



# The Exonian

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Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire

## Reverend Thompson Breaks Silence

By SUAN LEE and SAM WEIL  
Staff Writers

Two years after the Academy "unjustly" placed him on paid administrative leave, recently retired PEA minister Robert Thompson feels a sense of closure in his relationship with the Academy.

In an interview with The Exonian, Thompson shared his perspective on his relations with the Academy and

details of the past two and a quarter years he has been on leave.

Following a Boston Globe article published on July 13, 2016 describing Thompson's alleged role in the 2016 student-on-student sexual misconduct case, the Academy placed Thompson under gag order and banned him from campus. The leave came to an end on Oct. 13 with his retirement, announced by Interim Principal William Rawson on Oct. 29.

In his email to the Exeter community, Rawson said, "This situation has been painful to Rev. Thompson and his family and difficult for the school and the extended Exeter community." He added, however, that the school and the Reverend had resolved their differences "amicably through mediation." Assistant Principal Karen Lassey declined to comment about Thompson's departure from the Academy.

REV. 2



Rev. Robert Thompson Courtesy of SoundVision

## Academy Disputes Lynch Suit

By MAI HOANG and SHIVANI TRIPATHI  
Staff Writers

The Academy has asserted in court documents that it fired former employee Hal Lynch III because a student alleged Lynch had known and failed to report sexual misconduct against the student by Lynch's then-partner. Lynch, who is gay, claimed he was let go due to his sexual orientation.

PEA maintained that Lynch was guilty of "willful blindness" to "unspeakable acts" committed by former faculty member Lane Bateman, Lynch's former long-term partner. Bateman was convicted in 1992 of possession and interstate transportation of child pornography. In 2016, a former student reported to PEA that he had engaged in sexual relations with Bateman while still a minor.

Attorneys Debra Ford and Samuel Maxwell from Jackson Lewis P.C. submitted the Academy's response to Rockingham County Superior Court.

The school asserts in its defendant's answer that it conducted an

LYNCH. 2



Senior and Red Bandit Miranda Hall holds up a sign at the E/a soccer game. Courtesy of Bryan Muldoon

## Dorms Hire Extra Adults

By SHIVANI TRIPATHI and RACHEL WON  
Staff Writer

In order to alleviate responsibility from existing dorm faculty affiliates and to foster student-faculty interactions, the Academy Life Task Force has retained faculty spouses, staff and others in the PEA community to serve dorm duty in multiple dormitories.

This new dorm duty policy was proposed last spring and put in place this term. It increases adult supervision in dorms and is one of the many recent initiatives for student safety and well-being introduced this school year, such as postponing dormitory leave time to 6 a.m., inhibiting fatigues on Mondays and dorms such as Wheelwright Hall toughening restrictions on their residents.

The times that the adults are on duty are flexible and tailored towards each dorm's needs. "We have left it up to the dorm teams how best to use their sources and to encourage them to think outside the box, whether that means offering faculty to be available for visitations or just for help on Wednesday [afternoons] or Sunday evenings," Dean of Residential Life Carol Cahalane said.

The policy's employment of additional duty members is supported by Academy funds allocated for additional staffing. "We hired a dozen additional people who work here on campus or are spouses of people who work on campus," Cahalane said. "[These are] people who know the community, understand the community and understand the campus."

Several dorms have already enacted the policy and retained external adults, besides regular dorm affiliates, to serve duty on certain nights of the week.

Bancroft Hall currently employs James Tufts, an

VISITATIONS. 2

## Lack of Mental Health Awareness Concerns the DC

By ANNE BRANDES and ANGELE YANG  
Staff Writers

The increase of mental health awareness around campus has prompted the Discipline Committee (DC) to discuss the lack of consideration given to mental health during the discipline process, as well as the efficacy of punitive consequences.

The Discipline Review Committee (DRC), which consists solely of faculty, is discussing reevaluating its process to include factors such as mental health and Restorative Justice. So far, the members of the DRC have met only once with the DC to discuss possible courses of action.

The DC is comprised of eight students and nine faculty members that assesses cases of student misconduct as defined by the E Book. Currently, the DC process does not account for mental health unless the student believes that their mental health played a factor in their misdemeanor and chooses to disclose their history to the board.

DC Chair Matthew Hartnett explained that the committee is currently reviewing the discipline system with regard to students' health. "It is fair to say that the committee has acknowledged that we should investigate how mental and physical health issues intersect with the discipline process and make recommendations for changes if they seem advisable," Hartnett said.

English Instructor and DC member Jane Cadwell said that mental health can play a significant role in a student's actions. "We do not look at health records. That's confidential," Cadwell said. "We're supposed to be looking at someone's actions and their response to it and how it affected others. However, I think that often health issues play a part in students' infractions."

"Mental health can't not be part of the process. It's always part of the process and is inextricably woven in," Health Counselor Christopher Thurber said. However, he believes that it should be up to the student to explicitly include their mental health history in their discipline case and that the current DC process should remain as it is.

Currently, health counselors are not permitted to be present at



Senior Jane Collins hits the ball. Courtesy of Bryan Muldoon

or contribute to a DC case due to patient confidentiality.

Additionally, DC is obligated to only consider the facts that are presented to them, according to senior and DC member Gillian Quinto. "Even if there are underlying problems and [the student is] already meeting with a counselor, we cannot consider that unless students present it to us," Quinto said. "A lot of times when students have acted due to mental health concerns, we have no option but to give them a punitive response."

However, if mental health is considered beforehand, it could change the outcome of a case, changing the ascribed intentions of the student. "More often than not, the cases we sit in on are not mean-spirited—they occur when the student has messed up," Quinto said. "When the case is not mean-spirited, I think mental health should be a factor considered in the case. When it's mean spirited, that's when the committee is less lenient."

The committee also proposed a method of reconciliation called Restorative Justice, which seeks to negotiate a compromise for all parties involved, according to Director of Student Well-Being Christina Palmer. "Restorative Justice is a value based approach to conflict, harm and building community. The most essential value is respect," Palmer said. "Restorative Justice is a flexible set of practices that are adaptable to many purposes, enabling those involved to bring forward their best self."

Although some DC members are not convinced of the efficacy of Restorative Justice, senior and DC member Yaseen Ahmed

DC. 2

## PEA Lower Advances in Jeopardy Show

By BEN CAI, ERIN CHOI and CHARLOTTE LISA  
Staff Writers

Faculty and students watched intently last Thursday evening as lower Caleb Richmond fielded questions in the quarterfinals round of a tournament on America's most-award-winning quiz show: Jeopardy! Meanwhile, Richmond, excited for his television debut, celebrated his victory with family and friends at a personal viewing party back at his home in Bedford, New Hampshire.

Competing in the second quarterfinals game of Jeopardy! Teen Tournament against two other freshmen from high schools across America, Isabella Pagano of Illinois and Rotimi Kukoyi of Alabama, Richmond readily answered questions and tactfully wagered his money in daily doubles for a spot in the semifinals.

By the end, Richmond had gained a large enough margin over the other two contestants to bet zero dollars on the final round even though he answered correctly: "Who is Napoleon?"

Richmond won with a final score of \$20,200, while Pagano and Kukoyi finished with \$0 and \$1, respectively, after losing their wagers. Applause and shouts broke out in Agora, and for the next couple of days as Exonians congratulated Richmond on the paths.

Lower Emilio Abelmann, who was present on Thursday night, recalled that he was

JEOPARDY. 2

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# Reverend Thompson Divulges Details from Leave

Continued from [REV. 1](#)

Thompson questioned the administration's motives behind its decision to restrict his speech and ability to visit campus during his leave. "They were not thinking of my welfare or the welfare of my family, that's for sure. I think they thought they were doing it for the welfare of the school, but I don't even know if it was that," he said. Former Principal Lisa MacFarlane could not be reached for comment late Wednesday.

Thompson claims, however, that he has moved on from any hurt or frustration he felt over the past three years regarding his relationship with the Academy. "I have let go of everything. It's not mine anymore. And I was a very possessive person. I thought of Phillips Church as my church. But it's not mine anymore. And it doesn't hurt anymore. It is what it is," he said.

During his two year leave, Thompson struggled to come to terms with his abrupt separation from the Exeter community. "The most difficult part has been

managing the fundamental injustice...I was cut off completely from Phillips Exeter. I wasn't allowed to walk on campus, I wasn't able to identify myself as an employee of the school," he said. "This is an era of a lot of sexual misconduct. What happened to me had nothing to do with that."

According to Thompson, his leave was rife with a range of emotions, including moments of frustration and disappointment towards the administration. "When I think about it, it just seems kind of amazing that this is where I am and that I actually went through that last two and a quarter years. There were times when I really did get angry. Don't think that I was always smiling this Buddha-like. I've definitely lost my temper. And I certainly had my depressed moments."

Despite feeling that he was mistreated, the retired minister expressed that he is sympathetic to the administrative challenges of addressing an incident of sexual misconduct. "I don't know what it's like in the administration. I don't know what I would have done if I was in

their position. I can't judge them. I do think it must have been very difficult work," he said.

The previous two years on leave have offered Thompson an opportunity to focus on other commitments, primarily as board president of the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire. "I've taken advantage of the time off to work for the Trail...and none of that would have been possible had I been working at Phillips Exeter. It's very interesting how things work out," he said.

Nevertheless, Thompson shared his regret that he could not be present for certain community incidents, such as the release last spring of the Afro-Latinx Exonian Society (ALES) video highlighting instances of prejudice on campus and in the surrounding community. "Sometimes I've heard about things occurring, and I've been sad not to have been present," he said. "It would not have happened that way if I had been there."

Thompson expressed gratitude for members of the alumni community who supported him emotionally and

financially during his leave. "One thing I've learned is that the administration is not the school," he said. "I've just been blessed by alums beyond what I would have ever thought and beyond what any person should reasonably ask...The past two and a quarter years could have been very isolating, but the alums didn't let that happen."

According to Thompson, the circumstances surrounding his leave have not lessened his respect for the Academy. "I have loved this institution, and love is not an overstatement. This institution has always seen me at my best and my worst," he said. "The difficulties and the bizarre nature of the last two years do not in any way overshadow the rest."

Thompson will be publishing an official statement in the coming weeks that will divulge more personal reflections on the past two years. "There are some questions that were left unanswered by the school's statement that are now up to me to answer. I think that I have an opportunity to tell my side of the story," he said. "I'm not feeling any rush."

# Students Welcome New Adult Dorm Affiliates

Continued from [VISITATIONS. 1](#)

Exeter alumnus and longtime Exeter Summer school teacher, to serve dorm duty on Sunday nights. "Last year, we lost [a faculty member], and this year at least one of our faculty members is going to be away for each term" senior and proctor Isadora Kron said. "We hired Mr. Tufts because otherwise, we would have dorm faculty sometimes serving duty for two days a week, which isn't good."

Cahalane said that this policy was not created by fears of illegal visitations on Wednesday

and weekend afternoons and is flexible to adapt as individual dorms see fit. "[The policy was developed] in the spirit of experimentation—we want to allow each dorm to experiment what should be done and what works best," she said.

Marissa Vitolo, a local public high school educator who now serves duty in Lamont Hall, believed that this policy, which grants extended visitations hours on Wednesday and weekend afternoons, would facilitate a safer environment for students. "Currently, during unsupervised hours, students could inadvertently be putting themselves in uncomfortable situations," Vitolo

said. "Extended [dorm duty] could help deter risky behaviors."

In fact, senior Bob\*, expressed that he would no longer be able to easily get illegal visitations on Wednesday afternoons. "Wednesday afternoons are my favorite time to get illegal V's, and now that's going to be much harder because there is an adult present," he said.

Senior and Student Council President Elizabeth Yang is concerned that this policy change could cause shifts in dorm culture. "I think part of the dorm experience is having the dorm faculty as your parents," Yang said.

"Having more people who are not as involved with Exeter doing dorm duty might change the relationship that students have with the adult figures of their residential life."

