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Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire

New Affirmative Consent Policy to Be Implemented

By ANNE BRANDES
and MAI HOANG
Staff Writers

"My worst sexual interaction at Exeter was when I was coerced into doing something I did not want to do," student Stacy* said. "I said no repetitively; they kept asking until I felt trapped and had to say yes." Afterwards, Stacy did not report the incident. To prevent other Exonians from experiencing similar circumstances, Director of Student Well-Being Christina Palmer and General Counsel Holly Barcroft drafted an addendum to the E-Book that changes the current consent policy to one that necessitates affirmative consent.

Among other clauses, the draft defines affirmative consent as "a knowing, voluntary and mutual decision among all participants to participate in sexual activity," and sets it as the standard for all sexual activity at Exeter.

A 2017 survey by the Prevention Research Center (PRC) reported that 24 percent of Exonians who had participated in oral sex and 18 percent of those participating in vaginal sex within 30 days before taking the survey did not ask for verbal consent before doing so.

"We recognized the importance of providing clear and explicit language to the current definition of consent in the E-Book," Palmer said. "It is an area of education that is necessary to support students' natural navigation of adolescent development."

Palmer and Barcroft presented the new defi-

POLICY, 2



Upper Rajrishi Das juggles a soccer ball on Principals' Day.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

New Principal Search Process Raises Doubts

By ERIN CHOI
and SHIVANI TRIPATHI
Staff Writers

The Academy Trustees administered a second online survey to solicit faculty opinion on the three Interim Principal candidates—Director of Student Well-Being Christina Palmer, Head of the Doane Stuart School Pamela Clarke and former Academy Trustee and alumnus William Rawson. The survey closed on Monday, May 7.

The Trustees are currently conducting the second round of interviews with each of the interim principal candidates. They will soon hold discussions to select the interim. According to an email sent to all faculty members from Trustee and Chair of the Interim Principal Advisory Committee Claudine Gay, the Trustees expect to decide on who will serve as interim principal within the next month.

The Interim Principal Advisory Committee stopped working with the Trustees after they presented to the Trustees a list of proposed candidates. "The Interim Principal Advisory Committee completed its mission when it presented to the Trustees a proposed slate of finalist candidates for the

PRINCIPAL, 2

Alums Return for ALES's 50 Year Celebration

By EMMANUEL TRAN
and SAM WEIL
Staff Writers

Check back next week for *The Exonian's* supplement honoring ALES's 50th anniversary.

"On those weekends in May [when] we have alumni reunions, I never see black graduates," lower Eman Noraga said. On the weekend of May 4, however, alumni of color filled the Grainger Auditorium. The weekend marked the Afro-Latinx Exonian Society (ALES)'s 50th anniversary, in which alumni returned to tell current students the society's history.

The reunion's purpose was to give current students a sense of how Exeter has affected the lives of past students of color. The reunion brought 76 alumni and 18 guests to campus; attendees' graduation years spanned from 1961 up until last year.

According to Vice President of ALES lower Johan Martinez, the plan-



Lauren Wilson '17 shares how ALES impacted her experience here. Paula Perez-Glassner/The Exonian

ning committee arranged this reunion weekend for past and current members to talk about the club. "I thought that it would be important to have a reunion because there's so much history behind ALES, and it's been such a powerful club on campus for such a long time. We chose specifically to create a reunion because we wanted to meet up with these alumni and learn about what our past was," he said.

Noraga said, "I've never had a visualization of what happens after Exeter, so it was really cool to see people who went through the things I'm going through now and especially to see that they came out of it and succeeded."

The weekend commenced with a

school-wide assembly. Alumni Thee Smith '69, Claudia Cruz '96, Lauren Wilson '17 and Kelvin Green II '18, along with current seniors Charlotte Polk and Athena Stenor, spoke. Each shared their experiences in ALES; their speeches all correlated to the idea that ALES had been their safe haven throughout their time at Exeter.

The second event was a dinner in which alumni and students shared a meal catered by a local Dominican restaurant. They traded anecdotes on their experiences of being people of color at Exeter, and students gleaned knowledge on how they wanted to fulfill the rest of their time at the Academy.

ANNIVERSARY, 3

Proposal to Remove H Format, Shorten Sport Practice Times

By ANNE BRANDES
and RACHEL WON
Staff Writers

The Curriculum Committee proposed an updated schedule for the 2018-19 academic year that would end the school day by 5:20 p.m. and allow for a "Choice Format" instead of the current sports option. The Committee hopes its proposal would alleviate student stress and scheduling inequities.

Faculty discussed the proposal at Monday's faculty meeting. The Curriculum Committee hopes to address "mounting evidence that...students are feeling increased and unhealthy levels of stress and anxiety," according to the proposal, by implementing this policy that will allow students to dedicate themselves to a specific activity for a term-long one-or-two format block. The Choice Format would replace the current sports option. The two formats differ because choice formats would be open to all grades.

The proposed scheduling changes eliminate H format altogether while changing the order of Wednesday classes to E, B, C and G formats during Week One and F, A and D formats during Week Two. Additionally, the proposal devotes an 80-minute block on Week Two Wednesdays to Community Time—which the packet explains should be used for "dorm meetings and activities [that] would allow for the fuller integration of day students into dorm communities." The proposed change would cut 10 minutes from the current lunch block on Thursdays and Fridays; classes would start at 1:30 p.m.

The Curriculum Committee cites difficulties in building schedules as a main reason for creating the Schedule Proposal. "[The current scheduling process is like] building a 6,000 piece puzzle while accommodating multiple and sometimes competing factors such as specific departmental and curricular needs, student choice and desires, graduation requirements, staffing classroom and space constraints and teacher requests," the packet reads.

Changing sports blocks would also simplify the scheduler's duty. While varsity football would be the only sport to use both F(Y) and G(Z) blocks, JV water polo would use the F(Y) format and the prep program would only meet for 50 minutes during E(X) format. With the exception of football, junior varsity water polo and the Prep Program, all interscholastic athletics would be scheduled into G(Z) block.

However, sports using F format would face complications because F format would precede E format every Friday. Football and JV water polo would only practice during G and F formats, respectively. To have a full practice time, JV water polo would have to play with varsity until 6:30 p.m. on Fridays. JV water polo players would also not be able to participate in chamber or concert choir as both would take place during F format, further restricting Exonians' course selection.

SCHEDULE, 3

Goel Center Opens Later than Anticipated

By MAI HOANG
and CADE NAPIER
Staff Writers

The David E. Goel and Stacey L. Goel Center for Theater and Dance was expected to open in April 2018. However, the building remains unfinished, and the Academy now expects the building will open in the fall of 2018.

Once finished, the Center will be a state-of-the-art facility with more than 63,130 square feet of space. It will contain a proscenium mainstage with 350 seats and an orchestra pit, a thrust stage theater with seating for 149 spectators, two dance venues including a dance performance studio with 119 seats, a rehearsal and meeting area for DRAMAT, Exeter's student-run theater organization, technical studios and classrooms and lounge areas. Dance instructor Allison Duke, who

has been working with the project since 2011, stated that the building's construction is on schedule. "It has less to do with the building being completed by the architects, the general contractor, all the sub contractors and the building being actually done and owned by the Academy. That's all 100 percent on schedule," she said. "Perhaps what is being interpreted as not being on schedule is the initial thought that both spring dance concert and the senior acting ensemble would be able to perform in both respective performance spaces," Duke said. As of now, dance rehearsals are taking place in the building.

Although some dance groups are practicing in the new space, there are still some obstacles that must be overcome before the building can fully function. Duke explained that the staffing and user learning curve posed an issue. "You can build

an amusement park but if the operators don't know how to operate the rides safely, that's dangerous for everybody. It can look physically done, but the functionality has to be learned by all of us," she said.

Duke added that constructing the Center is such a large undertaking that it requires significant time to finish. Once completed, the Center will hold about five times the performance space the current theater provides and will have double the studio size. "To do all that in the end of the academic year, as detail[s] started to unfold...It wasn't really possible. It would have compromised the actual productions instead of supported them," Duke said.

Nevertheless, some students are frustrated that the building is not fully functional yet. During a Climate Action Day workshop in which students toured

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Students Share Perspectives on Exeter's "Hook-up Culture"

Continued from **POLICY 1**

dition during faculty meeting last week for discussions and a faculty-wide vote. "In the end, the faculty supported [it with] almost a full vote," Dean of Students Melissa Mischke said. "It wasn't 100 percent, but it was pretty close."

Adults in the community acknowledge that asking for consent is not always a straightforward matter. "It's not an easy thing to do when you're in a very intimate situation, and I think our past policy also allowed for some sort of non-verbal communication," Mischke said.

The ambiguous E-Book passage Mischke alluded to states: "Relying solely on nonverbal communication can lead to misunderstandings. If there is any confusion or uncertainty about whether a participant is consenting to sexual activity, stop and clarify verbally the person's willingness to continue." The E-Book's passage, while not endorsing nonverbal consent, does not stipulate that affirmative consent is necessary. "We are just trying to be crystal clear," Mischke said of the affirmative consent policy.

According to History Instructor Betty Luther-Hillman, adding this clause to the E-Book signifies Exeter's participation in a larger societal movement to shift the focus from "no means no" to "yes means yes."

She emphasized, "This is a move that's happening across educational institutions as well as the legal world."

For English Instructor Courtney Marshall, the new policy's biggest achievement is how it shifted discussion from preventing sexual assault to the concept of enthusiastic participation in sexual activity. "Affirmative consent puts the language of pleasure and connection back to the discussion of sexual activity and gets it out of that punishment realm," she said. "I'd love to see more conversation about how you learn to advocate for what you want in a romantic sense; the school says your voice matters so when it comes to sex, we should talk about it."

Marshall is specifically concerned about how the message that young women receive is currently centered around the concept of chasing or being chased. "Women are taught to be prey and regard straight males as people who can potentially harm them. At the same time, it's hard to try and get away from these motifs while rape still happens," she said.

The new E-book policy includes a clause that addresses non-heteronormative sexual activity. It states, "The definition of consent does not vary based on the participants' sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression."

As the head of Kirtland House, an all-gender dorm, Marshall noted that current discussions surrounding consent and sexual activity pertain more to heteronormative relationships, focusing on concepts such as penetration.

Lower Sam Park, a self-identifying member of the LGBTQ+ community, voiced similar concerns. "I don't think there has been enough discussions on the subject [of consent in non-heteronormative relationships]," they said. "The idea that boys don't need consent because they always want sex has more of a negative role in queer relationships when these issues can't be divided evenly."

Above all, Park welcomed this addition as something that will hopefully spark discussions regarding the issues of consent in queer relationships. "Consent is consent no matter what," they emphasized.

In the past week, faculty members have brought the draft to advisee meetings and classrooms for further discussion with students.

Senior Madison Stern talked about the draft with her fellow classmates in the Book Club elective and said, "I think the draft is a good step in the right direction toward our school acknowledging that consent can be a nebulous topic, but there is no substitute for verbal, affirmative consent."

Stern also believes that it is important for incoming students to examine this E-Book clause thoroughly during their first term at Exeter in health class. "This will help teach and encourage a culture of asking for consent," she said.

Health Instructor Michelle Soucy explained the topics that the introductory health classes address to prepare students for later romantic experiences. "We discuss the ways in which students can express their interests in another person, what relationships tend to look like here at PEA, what healthy and unhealthy relationships are, what consent is, when they might decide to be intimate with someone [and] what they need to know about the physical and emotional health considerations," she explained.

Soucy described the significance of consent and conversation. "Clear expectations with the other person are so important for how anyone experiences such an interaction. Students should talk to each other to make sure everyone knows what to expect and what they are agreeing to. Everyone should feel it was a positive interaction in the end," she said.

Senior Gregory Miller commented on how it is difficult to get over the awkwardness of a conversation about sexual activity. "I think it can be uncomfortable acknowledging that you want to accelerate a situation; the other person might not want to. It makes you vulnerable," he said.

Similarly, Stacy feels that students at Exeter mainly struggle with vocalizing consent because they are simply not familiar with the concept. "It's hard because people come from such different backgrounds; they haven't had that conversation [about sex] with their parents or friends, let alone their sexual partners," she said.

Instead of trying to sound "cool" or "suave," Miller thinks that students should prioritize conversations regarding sexual activity. "I think the 'lame' of it definitely cancels out if the other person knows you're doing it out of respect and legal consideration rather than out of an 'I'm too nervous to just go for it' kind of thing," he said.

The implications of this deficit in communication are far-reaching; according to upper Gemma*, students at Exeter "struggle with assuming how 'far' another person wants to go."

In her experience, if two people start kissing and one tries to stop it from going further, their partner may get upset, confused or even angry. "Exonians tend to think that getting consent for one thing gives them consent for anything they want," she said. Gemma candidly shared stories of not being comfortable with what a boy wanted her to do while hooking up. "When I told them that, they got very defensive...I've heard, 'Well, I heard you did it with so-and-so. Why not me?' [and] 'Why did you even come over then?' and other things similar to this."

Gemma emphasized, "It is important to understand that someone may be attracted to another person but that their personal boundaries set the limit of how far they're willing to go, not necessarily their interest level in the other person."

Gemma and many other students blame a hook-up culture at Exeter for exacerbating the issue of miscommunication and coercion. Senior Olivia Petersen said, "When you take part in the hook-up culture, there's less emphasis on checking in with the other per-

son because it's supposed to be detached and less emotional...Unhealthy sex ends up being more common in hook-ups."

Many students agree that social media is another factor that facilitates the hook-up culture. "I believe Snapchat has put a damper on developing relationships with other people," senior and EASA co-head Brian Zhao said. "It is our generation's way of downplaying intimate relationships and developing feelings for one another."

