



Students Use JUUL Despite Rule Change

By ERIN CHOI, MAI HOANG
and SHIVANI TRIPATHI
Staff Writers

Lower Regina* stumbled into the health center one day, sick and dizzy from an overwhelming sense of nausea. "It seems like you might have nicotine poisoning," a nurse told her. "But don't tell me if you do, because I don't want to report you." She then proceeded to give Regina some medicine which would make her feel better.

However, Regina's experience is not common across campus. As nicotine is not a schedule 1 controlled substance, the Academy is not legally obligated to report cases of usage to the Exeter Police Department (EPD). According to Associate Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Christopher Thurber, if a student is admitted to the health center with a case of nicotine poisoning or usage, the health center's response would be to immediately stabilize the student.

In the 2018-19 school year, Exeter modified the section in the E Book that prohibits tobacco and nicotine products to also ban e-cigarettes and vaporizers "because of the health hazard" they pose.

Perhaps this modification to the E Book is in part due to the recent rise of e-cigarette usage. According to the 2017 Youth Health Risk Behavior Survey (YHRBS), a survey administered biennially to all Exonians, 16 percent of Exonians reported using e-vapor products within 30

JUUL, A2



Students perform at Club Night.

Paula Perez-Glassner/The Exonian

Exonians Open Up About Stress and Anxiety on Campus

By ANNE BRANDES
and MAI HOANG
Staff Writers

"For most of my time here, I felt very lonely," senior Abbie Benfield reflected as the voices of students playing spikeball on a Friday night echoed through the dorm room window. "I never truly learned how to make friends before coming here. I had two or three mental breakdowns last year. I was completely overwhelmed."

Since starting her prep year at Exeter, Benfield has been struggling with mental health issues, including anxiety disorders and depression, accompanied by panic attacks. For her, coming to a stressful environment such as Exeter amplified these problems. "I did consider taking med leave or dropping out a few times last spring because of the workload and my own mental health," Benfield said.

Exeter is an institution renowned for its long history of academic excellence. On the surface, Exonians seem to be engaged, confident individuals bent on reaching the highest bars possible in every field. It is in the loneliness of a dorm room, however, that anxiety seems to manifest itself the most.

Senior Alexia Netcu sees herself as a generally optimistic individual. Yet she also admitted that the "dark cloud" of anxiety still got to her sometimes. "During the day, I'm fine, but then I get to my room and realize I have so much to do for a test. Sometimes I lay in bed and I can't fall asleep, my heart beating fast and my mind shooting in a thousand directions," she said. Netcu copes with this by taking herbal pills for anxiety, something she had never felt the need to do prior to attending Exeter.

"There's a culture, amongst close friends, of boasting about how little sleep you get, how many times a week you cry," Netcu concluded. "I don't really like that about this place."

Dr. Szu-Hui Lee Dobie, psychologist at the Lamont Health and Wellness Center, commented on how anxiety can influence the entirety of students' lives. "Anxiety not only can impact one's physical health, it can impact one's functioning in areas of social relationships, academic performances and overall self-care," Lee said. "For example, due to their anxiety, students can struggle to sleep, attend classes, go to dining hall, engage in conversations, speak up in class, maintain healthy relationships, and the list goes on."

According to the Youth Health Risk and Behavior Survey (YHRBS), a CDC-designed assessment administered biennially at Exeter to monitor "health-related behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death and disability among youth and adults," levels of stress and anxiety are on the rise in the student body; the percentage of Exonians reporting "being very pressed or

STRESS, A8

Student Leaders Discuss OMA Flowchart

By ANNE BRANDES
and MAI HOANG
Staff Writers

Exeter's dormitory proctors and student listeners are currently participating in discussions about the school's Attack on Personhood flowchart. After these sessions, the school will place the flowcharts in common spaces around dorms and academic buildings.

The flowchart details how students can respond to an attack on personhood. The chart defines personhood as "the seen and unseen self, including one's human and civil rights. Attacks can take the form of shaming, slurs, microaggressions and/or physical harm." The four methods of response

include responding in person, seeking outside advice in person, seeking outside advice anonymously and sharing information with an adult or student leader.

Dean of Multicultural Affairs Sami Atif, Associate Dean of Multicultural Affairs Hadley Camilus and Office of Multicultural Affairs Administrative Intern Jessica Alvarez drafted the flowchart last year. Since then, it has undergone several revisions. Though he originally hoped to release the flowchart in April, Atif pushed back the date until the beginning of this term to ensure that "student listeners and proctors know their responsibilities when it comes to providing support."

FLOWCHART, A2

Dorm-Leave Time Delayed By One Hour

By SHIVANI TRIPATHI
and ANGELINA ZHANG
Staff Writers

The faculty voted overwhelmingly in favor of the deans' proposal to change the time students are allowed to leave the dorm from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. Though the change will not impact most of the student body, some voiced concerns about sports practice times and the possible impact on student freedom.

The faculty held a voice vote on the proposal. "What happens during a voice vote is that the principal says, 'All those in favor of the proposal signify by saying 'aye,'" Dean of Faculty Ellen Wolff explained. "Then people in favor of the proposal all say 'aye.' Then the principal ask those who are opposed to say 'No.' On this vote, the 'ayes' were significantly louder than the 'no's.'"

According to Dean of Residential Life Carol Cahalane, the administration is not sure when it will implement the change.

Amen Dorm Faculty and Senior Associate Director of Admissions Lee Young said, "A question was posed about whether we are just making the changes or if we are going to get student input, and the sentiment was that the adults would make the decision because we know what's best for the students and their safety."



Student Listeners at Camp Lincoln for a retreat.

Courtesy of Elizabeth Hurley

The dorm heads have been discussing changing the dorm leave time since last year, with student safety as the primary motivation. "From my perspective, the most important question when determining the morning hour when students may leave the dorm is student safety: how much daylight can we expect, how many people are around to offer assistance if there is a problem," Cahalane said.

Another factor contributing to the change was '5s' when students leave the dorms at 5:00 a.m. to get illegal visitations. "I do believe that student abuses of the trust granted with the current time may be a factor for [many faculty members] as they consider the question," Cahalane said.

Dean of Studies and Academic Affairs Brooks Moriarty noted that these illegal

visitations were a factor in faculty taking notice of the dorm leave time. "The only reason why anyone is aware of the 5:00 a.m. rule is because students talk about 5s, which is not something we endorse," he said. "I've been here 11 years now, and I didn't know about the 5:00 a.m. rule until I heard students talking about 5s."

With the new change, leaving the dorms before 6:00 a.m. could result in disciplinary action. "If a student leaves the dormitory prior to the allowed time, that could lead to a major disciplinary case for absence from the dormitory," Cahalane said. "The specific consequences for students are determined on a case-by-case base."

Moriarty supported the change. He said the current rule "defies common sense."

DORM, A2

Disparities in Wealth Affect Student Life

By ERIN CHOI, MAI HOANG
and RACHEL WON
Staff Writers

"When I first got here my prep year, hiding my financial situation was very important," upper Sam Park shared. "Covering is a natural way of performing ourselves in society; while everyone does it, choosing the aspect of socioeconomic background to cover is something that a lot of Exeter students do." Park was also quick to note that Exonians do not simply cover financial insecurity, but the fact that they are "secure but not at the same level as their peers."

They added, "The pressure was definitely there to adopt a more cavalier attitude towards money, to highlight and exaggerate the fact that you don't worry about it." While the number of students who truly do not have any monetary concerns is small, for Park, it did not seem that way at first because students "tend to display ability over inability." They added that the image of Exeter as an affluent school "tends to draw people to [...] sacrifice personal integrity."

"I'm pretty ashamed of the fact that I'm privileged," lower Hermione said. "It's hard to talk about my experiences." She explained that although she wants to share certain aspects of her life, she doesn't want

SOCIOECONOMIC, A8

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Students Ignore Health Concerns, Report Continued E-Vape Use

Continued from JUUL 1

days before completing the survey, up from the 9 percent reported by the 2015 YHRBS.

Despite the E Book modification and being ASAPed twice, Regina continues to use a JUUL, a brand of electronic cigarette. “Tobacco is harmful, but I don’t think nicotine is that bad for you,” she said, despite admitting that she once “almost threw up in math class” because of nicotine poisoning.

Possession of nicotine, on the other hand, will lead to a disciplinary response. Dean of Residential Life Carol Cahalane, described how JUULing on campus was always prohibited; however, the Academy specified this ban in the E Book after the issue became more prevalent on campus. “We started to hear about vaping on campus soon after these devices and products were made available,” she said. “Unfortunately, too many students have believed the manufacturers’ claims that these are ‘safe’ and ‘healthy’ alternatives.”

Not only is the possession of e-cigarettes by a minor against school rules, it is also illegal. If Campus Safety receives reports about the possession of e-cigarettes and vaporizers by a minor, they are compelled to report the student to the Exeter Police Department (EPD), which can then determine whether or not to prosecute the student.

Recently, the state of New Hampshire added a statute that mandates the reporting of behaviors that “contribute to the delinquency of a minor,” including the provision of vaping materials to a minor by an adult. According to Director of Campus Security Paul Gravel, this might mean that when a student is found vaping, Campus Safety needs to “find out where the material comes from.”

However, Gravel noted that he has yet to meet with the EPD to discuss whether the

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Campus Safety and the EPD will need to be altered because of this new statute. “We will sit down with the EPD, our legal counsel and the attorney for Rockingham County to see if we need to change the MOU or if there are stipulations that the police may want to add to clarify reporting requirements,” he said. Once the review of our MOU is completed, the County Attorney will review and comment as well.

According to Cahalane, the disciplinary response for students caught with electronic cigarettes depends on the drug they are using with it. “If the student is vaping with flavored or nicotine cartridges which are commercially available, it will likely be a regular level discipline case,” she said. “If they are using any illicit drug with a vaping device, that would likely be a major discipline case.”

Chair of the Health and Human Department Michelle Soucy was unsure as to why nicotine use was not previously treated as a major offense in the E Book. “[Nicotine] is psychoactive, but I guess it’s not intoxicating or as long lasting as other substances, though I consider it to be dangerous,” she said. “[PEA] treats nicotine use with counseling health education. If a student has a true nicotine addiction, cessation work with the healthcare provider is also available.”

Many students who JUUL are referred to the Academy Student Assistance Program (ASAP), a non-disciplinary response which, according to the E Book, “provides prevention, early identification, intervention and referral services for students who are having emotional, academic, behavioral, social or family difficulties, as well as those with alcohol or other drug abuse problems or eating disorders.” Any student can request a referral for themselves or for a fellow student who they suspect to be using

prohibited substances. Such a request then must be approved and referred to the health center by the deans.

According to Soucy, once a student is referred to ASAP for JUULing, vaporizing or smoking—though that is rarer—“they would be required to meet with a health educator to discuss the hazards of e-cigarettes and vaping devices and to get education about the product itself. Health educators and students also talk about decision making and refusal skills to help students make better choices.”

Although she described the ASAP as “individual,” she explained that students and a health educator will generally meet for four sessions. Students may also meet with a counselor for four sessions.

Despite evidence demonstrating the danger of JUULing, many students continue to use the e-cigarettes.

Some continue because they believe JUULing will not harm them significantly. Upper Johnson*, knows about the adverse health effects and still JUULs every day. “I just think that there are definitely worse things you can do with your body,” he said.

From lower Gretchen’s* perspective, “I know JUULing is bad for me, but so does everyone else who does it. It’s just because they’re addicted and can’t stop.”

Soucy attributed student ignorance about the harmful effects of JUULing to misleading advertisements. “Students are really falling victim to a manipulative industry,” she said. “This is just the tobacco industry’s latest reinvention to keep people using their products. The key is to never get addicted in the first place because nicotine is one of the most addictive substances out there.”

JUULing is even more common off of Exeter’s campus. In fact, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has launched a crackdown

against JUUL’s marketing towards teens, as well as a campaign aiming to educate students of the consequences of nicotine addiction. The campaign includes hanging posters in school bathrooms, a common place students sneak off to vape.

Additionally, students vape for social reasons, citing it as a way to make friends and meet new people. Senior Beth* JUULed for the first time when she was with a group of other students. “My friend was scared to JUUL and she wanted me to try,” she said. “I didn’t really want to so I said no. But she really wanted me to do it; I guess she wanted a companion.”

Upper Tom* described vaping as “very prevalent” amongst his friend group. “The way I see it, e-cigarettes are pretty unhealthy, but they’re not as big of a deal as people make them out to be,” he said. “I’ve tried multiple times, usually do it once per week now, just on Saturday and Friday nights chilling with friends.”

Regina* noted that while she regrets developing a nicotine addiction, she appreciates the friends she has made from the activity. “Part of me does regret starting JUULing because I would have never been addicted or ASAPed,” she said. “But I’ve made so many friends from JUULing—I’ve made my best friends from it.”

With all this social influence, some believe that the new E Book clarification would fail to discourage students from vaping. “Even when it wasn’t clarified, people still knew that it wasn’t allowed. That’s why my friends would hide it in their nightstands,” Beth said. “But JUULing is just so prevalent and addictive that I don’t think [the clarification] will change anything.”

Upper Johnny*, who JUULs multiple times per day, put it simply. “It’s messed up, but that’s how our generation clicks,” he said.

*Asterisks denote name change to protect anonymity.

OMA Prepares to Debut Attack on Personhood Flowchart

Continued from FLOWCHART 1

Atif said, “There was no need to rush the flowchart.” He added, “I’d rather take time to work with students and talk about the nuances of it.” Proctors and student listeners had an introductory meeting with Atif about the flowchart at the end of last term, and were reintroduced to it at the beginning of this school year. “Whenever the dorms are ready, we will go for it, but they have to be ready,” Atif said. “The expectation would be after one or a few sessions within each dorm, whatever is needed, I’ll send it out to them.”

Atif hoped that students will fully appreciate the utility of the flowchart, as well as its detailed points of emphasis; he encouraged all to reach out to him should they have any questions.

Dorm heads also had a separate meeting with Atif to discuss the flowchart at the beginning of this week. “No one brought up any concerns that I knew of,” he said.

English Instructor and Head of Kirtland House Courtney Marshall expressed her excitement about the release of the flowcharts, describing it as “phenomenal” in its clarification of ambiguous terms. “I always say that issues related to personhood or attacks against personhood should be as widespread and ordinary and as boring as the fire drill,” she said. “We should be as familiar and as comfortable both talking about what happens and getting people the help they need.”

On the other hand, some expressed misgivings about the flowchart. “I have some reservations, the chief one being it having a chilling effect on speech and expression potentially, making relationships more difficult between students and between students and teachers,” History Instructor Michael Goley said. He further explained that when people feel “like they’re on edge,” it is not healthy for the environment because Exeter “relies on the exchange of ideas.” He is especially concerned with students’ new ability to submit anonymous complaints to trained students or the Dean of Students’ office, as well as the chart’s use of weaponized language such as “microaggression” and “attacks on personhood.”

Goley added that he wished there had been more discussion among faculty. “I’m not happy; as a faculty we haven’t had more time to discuss this. We only had a few minutes last spring,” he said. “There’s a lack of transparency; we need to have more

discussions on why it’s necessary. I’d like to think there’s still time to talk this through.”

Biology Instructor Townley Chisholm said that he would prefer that Exonians confront inconsiderate comments in person. “I hope that, when members of our community receive an insensitive comment, they will immediately engage in conversation with the person who made the comment, either one-on-one or with an advisor’s or teacher’s help,” Chisholm said. “These conversations should bind us closer together and help us understand each other better and are best done soon and in person.”

Chisholm acknowledged that when comments are more pointed, the personhood flowchart procedure is more suitable. “When an offensive comment is made with clear intent to do harm, then the other avenues of the flowchart seem more appropriate,” he said. “Of course there are situations in which harm was clearly intended, but I hope and believe that most insensitive comments are made without harmful intent.”

Marshall, however, feels that giving students the ability to decide how they want to combat an attack of their personhood can help them gain autonomy over the situation. “Giving younger people the sense that there are options and that they can choose allows them to gain control of their experience—I think that’s a great thing.”

Marshall further elaborated that this flowchart can have an impact not only on the present, but also on the future of Exeter’s campus. “I always think about not what the effect is today but what the effect is 50 years from now, 100 years from now. It’s not so much about us, it’s about five generations later, this school could be a really different place,” she said.

Classical Languages Instructor Matthew Hartnett, despite expressing support for the flowchart, nevertheless worries that its presentation may encourage students to make an anonymous referral to the deans before trying to have a conversation with their peers. “It plays against the idea of having a community atmosphere by encourag-

ing people to have anonymous referrals to an authority,” Hartnett said. “I wish it was formatted in a way that makes it clear that an anonymous referral was a last resort as opposed to an option one might choose right from the start because it’s easier or more convenient.”

English Instructor Mercy Carbonell discussed the positive impact she hopes this flowchart will have on campus. “My hope is that this is a further gesture within an institutional commitment towards acknowledging and valuing the dignity and respect everyone can offer and can receive in a healthy community,” Carbonell said.

Marshall shared similar goals. “I’m hoping what will happen is the students that need to be affirmed, are affirmed. The students who have questions about what things mean, get to ask those questions,” she said. “I think the flowchart begins a dialogue where people can get their questions answered but also know that there are real consequences for the things that we say and we do.”



PEA Faculty Vote Overwhelmingly to Delay Dorm-Leave Time

Continued from DORM 1

Moriarty added, “There’s nothing open on campus at that time; it’s safer for students to be out and about when there are places to go,” he said.