Cahalane, however, looks forward to the implementation of the new dorm duty policy. "I'm excited to have this new innovation," Cahalane said. "[It will] emphasize that Exeter is a place where we think about how to best serve our students."

\* Asterisks denote name change to protect anonymity

# PEA Releases Defendant's Answer to Lynch Suit

Continued from [LYNCH. 1](#)

"independent investigation" after the 2016 report. The inquiry, according to the Academy, included interviews, a review of materials gathered over a 20 year period and an assessment of credibility, after which investigators determined that Lynch "was either aware of, or willfully blind to, sexual misconduct perpetuated by Bateman against at least two students during Bateman's teaching career, as well as Bateman's involvement in buying and selling large amounts of child pornography."

Lynch and his lawyer, John Sherman, could not be reached for comment. Assistant Principal Karen Lassey and PEA's General Counsel Holly Barcroft declined to comment on the case. Former Dean Rick Mahoney also declined to comment.

The Academy put Lynch, a former associate director of Admissions, director of Fisher Theater and an openly gay member of the administrative faculty, on paid leave in November 2016. His employment was terminated in March 2017. Lynch filed a lawsuit against the Academy in September.

In the suit, Lynch claimed that he had no knowledge of Bateman's involvement in criminal activities prior to the latter's arrest in 1992. He claims he was singled out for punishment because of his sexual orientation and involvement

in the criminal proceedings that followed the arrest.

PEA denied any connection between Lynch's sexual orientation or participation in the 1992 criminal proceedings and his dismissal. According to the court filing, PEA began offering its employees same-sex partner benefits in 2003, which Lynch took advantage of. On March 31, 2006, PEA also made a donation to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network on Lynch's behalf, commemorating the 25th anniversary of his appointment.

The Academy's response highlighted details in Lynch's relationship with Bateman that the former did not note in his lawsuit, including how Bateman "recruited Lynch to be hired at PEA." Though Lynch claimed the two never "resided together," they lived in the same building from 1983-1985 and then again from 1991-1992, just before Bateman's arrest.

The relationship allegedly continued after Bateman was convicted of criminal offenses. In 1993, PEA said Lynch attempted to obtain a mortgage from the school for the purpose of building a residence off-campus for him and Bateman upon the latter's release from prison.

PEA denied any knowledge of Bateman's sexual misconduct against students prior to the 2016 report, either before Bateman's arrest or during the 1992 criminal proceedings. It also denied Lynch's

claims that an Exeter Fire Department member, former Dean Rick Mahoney and another faculty member found a student lying naked in Bateman's bed and notified PEA about the incident.

An Exonian article published on Jan. 19, 1993, however, reported that then-Principal Kendra Stearns O'Donnell, on Jan. 5, gave an Assembly address about "new evidence" in the Bateman case. According to Exonian staff writer Debbie Bander, O'Donnell "informed the student body that Mr. Bateman did have sexual relations with a student of the Academy at some point in the 1980s."

Even so, in the response filed with the court, PEA "expressly denies that it knew or should have known that [Mahoney and the faculty member] had direct personal knowledge of Bateman's conduct" and further denied that the employees had such knowledge.

These claims echo Lassey's previous comments about investigations into Mahoney's role, which PEA conducted after the 2016 report and which failed to find "sufficient evidence that he had any knowledge of sexual misconduct."

PEA further denied having interviewed Lynch during the criminal prosecution of 1992 about whether he knew of Bateman's alleged relationship with the male student.

Former Assistant School minister

Carl Lindemann '79 says that the school's response suggests a new zero-tolerance policy applied retroactively to PEA employees "aware of, or willfully blind to sexual misconduct." This, he suggested, would likely affect many prominent emeriti including past principals and trustees. "If there's really such a policy, why haven't they been subjected to it? Shouldn't we expect to see their emeriti status revoked along with the diplomas of Trustees who apparently gave them a free pass?"

Lindemann also believes the Academy is caught in a Catch-22 over whether Mahoney knew about sexual misconduct on campus. "Unfortunately, the Academy seems to be damned if the retired Dean knew and damned if he didn't," Lindemann said.

"If [the Dean] knew, it would seem to validate a key claim in the lawsuit. If he didn't, then it suggests that the Academy's key witness, apparently the person who set Lynch's dismissal into motion [in 2016], isn't credible."

While Lindemann expressed disappointment in the Academy's limited disclosures from recent investigations, he sees this may soon change. "Hopefully this suit will bring the transparency that Mr. Lynch seeks and that the entire Academy community deserves and has been denied," he said.

# Caleb Richmond Takes on Semi-Finals Nov. 15

Continued from [JEOPARDY. 1](#)

"amazed by what a huge show it was [...] Students who may not have known Caleb personally were cheering him on and clapping when he did well."

Another lower, Paul Rogers, also commented on the room's contagious energy. "I thought it was really exciting and everyone had a lot of fun," Rogers said. "We cheered when Caleb answered the questions before the other kids." Rogers felt that watching Richmond served as a bonding experience for Exeter students. "I really liked the sense of community it gave the whole school," he said.

Agreeing with Rogers and Abelman, lower Ibrahim Ahmed felt that the campus atmosphere was very supportive of Richmond. "Everyone who was there just wanted him to do as well as he could," Ibrahim said.

Upper Zane Ice, another former contestant of Jeopardy! who won his game in Kids' Week in 2014, voiced his support and confidence in Richmond. "I'm really proud of him," Ice said. "I love Jeopardy! and it was really cool to see someone else at Exeter have that same opportunity."

Richmond's advisor, Mark Trafton, instructor in Modern Languages, said he

has followed Richmond's experience on the show with great interest and an appreciation for Richmond's accomplishments. "It's been a pretty robust spreading of the news and I think that's great," Trafton said. "He's a very intelligent person and I'm glad to see his light shine."

Trafton emphasized Richmond's admirable qualities and the success he worked hard for. "I just think it couldn't happen to a nicer young man," Trafton said. "He is a great advisee in our group, he is a gentleman, he is considerate to others, he's understanding and empathetic and as you can see really highly intelligent and highly informed." Trafton concluded, "I think that's what he is, intellectually honest; he's a great scholar."

Richmond, nevertheless, did not hesitate to highlight his competitors' intelligence as well as the inconspicuous challenges that they all faced on the show, such as the buzzer and the betting strategies. Both of Richmond's competitors bet the entirety of their sums on the last question, leaving them much farther behind Richmond in the final score which Richmond did not think accurately reflected their skill level. "You should be gauging [the competition] off of [the questions] before the final ques-

tion because it changes so much, you can bet anything you want for the last one," Richmond said.

Richmond emphasized how exhilarating his experience had been during the filming of the show in California over the summer. On winning his quarterfinals, Richmond said "It was really really exciting and I was super happy and it was all kind of shock." He added with a laugh, "It was one of my dreams coming true. It's a pretty 'nerdy' dream I guess." Despite

his distinguished success, Richmond humbly clarified that he valued his time on the show more than his final score. "It was just such an exciting experience, but to be honest I just really value the whole experience and all the memories of it more than how it ended up turning out," he said.

Richmond's semifinal game against senior Maya Wright of Georgia and senior Jack Izzo of California will air today, Thursday, November 15th.

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# Exeter Pilots New Delinking Process for Students

By MAI HOANG, LINA HUANG  
AND RACHEL WON  
Staff Writers

A new protocol this fall has shifted the way students can request to de-link from their teachers.

Students pursue de-linking from a specific teacher to avoid being scheduled into a teacher's class again. Clarification of the de-linking process comes as a way to empower students to take charge of their studies, but raises questions about what constitutes as a legitimate reason to de-link from a teacher.

In an email sent to the entire student body, Dean of Academic Affairs Brooks Moriarty emphasized that the intent of the new protocol is not to "allow students to choose teachers." However, according to Moriarty, "rare requests to not be scheduled into a specific teacher's class for a second term" may be considered on a case-by-case basis, and granted only when schedule and staffing allow.

The protocol sets a strict timeline for such requests, which must be made during the term in which students are enrolled in the teacher's class and no later than the first day of the "end of term" week. For this term, that day is Saturday, Nov. 17. Students are expected to make a written request and have a follow-up conversation with the department chair before the end of the term. If the student requests to not repeat a class with a de-

partment chair, the student will have to notify the Dean of Academic Affairs.

Some community members noted inconsistencies in the previous de-linking system. "Students may have known the policy in one department, but it's different in a different way," said Interim Director of Studies Scott Saltman. According to Saltman, this confusion led to imbalanced student enrollment if a number of students asked to de-link very late in the process, after the schedule and enrollments had already been established.

With the new system and clarifications in place, Saltman hopes students will carefully consider their reason for de-linking. "It's individual to the student, so we can't list specific reasons that may be considered legitimate," Saltman said. "But students should do it for the right reasons, not because the teacher is hard."

However, the question of having the "right reasons" is subject to interpretation. Chair of the Math Department Gwyneth Coogan said that for her department, the previous protocol mandated two terms with a teacher to give the student more time to assess their ability to learn from a particular teacher.

Coogan believes, however, that the new requirement for students to speak directly to Department Heads would similarly prevent them from being able to "run away from the situation." She hopes they would instead feel empowered to take initiative to have an adult conversa-

tion and receive advice.

Chair of the Science Department, Allison Hobbie, on the other hand, commended the addition of the written request as a way of encouraging students to think through their situation carefully.

Chair of the History Department William Jordan noted that since the new protocol has been administered, there has been an increase in the number of de-linking requests, despite the department's traditionally few requests. "Before, the only ones who would make the request were those in the same class with that same teacher. Now everybody who doesn't want to have a teacher again is going to contact the department chair," Jordan said.

Besides his concern of an influx of de-link requests, Jordan expressed full support for the new protocol, which he believes benefits both teachers and students. "It helps the teacher because the teacher doesn't want a student who is unhappy with them," Jordan said. "I don't want to have students who would rather not be in my class. I want students to be happy and excited when they're in my class."

Similarly, Coogan spoke about how the requirement would both give Department Chairs information that will assist in the professional development of the teachers and give the department chairs a chance to help the student understand a teacher's perspective. "I think—forgetting

about whether this policy update makes it easier or harder to de-link from a teacher—the idea is to again empower students and teachers and department chairs, to learn and grow as much as possible," she said.

Many students appreciate the transparency of the new system. Upper Wallen\* decided to de-link from her modern language instructor because of a confusing teaching style. "I can never keep track of his class because of how disorganized a teacher he is." Wallen simply spoke with the Department Head and switched out.

However, it seems that the transparency and ease of this new system might incentivize students to switch out of classes for other, less "correct" reasons. Upper Morgana\* gets along well with his current science instructor, yet plans on de-linking due to the difficulty of the teacher's classes. "It doesn't seem fair that I'm doing more work than other kids are doing in other classes for the same course. If it's the same [course] number then the workload should be similar," Morgana said. "We might be doing more rigorous things and learning more, but that's time that can be spent towards my other classes and I don't think that sacrifice is worth it."

Morgana stressed that the desire to de-link was not for "any personal reasons at all," but for practical reasons. "If I have the opportunity to have a lighter workload with the same [course] number, then yes, I will take that opportunity," he said.

## DC Considers Approach to Mental Health Issues

Continued from DC.1

remains hopeful, explaining that the process is "a more 'Harkness' way to address disciplinary issues."

Palmer added that Restorative Justice will help foster a healthy community. "Right now the Academy, through the Discipline Review Committee, is in

the explorative/consideration stage of looking at restorative justice practice, I hope we might see restorative justice has the potential to build a stronger community by including the positive resolution of wrongdoing and by using conflict as an opportunity to strengthen positive relationships," Palmer said.

These revisions are possible, ac-

ording to upper and DC member Tise Okeremi. Because of the trust between the faculty and students, changes in discipline policy are discussed openly. "We're kind of like the student council for disciplinary decisions," Okeremi said. "Faculty are really transparent with us."

Quinto concluded that while

the Discipline Process has flaws, it is committed to improvement. "I think everyone on the committee acknowledges that it's not a perfect system," she said. "I don't know that we'll ever reach a system that is absolutely perfect. I think we're just trying to keep ourselves in check and fix everything we can."