As lower Dori* put it, the sequence of events preceding a hook-up between Exonians usually involves the use of Snapchat, then going to Evening Prayer or Stillwells, then an invitation to "hang out." "There can be assumptions made about how someone feels depending on their response time [on social media]," she said. "When someone opens a snap immediately after it is sent, it is easy for people to think that there's interest and that asking for consent each step of the way is not that necessary."

Upper Lorelai*, meanwhile, attributed the prevalence of hookups on campus simply to the boarding school culture and students' stress level. "The idea of being in a committed relationship can be overwhelming to people, which is understandable," she said.

She also thinks that the locker room culture of bragging about sexual conquests associated with some sports teams also contributes to a hook-up culture. "I've been with guys who during their off season were super nice, but when the sport season came became a completely different person," Lorelai said.

Though he does not want to generalize for all sport groups, upper Xavier*, a member of the boys' varsity hockey team, witnessed instances in which "a team's actions have contributed to the detrimental stereotypes and objectification about women, fostered by a hypermasculine setting." He also brought up locker room talk, which makes athletes "feel pressured into doing this or doing that, or see certain people in a negative lens."

Regarding the new affirmative consent clause, Lorelai remains skeptical about the actual effect that an addition to the E-Book could achieve. She believes there is a power imbalance between partners, particularly when there is a significant age gap. "A 19-year-old guy went after [my 14-year-old friend]. The level that he was trying to get her to come to his house and send nude pictures to him was incredible," she said.

With all of these cultural forces in play, Marshall believes that students and faculty members need to closely examine the attitude surrounding sex at Exeter in general and how that could be improved. "Larger conversations with what we do with our body is essential. Are we using sexual activity as a way of compensating for some other needs, like connection or purpose?"

Senior Stuart Rucker would say yes. "Unfortunately, hookups are too often seen as a source of hedonistic pleasure or validation," he said. "This leaves people with too much baggage to fully mentally commit themselves to someone in a meaningful relationship."

Not all Exonians would agree that Exeter has such a problematic culture surrounding consent. "I don't think that any high school has a healthy hookup culture," senior Pablo* said. "We look at Exeter and we're like 'we have such a problem.' I don't know that we have more of a problem than any other boarding school or any other high school." Pablo also mentioned that because Exeter is a boarding school with 80 percent of students living on campus, more sexual encounters are expected and normal.

However, all of this does not mean that there is no room for respectful relationships at Exeter. Lower Orion

Bloomfield shared, "I have never been in any hookup situations due to some non-religious beliefs I hold about creating constructive social relationships."

Musing on the concept of casual hookups, Zhao commented that it is odd that people who are intimate in one setting pretend not to recognize each other in a public space. He proceeded to cite the statistics from PIRC, which showed that 73 percent of Exonians want to be in a committed relationship.

Lower Pepper Pieroni thinks that being fixated on affirmative verbal consent can create a dynamic where students are constantly worried if they are in a consensual relationship or not. "Affirmative consent is an example of something that works in theory, but in reality, most students will ask for consent [at] the beginning and not throughout sexual interactions," she said.

The revised E-Book definition of consent, however, does have implications for all sexual misconduct allegations in the event that either partner decides to report them. "In a case where there is no demonstration of resistance, but affirmative consent is lacking, any sexual activity which occurred would be deemed non-consensual sexual activity," Barcroft said. She emphasized that "sexual activity" is not limited to penetration, but "all activity which is sexual in nature," including kissing or touching.

Any disciplinary action that may ensue will go through the Principal's Discretion process; in cases of sexual misconduct, the Principal, in consultation with Mischke and Palmer, has the discretion to determine the facts or appoint an investigator to do so.

Along with the policy's rollout, Barcroft assured that there will be more extensive training on affirmative consent for faculty, staff and students in the upcoming year.

"I wonder what would have to happen for everyone on campus to feel like they could consent in the affirmative way," Marshall questioned. "There's always room for assumptions and misreadings because sexual activity is so complicated and fraught."

How effective these programs will be, however, depends largely on the way they are carried out. Senior Alexis Gorfine shared her appreciation for past proctor and student listener trainings, which included events like "Slut: The Play" and the film "Escalation."

"I think these videos and training sessions should be brought to some extent to the campus as a whole," Gorfine said.

Upper Mahogany Johnson spoke about the advisory meeting in which her adviser not only presented the draft policy but conducted a role-playing activity for students to ask for affirmative consent.

"I think that was more effective than what we usually do," Johnson said. According to her, girls frequently get the message to "say no and affirm your ground, make your stance"; however, in the moment, this might be more challenging. "If you really had to think on your feet about how to do it, it's important to know how. That exercise really helped us with that," she said.

Zhao thinks that, in some respects, the stigma surrounding consent and sexual assault can actually work to prevent students, especially male students, from experiencing meaningful physical intimacy. "It's disheartening to hear. I believe a lot of the times [the male students'] reasoning is centered around 'what will happen to me' as opposed to feeling concerned for crossing another's boundaries."

Like Marshall, he advocates for a shift from talking about assault to considering the positives of engaging in healthy, intimate relationships with one another. "The truth is, a lot of us are just looking for love," he said. "Stay up late and tell you all my secrets kind [of] love."

Interim Principal Search Invokes Mixed Faculty Responses

Continued from **PRINCIPAL 1**

Trustees' consideration," Downer said, commending the committee's "invaluable part in the process."

After reading the candidates' statements, faculty members were allowed to anonymously submit to the Trustees their thoughts on each applicant. According to President of the Trustees Tony Downer '75, the Trustees received more than 100 responses. "The feedback was thoughtful, constructive, insightful and reflected the myriad of perspectives, opinions and voices present in our community," he said.

Students discussed the candidate statements at this Tuesday's Student Council meeting. The Council then took a straw vote for the candidate students hoped would fill the role of interim principal. With the exception of two students, Council members voted for Rawson. The Student Council secretaries, lowers Ayush Noori and Audrey Vanderslice, sent notes

to the Trustees as student input.

History Department Chair William Jordan said about submitting input on the candidates, "There weren't any specific directions. I just filled out my thoughts based on what I thought of the three candidates by looking at the three statements, which wasn't a lot to go on."

Modern Languages Instructor Terra* wished that the faculty could have met the candidates. "It's always helpful to meet candidates in person rather than just [read] something they've written," she said. "If you don't know the person, there may be a big difference between what you see and what you experience in a conversation."

Downer maintained that the faculty and staff voices had a great impact on the decision process. "Beyond their representation on the Interim Principal Advisory Committee, the faculty and staff provided volumes of input," he said. "Both in the first stage of the process during which issues, priorities and candidates were

discussed and in the second stage when the community was invited to comment on the slate of finalists," he said.

Gay declined to comment at this time. However, although they were given a platform to present their views, many faculty members still felt that their voices had little impact on the process.

Jordan felt that it was "hard" to know faculty members' impact on the decision, saying the faculty only had the opportunity to state their opinions verbally—through email and through a survey. "The faculty has a voice; I have no idea if the voices are being heard," he said.

According to Terra, many of the faculty members were unaware that the advisory committee was no longer involved in the selection process. "That leads to a sense that the process was not transparent," she said. "I did know that faculty members have been asking for greater transparency in administrative decisions."

She added, "You can't know that your voice was heard if the process is not

transparent."

Physics Instructor Tatiana Waterman felt differently. "The involvement from faculty and staff was plenty and enough in my opinion," she said. "Eventually I have confidence that the Trustees will make their decision wisely and efficiently with all this input."

Some believe, however, that the search process itself has taken too long. "On the one hand, I think the faculty committee should be involved all the way through," Jordan said. "On the other hand, I didn't think a committee was even necessary at the beginning; I would have been happy for the Trustees to pick someone without a long process because it's an interim position."

"The school year's almost over, and it would have been nice to have a longer period of transition [for the interim principal]," Jordan added. "I would have been happy if the Trustees made a decision in a more efficient way."

Proposed Schedule Elicits Varied Reactions from Coaches

Continued from [SCHEDULE, 1](#)

Faculty are conflicted over the proposal. Volleyball and Squash Coach Bruce Shang expressed his concerns over reducing sports to single format courses. “The PE Department was asked to change our schedule and our diploma requirements for what we were told was student well-being and a chance for students to pursue their passions,” Shang said. “I am unsure of the source of this required change. I have not been presented with scientific information that shows that exercising less is better for anyone’s well-being, let alone student well-being. We know that physical activity is good for the body and mind.”

Shang feels that the proposed schedule places too much value on schoolwork at the cost of athletics. “[The same could be achieved through] less homework or less class time from academic teachers,” said Shang. “The PE Department is open to change. Why are academic departments not included in the task of making this change?”

However, soccer and lacrosse coach and History Instructor Alexa Caldwell welcomed the new proposal as a chance to improve on the inadequacies of the

Academy’s current schedule. “Students and faculty should not be in a classroom until 6:00 p.m.—I imagine students don’t like G or H classes, and no faculty want to teach at 5:00 p.m.,” Caldwell said. “[With the new schedule], everyone would be on the same page and participating in the same schedule: classroom and academics in the morning, extracurricular activities in the afternoon.”

Lower and tennis player Meili Gupta thought that the new schedule could be a possible method to improve student well-being. “I think this change is very beneficial because a lot of students including myself get tired during GH formats and lose concentration and focus for classes,” Gupta said.

Caldwell also looked positively towards the Choice Format proposal. “There needs to [be] a more consistent system for students who are fortunate enough to opt GH. It seems that the current system enables people who either know how to finagle the system or students who know faculty who can work the system for them in order to get GH opt,” Caldwell said. “There needs to be better equity for scheduling—no prioritization of a certain group of kids or activity.”

Hockey and Track Coach and Science Instructor Mark Hiza did not see why the new schedule is necessary. “I don’t see how it’s going to work in the winter at all,” Hiza said. “I don’t see how we could only have sports in the afternoon and accommodate everybody in the facilities we have.”

Tennis and Squash Coach Fred-eric Brussel agreed that the current system works better. “I did not see anything wrong with the way we currently practice. Next winter season will be a learning experience,” he said of the potential for overcrowded athletic facilities.

Lower and tri-varsity athlete Maddie Machado also raised concerns about the spatial capacity of the Academy’s facilities. “I don’t think GH for all sports teams is a good idea. The fitness center, which almost every sport uses a few times a week, doesn’t have the space to accommodate five or six teams lifting during the same format,” Machado said. “There are other spacing issues besides the fitness center too. We can’t fit four teams in the pool for swim, and I’m sure the basketball courts can’t have four teams at once either.”

Machado was also concerned about teams that practiced outside during the

winter. “In the winter, distance track runs outside which would be very difficult for the runners to run in the dark because it would be close to dusk if not already dark for many days during the winter. That’s dangerous because of traffic and temperature,” Machado said.

Despite the pitfalls of the potential policy, Hiza saw the new schedule proposal as a chance for positive change. “It could work out well, and although I don’t mind what we’re doing with track right now, having sports at the end of the day would allow the runners to eat lunch and then have a sport later. I guess you get used to what you work with; we’ve gotten used to having track during EF,” Hiza said.

For Shang, the proposed schedule changes would inconvenience the PE Department. “In the past, faculty voted against losing five minutes of class time, but currently they are considering voting on PE diploma requirements without allowing the PE Department to vote on this issue. This sends a powerful message about the values of the leaders of this institution. This is a chance for the whole school to make positive change for student well-being,” Shang said. “Are we really a *non sibi* institution?”

Alumni Visit to Celebrate 50 Years of ALES’s Existence

Continued from [ANNIVERSARY, 1](#)

Upper Malobika Syed appreciated speaking to the alumni at this dinner. “It was nice to see the alums talking about their opinions on ALES, especially since they had a clearer perspective and since they’re no longer part of the institution anymore,” she said. “At the dinner it was also nice to see how ALES has changed. From the way alums were describing it, ALES seemed way more loose.”

Students were particularly excited to discover more details about the way ALES functioned in the past. After hearing these anecdotes, they were inspired to incorporate these past traditions into current meetings. “The alumni had some wild stories,” Noraga said. “They told me about traditions they used to have...ap-

parently after every ALES meeting they’d have a dance in Club Room B, or they’d play music as you walked in...It made me inspired to get some of those traditions back.”

Like Noraga, Syed was also energized by the sense of camaraderie that she heard from these stories. “I talked to two alums who talked about how right after ALES on Fridays they would jam out to music, and there was such a camaraderie going on there. Obviously it’s still there, we still hang out after ALES, but playing music did bring some kind of a comfortable space. I’d love to see that happen now,” she said.

On Saturday, the planning committee organized workshops and alumni panels. Noraga attended one in which the topic pertained to college experiences. Noraga

learned about searching for the “right fit” for colleges. She remembers how one alumni told her that “it’s very important when you look for a university to make sure they’re a fit for you.”

Stenor, a member of the planning committee and president of the 50th ALES Board, conversed with different alumni and found that “because of how horrible the racial climate used to be here, there are a lot of people who can’t come back because of the negative associations that returning brings up,” she said.

The alumni who didn’t return showed the pain Exeter’s racial climate had inflicted on past Exonians of color. Stenor acknowledged, “it’s not fair to expect them to relive those traumatic moments. But at the same time, I think seeing how much it invigorated my schoolmates and

how many connections we formed this weekend, I think it’s worth it to continue planning this and facilitating these connections.”

Dean of Multicultural Affairs Sami Atif also noted how some alumni would be wary to return to Exeter. He said that in the planning process, he made sure to make it clear to possible attendees that the reunion was “not a fundraiser” but rather an opportunity to reminisce and make connections with students.

Responses to the reunion were positive, according to members of the planning committee. Atif felt that the reunion was successful and attained the society’s main goal. “Part of ALES is to understand the footsteps that you walk in. I wanted Exonians to hear some stories and [get] a better feel for the history,” he said.