Some dorm heads view the change as a positive step for the community. Wentworth Dorm Head and Computer Science Instructor Sean Campbell stated that the proposal would “improve student safety and promote a healthier school culture.”

Dow House Dorm Head and French Instructor Amador Talla agreed, and appreciated the flexibility that the new rule

still lent for students should they absolutely need to leave earlier. “I like the possibility that exists for students to get permission to leave the dorm before 6:00 a.m. if they have a valid reason to do so,” he said. “It makes this new change less restrictive.”

In addition to the positives of this rule change, some have voiced concerns about how it will affect sports teams, especially those that have early practice sessions. “Having the option of practicing in the morning is really crucial in making the most of our practices, since our workouts are often determined by the tide,” upper and crew coxswain Katya Davis said. “If the

new rule were to make it so that we were unable to have those practices, it would definitely impact the crew team more than other sports.”

According to upper and rower Alex Urquhart, the new rule would reduce morning practices from an hour to half an hour. “We don’t have morning practices that often, but they are pretty crucial to our success as a team,” he said. “If I’m not able to be with my team in the boat right before a race, fine-tuning each and every movement, I wouldn’t feel as confident in our success.”

Athletic Advisor Shaun Fishel, however, noted that the dorm leave change

will likely only affect the crew team. “The fitness center doesn’t open until 6:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, so I don’t see this proposal affecting students’ ability to work out in the fitness center in the morning,” he said.

Urquhart expressed a lack of confidence in how the school will grant requests to leave the dorms early. “I’ve heard that you can inform the dorm faculty the night before if you need to get up early for these practices, but it creates a hassle for everyone involved...I fear that the school may be unwilling to grant opportunities for these morning practices and workouts,” he said.

Exonians Reflect on Inaugural Community Time

By **BONA HONG,**
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Staff Writers

Accompanied on stage by faculty members and staff who performed skits of familiar community scenarios, Dean of Students Melissa Mischke invited Exonians in their advisory groups to discuss community values and reflect on the kind of Exeter community they wished to build in Exeter's first ever community time.

The new biweekly initiative aims to gather the community to discuss pertinent issues in small groups during a designated 50-minute block. According to Mischke, the Community Time initiative "came from thinking about how we can improve our life at the Academy, how we can have more conversations as a community."

Yesterday, Sept. 9's Community Time consisted of skits featuring faculty members and deans that depicted people greeting one another on the paths, students "borrowing" personal belongings such as bicycles without prior permission and modeling respectful dining hall behavior.

Mischke hopes that the measure, while not a direct outgrowth of the Day of Dialogue held last spring, will serve as a similar platform for Exonians to explore important, timely and difficult issues through community-oriented discussions. "Last year, we kind of crammed in the Day of Dialogue on a Saturday. There have been a lot of people thinking that we need to have time set aside for building community life together and having group conversations," she said.

Some students, however, felt that Community Time was not a success. Senior Gordon Chi felt that it was an unnecessarily long extension of advisory. "Most people just stayed in their own advisory groups so we didn't really engage with a greater community," he said. "The questions didn't dive deep into any 'big' issues, and I'm just wondering why we had that when class could've ended at noon."

Mischke acknowledged that this week's Community Time focused on

"community expectations and values" as opposed to heavier and more sensitive issues like affirmative consent, which will be the focus of the next Community Time being held in two weeks. "You can't dive into the more challenging conversations if you haven't built up some foundation of trust early on," she said, explaining that the ultimate purpose of all these conversations is to "build healthier relationships with the community."

Director of Student Well-Being Christina Palmer, who will be spearheading discussions of affirmative consent, agreed. "By starting with values, the foundation was put down for our community to engage in many diverse, rich and sometimes difficult conversations, which includes race, consent, gender and mental health to name a few," she said.

Lower JaQ Lai thought that these topics were a suitable starting point for Community Time discussions, especially out of regard for new members of the community who are still adjusting to Academy life. "For new students who may not have had these conversations yet, I think that doing it pretty early in the year in this setting was really good because instead of having a super structured discussion, they opened it up for people to just talk," Lai said, adding that the relaxed atmosphere allowed students to meet new Exonians while fostering discussions about basic community courtesies.

Nonetheless, upper Aiwen Desai believed that this Community Time could have been spent more effectively, rather than reviewing straightforward standards of community etiquette. "I'm not sure if it was really necessary to spend that much time going over simple rules that most people are aware of," she said.

While upper Ervin Williams agreed that "[Wednesday] was a bit corny," he emphasized the importance of reminding students, new and returning alike, to respect others and the community space.

"A lot of kids don't understand that it is common courtesy to wave and say hi or to hop off your bike at the crosswalk," Williams said. "The message got confusing at



Students gather in their advisory groups before Community Time. Helena Chen/The Exonian

times...I would have revised some of the topics, but the overall sentiment they were trying to convey was well communicated."

Senior Janet*, however, thought the message was not effectively communicated. "I just think if you want to talk about serious Exeter issues, then that's fine, but don't talk about trivial things like saying hi on the path," she said. "It was information we already knew, performed in an unclear and frankly embarrassing fashion."

Senior Emily Oliphant expressed her hopes for Community Time discussions to focus on "bigger issues" going forward such as sexual assault, socioeconomic and class differences, race and environmental action. "Community Time could be used to talk about any number of things that would benefit all of us more and be more useful," she said.

Mischke shared Oliphant's hopes and has been collaborating with Palmer, Dean of Residential Life Carol Cahalane, Head of the Assembly Committee Alex Myers, Director of Equity and Inclusion Stephanie Bramlett as well as "anybody who is contributing to that higher level of examining what we are doing in this community and what conversations we need to have" to develop a comprehensive and

coordinated learning experience, Mischke said.

She added, "We want things to mesh, not be divergent. It's a team approach," Mischke said. "Sometimes [Community Time] will have some sort of learning component. Other times, there might be more emphasis on collecting people's opinions and projecting them outward so that people can see what others are thinking."

The next Community Time will focus on affirmative consent. Students will work in grade level groups with trained student facilitators and faculty leaders. According to Palmer, "the focus will be understanding sexual misconduct, reviewing the affirmative consent policy, learning how sexual misconduct can be a cultural problem and [learning] strategies on how to navigate uncomfortable situations."

Palmer continued, "These opportunities to be with another—talking, listening—is similar in some ways to when we sit at the Harkness table to have a shared moment to strengthen insight and understanding, heighten awareness, recognize and embrace our differences and develop and strengthen respect for one another and all we bring to the table: community."

Diaz, Lee, Yang and Zhang Win Negley Prizes

By **RACHEL WON**
and **ANGELE YANG**
Staff Writers

Seniors Elliot Diaz, Jenny Yang and Abby Zhang and upper Suan Lee were selected as this year's winners of the Negley Prize in U.S. History, awarded to writers of the most outstanding papers written in the history 430 course. The students' papers covered a wide range of topics: respectively, the declassification of homosexuality as a mental illness in 1973, the U.S. government's portrayal of the atomic bomb, the response to landmark Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade* and the 1912 textile strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

The history 430 paper, better known as the "333," is written in the final term of the U.S. history sequence. Students spend four weeks researching a topic of their choosing from any aspect of American history. Their research culminates in a 333, typically ranging from 12 to 20 pages in length.

At the end of the year, each history 430 instructor is invited to nominate the papers from their classes that they believe should receive a prize. Nominated papers are distributed to every history teacher in the department and each paper is commented on by at least two teachers. History Instructor and Negley Prize Committee Head Aykut Kilinc then reviews the teachers' feedback and curates the most well-received papers. The Negley Prize Committee, consisting of Kilinc and History Instructors Nolan Lincoln, Betty Luther-Hillman, William Jordan and Michael Golley, then convenes to decide which papers should receive the prize.

The entire process spans over three months during the summer. "The history teachers are so dedicated to their students and to the whole project of research that they're willing to spend their summer reading papers," Head of the History Department William Jordan said. At the end, they settled on these four papers.

Diaz wrote about the medicalization of homosexuality in the Diagnostic and

Statistical Manual (DSM). "I originally wanted to look into the attempt of conversion therapy to bring people 'out,' but then I started researching why people thought that that could be possible. That led me to the bigger topic of how medicine reconciled homosexuality as an illness," Diaz said.

Diaz strived to write about a topic that he was deeply passionate about. "I wanted to write about something that hadn't been written about before extensively. I wanted to do justice to the people who were on the front lines of getting homosexuality out of the DSM," Diaz said. He recalled reading LGBT pamphlets cover to cover because he had never seen anything like that before. According to Diaz, the process of writing his paper fostered more appreciation for his community's history.

Yang wrote a paper analyzing the U.S. government's portrayal of the atomic bomb. "I wrote about the image of the bomb and how during its announcement and in the time leading up to announcement, the U.S. government had been preparing the country in different ways to better embrace the beginning of the atomic age and make the country more receptive to the atomic era," Yang explained.

During her research, Yang focused on the lasting consequences of her topic. "You can really see that the impact of the U.S. government's strategic public relations campaign is still affecting us today," Yang said.

Zhang knew that she wanted to research another landmark supreme court case after writing about *Muller v. Oregon* for her 332. "I was looking for something along the veins of women's rights and reproductive rights," she said. "My paper was about the response to *Roe v. Wade* and specifically how the male hierarchy of the Catholic Church shaped the abortion debate as we know it today."

Zhang realized how tangible the effects of the court ruling are. "Their very extreme actions in the decade following *Roe* really laid the foundation for the pro-life movement and made abortion a political,



Elliot Diaz, Abby Zhang, Jenny Yang and Suan Lee win Negley Prizes.

Numi Oyebo/The Exonian

religious and nationally recognized issue," she said. "*Roe v. Wade* is obviously something that is highly relevant to our political landscape today. Over the summer, there was so much coverage about it. I remember weeks into my 333 term, Iowa had just passed their new anti-abortion laws."

Zhang was surprised to find that abortion was not a national issue until the Catholic Church worked to create an anti-abortion movement following the ruling. Luther-Hillman, Zhang's 430 instructor, observed how Zhang's research evolved. "I think that oftentimes the best papers come from research that organically develops where instead of a student beginning the project saying, 'I have a thesis already decided,' they explore and come across something that surprises them," Luther-Hillman said.

Lee, who wrote about the 1912 textile strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts, is the first in Exeter history to be awarded the Negley Prize as a lower. "Before the strike, the diversity of the predominantly immigrant labor pool only hindered unity because of language barriers and general hostility between ethnic groups. Suddenly, none of that mattered," Lee said. "The fact that the strike was led by immigrant women and children, some of our society's most disadvantaged groups, was really in-

triguing [to me]. Many societal dynamics were at play, some taking pretty unprecedented turns. I really wanted to explore those areas."

For Lee, who has read several Negley-winning papers from previous years, receiving the award was a special moment. "Those papers really inspired me while I was writing," Lee said. "I still remember some of them. The thought that maybe someday another student will read my paper and feel moved by this amazing story that I was hopefully able to bring to life is just a special feeling. I feel really fortunate."

Jordan described the 333 paper as "one of the best thing that this school offers students," he said. "When you get so engrossed in the thing that you're studying, that you forget about time, you forget about your little worries and you get absorbed in the project—to me that's the gold standard of education."

Lee agreed with Jordan's sentiments and recalled late nights spent researching her topic. "Definitely cherish those moments. By the time you're done, what the 333's given you is more than just a 20-page paper in high school," Lee said. "By the time I handed in my 333, I'd fallen in love with history and research. It's definitely one of the most memorable things I'll have done at Exeter by the time I graduate."



The Exonian

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

Meditation on Post-Functionalism

Mai Hoang '20
Columnist

Imagine a world in which all individuals are able to devise a purpose for every object as it suits them. What freedom that would give us! Indeed, the all-encompassing concept of function is so corroding for our once-creative minds that it has been given a specific term in Gestalt psychology, namely "function fixedness," one of the major cognitive biases that take away from our experience as thinking beings. A five-year-old has no trouble at all using a plastic plate as a hat or a frisbee; submerged in the epistemology of adulthood, however, we experience a deep, inexplicable sense of uneasiness when we see objects used for purposes outside of their intended functions.

Submerged in the epistemology of adulthood, however, we experience a deep, inexplicable sense of uneasiness when we see objects used for purposes outside of their intended functions.

This is a reflection, then, on various attempts at letting go of function-fixedness, either my own or someone else's. Does it have a clear function, a tangible takeaway? I'm not sure. But it does have a purpose. I promise.

~1~

Upper me wants to be social; upper me wants to shed the shell of semi-isolationism that has encompassed my nights. Few have ever ventured into my room, despite its prime location as the one with the best sunset on campus (verified by, again, myself and my closest friends). It does not take an architectural prodigy to surmise that one of the factors that contribute to this avoidance is the room's bareness, harsh white light and chocolate wrappers strewn across the floor. I, myself, considered my room mostly as a place to sleep and drown in work rather than a soothing haven to look forward to at the end of a busy day.

The first step to become social, I thus reasoned, was to put in the effort to decorate my room.

This is the back-story behind why I decided, one fine Saturday morning at the beginning of the school year, to spend thirty minutes scouring Amazon for a bean bag chair. Giving myself a pat on the back for my savviness, I proceeded to bike to the Dollar Tree to purchase fall-themed

Form does not follow function, it has a conversation with it; thus wrote New York-based architect Peter Eisenman in his essay on post-functionalism. Indeed, there is a certain degree of stubborn naïveté to the claim that all structural designs, in nature or in the human world, shall serve a premeditated intention.

floral decorations, and taped them onto the wall.

A week after this homemaking episode, I handed my green package slip to Mr. Goudreaux in the mailroom, excited to lay my hands on my very first beanbag chair. Mr. Goudreaux handed me a box, bulky

but surprisingly light; I tore apart the cardboard with a jittery smile to discover - alas! - that what arrived was not a bean bag, but a plastic bag full of bean bag beans.

~2~

Form does not follow function, it has a conversation with it; thus wrote New York-based architect Peter Eisenman in his essay on post-functionalism. Indeed, there is a certain degree of stubborn naïveté to the claim that all structural designs, in nature or in the human world, shall serve a premeditated intention. Eisenman's first major public build-

Why is intended function so important anyway?

~4~

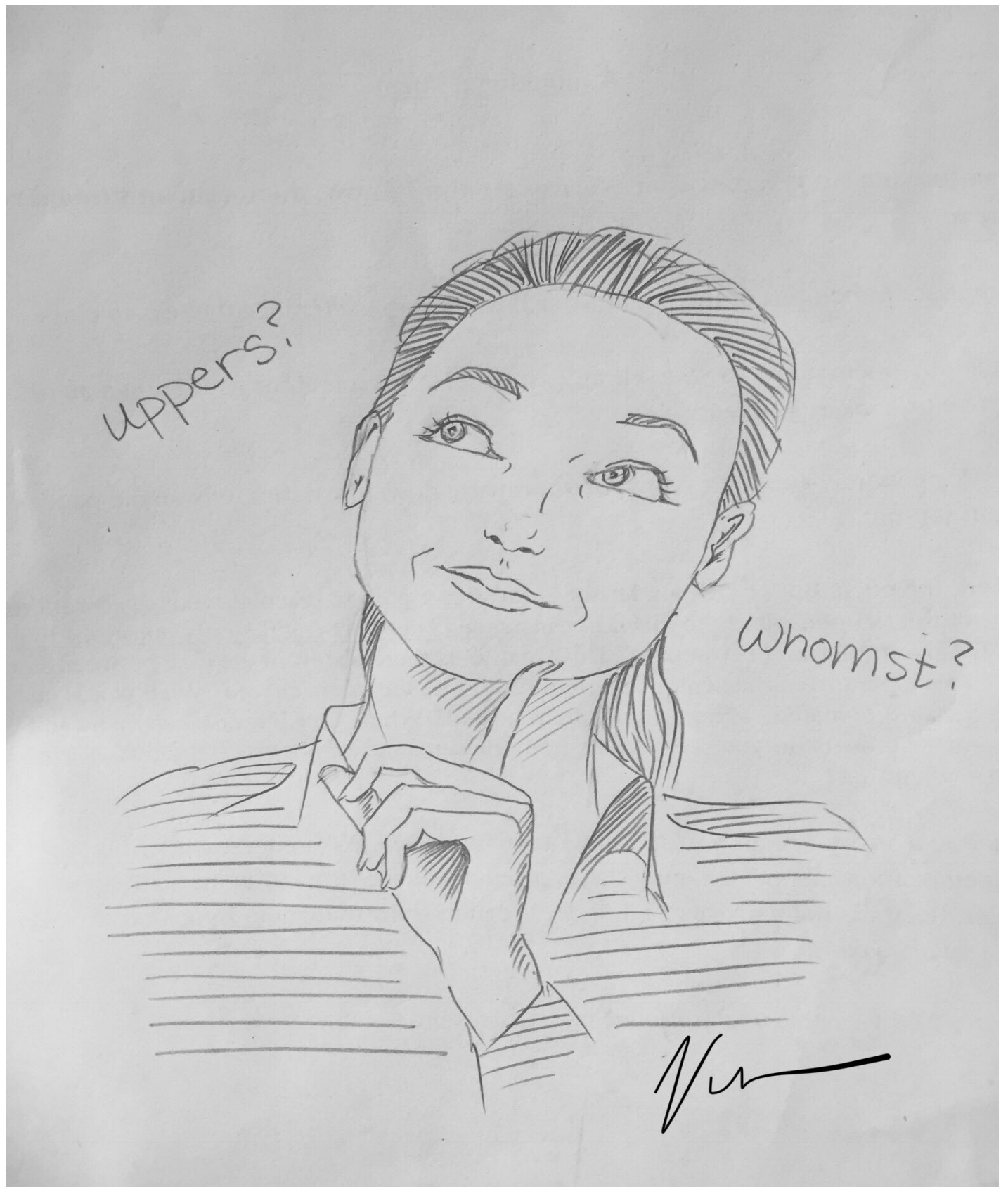
The first Dollar Tree store was established in 1953 in Norfolk, Virginia; or rather, the first variety store to adopt the single-price-point strategy, then patriotically patrolling under the name Ben Franklin.