## The Exonian

Come to our Writers' Meeting on  
Sunday at 7:00 p.m. in the Forum!



Photographers: Emma Cerrato and Numi Oyebo



## Con Mucho Snaps y Amor

### The 51st Board of the Afro-Latinx Exonian Society

Guest Contributor

In recent issues of *The Exonian*, students have commented on the separation that exists in our community. The op-ed “The ‘Woke’ Side of Assembly Hall” seemed to argue that the onus was on the snapping students—“the woke section”—for separating themselves from the rest of the community. This separation is often referred to as “self-segregation,” and these students are perceived as one of the barriers for Exeter to become an inclusive community. However, the separation between different groups on campus is the result of aggression, the continued ignorance and lack of empathy in our community, destructive attacks against personhood and hate speech under the guise of freedom of speech.

The Board of the Afro-Latinx Exonian Society believes that it is necessary to craft this piece because of the explicit reference to ALES amongst other groups such as “all-gender dorms, active ALES members, theatre performers and visual artists.” Additionally, the ALES board has noted the impact of the op-eds on these students and other unnamed members of marginalized groups on campus who were identified as a part of the “woke section.” In a meeting following the op-ed’s publication, ALES members shared that they interpreted and experienced the piece as an indictment of the “woke” section as being exclusionary. They also noted the ongoing weight and pressure of being forced to educate their peers. We feel and see these students. As affirmation, we direct our op-ed to the members of the “woke section.”

Did you know that snapping originates from poetry slams? It was an in-the-moment sign of appreciation by the patrons without disrupting the speaker and bringing too much attention to themselves. In a *New York Times* article titled “Why Snapping Is the New Clapping,” Daniel Gallant, the executive director of

Nuyorican Poets Cafe, is quoted saying that “The practice dates to the heyday of the beatnik poets, who would gather in coffeehouses and at hootenannies to perform poems laced with cultural rebellion and political activism.” The practice continues in today’s poetry slams, coffee houses and sorority houses. At Exeter, snapping has been a way for Exonians to show their appreciation to the speaker; we have snapped for many speakers such as Bryan Stevenson, Tyehimba Jess, Julia Alvarez and our very own Principal Rawson. We snap as not only taking part in Exeter’s tradition but also to pull on our ties and convey our appreciation for expressive arts of subcultures. Despite this snapping tradition at Exeter, when we snapped for Dr. Bramlett’s statements that committed herself and her work, and by extension the institution, to accountability, the hiring and retention of faculty, curricular enhancements and improving the experiences of marginalized students in Exeter, it made that week’s issue of *The Exonian*.

We know that by snapping, we all showed that we care and are invested in equity and inclusion. By snapping, we continued to express that historically marginalized students still want the quality of life at Exeter to improve. We have devoted our weeknights and free periods to understanding our self-identities so we can be more honest in living in the broader Exeter community. Part of that honesty means that we have to educate our peers on how to better treat us. Part of that honesty means that we have to remind the adults when knowledge without goodness leads to danger. This same honesty influenced the 49th/50th Boards to create a video documenting the injustices that Afro and/or Latinx students face. This same honesty allows us to snap. We snap in the space of this article because we feel y’all and we appreciate each and every one of you who works to express the need for an inclusive and safe space for ALL students. \*SNAP\* \*SNAP\* \*SNAP\*

We hear you when you express concern and exasperation with the re-

peated refrain of “self-segregation.” We know that this flawed theory of “self-segregation” is really, in practice, SELF-PRESERVATION!

Exeter has always had an issue with equity and inclusion, specifically with what it means to create a diverse community that is safe for all students. The universal reality is that individuals with similar identities often gather around their similarities. We know this is a form of self-preservation, not “self-segregation.”

In fact, when we read Catherine Green’s article in *The Atlantic* titled “What to Do About Self-Segregation on Campus?”, we know all too well the realities of her argument that self-preservation is “not really segregation.” She further illustrates that “[s]egregation was a legal discriminatory system that ensured one population had both legal and economic domination over another population). [Marginalized students] are seeking a cultural connection that allows them to lower their guard and not have to be weary of the microaggressions that they face daily.” We know that marginalized groups cannot enact economic, social and political oppression upon the majority and by extension cannot “segregate.” By coming together, we support, protect and are able to be “real” with one another.

There is a multitude of opportunities for people to be involved with equity and inclusion—only one of which is joining ALES. Since its founding, ALES has been a place for all students to participate in our discussions on topics related to the Afro and/or Latinx community; our doors have always been open to everyone. However, as seen in the assembly and the racial demographics of our club meetings, not everyone is joining the conversation.

We are acutely aware that some of the Exeter population has the privilege to withdraw, be silent, be ignorant, not take part in the conversation and even minimize the importance of the conversation. Perhaps it is worth revisiting the phenomenon of “white flight.” Historically,

“white flight” describes the movement of white Americans to suburbs to escape predominantly-minority areas and school integration. This has increased economic depression and political disenfranchisement. We would like to take a more nuanced approach to the phrase. We see the flight on campus as not pertaining solely to race, but rather privilege. We also see those who leverage their privilege to advocate for an equitable and inclusive community. You may not have snapped, but we see you nodding your heads. The “flighters,” both peers and adults, aren’t creating new neighborhoods on campus, so it may seem. Their “flight” is when they leave and avoid dialogue, and they too gather around their similarities; we understand that to be appropriate, but still consequential. The opposing force to economic depression can be seen in efforts for financial inclusion just as the resistance to political disenfranchisement and silencing at Exeter is adult representation and advocacy on campus. All of this deserves far more inspection, which is why words in *The Exonian* sting when they lack this critical lens.

We want to remind you and ourselves that we are not the problem. It is not our responsibility to teach students, faculty or staff the importance or even the practice of equity and inclusion. It is not wrong to snap for the issues that we care about and know will create a safe and equitable space for all. It is perfectly fine to implement self-preservation when needed. The ALES Board applauds the work you have done and continue to do to better our community. We are in admiration of selflessness and we know that it should never be scrutinized in *The Exonian*. The work is not yet done. We are not woke yet. We have much to learn. We hope you will join ALES in the conversation and continue to press for the values of non-sibi and combining “knowledge and goodness” that we hold so dear as Exonians. We are looking forward and will watch closely to see the implementation of the work to which Dr. Bramlett has dedicated herself and the institution.

## Free Speech in School Newspapers

### Jordan Davison '19

Senior Columnist

I have been writing opinion pieces since my prep year. Writing op-eds has been a large part of my time at Exeter, and now I am lucky enough to hold the position of Senior Columnist. I feel that I represent a part of the Op-Ed section not just because of my position, but because of my weekly contributions over the past three years. My time at *The Exonian* has not always been easy. I have clashed with editors and felt frustrated by some of the decision *The Exonian* makes, but there have been recent, unacceptable events happening at the paper that need to be addressed. Writers and their rights need to be protected. Consider this my way to protect the valuable writers at *The Exonian*.

After Mai Hoang’s article about the “woke” side of Assembly Hall was published, the campus blew up in debate on whether she was right or wrong in her assertion that some students need to rethink their approach to activism. In an interesting twist, Mai recanted her statement in last week’s *Exonian*. Yet Mai’s second article was not the only one that should have appeared in last week’s issue. Jack Zhang had written an even more extreme extension of Mai’s first article. He argued that the best way to practice social justice is at the grassroots level with student activism. He claimed that adding new branches to the administration, such as a director of equity and inclusion, and having repeated assemblies

on similar social topics do not help social movements. The executive and opinions editors either agreed that the article should be published or did not strongly feel that it should not be published. *The Exonian* advisers read Jack’s piece, and vetoed publishing it for that week. Stu-

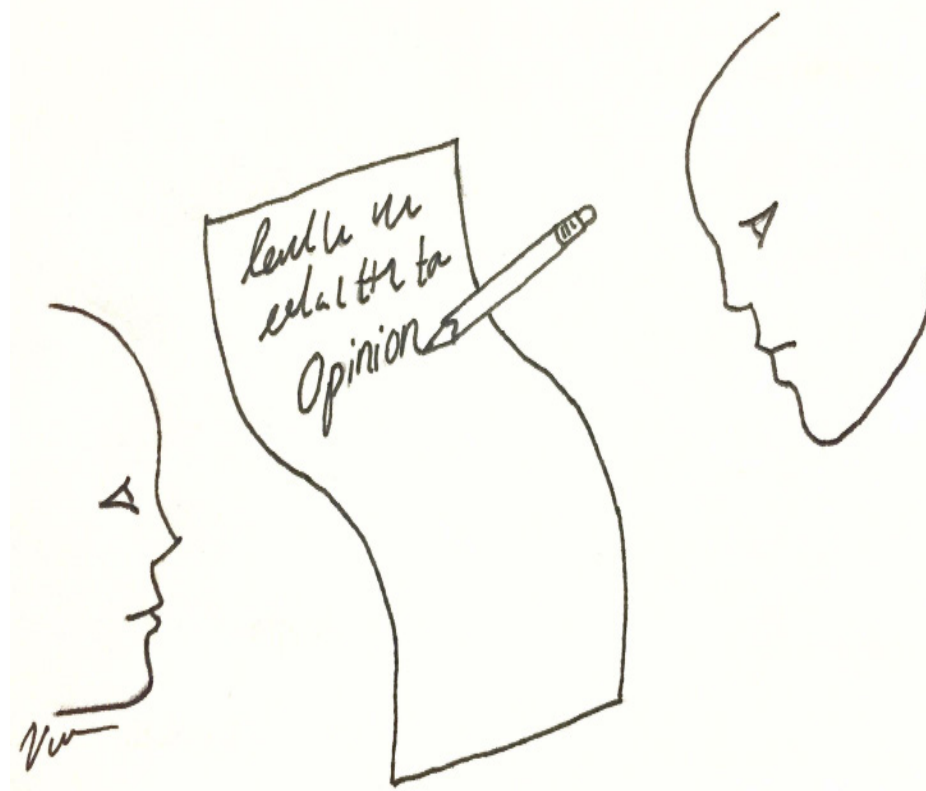
dents were required to take the article to the Publications Committee, and the committee head asked the students and advisers to try and work out the problem with the article internally. The committee never met to discuss the article, but some

students fought for its publication, and because of this, it is now in this issue of *The Exonian*. Nonetheless, the attempt to silence the article was a clear, disappointing act of censorship.

The censorship of opinions is authoritarian, and it contradicts the values

way in which we think of important issues of the day, especially social justice, that has been adopted in Exeter’s society in particular. Jack Zhang’s op-ed simply disagrees with the identity politics that he believes our administration plays into and supports focusing our attention on aspects of social justice different from those that we normally discuss. Whether you agree or disagree with Hoang and Zhang is another matter, but there is no contesting that they have a right to speak their minds. *The Exonian* is founded on informing students and projecting student voices. Yet we are undermining all that journalism stands for by limiting free speech on the false basis that the article attacks members of our community. You must read the article for yourself, of course, but there is no doubt that this article strays away from the typical mindset when approaching social justice. This alone, though, does not make it dangerous to publish. Those who have argued against the publication of any non-threatening, non-discriminatory opinions piece need to reconsider their position and reflect on their values.

The issue of censorship and freedom of speech is one that will persist until the end of media. This incident with *The Exonian* is representative of what happens in media around the world. As writers, it is imperative that we stand up for our own published (and unpublished) work and others’ work. We cannot allow politics and personal opinion to interfere with the liberty we have to publish what we want. The day that we do is the day that our writing becomes meaningless.