Dance Classes Relocate to New Performing Arts Center

Continued from [CENTER, 1](#)

the Center, one student asked why the building was unfinished, according to upper and DRAMAT co-head Anna Clark. “[The people leading the workshop] said it’s not a really a delay if you think about it because there’s so much that has to fall into place that’s out of our control. I don’t think anyone was super satisfied with that answer,” Clark said.

Lower Patricia Fitzgerald was similarly unhappy the building was not finished. “We were promised it at the beginning of the year; when I showed up everyone said it was going to be done by this spring, it was really exciting,” she said. “I feel like it’s a little unreasonable for them to just promise us that we’re going to be in there and then keep delaying it.”

The delay will particularly impact seniors, who will graduate before the Center opens. “I’m not exactly happy about it,” senior Billy O’Handley said. “I would have been able to perform there, but now I’m not going to be able to perform there at all. But I guess it makes sense, if it’s not ready you shouldn’t try to force it to open before it’s ready.”

Duke acknowledged that seniors would be missing out on using the Center but emphasized that the project was not actually delayed. “Everyone’s been working really hard, and I want to dispel the rumor that it’s delayed. It’s not delayed, it’s that the user learning curve is very steep, and that wasn’t able to be achieved by the end of the year,” Duke said. “It was our goal [to open this spring], but if you think of a goal that was set over a

year ago, things can change. In terms of a project that’s been going on almost 10 years. In the grand scheme of things, this is actually very much on time.”

Upper Sarah Liberatore was concerned that the new center had received less attention than the William Boyce Thompson Field House that opened this January. “For a while it felt like the field house was getting priority, because it was finished before. Of course it’s a different building and the donors raised money faster for that, but I think it was still kind of frustrating to see that go up first,” she said.

Despite the delay, Exonians are still excited to use the new space. “I feel like I’m just going to live in that building next year,” Liberatore said.

Chair of the Theater and Dance

Department Robert Richards believes that the opening of this building marks a historical moment for Exeter. He said, “This building marks the first time in the Academy’s history where both theater and dance will be under the same roof. That is fantastic!” In fact, both Davis Dance Studio and Fisher Theater, the current facilities for dance and theater practice, were not originally designed to be used for performing arts practices and rehearsals.

After touring and rehearsing in the new Center, Liberatore’s excitement for the new building outweighed the negative sentiments she initially carried. “Any anger I had at the delays, after being in the building, I’m forgetting about it because I’m so happy that it’s there now,” Liberatore said.

Exeter Summer Program Celebrates 100 Year Anniversary

By YUNSEO CHOI
and SAM WEIL
Staff Writers

For every summer since 1919, Phillips Exeter has opened up its campus to over 750 students for the Exeter Summer program, offering a taste of the Academy’s rich education and campus life. This summer marks the 100 year anniversary of the five-week summer program.

According to Director of Summer School Elena Gosalvez-Blanco, the program’s original goal was to help Exonians whose academics were falling behind and who could therefore benefit from extra schooling over the summer breaks, which were often three month gaps in learning during which students forgot much of their studies.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary, Gosalvez, along with seniors and former program participants Gregory Zhu, Anna Clark and Andrew Hong, planned a reunion for April 29.

According to Hong, the event was a chance for students to reconnect. “Most of us aren’t planning any structured activities or formal testimonials for this kind of reunion, but I’m still hoping that this weekend’s event will be a chance for students to grab some food, sit down and reconnect over their shared summer experiences,” Hong said.

Lower David Kim thoroughly enjoyed the reunion. Kim especially liked how the reunion consisted of students poring over photos of themselves and friends at the summer school, enjoying cake and treats to commemorate the anniversary

and reminiscing with one another about their times over the summer. “They spread out pictures of the three years of summer school, and it was really fun finding our friends in the pictures...It was a great relatable moment for us,” he said.

Summer session students typically hail from over 40 states and 50 different countries. Rising 10th-12th graders are placed into the upper school, and the rising 8th-9th graders are placed in Access Exeter.

Students in the upper school can design their own curriculum from over 100 available courses. They are encouraged to take at least one course that employs the Harkness method, however this is not required. The participants take three regular courses and can choose to add in music as their fourth course.

Prep Violet Goldstone realized her aspiration to apply to boarding schools while in seventh grade. At first, Goldstone was worried that Exeter might not be a good fit for her. Goldstone and her family researched Exeter further until they came across Exeter Summer’s Access Exeter—for her, it felt like the perfect way to assess whether she would enjoy attending Exeter. She participated in the program the summer before eighth grade. “I ended up totally loving it, so that’s why I’m here,” she said.

Goldstone’s story is just one of many students around campus who have benefited from Exeter’s summer program.

According to Biology Instructor and Exeter Summer faculty member Christopher Matlack, teachers can experiment

with their curriculum during the summer because the program doesn’t depend on traditional grades. “We piloted an ebook on a classroom set of iPads in advanced biology about 6 years ago,” Matlack said.

The program encouraged many current Exonians to apply to the Academy. It showed them the most compelling aspects of Exeter, including the Harkness-based classes and the facilities.

Lower Fiona Madrid remembers her math instructor from Exeter Summer, current Dean of Multicultural Affairs Sami Atif. “Dr. Atif was one of the best teachers I could have asked for during the summer session,” she said.

Madrid attended Exeter Summer knowing she would return to campus in the fall. Though she explained that Atif’s teaching style was difficult to adjust to, she remembers how she fully experienced the Harkness method. “He would never tell us when we were right. However, [this] also taught us that we had to think for ourselves and always question everything.”

Other students also appreciated the Harkness instruction. Exonians noted that this part of the learning helped better prepare them for Exeter. Kim explained that the primary difference between regular session Exeter and the summer school was how Harkness was taught.

In summer school classes, the students did “no-interrupting games, where you got two pieces of candy and could only speak twice, and the class had to make sure that everyone spoke. It was very systematic in its approach,” Kim said.

In regards to the summer session’s

Harkness teaching method, Blanco saw that the quality of Harkness increases over the summer because students are not graded. “I feel strongly that Harkness is a lot better when there are no grades at stake, because everyone can be more relaxed,” she said. “It really becomes learning for the love of learning.”

Another aspect of Exeter’s summer program that participants enjoyed was students’ diversity. According to Gosalvez, 45 percent of students that attended Exeter’s summer program traveled from a different nation.

Lower Avery Clowes enjoyed making friends during summer school, particularly with students from around the world. “The kids we met spoke very little English, just enough to get in. The social scene was really different with more international kids. It was a fun experience,” Clowes said.

Lower Cristal Reyes was also fascinated by the multicultural group that participated in the program. “I know Exeter has people from everywhere as well, but you were hearing so many different languages being spoken all the time. That was so cool,” she said.

Most Exonians who attended Exeter Summer agreed that the program significantly prepared them to attend Exeter. Kim said that the summer school “instilled that confidence of ‘I kind of know the place.’”

Goldstone shared similar sentiments. “It definitely prepared me—I was a lot more confident coming in than I would have been if I hadn’t come because I felt more familiar with Exeter as a whole,” she said.

The Misappropriation of Cultural Appropriation

Mai Hoang '20

Columnist

Allegations of cultural appropriation resurfaced again on the ever-cathartic platform that is Twitter following the 2018 Costume Institute Gala, which was hosted by New York City's Metropolitan Museum of art. The gala, an annual gathering attended by a pantheon of celebrities, artists and musicians of the highest calibre, never fails to raise upwards of 10 million dollars for the Met. Tickets are priced at around 30 thousand dollars; attendance is selective, and every year the elite group of guests rise to the challenge of creatively interpreting a predetermined theme for their choice of dress.

Unlike what happened during the 2016 Gala, or the infamous Utah school prom that serendipitously transpired just a week earlier, the Met's guests did not show up in risqué décolletage renditions of a cheongsam. Nor did they don Native American headdresses or walk down the red carpet with their hair in cornrows. What attendees Rihanna, Katy Perry, Lena Waithe and many others did, however, was parade the building in a tapestry from the Cloister Museum, Crusades-era chainmail and a diamond-studded papal tiara flown straight to NYC with a security guard.

You guessed it – Met 2018's exhibition was titled "Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination," taking on "religious art" as a fundraising fashion theme.

#MyReligionIsNotYourCostume

What surprised many Catholics, especially those on the more conservative side of the spectrum, was how the Met not only obtained the approval of this theme, but worked in collaboration with the Vatican for this blasphemous, heretical, "sexualising, commodifying and undermining" of the Christian faith. Many took to media to express their anger and scorn, even calling attention to the fact that if it had been another religion like Islam or Buddhism that was used, "everyone would be up in arms."

But unless one assumes that secular bourgeois consumerism in and of itself is a dominant culture that steals and oppresses, these arguments, just as those that framed a girl's prom dress, fast-food burritos and espresso machines as appropriation, entirely

miss the point.

Culture cops have recently expanded their scope of attack to anything from Louis Vuitton's Basotho-inspired scarves to Katy Perry's music video geisha costume, with the firm belief that the brains behind these capitalistic conglomerates stole other people's ingenious designs just to make a profit for themselves. Yet what if before creating these artifacts, they had done research and consulted with peoples whose inventions they drew inspiration from?

Ignorance and malintention sometimes seem to be heedlessly thrust upon well-meaning individuals whose motives we make assumptions about, just by dint of their status; are we unconsciously regressing back to a time when ethnic borders confined members of an in-group to live exclusively by the standards of their own people, and practice customs which they grew up with, held sacred and understood well?

If we do not see this scenario as the ideal way for our world to move forward, then we must contend that some degree of cultural borrowing between different peoples should be a thing to be celebrated. So what, exactly, constitutes a culture crime?

I have had many occasions to ponder upon this question. As unbelievable as this may seem, having been born and raised in a largely homogenous country, I initially could not fathom the concept of cultural appropriation. Exonians would casually drop the term in conversations with conviction and indignance, daring anyone to contradict them, but I did not manage to see what the fuss was about.

Even now, I still do fully understand the controversy surrounding Kenza Daum's cheongsam prom dress; my fellow compatriots and I would be more proud than angry if a foreigner considers our aesthetics inspirational enough to base their designs off of it. What's the difference between me wearing Western business attire and a white person wearing áo dài, except that the later happens less frequently and thus deserves to be promoted even more?

Of course, maybe I have no right to comment about Daum's cheongsam, because how can I possibly understand the Chinese-American's woes when I am simply not Chinese? As far as I know though, many students in mainland China would express the same confusion. "I am very proud to have

our culture recognized by people in other countries," proclaimed a WeChat user by the name of Snail Trail, in a post read by more than 100,000 people. Similarly, Zhou Yijun, a Hong Kong-based cultural commentator, stated in an interview with *The New York Times*, "It's ridiculous to criticize this as cultural appropriation [...] From the perspective of a Chinese person, if a foreign woman wears a qipao and thinks she looks pretty, then why shouldn't she wear it?"

The Cambridge Online Dictionary defines cultural appropriation as "the act of taking or using things from a culture that is not your own, especially without showing that you understand or respect this culture."

Based on this definition, critics of Daum tweeted the fact that this high school senior took the cheongsam out of context, wore it simply because she thought it looked beautiful and wanted to "stand out"; yet conversely, before googling this fact for my op-ed I also had no knowledge of how white men created the first necktie or dress suit in the olden days of Occidental kings, and what it meant to them. (The modern tie owes its design to the Roman focale, exclusively worn by military personnel as a mark of their bravery and loyalty to a certain emperor that they served). No one has accused me of appropriating Western culture as I go about using items invented in this part of the world. Why is my traditional clothing extra cultural while Western clothing is just everyday garment that anyone can wear?

The true definition, usually overlooked, is that cultural appropriation as a concept can only be applied in the context of colonialism, or when there is a clear imbalance of power. Minstrel shows in the context of a slavery-filled world is cultural appropriation. Displaying exotic churidars stolen from the Indian subcontinent by British colonists in the 19th century is cultural appropriation.

Claims that Rihanna "appropriated" the papal tiara are moot because there is no imbalance of power. Pope Francis supported the Met Gala's theme, and the entertainer clearly did not take the item from the church by force.

Claims that an American teenager "appropriated" the cheongsam are utterly ridiculous to the Chinese in China, who view it as a long-awaited sign of mutual cultural exchange between the two countries, after decades of unilateral penetration of mainstream

US-UK's memes into the Chinese psyche.

Only in the US is this situation turned upside down by a heritage of institutional minority oppression. Chinese-Americans have experienced, whether firsthand or through family history, the hardships of



being outsiders in a discriminatory society; white Americans are thus deemed to be the privileged majority that carries on this legacy in all cross-cultural interactions, no matter what their intentions may be.

Yet, I sometimes wonder if this tenacious grip on historical power imbalances in fact obstructs America's progress towards equality. Would it not be more beneficial if minority groups celebrate the people of other races who appreciate their cultural practices enough to adapt them to everyday life, so that one day their ways of life would be seen as normal rather than deviation from the norm?

The Impact of Meat on Climate Change

Shivani Tripathi '20

Guest Contributor

Here's 12 words I want you to live by when it comes to climate change: it's real, it's us, scientists agree, it's bad, we can fix it," Professor of Climatology and Glaciology Cameron Wake said at the annual Climate Action Day Keynote Assembly.

A feeling of apprehension lingered in my mind as I shuffled out of the Assembly Hall. Wake had detailed the disastrous effects of human-induced climate change on our world: ice caps were melting, global temperatures were rising and toxic greenhouse gasses were trapped in the air.

After a day of discussion and workshops, the question still remains: how can the Exeter community feasibly unite on a schoolwide level to combat climate change? It is time we Exonians put our words into substantial action and the easiest way we can do that is by eating less meat.