After 5000 stores and six decades of booming business, the Dollar Tree still captivates many in awe and profound skepticism; how can products conventionally bought at 10 or 20 dollars go for only 1?

Dollar Tree's primary price-

bridge dictionary, purpose is firstly an intention or aim, while function is a duty. It is the second part of this definition, however, that truly matters - purpose refers to "a reason for doing something or for allowing something to happen," while function "the way something or someone works." Thus an entity can have a function but no purpose, and vice versa.

I decided not to return my bean bag beans. The next friend who came into my room looked at me as if I was subjecting myself to an exercise of absurdism; there, in a corner of my room sat the styrofoam beans,



Veronica Choulga/The Exonian

ing, the Wexner Center for the Arts at Ohio State University, opened in 1989, complete with an intricate network of metal grids resembling incomplete construction scaffolding. Its plan did not follow a single street grid; rather, it alternated between that of the OSU campus and the city of Columbus, which vary by 12.25 degrees. "The result was a building of sometimes questionable functionality, but admitted architectural interest," a critique commented. Though it was a product of the most inchoate stage of Eisenman's career, it still stands as the architect's personal favorite.

~3~

I own a certain pair of balloon pants, which I discovered works very well as a romper. So despite my mother's objections, I wear it with the high rise pulled all the way up to cover my entire upper body.

Similarly, someone once complimented me on my choice of choker. Its color matched perfectly with my earrings. This choker was, in fact, a headband.

dropping strategy is the substitution of brands for non-brands, avoiding companies that allocate capital into marketing and advertising. When we pay for a name brand, we pay for their fame. We pay for brands to tell us that their products can perform certain functions very well. We pay for them to dictate their products' purposes in our lives.

There are things one is likely to overlook while browsing at such a shop as the Dollar Tree, where items to do not lay on decorated shelves with ads that tell you why you need them. A kistchy-looking birthday hat. A plastic container. That fall-themed paper bouquet though? I took it back to my room, tore the flowers from the green plastic sticks and spread them over my bookshelf. One needs to exercise some imaginative faculties at times.

~5~

Even the most reputable arbiters of the English language tend to conflate function and purpose, or use one to define the other; according to Cam-

covered by a sheer layer of polyester, having no apparent function at all. In their uselessness, they serve the purpose of reminding me how silly it is to follow trends, rather than be creative and endow new purposes for objects I already own. It is at this

In their uselessness, they serve the purpose of reminding me how silly it is to follow trends, rather than be creative and endow new purposes for objects I already own. It is at this intersection, where purpose diverges from function and extends past it, extends past its absence, that the most exciting things happen.

intersection, where purpose diverges from function and extends past it, extends past its absence, that the most exciting things happen.

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Campus of Progressive Complacency

Jack Zhang '20
Staff Writer

Dear Principal Rawson,

As school settles into the normal grind, I'm sure you're getting a feel for managing the Academy and setting priorities for yourself. In addition to contending with past events, including faculty sexual misconduct, I believe that you should make strengthening political discourse on campus a top priority.

This school is dominated by liberal progressives. You, as the most prominent and powerful individual on campus, must challenge that. I don't mean that you should break up Democratic Club or burn Feminist Club sweaters. I mean that you must actively encourage serious consideration of dissenting opinions, so long as they are well-read and well-thought-out. This is not an invitation for stupid bigotry. It's a move towards replacing the complacent progressive mood that pervades our campus with serious discussion.

Exeter is supposed to be a crucible for political thought: mashing together massively different—but still clearly articulated—views to

Exeter is supposed to be a crucible for political thought: mashing together massively different—but still clearly articulated—views to approach the best personal politics.

approach the best personal politics. Unfortunately, Exeter's political blast furnace is basically a refrigerator. Your job, Principal Rawson, is to restart the heat.

The typical Exeter progressive is not a bad person: focused firstly on getting good grades and maintaining

their social life, their interest in politics extends exactly as far as Democratic Club wants to go.

Alone, they're no problem at all. The problem comes in the lost opportunity of closed progressive minds. The Academy, among other college-style and college campuses, is unique in its combination of free time and diverse populations.

Radical organizations like the Students for a Democratic Society could only exist on college campuses since everyone else is tied down by academic rigor and other responsibilities. If Exeter progressives (along with other student and youth progressives) focused on important global issues, we might see a movement larger than SDS was at its height.

Unfortunately, this isn't so. The largest action-oriented political

There is no hardcore, transparent political discourse, except in late-night and early-morning conversations with dorm-mates.

group on campus is the Democratic Club, which as the name implies, works to elect Democrats. It's a stretch to call Democrats "radical." The second-largest group is the Young Democratic Socialist Exeter chapter, a fledgling leftist organization with only 150 members. There is no unifying organization for progressives to work through to promote their goals since no one is fighting for leftist issues. There is no hardcore, transparent political discourse, except in late-night and early-morning conversations with dorm-mates.

Principal Rawson, you must encourage a dialogue. Maybe it'll be through a dedicated assembly, or just addressing the problem in an email. Whether it's between the center-right and center-left or the center-

left and the far-left, you must begin an explicitly political discussion on campus.

There is no unifying organization for progressives to work through to promote their goals since no one is fighting for leftist issues. There is no hardcore, transparent political discourse, except in late-night and early-morning conversations with dorm-mates.

In one piece from *The Exonian* in 1978, you counseled Exonians to pick their political battles. Part of the article, titled "End to Radicals—Exeter Quiets Down" reads:

"Students who don't have to fear being drafted and shipped to Vietnam have less of a reason to protest. Similarly, since there is less evidence that the government is doing such things as bombing Laos while denying any such action, students have less inclination to respond cynically to national issues." In your piece you warned that if students become too complacent, they may overlook important world issues.

How coincidental is it, 40 years later, that your words still hold true. Exeter's progressive radicality has died on some strange hills, from spiting the administration over gun regulation and pushing half-heartedly for a vague divestment from unscrupulous investments. These few recent protests and rallies do not concern broader issues of class, race, equality and social justice—they concern relatively minor issues in the global scheme of things. We already are complacent, Mr. Rawson. Now we need you to help us out of this rut.

Best,
Jack

Life Hacks for Exeter

Sebastian Bango '19
Opinions Editor

Greetings fellow Exonian,

My name is Luis Sebastian Bango. I am a three year senior in Cilley Hall and one of The Exonian's Opinions Section Editors. The following article is my personal opinion and does not reflect the views of this publication.

We are already two weeks into the 2018 fall term. As Exonians, we face many of the same challenges within our Exeter experiences. In my years at Exeter, I have accumulated an arsenal of wisdoms and tactics with which to face the firestorm. This arsenal has been forged by failures, successes and a few splashes of spite and disenchantment. I would have never stuck around long enough to assemble this arsenal, if not driven by an ultimate love and appreciation for the transformations that Exeter provides to all of us. Today, I give you, reader, a sample of this arsenal in the hope you may use these tools to better your own Exeter experience. The following article is divided into two parts—practical tips and meditations.

Part 1: Practical Tips

On Science—

Don't buy the book if you can find the pdf for free.

On Math—

Take a picture of the math problems that have been put up on the board, after they have been corrected by the class. Take those pictures and compile them into a PDF. Use this PDF as a reference and study guide for tests and homework. Also, speak up sooner rather than later if you are beyond confused.

On English—

Keep in mind your main goal when writing to efficiently communicate with your reader. Don't be cryptic because you'll only succeed in confusing people. Don't be fancy. Be concise. Obscure words don't make good writing. If you can express your message in simpler terms, do.

If you are having trouble being concise at the Harkness table, write your point down before you say it.

Use Thesaurus.com correctly. If a word in your writing is not faithful to your intended image, instead of tacking on a bloated chain of adjectives, use Thesaurus.com to find words with adjacent meanings. Then, leverage the nuance to realize your intended image.

Eliminate the passive voice from your writing, especially in the narratives common in lower level English classes. Once you recognize the passive voice every time you use it, reintroduce it to your writer's tool box to be used with intention. Incorporate your description into sentences with active structure. Only add description that is important to your story.

Write what you know.

Befriend someone who corrects your grammar.

Part 2: Meditations.

On Friendships—

Good friendships at Exeter are essential. Befriend some people in the grade above you who have gone through what lays ahead.

All things social accelerate at Exeter. The boarding environment leads to an industry of fast friendships. Like fast food, many of these friendships satisfy you momentarily and then the lack of nutritious substance makes you feel like crap.

Due to the new ability to spend massive amounts of time together, people will bond over superficial experiences, getting extremely "close" before the honeymoon highs wear away. Before you know it you've spilled all of your deepest secrets to someone you met in D-hall three days ago. Find people who make you a better person. Be wary of the aggressively extroverted. An imperfect guide: small minds talk about people; regular minds talk about events; big minds talk about ideas.

On Self-Advocacy—

Many adults at Exeter will tell you to advocate for yourself. However, many self-advocating pushes for a change inconvenient to those same adults end up with a pat on the head and a "No." If you really care about the issue at hand, don't give up. Find a faculty member who can yell for you. Be persistent. Make it easier and more comfortable for them to say "Yes" than to say "No."

On Teachers—

Some teachers make it much harder to get an A than others; Exeter isn't always fair. Every teacher has something valuable to teach you, whether directly or through the failures and frustrations they inflict. It is your duty, as a student, to seek out the way in which your teacher can best help you grow. Our instructors have lived much longer than any of us; they hold troves of wisdom and experiences from which we can learn. Befriend your teachers. In addition, don't trash talk teachers who give you bad grades. If you wait a year, then retrospect on your work in their class, your paper was probably a fat "no bueno."

On Ego and Ambition—

You're not special, and you can do anything.

Until next time,
-SB

Nike Stands With, Kneels With Kaepernick

Andrea So '20
Columnist

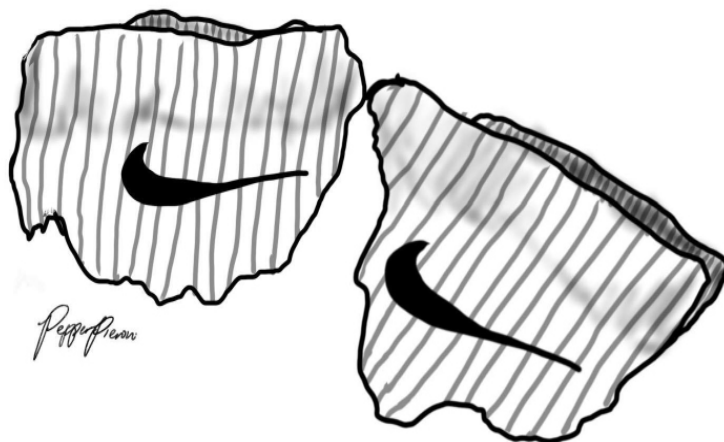
Nike's most recent advertising campaign features former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick with the words "Believe in Something. Even if it means sacrificing everything," written across his face.

Those words perfectly summarize Kaepernick's mentality. As a free agent and former starting quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, he has received a lot of criticism for his decision to consistently kneel rather than stand during the national anthem that precedes each football game. Critics believe Kaepernick's kneeling to be a gross disrespect to a ceremony meant to honor those who serve, and those who die, for the nation represented by the flag. Now, Nike's choice to team up with Kaepernick for their latest ad campaign has sparked a firestorm of media controversy. Some customers

As a free agent and former starting quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, he has received a lot of criticism for his decision to consistently kneel rather than stand before a football game's preceding national anthem.

threaten to—and actually do—cut the Nike logo off of their clothing, or refuse to buy Nike merchandise altogether.

In my opinion, these angry customers are not doing themselves or their initial goal any justice. First of all, the fact that they're removing the Nike logo after they have already purchased from the brand is useless. Because they have already paid for that article of clothing, cutting the logo off of it has no immediate, direct effect on Nike's sales. In addition, while Nike stock initially took a hit, the company is actually experiencing a boost in sales since releasing the ad, with stock closing at an all-time high



for the company last Friday.

Apparently, critics of Kaepernick are actually generating more positive

Their backlash is only inducing a reverse reaction, where their denunciation of Kaepernick's actions is spurring more people to purchase from Nike. If they wanted a constructive way to voice their anger, they haven't found it yet.

publicity for Nike, which I'm sure is the opposite of their aim. Their backlash is only inducing a reverse reaction, where their denunciation of Kaepernick's actions is spurring more people to purchase from Nike. If they wanted a constructive way to voice their anger, they haven't found it yet.

If critics truly want to concern themselves with showing the utmost respect for the American flag, they should first explore the many ways in which the flag's imagery is commonly exploited, instead of targeting the first person of color they see kneeling during the national anthem. According to the U.S. Code's Flag Code section, "The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free." It also states that "The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever." There are egregious violations of these two rules in virtually every Walmart or

Target in this country, and their sole target is to financially profit from the flag. If we truly want to defend the integrity of the Old Glory, then we have a long way to go to remove this double standard.

On one side, some groups believe that Kaepernick is an unpatriotic traitor, while others think that he has the right to free expression to protest inequality, as the oppression of black people and people of color in this country has been profoundly felt for centuries.

This is a problem with roots that run deeper than simply fighting over a sports brand. This controversy represents a fundamental divide in the mentality of America: on one side, some groups believe that Kaepernick is an unpatriotic traitor, while others think that he has the right to free expression to protest inequality, as the oppression of black people and people of color in this country has been profoundly felt for centuries.

Ultimately, Nike did a good job of shedding light on an important topic, as well as the hypocrisy of those who want a man's entire career to be derailed due to holding firm to a political stance. If we focused our energy on improving the state of America instead of clashing over the smallest of details, maybe people wouldn't feel the need to protest to begin with.

Got Opinions?
Write for *The Exonian*
Opinions Section!

Sexism in Professional Tennis

Ginny Little '20

Staff Writer

During the much-anticipated women's U.S. Open tennis final, spectators found themselves watching more than a typical competitive Grand Slam tennis match between Serena Williams and Naomi Osaka. Instead, the crowd and worldwide television audience stared in dismay as veteran champion Williams was issued a series of mounting code violations by the chair umpire that clearly influenced the outcome of the match. Chris Evert, the former Grand Slam champion and sports commentator summed up the sideline drama as, "I've been in tennis a long time, and I've never seen anything like it."

Unfortunately, what transpired between Williams and the chair umpire, Carlos Ramos, overshadowed the entire match and detracted from the spectacular victory of Osaka. Yet despite the negative ramifications, the interchanges between Ramos and Williams were valuable, because they highlighted the sexism and double

Yet, despite the negative ramifications, the interchanges between Ramos and Williams were valuable because they highlighted the sexism and double standard that still exists in the sport of tennis.

standard that still exists in the sport of tennis. As a result of Williams' willingness to publicly address what she perceived as sexist treatment, valuable conversations about sexism have emerged in the tennis community and beyond.

I'm not fluent in the rules of tennis, but I'll do my best to explain briefly what happened during the match. During the second set, Ramos saw Williams's coach use hand motions that he considered to be illegal coaching, and he gave Williams a warning. Williams disagreed with the warning and let Ramos know it. According to tennis legend Martina Navratilova, "It is common for the umpire to talk to the player first about the coaching—a sort of 'soft warning' before the real warning." In this case, there was no soft warning. A few games later, Williams smashed her racket in frustration, received another violation and was automatically docked a point because it was a second offense. An exchange ensued in which Williams vented, "You stole a point from me. You're a thief." Eventually, the match resumed, but Williams could not let the issue rest. After losing the next two games, Williams confronted Ramos again saying, "You are a liar. You will never be on a court of mine as long as you live. When are you going to give me an apology?" In response, Ramos gave Williams a third violation for "verbal abuse," which cost her a game. At this point, the score became 5-3 in the second set. Williams held the next

Katrina Williams, chief executive of the US Tennis Association, commented on ESPN, "we watch guys do this all the time, they're badgering the umpire on the changeovers. Nothing happens. There's no equality."

game, but ultimately lost the match 6-4.

Did Serena Williams behave unprofessionally in moments during this match? Absolutely, but most tennis professionals also saw blame on both sides. Katrina Williams, chief executive of the US Tennis Association, commented on ESPN, "we watch guys do this all the time, they're badgering the umpire on the changeovers. Nothing happens. There's no equality." This opinion was confirmed by 2003 US Open champ Andy Roddick who tweeted, "I've regrettably said worse and I've never gotten a game penalty." According to the British newspaper *The Guardian*, Ramos has gotten into verbal disputes with other male players including Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray and Rafael Nadal, and didn't penalize them like he did Williams.

