COHEN and RAMYANEE MUKHERJEE  
Contributing Writers

Hi guys! I'm Ramyanee, one of your new Trendwatch writers! I'm an upper from New Jersey, and I live in Bancroft Hall. I was born in India and moved to the United States when I was one year old. I've been sewing and designing clothes since I was 13 years old, and I'm excited to combine my love of writing and fashion to bring you the newest trends and showcase the Exonians who flaunt them!

Hi everyone! I'm Leah, the other Trendwatch writer! I'm a three-year upper in Amen Hall from Pennsylvania. I have loved fashion for as long as I can remember. I wanted to write Trendwatch from the moment I read the column in my brother's *Exonian* in 2012. I can't wait to follow all you fashion-forward Exonians in 2019!

Saturday night's WPEA Winter Formal was a fashionable kickoff to 2019 for Exonians. In between posing for photos and dancing with the band, we had plenty of time to spot up-and-coming trends for the new year!

Morgan Lee '21 and Avery Napier '21 were spotted wearing silky metallic dresses. Lee wore a gold bodycon dress with a slit on both sides, and Napier shimmered in a silver, loose-fitting slip dress.

Some students took the sparkle to the next level with sequined dresses. Hanna Pak '19 blinded us with her embellished halter top

paired with black dress pants, and Katie Yang '19 glimmered in a mini bodycon dress covered in silver sequins that shined underneath the lights.

Exonians also showed off their school spirit with bright red outfits. Meredith Thomas '21 rocked a slim-fitting maxi dress with a ruffled neckline, and Mimi Lavin '20 flaunted a red mini-dress.

Many were ready to jump into the New Year with dazzling jumpsuits. Kate Denny '19 combined two trends with a glittering silver tube top and pants to match. Beez Dentzer '20 killed it in a scarlet red jumpsuit with matching red lipstick.

Some guys kept it classy and casual with no ties and a monochrome color palette. Ethan Aguilar '22 and Justin Li '20 both sported black-on-black button-downs and blazers. Others, such as Isaac Choate '19 and Ray Alvarez-Adorno '19, stood out with their unique outfits. Choate stepped up to the plate and paired a navy blazer with a black button-down. Alvarez-Adorno stood out in a red plaid blazer layered over a grey turtleneck.

We're super excited to be your next Trendwatch writers and bring the hottest trends into the hands of Exonians!

XO,  
Ramyanee Mukherjee and Leah Cohen



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## AlumniSpotlight

## JEFF LASZLO

By CHARLOTTE LISA AND MAEGAN PAUL  
Staff Writers

Dressed in a blue checked shirt, worn jeans, tall boots and a wide-brimmed hat, Jeff Laszlo '74 welcomed a group of Exeter students and science instructors to his family's Montana ranch last June of 2018. While surrounded by the cottonwood trees, Laszlo huddled the group together to describe his project to restore O'Dell Creek. For the past 14 years, he has worked to revitalize the arid land that was once drained as a result of unsustainable ranching methods previously employed on the area.

Laszlo's project was targeted towards introducing new stream channels while closing off portions of drainage canals. In the simplest terms, he built a river in order to supply the parched wetlands of the Montana ranch with water—a development that would later lead to the major increase in biodiversity the ranch is currently experiencing. According to Laszlo, the O'Dell Creek Restoration Project has revived one thousand acres of wetlands and one hundred miles of stream channels, allowing the natural "process to take over and perpetuate [the ranch's] health."

As a result of his restoration efforts, Laszlo received the Environmental Law Institute's National Wetlands Award for Landowner Steward in 2010, as recorded in his Property and Environment Research Center profile. Since breaking ground in 2005, the Granger Ranch has experienced a 900% increase in waterfowl species and an overall 600% increase in biodiversity.

Laszlo described the majority of land ownership history in the western United States as an unsustainable relationship of take and no give between the people and the land. "[In many cases] extracting—whether it's mining, timber or grazing—is done in an extreme degree without any consideration for what's left behind," Laszlo said, whose economic and environmental awareness inspired him to begin his project. Not only was the ranch under-profiting, but he also felt what he described as "a gut-level instinct that the land was not being managed well."