Studies have shown that the mass production of meat is detrimental to the environment. According to *The Washington Post*, methane produced from the agriculture industry accounts for one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions. 14.5 percent of these emissions come from livestock. This is more than the emissions of every car, train, ship and airplane combined.

Beef is the biggest culprit. According to the World Resources Institute, while pork and poultry constitute only 10 percent of

meat's contributions to greenhouse gas emissions, "beef is extremely inefficient to produce, as cattle consume a huge amount of calories and protein in order to produce a relatively small amount of calories and protein for human consumption." Sheep and



goat are similarly inefficient to beef but the global demand and consumption is far less.

In fact, one-quarter of the Earth's land, excluding Antarctica, is used as pastureland. Methane produced from cattle digestion accounts for half of all agricultural related greenhouse gas emissions. According to the WRI, if cattle were treated as their own na-

tion, "they would rank third behind China and the United States among the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters."

The problem is only getting worse. By 2050, our population will have grown to 9.7 billion. Urbanization and income will have



drastically increased. As a result, demand for animal-based foods will increase by 80 percent and demand for beef will subsequently increase by 95 percent. Earth simply will not be able to handle our overconsumption at these increasing rates.

In light of such dangerous future circumstances, other nations have taken

notice of the harmful effects of meat on the environment. Denmark has proposed placing a tax on red meat while China has implemented dietary guidelines requesting citizens to halve their meat consumption. Such measures are reasonable considering that the average person consumes 68 grams of protein a day, one-third more than what they need. In developed nations, adults consume twice the amount of protein they need. If the two billion people living in developed nations cut their meat consumption by 40 percent, then we would save an area of land two times the size of India. We would also avoid 168 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

As human beings, we must eat sustainably for the welfare of our planet and for our own survival. There may be thousands of recipes and food products, but we have only one planet. Even making small adjustments to one's diet could make a difference. Simply count how many times you eat meat, especially beef, each week. Then, resolve to reduce this amount by two or three meals. There are plenty of tasty and healthy vegetarian options at the dining halls. We can reduce our environmental footprint while still consuming an adequate amount of protein. All Exonians can contribute to this societal endeavor of consuming less meat. More than contributing to this collective goal, we would be embodying the moral values of non sibi that we claim to adhere to. Do we indeed practice what we preach? Will we sacrifice the temporary pleasure of eating a burger for the benefit of humanity or will we further tighten the noose around our Earth?

The Exonian

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Odds against the U.S. in Trade War with China

Jonathan Meng '21

Guest Contributor

You may have recently heard about the mounting tensions between the United States and China. Warnings have been issued (or tweeted), and it seems that both superpowers have hunkered down for a trade war.

The possibility arose in April 2017, when Trump directed the Commerce Department to investigate the effects of foreign steel. Later, he placed levies on Chinese-made solar panels and washing machines, and imposed a 25 percent steel tariff and 10 percent aluminum tariff on China and other nations in February and March of 2018. Another 1,300 products worth about \$46 billion targeting Chinese technology, aerospace, machinery, medical equipment, medicine and educational materials are also being considered for another 25 percent tax.

Overall, Trump has threatened tariffs on about \$150 billion worth of Chinese goods. These actions largely stem from Trump's beliefs that the U.S. is being cheated by China.

In response, China has said that it will enact "corresponding measures of equal scale and strength against U.S. products." This has recently panned out in tariffs on grains, agriculture, food products, vehicles and aircrafts. Sorghum, a grain used for animal feed and brewing alcohol, was specifically targeted with a temporary 179 percent deposit fee due to the likelihood of future anti-dumping levies.

The obvious conclusion here is that the U.S. and China will both be harmed

in any sort of trade conflict. This is due to the incredible economic link between the two countries, with the United States providing lots of money for investment and China creating many commercial products for the USA.

A series of tit-for-tat tariffs would raise import prices, hurt exports, make both countries lose jobs and hurt economic growth. However, even if it is purely theoretical, who would have the stronger hand in a trade war?

At first glance, it appears that the United States has the advantage. Due to a \$337 billion trade deficit between China and the U.S., it would seem that there are many more goods for the U.S. to tax than there is for China. In fact, Chinese exports to the United States account for about 4 percent of the nation's economy. In contrast, the U.S. imports from China are only worth about ⅓'s of a percent.

However, the situation is much more complicated than these statistics actually show. A majority of Chinese imports from the United States are simply agricultural produce and finished products that are made up of mostly American content and sold by U.S. firms. The products that the United States imports from China are often goods that are simply Chinese-assembled, but contain many foreign parts and are even made by American brands.

The fact that they contain many foreign parts means that tariffs may not affect China as harshly as it first appears. In the example of an iPhone X, only around 5 percent of the \$370 manufacturing cost is created in China. With a \$629 markup when it reaches the U.S., the largest portion of the profits go to retailers and Apple, meaning that they will be the ones most affected by levies

on technology. As for the \$26 billion of tariffs threatened on Chinese technology, even if this lowers exports by about one-fourth, that would result in a drop of roughly \$6.5 billion which is only 0.05 percent of the GDP of a country growing at 6.8 percent a year. To the most extreme, a tariff on all Chinese products that caused a total 25 percent drop—in exports to the US, the country would still continue growing at 6.1 percent a year, quite a bearable statistic.

China's counter-tariffs also appear to be much more targeted. With taxes on agriculture from the U.S. heartland such as soybeans—which China purchases about half of—and sorghum, China can leverage the United State's democracy and hurt Trump voters in particular. With midterm elections coming up in November, if the already vulnerable Republicans lose control of Congress, that would certainly restrict Trump's power on attacking China.

Overall, China is in a much more favorable situation than the U.S. It has more power to mitigate economic harms due to its control over the central bank, and has much more control over the state of the renminbi, the deflation of which will make Chinese exports more competitive. China can also compensate industries harmed by a trade war much more effectively than the U.S. and absorb political effects with almost no problem. For all that Donald Trump brags about his negotiating prowess, against a strong and centralized country that can just stall for time, he has almost no chance.

Looking to the future, China and the Trump administration will continue trade negotiations in the coming week as the two days Trump recently spent in China failed to produce a resolution.

Letter from Washington

John Woodward '18

Guest Contributor

Greetings, fellow Exonians,

We, the participants of the Washington Internship Program, write to you under pleasant circumstances. We hope that all of our comrades back on campus are surviving their last academic month before going off for a restful summer break. To all those working on their 333s and facing impending deadlines, we wish you the very best of luck – even to those who plan to scribe the entirety of the paper on the night before it's due.

This week, we had the blessing of going into recess and being able to leave a whole hour earlier than usual from our offices. Some of us used this week to network with a number of congressional staff, while some of us basked in the lazy state of our offices, working on letters and projects at a casual rate. It was a nice break from the faster pace and intensive rigor of the weeks that we are in the session. It was also a great time to meet new people and stay up-to-date on the current politics playing out in the capital.

On Tuesday, we had the honor of meeting Athena Abdulla, an Exeter alumna, who worked in the world of lobbying. She spoke about the stark change in the political climate since she was an intern herself – a time when the divide between Republican and Democrat was considered much more amiable.

Next, we had the great pleasure of discussing the technical world of constitutional interpretation with Allie O'Keefe, another Exeter alumna, who introduced to us the intellectual realm behind the political machine unrestricted to that of congressional offices. The next day, Lawrence Young, Vice President of PAC Programs and former lead campaign fundraiser to many Congressional Democrats, illustrated the complicated yet foundational connection we Exonians all share coming from the Academy, explained the babysitting experience of helping Congressional clients attain their seats and elaborated on his strong support for the come-back of mandatory ties for men.

This Saturday, the group was able to travel to multiple countries at once. We went to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Botswana, Peru, the Philippines and Iraq when we partook in an extremely fun festivity where multiple embassies opened their doors to the public and provided both food and activities for all those interested in their respective nations. We also had a surprise visit from #LovExists and enjoyed a good game of baseball at Nationals Park between the Nationals and the Phillies.

After six official weeks on the Hill, we have been exposed to the instrumental, yet imperfect political machine that drives national policy to our doorsteps. It has also shown us a glimpse of the true heroes of America's government: the staffers, lobbyists and the staunch constituent bases that really represent the real policy-making power of American democracy.

Whether it's doing an internship in D.C., working for a campaign or making those aggressive phone calls that we as interns so greatly love, we encourage all Exonians to apply the non sibi values of our upbringing on a national platform and work towards a future we could all be proud of.

Because, if Washington ever taught us anything, it's that we are the only instruments for true progress, whether it's on a local scale or on an international platform. Whether you're a Democrat, Republican or a self-proclaimed communist, we encourage you all to make Exeter a transcendental experience, one that could impact the world as we know it today.

Again, we wish you all an excellent week ahead and hope the tidings of a beautiful Exeter spring make way to our special campus.

Sincerely,

The WIP Gang and their single Republican

Michelle Wolf and the Republicans

Dennis Kostakoglu Aydin '21

Guest Contributor

On April 28th, Michelle Wolf was the roaster-in-chief at the 2018 White House Correspondents' Dinner. Her performance raised many questions about free speech and its limits in America.

The first half of the speech proved to be relatively normal with plenty of expected jokes being lobbed at Trump and his associates. However, during the performance's second act, Wolf got up close and personal with Sarah Huckabee Sanders. Wolf specifically made a demeaning comment that "I think she's very resourceful, like she burns facts and then she uses that ash to create a perfect smokey eye. Maybe she's born with it, maybe it's lies." She continued and said that Sanders was an "Uncle Tom, but for white women who disappoint other white women."

On the left-hand side of the aisle, Wolf's comments were taken mostly as a slap-in-the-face moment to conservatives à la 2016 Trump. However, on the right-hand side, her comments were mostly seen as unwarranted bullying. The issue with Wolf's comments is not that they were horrible or rude but that these reactions to her speech perfectly illustrate the reasons for the divide in our country right now.

Sarah Sanders and the rest of the conservatives, whose champion achieved the presidency on the back of an "anti-snowflake" wave, now have their feelings

hurt because someone was mean to them. They completely ignore the fact that their President bullies people regularly, both on social media and in person. They forget that their President has made a plethora of racist and misogynist statements. When it suits them, they're "draining the swamp" and "making America great again." But, when someone attacks them, they forget all of these things and portray themselves as angels. Spoiler alert: they are not.

These are the same people who champion sending DACA immigrants back to Mexico years after their arrival. They advocated to rip these immigrants away from lives they've carefully and meticulously constructed as well as their own children in some cases. The conservatives' silence persisted even after Trump's "good people on both sides" speech following the death of an American woman in Charlottesville at the hands of a Neo-Nazi. They can claim that this is bullying, they can say that what happened was an unwarranted attack on their personhood, but ultimately, it's nothing different than what their President does on a daily basis. There isn't an issue here. We can fundamentally defend Wolf by appealing to free speech, but nobody has any justification to say that what Wolf said was any worse than anything that Trump and his associates have said and done for the past year.

However, there is a case to be made against Wolf here. What Wolf said was uncouth and irregular, and some of the jokes were awful and just didn't land. For example, her comments on abortion were just weird and completely out of left field.

She mentioned that "[Pence] thinks abortion is murder which, first of all, don't knock it 'till you try it — and when you do try it, really knock it. You know, you've got to get that baby out of there." We understand that Pence is anti-LGBT— he supported the use of federal funds to treat people "seeking to change their sexual behavior"— but the whole point of the evening was to make humor from the politicians' actions that year. It was supposed to be funny. Jokes about abortion? Not really. Also, why did she feel compelled to attack Pence's pro-life stance? The man is a walking joke. Wolf had so much humor to pick from, and if she wanted to scrape the bottom of the bucket, she might as well have made fun of the fact that Pence calls his wife "mother."

Wolf's jokes were sometimes unfunny, or didn't land or were just plain weird. So, if anyone is going to defend her speech, we have to take into account that some of the things she said were just too outlandish or were too sensitive to make fun of in such turbulent and partisan times as these.

While Wolf may have completely ignored the line between funny and rude, her roasts were well-deserved and were commensurately insulting to an administration that has done less for this country than any other in modern American history. The conservatives in the room had it coming. However, we have to remember that the Correspondents' Dinner is just a way for the press and the administration to laugh at each other. Every person in that room understood this fact, even Michelle Wolf.

Iran Deal: Trump's Promise Fulfilled

Jordan Davidson '19

Senior Columnist

On Tuesday, Donald Trump committed a disastrous foreign policy mistake when he announced that he would be pulling out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, known commonly as the Iran deal, which was implemented by former President Obama.

The deal's purpose was to stop Iran from developing their nuclear technology by limiting the amount of Plutonium and Uranium, two elements used to make atomic bombs, that Iran can possess. Additionally, the deal stipulated that Iran would be forced to comply with inspections administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure that they adhere to the agreement.

Though Obama received significant support for the Iran deal, it was opposed by many due to the fact that it allowed Iran to restart their nuclear program 15 years after the signing of the deal and thus was seen as a purely temporary solution. Nonetheless, numerous reports written by the International Atomic Energy Agency have concluded that Iran has been complying with the terms of

the deal.

But now our President calls the deal "defective at its core" and has failed to recognize that dismantling the deal will strain our relationship with our Western allies, which could lead to severe consequences in the future. Furthermore, Trump has not provided any solution for inhibiting Iran's nuclear development program, following the all too familiar story of Republicans getting rid of policies before they have a proper replacement. This is just another poorly thought-out decision made on behalf of Trump that is not intended to improve our world but to keep true to his campaign promises.