Extending the events that occurred beyond tennis, King wrote, "what played out on the court yesterday happens far too often. It happens in sports, in the office, and in public service. Ultimately, a woman is penalized for standing up for herself."

In an opinion editorial to the *New York Times*, Martina Navratilova argued that while she also believed a double standard existed in the way women were punished for bad behavior, it didn't negate the fact that Williams was wrong for her behavior. "If, in fact, the guys are treated with a different measuring stick for the same transgressions," she wrote, "this needs to be thoroughly examined and must be fixed. But we cannot measure ourselves by what we think we should be able to get away with."

Billie Jean King, another tennis legend, presented a very different in-

terpretation of events that day. In a piece in *The Washington Post*, King reminded readers that for Williams, the tennis court is her workplace. "Tennis is a game, but for Williams and Osaka, it's their job, their life's work." According to King, Williams was defending herself as a professional. Extending the events that occurred beyond tennis, King wrote,

"I'm here fighting for women's rights and for women's equality..." She added, "he'd never have taken a game from a man because they said 'thief.'"

"what played out on the court yesterday happens far too often. It happens in sports, in the office, and in public service. Ultimately, a woman is penalized for standing up for herself."

As Williams explained during a press conference after the match, the disagreement from her perspective was about more than tennis. "I'm here fighting for women's rights and

A double standard still exists in the world of tennis, and at this year's US Open women's final, Serena Williams pointed it out.

for women's equality..." She added, "He'd never have taken a game from a man because they said 'thief.'"

As double standard still exists in the world of tennis, and at this year's U.S. Open women's final, Serena Williams pointed it out. Hopefully, her willingness to come forward publicly will embolden other women to speak up when they feel they are treated unfairly.

Middle East Affairs: Is Interventionism the True Answer?

Jordan Davidson '19

Senior Columnist

For years, the left and the right have debated the role the United States should play in the Middle East. The war hawks of Congress have insisted on expanding military operations in various countries over the past three decades, while pacifists view peaceful diplomacy as the only solution to the Middle East's complex problems. The true starting point of this debate actually goes back to the 1930s, however, when FDR began to transition the United States from an isolationist nation to an internationalist, interventionist country in order to involve itself in World War II. For years after FDR's presidency, we have witnessed the United States maintain this very policy of intervention in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and many other nations. Yet, the foreign policy discussion about the Middle East has centered mostly around the intent

Of course, the majority of politicians and political groups retain good intentions and would like to see peace in the Middle East, but no one has taken the necessary steps to make that dream a reality.

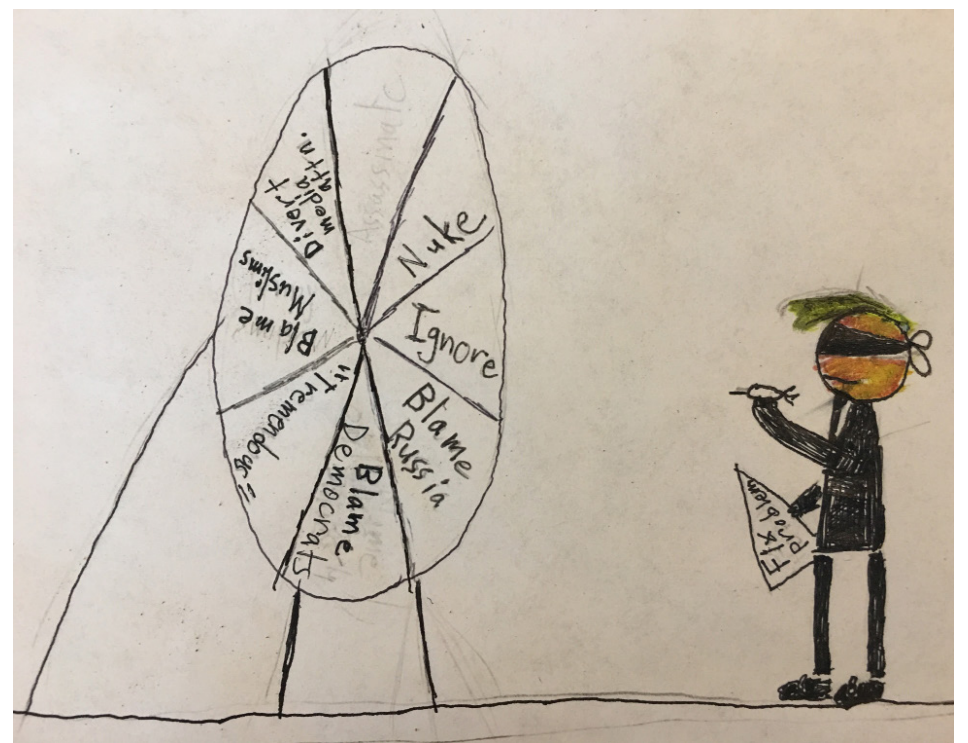
of various politicians and groups, not the impact of past decisions. Of course, the majority of politicians and political groups retain good intentions and would

like to see peace in the Middle East, but no one has taken the necessary steps to make that dream a reality.

One of the biggest campaign promises from various candidates in the last few Presidential election cycles has been to withdraw US forces out of Syria. For years, I was in shock that no politician could fulfill that promise as it appeared easy to simply order a withdrawal of forces. When viewed from a historical context, though, you realize that pulling out US forces in a country would result in a victory for authoritarian dictator Bashar al-Assad. Such a move would imply a complete reversal in the interventionist American foreign policy that we have relied on for 80 years.

When viewed from a historical context, though, you realize that pulling out US forces in a country would result in a victory for authoritarian dictator Bashar al-Assad.

Yet our internationalist policy was designed specifically for Europe, not the Middle East. Nonetheless, we blindly apply WWII-era ideas to modern warfare in a region with different religious sects, dysfunctional democracies and dictatorships, and guerilla militias. When we intervened in Vietnam, we lost. When we intervened in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Middle East witnessed the rise of militant groups like ISIS and the replacement of bad leaders with even worse ones.



Dennis Kostakoglu Aydin / *The Exonian*

Even if we do not see immediate results, we need to start removing ourselves from Middle Eastern affairs if not to win, but to save ourselves and see if a more isolationist policy works in today's world.

So as Putin and Assad back the last rebel stronghold of Idlib into a corner this week by agreeing to a ceasefire with the expectation that all rebel forces remove themselves from the city within

one month, it is the United States's time to step away. We need to come to terms with the fact that not all problems can be fixed with guns. We have tried to rush solving a large conflict in the Middle East, costing us money and thousands of lives. Even if we do not see immediate results, we need to start removing ourselves from Middle Eastern affairs if not to win, but to save ourselves and see if a more isolationist policy works in today's world. That is not to say the United States should maintain that type of policy in the rest of the world. It is only to see whether we can better help civilians in nations like Syria by letting the lesser of the evils win.



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ExonianHumor



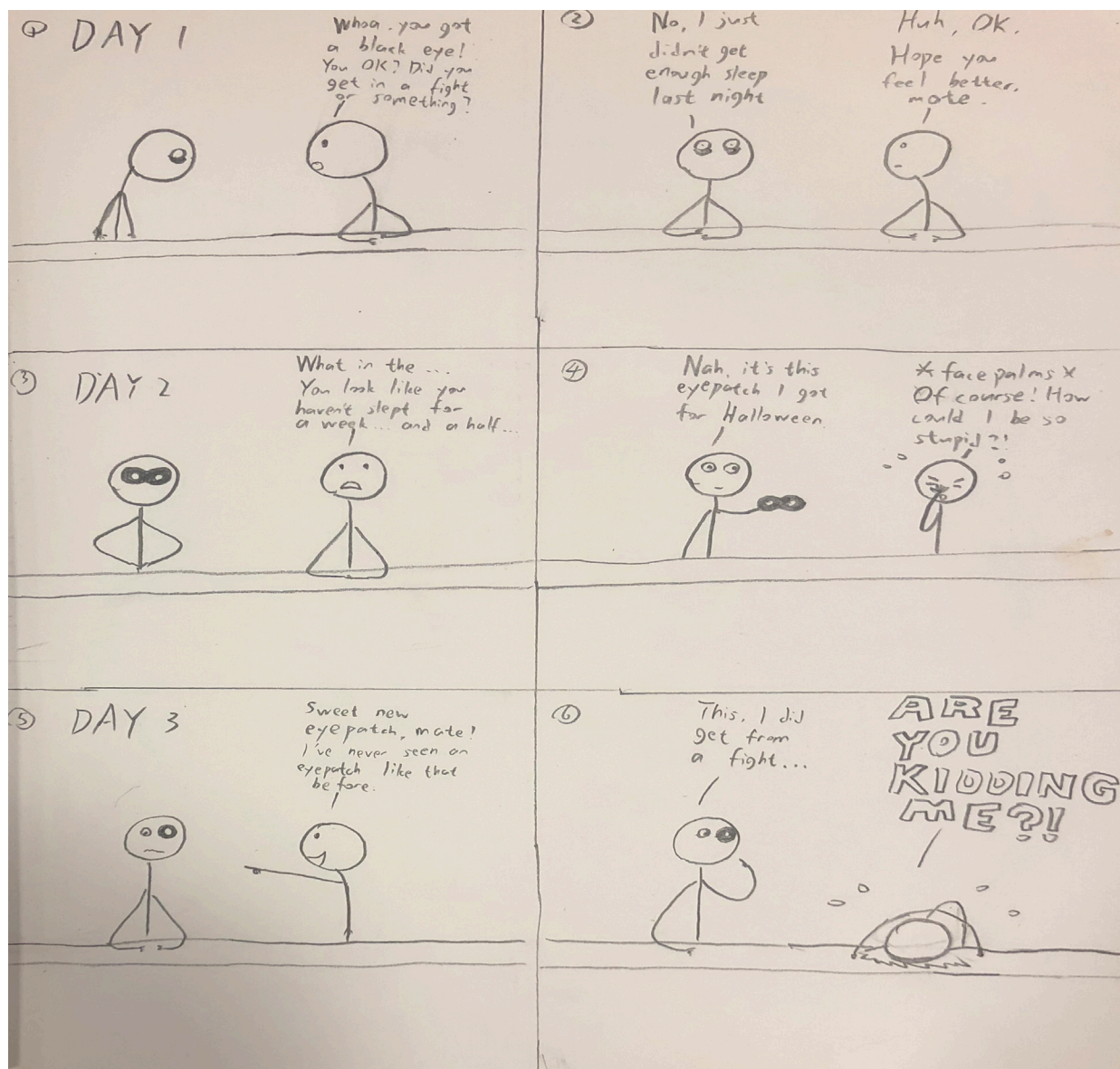
Things You Do in the Phelps, I Mean, Elizabeth Phillips Academy Center When You Are Alone

By NICK SCHWARZ
Day Student

1. Look around, see there's no one coming, yet hold the door open for a bit. Your Second Grade teacher told you to do nice things when nobody is there to commend you. This must count, right?
2. Figure you might as well get your work done, drop your backpack at a seat in Grill and unpack your computer and notebook. Go through five pencils until you find one with lead in it. Put the empty ones back into your backpack where they've been there since October of prep year. Take out your calculator. Untangle your headphones. Decide you can't plot a parabola without a Twix. Debate the virtues of Twix vs. Oreos while you wait in line. Settle on a Sprite. When you sit down again, check OLS on your phone because you still haven't memorized when this fat long block ends. (Who has?) See that your battery is down to 4%. Discover that you're nowhere near an outlet. Repack your headphones, your calculator, your pencil, your notebook and your computer. Spill your Sprite.
3. It's been three and a half minutes. You're way overdue for an obligatory P.O. check, even though you're aware that P.O. is closed, as it was the last few times you checked.
4. While you're in P.O., talk to yourself about the posters. "Gee, I wonder who's giving meditation... three weeks from now." Make a frowning face with the unused thumb tacks.
5. Place a Mento on the arm of each chair in Agora. Decide you don't want to give away all your Mentos and pick them up again. Realize you now have a tin of unhygienic Mentos and throw it away. Return to Grill to buy more Mentos.
6. Before you crack down and get back to work, you oughta check your email. Yes! A new message! And...it's that IT planned work thing.

The Comic Strip of the Week: Your First Three Days of Senior Fall, Circa September 2018

By EUGENE HU
The New Michelangelo



Food for Thought

By FI MADRID
Get it?

WHY, when I decide to be kind to people, do they take all that is important to me?

With all my newfound free-time (if you know you know), I've been eating a lot in The Grill. My cookie consumption averages around six cookies/day. It's fine; I'm fine. Anyways, there's always someone in The Grill who feels they know me well enough to ask for my food. And that's ok. I consider myself a kind person. I don't take pleasure in watching people

starve, so I give them my food. BUT, there must be some sort of virus which has convinced those people that it is ok to take ANY part of the food I offer them.

It is common sense, I think, that when someone offers you fries, you do not take the biggest one. Should that same principle not apply to other foods?

If you ask me for a bite of my burger, should you take the juiciest section with the most toppings on it? The same bite I have been

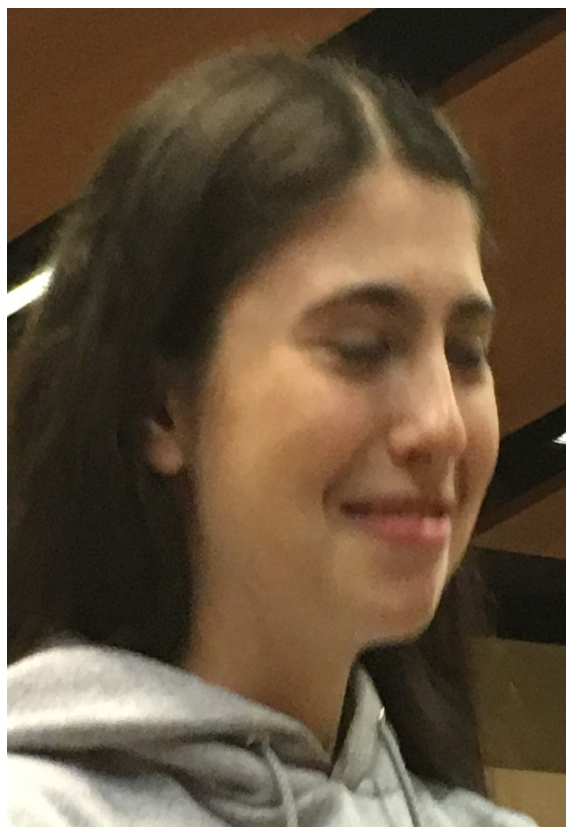
eating around in order to save for the last?

If you ask me for a piece of my cookie, would you think it best to take the gooey center? Or would you show respect for the hand that fed you by taking the rather cakey edge?

Are these not simple questions? Take a page from our beloved principal's book and learn how to show respect. In ALL aspects of life.

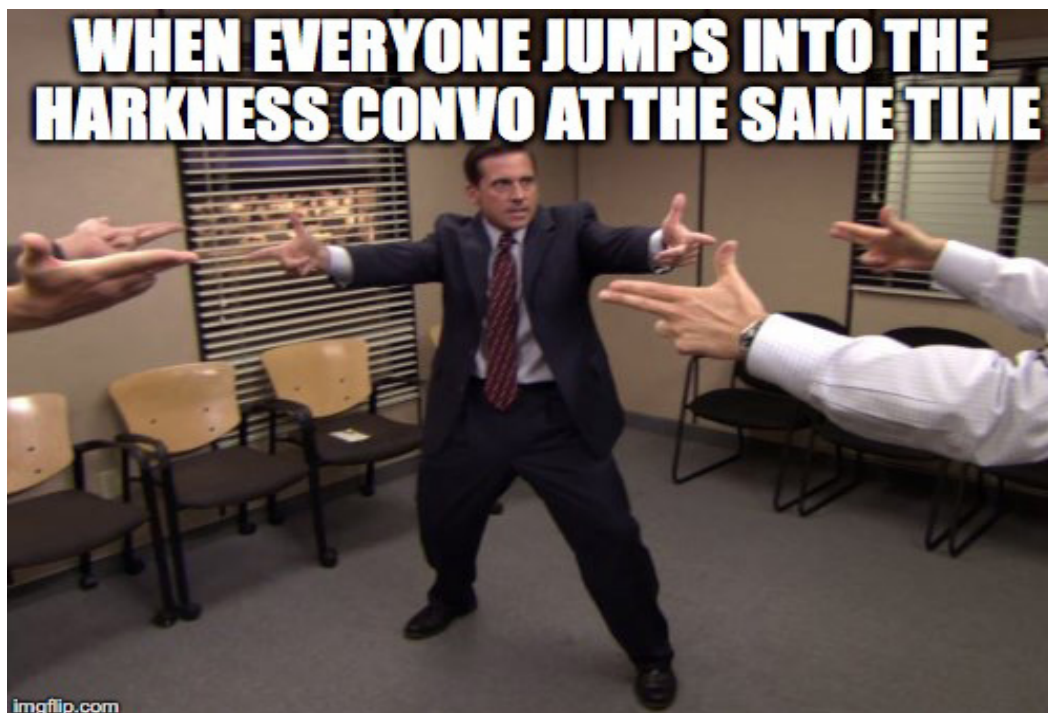
TFW DAFH Is Now FAAAAAAAAA-Community Time-D

By THE HUMOR EDITORS
Still Confused



Prep Fall English

By RYAN XIE
Thanks, Pass/Fail!