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## Grade Inflation: The True Effects

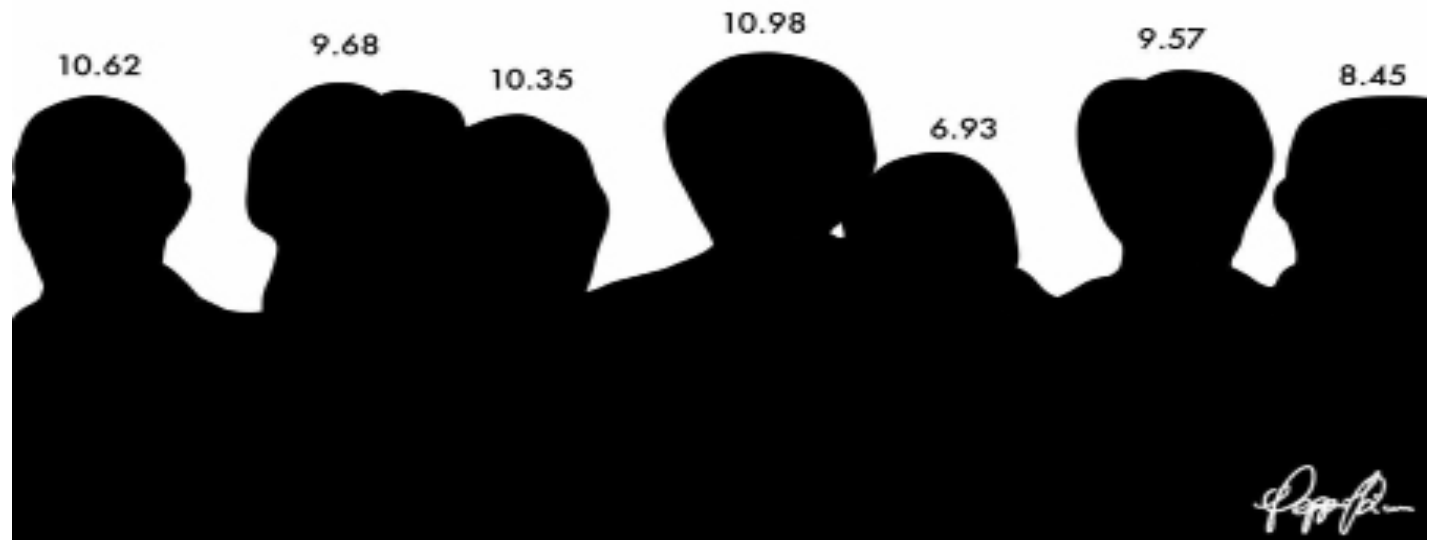
Mai Hoang '20  
Columnist

At this timely period in the term, as exams and project due dates start piling up on that Canvas schedule tab of yours, I would like to offer my humble opinion on a topic relevant to many of you reading the paper—the topic of grades at Exeter.

I would be lying if I said that grades don't matter. To me, as well as to most of my at this school, especially those plowing through upper year, these confounding numbers and letters (x percent equals y letter grade, which is z on an 11 scale) are the largest causes of distress.

"It is the year that determines what school you can apply to," said a friend in English class as a way to start off the term, putting into words the taboo that was on everyone's mind. Though we all aspire towards an ideal—unfettered intellectual exploration for its own sake—few of us can proclaim to not be bogged down by the pragmatic worries about our transcripts and the upcoming college application process. Every term becomes a series of cost-and-benefit calculations, the tricky business of balancing exciting challenges versus the possibility of "screwing up" a hard-earned streak of acceptable GPA.

Maybe some of us are more gullible than others. Hard as this is to admit, I, for one, cannot recall a time before "doing well at school" became a larger-than-life aspiration, and flighty numbers on weekly quizzes took upon the role of something almost core to my identity. This obsession predates Exeter itself. "I have come upon dark times," my twelve-year-old-self wrote in her diary during the seventh-grade final season. "My mind can't find a single



hour of rest. The grades are coming. Yes, Maths, Literature, English... all kinds of devilish numbers. When put to face such evil doings I have no courage, none at all." Theatrical prose aside, I believe these lines summed up real emotions—myopic, selfish, frivolous in hindsight, but nonetheless real and inescapable when one is going through them. These sentiments were only magnified upon my entrance into the competitive environment that is Exeter.

When I confided these worries to a particular friend who had finished his Exeter career and since then wandered through Southeast Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe in search for unconventional knowledge, he responded with screenshots of passages from *Excellent Sheep*, "a social criticism on the role of elite colleges in American society." In 1971, the passage read, 73 percent of incoming college freshmen said that it is essential or very important to "develop a meaningful philosophy of life." By the start of this decade, this number has dropped to 47 percent. The primary concern, it seems, is the tangible outcome, measured in dollars of income the first year after graduation.

Education has increasingly become less about teaching students to think and more about reducing them to "productive employees at work, gullible consumers in the market, and docile subjects to the state." In an Exeter religion class, I am made painfully aware of a subconscious tendency to phrase questions, with regards to assignments, such as "Are we supposed to \_\_\_?" or "Do we have to \_\_\_?"

I'm sure many of you pride yourselves on your ability to think critically, as this is one of the skills supposedly honed by an Exeter education. Engage critically with texts, ask questions, participate in debates. But take one step back, and consider how there usually are, or there usually seem to be, the "right" questions to ask, which fit within the strict parameters of what is considered good by the teachers, the institution. In short, as students, it is hard to completely cast off the mentality of doing something for the approval of a teacher, for a grade.

I look forward, perhaps a little bit too much, to a gap year after Exeter, when taking risks and furthering my own growth does not have to take a backseat to beau-

tifying my transcript. Ironically, Exeter is a place of immense opportunities for personal and intellectual growth, if one can completely take advantage of it. It is sad that most Exonians cannot.

So am I proposing an Exeter without grades? In an ideal world, yes, for this is the most effective way of ensuring that everyone at the school is motivated by an intrinsic desire to learn rather than an extrinsic desire to prove that they are smart. I do not presume to offer an opinion on what this would mean in terms of the pragmatic concerns that we cannot simply wish away—i.e. the college process.

But, gradeless utopia aside, I do look back with a dash of wistfulness at the olden days in the tales of Exeter alumni, before an "A" became the norm. Grade inflation causes more anxiety than it alleviates it. At institutions such as MIT, for example, creativity is fostered by throwing at students impossibly hard problems so that everyone fails in some way, and thus learn to prioritize collaboration over competition, and learning over grades.

## The Importance of Student Voting

Andrea So '20  
Columnist

On Nov. 6, millions of Americans headed to their local polling stations to cast their votes for the nation's midterm elections. While student organizations like Democratic Club took some measures to encourage student participation in these elections, such as gathering groups to walk to polling places together, not enough action was taken by the Academy itself. Although it is easier said than done, voting is an important right that should be exercised by all Americans. Exeter needs to do more to support student voting, but students should also be more proactive in taking steps to vote.

First of all, more votes support the

health of America's democracy. With a higher voter turnout, our democracy represents a broader range of perspectives. Our current political situation may cause disillusionment to be more commonplace than optimism, but we cannot forget the fact that many countries around the world still have oppressive governments who deny their citizens the right to the ballot. Although voting is a basic American right, we have to treat it as a privilege which could be stripped away from us.

Voting is also a chance for people to act on what they believe in. Some may believe that their vote doesn't make much of a difference, but with the midterm elections, the amount of power a president has correlates to whether their party controls the Senate and the House. In this recent midterm election, Democrats regained a majority in the House, which could counter Trump's

promises to pass amendments to existing agreements such as NAFTA. Even a few thousand votes could make all the difference. In the example of Georgia's gubernatorial election, there is still debate over the projected winner of the race. While Stacey Abrams is 1.5 percentage points behind Brian Kemp in a NYT list of election results, she has stated her refusal to concede until the absentee and provisional ballots are counted, proving that elections such as these are often dependent upon the smallest of margins.

For many people, their ancestors fought long and hard for the right to vote. Suffragettes such as Susan B. Anthony only won their battle in 1920, meaning that American women have only had the right to vote for less than a century. For people of color, the struggle has been even longer and more arduous—Native Americans were only given the right to

citizenship and the right to vote in 1924, while Asian-Americans followed suit in 1943. The Voting Rights Act was only signed into law in 1965, which outlawed discriminatory voting practices that very often disenfranchised black voters. Within all of these movements to enfranchise voters of color, a lot of sacrifices had to be made, with pioneers often receiving jail time, being discriminated against or even killed for fighting for a basic right.

Recently, many states have been purging voter rolls in an attempt to skew elections under the guise of voter fraud. This action only proves the significant power of the vote, and we must fight back in order for our voices to be heard. Cast your vote in the midterm elections, in the presidential election. Check on your voter registration status regularly. Know your rights.

## "Woke" Side Story

Jack Zhang '20  
Guest Contributor

The 'Woke' Side of Assembly Hall' opinions piece from *The Exonian* has not gone under the radar. For once, everyone—from the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Committee to the clumps of preps in Grill—was reading *The Exonian*. Although people were reading, not all was well: it seems like everyone from Ms. Carbonell, the co-chair of the MLK Committee, to Ms. Lazure, a faculty adviser for *The Exonian*, was asking to speak with Mai Hoang over her article. Mai's article, while already controversial, does not directly deal with the most important issue about social justice at Exeter. It notes that only half of assembly snaps but doesn't ask why the other half does not. In short, the lack of effective student-to-student activism has made social justice an issue forcibly prescribed by the school, rather than something enthusiastically taken up by the Exonian masses.

We, as activists, must adjust our course and find new, effective methods of social justice activism. It is not as if we have not made great progress already: just look at all the efforts social justice activists have put in with the creation of DEI and the implementation of parts of the Afro-Latinx Exonian Society (ALES) proposal. The question is now how best to continue this progress.

The reason why only part of assembly snaps for Dr. Bramlett, the representative of what should be a universally accepted movement, is that it is difficult to take social justice at Exeter seriously. Exeter's social justice movement, taken as a collective bloc of people, has any number of legitimate battles to fight. We could talk about the illegal detention of immigrants

just down the block at the Exeter Police Department. Bashar Awawdeh, a legal Jordanian immigrant, was imprisoned for 26 days despite a lack of both evidence and judicial authority. This should have been an outrage, and all social-justice activists should have been up in arms. Surely, many others at the Academy would see the justness in this cause and rally to the social-justice movement if they knew about the situation.

Instead, the most recent public campaign for social justice were posters in P.O. on "ableist language" and why calling something "lame" promotes the degradation of the physically disabled. While these posters may not be representative of the general social justice movement, the fact that they're the most recent example of social justice on campus says something in itself: that there is currently little public outreach from social justice activists to the broader population. Considering that Awawdeh got hardly a peep in *The Exonian* or from the social-justice movement, it is no wonder that some Exonians might think of social justice as being detached from important struggles.

When these issues are lumped together by Exonians as "social justice" in general, it dilutes the potency of social justice in the minds of Exonians. Even if ableism is just as important as issues like arbitrary detention, many Exonians certainly don't perceive it that way. Justified or not, some Exonians find the posters' condemnation of the terms "lame" and "crazy" amusing rather than a serious consideration when speaking.

This question of the image of social justice at Exeter is a common theme throughout the years. Just look at last year's MLK Day blunders. There were any number of respectable keynote speakers that the MLK Committee could have invited. What could've been a thoughtful and powerful day for reflection on the

state of modern race relations was instead a spectacle that reeked of overzealous intersectional progressivism. Social justice may be a just cause, but it made a caricature of itself when Lourdes Ashley Hunter was asked to leave campus.

But this is still only half the story. It seems like social justice activists cannot tolerate any criticism—or even observations that could be used for criticism—of their movement. Save for the use of the phrase "self-segregation," which could've been addressed in a short postscript or not at all, Hoang essentially said nothing wrong. She did not and did not intend to marginalize minorities and special interest groups. She did not intend to undermine the efforts of DEI. Still, after coming under withering fire—which I fully anticipate for this article as well—Hoang, while still standing firm by the point of her article, has apologized profusely.

"My intention in writing the op-ed was to point out the divisions on this campus, and how concepts that PEA officially champions, namely equity and inclusion, do not illicit the same enthusiasm as some as they do to others. I was not trying to find fault or make fun of any group, either those who are engaged or disengaged."

There should have been no need to clarify that the article was not intended to make fun of any group, as it never made fun of any minority groups in the first place. It requires some amount of mental gymnastics to stretch the innocuous observations in Hoang's article into an attack on minority groups. The language was admittedly unnecessarily charged—but, as Hoang herself said, the point should not be muddied by such a slip-up.