With the help of Laszlo and many



Courtesy of Google

others, the project has dramatically changed the landscape and life of Madison Valley. Laszlo sees evidence of his success in a myriad of ways and described the daily gratification he feels. "To see the role that [O'Dell Creek is] playing in the ecological health of the watershed and for migratory birds who live between Alaska and Mexico—those have been the rewards," he said.

Beyond his personal achievements, Laszlo commented on ways the project has benefitted the community. "For me, connecting people back to the land and to one another has been one of the most important successes of the project. It's very rewarding to see the true impact and connection between the community and the landscape." The ranch has also seen an increase in profits since the beginning of restorative efforts, suggesting a symbiotic relationship between sustainable land use, natural

production and profit.

After learning about the restoration project and visiting the ranch, Biology Instructor Townley Chisholm commended Laszlo's efforts, believing his work stands out not only due to its success but also in the example it sets for other landowners. "Jeff is totally committed to doing what he can to restore a natural watershed on his ranch," Chisholm said, "Better yet, [he] spread[s] the word that caring for healthy ecosystems can be an essential part of managing a family ranch."

Students from the Yellowstone trip echoed Chisholm's high praise. Lower Addie Luce noted that Laszlo's love for his job was evident. "He just loves biology and was interested in it when at Exeter," Luce said. She further added how she could see Exeter's impact on the alumni's life. "He goes on to later apply [his interest] to his life [and] I think

that shows how [Exeter can] impact our future," she said.

Laszlo indeed encourages Exeter students to take advantage of the opportunities that come to Exeter, and to "realize that your education can happen in unexpected way, and that life takes you in unexpected places, and be open to that."

After listening to Laszlo's story, upper Lucy Gilchrist praised his commitment and hard work. The restoration process was a long and arduous one, a risky undertaking that highlights Laszlo's dedication to his work. "It was clear that Mr. Laszlo truly cares about conservation; otherwise he may have not taken on such a monumental task," she stated.

When asked about the most memorable moments on the trip, both Gilchrist and Luce distinctly recalled the moment when Laszlo drove the whole summer group out to the creek and showed them a photo from the 1950s, a period characterized by especially low biodiversity. Observing the damage, both Exonians were amazed to compare the conditions of the 50's to the conditions of the wetlands today.

Laszlo's commitment to aiding the environment, he has inspired others to do the same. "Our interaction with Mr. Laszlo was incredibly valuable," Gilchrist said. "I think it's important for current Exeter students to see how *non sibi* can be applied to real life and to real careers."

Laszlo similarly emphasized the non sibi spirit of Exeter behind his project as a part of a much larger community and movement. "When I think about non sibi, it's pretty clear that this project has personal benefit, but I'm not going to be here forever. Hopefully the work that we've done will be forever. This benefits others," he said.

When asked about the importance of interactions between Exeter students and alumni, Chisholm complimented Laszlo's efforts. "He is an inspiring example of someone who is working really hard to achieve a difficult goal just because he knows that goal is worthwhile," Chisholm said. "If he doesn't do it, no one else will."

## RALPH G. SNEEDEN

By DANIEL CHEN and TINA HUANG  
Staff Writers

English Instructor Ralph Sneed, the B. Rodney Marriot Chair of the Humanities, comes to the Harkness table every day with a desire to teach and learn from impassioned conversation. It is this particular method of "student-centered discussion" that makes the Academy special to him.

"This amazing table can only fit a certain amount of people who are all motivated and different from each other," he said. "The students don't come from the same places or cultural experiences. I love helping them navigate the complexities and the beauty of that."

As an English instructor, Sneed helps students explore their identities through writing. His own interest and passion for the subject began in his undergraduate years at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Sneed has explored various pieces of literature in his classes, and noted Franz Kafka and Anton Chekhov as two major influences. As he dove deeper into each story, he became increasingly excited about writing his own pieces.

Sneed had his first encounter with small-scale, discussion-based classes in college. "I had a great class with a writer, and a small class that was taught around a table similar to the Harkness method," he said. "It was the first small class I'd ever had, and that's where I first began thinking that this was a great way to learn." After that transformative class, Sneed continued to pursue various styles of writing throughout his time at college.

Sneed did not become interested in poetry until his later years. "I wasn't really intrigued aesthetically by poetry," he said. However, after attending graduate school at Middlebury College, something "clicked" in his head. "I didn't know what changed, but the whole idea of space in the poem, an awareness of texture and music — especially with



Numi Oyeboide/The Exonian

narrative intentions that poems can be used for — it piqued my interest in the style," he said.

Sneed went on to obtain a Master of Fine Arts in poetry from Warren Wilson College. The program helped him to develop his skills as a writer and gave him the opportunity to learn from professors such as author David Huddle.

After the program, Sneed followed in Huddle's footsteps and became a teacher — not of English, but of Latin. "There weren't any English jobs open at the school where I was interested in teaching: the Pingree School in South Hamilton," he said. Between his hours of teaching, he began his professional career in writing. "I started writing not because I was working on a paper for a class or for a degree, but because I truly wanted to write."

Sneed moved on to become a fellow at Columbia University, the English department head at Lake Forest High School and an English Instructor at PEA. Now in his 24th year of instruction, Sneed reflected on his time at the Academy. "[Living at Exeter is] an ongoing experiment, trying to balance a serious writing life and teaching life," he said.

Todd Hearon, a fellow English instructor, has enjoyed watching Sneed's evolution as a writer and complimented his strong work ethic. "He is a consummate poet. He works so hard, harder than almost anybody I know, and is religious about his writing," he said. "I have loved seeing him emerge into more of a public figure as a poet in my time here with him."

"The Retreats" is Sneed's most

recently published piece. Featured in AGNI Magazine of Boston University, the prose describes the different conflicts he faced after venturing to a variety of places in order to write. The writing indulges the reader, taking them from his in-law's nineteenth-century house in Ashdod, Israel, to a snowstorm at the MacDowell Writer's Colony. Sneed describes the distractions and struggles universal to writers through eloquent descriptions of his changing physical and mental states.

"It's the archetypal experience of the writer going off into solitude and getting a lot of work done," he described, "I was writing about having all these great ideas and big plans about being a writer and secluding yourself. You go to these amazing places but there's always going to be something pulling you away. You have to live if you want to write."

In the final paragraph of "The Retreats," Sneed describes "existential torment, ambition thwarted, the wilderness' reflected indifference" in the final shot of the film Herzog's Aguirre, the Wrath of God. "I guess you're supposed to think about the piece metaphorically, as a sort of appraisal to all the places I go to write. Writing is not as easy as you think just because you have a room or a cottage," he said, "It's really hard. It's intimidating. But for me, places are really important. I have to feel comfortable."

Lower Alana Yang, a former student of Sneed's, expressed her appreciation for the instructor's understanding of his students. "It's clear that he understands the stress of student life at Exeter because instead of focusing on assignments and grades, his teaching style pushes students to understand their reading to a deeper level and better their writing over multiple edits without a strict, looming deadline." Whether in the classroom or writing in a quiet colony far off, Ralph Sneed inspires everywhere he goes.



# ExonianSports



## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: LYDIA ANDERSON, CHIARA CHRISTIE, KATHRYN KESTER & MICHAELA O'BRIEN

By MEREDITH THOMAS AND  
COOPER WALSH  
Staff Writers

A girl in a green jersey speeds down the ice, winds up and shoots a wrist shot. The puck flies through the air until senior, co-captain and goalie Michaela "Moby" O'Brien slides across the crease and deflects it from the goal. The three other senior co-captains, Lydia Anderson, Chiara Christie and Kathryn Kester, along with the rest of the team, leap onto the ice to celebrate their shootout victory over Brooks.

As captains of Girls' Varsity Hockey, Anderson, Christie, Kester and O'Brien are guiding the team of 21 through their winter season using their distinct personalities and unique repertoire of skills. The four seniors have led Big Red hockey to an impressive 5-2-3 record thus far.

O'Brien first picked up a hockey stick at the age of four and has not put it down since. She started her hockey career as a forward but quickly found her groove in front of the net, remaining a brick wall for Big Red since arriving as a prep. She credits her love of hockey to her dad who has played hockey his whole life. "He has been there for me for it all and has rarely missed a game," she said.

Upper Jenna Brooks described O'Brien as the "the wild one" because of her vocals and the energy she brings onto the ice. Christie said that O'Brien is able to "get the team hype before games." Anderson simply said, "Moby is a complete bro in the most basic sense of the word."

During games, O'Brien is always a reliable and strategic player, whom upper Keaghan Tierney compared to a "quarterback." "She tells everyone what they should be doing when it's in our zone," Tierney said.

Lower Alyssa Xu also highlighted O'Brien's grit. "Moby is very quick in goal and is not afraid to drop bodies both in front and behind the net." Xu shared her favorite memory of O'Brien. "I went to pick the puck up from behind our net when Moby skated around the net to stop the puck and on her way back around, absolutely demolished the girl forechecking me. She landed hard on the ice and Moby got a penalty, but those girls definitely learned not to mess with Moby."

Like O'Brien, Anderson started playing hockey when her father encouraged her and her siblings to pick up the game after she learned to skate at the young age of four. Her passion for the sport comes not only from how fun winning a game can be, she said, but also the people that she gets to play with and the friendships that she forms.

As varsity starter since prep year, Anderson recognized the significance of being elected a captain. She sees her role as someone who pro-



JaQ Lai/The Exonian

vides staunch support for the team even when they are the underdogs, making sure everyone on the team is feeling "seen and respected." According to Tierney, who dubbed Anderson the "mom" of the team, these are the very qualities that the captain embodies.

Christie lauded Anderson for her ability to always keep the team focused on executing their game plan. O'Brien highlighted Anderson's skills and reliability as one of the team's leading scorers. "Lydia is just a goal scorer and a playmaker. You can always count on her to score in big games," she said.

Tierney echoed O'Brien's sentiments and added, "Lydia is so smooth with the puck and is very skilled in the offensive zone. Lydia never gives up." Xu agreed and pointed out that Anderson is a "super hard worker who wins lots of 50/50 puck battles."

For Christie, her passion for hockey began when her older brother inspired her to play. "I started skating as soon as I could walk on the pond in my backyard with my older brother," Christie said. She started her hockey career in the net, blocking shots as a goalie for a boys' team, but she switched to playing forward for a girls' team at age 13. After ditching the bulky pads to be a forward, Christie quickly improved in her new position with help from her brother. "My brother played a big role in helping me adjust to my new position by helping me with my shot and giving me pointers after my games," Christie said.

Christie is thankful to hockey for the connections she has made. "Whether it is your own team or you meet someone who has played

somewhere else, you instantly have this camaraderie I haven't found with other sports," she said.

As a leader, Christie strives to be available to her teammates when needed. Though the team is always supportive of each other as a whole, upper Jill Cloonan believes that Christie in particular is "always there to pat teammates' back if they make a mistake."

Brooks, meanwhile, pointed out that Christie is one of the most hardworking players who "leads by example." Cloonan noted that Christie is always "looking to set a good example to the underclassmen who look up to her for her kindness and keen vision on the ice." Fellow captain Anderson added that Christie is not "necessarily the loudest in the locker room, but when she has something to say, people listen."

This year, Christie's versatility and commitment to the team was put on display when Tierney suffered an injury early in the season. Without any complaints, Christie switched to play defense to fulfill the team's needs. O'Brien said, "Christie usually played forward for us, but when Keaghan got hurt, Chiara stepped up and went back on D which she is doing a tremendous job with." Xu added that "Chiara excels at having patience with the puck and playing defensive hockey."

Growing up in New York City, Kester first hit the ice on figure skates. However, she was still raised around the influence of hockey due to her uncle and grandfather who both played the sport competitively. After much persuasion, Kester's parents found her a team in New York City, and Kester is grateful for how supportive her parents

have been throughout her whole hockey career.

Kester recalled how insecure she was upon arrival at Exeter; one mistake was enough to shake her confidence on the ice. However, she believed that, over time and with the help of coaches and teammates, she got better at recovering from her mistakes.

To Kester, being a captain means "being a leader both on and off the ice and setting an example for everyone on the team." She hoped to show people the importance of working hard and being supportive of one another. Prep Molly Longfield pointed out that Kester demonstrates these qualities especially off the ice, where "Kester is always there to help her teammates through issues."

Keaghan highlighted Kester's skills, saying, "She is a massive threat on the ice with her hockey smarts. She is super solid on defense and rarely anyone gets by her. If they do then she makes up for it." Brooks marveled at Kester's slap shots, saying, "Kester's slap shot is so hard it hurts to block her shots."

When asked about her favorite memory on Big Red's Girls' Varsity Hockey team, Kester said she would always remember her prep year E/A at Andover, when "Kaleigh Conte '18 dangled the defender and passed [her] the puck for a clean shot to score the first goal of [her] high school career."

Anderson shared that she will miss "the little things about hockey—the feeling when you block a shot, or dancing in the locker room and in general getting to play my favorite sport with my favorite people."

## OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE: NFL PLAYOFFS

By CHARLOTTE LISA AND STEPHEN  
MCNULTY

National Football League (NFL) fans everywhere tuned in this past weekend to watch the eight remaining teams in the playoffs become four as they vied yet again for the coveted Lombardi Trophy.

The night ended in celebration for some and heartbreak for others. Per the results, the New Orleans Saints will host the Los Angeles Rams at the Superdome in the NFC Championship while the Kansas City Chiefs will host the New England Patriots at Arrowhead Stadium for the AFC Championship Jan. 20.

The Chiefs yielded a victory over the Indianapolis Colts in a 31-13 win—a sweet reward for fans who anxiously awaited results outside the freezing stadium.

At home in Los Angeles, the Rams most notably conquered the Dallas Cowboys by exploiting their stunt-oriented defense with an ultimate final score of Rams 30 to Cowboys 22.

On the other side of the AFC bracket, the New England Patriots played the Los Angeles Chargers at home, cruising to a 41-28 win over the Chargers. The Patriots will now head onto Kansas City for their eighth consecutive AFC Championship appearance.

In the last game of the weekend, the New Orleans Saints eliminated the defending Super Bowl Champions, the Philadelphia Eagles, in a 20-14 win.

Senior Bella Hillman, an avid football fan, expressed her admiration for the Chiefs and her hope for Kansas City given the defeat of her own team, the Eagles. "I think [Patrick] Mahomes is an absolute beauty, and the Chiefs

have had a great season, so I'd love to see if they can get to the Super Bowl," she said.

On the other hand, Patriots fan and senior Juliana Merullo anticipates less hopeful prospects for the team. "I obviously don't like the Chiefs, since we will be playing them [...] Patrick Mahomes is kind of nasty," Merullo said.

Lower Nina Weeldreyer, a Cowboys fan, voiced her disappointment. "It was a shame to see them come as far as they did this season after so many seasons of being one of the worst teams in the league," she said.

Merullo described her elation at the New England win. "Honestly, as a Patriots fan, you get a lot of hate, and I think that just comes from being the most consistently good team year in and year out," she said.

Upper Zeb Tilton, who witnessed the Patriot victory in person at Gillette Stadium,

described the stadium's atmosphere as "excited but also anxious." He expressed high hopes for the team, saying, "I never doubted that the Patriots would be able to pull off the win, especially in a cold January game at Foxboro with Brady."

While Exonians may root for different teams, they agree that the high intensity games make NFL playoffs a fun and captivating watch. "Playoffs are great because every game could be the last, so the intensity is unmatched," upper Josh Riddick said.

Tilton agreed, describing the NFL playoffs as "the best part of the year for football."

Football fans are eagerly anticipating the Conference Championships this Sunday, guaranteed to include all the miracle plays, upsets, victories, losses, joy and heartache that is the NFL playoff season.

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