Quotes of the Week

"Semi-colons are the biggest waste of space in the world"
-Emily Cloonan '19

"I am on a JUULing website for purely academic reasons."
-Don Assamongkol '19

Do you want Rose's face to be less stretched out next week???

Submit to the Humor Page.

Email exonianhumor@gmail.com.

Rawson Hosts Dinner for OMA Sponsored Clubs

By SUAN LEE
and RACHEL WON
Staff Writers

Interim Principal William Rawson '71 hosted a dinner at Saltonstall House on Sunday for student leaders of clubs sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA).

According to Dean of Multicultural Affairs Sami Atif, Rawson first originated the idea for this dinner last year. "As part of his introduction during the summer, Principal Rawson expressed a real desire to meet with students in particular clubs," Atif said. Rawson, Atif and Director of Student Activities Joanne Lembo collaborated on creating the invite list and planning activities for attendees.

One of the motivations behind holding the dinner was to shed light on OMA's role in supporting clubs that had previously not had as meaningful of a connection with OMA. "Oftentimes, OMA can be a place where some people feel like it serves only one type of student, and I wanted to correct that misnomer," Atif said. "I also wanted to be very clear about when we say equity, it is rooted in really recognizing what historically marginalized groups are, and what can this school actually do about that."

The dinner also allowed club leaders to meet the new interim principal and to connect with one another to discuss potential partnerships. Lembo said that she hoped that "students walked away knowing that they are supported by OMA, the Principal's Office and by Student Activities."

Many students felt that the dinner fostered a strong relationship with the administration, which could positively impact future interactions. "I think the dinner goes to show that the administration is definitely more open to having conversation that may be brought up by members of these clubs," Senior and Woke co-head Chandler Jean-Jacques said. "It really shows [Rawson's] initiative to incorporate these clubs into his plan for the year."

Atif looks forward to seeing what Rawson does next with the dinners with various groups on campus. However, he is "mindful that the invitation to dinner and a sit down is not nearly enough." "This is an opportunity to solidify," he said. "So we have more work to do."

Knowing this, he emphasized the significance of Rawson inviting club leaders to his home. "At no point in my time here, which has been several years, do I recall a gathering [of students] of this size and magnitude," he said. "I commend Princi-

pal Rawson for the effort."

Along with eating dinner, students played a game of Bingo during the gathering. Office of Multicultural Affairs Administrative Intern Jessica Alvarez especially appreciated the Bingo game, in which the attendees searched for representatives of the clubs named on a Bingo board. "Even if [the attendees] didn't know each other, it forced an interaction between them by saying, 'Hey I heard you're so-and-so co-head. Can you sign this for me?' and then, 'Oh, are you guys thinking of doing anything for this year?' and this naturally starts those conversations," Alvarez said.

Upper David Gonzalez, co-head of Young Brothers Society (YBS), thought that the friendly atmosphere helped foster conversations. "It was very casual, which I appreciated. It definitely allowed for a lot of natural conversation between all of the co-heads, giving us a chance to get to know each other...and discuss a little bit about how we can work together in the future."

Upper Kaleb Washington, a co-head of YBS and the African Student Association, thought the dinner was less formal than he had originally anticipated. "It turns out it was really a completely informal event, and more like a chill session to get to know people," he said.

Upper Janalie Cobb, co-head of the Multi-Racial Exonian Society (MRES) and an OMA proctor, also anticipated a different atmosphere for the event. "Generally, I think me and a few of the other people I talked to were expecting less of a get-to-know you mixer and more of a let's-get-down-to-business sort of thing."

Rose Martin, President of ALES' 51st board, expressed similar sentiments. She said about the dinner, "I felt that it wasn't so much helpful to the students, and more helpful for Rawson to get to know us. We already knew each other, so it definitely felt more like a mixer than a dinner at the principal's house."

Upper Aiwen Desai, co-head of Exeter's Feminist Union, felt that students benefited from becoming acquainted with the principal. "It's important that students have a relationship with [Rawson] beyond just knowing his name and knowing his title."

Rawson said of his goals for the dinner, "I wanted to get to know some of the students and express appreciation for the work they are doing in our school community." He added, "I also wanted to let them know I would like to attend some of their meetings...I do intend to host more dinners with different student groups in the coming weeks."

Students Report Feelings of Anxiety and Stress

Continued from STRESS, A1

so stressed I can't stand it" rose from 38 to 42 percent in the span of 2007-2017, while the percentage reporting being "very nervous or anxious or so nervous I can't stand it" rose from 15 to 19 percent.

Though this is not abnormal for teenagers on a national scale—according to YHRBS data 25.1 percent of students in the United States are affected by some sort of anxiety disorder—Phillips Exeter as an institution does have its own unique issues.

Dr. Chris Thurber, Associate Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, identified Exeter's large size and high student-to-faculty ratio, compared to

other boarding schools, as our "mental health Achilles' heel." Thurber brought up how students at Exeter could go for a whole weekend without seeing any teachers, only seeing them in classrooms during weekdays.

The lack of adult contact might not pose a problem for students who are already secure in their relationships with peers; however, for those without established friend groups, not having someone to confide in is a major cause for anxiety.

Upper Francisco Silva, a new lower last year, shared, "I found myself in a big disadvantage in the first couple of weeks. I was in a new school with new people...I kept asking if I made the right decision coming here." Though there were people

he could relate to, Silva did not feel like he wholly fit in with his dorm. "My friends always asked me, 'why are you never in your dorm?' and I said it's because I wanted to be more social," he recalled. "But the real answer was [that] I didn't feel comfortable there."

Senior Jordan Davidson, meanwhile, experienced bullying inside his own dorm when he was a prep. "I felt like I didn't have any resources, no one really helped me get help," he said. "I felt lonely and very anxious, on top of that all the work. The school needs to do a lot more to help students; we need to have time to talk about it as a campus."

Some students, including senior and co-head of Exeter Mental Wellness Group Emmy Goyette, feel that Exeter does talk enough about mental health, just in the wrong way. "Something I've noticed in the past that doesn't work is when you sit a bunch of people down and say 'Go talk about mental health,'" Goyette said.

Goyette noticed that in Exeter's health classes, mental health is treated as an issue distant from students' lives, or as an unlikely experience. "Mental illness was talked about entirely medically," Goyette said. "Teachers explained topics as... 'some people have this and this is what that's like, but nobody in here has that.'"

It is especially challenging for students in minority groups to reach out. "For me, a big part of it comes from race actually," Silva said. "There is a joke between Latinas where they don't ask for help, they think 'I'm going to do this

myself, I'm capable.'" Submerged in this culture, Silva was raised thinking that "working and asking for help is not as impactful as grinding through it."

Similarly, lower Seth Amofa described the stigma around mental health that he had been exposed to while growing up in Ghana. "[Mental health] is not recognized because there are a lot of religious and other factors," Amofa said. "Whenever mental illness occurs, the society views that as the person has gone mad. They just banish him or her out of society and leave that person alone."

Amofa explained that for new students, it can be challenging to ask for help. "It's very difficult for one to go to another person who is not of their same race or background as them to ask for something," he said.

Having worked at Exeter for two decades, Thurber also noticed this trend. "I think it's more culturally mediated than anything else," he remarked. "Students who come from Korea, Japan, China, Indonesia or Africa are less likely [than students from Europe or North America] to think of meeting with a counselor" as a way of coping with emotional distress. This is particularly problematic because, according to the YHRBS survey, marginalized students tend to be the ones who report higher levels of anxiety or depression or stress. Thurber identified community outreach as one of his goals for this school year, to be achieved by events in the Agora, radio shows and outreach in dorms and affinity groups.



Senior Sarah Ryu talks with her advisor, Michael Golay.

Helena Chen/The Exonian

Exonians Uncomfortable Discussing Socioeconomics

Continued from SOCIOECONOMIC, A1

to "sound like another rich kid who just flaunts their privilege."

Exeter culture does not foster garish demonstrations of wealth—the recent derision of salmon shorts being a case in point—but especially to students who cannot afford them, status markers are inevitably noticeable. "There's not a great deal of wealth flaunting," senior Luca Cantone said. "But [...] seeing people spend more liberally than I would ever think to do is a reminder that there's great wealth out there."

Being conscious of one's status runs both ways. Eliza*, a full-paying lower, said she felt embarrassed wearing certain items on campus. "I felt very judged for wearing Gucci sneakers. I didn't want people to think I was flaunting my wealth when I was wearing them," she said. "One of the perks of coming to this school is that you're going to have friends from different socioeconomic backgrounds. One thing we can do here is learn to connect with people from diverse backgrounds."

When asked whether he thought Exeter was a socioeconomically diverse community, Cantone answered firmly in the negative. "I think our claim to diversity is hollow, because that includes rich people of color plus white people and token kids from programs like Prep 9," he said. "Given our wealth, we need to reach out more to people who are truly down and out so this place can be a life-transforming experience for many."

A recurring problem brought up by most students was the informal, unintentional

friend group segregation based on interests and financial mobility. Senior Claire Theberge, a member of the Center on the Study of Boys' and Girls' Lives (CSBGL) who conducted research into financial aid at Exeter last year, said that socio-economic boundaries formed naturally based on who could afford certain activities in day-to-day campus life. "A lot of the times those are people who can go out to dinner together frequently or go on vacations together. It's not terribly divided since classes and dorms are mixed but it can affect friend groups."

According to Dean of Multicultural Affairs Sami Atif, the central question behind providing support for students of aid has always been, "What is a necessity and what is a luxury? What is crucial to an Exeter experience?"

"There are some low-hanging fruits," Atif said, giving the example of food trucks on campus that have, since last year, provided an alternative to dining hall meals for students who could afford them. "I don't believe the schools should invite hardship when these things can be easily corrected," he said. "The school can purchase enough vouchers [for the food trucks] so students can discreetly pick up."

In similar veins, upper Billy Menken thought that offering a \$20 stipend for financial aid students, like Phillips Andover Academy does, would be a way for Exeter to "level the playing field" for all students. "When a more wealthy friend asks you out to dinner, I think it's hard for students to say 'actually I can't go out because I need to be thinking of how much money I'm spending,'" Menken said.

So far, no policy changes or initiatives have been realized.

What complicates matters is that two students on the same financial aid could be from completely different backgrounds. "A family can be wealthy but with multiple children at Exeter and they may be on aid, not similar to the experience of a student whose family is not considered wealthy," Atif said. There is currently no safe space exclusively meant for students on financial aid to discuss experiences relevant to them. Atif wondered what such a discussion would even look like, saying, "It's hard to gather everyone together; experiences can be very nuanced."

He further noted the overlap between socioeconomic background and cultural identity, which, according to him, are the "two biggest galvanizers, more so than anything else that makes people resonate with each other."

Former proctor at the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) Ratan Cheng '18 brought up how she found friends at OMA who could relate to her experience. "OMA was my support group, even before I came to Exeter, because all the questions I had about aid I emailed a student at OMA," she said.

History Instructor Kwasi Boadi, however, cautioned Exonians against stereotypes which correlate race and socioeconomic status. "I had a conversation with one student of color about colleges and I asked her where she got admitted. My next question was, 'I hope they give you enough financial aid and [...]' she said she doesn't need financial aid. That made

me feel a little uneasy," he said.

"You don't want to assume if students come from Asia they're wealthy, or if they come from rural areas they're less well-off, etc.," Boadi said, adding, "We do tend to think all white students come from affluent backgrounds." These conceptions are most detrimental to those who need social support because of their socioeconomic status yet are afraid of showing it because they do not fit the stereotypes.

Atif conceded, "Oftentimes, when we hear financial aid discussions we have a particular type of students in mind"

Since Park started their prep year at Exeter, there have been few significant changes in the culture surrounding socioeconomic status, despite CSBGL's research and presentation last spring. "The assembly was subject to a lot of mockery which really scared me in terms of how I believed Exeter has gotten better," they said.

However, Park understood that cultural change typically takes a long time. "As the real students here, we have the responsibility to make this change for ourselves. It's my core belief that change happens from the bottom up not top down," they said.

Park believed that the recent hiring of the Director for Equity and Inclusion, Stephanie Staten-Bramlett, whose responsibility also includes supporting students of lower socioeconomic background, is a step in the right direction. "Her existence is enough to help students feel like they're not alone, and what I would say is I don't want her to approach this from a position of power but a true bond with the student community," Park said.



ExeterLife



Exonians sign for up a cappella auditions at Club Night.

Helena Chen/The Exonian

CLUB NIGHT SHOWCASES STUDENT LIFE

By ISABELLA AHMAD and SHIVANI TRIPATHI

New and returning students flocked to Love Gym this past Saturday to attend the Academy's annual Club Night. Students explored a multitude of options, from the Environmental Action Committee—which decorated its table with basil plants—to Mock Trial's rows of colorful trophies.

Club Night is an annual event which showcases the variety of student-run organizations on campus. Each club has its own booth where students can sign up for extracurriculars.

New lower Leila Erhili appreciated the opportunity to see the clubs Exeter has to offer. "When you arrive as a new student it is hard to know where to start," she said. "To have one night where you can see all the clubs kind of lets you catch up."

Prep Kiese Nanor found that some clubs effectively advertised their

booths by offering students food when they signed up. "Because I got cookies, I also joined some clubs that I wouldn't have otherwise signed up for," she said. "For example, I wouldn't have joined the radio club. They seem really interesting, and I'm excited to get started."

Club Night also proved helpful for returning students. Returning upper Jasper Ludington noted that he saw several clubs he had not noticed in his previous two years. "I saw some clubs I didn't know existed because they are not the more prominent clubs, but they're just as interesting, if not more," he said.

Even four-year seniors took the opportunity to try something new. Senior Priscilla Ehrgood signed up for beekeeping club. "I found out about beekeeping club when I saw a jar of Exeter honey in Grill with my friend. We both thought that it would be a lot of fun to join the club and know that we had contributed to making a jar of honey," she said. "On Club Night, I accidentally

signed both [my friend and me] up after she had already signed both of us up because we were so excited."

One prominent new club this year is Exeter Unites. According to club head senior Alayna Thomas, the club's email list yielded over 180 sign-ups. Inspired by the international non-governmental organization Global Unites, Exeter Unites aims to build community for Exonians. "I knew that there was a place for an organization like this in our community at Exeter. We have struggled to dissolve the tensions that exist here," Thomas said. "This reality is evident during election season, last year's MLK [Day] assembly, and in the daily lives of many Exonians."

Upper Emily Gaw started a club called Switch—an empathy club designed to help Exonians to understand one another's experiences. "Switch is open to everyone, the entire Exeter community; students, faculty, and staff, but was not specifically founded to be

a club for transgender students," she said.

Some clubs experienced difficulties recruiting new members. Ludington, who is the cohead of Rugby Club, noted that it was challenging for his club to grow substantially. "We struggled to diversify our group," he said. "[Rugby club] might be the kind of club that has a very specific brand; people might be intimidated by the nature of it. We don't want it to be a toxic environment."

Despite some issues, students classified the night as a success. "Along with signing up for clubs, I also got to make new friends with coheads at Club Night," Senior Arun Wongprommoon said. New upper Isabel Hou also described how the club heads set a welcoming atmosphere for students. She said, "I could tell that they truly loved their clubs and that their primary goal was to share that love with potential members."

BIG RED GOES GREEN

By GINNY LITTLE
Staff Writer

Phillips Exeter stands at the forefront of national efforts to reduce energy usage and to maintain an environmentally sustainable community on campus. Whether that is in the eco-friendly design of its new buildings or in striving to reduce waste and encourage recycling, the school's environmental mission statement makes clear that the Academy "must be committed to stewardship of the environment." Two of the school's most noticeable additions to campus—the new William Boyce Thompson Field House and the Goel Center for Theater and Dance—have taken up this mission in their design and construction, and they are already helping to continue the reduction of the school's usage of fossil fuel power.

The new Thompson Field House, which opened this past January, is equipped with 1,552 solar panels covering the building's 84,574 square foot roof, the largest solar panel array installed at any school in New Hampshire. The panels are expected to save the school more than two million dollars over the life of the system and will provide nearly all of the electricity needed in the building. The solar array "is a tangible example of the Academy's commitment to sustainability," noted ReVision Energy, the company installing the system with Harvey Construction Corp., the builder of the new field house.

"We're able to reduce our environmental footprint by building [the Thompson Field House] to LEED standards and using solar power for the majority of the energy used by this facility," Director of Facilities Management Mark Leighton, said. LEED refers to "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design," which is a rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of so-called "green" energy-efficient buildings. The solar array will produce roughly 600,000 kilowatt hours of solar electricity per year, which is the equivalent used by 60 homes, and will offset over 600,000 pounds of carbon pollution each year—the equivalent of 700,000 miles driven by an average car burning 32,000 gallons of gasoline.

Like the gym, the new Goel Center for Theater and Dance showcases the school's latest sustainability design efforts with its use of geothermal energy, rather than traditional fos-

sil fuels. The Center will rely on 60 geothermal wells for its heating and cooling, which will greatly reduce its need for energy from fossil fuels.

Renowned New York-based husband-and-wife team of Billie Tsien and Tod Williams designed the 63,000 square foot Goel Center, prioritizing sustainability, accessibility for students, openness and natural light.

Noting their admiration for the Academy's library, designed by the famed architect Louis I. Kahn, Williams acknowledged that modern architecture requires consideration of sustainability, which was not as pertinent a concern in prior decades, when Kahn designed the library. "Buildings that are more efficient than we could have imagined even 10 years ago are requirements," Williams noted. "We want to make sure that the building is not a burden, that it's an exemplar of the kind of building that one should build today and in the future."