In any case, when it comes to moving forwards with progressive social justice, Hoang suggests this:

"The danger lies in group think, or rather, "sub-group think," when the individual becomes biased against larger

community goals because of their groups' differing beliefs, to the point where they not only disagree with these goals – again not inherently a bad thing – but refuse to consider them altogether ... more proactive engagement from the part of DEI is absolutely a must."

Relying on a new branch of the administration to fix a student problem is like relying on the new volunteer at the homeless shelter to fix poverty in the whole city. The only way attitudes can be substantially changed is through student-level organization and activism. Yes, it will be uncomfortable. But if we persist, real change can happen.

Other social justice groups have no excuse not to have boots on the ground, handing out flyers and explaining their views to the public. Somehow, I doubt that there are a significant number of shotgun-toting, cross-burning, women-hating, ultra-nationalist, hyper-conservative people on campus absolutely unwilling to listen to a speaker passionate about their cause. I would instead wager that most Exonians are just tired of hearing assertion after assertion about "cisgender white male privilege" without explanation from other students.

This is exactly the problem I think that Hoang alludes to, but does not name explicitly. By retiring into their comfortable niche, "woke" Exonians have distanced themselves from the rest of the Academy.

Hoang's article shouldn't be controversial, yet it still is. Activists claim to be open to differing views, but the collective Exeter social-justice movement has not worked to combat social injustice with in-depth, student-to-student methods. This only breeds fragility at a time when Exeter's social justice movement must not be fragile. There are systemic problems within Exeter's social justice movement, and we, as social justice activists, must do everything in our power to fix it.



# SENIOR SUPERLATIVES

Each year, *The Exonian* prints a list of Senior Superlatives. This year's are based off of nominations from the 140th Board. Here's to the Class of 2019!

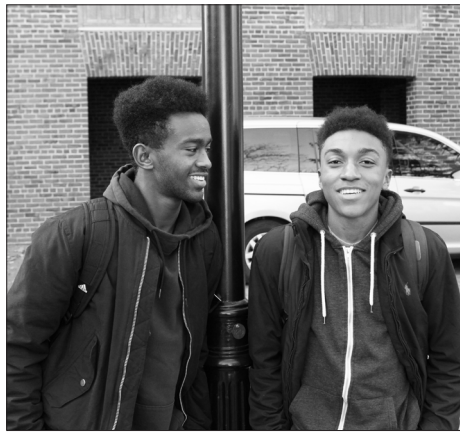
Thank you all for a wonderful fall of community times, Principal Rawson's arrival on campus, Saturday classes, college applications, E/a losses & ties, 6 a.m. leave times and dorm fires.

## *Cutest Couple*



Chim Tasie-Amadie & Ogechi Nwankwoala

## *Cutest Would-Be Couple*



Behaylu Barry & Jonah Johnson

## *Least Likely Couple*



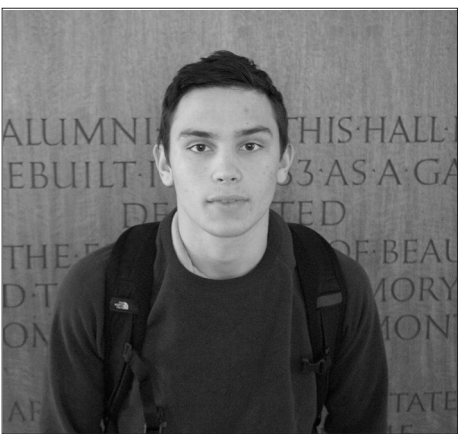
Justin Psaris & Issy Wise

## *Most Non Sibi*



Grace Gray

## *Most Sibi*



Andrew Loevinger

## *Class Clown*



Charlie Brigham

## *Best Laugh*



Ursula Sze

## *Best Dressed*



Hanna Pak

## *Most School Spirit*



Ingrid Bergill

## *Most Changed*



Harrison Murray

## *Most Liberal*



Isadora Kron

## *Class Genius*



Bryce Morales

## *Closet Genius*



Katrina Schmitt

## *Eternal Prep*



Jimmy Liu

## *Perfect Exonian*



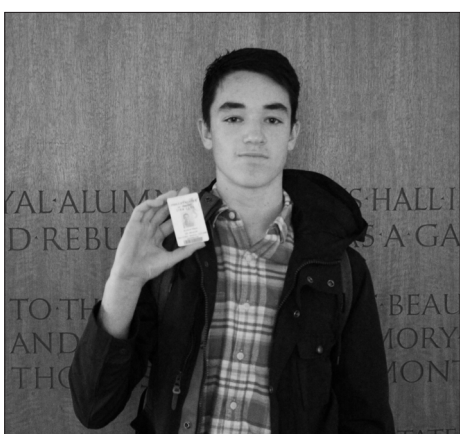
Mark Blekherman

## *Edgiest*



Alan Wu

## *Best Lion Card Photo*



Nick Tilson

## *Most Liberal*



Isadora Kron

## *Most Conservative*



Calvin Chai-Onn



# MOST LIKELY TO...

*Be the Next Oprah*



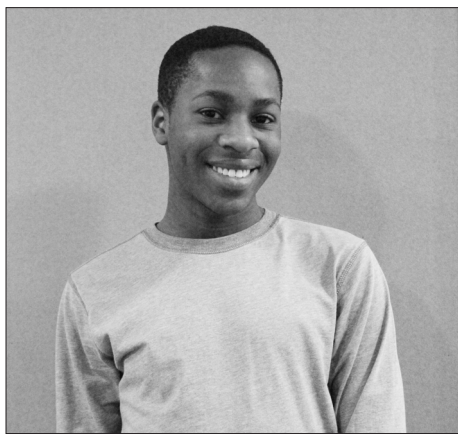
Emily Cloonan

*Be Your First Friend*



Adrian Venzon

*Be a Reality TV Star*



Makinrola Orafidiya

*Be a Cult Leader*



Don Assamongkol

*Win an Oscar*



Pavan Garidipuri

*Become Andy Bernard*



Troy Marrero

*Start a Non-Profit*



Matt Kang

*Get Arrested for Tax Evasion*



Dhruva Nistane

*Win the John Phillips Award*



Wynter Tracey

*Win an Olympic Medal*



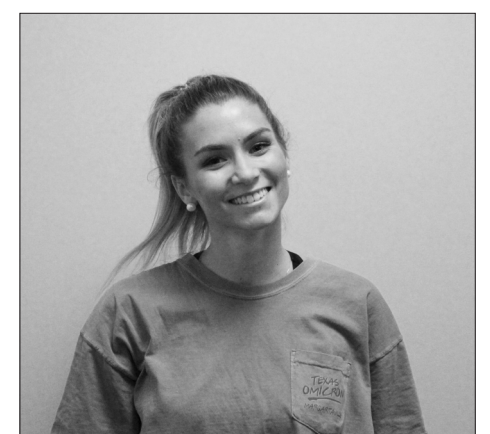
Maggie Hock

*Be a Frat Star*



Will Stokes

*Become Elle Woods*



Sammy Resnick

*Be Your Future Class President & Friend*



Christine Baker

*Become President*



Elizabeth Yang

*Be on the Cover of Vogue*



Caroline Matule

*Be a Hippie*



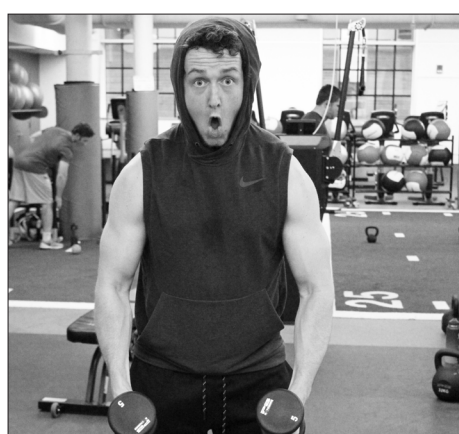
Hillary Davis

*Say Hi to You on the Path*



Janeva Dimen

*Be Injured*



Isaac Choate

*Get a Concussion*



Ashley Lin

# BEST...

*Smile*



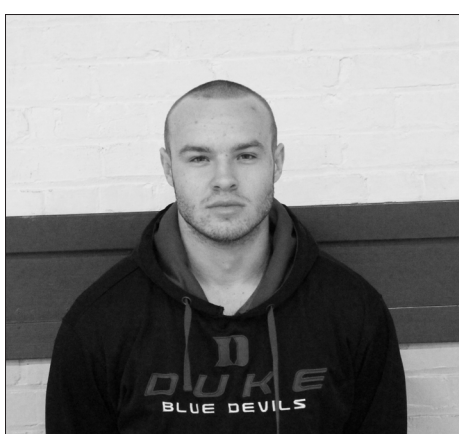
Rajrishi Das

*Dancer*



AJ Willard

*Hair*



Jake Blaisdell

*Bromance*



Sam Michaels & Will Kalikman





# ExeterLife



The Lionettes form a kick-line as they dance at pep rally.

Paula Perez-Glassner/The Exonian

## SOULE TEA FACES LOW TURNOUT

By SHIVANI TRIPATHI, RACHEL WON and CHARLES FALIVENA  
Staff Writers

Students bustled through doors decorated with orange warning signs and onto the dance floor. Neon lights flashed throughout Grainger Auditorium, accompanied by blasts from carbon dioxide cannons. Exonians let loose at Soule Tea, the perfect after-party following a cold and busy day at the Exeter/Andover games.

Soule residents created several promotional videos ahead of the dance, their production headed by senior and Soule proctor Araaish Paul. Several dorm members participated in the production of these videos, according to proctor Cade Napier. “It was all voluntary,” Napier said. “I think the dorm had a really fun time preparing for the event.”

Soule proctors continued the dorm’s tradition of hosting a construction site themed dance. They travelled to Lowe’s Hardware Store two weeks prior to the dance and purchased goods relating to the dance’s industrial theme, such as construc-

tion cones and warning signs. “[Having that theme] made the preparation for the dance really funny,” Napier said.

After purchasing the materials, the proctors approached Assistant Director of Student Activities Kelly McGahie with criteria for selecting the dance’s DJ. The list included characteristics such as “a hipster dude with a beard and a flannel,” according to Napier. While the actual DJ didn’t align with this image, “Ms. McGahie still knew the type of person we were looking for,” Napier concluded.

The diligent process of preparation paid off, and many described the dance as a success. The event lived up to Soule Dorm Affiliate and Math Instructor Brandon Hew’s expectations, as it gave students a comfortable space to relax. “I hoped it would be an opportunity for students to have fun in a safe [environment], which it looked like it was,” Hew said.

Senior Ela Ferhangil also enjoyed Soule Tea and especially liked dancing to “throwback” songs. However, she characterized some of the tunes as overly aggressive. “There were a few loud EDM songs

that hurt my ears,” she said.

Senior Alan Xie felt similarly, noting that “the song choice could have been improved with more remixes and less straight EDM.”

Paul acknowledged that “the electronic music may have been tough for people.” He added, “It’s hard to dance in a creative way [to EDM], you just sort of jump up and down. But I think when there was a good crowd, people got pretty lit.”

Another issue the dance faced was a significantly lower turnout than past years. “I think the main reason for the low turnout was the cold weather as well as people being tired after Exeter/Andover games,” upper and Soule resident Arman Tang said.

As a result of the low turnout and complaints about the music, Paul recommended that Soule’s proctors next year play more popular genres of music. “I think there would have been a bigger turnout if the music was more hip-hop,” he admitted.

However, Paul was also quick to point out that Soule Tea’s music distinguished

it from other dances. “[Soule] is a very unique, quirky dorm, and...we might change our music to make it more mainstream but we don’t want to make it generic,” he said. “We want to make it somewhat unique.”

In fact, senior Maddie Moon, who attended Soule Tea in past years, has always appreciated the dance for its electronic music. “My friends and I enjoyed the different music style and we actually ended up staying for the whole time,” she said. “Not many dances are solely EDM-based so it’s always cool going to Soule Tea!”