Even if the Iran deal has been unsuccessful, Trump's decision to scrap it makes no sense if he cannot provide a viable alternative. Iran has just been afforded more than enough time to restart their nuclear program because of Trump's lack of an alternative. It was a struggle for Obama to pass his deal even after he had presented it. If Trump were to unveil a new plan tomorrow, it would still take a significant amount of time for Congress to review and vote. If Trump had proposed a solution to the problem before he had thrown out the current deal, we would at least have legislation that was

well-considered by our government and ready to be passed.

The effects of Trump's decision stretch beyond the borders of Iran. Their nuclear program instilled fear in European nations and Obama's deal relieved that stress for many countries. Additionally, the deal improved relationships with our European allies. When French President Emmanuel Macron heard Trump's announcement that he would be making a decision on the Iran deal, he travelled to the United States to try and talk Trump out of scrapping the agreement. Macron failed in his attempt, which has inherently damaged our relations with France. We cannot make all of our decisions based on pleasing our allies, but they should factor into the equation, especially when Trump has not presented European countries with another solution. With global tensions in Syria and Russia rising, we need our allies to have our back.

Trump has been trying to gain popularity by making himself seem like a better leader than Obama. Obama struggled to meet many of his campaign promises, so Trump is consciously striving to make a lot of noise whenever he achieves something that he promised to his voters, no matter the cost of fulfilling that promise.

Want to have your voice heard?

Submit a piece to the Opinions section of *The Exonian!*

Contact exonian@gmail.com

Send Letters to the Editor to the same address.

GOOD NEWS



Thanks to your families,
The Exeter Fund had
a successful day of
parent giving.

P.S.

You'll want to be at Assembly
on Friday to hear the
campaign results and

celebrate

with a build-your-own ice
cream bar.



ExonianHumor



Have You Been Feeling Stressed Lately?

By BELLA ILCHENKO
Secretly Stressed

Here are some tips on dealing with stress and workload that I have collected through my years at this established academy:

1. Highlight important terms in your rented Amazon textbook—Not a lot of people know this, but highlighting key terms actually helps you remember them better. An added bonus is the joy you gift the next person that rents the book when they open it and realize they can read only the highlight and still pass the class (non-sibi)!
2. Positive reinforcement—Each time you get a practice question right, take a break, play some spikeball on the quad, tan for an hour, compete at C Ball. You deserve it.
3. Piously push preps—Not only did I just use a literary device called alliteration, but I also provided you with a great method of increasing your self-confidence prior to an exam.
4. Eat desserts—Stressed is desserts spelled backwards. Need I say more?
5. Use a stress ball—I'm not sure how you use them exactly, but when I tried biting mine I felt better.
6. Hit the gym—Or, better yet, hit the thing that is causing you stress.
7. Tea—According to a clinical study conducted by the Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine in Japan, "tea consumption was inversely associated with psychological distress even after adjustment for possible confounding factors." So when your friends all gather on Friday night, be sure to listen and consume all of the juicy gossip.

333 Woes: An Almost Haiku

By ABBY ZHANG
Not a Poet and She Knows It

Why was "first half" eight weeks long?

The last time I checked,

A "half" was, you know, a half.

I have just been told,

"A haiku is five-seven-five."

I think I'll stick to crosswords.

TFW Your Dorm Showers are Still Stained Blue From Holi

By THE HUMOR EDITORS
At Least the Pictures Were Nice



Submit to the Humor Page!

Email exonianhumor@gmail.com.

From all of us at the Humor Page, good luck on your APs! We believe in you.

Interim Principal Candidate Statement: Abby Zhang

By ABBY ZHANG
Hopes to "Do Her Best"

First of all, I am incredibly qualified for the position of interim principal. I graduated from prep fall in 2015, after having passed five whole classes out of six (health—we've all been there).

You may know me from my many involvements in the PEA community. I am unafraid to make my voice heard. As a committee head, I attend Student Council meetings almost every month and can always be heard heckling speakers from the back.

In addition, as someone who constantly (and I heavily emphasize the word constantly) frequents the fine institution of Stillwells Riverwalk Ice Cream, I am well connected with the greater Exeter vicinity (but

only within the ten mile radius, of course).

You have probably seen me.

If selected as interim principal, I vow to read the entire Deed of Gift not only at opening assembly, but at every single assembly moving forward. Assembly checks will indeed be enforced.

I will be working to improve the sexual climate on campus and am extremely qualified to do so. For example, recently, I have been spotted in the basement of the library giving dirty looks to youngsters, thereby deterring them from engaging in intimate conduct.

I will also propose modifying the

current new visitations policy to include a requirement for all students who partake in visitations to wear heart monitors at all times. If heart rates are measured to be over 80 beats per minute, the students involved will be prohibited from ever visiting another dormitory in the future.

As interim principal, I would also institute a policy that allows individuals to speak only when holding a rock. I, of course, will carry a basket of rocks around with me at all times. I plan on handing out the aforementioned rocks to students and adults in the community alike. I am confident that this will fill our campus with important discussions about various vague topics.

Ancient Roman Culture Thrives as the Exeter Community Unknowingly Celebrates Floralia

By FI MADRID
Dutiful Classics Scholar

Floralia! This truly wonderful time, stretching from April 28 to May 3, celebrates Flora, the goddess of spring. Floralia is unlike any other Roman holiday in that it is known for its promiscuous nature because, among Flora's fields of governance, she also controlled fertility. This prompted the ancient Romans to wear colorful clothes instead of their traditional, white togas. Roman prostitutes would perform naked in the theater, and all those known for their ~loose~ nature were for once acknowledged during the Floralia celebrations. Citizens would also throw chickpeas at circus performers as a "fun" form of encouragement.

With spring finally hitting Exeter, I have noticed a suspicious trend of many hidden Floralia customs happening in our own com-

munity. On the first day of Floralia, a young Fac Brat threw a cracker my dear friend's head upon looking him directly in his eyes, much like how Roman citizens pelted performers with chickpeas. Yes, I admit crackers are not chickpeas; however, Exonians performing the day-to-day ritual of masking their pain while enduring numbing amounts of stress is a brilliant circus performance in itself.

Another inexplicable tie to ancient Roman prostitutes dancing in the theater took place just outside The Grill on the night of the hip hop showcase (also the first day of Floralia). Tommy Kim, Raymond Alvarez-Adorno, yours truly, and many more beautiful Exonians did the floss dance for all those passing by. Flossing, in case you didn't know, is a dance

in which your hips act as floss by swinging in between your arms which symbolize two teeth. This creates a side-to-side, thrust-like movement. If flossing isn't the most promiscuous dance you can think of, I don't know what is.

Lastly, with the warm weather Flora has brought us, Exeter has become a much more colorful campus. Gone are the traditionally colorless aesthetics of winter term. Vibrantly clashing Vineyard Vines outfits and salmon shorts reign supreme!

So for those of you who groan every time a nearby Latin scholar says, "Salve," keep these curious parallels between Ancient Rome and Exeter in mind. If you ask me, it seems that we are connected to this "dead" culture after all.

An Ode to Spring Term

By MAEGAN PAUL
Likes Sunshine

Ah, yes. This is Spring Term™. This is what upperclassmen have been looking forward to since the dark days of winter and that odd two-week period of school between the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks.

After lies from the groundhog that winter would end in the middle of March, it seems like it will actually stay warm this time. Those who were once reclusive

can now be seen out, about, and happy for once.

During GH you may even see some seniors who have decided to enjoy the sunlight on the quad, where small faculty children run wild. If you're out on the North Side at the right time, you may even get to see the blonde girl on a red ripstick.

Beware, though, of the dangers of spring term. Sunburn is bad

enough, but I'm talking about another grueling challenge: outdoor Harkness tables. Fights ensue, and friendships are broken for the coveted class in the sun.

If you can't get to a table, there is a slight chance that there will be space on the grass near Weth, but that's never guaranteed. Isn't spring term just wonderful?

Quotes of the Week

"If I get another frickfrack email about prom or tuxedos or flowers, I will smash Ms. Jobarteh's laptop myself."
-Anna Fahey '20

"Why is Spongebob always shown mopping if he himself is a cleaning agent?"
-Abby Zhang '19

"I'm so wow."
-Thomas Wang '20

"I remember coming back from Island School and walking into math class and thinking that everyone was so pale and sad."
-Ruby Bagwyn '19

"We're not pals yet but we make facial expressions at each other that show our feelings!"
-Lauren Leatham '19

STRKS (Snap Us)
@aharry01
@abbyz_hang
@lizzy127345



Students celebrate Holi, the Hindu festival of colors, on the Wetherell quad.

Avery Napier/The Exonian

EXETER CELEBRATES FESTIVAL OF COLORS

By **GENESIS REYES** and
NIKITA THUMMALA
Staff Writers

Students clad in white stormed the Wetherell Quad in anticipation for the annual Holi celebration hosted by Hindu Society. As music boomed from speakers, students gathered fistfuls of colored powder and threw it at friends and peers, while others used water guns to spray those around them.

“Holi is the Hindu festival of colors, and it’s a celebration of spring and a celebration of good over evil,” said head of Hindu Society senior Eesha Shah. Traditionally, Holi takes place during the month of March. However, due to the local weather, Exeter hosts it during May. The celebration, which represents the triumph of good over evil in Hinduism, has been a long-standing tradition in India. Bringing the event to the Exeter campus allows Exonians to gain an insight into the customs of Indian culture.

“We usually set the date as soon as possible, either at the end of the previous year or right at the beginning of the school year,” said Shah. She worked with

Religious Services Staff Assistant Alexis Simpson to order the color powders and water guns used in the event. Shah mentioned that most of the set up takes place directly before the event, such as filling buckets with water, setting the tables with the powders and fixing up the stereos. As the event unfolded, students enjoyed the colors, listening to Bollywood songs and eating mango kulfi, an Indian ice cream. The event’s vibrance truly brought out the ideas and the joy that the traditional festival represents.

Though the Holi festival is a Hindu celebration, the event was focused on providing a space and time for students from all religious identities to come together and have fun. “I think to a certain extent the idea of Holi is good over evil, and that could mean just to break in the normal school day or just for a little bit of fun,” Shah said.

Shah further explained that the happiness that accompanies the festival ties into its purpose of celebrating spring.

Senior Layne Erickson thought that Holi fulfilled this purpose. “I’ve always felt like Holi really brings us together as a community because it’s a celebration of the joy and beauty we experience in life,”

she said.

Students who attended the event loved being able to spend time with their friends and fellow community members. “I loved that I was surrounded by all my friends and that everyone was just so happy to be there,” prep Annie Smalls said. Her enthusiasm was shared by Erickson. “Part of the fun of it is the competition of who can simultaneously get the most colorful while also getting everyone else as dirty as possible,” she said.

Despite the rainy weather, students were still able to enjoy the vibrant colors. In fact, students were so excited to splash each other with water that when some could not reach the buckets on the path, they took it upon themselves to extract the rain water that had formed puddles in the grass.

“Although the weather wasn’t ideal on Sunday, Holi was a very fun experience, and I’m glad that it’s an event that we do every year,” said lower Helen Xiu.

“Even though it was drizzling this year, I feel as though that gave our celebration a more exciting and spontaneous energy,” upper Katie Yang said.

When reflecting on the festival, Xiu also wanted to have more cultural context

and suggested that it could be added to the event in the future. “A speaker that talks about the history of Holi before the festivities begin would be amazing,” she said.

Nonetheless, everyone who attended Holi admired how much effort was put into making it as successful as it was. “We really appreciate how Exeter’s [Hindu] Society is willing to share their celebration with us each year, while also being flexible with New England’s weather so that all Exonians can enjoy it,” Yang said.

Reverend Heidi Heath agreed, saying that “Holi is one of my favorite things we do in Religious Services all year. It brings together four of my favorite things: religious practice, cultural immersion, joy and play! I’m so grateful to the Hindu Society, especially Eesha Shah, and Ms. Simpson on our team for all of their work to help make it happen.”

Once again, Holi was a remarkable success this year, bringing Exonians across campus together to celebrate spring and enjoy each others’ company. “If anyone hasn’t been to Holi yet I would absolutely urge everyone to go next year if they can. Holi will always be one of the best and most memorable parts of my Exeter experience,” Erickson said.

A SINGULAR EVENING WITH ERIC SINCLAIR

By **CANDY TANTICHIRASAKUL** and **SHIVANI TRIPATHI**
Staff Writers

After nearly forty years of instructing and performing at the Academy, Guitar Instructor Eric Sinclair continues to entertain audiences with original songs and stories. This past Tuesday evening, Sinclair hosted PEA’s first solo faculty concert in The Bowl. His performance, titled “Six Strings, Ten Fingers, and One Voice with Words (Vol. 5),” showcased Sinclair’s skills as an acoustic guitarist, singer and songwriter. As always, Sinclair’s stage presence and interaction with the listeners made for an invigorating evening, garnering glowing reviews from audience members.

Though the performance was officially his first in The Bowl, Sinclair is no stranger to performing in front of an audience at PEA. He began performing his “Six Strings” recitals in 2003 as a way to share his love of music. The inspiration for this performance, the fifth volume, arose from the fact that Sinclair had not done a faculty recital since 2011. Having written several new songs, including some new ideas for sing-alongs, he decided it was time “to put them before a live audience.”

Sinclair realized his passion for music at a young age. After learning to play the drums, he taught himself to play guitar “because it was a much better instrument to write songs and sing with.”

Shortly after his graduation from the University of New Hampshire in 1975 with a bachelor’s degree in music education, Sinclair became a classroom music teacher and fifth grade choral director at Lincoln Street Elementary School in Exeter before joining the PEA Music Department four years later.

Approaching his fortieth year at PEA, Sinclair has taught guitar lessons to well over a thousand Exonians during his tenure. In addition to being a musician and teacher, Sinclair has authored his own musical method book called “Exercises and Tunes” to help his students enhance their musical abilities. His teaching technique involves familiarizing students with the historical context of each piece they choose to learn, placing students in the shoes of the composer.

Students recognize Sinclair for his pleas-

ant disposition, passion for music and unconventional method of teaching. Prep Audrey Yin learned about Sinclair when he was the subject of two projects created by fellow students from her filmmaking class. Intrigued by Sinclair’s passion for music, Yin attended “Six Strings,” and was struck by how personal the performance was. “He made the audience part of the performance,” Yin said. “What surprised me were the stories in his songs. As he was performing, I could picture all the memories he was singing about.”

Students look forward to Sinclair’s lessons and learn much from each session. “[I] learned everything I know about guitar from him,” said senior Nader Baber. He appreciated “just how close to [Sinclair’s] heart” the performance was. “It was really true to Mr. Sinclair as a person and how much emotion goes into guitar from him.”

Baber also enjoyed the mix of new and old music. “The last piece [“There are Songs to Be Sung”] was my personal favorite as a classic from holiday assembly and something Mr. Sinclair has taught me how to play,” he said.

Over the years, Sinclair’s sing-alongs have been particularly popular, including his famous “Pothole!” piece, among others. “I came to the concert because I was familiar with Sinclair from his performances at the Holiday Assemblies and from my choir performance with him this year at Climate Action Day,” said lower Jack Liu.

Though she is not one of Sinclair’s students, Liu attended the performance and was impressed by Sinclair’s talent and originality. “The lyrics were fun and witty, and I liked the jazzy chord progression he had going on... He is a great lyricist with a knack for both language and storytelling.”

After so many years of teaching and performing, Sinclair has learned “that good music doesn’t get old.” While a certain song or artist may be around for many years, music is “brand new” to a student who hears it for the first time. “That discovery—be it in a music lesson or in a concert—can open doors for the student to a whole new world of music and artists,” Sinclair said.

Bancroft Bash

By **SHIVANI TRIPATHI** and **SAMANTHA WEIL**
Staff Writers

Plastic flamingos staked on the Bancroft Hall lawn greeted students at Bancroft Bash on Saturday, May 5. Bright, multicolored lights flashed as the students began dancing to popular songs. After a rainy week, students were able to unwind at the outdoor dance, catching up with friends and enjoying the fresh air.

Old and recently appointed Bancroft proctors planned the dance. “The proctors of the dorm are really in charge of setting the theme of the dance, so I did my best to make sure they got support,” Assistant Director of Student Activities Kelly McGahie said.

McGahie noted that the Bancroft proctors, new and old, took the initiative to set up the dance. “We had some issues by some of the food from dining hall, but instead of being upset, they were willing to work with myself and the catering manager to resolve that issue,” she said. “I have to give them a lot of credit for getting it ready and being flexible and looking forward to having a good time.”

According to upper and recently appointed proctor Sarah Liberatore, the outdoor setting distinguished it from other dances. “Banc Bash being outside is pretty unique, and other dances don’t do that,” she said. “So I think it’s a cool opportunity to be outside in the nice weather and have fun and play music.”

Lower Jasper Yu enjoyed the dance, especially because of the nice weather. “I like the idea of an outdoor dance. It’s a great way to welcome the spring and the coming of nicer weather.”

Senior Claire Melvin noted that the outdoor setting allowed the wind to cool people down. “There was ventilation because it was outside,” she said. “It was sweaty because we were dancing hard, but you could just walk two feet away, and then there was a good breeze.”

This year’s dance was the first time in a couple years that it was truly held outside. Last year, the Banc Bash was held inside the Agora because of downpouring rain.

Liberatore commented that she felt the

dance was significantly better because of this. “I personally thought that it went better this year than in past years, and two years ago the speakers were inside because it was kind of raining.”

Although the dance started off slowly, Melvin noted that the dance gained momentum and became livelier throughout the night. “With dances like that, they always start off slowly, so you just have to stick with it,” she said. “After about thirty minutes, people finally started showing up. And I found a good group of people to dance with.”

Senior Alexis Lee shared these sentiments. “It’s really fun when you can go in a circle [of dancing people] and have a nice time there,” she said. “I stayed for the whole thing once I got there.”

The overall mood of the dance felt spring-oriented, according to the attendees. Lower Meili Gupta enjoyed the theme of the songs that the DJ played. “The DJ played songs that were the right mood for an outdoor lighter spring dance,” she said.

For exhausted dancers needing breaks, a well-planned snack table provided spring-themed food options, ranging from Exeter bars to brownies. Students appreciated the baked goods and fruit. “I really liked the food; the fruit and raspberries and dessert were a good touch,” Gupta said.

Upper Chim Tasie-Amadi enjoyed the food selection for the most part. “I also enjoyed the Exeter bars, although the brownies needed some work,” he said. “And there was fruit, which was healthy, so that’s always a plus.”

The decorations of the dance piqued the interest of many; lower Natalia Rivera liked the trademark Bancroft flamingos that were strewn about the lawn. “It really went with the theme of the dance,” she said.

Rivera also enjoyed the light projections that added a pop of color to the scene. She said, “I especially liked the cool colors that they projected onto the outsides of the dorms. That was really unique to Banc Bash.”

SeniorSpotlight

JAMIE CASSIDY

By MAI HOANG and
LOUIS MUKAMA
Staff Writers



Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

According to senior Taylor Walshe, if you were told to find someone at Exeter with an insane amount of energy, athleticism, jaw-dropping good looks and flirtatious charm, senior Jamie Cassidy would truly be the only candidate. Fondly described by his friends and water polo coach as “the barking grinder,” Cassidy has brought an intense passion and work ethic to everything he does on campus, including water polo, *The Exonian* and proctoring in Wentworth Hall.

Cassidy was first introduced to the Academy through water polo. When Cassidy was a freshman at Greenwich High School, Exeter attended the Cardinal Cup Tournament, at which Coach Don Mills approached Cassidy and complimented him on a great game. The rest was history—Mills recruited Cassidy for the water polo team and became his adviser in Wentworth Hall. The freshman from Greenwich High entered as a prep at Phillips Exeter Academy.

His prep year, Cassidy dove right into the pool on the boys’ varsity water polo team. Senior Harry Saunders remembered, “[Jamie] was probably the most talented prep in water polo.” Saunders also commended Cassidy’s fiery leadership skills and ability to get other team members pumped up for any game.

Mills reminisced about Cassidy’s upper year water polo season in fall 2016. “Somehow we kept winning games...Our true test came when a senior-led Choate team came to our pool; they were an imposing group on the deck,” he said. “Our team went into the water with a level of intensity that I had not seen that year, led by the barking Jamie Cassidy. They shocked Choate and ripped that game away from them.”

Senior Jackson Parrell, co-captain of water polo and fellow proctor of Wentworth Hall, commented, “I love the kid to death. [He’s] probably one of my closest friends here.”

He proceeded to describe Cassidy as “the hype beast of Phillips Exeter Academy and of Wentworth Hall,” who can get anyone riled up over anything. “He has such a strong passion for everything he does because [he has] such a big heart that he can just inspire this sense of enthusiasm with anyone he’s with,” Parrell said. “Jamie really helps the community because he brings everyone together to a common goal.”

When asked about the captain who had welcomed him to water polo, lower Yulian Ye said, “Even as early as preseason, I automatically felt I was part of the team even though I had only just met these boys, and that was largely due to Jamie.”

Prep Aidan O’Brien also experienced Cassidy’s passionate leadership when he joined the varsity water polo team. “Even though I was new and not very good, he worked to make me better in a fun manner, nurturing my love for the game.”

Cassidy is not only passionate about things he thrives at; he has made it a personal motto to try out new things at Exeter and stick with them. On the swimming team, he started on JV his prep year and, by the end of his senior season, ended as “the Varsity MVP,” in the words of fellow team member Walshe.

“Honestly, he wasn’t that good, so I didn’t expect him to come out,” Mills said. However, Cassidy soon proved to his coach that he wasn’t going to be a joke; he was ranked 106th in the breaststroke his upper year then finished sixth place at New England’s his senior year. In addition, he earned an All-American in the Medley Relay this winter. The team finished second at New England’s, and Exeter swimmers had the highest number of personal records.

Cassidy brought a similar attitude of camaraderie and excitement to the swim team. “In the water, I’m so thankful that Jamie is on my team. He truly brings out the best in people,” Walshe said.

Heeding his father’s suggestion, Cassidy also involved himself in Exeter’s Classics Department since his prep year, despite

lacking prior exposure to Latin or Greek. He did not have an easy time. “It was absolutely brutal,” Cassidy admitted. “My adviser kept asking if I was ready to quit after every term prep year, because it really took a toll on me. He called my dad and told me I was going to struggle, but I kept on doing it.” Cassidy is a firm believer of not quitting in the face of obstacles.

This spring, the senior will be graduating with a Classics Diploma. “In a way it was a humbling experience, and that is something I am always going to be grateful for because I know I earned something very important to me,” he said. “The perspective that comes from learning a language like that is beautiful,” Cassidy said, “especially one that has profoundly influenced Western rhetorics for the past 2,000 years.”

What Cassidy will miss most about Exeter after graduating is memories of his friends, especially those in Wentworth Hall. “It taught me how to grow up and take responsibility of my own actions. I will forever be indebted to that dorm,” he said of his time in Wentworth. His advice for younger students is to cherish all the moments they have growing up with friends their age; Cassidy can never forget the moments spent “playing Manhunt in the Academy building or in Fisher theatre on a Saturday night” with his dorm mates.

Senior Brian Zhao, a fellow proctor in Wentworth, said, “Our rooms are across the hall from each other, so we tend to hang out late at night and ‘bool’ as we call it.” Zhao said he will miss those moments, as well as early-morning conversations in Elm. “Jamie has grown an incalculable amount

during his time at Exeter,” Zhao said. “He has developed strong relationships with all of the students in the dorm, and I wouldn’t want to have anyone else to take on the duties of proctoring the second floor in Wentworth.”

Also a great writer, Cassidy became involved with *The Exonian* during his prep year and became one of three news editors for the 139th Editorial Board.

Former Editor-in-Chief Emily Pelliccia commented on Cassidy’s spirit in the newsroom. “Even when we were having a hard time with the paper, he danced around and made everything seem light-hearted. I’ve never been on a sports team, and he made *The Exonian* feel like one,” she said. Though at first, Pelliccia and Cassidy “did not see eye-to-eye,” she quickly realized how valuable of a member Cassidy was on the upper board.

“The reason I chose to write for *The Exonian* was because I wanted to see some tangible, physical change that I could have in the community,” he said, mentioning the newspaper’s coverage of race and sexual misconduct during his tenure as a news editor.

In the newsroom, Cassidy was known for his infamous quotes and headlines. Senior Willa Canfield, former Director of Writing, said of Cassidy, “His endless lexicon of ‘Jamie Cassidy sayings,’ his jubilant crowing over a good headline, his glee over an especially good issue helped make us all feel like we were part of something exciting.” Some of the most memorable phrases include “No pressure, no diamonds” and “If you can’t stand the kitchen get out of the heat.”

What Canfield will remember most about Cassidy is his integrity. “He has a strong sense of his own moral compass and yet is simultaneously willing to adjust what he believes in with humility,” she said. “Though he had disagreements with us in the newsroom sometimes, he approached every conversation ready to stick to his guns but also to listen, to change his mind...He has given so much to Exeter—to the guys in his dorm, to his teams, to all of us.”

Parrell agrees; he sees Cassidy as a very genuine person, saying “You know that he will tell everything to you straight and he will make you better.”

His genuinity cemented Walshe and Cassidy as best friends. “I’d take a bullet for [Cassidy] because I know he’d do the same for me. He’s a stud. I love him more than I love my girlfriend,” Walshe said.

ALBUM REVIEW: “BEARBONGS AND BENTLEYS”

By ZANE ICE
Contributing Writer

Post Malone is one of the most compelling artists to emerge from the rap world in the past few years. His unlikely rise to musical stardom began in a heavy metal band, citing Bob Dylan as a larger influence than any hip-hop artist at the beginning of his career.

After his breakout debut in 2015 with melodic trap single “White Iverson,” Malone was launched into the public eye and received a broad spectrum of reactions. Some praised his powerful vocals and sleek production, while others criticized his simple songwriting and apparent lack of originality. With the release of his debut album, “Stoney,” he settled into his signature sound: a blend of hip-hop, R&B and singer-songwriter music with a slight country twang. He released spacey, drugged-out music with luscious melodies and a dreamy atmosphere while lacking urgency.

In the time between “Stoney” and his new album, “Beerbongs & Bentleys,” Malone’s relationship with the larger world of hip-hop has been turbulent at best, with controversy aplenty at every step of his days in the public light. He has been regularly dismissed as a “culture vulture,” freely taking a hip-hop aesthetic to make his rock-influenced music more relevant to a mainstream audience without paying due respect to either culture.

These criticisms were further corroborated by various interviews; for instance, in one particularly infamous interview, Malone claimed that people shouldn’t listen to hip-hop if they want to “think about life.” He also insisted that he was not a rapper, but instead, an artist. And of course, perhaps most famously in his smash hit single, “Rockstar,” he often refers to himself as a rock star, comparing himself to Jim Morrison as opposed to a more conventional hip-hop icon like Tupac.

However, Malone is no longer an underdog in hip-hop. The aforementioned

“Rockstar,” which stayed at #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 for eight consecutive weeks, was certified five-times platinum by the RIAA.

The song’s production, with gloomy synths and booming 808 drum machines, is an excellent take on the dominant trap sound. The chemistry between Malone’s catchy hooks and 21 Savage’s cocky delivery helped the track stand out in a currently oversaturated market. “Rockstar,” along with companion single “Pyscho,” was arguably 2017’s biggest force in hip-hop. So, when Malone released “Beerbongs and Bentleys,” he no longer had to worry about what the established hip-hop community thought of him and his style; he was the new hip-hop.

Despite controversy, his nonchalant attitude towards genres and his apparent lack of respect for hip-hop icons, all eyes in hip-hop and popular music were fixated on him. Malone further proved himself with the aftermath of the album’s release, which completely shattered streaming records previously held by Drake. Like it or not, Malone’s music is not only influenced by hip-hop, it is in an integral part of what hip-hop is in 2018.

In “Beerbongs and Bentleys,” Malone does not make many changes to his signature style. Instead, he takes the key qualities of his music and turns them up to eleven. The sleek, dreamy production is now more grand and complex, with each song changing up the sonic landscape. Like “Rockstar,” many of the album’s tracks follow the ubiquitous trap formula.

However, Malone tends to incorporate a more melodic, raw vocal performance than most of his contemporaries do. Rather than the auto-tuned sound of many trap artists, Malone takes inspiration from more pop and country tinged vocal stylings. For the most part, Malone’s vocal performances are the biggest strength of the album’s tracks. Occasionally, the hooks can feel bland and repeti-

tive, but he typically makes up for it with many rich vocal melodies.

Malone takes the multi-genre approach of his first project and amplifies it on “Beerbongs and Bentleys,” creating moments that are far more genre-defined. “Stay” employs a folk-esque acoustic guitar, while “Blame It On Me” and “Over Now” are grungy rock-rap tunes. On the other hand, on songs like “Same B*tches,” featuring G-Eazy and YG, and “Takin’ Shots,” Malone adopts a more traditional rapping style, using grittier flows. The lyrics are also brought up a notch, with Malone telling grand tales of hedonism, drinking and drugs.

The biggest drawback of “Beerbongs and Bentleys” is its sameness. Although Malone changes up genres and rapping styles, the album’s production and songwriting still retain a sense of painful uniformity. Despite the catchy trap production and anthemic hooks, which will definitely be making waves at clubs and parties, listening to the album as a whole is excruciatingly difficult due to the constant repetition of sonic motifs throughout the tracklisting.

That being said, the highlights of “Beerbongs and Bentleys” are still some of Malone’s strongest material to date. Opening track “Paranoid” has one of the strongest hooks on the album. “Rich and Sad”

and “Zack and Codeine” feature light and airy vocal melodies paired with sleeker production. The former, specifically, finds Malone stripping back his ego. Another highlight is the single “Psycho,” which combines guitar melodies exceptionally well with an 808 bassline. “Jonestown (Interlude)” takes a much darker path in terms of production and songwriting, with Malone crooning over dark, pulsing synths. Contrastingly, the album’s final stretch features some of its most upbeat and celebratory songs. “92 Explorer” is driven by a percussion-heavy beat and a poppy chorus, while closing track “Sugar Wraith” features layered melodies that culminate in an epic climax.

Post Malone’s sound has improved greatly on “Beerbongs and Bentleys,” but I still would have liked to see more variation between tracks. His eclectic sound is drawn from many influences, but apart from a few tracks, I felt that his genre-mixing resulted in a bland melting pot of half-baked ideas rather than a distinctive and inventive piece of art.

Even so, the record’s blandest moments are still improvements, and pretty much every single track contains at least a catchy melody of some sort to make it bearable. The highs are high, the lows are mediocre and Post Malone is not going anywhere soon.

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FacultySpotlight

THOMAS RAMSEY

By ANNE BRANDES and
SHIVANI TRIPATHI
Staff Writers

On a typical Friday evening, one can stop by Phillips Church and find religion instructor Thomas Ramsey participating in the weekly Buddhist meditation group. With his wide breadth of knowledge and compassionate demeanor, Ramsey has impacted the lives of many in the Exeter community.

Ramsey grew up in Baltimore, Maryland prior to attending Hamilton College in upstate New York. He originally planned to pursue American history until he took a Bible course in college. "Although I grew up going to church, I didn't really know about the Bible," he said. "In college, I took a Bible course because I wanted to understand the subject matter."

Carrying this spark of passion to Yale Divinity School, Ramsey focused on biblical studies, religion and the arts, and American religious history. Afterwards, he taught at Trinity College for 18 years.

First coming to Exeter to substitute for a teacher on sabbatical, he assumed a permanent teaching position in 1998. He cited the Harkness pedagogy as a factor that drew him towards the school. "When I taught at Trinity, I always liked sitting at the table with students and running discussions," he said. "When I heard about Harkness at Exeter, it seemed like a perfect fit." The idea of being affiliated with a dormitory also appealed to Ramsey.

Ramsey teaches several religion courses at Exeter, ranging from the study of different religions and their social contexts to ethics and philosophy. By the time students complete a course, Ramsey aims to teach them to reflect on the meaning, purpose and value of their lives. "I hope they have some sense that religion and philosophy



Paula Perez-Glassner/The Exonian

and ethics are fascinating and that it's fun to study them," he said. He also hopes "that they have some connection to the questions that are asked in both religion and philosophy [and] that they can find some personal relationship to those questions."

Senior Tess Aalto, who took Ramsey's Zen Buddhism class, appreciated how inclusive the classroom environment was. "Mr. Ramsey is very genuine and thoughtful," she said. "He created an environment in the classroom where students with different backgrounds could still approach the subject matter and made Zen Buddhism accessible to everyone."

Religion Instructor Peter Vorkink shared similar sentiments, describing Ramsey as deeply empathetic. "As a classicist as well as a classically-trained religion teacher, he has brought a voice of care and compassion to the many students enrolled in the Religion Department courses he has taught over the years," he said. "His interests are wide, and he has taught both

introductory as well as advanced courses in the department."

Senior Chi-Chi Ikpeazu, a student in Ramsey's New Testament class, said that the class was thorough but not overly difficult. "Mr. Ramsey taught us by providing a good background and thorough context for what we needed to learn," Ikpeazu said. "He's very kind and open-minded."

Most other high schools don't have a department specifically dedicated to religion. However, Ramsey views religion as a critical subject, as it unifies all aspects of a student's academic life. "Studying religion and philosophy can help students to integrate all of the things they're learning in school and to understand connections between them and to consider why they're studying what they're doing," he said. "It helps students to build bridges between the different areas of their lives."

Ramsey also advises a number of clubs and student organizations on campus. In addition to being a part of the Adult Bud-

dhist Meditation Group, he advises Ethics Forum, which competes on a national level, Philosophy Club and the ESSO club Big Sib Little Sib.

Some of Ramsey's favorite moments of his time at Exeter have come from his affiliation with Hoyt Hall. He described his relationship with the students in Hoyt as "a human connection." "Dorm duty can be tedious, but as soon as someone comes in the room, we start chatting," he said.

Hoyt Hall residents adore Ramsey so much so that a picture of him is featured on their dorm gear. "Mr. Ramsey is one of my favorite faculty members on campus," upper and Hoyt Hall resident Isabelle Wise said. "While I've never actually had him as a teacher, I can definitely say he's played a role in my life at Exeter by being such a positive force in Hoyt."

Senior and Hoyt resident Meg Bolan described Ramsey as a "cool uncle" who "counteracts and vibes with the vibes that come with a girls dorm. He is always ready to acknowledge and appreciate the little joys in life, and when you're around him, you can't help but begin to realize the little things you're grateful for, too."

"I know Hoytians appreciate his presence, and that his colleagues can find a friend in him for the same reasons we do," Bolan continued. "Mr. Ramsey reminds people to slow down, savor and acknowledge all that is around us: our beautiful campus, bright friends, and the fascinating information we collect each and every day."

Religion Instructor Thomas Simpson has known Ramsey throughout his tenure at the Academy. He said, "We often end up side by side in the Fitness Center on the elliptical machines talking about teaching, about coaching, about life, and laughing about how we're getting older. Most of all, when I think of Mr. Ramsey, I think of a close, caring and patient listener."

ESSONIAN RYAN XIE

By EMILY KANG and RACHEL WON
Staff Writers

In true ESSonian spirit, lower Ryan Xie has demonstrated the values of selflessness and diligence throughout his two years at the Academy. Xie serves as co-head of ESSO Ultimate Frisbee and ESSO Squash, where he encourages children to not only develop their skills in sports, but also to grow and mature as people. Through his work, Xie has recently earned the distinction of ESSonian of the Month.

Xie's interest in community service began in fifth grade when he joined the Boy Scouts. "I was inspired by the older kids in the [Boy Scouts] troop, who taught me to continue to help the younger scouts when I got older. I wanted to continue helping others at Exeter, which is why I joined ESSO," he said.

ESSO has been a constant in Xie's life since the fall of his prep year. Using his background in tennis, Xie started playing squash in the fall and decided to try out for the squash team in the winter. He soon fell in love with the sport and wanted to extend the opportunity to other kids. "Since I had never had access to squash before I got to Exeter, I felt very fortunate to have the opportunity to play it here, and wished that I had known about it earlier. So, when I heard about ESSO Squash, I wanted to help bring the opportunity to learn squash at a younger age to other kids," Xie said.

Similar to his experiences with squash, Xie joined the club frisbee team at Exeter and wished to share his love for the sport with others, which led him to ESSO Frisbee. "Like squash, I wanted to bring the opportunity of playing and improving in frisbee to other kids," he said.

Having attended nearly every meeting for both clubs, Xie quickly proved himself a valuable member of ESSO Squash and ESSO Ultimate Frisbee and was appointed co-head of both clubs.

Since then, Xie has approached his leadership role from a unique direction—rather than simply teaching kids how to develop their skills in squash and frisbee, he aims to become their mentor. "Ryan is full of ideas," lower Sam Lew said. "He does tournaments, sometimes mixing up the people so they don't just play with the same people all the time. He wants to make sure that all the people who come to ESSO Squash know each other, so that's why he concentrates on not just them playing squash but also learning about these new people and how to interact with them."

One of Xie's strengths is his ability to communicate clearly and efficiently. "Ryan has done a great job consistently communicating to PEA students and community parents to keep them informed of times, dates and any changes. He does not leave people wondering if

the clubs are happening," ESSO Director of Service Learning Elizabeth Reyes said.

Lew thinks that Xie's presence extends beyond being a co-head. "Ryan definitely serves as a teacher and a coach. These kids can go to him and ask him not just about squash but just also if they don't feel like playing or if they feel tired, they can talk with him and that's something that they look to Ryan as," Lew said.

Lower Nick Schwarz feels that Xie's patience and dedication to helping the kids improve is plays a huge role in his ability to forge close relationships with the children in his ESSO clubs. "What makes Ryan an excellent co-head of ESSO Frisbee is not only his terrific organizational skills—getting the kids together, figuring out the location, securing the proper equipment—but also his exceptional patience with some very young, very inexperienced Ultimate players," he said. "It's because of his patience, and not necessarily his skill at the game, that makes ESSO Frisbee a great experience for these kids and has helped them to make definite progress."

History instructor Alexa Caldwell, Xie's adviser, pointed out his organization skills as a character trait that makes him unique. "Ryan's just so organized," Caldwell said. "He's good at communicating with his club about what happens in the meetings—in case people missed it he takes notes. He organized a field trip that got kids to Boston which I think is pretty hard logistically and he cares a lot about the clubs that he's involved in."

Xie also offers his time and energy to other ESSO endeavors outside of his regular clubs. "Ryan is not afraid to get involved and get his hands dirty—that includes painting props for elementary school plays, diving for the disc on the ultimate field or putting his efforts into teaching new squash players by example. He leads by doing instead of telling," Reyes said.

Upper and ESSO co-president Jenny Yang also commented on Xie's genuine commitment to community service. "Ryan is extremely passionate about ESSO—he is energetic, friendly, and ready to help the community. His selflessness with his time and dedication to ESSO is evident in his willingness to step up and spend time making an impact," she said.

Through his leadership in ESSO Frisbee and ESSO Squash, Xie hopes that he can serve as a role model for kids and bring more Exonians together. "I want to help influence members of the club to be more involved with service and ESSO and I hope that the children in my ESSO clubs will be inspired to help the younger generations to come when they grow up," he said.

"SPIDER-MAN:
HOMECOMING"

By YUNSEO CHOI
Staff Writer

"For me, the craziest part of this whole rollercoaster has been standing on stage with those guys who I have looked up to for so long to be in a movie that I would have been the first in line to go to see," said Tom Holland in an interview, shortly after the recent release of "Avengers: Infinity War."

Holland's debut appearance in the Marvel series was in 2016's "Captain America: Civil War" when he was first recruited to the Avengers team by Iron Man, played by Robert Downey Jr. According to his contract, Holland still has at least two more guaranteed films as Spider-Man. This faith placed in him by Marvel Studios would have been impossible without the huge success of "Spider-Man: Homecoming," Holland's first time in the limelight as Spider-Man.

If you aren't familiar with the "Avengers" series, I would recommend beginning with "Spider-Man: Homecoming." Unlike many other "Avengers" films, which normally take place in unfamiliar settings and time periods, the setting of "Spider-Man: Homecoming" is simply a New York City high school. As hinted in the title, the film centers around two major issues that Spider-Man is going through: the first involving super villains and the second concerning how to find a date for homecoming.

At the beginning of the film, Peter Parker, a teenager and part-time Spider-Man, is thrilled by his encounter with the Avengers during "Captain America: Civil War." However, despite hopes that he will receive calls for important tasks, no Avenger seems to be looking out for him, going as far to tell him that he is not yet ready to be an Avenger.

Parker tries to prove himself by making frequent appearances in the city. He even quits the academic decathlon for this. One night, he prevents a gang from robbing the ATM machine and notices the unusual power of the gang's weapon.


Unsurprisingly, the weapon originates from the Avengers. After the battle of New York, the private company of Adrian Toomes was appointed to clean up the remains. However, Tony Stark, Iron Man, replaces them with the government-run Department of

Damage Control. Filled with hatred towards the Avengers after losing his job, Toomes steals some of the weapons from the battle scene and uses them as a foundation to build his own thread of weapons. Spider-Man devotes great effort to alert the Avengers, primarily Tony Stark, but even Tony Stark's assistant gives up on him. The rest of the film details how Parker learns to control his desires and his powers, and through the process, become an Avenger.

But it's not only this main plotline that forms the bulk of "Spider-Man: Homecoming." There are many minor characters that help to shape the film. For example, there's Ned, played by Jacob Batalon. As Parker's sidekick, Ned is a humorous, easy-going friend that, like Parker, idealizes the Avengers. Although his humor can hinder Parker from achieving his goal at times, the two of them still work as an amazing pair, complementing each other when they need it the most. As the film progresses, Ned starts to take Parker's actions seriously and acts as more of an experienced sidekick.

Another important aspect of the film is the constantly evolving relationship between Iron Man and Spider-Man. Spider-Man constantly wants to be noticed, but to Iron Man, talking to this 15-year-old is always at the very end of his busy schedule. Spider-Man initially feels neglected, though throughout the film he learns the true cares and concerns behind the tough love that Iron Man imposes on him.

The Marvel franchise consists of many films, so many that they are often classified by generations, and even under each generation, there are numerous films. For starters, it might seem daunting to choose a starting point, and the introduction to superhero films can be hard if the setting is too exotic and the plot becomes difficult to relate to. This is why I recommend "Spider-Man: Homecoming." Although the story stems from the rest of the superhero films in the "Avengers" series, the setting and the characters make the film more relatable for young adults. With the incorporation of Iron Man, the films also sets a great introduction to "Avengers: Infinity War" for those who wish to watch it with some context.



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GVLax Battles Against Brooks

By EMILY CLOONAN & JARED ZHANG
Sports Editors

A Brooks School player rushes down the Phelps Stadium field, but quickly gets stopped by Exeter upper Peyton Sanborn. Sanborn captures the ball and speeds down the field, past the Brooks' players. She looks for a shot before firing the ball past the Brooks goalie. Exeter fights back and is now tied with Brooks, 9-9. This past Saturday, girls' varsity lacrosse played a close game against Brooks School, with Brooks edging Big Red by a final score of 12-15.

The goalie, upper Cammie Lavoie, was applauded by a few of her teammates for her outstanding performance in net. Upper Peyton Sanborn said, "Cammie had some great saves. She is always pretty consistent and helps us defensively every game."

Other teammates also regarded Lavoie as an important player in the game. Senior and co-captain Anna Reaman said, "She had an unreal game with some amazing saves." Reaman applauded prep Rachel Shu and upper Chandler Jean-Jacques, adding, "Chandler always shines on the draw circle and scoring goals, and Rachel played very aggressively all game and caused a lot of turnovers."

She added, "The game against Brooks this Saturday was a tough one. We went out there and played well and fought for every ground ball. The team excelled in the transition and team offense aspects of the game."

Lower Dennesha Rolle shared similar sentiments regarding Lavoie's efforts. She added, "Cammie played so well on Saturday and definitely kept us in the game. She had many amazing saves, not surprising because she is always giving her all and shutting out shots."

Numerous yellow cards were distributed at the game, and according to Rolle, it was because players were "hitting each other in the head." She added, "We were down by four and came back to tie them twice which made the game more aggressive than usual."



Lower Dennesha Rolle fakes past opponents.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

Sanborn expanded on the caliber of intensity of which both teams were playing. She explained, "Saturday was a particularly aggressive game, and it contributed to the outcome of the game." She also noted the amount of yellow cards distributed by the referees, adding that there were about five.

"There were some questionable calls by the refs. But in the end it came down to us and we just were not able to put as many goals in the back of the net as we wanted to," Reaman said of the officiating during the game.

Despite the team's upsetting loss, Lavoie emphasized the importance of the

game and how it will keep the Big Red girls on their feet for future matches. "It was a tough fight," she said. "Our past few games haven't been that competitive, so I think this one was a good reminder for the next games to come."

Sanborn agreed with Lavoie, adding that losses help to inspire the team and motivate them to work harder to be victorious in the coming games. "Our team is extremely persistent, and we don't like to lose. I am sure we will continue to put our all into our practices so we come out on top in the future."

Rolle applauded her teammates for their success offensively. She said, "Michaella, Lauren, Molly and Peyton all

had pretty amazing goals. Their offensive skills helped us out and motivated the rest of us to keep up the intensity."

This back and forth game excited the girls and allowed them to all play to their fullest potential. Sanborn added, "We all had pretty great games but definitely need to work on our cohesivity looking ahead towards the end of the season."

Senior Eleanor Mallett agreed with Sanborn. She said, "Our problem this season has consistently been meshing as an attack unit and getting goals in the net, which we struggled with a lot against Brooks. However, there was an incredible spirit in the stadium on Wednesday night, which made it a fun and exciting battle."

Softball Continues Successful Season

Defeats Brooks School 6-3

By ABBY SMITH & SAVI KEIDEL
Staff Writers

Exeter and Brooks are neck and neck halfway through last Saturday's softball game. The Brooks hitter strikes the ball in a line drive down the center of the field. Big Red's shortstop, senior Ella Johnson, leaps into the air to snatch the ball in a remarkable play of speed and agility. This catch was crucial to Exeter's triumph over Brooks.

If the hit had snuck through the Exeter infielders, it would have brought a Brooks girl home and given them another point. Lower Jill Cloonan stated the play by Johnson "held the team in the game by getting the Brooks girl out and inspiring her teammates to work that hard as well."

On Wednesday, Principal MacFarlane called for a Principal's Day to be the following day on Thursday, where no sports practices are able to be held. Due to this decision and being rained out on Friday, the team was not able to practice for its Saturday game. The team's season had continued with a two game losing streak against Andover and BB&N. "We all really wanted to win after two close losses," upper Juliana Merullo explained.

In a well-deserved win, Exeter overcame a challenging circumstance and a competitive opponent in this close game against Brooks. Since Big Red was playing on a foreign court, they had to contend with a new field and atmosphere.

According to senior Kaleigh

Conte, "It was an especially difficult defensive game because the infield was a grass infield rather than a dirt one." Adding to the away disadvantage, Brooks let their aggressive side shine throughout the game. "It was a very scrappy team in the sense that you can never count them out of the game," Merullo recalled. "Even when we had a lead we wanted to make sure to stay focused and continue to be technically sound."

With Brooks chasing at Exeter's lead all game, the girls had to concentrate, especially on their fundamental skills.

Big Red girls looks forward to their upcoming game against Kimball Union Academy, hoping to primarily focus on reducing the number of errors while playing, which can be detrimental in tight games. "[The team] can work on stringing hits together so that we don't leave players on base, which we can work towards by just improving our hitting altogether," Merullo said.

Looking forward, Conte added, "We are very excited to be facing some good competition and playing teams we usually do not see." The team has a lot of potential, with four talented freshmen, and they are prepared to continue to work throughout the remainder of the season.

Cloonan mentioned her positive outlook, saying, "[The game against Brooks] was another example of how we work together as a team to reach our goal, and I am excited to continue to work hard with the rest of my teammates to have a successful season."



Prep Katie Moon has her eye on the ball.

Helena Chen/The Exonian

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BOYS' LAX DEFEATS HEBRON

Captures Win Against Hebron 19-6

By CAROLINE FLEMING
Staff Writer

Upper Paddy Bogart takes the face-off against a Hebron midfielder, both players low and eager to capture the possession of the ball. After a slow start, Exeter and Hebron Academy are tied 2-2. The whistle blows, and Bogart wrestles for the ball, scooping it up from under the Hebron player and hustling downfield. He rushes around all of the opposing team's defenders, heading straight for the goal. In the eight-meter, he makes a quick fake right, knocking out the goalie and shoots it into the corner of the net for a beautiful goal, the first in his varsity career. Big Red took this momentum and kept the action up for a high scoring 19-6 win this past Saturday their trip to Hebron, Maine.

As a starting midfielder, Bogart had quite the impact on the game not only in the eight-meter, but in controlling possessions for Big Red. Senior Seth Bowman raved about Bogart as a center, "Both of the face off specialists had an outstanding day, allowing us to control the ball for much of the game."

Exeter's offensive success was attributed to the team's ability to work together and contribute equally. More than six players scored last Saturday, and the boys showed a mastery of both fast breaks and settled offence. Senior and co-captain Tanner McGowan commended his team's efforts across the board, "The goal distribution was wide, with contributions from many players. We scored a few in transition, several in settled situations, and a few more on the man-up. Overall, there were great goals from everyone."

One of these contributions came from senior Ty Deery. Bowman added, "Ty Deery had an exciting goal, his first of the season, dodging past his defender and finishing with a nice shot past the goalie."

The team took advantage of its lead to create some plays. Senior Andrew McGurrin said, "For sure the best play of the game was...Ryan Welch scoring his third goal of the day."



Senior Paul Miller searches the field for a pass.

Avery Napier/The Exonian

Lower Danny Colon also described the team's peak performance. "The team was energetic on the sideline, everyone was supporting each other. There was a great play where we connected three or four passes, and Chris Fowler finished in tight and took a big hit after he scored."

Ahead of the pack in goals was the game's definitive MVP, senior Paul Miller. "Paul Miller was a big contributor to the team in this game, scoring too many goals to even count," McGowan said.

Colon shared similar sentiments regarding Miller's successes. "Paul Miller had seven goals, some really hard shots that picked the corners." Miller's hard work on his shot is definitely paying off,

bringing the team to a great win—their teams ninth of the season.

In conjunction with an explosive offense, Big Red had great defense, too, which kept them ahead in the game. A lot of this defensive success can be credited to goalie, senior Conor Hunt. McGowan praised his goalie by saying, "Conor Hunt played great in the cage. This game saw big contributions from everyone on the team."

Assistant Coach Dave Huoppi also complimented Hunt on his performance, "Although many different players on the team contributed goals, Conor Hunt did a great job as our goalie."

Looking forward, the team wants to

perfect their settled game and clean up set plays. Huoppi elaborated on this goal and said, "In preparation for our next game against Kimball Union, will we continue to work on our settled offense and defense in practice this week."

McGowan added, "The team is working on keeping the intensity level high and playing four quarters at 100 percent. We will practice hard and come out ready to compete on Wednesday."

Lacrosse fans can get excited for a big home game against Milton Academy this Saturday where Big Red is determined to secure another win. McGurrin concluded, "I'm looking forward to the big games we have as the season finishes up."

VOLLEYBALL REMAINS VICTORIOUS

By CHARLIE VENCI
Staff Writer

As the Choate Rosemary Hall player spikes the ball onto the Exeter side of the court, Big Red upper Sam Michaels sprawls out across the floor, barely tipping the ball and saving it from hitting the ground. Rebounding from the near miss, Exeter sets up a counter-spike at the net and sends the ball blistering into the floor. As it bounces up, the Choate crowd goes silent. The Exeter boys' varsity volleyball members circle up at the center of their side of the court and give each other high fives. They have finally closed the gap between the early running Choate team. The score stands at 14 points to Exeter and Choate both.

In Big Red's most recent volleyball smackdown, the team went back and forth with the Choate squad. However, as soon as they tied the game, Exeter took the lead and ran with it. Lower Kerick Walker explained why the team faltered early in the match. "We started off really slowly in the first set because the bus ride took extra long. We didn't get that long to warm up because we showed up right before the game," he said. "They were winning halfway through the first set, but then we came back."

One of the key factors to the team's brilliant success this season, this game included, was the persistence of their setters.

A key highlight that really put Exeter ahead of the opposition this weekend was the work of Michaels, the team's setter. According to lower Colt Delaney, "Sam has been good consistently throughout the season, and, during the Choate game, he definitely had one of the best performances on the team."

Senior Zach Stenglein, a new player on

the team, was also praised for his playing. Walker applauded Stenglein for his successful performance, saying, "Zach played really well. He had a lot of blocks and some nice hits."

Delaney shared his proudest moment of the game. "I usually play on the right side, but I was on the other side because of the rotation we were in. When you are playing on the right, you don't typically get set to, but I did get a set and absolutely crammed it. It was very exciting," he emphasized.

By the end of the game, the scoreboard displayed nothing other than total domination. Exeter won with a score of 3 sets to none, steamrolling Choate in their second sweep of the Boars this season.

Now, playoff season has officially set in for Big Red, and the boys will head to the New England Tournament this Saturday at Northfield Mount Hermon. Going in as the number one seed and having not lost a game to another private school in two years, there is a lot of pressure to obtain the acclaimed "Three-peat" and maintain Exeter's reputation in the league. Walker quickly discussed the team's practice plan for the week. "We will be sharpening our overall skills for the playoffs next weekend," he mentioned.

Delaney showed excitement when asked about what was going to be a new adventure at Northfield on Saturday. "It will be interesting for us [since] we have never played tournament style before. This means we will be playing multiple games in a single day."

Although the team has only lost one set this entire season (against Andover), the boys are still feeling a little pressure going into the tournament. But, in Delaney's eyes, "We will be playing the same teams that we have played before. So it shouldn't be any trouble."



Senior Toni Rocak prepares to serve the ball.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

Wednesday Scoreboard

Golf	9	Girls' Water Polo	14	Girls' JV Lacrosse	11
Tilton	1	Andover	7	Middlesex	3
Boys Tennis A	1	Baseball	8	Softball	26
Milton	5	NMH	6	Kimball Union	4