The new campus buildings continue Exeter's efforts to use sustainable design and LEED-certified materials. Faculty residence Crosbie House opened in fall 2013, featuring low-energy components such as complete thermal enclosure, heating and cooling, water management systems and energy-efficient lighting and appliances.

In addition to its many residence halls and academic buildings, Exeter is also the owner of 672 acres of forestland, which includes the Academy Woods, Colby fields and the Exeter River watershed. The Academy's Natural Resources Plan is a long-term management plan to maintain a healthy ecosystem, protect valuable natural resources and provide students with unparalleled outdoor classroom and year-round recreational opportunities.

Education about environmental issues and sound environmental practices is at the heart of the Academy's Environmental Mission Statement. "While our actions are local," the statements reads, "our reach is global." The two most recent, and very visible, additions to campus—the new Thompson Field House and the Goel Center—are a testament to the school's continuing efforts to teach and display responsible environmental stewardship through sustainability in every aspect of campus life.

MOVIE REVIEW: "BADLANDS"

By SAMANTHA WEIL
Staff Writer

My parents had to convince me to watch "Badlands," a 1973 film directed by Terrence Malick. I'll admit that a part of me didn't want to watch an "old" movie, yet I conceded. I should listen to my parents more often, because "Badlands" left an impression on me that few films have ever succeeded in doing.

"Badlands" begins with the narrator and protagonist Holly Sargis, played by Sissy Spacek, telling us the story of her life in a detached and honeyed voice. She is fifteen, and has lived a sad childhood. Holly's mother died when she was young. Her father, a protective sign-painter, has never forgiven Holly for this. Maybe this is why she decides to rebel against her father and start seeing Kit Caruthers, a reckless twenty-five year old garbage-collector cowboy (played by Martin Sheen) whom she meets on her street one day.

The beginning scenes morph into a pleasant love story. But as we continue to follow Holly and Kit, things get increasingly strange. We are pulled in until we are no longer in our dorm room in Exeter, New Hampshire but instead dancing with Kit and Holly in their treehouse campout. We follow them until we are in Kit and Holly's stolen Cadillac coasting through the Badlands of Montana. We are with the pair until the very end, sitting in a helicopter gliding into the pink horizon.

We trust Holly completely, yet distrust her and Kit in every step. We support their love story, but think it is toxic just the same. "Badlands" succeeds in confusing us as viewers about our morals and whether to defend a character while knowing what they have done. The film compels us to simply see each character as lovable and flawed, it challenges our beliefs on what love truly is. Holly loves Kit, and she tells us persistently. But to believe her would disregard the fact that Holly is an impressionable teenager—does she know for sure that what she feels is love? Or is she swayed by Kit's influence on her?

From Holly's words we learn about subjects deeper than one would think possible in an hour and a half long movie. In the middle of the film, she says in an airy voice, "It all goes to show how you can know a person and not really know him at the same time." This theme isn't just present in this film, I felt that it applies to everyday life, too. Her words are juvenile in the way that they are said, yet the viewer somehow comes out of "Badlands" with more knowledge than they went in with.

We also learn from Holly about the loss of innocence. She matures throughout her adventure, and generates her own prophetic thoughts. "I felt all kinds of things looking at the lights of Cheyenne, but most important," she said, "I made up my mind to never again tag around with a hellbent type, no matter how in love with him I was."

Not only is the plot intricate and the dialogue prescient, but the cinematography in Badlands is unlike any movie I have ever seen. There are lasting, exquisite shots of little branches, the sunset over the horizon, and Holly's knit eyebrows as she gazes at Kit. Each scene is also paired with upbeat yet eerie music. This gives the viewer a sense of complete immersion into this eccentric storyline.

There is an enduring quality of escapism throughout Badlands. The viewers forget the stresses of everyday life and become enraptured in Holly Sargis' much more substantial issues. This is especially refreshing for us as Exonians—we need hour-long retreats into the mysterious unknown, just to keep sane in our monotonous and grueling daily lives.

Whether you watch "Badlands" because you are forced by your parents, you happen upon it while scrolling through obscure 1970s films or are convinced by this movie review, I can promise you a heart-grIPPING getaway where you are left with both a new sense of wisdom and a yearning to know where the characters are *this very second*.

SeniorSpotlight

YASEEN AHMED

By SUAN LEE
and GINNY LITTLE
Staff Writers



Angelina Zhang/ The Exonian

When you ask senior Yaseen Ahmed about his Exeter experience, the word that comes up most often is “community.” As a proctor in Webster Hall, a member of the Discipline Committee and a co-head of ESSO Big Sib-Little Sib and Quiz Bowl, Ahmed is deeply dedicated to the relationships he has built on campus and is a respected leader and role model for many of his peers.

Originally from the Chicago area, Ahmed, like many incoming preps, found the transition to Exeter difficult. With the support of upperclassmen in his dorm, however, he eventually came to recognize Exeter as home. Ahmed described his dorm experience as “formative,” remarking that “it’s been a central point of my Exeter experience.”

Almost four years later, Ahmed gives back to his dorm community as a proctor and provides others with the same support and friendships that so strongly influenced the person he has become. “I wouldn’t be the same person that I am now if it weren’t for certain people that I met [in Webster],” Ahmed said.

Ahmed’s dorm mates are grateful for his caring presence and relentless positivity. “Yaseen is the sparkle of Webster dorm pride around campus,” senior Aarsh Kak said.

Ahmed’s brother, lower Ibrahim Ahmed, expressed his appreciation for Ahmed’s leadership and support as both his dorm mate and sibling. “Being in the same dorm as Yaseen, I have watched him step up as a leader,” Ibrahim said. “As a brother, he’s made my transition to Exeter so much easier. He goes out of his way to

help people feel like they belong and that they have someone in their corner.”

One of Ahmed’s academic passions is biology, which he tackles with enthusiasm and a cooperative mindset. “Yaseen is kind, responsible and highly ethical,” science instructor and Webster-affiliated faculty member Townley Chisholm said, reflecting on his time working with Ahmed in the renowned Biology 670 course last spring. “He genuinely cares about the people around him and about doing his best in every situation. In class discussions he was always considerate of other people, always good-humored and completely engaged in working through genetics topics.”

Ahmed is one of eight student members on the Discipline Committee (DC). “I wanted to be able to serve my community and to better understand who Exonians are and what makes us tick,” he said. While Ahmed admits that working on DC can be challenging, he has found it to be a rewarding experience, one that has given him deeper insight into the community that

is so important to him.

Senior Gillian Quinto, another DC member, lauded Ahmed for his honesty and thoughtful input during committee discussions. “He’s not afraid to say something that might be contrary to what the teachers or other members believe. He’s not afraid to share those honest opinions. He does what’s right,” she said. “He’s a genuinely caring person and a great friend.”

Ahmed also participates in the Project for Better Education, which seeks to make education more accessible for those in less developed areas of the world. Using back-end technology to provide online classes, members of the Project for Better Education serve as tutors from their dorm rooms, reaching learners around the world. Ahmed and his teammates hope it will contribute to the greater effort to assist students with few educational opportunities.

Community is broad, but family is more local—a reason Ahmed was drawn to ESSO Big Sib-Little Sib as a lower. Missing

his own younger siblings back home, Ahmed joined the club hoping to connect with younger children in the local area. He has grown to think of Quentin, his paired little sib, as a brother and is proud of the close relationship they have built in the last few years.

Friends and peers see Ahmed as a strong leader — one who upper Zach Morris describes to be “unrelentingly kind” and “positive” in his interactions with everyone. “He’s one of the most inspirational people I know,” said Morris, who fondly recalls Ahmed serving as his tour guide on his first Exeter visit. “He’s very genuine. If he sees something that’s wrong, he always calls it out. He goes out of his way to help the people around him better themselves.”

Senior Bryce Morales believes Ahmed’s most special attribute is his humility. “He never seeks out the limelight for himself. He is often eager to collaborate with friends,” Morales said. “In his characteristically warm and unassuming manner, he readily shares his own knowledge and successes.”

Senior Calvin Henaku says he immediately recognized Ahmed as “someone I wanted to spend my four years at Exeter with and maybe become lifelong friends with” when they first met at Exeter Math Club during prep year. “Whenever I think about myself, [or] the kind of friend I want to be to someone,” said Henaku, “I look to Yaseen as an example and ask myself how I can be as kind as Yaseen today.”

The most special part of Exeter for Ahmed is the people he has met and the relationships he has built. “One philosophy I’ve developed over my time here is that I try to find something to admire in every person,” he said. “The people here are just awesome, and it’s super important to get to know and appreciate and learn from them.”

ENGLISH TEACHERS PERFORM POETRY

By ISABELLA AHMAD
and SUAN LEE
Staff Writers

“I came here with the reckoning done
And I saw the scales sink into the sun
And the fields were heavy with the
heresy grain
And a lone tree leaned and chuckled
my name...”

English Instructor Todd Hearon’s gravelly voice rang out across the room as he strummed his 1950 Gibson to “Mary Dyer,” an original piece he had written two years ago, inspired by the story of the Quaker martyr of the same name.

It was Saturday morning, Sep. 15, and the room was full of renowned poets and poetry lovers who had drove and flown in from different parts of the country for the fourth annual New Hampshire Poetry Fest, jointly hosted by the Poetry Society of New Hampshire and the Master in Fine Art Creative Writing Program at New England College. Sitting beside Hearon were his partner and former Academy Bennett Fellow Maggie Dietz, as well as his English department colleagues Matthew Miller, Willie Perdomo and Ralph Sneeden—all published poets and the featured artists of the morning’s panel titled “Here from Not Here: Five Transplant Poets to Coastal New Hampshire.”

Miller submitted a proposal for the panel last spring during his time on sabbatical after getting the idea to put together a poetry reading—or, in Hearon’s case, a performance—featuring work of his own and that of his Exeter colleagues, vastly differing from each other in voice and content, but similar in that they each



Todd Hearon/ The Exonian

owe their creation, in one way or another, to this small community of Exeter, New Hampshire, which all five artists now call home in spite of their various origins.

Hearon was born in Texas, grew up in North Carolina and eventually moved to Boston for graduate school. He found his way to Exeter in 2003 with Dietz, who had just been selected as the year’s resident Bennett Fellow. “We both fell in love with Exeter. It’s great to be here in the middle of all this creative energy, living somewhere else, working somewhere we might not have found otherwise in a vortex of inspiring people,” he said. “New Hampshire is a beautiful place to be, with the oceans and the mountains and the lovely autumns and the dreadful winters.”

Instead of reading poetry like his fellow panelists, Hearon chose to share his songs—the first form of creative expression he discovered as a young thirteen-year-old.

“The songs that I write, they wouldn’t ever find a place in my poetry. I’m sure that all my work as a poet has come into my work as a lyricist, but it’s just a different thing. You’re still using language and words, but it’s different once there’s melody and harmony,” Hearon said. “There’s something magical about my guitar. The minute I picked it up, songs started coming out of it.”

Most of Hearon’s creations, both poetry and song, do not explicitly refer to life in New Hampshire—rather, he says that being away from his hometown has given him space to reflect on and think back to his roots. “When you get outside of the air that you were breathing, the odor changes,” Hearon said. “A lot of my songs are about the South, but if I were living in the South, I probably wouldn’t be writing those works and those songs.”

Perdomo, who is originally from East Harlem, has found the same to be true

in his own writing. During the panel, he shared excerpts from his suite of poems *The Essential Hits of Shorty Bon Bon* as well as two pieces from his collection of chronicles *The Crazy Bunch*. “Sometimes you have to get far away from what you call home to actually discover what home really is,” he said. “I’m surrounded by the physical beauty and splendor of New Hampshire, but I’m still thinking of the inner city. I look at a canopy of trees and meditate on what it meant to be a young man of color in East Harlem in the early 90s.”

For Miller, New Hampshire’s natural beauty is not the only source of inspiration he has drawn since he arrived at Exeter in 2007; he additionally expressed his gratitude to the Phillips Exeter community for putting him in touch with great artists who share his love of language and literature. “It’s a great community where you can bounce ideas off of somebody or show them some of your stuff or trade things around,” he said. “It’s nice because writing can be isolating. When you feel alone and by yourself with just words on a page, there are people who can at least commiserate.”

In his reflection on the Poetry Fest, Miller praised his colleagues and the other artists for their powerful performances and dedicated work. Despite the differences in topics, Miller felt that the works built on one another and ultimately created a more compelling experience. “We might be exploring different subjects, but there was a certain music or rhythm going on that we were sharing, just from reading each other’s work,” he said, calling up a famous quote from the renowned poet Walt Whitman: “To have great poets, there must be great audiences.”



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StaffSpotlight

MING FONTAINE

By EMILY KANG and
VERONICA CHOULGA
Staff Writers

Taking the left staircase of Phillips Hall to the third floor, you will find a door decorated with red paper cutouts of Chinese characters which symbolize Chinese New Year. This door belongs to retired, part-time Chinese Instructor, Ming Fontaine, who has dedicated the past 30 years of her life to teaching at Exeter.

Fontaine grew up in Taiwan and originally graduated from Ling Tung College with a business major. She worked as an accountant for a company in Taiwan before realizing that she did not enjoy her job. At the time her father, who was a professor, encouraged her to teach Chinese at a language institute where many of the students were foreign missionaries. "It was very interesting teaching foreigners from all over the world," said Fontaine. "Not only was I teaching, [but] I was learning a lot from them."

After a few years of teaching at the institute, Fontaine moved to the U.S. to become a teaching assistant at Oberlin College. From there, she worked towards a Master's degree in education which she began in Indiana and finished at Lesley College. "I was a graduate student at Indiana and a TA while taking classes. I liked that I taught at the same time I studied," Fontaine said.

Originally, Fontaine's husband was the one looking for a position at the Academy. He could not find an opening in the Science Department, instead finding out that the Chinese teacher was pregnant at the time and about to take a maternity leave. He suggested the position for his wife. "The head chairman at the time, Charlie Deardorff, interviewed me and I was hired," Fontaine said. Fontaine continues to teach for her 30th year, despite retirement.

During her time at Exeter, Fontaine has



Helena Chen/ The Exonian

created the study abroad program in Taiwan. In the summer of 1996, she took eight students to Taiwan. It turned out to be successful, and the program officially started up in 1999, transforming from a summer program to a winter term abroad. The locations switched as well, between China and Taiwan. "We changed locations to China, but then the air pollution got bad, so we went back to Taiwan. Even when we go to Taiwan, we still visit China," Fontaine said.

Russian Instructor Inna Sysevich has been close with Fontaine for twenty two years and applauded her work for the abroad program. "It's not easy: the road, the flight and a couple of weeks of coordinating kids. But she did it because she loves her culture, she loves her language and she wants them to have that experience," Sysevich said.

In her classes, Fontaine strives to keep her students interested and motivated. In fact, Fontaine religiously follows her own philoso-

phy of asking herself three questions everyday to see if she succeeded in having the attention and interest of her students. "A major philosophy that I apply to myself daily, that I learned from my high school teacher, and now being a high school teacher, consists of three steps: Did I complete the plan that I have given my students and teach them something good? Did every student learn the material I covered in class? Did I answer my students' questions thoroughly?" Fontaine said.

Senior Troy Marrero commented on the ways Fontaine keeps her students engaged. "She just tells these crazy stories [...] sometimes, which is really interesting," he said, then recounted a recent story Fontaine shared about how her friend spit out a piece of tofu that looked like a tooth.

Outside of the classroom, Fontaine enjoys being with her friends and students. Spanish Instructor Mark Trafton, who has known

Fontaine since their employment in the late 80s, recounts the memories he and his family have had with her. "We fondly remember many meals and conversations [...] when Ms. Fontaine ordered off the menu in Chinese and we all enjoyed authentic, specially prepared dishes that only she could describe to the chef, delights not on the daily menu," he said.

Sysevich talked about one of her many connections with Fontaine. "We used to go swimming a lot. She loves to swim. All of her kids are swimmers, or used to be. That's another connection we have, because my father was a swimming coach before he retired, and her sons were on his team for many years."

A big fan of the sport, Fontaine explained her devotion to swimming. "Even when I am tired, I go swimming because swimming can really relieve your tension and pressure."

Through her 30 years here, the biggest impact Fontaine has left is her care for the community which surrounds her. "She'll go far for her students. She knows them well," Sysevich said. "She cares about the whole person [...] She cares about your life and your well being."

Sysevich said that Fontaine's care for her students was one of the reasons she wanted to come to Exeter. "I saw the relationship between kids and teachers through my experience of spending the day with her."

Upper Audrey Vanderslice, who has taken multiple courses with Fontaine, also spoke about Fontaine's kindness. "In every class that I've been in, she's always asked us how we're doing, and she'll try to make our days better with her class, which I think is really admirable," Vanderslice said.

Trafton shared her sentiments, stating that, "Though small in stature, Ms. Fontaine's strength of conviction and loyalty to her friends are towering."

Music Review: "Kamikaze"

By MAEGAN PAUL
Staff Writer

On August 31st, Eminem unexpectedly released his 10th studio album, "Kamikaze." He opens the album with "The Ringer," which attacks a wide variety of people, from Lil Yachty to Vice President Mike Pence and Donald Trump. The constant criticism of the similarities between current popular rap beats and specific artists is an ongoing theme of the album. Eminem also raps about the failure of his album "Revival," which was unsuccessful last year. This is probably the song that follows his style the most, and is the best on the entire album.