Napier likewise appreciated the unique music. “If you want a lot of people, then you have to play hip hop and stuff because that’s the sound that people like. But I personally liked the EDM,” he said. “EDM attracts a certain crowd of high energy individuals.”

Napier continued to comment on the energy level at the dance, saying that the date of the dance was one aspect that made Soule Tea unique. “It’s right after [E/a] so people have a lot of energy left over,” Napier said. “It was a real blast.”

## BIG RED GOES GREEN

By MAI HOANG  
Staff Writer

I walked out of class at the end of a Friday late October, completely exhausted from a day of hard work: an exam that did not go well, a frustrating article that no one gave quotes for and a bewildering in-class exercise in metacognitive abilities that no one understood. But the sight that greeted my eyes left no room for pessimism or petty complaints: gleaming in the rich golden sunlight, there was a magnificent display of colors lifted by sturdy pebble-shaded bark—light moss, sandy yellow, baby pink foliage. And always, always, the deep, heart-warming, velvety crimson. It was this bed of crimson that greeted me the first day on campus three years ago, made me fall in love with New England cold. It was this magical flare that gave me solace and compelled me to write poetry during my first week away from home.

I picked up a fallen leaf, examined the battleground between chlorophyll and carotenoid, the latent veins, a million frontlines. I smoothed it out and placed it between the two pages of my diary. Reliving the memory of these moments warmed my heart as I headed back to campus from D-squared this past weekend, sighing when I noticed the leafless trees that lined the shortcut through the bookstore. Fall was over, for now. But only twelve months more and the red leaves would come again.

Except, next year the leaves may not come again, at least not in their fully-fledged crimson glory in the peak of autumn. Over the past five decades, biologists all over New England have been tracking leaf color changes through meteorological stations, satellite imagery, and an elaborate network of digital cameras, aptly named the PhenoCam network. Their conclusion? The fall foliage that we observe today, vibrant as it is, is not comparable to that of fifty years ago in beauty and diversity; warmer climates have delayed the peak color-changing season and enabled pests and pathogens to strike more vulnerable species.

In another few years, higher temperatures will also, unsurprisingly, result in the decline and eventual demise of species long adapted to cold weather. In particular, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Sciences has predicted the replacement of

northern hardwood, spruce and fir forests by more Southern trees. Sugar maples, a signature of our area, are also “extremely susceptible to mid-winter thaws and summer droughts,” as a result, they will either “sicken, decline and disappear, or their geographic distribution may migrate north,” if climate change continues at a pace that it does today.

Living amidst the comfort of the Exeter bubble, it is sometimes hard for us to believe, except in an exceedingly abstract sense, the reality of climate change. We do not depend on erratic mother nature for subsistence. We find it much easier to intellectualize and debate, taking sides based on our previous biases.

But if we look closely enough, the changes, though slow, are happening before our eyes. The beautiful fall foliage, one of the most spectacular in the world, a source of spiritual refreshment that all of us Exonians take for granted, may not always be there. Already, in other areas in New Hampshire, residents have noticed unusual patterns in the color-changing cycle. And for some of them, fall foliage is not only scenic—it is the premise upon which their business is run.

“Leaf-peeping,” a multi-million dollar tourism industry draws 3 million visitors to New Hampshire every fall from all around the globe. Unpredictability in the timing of the color change has caused difficulty in businesses estimating the number of tourists and tourists planning their trips. Though foliage tourism is far from facing an existential threat, many service providers are concerned. WGBH News quoted Christopher Bells, owner of the two-hundred-year-old Cranmore Inn in North Conway, New Hampshire, who expressed concern for his family business. “I worry about the long-term,” Bells said. Another industry dependent on the health of local trees is the maple syrup industry, which brings in \$3 to \$3.5 million for the state per year. Pests and pathogens withstanding, hot weather also causes difficulties for maple trees to produce sugar.

In local foliage as well as in other matters, climate change is a slow and silent actor, striking stealthily when least expected. It is important, therefore, to take action before it is too late.

## FEATURED ESSONIANS

By ANNE BRANDES, NANA ESI DONKOR and SHIVANI TRIPATHI  
Staff Writers

Self identifying female Exonians flock to the church basement every week to paint pumpkins and sing karaoke alongside the Gals, or women with special needs. Since their prep year, seniors Miranda Hall and Maya Basak have been dedicated to Exeter Student Service Organization (ESSO) through the club Gal Pals. Because of their continued commitment to improving the club, Hall and Basak have been named ESSONIANS of the Month.

The mission of Gal Pals is to facilitate a warm environment for its members, enabled by the all-female nature of the club. “Gal Pals is an awesome club where female-identifying PEA students can spend time with women who have special needs from the Seacoast area,” senior and ESSO Co-President Grace Gray said. “When we meet together, we do confidence-building exercises—we have made some pretty snazzy power poses—and talk genuinely with each other about our lives.”

Each week, the co-heads have different roles that keep the club running smoothly. Hall is in charge of notifying all external parties, like parents, of scheduling. She also helps publicize the club with adviser and Health Instructor Elizabeth Hurley. Basak plans weekly activities which range from baking cookies to drawing.

Both Basak and Hall have been involved with Gal Pals since the beginning of their Exeter careers. Each co-head has a specific passion in working with people who have disabilities. For Basak, having a relative with special needs means that the club plays an important role in her life.

Hall explained that her father’s occupation encouraged her own involvement in Gal Pals. “My dad works with special-ed kids and that work is an important part of my life,” Hall said. “For me, getting the chance to work with them and talk with them is something that is really important for people to do.”

The purpose of ESSONIANS of the Month is to showcase the hard work that the organization does, according to Gray. “The ESSO Board implemented ESSONIANS of the month last year to highlight Exonians who were putting their utmost work into ESSO and genuinely trying to make this world a better place with each meeting,” Gray said. “In awarding the ESSONIAN of the Month, we hope to in-

spire other Exonians to embrace ESSO and all its possibilities of giving back.”

Senior and ESSO Co-President Jenny Yang described the process in choosing ESSONIANS of the month, detailing that Hall and Basak exemplified the qualities the board was looking for. “They are good, responsible co-heads. They always send out their emails on time, and they communicate well,” Yang said. “Hall and Basak are also dedicated to the details like organizing activities or supplies. They were very involved and really took the club to the next level.”

Many attendees of the club like lower and Gal Pals member Annie Smaldone appreciate how Basak and Hall run the club. “Miranda and Maya do an awesome job of choosing activities that really get everyone involved, and at the beginning of each meeting we introduce ourselves and say something about ourselves which is a really nice ice breaker,” Smaldone said. Spanish Instructor Ellen Glassner, who joined Gal Pals this term as an adviser, was particularly impressed by Basak and Hall’s leadership. “They have everything under control,” she said. “They are responsible, reliable and, especially important for a club such as this one, approachable and caring.”

Gray reminisced about her experience in Gal Pals and spoke to the club’s impact on its participants. “Although we will only be here for four years, I know the friendships and love I’ve seen in Gal Pals will always stay with us, and that’s what makes the club so important—and all of this love is possible because of Miranda and Maya’s club leadership,” Gray said.

Smaldone shared similar sentiments to Gray, elaborating on the friendships that have grown between the Exonians and the Gals. “Mostly the same gals come every week, so Maya and Miranda have formed really good relationships with them,” she said. “Everyone is comfortable talking to the co-heads, and they’re always super excited to be there and make it a friendly atmosphere.”

Basak concluded that these relationships are vital for club members. “I think it’s important for the women to be able to gain access to a nurturing environment,” Basak said. “I hope we’re fostering a long lasting relationship. It starts in the church basement, then we get their phone number or their Facebook and it naturally blossoms into a friendship.”



## FacultySpotlight

## JOSEPH LAMBERT

By VIRGINIA LITTLE, MIMI HARRIPOTTAWEKUL and BEN CAI  
Staff Writers

With a natural eye for beauty, Art Instructor Joseph Lambert has spent several years viewing the world from his camera.

Before teaching in formal classrooms, Lambert spent 10 years with National Geographic Student Expeditions leading students on international photography trips. Later, in the summer of 2015, he was able to combine his love for adventure and the outdoors when he and his wife biked in Iceland for 35 days, traversing over 800 miles and taking snapshots of the rugged and beautiful mountain landscape. In 2016, Lambert received the prestigious Scholastic Art and Writing Educator Award.

However, Lambert does not simply sit and observe the world through a lens. After three years of teaching photography and visual arts at Winsor School in Boston, Lambert and his wife, Caroline Meliones, came to Exeter in the fall of 2016, ready to pass his passion for the arts to Exonians. Additionally, Lambert is fluent in Spanish and is an accomplished guitar player. As a dorm head to students in Wheelwright Hall and adviser to PEAN, Lambert has involved himself in the fabric of Exeter over the past two years as thoroughly as he has immersed himself in the arts.

While his unique career as a photographer for National Geographic has sent him to iconic landmarks and hidden wonders across the world over the years, Lambert highlighted the human interactions as most noteworthy. “It’s the people I’ve met along the way that have had a lasting impact on me,” Lambert said. “Genuine human connection continues to inspire my classroom pedagogy in many ways.”

In his classroom, Lambert welcomes all faculty and students to share their unique experiences and ideas in the hopes of spurring creative and engaging ideas that can be used for their art projects. “These are the raw materials that fuel our discussions and art-making,” he said.

Upper Isabel Hou, who currently takes Lambert’s 3D Design: Technology + Form + Fashion class, agreed with Lambert and noted that she values his supportive teach-



Courtesy of Caroline Meliones

ing style. “Mr. Lambert is very open and understanding and accepting of everybody’s unique ideas,” Hou said. “Even if we are sort of hesitant and we don’t know where to go, he always has a positive attitude...he always knows exactly what direction we want to go maybe even before we know it.”

Since his youth, Lambert has had a passion for photography. “I got my first camera when I was 12 years old and couldn’t put it down,” Lambert said. According to him, photography transformed him, and ever since then he’s had a camera in his hand. While he doesn’t expect every one of his students to become a professional photographer, he hopes they leave his class with a similar appreciation. “My sincere hope is that they leave my class having experienced some of the magic of photography that has had me under its spell for so many years.”

Lambert’s goal in the classroom is to “create a space where students can share their experiences and perspectives.” He approaches each day reminding students to be as “easy going” as possible, reminding them that learning should not be stressful. “Stress blocks creativity,” Lambert said, “so I do my best to meet students where they are at each day, listen and be understanding and create a safe space for them to be who they are and explore their creativity.”

Of the many things Lambert enjoys at Exeter, being with students in the art studio is what he loves the most. “Every student is a unique learner,” he said, “and I enjoy watching the many different ways they problem solve and come up with solutions to the artistic challenges we take on in class.”

Lambert emphasized how much he learns as much from his students as he hopes they learn from him. “Most days

it feels like we are learning and exploring alongside each other, and many times I am learning from them, too.”

Chair of the Art Department Tara Lewis is well aware of Lambert’s lifelong passion for photography, which she said he refers to as his “main squeeze.” “Lambert has a special enthusiasm and connection to photography as a conversation starter and important communication tool,” she said. According to Lewis, Lambert is strongly invested in inclusion and making students feel happy in the studio. Noting Lambert’s talents outside the classroom, Lewis called him “a master of industrial design,” and she urged students and faculty to check out his collection of self-designed bags in his studio and in Wheelwright Hall.

English Instructor Wei-Ling Woo, who serves with Lambert as Wheelwright dorm faculty and PEAN adviser, also values Lambert’s positive outlook, sense of humor and friendly demeanor. “I see him trying to empower students to make the right decisions for themselves and the community,” she said. Woo especially took notice of Lambert’s friendships throughout the dorm. “He has the ability to make everyone feel welcome in their lives and in their home.”

Wheelwright residents praised Lambert’s kindness and inclusiveness. “He’s kind to everyone,” Lower Zoe Barron said, “and he seems like an open-minded kind of guy, which I appreciate.”