The second track, "Greatest," features some of Eminem's signature clever wordplay. He parodies a line from Kendrick Lamar's "HUMBLE." and Playboi Carti's "wokeuplikethis," but never attacks the two. Eminem also chooses to criticize those who brag about success and declares himself as the greatest, which seems contradictory. The song has a great beat, and the fast rapping makes it a valuable addition.

Next on the album is "Lucky You," which starts out with a flow similar to the artists Eminem has expressed a disliking for. Half of the song is performed by Joyner Lucas, best known for his song "I'm Not Racist," and he talks about his lack of awards and accreditation. In contrast, Eminem brags about his accomplishments, but discusses his recent failures as well. He again expresses his disdain for the current state of rap and mumble rappers. There is a reference to him

abusing prescription drugs, which many of his fans said was the time in which his music was at its peak.

There is a short interlude, "Paul (Skit) [2018]," which features Eminem's manager warning him about making an entire album that responds to those who disliked his previous album. The sixth track is similar in nature, but is instead a skit of Eminem responding to his manager as he travels to the house of someone who criticized him. Neither of these are necessary, and do not add to the album. They remind me of the phonecalls in the video game Five Nights at Freddy's, which interrupt the excitement of the other songs.

The fifth track, "Normal," sounds different compared to the rest of the album and is about a fictional bad relationship. There are many specific mentions of domestic disputes between both partners in the relationship, which would take away from the song if it sounded better. However, it sounds weird because he attempts a different style, but his voice just drags awkwardly during the chorus.

"Stepping Stones" is the next song, which Eminem uses as an apology to his former rap group, D12. This is a nice change from the mostly angry album, and slows everything down a bit. He explains that he feels guilt for using the group as a stepping stone for his career to progress, but that the friendship should prevail despite the failure

of the group. He acknowledges that Proof, a member of D12 that was murdered, was instrumental in the success of the group, and that his death is what led to their disbandment. This message isn't exactly tasteful, but understandable.

"Not Alike" is a direct imitation of Drake's "Look Alive" and "Bad and Boujee" by Migos. He disses Migos again by comparing their rap to Dr. Seuss' work, possibly referencing a video of someone rapping a Dr. Seuss book to the beat of "Walk it Talk It." The verses are riddled with parodies of the popular attributes in current songs, such as ad-libs. The use of Drake's beat negatively impacts the song and distracts the listener from what Eminem is trying to say. "Look Alive" is a popular song, and he cannot change that fact due to its social media presence which spawned thousands of videos of people doing the "shoot" dance.

The next song, "Kamikaze," is focused on the failure of Eminem's last album. There is a somewhat chaotic nature to the song, as he angrily raps about wanting to crash into everyone like a fighter jet. The chorus features the word "fack" many times, which allows for his comparison to the song thought to be his worst, "FACK," and "Revival." The beat is catchy and would be a great pump-up song.

"Fall" is a rather controversial song on the album due to Eminem's use of a gay slur when talking about Tyler, the Creator. Al-

though the word is censored to a point of being unrecognizable in all versions of the published song, people have been outraged by the song because it is seen as demeaning to Tyler, who is thought to be gay. He goes on to critique more artists, but the rest of the song is overshadowed by the use of the slur.

Both of the following songs have a theme about the poor relationships in Eminem's life, and feature Jessie Reyez. The verses in "Nice Guy" respond to accusations by a significant other about being faithful, but there is a line saying that he hopes the other person's "heart get hit by a semi-truck." The song is rather aggressive and it seems like there is no true remorse for how the relationship is.

"Venom" is last on the album, and it definitely sounds like a soundtrack song. It probably sounds good in the movie, but not in any other setting. It was a disappointing end to the otherwise exciting album, but it's better at the end than as an interrupter in the middle of the songs.

I would not recommend most of these songs to listeners, unless they showed interest towards Eminem and the artists he called out. "Kamikaze," "The Ringer," and "Greatest" are all stylistically wonderful, so they would be great on any playlist. There seems to be a lot of anger and mocking of other rappers in this album, but there are also many gems and moments of the old Eminem that could satisfy nearly any rap fan.

CAPITAL THAI KITCHEN AND BAR

By ERIN CHOI and EMILY KANG
Staff Writers

After the closing of Penang & Tokyo, Capital Thai moved into the vacated space, opening its doors May 7. It's been frequented by Exonians and locals alike, since word of its Thai-Asian fusion spread around town.

When you first walk through the door, the brightly lit entrance highlights the newly remodeled space, cleaner and more modern than the previous interior design of Penang. Wooden cutting boards and framed photos of Thai landscapes, food and culture line the gray-blue walls. As for the use of space, the tables in the front are relatively close together, but designed to allow large groups to sit together in a casual environment. Towards the back, diners can enjoy a bit more privacy and space with a view of the Exeter river.

Out of the appetizers, the greatest re-

view goes to the spicy chicken wings. At seven dollars, the plate is topped high with several chicken wings covered in a sweet, tangy, spicy sauce. The chicken is coated and fried, which gives a pleasant crunch that holds up to the sauce. Chicken satay is the second favorite, with four of the classic skewers accompanied by a peanut sauce. The one criticism we have is how small each skewer was. A third delicious option we enjoyed are the steamed buns filled with pieces of braised pork belly and fresh vegetables covered in a sriracha mayo dressing. But like the chicken satay, the two small buns are not worth seven dollars.

As for main dishes, the safest options would be the classic noodles such as pad thai and pad see ew. Diners can choose between different options like shrimp, beef, chicken, tofu, and veggie. You could also

go with the pineapple fried rice, which has curry powder and chunks of canned pineapples. We recommend the boat noodles: nobody knows what they are due to the unhelpful name. In essence, you'll get a saltier version of pho with less soup and big chunks of fall-apart beef.

These dishes are a little salty, so make sure to ask for water, soft drinks or bubble tea. Soft drinks are free for refills, but bubble tea refills are not free like they used to be in the first weeks of business.

The biggest let down of the menu in taste and price are the spring rolls. Their variety of stuffing is unimpressive, while the veggies themselves are not very fresh. In addition, a single order is a measly two rolls cut up into small pieces.

All menu options aside, a crucial point of Capital Thai's opening that dif-

fered from other Asian restaurants in town is their no delivery policy. Diners can pick up food but they do not deliver like their other Asian restaurant competitors. Yes, it is inconvenient, but the place is close enough to campus that picking up the food or sitting down to eat is not too much of a hassle. And it adds to their projected image that they offer much more sophisticated Asian food than their counterparts in town.

Overall, the food is good, but not as high-end as the restaurant presents it to be. Portion sizes aren't generous for certain items, and prices are definitely marked up from the quality that they offer.

This isn't a spot we'll be visiting every week, but it's certainly a decent option if you want to treat yourself to a sit-down meal with your friends.

Coaches React to Interim Athletic Director

By SAVI KEIDEL & TESSA SHIELDS
Staff Writers

Over the summer, Coach David Hudson was named the Exeter Athletic Department's interim Athletic Director, taking over N. Shane LaPointe's role after his twelve-year hiatus as a coach. Even though Hudson is named Director for this school year only, he is looking forward to taking on the position again.

During his years in high school, Hudson played football, baseball and wrestled. Hudson went on to play football and wrestled in college at St. Lawrence University. For three years, Hudson was a head wrestling coach, assistant football coach and member of the sport and leisure studies department at St. Lawrence University. Hudson also worked as the Athletic Director at Governor's Academy and was the director of afternoon programs. Before becoming Exeter's interim Athletic Director, he worked here as a faculty member and in the physical education department. He became the chair of the PE department in 1999. Prior to the 2018-19 school year, he was also an assistant coach of our varsity football team, head varsity wrestling coach, and a co-head for the boys' JV lacrosse team.

Given that Coach Hudson will only be the Athletic Director for one year, he explained that his main focus will be to tend to the day-to-day details of our athletic program. He said, "[I will] oversee the structures currently in place to best provide a positive experience for our coaches and athletes."

Members of the coaching staff have commended Coach Hudson for his communication among sports programs. Girls' varsity soccer coach Alexa Caldwell said, "[He] has done a really awesome job at talking to coaches about decisions that are being made in terms of weather or stuff way before practice time so we have time to prepare."

Coach Hudson has also made an effort to be present at various games and practices of Exeter's high-achieving sports teams, which he was unable to do previously while coaching three sports throughout the year. This effort is appreciated by the many varsity and JV athletes this fall term, and gives the



Senior Joe Gooley rushes down the football field.

Numi Oyebo/The Exonian

athletes motivation to continue to work hard and uphold the name of Exeter's Athletic Department.

Girls' varsity lacrosse head coach Christina Breen praised Exeter's athletes for their determination and drive. "You don't have to ask kids twice to work hard and give everything they can to the group and to try to succeed," she said.

Although there have already been improvements in Exeter's athletic department in the first few weeks of the school year, there are still many improvements that need to be carried out. Balancing work and sports at Exeter is difficult, and athletes will find any time they can to finish homework. "Athletes should be able to use the room next to the wrestling room to do our homework. I don't think it needs to be locked all the time." Jane Collins, senior and co-captain of girls' varsity field hockey, said.

In addition to work and the way that Exeter's schedule is structured, student athletes generally experience fatigue, as there is only a twenty-minute block of

time for the Varsity and JV athletes to make it to the fields or court from their classes. "It's really inconvenient that we have only twenty minutes to get to practice," lower and varsity volleyball athlete Brody Faliero said.

In addition to a rushed schedule, sports programs at Exeter have two teams per sports, at most. There is no third team for students who did not make the cut for JV or varsity. Freshmen cannot play club sports because they are specialized for lowers and upperclassmen, and "if kids want to play a sport at Exeter and there is more than a couple, we should be able to provide them that sport," Caldwell said. With third teams, younger athletes would be able to develop their skills for any sport without the pressures of being on a JV or Varsity team. In later years, they could proceed to join a competing team, which would add depth to all sports in our athletic department.

Exeter's philosophy about athletics is very confusing; as all coaches push the athletic teams to do well, the department

does not provide a place for younger students to learn how to play at a basic level on a team. "Do we want to be a school that thinks of athletics in the same way we think about academics in that we are trying to reach for excellence, or do we just want to be a school that offers athletics and it's really just exercise and it doesn't matter if we're good or not?" Breen asked.

Many of our varsity teams would like to have the funding for attending higher level competitions in the greater New England area, with upper Andrew Benson explaining that the boys' varsity swim team "would really like to make it to 'Easterns' for swimming." Over the years, teams' records have been unpredictable and very inconsistent between sports in terms of the success of each seasonal team. Breen expressed her belief regarding the disparities, "Until we decide as an entire school that we are going to value athletics and think of it as another classroom, I think we are going to remain very confused and inconsistent."

Boys' XC Successful at Invitational Varsity Takes Third Place; JV Takes First Place

By CHARLOTTE LISA
Staff Writer

The boys' cross country team had a solid start to the season at this past Saturday's 2018 Oyster River Bobcat Cross Country Invitational, with varsity placing third overall and JV walking home with a first overall trophy. The meet was held in Madbury, NH with Big Red facing off against many strong local New Hampshire teams and making their presence known in this community outside of the NEPSAC league.

After a hard preseason and first week of practices, the team was ready to run and excited to compete in the first race of the season. "Going through tryouts this year and through our practices, we felt that we have a really deep team this year with a lot of strong runners that can push each other," said lower Carlos Jones, regarding the team's outlook for this year. "I think that it showed with how we did in the results, winning the JV and coming in 3rd for varsity."

When discussing the start of the season, senior and co-captain, Charlie Neuhaus, was positive and said, "Our first two meets will be against a lot of public schools... which I think is a good thing and will give us a good chance to test ourselves out and see where we are as a team competing against some of the best public school teams in New England."

Senior and co-captain John Martel shared similar sentiments. "[Saturday's] meet was a solid start to our season... and we all enjoyed the meet and the course," he said.

Lower Connor Chen commented on the anticipation and excitement about racing again. "I was probably the most excited about getting back into the cross country groove. I was running by myself throughout the entire summer and was feeling lonely. Now that the season has begun, I'm excited to spend time running with and against my friends again."

Jones agreed that he had missed the team and the sport, and said, "I was definitely excited to get back into the racing environment and running for PEA again after training all summer. Also, being in a large race with so many people cheering you on was one aspect of cross-country that I've missed."

Many runners also mentioned the course's inclusion of a hay bale being placed right in the center of the trail, which added some much appreciated amusement to the race. "Bradley St. Laurent took a video of another guy doing a flip on the hay bale, and the video was posted on MileSplit Instagram. I thought that was pretty cool," Chen said.

When asked about the team's expectations for the race, Martel explained that the team didn't have too many high hopes, but was excited to get out there on the course again. "For the first meet of the year, I don't think anyone had any major expectations aside from going out and running hard. We had some strong performances across the board as well as some guys who wish they could've done better. Regardless, everyone will be looking to improve for our next meet," he said.

Jones believed that this meet was pivotal in encouraging team comradery. "We were able to learn a little more about who we are as a team, and in my opinion, this meet gives us another reason to work hard and be excited for the rest of the season."

When asked about this season's team in comparison to the previous year's teams, Martel described that after winning Interschols two years ago, the team lost many strong seniors, and had to work extra hard since then to compensate. "This year, I think we will really be looking to improve upon that and get back to where we were before we lost so many guys... This year we are just super deep and I just think we will have a little more experience," Martel said.

Neuhaus agreed and said, "Our



A group of boys' XC runners race down the trail.

Emma Cerrato/The Exonian

strength last season was definitely our depth, we always have a lot of good runners and this season it's just gotten many times better... In the past, it was mostly preps and lowers leading the team, so now that they have had a chance to do some more training and grow a little bit, we still have that depth but just with everyone getting even stronger. We definitely have the strongest and deepest team I've seen since I came to Exeter."

Looking forward to the rest of the season, Martel explained that improvement is key for Big Red. "Although we

are getting faster, all the other teams in the league are also getting faster. I think it's going to be really competitive, but I wouldn't have it any other way because that makes it fun and interesting, which is what it's all about."

Martel stated the team's goals for this season with determination and confidence. "Win interschols, continue our JV dominance and just continue to grow as a team. Develop the new guys and for those who are older or getting older allow them to transition into some more leadership positions on the team."

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK:

BEHAYLU BARRY & JONAH JOHNSON

By CAROLINE FLEMING & ABBY SMITH
Staff Writers

The buzzer rings and the students swarm the field as Exeter defeats Andover 1-0 at the 2017 fall E/a games. Last year's incredible game still resonates in the returning boys varsity soccer players' minds; it was the perfect way to end a competitive season.

Led by senior co-captains Behaylu Barry and Jonah Johnson, the team is looking to continue this high standard of play as the returning and new players come together to form the varsity soccer team. As veterans of the team, both of the co-captains have the necessary experience and leadership as they enter their final season with a drive to win.

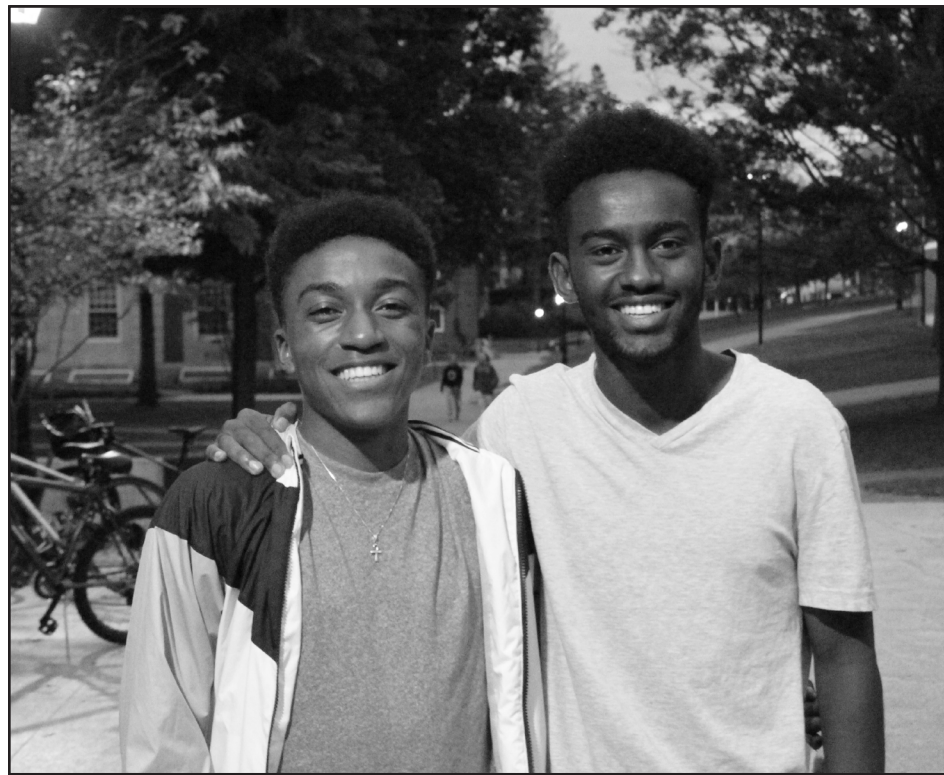
Both of Johnson's parents were avid players of the sport, especially his mother, who regretted only picking up the sport after she became an Exonian. In turn, his parents made sure to start him off as early as possible, allowing him to fully master the sport. Johnson explained, "[My mom] started me when I was three or four, basically as soon as I could run."