Upper Erin Ahern, another resident of Wheelwright, agreed with Barron and added that she appreciates Lambert’s sincerity. “He genuinely wants to know how you’re doing and what’s up,” Ahern said. “He promotes inclusion and respectful behaviors in the dorm.”

At Exeter, Lambert continues to bring his passion for photography and design. His warmth and sincerity have made him approachable to both fellow faculty and students. Lower Isa Matsubayashi commended Lambert for his supportive role in and outside of class and the dorm. “Mr. Lambert is not just a teacher or a dorm head, but he is a friend,” Matsubayashi said.

## SeniorSpotlight

## ISADORA KRON

By SHIVANI TRIPATHI, EMILY KANG and SYDNEY KANG  
Staff Writers

“I want to do something in my life that involves helping others,” four-year senior Isadora Kron said. “I want to make this world more fair and just.”

While Kron describes changing the world as a long term goal, she has already made her mark on Exeter. Throughout her time here, Kron has embodied the spirit of *non sibi* through her political activism and widespread involvement.

Hailing from Miami, Florida, Kron found out about Exeter through her middle school, which also used the Harkness pedagogy. “When I was in seventh grade my American History teacher was talking about the history of Harkness and about a school called ‘Exeter’ that uses it all the time,” she said. “I went home, looked [the Academy] up and decided to apply.”

Since she set foot on campus, Kron delved into the variety of opportunities and clubs Exeter has to offer. As an avid member of Democratic club (Dem Club) and a co-head of Feminist Union (Fem Club), Kron is immersed in the political culture on campus. She participated in the School Participatory Action Research Collaborative (SPARC) throughout the 2017-18 school year, is a varsity rower and a proctor in Bancroft Hall. Kron also enjoys lighthearted activities, such as serving as the co-head of Exeter’s Cooking Club.

Kron has been a member of Dem Club since her prep year, characterizing it as an integral part of her Exeter experience. From phone banking to attending dinner with influential Democratic politicians, Kron has developed her passion for social justice and equity.

She credits the organization with increasing her tolerance towards opposing viewpoints. “When I [came to Exeter] I recognized gaps in my knowledge and tried to expand my understanding by listening to other people and their experiences,” she said. “What I’ve learned to do in the more recent years is not shutting down people who have opinions that are different from mine and learning how to engage things and be open minded.”

Dem Club co-head and senior Gillian Quinto commended Kron’s expressiveness and determination. “Isadora is very well-



Numi Oyeboide/The Exonian

researched and eloquent,” she said. “She has been part of Dem Club since day one and has attended every event since prep year. That’s a testament of how [Isadora] will take time out of her day to fight for what she believes in.”

Moreover, Kron appreciates Dem Club because it has helped her break out of the Exeter bubble. “Through phone banking and other activities, we get to engage with the people that live in New Hampshire and the issues facing them,” she said. Kron is involved in the political sphere in her home state of Florida. Over the summer, she interned for Phillips Lavine, a candidate in the 2018 Florida governor election.

Kron is also dedicated to furthering women’s rights. As one of the co-heads of Fem Club, she not only facilitates weekly meetings but also organizes Exeter’s involvement in nationwide events such as the Women’s March in Boston.

Fellow Fem Club co-head and upper

Aiwen Desai praised Kron’s leadership and drive. “Isadora has impacted Fem Club in so many ways, but what stands out to me is what she has done to make the club more intersectional,” Desai said. “Whenever we are discussing topics for our next meeting, she is always quick to consider marginalized perspectives and make sure that we are not excluding them from our conversation.”

When she is not advocating for social justice, Kron enjoys making delicious meals as the co-head of Cooking Club. For Kron, who is half Jewish and half Brazilian, food holds much cultural significance. Her family bonds through preparing and eating meals, an aspect of home life Kron misses while at Exeter. Kron noted that the members of cooking club “fill that that gap.”

Kron is also a committed member of the girls’ varsity crew team. “Crew can be painful and difficult, truly testing your limits,” she said. However, Kron loves the

sport because of the trust built among the rowers. “I spend so much time around [my team], and we are so connected,” she said. “[Crew] brings everyone together because you have to trust them in order for your team to be successful. You can sense this trust even if you’re not talking to them while you’re rowing.”

Varsity rower and senior Sophie Fa-leiro attested to Kron’s enthusiasm and spirit. “Isadora is very charismatic and always looks to the bright side, even if we have a difficult practice or lose a race,” she said.

Along with her multitude of extra-curriculars, Kron is a strong academic, citing chemistry as one of her favorite subjects. “My grandfather was a doctor, and I have always sensed the importance of helping others,” she said. “Chemistry is a very satisfying subject—everything works out nicely, and it makes a lot of sense.” In fact, Kron hopes to pursue a career which intertwines her passions of politics and science.

However, Kron was not always interested in science and attributes Exeter with empowering her to love the subject. “I thought I was a humanities person before I came to Exeter,” she said. “Harkness [has given] me a lot of confidence in my own intelligence and my ability to express my mind, stand up for myself and learn from others.”

As a proctor in Bancroft Hall, Kron strives to help her fellow students and values her dorm community, describing it as a second family away from home. “That’s what I tried to create for the younger students in the dorm and for everyone else in the group, not even just the students. It’s just like this feeling of a community, like a home and a family away from your family,” she said.

Bancroft Hall affiliate and Dean of Academic Affairs Brooks Moriarty admires Kron’s accomplishments, but acknowledged her humility. “Isadora is a more mature extension of her prep self—energetic, inquisitive, curious, passionate, caring,” he said. “She always was those things, but in a senior, those are qualities that make her a great leader. Her self-awareness is the mark of her maturity.”





# ExonianHumor



## The Humor Page Starter Pack

By RYAN XIE  
*Bold Move, Child Genius*

1. Use the same meme of Rose's face for the TFW weekly meme.
2. Repeat items in your lists.
3. Make jokes about *The Exonian*.
4. Fill up half of the section with Fi Madrid's article.
5. Fill up the other half with Eugene Hu's comic strip.
6. Fill up the third half with Nick Schwarz's article.
7. Use a meme if more space still needs to be filled.
8. Make the same jokes about upper year being hard.
9. Write lists about things that have already been written about.
10. Make the same jokes about college.
11. Did I say repeat things in your list?
12. Wish that the humor section had two pages.
13. Make jokes about the North side/South side feud.
14. Make the "Submit to Humor" box in the bottom left bigger if the space isn't filled up.
15. Quote Isabella Ahmad for the quote of the

## College: A Poem

By BELLA ILCHENKO  
*College Applicant*

They ask for it all: your life and your friends,  
But do they honestly care?  
You spend so much time crumpling drafts into balls  
So that your resumé might compare  
With the hundreds of thousands of talented kids  
Applying all over the world  
To the same universities you want to go to...  
The best of the best, so you're told.  
Holistic review is a "genuine thing."  
It's how they consider your fate.  
Writing from home about leadership roles,  
You're unsure what to throw them as bait.

### TFW

### We Out! Peace 140!



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





## The Real Class of 2019 Senior Superlatives: Humor Page Edition

By THE HUMOR EDITORS  
*And the Senior Class*

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Most likely to go through a goth phase:</b> Kate Denny   | <b>Most likely to stand in an isosceles triangle while firing a gun:</b> John Beckerle                                  | <b>Most likely to be the least controversial news editor:</b> Sarah Ryu                           |
| <b>Most likely to vote for Donald Trump:</b> Gillian Quinto   | <b>Most likely to become big as a young Paul McCartney impersonator:</b> Mark Blekherman                                | <b>Most likely to be the laziest try-hard:</b> Madison Kang                                       |
| <b>Most likely to eat bread:</b> Alex Mangiapane  | <b>Most likely to start a fake relationship with Noah Centineo but end up falling in love with him:</b> Reina Matsumoto | <b>Most likely to peak at age seven:</b> Dhanat Plewtianyingthawee                                |
| <b>Most likely to be mistaken for Drake:</b> Pearson Parker   | <b>Most likely to have daddy issues:</b> Zac Feng   | <b>Most likely to go to a country and speak better than the natives:</b> Jeremy Xu                |
| <b>Most likely to tour manage Radiohead:</b> Alan Wu  | <b>Most likely to win prep rep:</b> Jimmy Liu   | <b>Most likely to be the star of a Bollywood movie:</b> Pavan Garidipuri                          |
| <b>Most likely to pick something out of the dumpster and pay \$70 for it:</b> Seb Bango               | <b>Most likely to crawl out of a dumpster:</b> Maxx Murray  | <b>Most likely to read the entire Deed of Gift in his free time "just for fun":</b> Calvin Henaku |
| <b>Most likely to marry for money:</b> Euwie Park   | <b>Most likely to paint a windowsill:</b> Josiah Paint-sil  | <b>Most likely to "get this bread," literally:</b> Evan Vogelbaum                                 |
| <b>Most likely to become a Bond villain:</b> Luca Cantone   | <b>Most likely to eat Stillwells for breakfast:</b> Alan Xie  | <b>Most likely to post in "Exeter Memes for Non Sibi Teens" ten years from now:</b> Eugene Hu     |
| <b>Most likely to fall asleep on concrete:</b> Chandler Jean-Jacques                                  | <b>Most likely to cry:</b> Jacky Cho  |   |
| <b>Most likely to be a superhero:</b> Yaseen Ahmed  | <b>Most likely to work hard and be cast as Tree #2 in Wizard of Oz:</b> Emeline Scales/Greg Heffley                     |   |
| <b>Most likely to become a street performer:</b> Miles Mikofsky                                       | <b>Most likely to date a townsperon:</b> Henry Lagasse  |   |
| <b>Most likely to know about when that one time in second grade you pooped your pants:</b> Niko Amber | <b>Most likely to join a biker gang:</b> Hannah Grace Johnson   |   |

## Last Comic Strip of the Term

By EUGENE HU  
*Mind Blown*

<p>Eugene, we loved the comics! It was a very nice addition to the newspaper!</p>  <p>Oh, thanks!</p>	<p>What did you enjoy about it? Was it the story? character design? dialogue? titles? punchlines?</p> 
<p>Eh, well... not exactly..</p> 	<p>It's because it takes up so much space, right?</p> 
<p>This panel is filler</p>	<p>This panel is just for the sake of coming full circle.</p>

## Quotes of the Week

"Finally the last day of this humor board; finally the last day of my exploitation."

-Isabella Ahmad '20

"Lax bro hair. It looks like lettuce."

-JaQ Lai '21



# ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: JANE COLLINS, CATHERINE GRIFFIN & HANNAH LITTLEWOOD

By LEAH COHEN  
& CAROLINE FLEMING  
Staff Writers

Seniors Lydia Anderson, Jane Collins, Catherine Griffin and Hannah Littlewood have fulfilled their roles as inspiring varsity field hockey co-captains, leading the team to an amazing season this fall.

Having all played together since their lower year, the three have great chemistry, which allows them to keep the team cohesive and focused but also foster a fun, energetic environment. "We have been playing with each other throughout all of our time here, so I think that we work really well together and stay on the same page," Littlewood said of their dynamic. "I think we also all brought different strengths to the table."

As Littlewood noted, each captain is able to bring their unique personalities and abilities to improve the team's skill and environment. Their season record of 7-6-2 is evidence of the captains' and the team's successes this past season.

Upper Jill Cloonan raved about her captains' collective range of skills. "Jane is one of our strongest defensive players and is insane at saving the ball, and Hannah can play in any position; she is a very talented field hockey player. Griff sprints up and down the field, [and she is] probably the one of the hardest workers I know."

Littlewood started playing field hockey when she was in the fifth grade, and began to take the sport more seriously during her freshman year of high school. Her love for the sport stems from being a part of exciting and supportive teams in the past. She said, "I love all the people that I have met through field hockey; it's really fun and similar to hockey, which really helps me out. I have really enjoyed all the teams that I've been on here at Exeter, and the game is really



fun to play."

In addition to playing on the field, Littlewood finds leading her team, especially the younger players, rewarding. "My favorite part about being captain is probably being able to help the younger kids on the team," she explained. "A lot of the younger girls stepped up this season which was crucial for our success."

Similar to her co-captain, Collins has just completed her fifth season of high school field hockey. After growing up playing on the ice in California, Collins began playing field hockey in her freshman year. "Moving to a new school my lower year was hard," Collins recalled. "But coming in during preseason, by the time classes started I had already made a group of friends."

After arriving as a new lower to the Exeter team, Collins quickly became a defensive powerhouse on the field. Before this season, Collins saw herself as strictly a defender, supporting the plays from the back "bowl." However, when head coach Elizabeth Hurler threw her into a game

as a forward, Collins did not hesitate and played the position with intensity, even scoring a few goals for Big Red.

As a leader on the team, Collins enjoys being one of the first people the newcomers interact with. In addition to being a welcoming member to all, Collins can be counted on for getting the team hyped up before games. "I like to be really loud before games and being a captain gives me an excuse to do that," Collins said. "It's fun to rally people and get everyone together before games."

Griffin, better known to her teammates as "Griff," first held a field hockey stick in seventh grade. "I started playing for my middle school team and fell in love with the teamwork needed on the field," Griffin said. "Passing is crucial to the sport and that comes along with a strong team connection."

To help the team bond early, Griffin made an effort to extend herself to the underclassmen and new students on the team early in the season. As a midfielder and defender, Griffin was described as a

Numi Oyeboide/*The Exonian*  
"steady and calm force" on the field by fellow co-captain, Littlewood.

Together, the three captains led the field hockey team to its most successful season in the past four years at Exeter. This season was the first winning season since 2012. "Last year our goal was to be above .500 and this year our goal was to make playoffs," says Collins. "That's a crazy difference in where the program is going. I think in the years I've been here the talent has improved so much. We have to up our mental game but I think this season has just been another step in the right direction."

In one season, the team dynamic has changed for the better and the former captains are confident that they are leaving the team in a better position than when they arrived and took charge. Littlewood expressed her sentiments about leaving the team, saying that "This was probably my last season of field hockey so I am glad we did so well and had such a great time."

## Exeter/Andover Soccer Games End in Tie

By COOPER WALSH  
& MILO WALSH  
Staff Writers

Braving the rain, mud and cold, Exeter boys' and girls' varsity soccer teams played with an intensity that kept both the Andover and Exeter fans on their toes. Boys' soccer tied 1-1 and girls' soccer tied 2-2, both with remarkable come-from-behind victories to infuriate the Smurfs.

Despite Exeter boys' soccer having possession of the ball for longer, Andover was first to find the back of the net. Starting goalie Matthew Chen explained the goal: "Our midfield gave away the ball around the middle of the field, and Andover worked the ball to the six yard box where a player was there to tap it in. I got a hand to the shot but I wasn't strong enough to stop it."

The boys went into the game knowing that they could beat Andover. As prep Aiden Silvestri said, "We knew this would be a tough game in the mental aspect. In terms of rank and our season, we are better than Andover, but we knew we could not be overconfident."

Chen agreed. "Andover was always going to be a big game, but this year the stakes were especially high, since we needed to avoid a loss to make playoffs."

He outlined the team's plans. "We knew Andover's outside backs were weaker than the rest of their team, and we tried to expose that from the start." Their plan worked in the second half to force a tie when senior Tyler Swanbeck bodied the Andover defender and smashed a powerful shot into the net.

There were many standout performances and moments in the big game, but Silvestri's favorite play was when upper Billy Menken "Diddled his defender



Lower Marymegan Wright gains possession of the ball over an Andover player.

Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

then blew past him, leaving the Andover defender humiliated."

Silvestri also added that lower Jack Burgess had "Many key plays that sparked our offense in the second half."

The girls also had a thrilling game, especially in the last 15 minutes. Senior and co-captain Ogechi Nwankwoala said, "We prepared for Andover as we would prepare for every other game. We wanted to come out strong and attack from the first second of the game."

However, this upfront strategy did not manifest as planned. Lower Marymegan Wright recapped the game, saying that "Andover got off to a strong start by

scoring in the first two minutes, then scoring again early in the second half which really discouraged the team."

Nwankwoala acknowledged prep Kaylee Bennett for "bringing so much energy and liveliness. She attacked on the dribble and put a lot of pressure on Andover's defense which led to our first goal."

Exeter's first goal was scored by senior Leni Lemos with 15 minutes left. Wright said that this goal, "Helped to rally the team for the remainder of the game."

After the first goal, Wright dangled her defender and an Andover player

pulled her down and drew a penalty kick. Lower Allison Hanlon took the penalty kick and buried the ball deep into the back of the net to tie the game up.

Wright wanted to shout out her captains. "Juliana was really giving her all up front and Ogechi saved us countless times in the back." She went onto to say: "I will miss their leadership and energy along with our other seniors."

This game concluded a great season for girls' soccer. Nwankwoala said, "I will miss the team so much next year. They are my family and soccer is the highlight of my day every day. It's hard for me to imagine not being on the team next year."

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# ExonianSports



## GXC SECURES INTERSCHOLS TITLE

### Boys' Varsity XC Narrowly Misses Top Spot



The team races down the field against Deerfield.

Helena Chen/The Exonian



The girls' varsity team celebrates after their win.

Courtesy of Ashley Lin

By **BIANCA LEE**  
Staff Writer

While Exeter's fall athletic teams were competing at Andover in their E/a games last Saturday, the Big Red cross-country was roughing it out at Avon Old Farms in Avon, Connecticut in the 2018 NEPSTA Interscholastic Championships.

The girls' varsity and junior varsity teams were both crowned Division I in their respective competitions. The JV boys' squad also secured another championship for Exeter. The boys' varsity team, however, fell short of first place by just one point behind the winner, Northfield Mount Hermon School.

The team was surprised by the snowfall on the morning of their race. Grace Gray, senior and co-captain of the girls' team, had a positive outlook on the unexpected precipitation. "I've always wanted to race in snow [...] I was filled with excitement," Gray continued, "I knew our team is tough and can race in any condition—we had some great experience with running through a knee-deep puddle at E/a just the week before—and I couldn't wait for us to rise to this challenge."

Exeter's success was a result of the hard work put in throughout the entire season. The girls' undefeated record and wins against their biggest competitors

meant that there were high hopes to win it all. Upper Maddie Machado and winner of the girls' JV race mentioned that "Coach Coogan told us all before this meet that we'd be running with targets on our backs as the projected winning team." Machado added that Exeter's previous wins helped the team rise to the challenge.

Senior Hanna Pak recalled, "We were there to give it everything we had to win. For some of us, it was our last cross-country race ever, so we wanted to leave everything out on the course and close the season with a bang."

Both teams' training leading up to the race was another contribution to their outstanding success. "Every day of practice prepared us to be the best runners and teammates possible for when Nov. 10 would come," Gray said. From early morning pool-runs to Dame Road fartleks and even 6 a.m. long runs on wide left, the team had been prepared to face anything.

"We are really all about running with love," Pak stated. "We knew we would run with love—love for ourselves, for cross-country, for each other, for our coaches and for all our teammates who weren't at Avon with us—and that was what really mattered for us," Gray said.

The runners' determination to do well for their team as well as themselves was effective in securing top individual placings.

In the girls' varsity race, lower Gia Pisano and senior Hanna Pak finished third and fourth overall; the other five varsity girls placed in the top 30. Teammate Gray lauded Pak's killer race. "[Pak] shaved forty seconds off her prep year PR and broke 20:00 to finish fourth in the entire girls' varsity race." The girls' JV team managed to secure both first and second place with spectacular runs from upper Maddie Machado and lower Leila Herman. Other JV runners came in top twentieth to lead the team to victory.

The boys' team also celebrated numerous individual victories. Upper Will Coogan ran a hard-fought race that secured him a 15:34 PR and a 2nd place finish, just one second behind the NEPSTA champion. "I knew it was going to be a fast race [...] I tried to stay with the front pack as long as I could and cover everyone's moves." Coogan praised his competitor, saying, "Great race out of Farrel from Loomis who held me off on the final stretch."

"Everyone's performance on varsity was really inspiring," senior and co-captain Charlie Neuhaus said. "[Lower] Varun Oberai came top ten in Interschols with a huge PR."

Senior and co-captain John Martel praised lower Phil Horrigan's kick that beat out five opponents at the end of the

race. The Big Red boys swept the JV race: upper Sam Kim, senior Charlie Neuhaus, lower Croix Mikofsky and upper Jinwoo Kang immediately formed a strong pack at the front of the JV race, all finishing in the top ten.

Exeter boys' varsity team's one point loss to NMH was disappointing to all of its members. Nevertheless, they remain optimistic that they'll bounce back next year to regain their NEPSTA championship title. Lower Andrew Luke mentioned, "losing like that is really hard, but it just makes us want to win that much more next year."

The seniors are confident that despite it being their last time wearing the big E on their uniforms, the teams are being left in good hands. "I am so confident that they will keep bringing PEA GXC to greater heights and adventures," Pak said. "I can't wait to see what the team can accomplish next year."

"[We are] like an overwhelmingly positive and close-knit family," said senior Alexandra van Dijkum. Lower Andrew Luke had a similar outlook: "We're brothers and we have each other's back." Gray reminisced on the cross-country team's effect on her Exeter experience, saying, "Exeter cross-country will always hold a part of my heart... I can't thank our wonderful team and coaches enough for giving me this home these past four years."

## Fhockey Falls to Undefeated Andover

By **CHARLIE VENCI**  
Staff Writer

This past Saturday was the annual clash between Red and Blue, and all of the seniors went out with an intense Exeter/Andover game. Although Big Red's varsity field hockey team fought until the very end, they ultimately fell short, ceding one goal to Big Blue and scoring none. Although Exeter lost to Andover's skilled team, Exeter played one of their best games yet.

Lower Ellie Griffin explained that Big Red was close to success. "We had possession and control over the momentum for the majority of the game. We all played really well against our toughest opponent, who has only had two goals scored on them the entire season. There were many goal opportunities for us, but unfortunately none of them were successful for us," she said.

Senior Gracie Goodwin highlighted the outstanding play of senior Jane Collins. "Jane Collins played an amazing game and had some really great defensive saves, and overall our whole defensive line played super strongly along with our goalie to let them score only once."

Senior Bella Hillman agreed with Goodwin. "Jane made an absolutely beautiful defensive save on a corner, and that helped us stay in the game and not let up a goal."

Griffin commended uppers Leah Cohen and Sophia Rosati. "Sophia Rosati dribbled around so many Andover girls; she also had a lot of crosses that went right in front of the goal. Leah Cohen was also very strong on defense. She got the ball out of our defensive end so many times and prevented a lot of goals from Andover," Griffin said.



Upper Jill Cloonan fights off her Andover opponent.

Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

Prep Molly Longfield applauded upper Jill Cloonan's hard work during the game. "I thought that Jill played well because she was able to get open and move the ball forward when we were struggling to get offensive momentum."

Although it was a loss for many, Saturday's play was icing on the cake for an extremely successful season between a group of tightly knit teammates. It was Goodwin's last game, and she was certainly proud of it. "Andover was undefeated this season and let only two goals in against them, so holding them to only a 1-0 lead was really impressive. Everyone on our

team really came out and worked together and I think it was one of our best games this season."

Looking back on the season, Hillman expressed her sadness to leave the team after its impact on her life for the past four years. "I will miss being with the team every day; we are really good friends and coming to practice every day knowing I would see my friends and have fun was always such a good feeling. Our dynamic as a team was really good and fun to be a part of since we were all super close with each other."

Longfield agreed with Hillman. She

also noted the sense of togetherness she discovered this season in her first year on the team. "The best part of the season was how we had good energy for the games and everyone was supporting each other on the field. I am going to miss the 'family' aspect of the team and how we were all really close."

For Goodwin, it was the end of an era. She, like many of her teammates, will always carry the Exeter field hockey bond within her. "Everyone was so supportive of each other and we really hyped each other up; it was definitely the closest team I've been on since I've been at Exeter," she said.