Similarly, Barry started at age four, but had a different introduction. He explained his beginnings by saying, "Back in Ethiopia, my brothers and I would get some neighborhood kids around and get a pick up game going on in the streets somewhere."

Although their introductions to the sport were different, they share the same undying passion for the sport. "I like winning a lot," Johnson said. "[Soccer] is just something that I've always done, I never questioned it. I've never had a reason to and I don't want one."

Barry also finds the sport grounding in his life. As a child, Barry fell sick and was not allowed to leave his house to visit friends for a while. As consolation, he found that knocking the ball around was very meditative and enjoyable. He elaborated on the effects of the game by saying, "When you play soccer, it's like nothing else matters. When I'm on the field, I can't think about anything else, I'm just trying to get that ball; that's it."

The two co-captains share a similar



Numi Oyebo/The Exonian

goal for the season. Despite their best efforts last season, the boys' varsity soccer team was not able to make it to playoffs as it had hoped. However this year, they are back with the co-captains leading the charge towards the playoffs. "I just really hope we make playoffs," Johnson said. "I think a lot of the guys on the team want to make the playoffs after last season, and that's something we can try to do together."

While similar in their strength and passion for the game, the two athletes have different opinions about the perks and responsibilities of being captain. Barry expressed his excitement about his new position, "I love it. I get to tell people what to do, and it's so nice," he joked before saying, "It feels good to have people look up to me and to be able to motivate younger players."

Johnson is humbled to be a leader on the team and enjoys helping other players improve their game. "It's a lot of new responsibility being captain, so I'm still adjusting, but it's kind of nice sometimes when kids come up to you and ask you questions. I like being able to offer advice," he said.

The two varsity players are also admired by their teammates for their excellent leadership and big hearts. Post-

graduate Tyler Swanbeck said, "Jonah and Behaylu are not just great soccer players, as that is obvious to see, but are really becoming great leaders and role models."

Separately, the co-captains have consistently displayed their high quality of character. Fellow senior Raj Das complimented Barry and Johnson. "They lead by example. I've been really touched by Behaylu's kindness in these first few weeks to check in on me as I've been out with a pulled hamstring."

By being friendly and positive at all times, Barry and Johnson inspire and help support their players in what can occasionally be a stressful and competitive environment. Lower Jack Burgess shared his fond memories of Barry and Johnson, who he considers his mentors, "Last year, at the beginning of my prep fall, I was introduced to Barry. Straight away, Behaylu, as he would say, 'took me under his wing.' He helped me get to know other people at the school, and eventually introduced me to man-like Jonah. Whenever I saw 'J', he would 'dab me up.'"

Not only are Johnson and Barry supportive leaders of the team, but they are also exceptional soccer players who have proven to be instrumental to the

team's successes. "Jonah, in particular, is so quick with his feet that even a single touch of his can open up the game or change our point of attack," Das said. "Behaylu is lethal in attack; he takes on defenders fearlessly, and his pace, skill, and vision so often ignites our play in the attacking third." Their unique strengths bring a versatile offense that is a challenge for any of their opponents.

Furthermore, Burgess added that Johnson "can beat a man with ease, yet has the football brain to play it simple and keep the ball." Johnson's teammates seem to notice his skill and speed on the ball, which makes him a lethal midfielder.

Burgess also said that Barry "has the best left footed 'pings' on the team and his finishing is noteworthy." Barry is regarded as an uncontrollable force at striker, with the determination and power to score goals. Upper Billy Menken also noted that Barry has an "unmatched work ethic—what we call his engine—and [the] best hair."

Looking forward to this season, both captains hope to make the playoffs. Burgess said, "I am enthusiastic with the talent we have. We have a strong, young team that is only going to get better every time we play with each other." This quality will certainly help the team this season, but will transfer over next year when these young players are older and more skilled and stronger.

With Barry and Johnson leading the boys' soccer team as captains, Exeter will put up a fight against any opponent in the league. Barry and Johnson both carry their team on and off the field. They have proven themselves to be natural-born leaders.

Their strong leadership capabilities rally the team together to create a positive practice and game atmosphere. They are also positive influences for any new member of the team.

Despite a tough 0-7 loss to Loomis on Saturday, the team is ready to work even harder in practice to prepare for remainder of the season. Barry said that "every practice is exciting, spending time with the boys. The best part is always the dinner we have afterwards. It's always loose, no matter how bad or good we play, it's always a good time."

V-Ball Falls to Taft in First Game

Remains Positive Despite 0-3 Loss

By CHARLIE VENCI
Staff Writer

The Exeter girls' varsity volleyball team played their first game of the season against Connecticut's Taft School last Saturday. Despite valiant effort, the game ended in a 3-0 loss for Big Red.

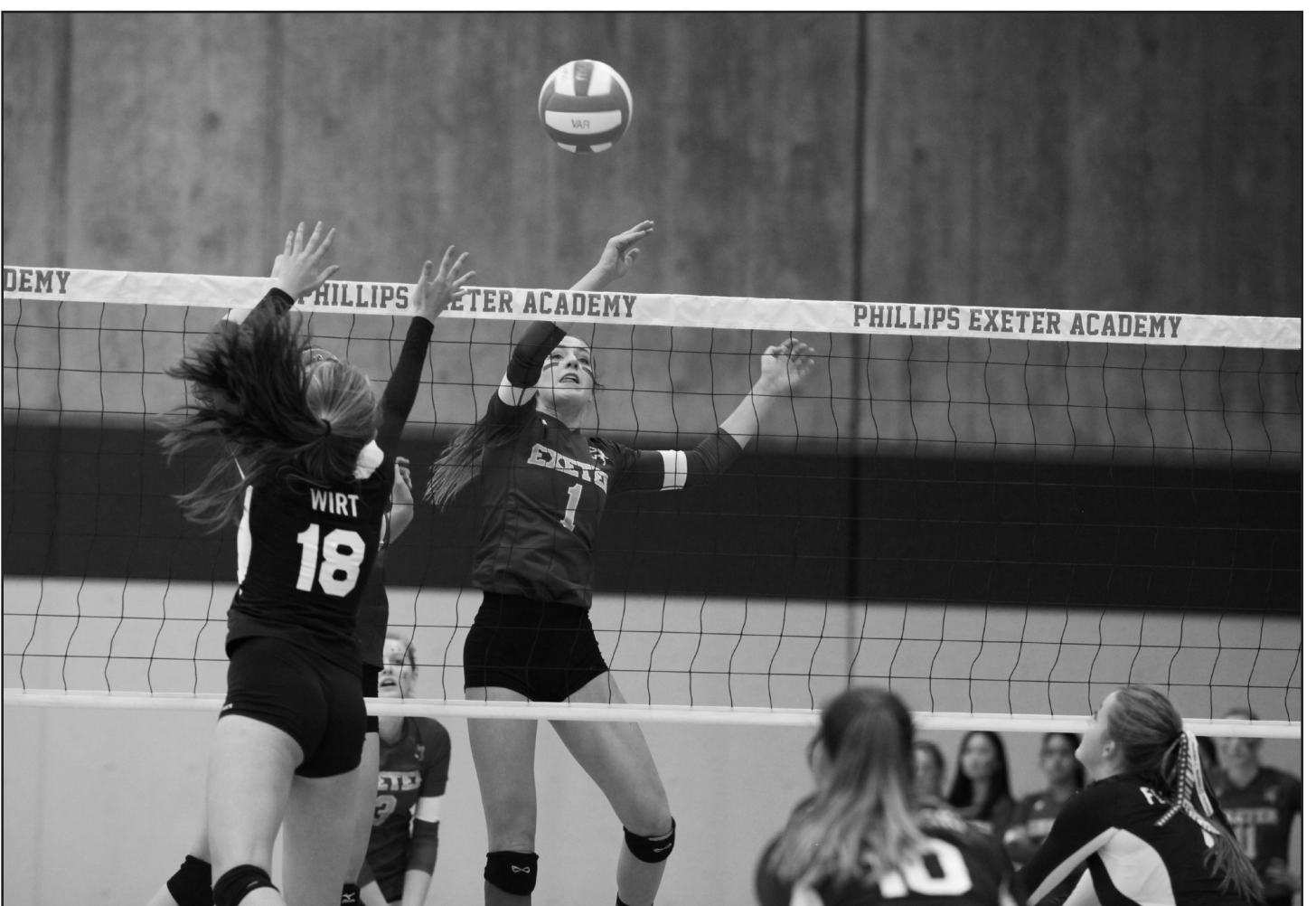
As defending New England Runners-up fresh off of a home win against St. Paul's, Exeter's reputation is on the line once more. The squad is significantly smaller compared to last year, comprised of mostly lowers and uppers, and has been working hard since the first day of preseason.

The team graduated a large number of seniors last spring and is in the process of building a new lineup from mostly new faces. As lower Brody Faliero pointed out, the smaller team is not entirely a bad thing. "One difference between this and last year's team is the size of our squad. We went from 18 to 13 players, which I think will be good for our communication."

The game got off to a rough start, according to Faliero. "We showed up early, and Taft didn't come for another hour. So by the start of the game, we were a little worn out from warm ups and our energy was lacking." Regardless, the first set was pretty evenly matched. Both teams were essentially neck and neck until the end, when Taft pulled away to win 25-20.

The second set mirrored the first. Taft barely got away at the end with a 25-22 win, doubling their lead and throwing Exeter's backs to the wall. The third set was a battle. Both teams were still very much in the game. The Big Red girls threw everything they had at the opponents, but fell slightly short. Taft won the third set with a score of 29-27, sweeping the match with a final set score of 3-0.

Amidst the upsetting loss, Exeter had some standout performances. Faliero com-



Senior Sophie Faliero prepares to spike the ball.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

mended both of her captains' hard work and good plays. "[Senior and co-captain] Jenny [Yang] played well, as always. She holds us together. [Senior and co-captain] Sophie Faliero also killed her hits on the outside."

Yang added that the newcomers made a positive impact on the game. "We all had some really good plays at the Taft Game. For example, [upper] Angelle Diamond had some fantastic serves and hits." Senior Ela Ferhangil agreed. "Angelle had a lot of good hits while playing middle during the second half of the game."

Ferhangil also shared a bit about what Big Red had been working on this weekend. "At the moment, we are working on serving and passing more consistently. We have gotten a lot better with communicating with one another."

Maintaining a positive outlook, the girls believe that this season will be an auspicious one. The girls have had adequate time to recover and learn from the mistakes that were made. In the short term, Faliero wants to see some improvements in the team's energy level. "The team needs to

improve on getting more motivated when we are down in order to reclaim the lead. At the moment it sort of brings down our energy level."

Yang also had her own ideas to share. "Our team will work on becoming more connected and eliminating errors this season. We just graduated a lot of seniors, making around half of the team new this year, so that's one obstacle that we're working on overcoming, but we're all really excited to just play some volleyball, get better and have fun."



ExonianSports



Girls' XC Places First at Invitational *Both Varsity & JV Named Bobcat Champions*

By COOPER WALSH
Staff Writer

Last Saturday, the Exeter girls' cross country team traveled to Madbury, New Hampshire to compete in the competitive 2018 Bobcat Invitational.

The team was coming off of a third-place finish in last year's championships and the players were hungry to reclaim the first-place title that they earned during the 2016 season, when both the varsity and JV teams won by a considerable margin.

Both varsity and JV teams placed first overall at this Invitational, taking home the grand trophy for Big Red.

One of the highlights for the team was upper Olivia Lazorik's first place finish in the junior varsity race. Senior and co-captain Ashley Lin lauded Lazorik saying, "She had an amazing JV race. She probably ran negative splits because she was definitely not in the first pack for the first couple of miles. All of a sudden, we see her coming out from the woods in first place at the end of the race."

Lazorik cited her strong performance to the team's meticulous preparation leading up to the meet. "We collected data; we wanted to determine what worked or didn't work in order to improve for races throughout the season," she said.

Lower Caroline Huang detailed the team's intensive practice regimen: long runs and workouts throughout the week, strength and conditioning exercises, such as pull-ups or lunges in the fitness center and stretching.

Clearly Big Red's preparation strategies worked, as ten JV runners and four varsity runners placed in the top 20. In the varsity race, lower Gia Pisano in 8th, upper Alexandra van Dijkum in 10th, senior Hanna Pak in 13th and upper Maddy Machado in 15th. Additionally, Exeter had other impressive varsity finishes, with senior Grace Gray in 27th and prep Anika Tsai in 55th.

Lin looks forward to the rest of the season, especially after seeing how well her team performed this weekend. "I think we



Girls' varsity XC gathers in a team huddle after their race.

Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

have a really good shot this year for winning at Interschols," she said. Lin points their success towards the depth on their varsity roster, "We're stacked with runners all around the same sub-21 time."

She described Pisano as Exeter's "not-so-secret weapon" this season. "[Pisano] started off really strong and held her place throughout the whole meet and the first finisher among the Exeter girls," Lin said. Pak also ran a remarkable race last weekend with a surprising comeback in her race, passing six people in the last mile.

Upper Bianca Lee touched on the positive team dynamic and how influential her teammates were in her race. "This was

my first cross country meet ever and, of course, I was extremely nervous. I've been injured since spring track and for most of the summer, so I wasn't sure I could do it. My teammates' cheering and supportiveness helped me muster up the courage to run as hard as I could."

Many other team members credit their successes to the team's tight-knit and positive energy. Lower Helen Lieberman agreed with Lee and added, "The dynamic is really energetic and supportive. Everybody high fives and hugs each other at the end of a race. Afterward, we find a spot on the course to blast music and cheer on the boys' team as they run. It's really fun to be a part of all the

excitement."

Huang mentioned, "We have a tradition of having dress-up days the day before the race. This past Friday was Color Day, where we dress up as different colors of the rainbow, and several of our future ones include Tie Dye Day and Animal Day." Huang says they do this to "get into a positive mindset."

The team remains auspicious and looks forward to the meet this Saturday in Boston, and maintaining the high spirits, hoping to find success yet again. Lin said, "I'm looking forward to seeing everyone improve and give their all on the course this weekend. I love this team and am so proud of our successes."

Girls' Soccer Edged Out by Choate

By LEAH COHEN
Staff Writer

With a new head coach, Alexa Caldwell, and a new mindset, the girls' varsity soccer team (nicknamed "Soxie") has been making steady progress. Despite suffering a 0-1 loss to Choate on Saturday, the team's improvement since August was put on display.

"From preseason to our first home game to the Choate game, we have gotten so much better and closer as a team," prep Kaylee Bennett explained. Off the field, the team spends a lot of time with one another to help build team camaraderie. "Each practice and game gets better and better," Bennett elaborated. "We have a lot of potential this year."

The Saturday match against Choate was expected to be a challenge as it is a consistent playoff contending team. The two equally-matched teams became very physical throughout the game, but Exeter held their ground, giving the team the confidence for a potential playoffs spot. "[The game] proved what we have been thinking all along, which is that we are a talented team and we can compete against the best teams in our league," co-captain Juliana Merullo added. "If we can build off of this loss and learn from it, we will be at playoffs."

Senior and co-captain Ogechi Nwankwoala mentioned some of the standout players during the game. "[Lower Marymegan Wright and Bennett] continuously pressured the ball when Choate's defense had possession and they caused a lot of scoring opportunities for us." A near goal from Wright

had the crowd going wild. In the last few moments of the game, Wright stole the ball from a Choate defender and charged down the field towards the net. "The most frustrating part was not being able to get the ball in the net, but I know that it will come when we get used to playing with each other more," Merullo said.

Merullo discussed the strength of the relatively young team. "Our three preps especially are all very talented," she said. "And they bring a great energy to the team and help pump us up before and during the game. I am so excited not only for this year, but also for future seasons, because of our young talent."

Members of the team highlighted Merullo and Nwankwoala's leadership and dedication to creating a positive environment for their teammates. "Our captains are the most positive people on the team. If we mess up, they don't get mad at us; they tell us how to improve," Bennett said. "I really saw them step up during the Choate game. They're good role models and examples for the rest of the team."

Looking ahead, Soxie is looking to build on their momentum and roll through all their upcoming games. The team will be traveling to Brewster Academy and it will be looking for vengeance after suffering a 1-3 loss. Upper Dennesha Rolle expressed her excitement for the progress and improvement she expects the team to make. "I know that we will continue to work hard, and we can only go up from here. We had a lot of success in the game on Saturday, and we are looking to continue those throughout the season," she said.

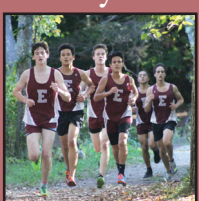


Senior Leni Lemos dribbles the ball down the field.

Avery Napier/The Exonian

Inside This Week's Sports Section

Boys' Cross Country



Boys' cross country travelled to compete in the Bobcat Invitational, and found success. Read more on B4.

Emma Cerrato/The Exonian

Athletes of the Week



Seniors Behaylu Barry and Jonah Johnson lead this year's boys' varsity soccer team. Read more on B5.

Numi Oyebole/The Exonian

Close Look at Athletic Dept.



Coaches speak out after Coach Hudson is appointed Athletic Director. More on B4.

Numi Oyebole/The Exonian

Girls' Volleyball



Girls' volleyball faced off against Taft this weekend, but was unsuccessful. More on B5.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian