



# The Exonian

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Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire

## Students Examine Med Leave Process

By SUAN LEE  
and RACHEL WON  
Staff Writers

Under circumstances in which medical issues are too severe to be addressed sufficiently at the Academy, the Dean of Students Office may advise a medical leave lasting up to three terms. Despite Dean of Health and Wellness Gordon Coole's claim that a medical leave is "completely therapeutic" and "definitely a fair practice," the uncertainty of initial terms agreed upon by the student and administration has led some to question the integrity and fairness of the medical leave process.

Coole emphasized that medical leaves are given for strictly health-related reasons and have nothing to do with the disciplinary process, even in cases involving drug or alcohol usage. "A medical leave is given in situations where students' health needs are negatively impacting their performance in the classroom or a residential setting such that they need to focus their time on restoring their health without the added burden of doing homework or attending classes," Coole said.

He added, "If a student is using drugs in a manner that is more problematic than they can address here, it's a health problem. We're sending them home so they can deal with the health issue that's causing the drug problem."

Anyone on campus—including advisers, peers, coaches, musical teachers, student listeners, proctors or parents—can suggest a student would benefit from taking a medical leave. "Concern from students is very important," Coole said. "You guys know each other far better than the adults do."

In many cases, parents are the first to alert the administration about a potential health concern. "Often, the first trigger is a parent who calls and says, 'I'm a little

**MEDICAL LEAVE, A2**



Upper and cancer survivor Gavin Cotter shares his story at Relay for Life. Read more about the event on B1.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

## PEA Reaches Record Yield For 2018-19

By MAI HOANG  
and ANNE BRANDES

Phillips Exeter Academy received a record yield of 80 percent for the 2018-2019 school year, up from 75 percent in the previous cycle. After two weeks of revisit and public outreach, over 320 students have committed to Exeter. However, this record yield could pose problems in accommodations.

Exeter's Admissions Office took "a conservative approach" to admissions and accepted only 16 percent of applicants, according to Director of Admissions and Financial Aid John Hutchins. "We do not anticipate admitting any students off the waitlist at this time," he added.

This five percent increase in yield may lead to more double rooms for an increased amount of time. Dean of Residential Life AJ Cosgrove is working with Senior Manager of Events and Services Connie Simmons and Director of Facilities Management Mark Leighton to find additional space in dormitories that students can live in. "We're going to be as creative as possible. Our dorms will be very full," Cosgrove said.

Even after filling all "traditional emergency rooms," there may still not be enough space. Some possible solutions include converting intern apartments and common room spaces into dorm rooms or even offering faculty members a financial incentive in exchange for swing rooms from their apartments.

"All of the boarding students choose their rooms in May. We need to have a solution before then, so that no returning student will have to give their room up as emergency doubles once they've chosen it," Cosgrove said. "We'll try to spread students out equally so no one dorm will take a hit. That's not fair."

An email was sent out Tuesday, Apr. 17 to all dorm heads encouraging them to search for extra space in their dormitories.

**YIELD, A2**

## PEA Campus Readies for Inaugural Day of Dialogue

By EMMANUEL TRAN  
and RACHEL WON  
Staff Writers

Exeter will host its inaugural Day of Dialogue this Saturday. Planned by Director of Student Well-Being Christina Palmer, the day will serve as an opportunity for students and faculty members to engage in conver-

sation about Exeter's community values. However, some concerns have arisen around an unequal ratio of female and male teachers who will attend.

The Academy will cancel Saturday's A format classes in order to offer time to foster the conversations. The dialogue will extend into the meetings block.

Throughout the winter, approximately

40 faculty members participated in two "restorative justice" events, similar to the Day of Dialogue planned for Saturday. Many of those faculty members helped to train student leaders last weekend, including proctors and student listeners, in preparation for Saturday's discussions.

Senior Molly Canfield, a proctor and student listener in Bancroft Hall who attended

**DIALOGUE, A3**

## Inaugural Director of Equity and Inclusion Appointed at Exeter

By MAI HOANG  
and JACK ZHANG  
Staff Writers

Exeter appointed Dr. Stephanie Bramlett as the school's first Director of Equity and Inclusion on Tuesday, April 17. The Academy first identified a Director of Equity and Inclusion as a necessary addition to the Principal's Staff six years ago, and created a search committee for someone to fill this role two years ago.

Difficulties in the search for appropriate candidates, however, stalled the selection committee until March. After deliberating between two candidates, the school chose Bramlett, who previously worked for St. Luke's School in New Canaan, Connecticut, as the first Director of Equity and Inclusion.

Sociologist and political scientist Bramlett will join Exeter's faculty on July 1st. According to Principal MacFarlane's campus-wide email, her role includes reporting to the principal and working closely to "fulfill the Trustee Vision Statement for diversity, equity and inclusion across campus."

Bramlett will also be responsible for building, guiding and assessing the policies and practices that encourage these values. The Director of Equity and Inclusion Position Profile states that Bramlett will work closely with the Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, the Dean of Students, the Director of Human Resources and the Dean of Multicultural Affairs.

At St. Luke's, Bramlett drafted a "road map for inclusivity" through the Vision for Inclusive Excellence. Her experience with inclusion and equity also includes her founding of the Mindfulness in Education Conference and the Social Justice Leadership Summit. She served as chair of Connecticut's Commission on Diversity in Independent Schools. Prior to her tenure at St. Luke's, Bramlett worked closely with marginalized students in a college setting, including low-income college students in the TRIO and McNair Scholars programs.

According to Lavina Richter, co-chair of the selection committee, Bramlett will be a valuable asset to the school because of her prior experiences implementing equity and

**DEL, A2**

## Exeter Hosts Town Forum On Firearms

By BENJAMIN CAI  
and EMMANUEL TRAN  
Staff Writers

Students and faculty from Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter High School (EHS) and Cooperative Middle School (CMS) hosted the "Student Forum on Gun Violence" in the Exeter Town Hall last Friday night. The forum's aim was to increase awareness of gun violence and related issues, including mental health and gun control.

The panel, which consisted of students, teachers and public officials, was moderated by English Instructor Courtney Marshall and addressed both scripted questions and the audience's inquiries. Exeter Rises, a progressive Democratic group dedicated to promoting dialogue and change about issues in New Hampshire, initiated the planning for the forum.

Exeter's Director of Service Learning Elizabeth Reyes invited Exonians who attended the Portsmouth March for Our Lives event to meet with the group and other students, teachers, community members and legislators to finalize the panelists and schedule.

At the forum, elected officials Rep. Debra Altschiller, Executive Councilor Chris Pappas, Sen. Martha Fuller Clark, Rep. Patrick Abrami, Rep. Richard Gordon and Rep. Ellen Read joined upper Jordan Davidson and lower Kileidria Aguilar on the panel, along with other students from EHS and CMS. Instructor at EHS Dennis Magliozzi and New Hampshire Medical Society President



Senior Gregory Miller shares his views on firearms with the town of Exeter.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

Leonard Korn also participated. Although there were only 13 panelists, in addition to Marshall as the moderator, many more students, teachers, residents and officials attended the forum.

Student participants hoped to push officials to take specific action to reduce gun violence on a local, state and national level. For students like senior Greg Miller, who lives just six miles away from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, this event was an opportunity to share student perspectives about gun violence. "I hope [the forum] will bring light and human voice to needed gun laws," Miller said.

Marshall also hoped that the students' stories would offer the public officials insight on the gun violence discussion and connect local perspectives to those of PEA students who live outside of New Hampshire. As an English instructor, Marshall was particularly intrigued by how students would combine facts with their narratives. "How were they going to use the power of their voice to tell a story about what it's like to be their age?" she questioned.

Panelists—Republicans, Democrats, students, teachers and civilians alike—

discussed various topics concerning gun violence like mental health, the effects of racism and the effectiveness of current New Hampshire legislation surrounding gun control.

Davidson focused on the mental health aspects of gun violence including the role of counseling at school, suicides involving guns and the lack of evidence suggesting that video games increase gun violence. Like other students on the panel, Davidson advocated primarily for stricter gun control laws, including those that ban assault rifles.

On the other hand, Aguilar addressed the lack of diversity at the forum and in gun control conversations, noting that she and Marshall were the only people of color sitting on the panel. However, she encouraged people of all identities to work together to push for gun control reform.

"A bullet can go through anyone, no matter what color you are," Aguilar said. "There is a lot of white privilege here. As far as I'm concerned, the Black Lives Matter movement was about gun reform. I am trying to make this issue intersectional, but I have to acknowledge

**FORUM, A2**

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# Exeter's Newest Class Overenrolled, PEA Scrambles for Space

*Continued from YIELD, A1*

In general, however, Cosgrove thinks that the problem is not too serious. "The reality is, we're pretty spoiled with some of our boarding spaces on campus," he said. "We have many 180 square feet spaces that are singles."

Some faculty, however, reckoned that living in emergency doubles or triples can be a negative experience for boarders. Math Instructor Kevin Bartkovich, head of Ewald Hall, said about his experience with emergency doubles, "I've seen situations where kids come here on moving day and are disappointed or even angry upon finding out that they have to stay in a double that's so small."

Bartkovich continued, saying, "We have a study room, but I don't see how that can be someone's dorm room [...] They may also put cubicles in the basement. Of course no one would be happy about that either."

"There's an absolute limit for any dorm as to how many kids can reasonably and safely

live there," said Sean Campbell, head of Wentworth Hall, the largest boys' dorm on campus.

"We don't have much flexibility [...] The single rooms are uniform in size, there's nothing I can think of that can be a double-sized room," Campbell said. "Anything that's a room is already a room, common spaces are not set up as rooms. That would require complete dorm renovations."

Similarly, head of Langdell Hall Patricia Burke Hickey said that there's only one room in her dorm that can become a "bunked double."

For upper Adrian Venzon, living in an emergency triple in Soule Hall was not a positive experience. He remembered that his two roommates "were always butting heads," and he became the middle man that they both went to to complain about the other.

"Living in a triple is already tough, and the lack of space did not make it easier," Venzon said. "I was excited at first when they sent the email but then quickly found out

how bad it could be. Emergency triples is a terrible idea."

In general, students in more spacious rooms do not mind the fact that the rooms were intended to be singles. Prep Sarah Huang in Dunbar Hall even described her time in an emergency double as a "positive experience," and said, "As a new student, Exeter and even a dorm can feel very large, and a roommate can help you navigate it all."

To prevent future space limitations, Cosgrove has been pushing for the establishment of another dorm on campus. "As a long-term solution, we do need to take another look at the number of spaces we have on campus," he said.

However, it is unlikely that this new dormitory will come into being before the next term. Cosgrove explained that it will be difficult to establish another dorm before the start of next year, even if it occupies a standing building, due to a multitude of the codes that the Academy must fulfill to label a building as

a dorm. These codes cover sprinkler systems, bathroom conversions, among other things.

Cosgrove regards the establishment of a new dorm "an incredibly expensive short-term solution," but considering the number of seniors who come back from terms abroad in the spring, a new dormitory building is a possibility for next spring term.

Besides the residential crisis of over-enrollment, the administration is considering the academic consequences of over-enrollment, including class size and distribution. One solution is creating more course sessions, especially the introductory level ones.

According to Dean of Faculty Ellen Wolff, Hutchins held a meeting with Dean of Enrollment and External Relations William Leahy and department chairs to talk about this possibility. "That's what we do here. If someone needs a class we make one for them," Dean Wolff said. "It's great news that so many great kids decided to come here. It's honestly a good problem to have."

# Students Question Academy's Handling of Medical Leaves

*Continued from MEDICAL LEAVE, A1*

worried about my son—he doesn't call home frequently enough or doesn't return my calls or just seems down on the phone," Coole said.

Josh Hemintakoon '17, who was placed on leave for a year from 2015 to 2016 for health issues, said that he had initially felt betrayed when he was put on leave, but was now grateful for the progress that he made while he was away.

"I thought that med leave indicated the premature end of my Exeter career, a dire situation for a financial aid student who would have to secure a scholarship in the middle of the year to return," he said. "In retrospect, I firmly believe if I had attempted to power through upper spring, that I would have been kicked out for deficient academic performance," he said. "I'm extremely grateful for the time I had off. In my case, like many others but with varying stories, med leave prevented me from getting kicked out."

While Hemintakoon's leave lasted for a year, the initial agreement for a medical leave can be flexible. The administration generally does not specify the length of a leave, but Coole explained that there are exceptions "depending on what we perceive to be the gravity of the problem." However, even in the latter case, the med leave is open to modification. Based on monthly check-ins with the family, the leave can either be shortened or lengthened.

The administration decides whether to allow a student to return based on its monthly communications with the fam-

ily, two narratives submitted by the student and their parents and an official recommendation from a private clinician.

Coole said that the documents can be "very subjective" and skewed by a strong desire to return, however, making them less than completely reliable. "We really try to dissect the letters. The veracity, the accuracy of the report is something we really have to comb out, because the student definitely wants to come back, and I'd say the parent in almost all cases feels the same way," he said.

Christy\*, who was placed on medical leave last term, recognized the value in taking a leave. "I think it was reasonable to assume that leaving Exeter for a little while would benefit me, although I was hesitant because in my case going home wasn't a great option," she said.

However, she voiced frustration about the school's extension of her leave. She had originally expected to return this spring, but was informed by the administration that she would have to wait until next year. "I was told that because I stepped forward and said that I needed to go on med leave and because it was early enough in the term, I was almost guaranteed a spot in the spring," she said.

"Halfway through the time I thought I was going to be gone from school, the school informed me that they felt I needed more time to resolve my issues and that I was not going to be considered for re-admission in the spring. I was not given a chance to dispute their decision, and I still have to prove myself to the school during the summer so they will allow me to come back in the fall," she said.

In a typical year, the Academy sends between seven and 10 students on medical leave. The Academy policy states that a student can remain on leave for up to three terms and still maintain their student status.

"There's a foundation that we want them to return, but we need to have a limit to how long a student can be away and come back and still be a viable student," Coole said, elaborating that the conditions of a student's return depend solely on their recovery.

According to the Academy's medical staff, more than 90 percent of all students who take a medical leave of absence return to school, fulfill their diploma requirements and graduate.

Tracy\*, an alum who was placed on medical leave last year for drug and alcohol use, expressed great frustration with the Academy's decisions about her case, stating that the administration had been misinformed. "I have nothing good to say about how the administration handles med leaves," she said. "I went through all the hoops in terms of getting the help I needed, emotionally and physically. An unnamed source had come forward with information that I was drinking and using drugs every weekend. This false allegation was one that they had no proof to support and that I adamantly denied."

Tracy continued that the administration's decision to place her on medical leave had not been in her best interest, as her family life was not optimal for her recovery.

"They didn't care what was best for me. They didn't even launch an investigation into the charges. No inquiries were made as to how

I ended up blackout drunk, unable to function or speak in the middle of the forest with a fellow classmate," she said. "Less than a week after I confronted the administration about my sexual assault, which happened on their campus under their supervision, they sent me home on med leave without evidence-based cause."

Despite Coole's statement that the purpose of a medical leave is to distance students from the root cause of their medical issues, Tracy explained that the leave had the completely opposite outcome in her case, as an abusive family situation had led her to use drugs and alcohol in the first place. "My abusive mother had recently come up for parents' weekend and I was struggling dealing with the aftermath of this visit," Tracy said.

Dean of Students Melissa Mischke, who did not comment directly about Tracy's case, said that the administration's only consideration when deciding whether to send a student on medical leave is the extent to which the school can support the student's medical issue. "If somebody were to have a drug or alcohol addiction that was larger than what we were able to support, that would also be a situation where we would recommend some professional targeted therapy outside the school. It's really about what can we do and if we can't do it, then we need to think about other things," she said.

Tracy nonetheless disputed the integrity of the administration's decision in her case. Tracy said, "I'm not discrediting my behavior, but it definitely could have been handled with help and care rather than brushing the issue away."

# Exeter Fills New Position of Director of Equity and Inclusion

*Continued from DEL, A1*

inclusion initiatives and programs in different educational settings. Her selection by Principal MacFarlane came after meetings with the committee, examination of additional references and direct interviews.

"Dr. Bramlett's plate is full, but the first work she'll need to do is to learn about Exeter. She's going to bring a wealth of knowledge to the school and I'm very excited to have her," Richter said.

During her question and answer session in the forum, Bramlett impressed Exonians with her attention to students. "She's a very engaging person who listened to our ques-

tions attentively, asked for our names and really seemed to care," senior Chi-Chi Iypeazu said. "When students had a question about different levels of faculty interest in addressing diversity, equity and inclusion, she acknowledged that faculty [members] have different experiences and we have to recognize those inconsistencies. That stood out to me."

Iypeazu hopes that with her focus on faculty accountability, the director will "bridge [the] gap between those who are aware and those who are not" and create an environment so that everyone will be able to enjoy their Exeter experience, regardless of their identity.

Lower Tatum Schutt was similarly struck

by Bramlett's ability to connect with everyone in the room. "My hope is that she will address the ALES requests from last year," Schutt said. "She also stressed the dire need for faculty equity training, which would enable teachers to recognize their privilege and power as bystanders or activists." Schutt felt that Dr. Bramlett's appointment will aid faculty discussions about race and other sensitive topics.

Meanwhile, upper Daniel Kang stressed the importance of having a person who would understand "multiracial, multifaceted issues." This was especially important to Kang since one of his main concerns is how many on-campus discussions have been about "black-and-white issues," leaving out the needs of the

Asian community.

Given Bramlett's past experience, the selection committee hopes that she will push towards intersectionality as the standard for new initiatives on campus, which will take into account how race, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, religion, ability and socioeconomic class all affect how adults and students interact with each other.

Cary Einhaus, another selection committee member, had high hopes for Bramlett. He said, "She has a 'big tent' vision of this work about equity and inclusion, which I believe will be a benefit in helping us listen to each other better, in building a stronger Exeter community."

# Students and Faculty Organize Exeter Gun Violence Forum

*Continued from FORUM, A1*

that I need to ask for white allies. I am asking every white person here to stand up for people of color who need you."

Although there was disagreement between the panelists about the best course of action in addressing gun violence, both Aguilar and Davidson thought the event was successful in starting conversations.

"Even though I disagreed with what some of the Republican legislators had to say, I thought it was really great that we had a good diversity of opinion and we covered a lot of topics," Davidson said.

Aguilar felt that the diversity at the forum could have been improved, but she was glad that the forum initiated conversation. Part of the reason why she is a student activist and pushing for gun reform is her wish to honor and protect her family. "I am a student activist so that my brother doesn't have to grow up in a place where he can get shot down and I also want to acknowledge my stepfather and the struggles he's been through as a black man," Aguilar said.

Similarly, Davidson is a student activist because he wants to ensure that his personal and national concerns are being addressed. "I am appalled and emotionally distraught at what has been going on in our country," he said. "Not only with the shootings, but how people who claim to represent us aren't really doing anything. And if they say they are, they aren't doing it very well."

Lowers James Long and David Gonzalez also thought the forum was successful in

representing the diversity of views and topics. However, they believed that the communication between panelists and the audience could have been improved.

"I like how the panel was well represented in both conservative and liberal views. I like that they were able to include both state legislators in addition to prominent students of this community," Long said. "I wish that there had been a better way for people to get their questions asked but other than that I think it was a great way to start a discussion."

Long had also hoped that panelists would have clarified some of the points brought up throughout the discussion to improve the flow of conversation. "I wish that the panel would have addressed the difference between semi-automatic sporting rifles such as AR-15s and the issue of high-capacity magazines that enable them to be such dangerous weapons," Long explained. "I also wish there had been a bit more statistics about guns instead of using general statements."

Reyes and Marshall commended the students for their work and celebrated the forum's success. Both PEA faculty members believe that this event was just the start of many more conversations and actions to come. They hope that future forums will be held for topics besides gun violence.

"I think the forum was a success. The students were all well-prepared and engaged the audience. They touched on important topics while addressing a standing-room only crowd," Reyes said. According to her, the PEA students have invited the EHS and CMS stu-

dents to a meeting to continue the conversation around next steps. "This could be the start of a wonderful collaboration between all students in the Exeter area no matter what school they are coming from," Reyes said.

Even after the forum ended, people continued to discuss and connect over topics not only about gun violence. According to Marshall, two EHS instructors who were interested in the racial politics of gun violence talked to her and invited her to talk to a group of EHS students that were concerned with white supremacy and whiteness. "I really hope that there are more opportunities for schools to come together maybe around different topics in addition to gun violence, but other things that might be important to what it is like to be a teenager in the town of Exeter," Marshall said.

Ultimately, many felt that the forum successfully connected people from different backgrounds over gun violence.

Many Exonians, including Miller, Davidson, Aguilar, Long and Gonzalez, plan on attending the nationwide school walkout this Friday, April 20th to advocate for gun reform as well as honor the 19th anniversary of the Columbine shooting. Organized by seniors Auden Barbour and Daisy Tichenor, the walkout will begin at 11:15 a.m. with three rings from the bell as a reminder.

Students participating in the walkout are encouraged to congregate at the front steps of the Academy Building by 11:19 a.m., the start time of the Columbine shooting, for several speeches by both students and guests, a musical performance and a moment of silence. Aguilar

will be giving a speech about gun violence, and will tie in the role of race and diversity. Tichenor and Barbour hope that students, faculty and staff "will sacrifice a short amount of class time in order to stand in solidarity against gun violence and demand change."

For Tichenor, this walkout is about standing up for what she believes in and connecting with schools across the country on a national level. "Exeter isn't part of a vacuum; it is part of America," Tichenor said.

Some Exonians will have the chance to present their views by voting in the midterm elections this November. Although the majority of Exonians will be under 18, they can also communicate directly with their representatives. As Tichenor said, "Go to the gun forum. Call your politicians. Call your Exeter politicians. Call your politicians from your hometown."

Other students plan to continue their activism against gun violence through other mediums. Davidson plans to work in theater. "I am involved in Unsilenced, a performance run by [upper] Jacob Hunter and [lower] Tatum Schutt that is going to be about guns. I am going to be presenting a piece about gun violence and the performance will be open to the whole school," Davidson said.

As Exonians participate in student forums, walkouts or performances to voice their concerns, the message and relevance of the growing activism against gun violence has become clear. As Aguilar said after the forum ended, "It's about our nation and our country, and it's about making the world a safer place."

# New Courses Added to Catalogue for 2018-2019

By ANNE BRANDES  
and ANGELE YANG  
Staff Writers

Every spring, Exonians pore over an extensive selection of courses, consult possibilities with older students and advisers, finalize their specialized schedules and click through the online course registration. This year, they look forward to Apr. 24, when course registration opens and students can sign up for courses in the 2018-19 curriculum.

According to Dean of Studies and Academic Affairs Brooks Moriarty, academic departments begin to review course offerings each fall and explore changes for the following academic year. By winter break, departments submit changes to the courses of instruction for the following year. The faculty are the final approving body for course changes every January.

Chair of the Religion Department Peter Vorkink described the success of courses depending on the workload being “academically responsible” and that the

courses “fit within the goals and mission of the department and school,” while also being attractive to students.

The new courses come as a reflection of changing student needs. For example, the religion department has recently noticed a trend in students gravitating towards courses concerning identity.

“Over the years, Exeter students are coming with less and less formal knowledge about institutionalized religion, but with a more basic sense of their own spirituality, so our department has tried to offer a greater variety of courses to meet more students where they are in their own spiritual journey,” Vorkink said.

As a result, the Religion Department has reshaped the 550 class The Emerging Self into Soul Searching: Self, Identity and Meaning in Religion, Psychology and Literature. Religion Instructor Jennifer Marx Asch thinks the revised course will “create a space for students to read, discuss and write about these core questions,” and noted how “students have been gravitating towards religion classes that are more cen-

tered on the ‘existential questions.’”

Another change from the Religion Department is Religion Instructor Hannah Hofheinz’s revision proposal for the course Criticizing Religion. The course focuses on “many historical and contemporary commentaries on the nature and purpose of religion, its uses and misuses, its constructive and destructive sides,” Vorkink said.

“It is meant to be a course that allows students free reign to read through and discuss numerous critiques of religion, to help each student form his or her own opinion about the value and efficacy of a system and institution which have broadly shaped culture since the beginning of time,” Vorkink said.

Silicon Valley Ethics: Issues in the World of High Tech, is a course entirely new to the Religion Department. Vorkink says that this course is groundbreaking because it will pair current students with Exeter alumni to work on a project of mutual interest. The project will grapple with ethical issues in the world of high tech.

“Given all the stories in the news re-

cently, especially about alumnus Mark Zuckerberg and social media, this should be a timely offering to assist students in understanding the complex issues the new technologies raise for all of us, issues such as free speech, privacy and the nature of interpersonal relations,” Vorkink says.

Both Criticizing Religion and Silicon Valley Ethics are open to both upper and seniors and run winter term only.

History Department Chair William Jordan noticed other trends in student course interest. “The non-Western requirement, over the years, has led to a decline in enrollment in European history and a rise in some of the more global courses,” he said.

For example, the History Department has recently made a change to the senior elective, Modern Africa. Originally, the instructors had centered the class around the whole of the continent. “Instead, now we focus on one country—South Africa—and really try to dig deep into that country, use it as a lens to look at the whole continent as well,” Jordan said.

# Student Council Passes Day Student Driving Policy

By ISABELLA AHMAD  
and JACOB FEIGENBERG  
Staff Writers

Student Council passed at its most recent meeting a proposal that would allow upperclassmen day students who had completed proper protocol to drive boarding students. The Council would like to present the proposal to faculty members this year, although according to Dean of Faculty Ellen Wolff, the faculty meeting agenda has little room for any additions.

Uppers Tara Weil, Jeremy Xu, Mark Blekherman and senior Dara Okeremi have spearheaded the year-long endeavor to pass the proposal. In the policy’s current form, as stated in the E-Book, day students under 18 years old are prohibited from driving boarding students.

Per the new policy, both the day and boarding students must obtain permission from a guardian and dean—similar to the Academy’s out-of-town system—

before the day student drives the boarder if they are to leave the ten-mile radius surrounding Exeter.

However, boarders planning to ride only within the towns of Exeter or Stratham in a day student’s car do not need to ask permission from their guardians or a dean. Boarding students’ guardians can create a list of day students the boarder can drive with, and will then not have to fill out a form for each event.

The push to instate a new day student driving policy came about for several reasons. According to upper and day student representative Natalie Pang, it is inconvenient for boarders to rely on day students’ guardians for transportation.

Upper and day student Gavin Sabalewski explained that even with the freedom to make arrangements with guardians and boarding friends, the system is still not optimal. “I’ve been able to get my parents to drive me and my friends places, but it can be pretty difficult to organize,” he said.

Sabalewski also mentioned that Exonians frequently break the rules pertaining to driving and, in doing so, put themselves at risk. “It causes people to have to pick people up in off-campus locations,” he said.

Lower Tatum Schutt believes that the current policy is “largely unnecessary” and harmful to Exonians on financial aid. “If you cannot pay for transportation like the rest of your friends for a simple beach outing, it can be very isolating,” she said.

However, lower Rosemary Beck, who is legally old enough to drive, said that she understands the restriction. “I can see why they wouldn’t want me driving around preps,” she said. “I know some parents would be worried if their kids had the ability to just hop in someone’s car.”

Beck does believe the new policy would be beneficial, however, as long as the drivers’ records show they are safe and skilled drivers.

Despite the positive response the policy draft has received, many still believe

it could be improved. Upper Elliot Diaz would like to see the policy extend to all towns that neighbor Exeter, as opposed to just Stratham. “It would be much more convenient for me,” they said.

Pang also believes that the policy is not as convenient as it could be, as the lengthy permission process might not be worth it for a short trip close to campus.

However, senior and day student Chris Balboni believes that “the parental permission is an important part of it because the school can’t be liable for people driving.” Instructor in Mathematics and Student Council advisor Laura Marshall agreed, explaining that “the accident rate of teenage drivers is high and [Exeter is] responsible for the safety of students.”

Regardless, Pang is hopeful that the Student Council proposal will continue to materialize and improve. She said, “There are bound to be things that will be changed in the future.” Despite this, Pang added, “I think the policy is a really good start.”

# Exeter Hosts Day of Dialogue, A Format Cancelled

Continued from DIALOGUE, A1

one of these training workshops, noticed the discrepancy between female and male faculty members in attendance. “I don’t recall seeing a single male faculty member [at the workshop],” Canfield said. Of the 40 faculty members in the initial restorative justice training, only five were male.

Saturday’s discussion is intended to help create a forum for Exonians to talk about key issues in the community. “We encounter difficult conversations all the time, and the Exeter Day of Dialogue will provide an opportunity to develop trust and strengthen our community,” Dean of Studies and Academic Affairs Brooks Moriarty noted in his email to Exonians.

Fellow students, including dorm proctors, student listeners, team captains and members of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Committee will help lead the talks. Every session will be made of up of a randomized combination of 12 students,

rather than based off of dorms or advisee groups as in previous opportunities for conversation.

Instead of Harkness, Exeter will pilot a system meant to prioritize conversation through the use of a “talking piece.” Students will gather around a circle, as in Harkness, but instead a rock or other object will be handed around the table, giving each participant a chance to speak. At any given time, only the person with the talking piece can speak. Rather than debate, every participant will try to share their story or respond to the question.

However, some had problems with the format of the discussions. Member of Martin Luther King Jr. Committee Margery\*, who attended the training workshop, raised concerns that the use of this talking piece could detract from the authenticity of the conversation. “We are trained in Harkness for the whole time we’re at Exeter, and we’ve learned how to utilize this method of conversation,” Margery said. “During our mock

conversations during the training sessions, I couldn’t help but notice a sense of artificiality.”

History Instructor Michael Golay agreed with this sentiment. “In all candor, I’m skeptical about the talking stone,” he said. “That suggests monologue to me, not dialogue, conversation, [and] strikes me as anti-Harkness.”

Assistant Director of Student Activities Kelly McGahie thought the day would be a great opportunity. “For me, I thought, here’s this whole new way of being here, of being present, of listening, of also speaking your own truth. I thought, wow, maybe there’s a tool we can use here,” she said.

For History Instructor Aykut Kilinc, the value of the day lies in the idea that it will allow Exonians to talk about what keeps them together. “I hope we will be able to talk about what keeps us together, confirm some of our values, hopefully it will bring us closer,” he said.

Chinese Instructor Ming Fontaine said that while she only represents one

opinion, this event is critical to improving the Exeter community for the better, even at the expense of students’ class time. “The event is optional to faculty. But even if I go and only ten people show up, I will still be there and engaged. This is so important,” Fontaine said.

Despite some initial concerns, many Exonians and faculty alike look forward to the day. “I used to feel like I knew what the school stood for. I’m not so sure anymore. It seems to me we’ve become an institution rather than a community,” Golay said. “Maybe the program will be a start in pushing us in the other direction — toward community.”

Lower Janey McGowan looks forward to the premise of such a discussion. “This is the first time we’ve ever had an event like this on our campus, and it’s a discussion that we really need to have,” McGowan said. “I think some people may be apprehensive because this is the first time we’ve held an event like this, but this is the first step to something much bigger.”



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## Embracing Elitism: An Exonian's Existential Quest

**Mai Hoang '20**

*Columnist*

Around this time last year, an anonymous post appeared on a certain private social media group that shall not be named. Viewable to most current Exonians and a number of alumni, it read, "I honestly loved the International Student assembly, but not for the reasons you think. While, yes, it is nice to have a bunch of rich kids from other cultures for 'diversity,' they rarely add anything meaningful to our campus." The author went on to call me out by name as a rare counterexample of someone with "a beautiful message" who "didn't attend an American private school." The message finally concluded with, "I want to see more students like Mai [...] enough with the false sense of being cultured just because we have rich kids from exotic places."

**Needless to say, the International Student Alliance Board meeting the following week was an interesting experience. Everyone had read the post and came in overflowing with arguments as to why it was false.**

Needless to say, the International Student Alliance Board meeting the following week was an interesting experience. Everyone had read the post and came in overflowing with arguments as to why it was false.

"People think we live in castles or something." "We don't fly around in private jets." "They negate our experience without even bothering to find out about our cultures."

In a way, these discussions were not new; recurring episodes of the how to combat international means rich stereotype theme that had been resurfacing again and again in ISAB meetings ever since my prep fall. Still, the visible tension in the room almost made me feel guilty about what I had

said during assembly; I too was frustrated by the brazen assumption that the author had made while constructing their argument, the antagonistic accusation that "rich kids [...] rarely add anything meaningful to our campus" and did not bring unique cultures and perspectives of their own.

But I will confess one thing. What ran through my mind during that meeting was a conversation I had with another international student on financial aid. "These other international kids talk about hopping on a plane to places like the UK and France every summer for fun," they had said. "I don't get how there are people who think of that as normal." After all, wealth and poverty are relative, are they not? A person's shack can easily be another's castle.

I will also confess another thing. During that assembly last year, I did not tell you the whole story. Please don't judge me too harshly - don't you also sympathize with the very human urge of emphasizing one's struggles and skimming over manifestations of privilege?

Well, I will try to make amends, nonetheless, by listing out the details I omitted then: yes, I could not pay for a boarding school agent, the common path that led most Vietnamese students to elite American institutions, but I did have a mother who understands enough English to spend an hour every day during application season and fill in parent questionnaires and financial aid application forms.

**In a way, these discussions were not new; recurring episodes of the how to combat international means rich stereotype theme that had been resurfacing again and again in ISAB meetings ever since my prep fall.**

Yes, I spent my middle school years "jam-packed into moldy classrooms with fifty kids," but that school also consistently ranked first amongst all public schools in Saigon, with teachers who held master's degrees. I never studied English literature

in school, and there was no reputable public library in the whole city, but my parents made enough so that buying 200,000-VN-dong copies of Anna Karenina and *Midnight's Children* was not a problem. I generally do not have to worry much about being thrown off a motorbike because my family owns a car. Only 1.6 percent of Vietnamese citizens do.

While I do not wish to preach, being myself susceptible, to justify that I am here because I deserve to be after having overcome many struggles, I sometimes think it would be far more productive if we all reframe our narrative. I am not referring solely to the international student community or any other specific group, but Exonians as a whole. Instead of pointing fingers, how about we collectively acknowledge that we are indeed what others perceive the "stereotypical Exonian" to be — over-privileged, clueless kids?

No matter how dire your circumstances were at birth, something must have gone incredibly right in your life for you to be at Exeter. That may be five generations of Harvard-educated alumni on Wall Street or an encouraging public school teacher who pushed you to break out from the mold.

**That may be five generations of Wall Street Harvard alumni or an encouraging public school teacher who pushed you to break out from the mold.**

Phillips Exeter Academy is an elite institution. This fundamental fact is one which Exonians of all ages have tried to grapple with, whether they were on financial aid or not, and generally ended up dusting underneath the rug.

For it is hard to see that this is how things should be. Running my fingers through the endless rows of books in the nine-story Louis Kahn library, listening to a speech by the Director of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural Science or another poet who just won the Pulitzer Prize, it is

hard to see that this is how things should be.

On the one hand, it is almost blasphemous to not be grateful and to not think that I will give back to the school with whatever wealth I generate in my career because this institution opened so many doors for me. But why all this money for the high school education of an extremely select group of teenagers?

An economically-minded friend once warned me from being bogged down by the cost of opportunities; I still cannot help thinking about the number of schools that can be built in Africa with the money we spent on our new field house. In rationalizing our disposition, Exonians are forced to believe that the system is meritocratic and just, and that we had earned our place, either by pure genetic superiority (which reeks of political incorrectness), or by working hard.

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Alternatively, we can all admit that we are elites. Socioeconomic background is such a taboo topic because it is so inextricably tied to guilt. Yet ironically, our ingrained sense of antagonism against the obscenely rich has compelled the privileged to present themselves as underprivileged and consequently forget about those who genuinely struggle to obtain their daily bread. Being on financial aid at Exeter means that one cannot pay for a fifty-thousand dollar tuition. That is hardly the definition of the global poverty line. And while, yes, it would be nice to have those extra dollars in our Lion cards to spend at Grill because everyone else does, but is it really that necessary?

Sometimes, I look at the things I own now and don't recognize myself. My friends back home certainly don't.

## Knowledge and Goodness in Political Discussions

**Shivani Tripathi '20**

*Guest Contributor*

When asked to define the Academy's central values, many refer to the iconic line from the Deed of Gift: "Goodness without knowledge is weak and feeble, yet knowledge without goodness is dangerous." We Exonians strive to fulfill this mission statement in our daily lives. From social service to athletics to academics, I cannot help but be amazed by what my peers have accomplished for themselves and for others. I am also eternally grateful for the numerous opportunities the Academy provides for us to embody these attributes of both knowledge and goodness.

But when it comes to activism and political culture on campus, the Academy has already defined political goodness for us. In pursuit of this goodness, the knowledge students are exposed to is inherently limited.

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I lived abroad before coming to Exeter and had little exposure to Ameri-

can politics. I had a vague understanding of the 2016 presidential election candidates' platforms. I found myself agreeing more with Hillary Clinton's platform than Donald Trump's.

During my prep fall, my liberal views were affirmed every time politics was brought up in assembly, discussions and class. I was delighted to see everyone agree with me. I did not hear a word about valid reasons why people would vote for Trump, but instead heard multiple disparaging comments about Trump supporters. These opinions came not only from students, but from faculty members as well.

A mission statement found on the Academy website further reads: "The challenges that students meet at Exeter and the support they receive have a common purpose: to stimulate their development as individuals and as members of society."

Exeter challenged me academically and emotionally during my prep fall. I just wish the Academy had further honored the mission statement and challenged my political views, as well. I still harbor liberal beliefs; I believe in gun control, climate change and a woman's right to decision on matters that affect her own body. But I would have thought more critically and would have bolstered my resolve in my opinions if I was exposed to differing viewpoints, rather than receiving constant affirmation.

A year and a half later, the political culture on campus has not changed at all. Even after the election, we have not had a single assembly speaker express support for Trump, despite him being the President of the United States.

**But I would have thought more critically about and would have bolstered my resolve in my opinions if I was exposed to differing viewpoints, rather than receiving constant affirmation.**

During my time at Exeter, we have had only one conservative speaker; The New York Times columnist Ross Douthat, who we invited not once, but twice. But he, too, openly stated that he was not a Trump supporter. Instead of being exposed to unique perspectives, Exonians stand and applaud the same, recycled political sentiments from different people.

Students came to the Academy to be challenged and intellectually stimulated. How can our "development as individuals and as members of society" be achieved if we are never exposed to opposing views? How are we supposed to strengthen our opinions if we never have to defend them? How are we supposed to develop tolerance towards opposing viewpoints if they are not given

proper attention?

This is where the danger of the "Exeter Bubble" becomes apparent. No matter how much one would like it to be, the political one sidedness of Exeter is not a reflection of the polarized world outside Exeter. It is the Academy's duty to equip us with critical thinking skills to navigate today's complex, diverse political environment. On a campus that fosters liberalism, it is ironically the conservative students who receive the best education.

**Instead of being exposed to unique perspectives, Exonians stand and applaud the the same, recycled political sentiments from different people.**

That being said, the Academy has espoused liberalism with positive intentions. In the minds of many on campus, including my own, liberal beliefs culminate in a more constructive, inclusive society. However, the problem arises when other views, regardless of their merit, are disregarded in order to perpetuate one's own idea of "goodness."

It is time for the Academy to step up and educate us about the other side of the political spectrum, because, as John Phillips said, "Goodness without knowledge is weak and feeble."

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## Vigor and Vitriol: The Trump Era

Jack Zhang '20

Guest Contributor

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## Racial Discrimination at Starbucks Incident

Andrea So '20

Columnist

Last Thursday, two black men were arrested for sitting at a Starbucks in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They anticipated the arrival of a friend, and decided to wait for him before ordering their drinks together. A Starbucks employee, somehow perceiving them as a threat or disturbance, asked them to leave. When they refused, the employee called the police, who arrested the men on suspicion of trespassing.

Many aspects of this scenario are extremely problematic and questionable. First of all, the two black men were eventually released due to lack of evidence. Not only was this entire incident extremely disrespectful to the men, but it was also a massive waste of the police's time. While this unfolded, the police could have been outside capturing legitimate criminals instead of arresting people whose alleged "crime" was sitting at a café. As seen in the video, six officers were present at the scene and involved in making the arrest, which seems like completely unnecessary force.

The two men had originally asked to use the bathroom, and were declined due to Starbucks' policy of not allowing non-paying customers to use store bathrooms.

However, they did not question that decision any further or cause any disturbance—they simply sat there and waited for their friend. According to the customer who filmed the viral arrest video, many others in the café at the time had been sitting there for longer

**It is the buildup of continued silence about these small acts of discrimination that allow larger incidents to occur.**

than the two men had without purchasing anything, but were not accosted by any Starbucks employees. There is absolutely no reasonable justification for the fact that they were forcibly removed by the police, especially since they had been planning to purchase drinks later on. Even if that had not been their original plan, they still should have been allowed to sit and wait.

This Starbucks incident may seem extreme to some, but make no mistake—it was born from many miniscule, everyday manifestations of racism. This arrest is directly connected to the constantly perpetuated stereotype that black men are inherently animalistic and violent. This incident is connected to every single time that a person of

color has received wary looks from people in restaurants or been asked to leave an establishment for no reason at all.

It makes no sense to be shocked by what happened at Starbucks if you continue to allow smaller instances of discrimination and alienation to happen, because it is the buildup of continued silence about these small acts of discrimination that allow larger incidents to occur.

Luckily no one was hurt, but the Starbucks employee displayed a disgusting bias that some like to believe doesn't exist anymore. I am sure we would like to believe that we live in a "post-racial society" where fairness is a reality, but blatantly discriminatory acts like

**There is absolutely no reasonable justification for the fact that they were forcibly removed by the police, especially since they had been planning to purchase drinks later on.**

this Starbucks incident remind us how much more progress our nation must make towards racial equality.

## Green Capitalism

Mark Blekherman '19

Opinions Editor

Can capitalism and sustainable development co-exist? At the Assembly on Apr. 17, MIT Professor John Fernandez cast doubt on the compatibility between the two, criticizing the political and economic system of capitalism for deceiving consumers and profiting off of the exploitation of the environment. Fernandez pointed to the smoking lobby, as well as the bogus statements of Republican lawmakers to demonstrate how special interests interfere with policymaking.

Although the status quo in the United States government is one of climate change denial, capitalism—with a small dose of government guidance—has the potential to change companies' attitudes.

The emergence of green economies, like Sweden and Singapore, have brought green capitalism into the spotlight. To summarize its core tenets, green capitalism emphasizes the advertisement of the global warming crisis and public investment in renewable energy sources, as well as the development of carbon trading practices that would incentivize companies to reduce carbon emissions.

Critics of green capitalism claim that no capitalist system can prevent the greedy impulses of corporations. In his book *Green Capitalism: the God that Failed*, Richard Smith contends that "ecologically suicidal growth is built into the nature of any conceivable capitalism." Emphasizing that rapacious consumerism and overconsumption are inherent to a market system that relies on profit, Smith instead proposes a transition to ecosocialism—an egalitarian, undoubtedly utopian society where local environmental priorities would transcend economic considerations.

Before even evaluating Smith's reliance on the ecosocialist model, what these critics overlook in their attack on capitalism is that sustainable production can be profitable. In 2005, European firms committed to the Emissions Trading Scheme, which gave each firm a tradable allowance for greenhouse gases. Companies that wish to exceed the permitted level of emissions are able to purchase credits from more resource-efficient companies. These carbon-trading systems are now being implemented across the world.

Over time, as our education system adapts to the reality of climate change and begins to raise environmentally-conscious adults, consumers will demand high-quality goods that have been made with an eye for sustainability. Boycotts and demonstrations, especially those organized by millennials, will gradually compel companies to reconsider the fabrication of their goods. Cardinal Turkson, one of Pope Francis' closest aides, asserted that the Pope had "suggest[ed] that social pressure can force businesses to consider their environmental footprint and patterns of production."

Moreover, in a survey conducted by the marketing agency Cone Communications, nine out of ten consumers said that they would boycott a company if it lacked "corporate social responsibility." The advent of social media has only made it easier for these boycotts and awareness campaigns to take root and gather followers. The de-stigmatization of environmentally-themed majors and courses will take time, but it will eventually shift consumer preferences and, consequently, the types of goods that firms will produce.

Under the green capitalism model, government can still play a role in setting the right incentives for companies. Ecosocialism, on the other hand, calls for the government to assume a more intrusive role, going as far as to shut down industries that have grown unsustainable. In addition to putting thousands out of the workforce, such regulations will stunt business innovation.

Rather than aggressively interfering in the free market, governments must financially incentivize firms to alter their business strategies—whether it be through carbon taxes, public-private partnerships or other constructive means. Perhaps more importantly, overbearing government presence in the economy will create barriers to innovation by cementing monopolies. For example, if a government takes control of car production, it impedes progressive entrepreneurs from entering the field.

This is not an argument against certain big government projects. Governments should continue to invest in climate research and free public transportation, which will alleviate carbon emissions by reducing our reliance on cars.

But on a larger scale, government policies can only do so much.

Only competition within the free market will promote innovation and reward companies that successfully blend the two pillars of green capitalism: environmental consciousness and profit incentive. New technologies, from solar energy to electric cars, have proven that those two pillars can co-exist.

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Contact [exonian@gmail.com](mailto:exonian@gmail.com)

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# H O P E

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Ben Cai is a traitor.  
- Mr. McLaughlin

Acclark1 is the highlight of my day.

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Criminal Empire.

Mr. Lincoln, Cilley Dorm Fac of  
the Month! Huge Congrats to you  
on this major milestone!

PubG > Fortnite  
-fight me

I would like to ask Cody Nunn,  
Will Peeler, and Ray Alvarez to  
stop ganging up on me in Magic  
The Gathering.  
- Billy O'Handley

To Bango:  
Roses are red  
Your love is more than  
enough  
So maybe one day  
You will cuff

Nick Schwarz is awesome.

Jalen it's good to finally meet you ;)

Dearest Beatrice, I hope  
you have a wonderful day.  
- JStew

I love you Grady.  
- Ben Abitello

Aaron Baez you are thicc.

LoveExists.

Chim,  
Will you go to  
Wheelwright Tea  
with me?  
xoxo,  
Yung Gech

Hello Alex ;)  
Do you like  
orangutans?

Selma Unver u  
a cutie pie :):):)



Cody Nunn: "Should I put a  
cute message in the Exonian  
for you?"  
Reina Matsumoto: "No."

A\$ap me pls.  
- Nick Song

Matt Beazer, oui oui my  
throatee hurtieeee!!! Ily

Charlie, I knew you were the  
cutest boy in Ewald from the  
second I met your eyes, nestled  
beneath your dark and brooding  
brows. It only took a minute of  
your Latin charm to make me  
swoon. I must admit I was initial-  
ly drawn to your chiseled Roman-  
esque profile, but of course I was  
delighted to find a well of knowl-  
edge within our prep Adonis. As  
to my identity, look only to a  
dorm south of yours, which of  
course contains the entire conti-  
ental United States.

Dear Prashant,  
We had English together and  
I think you're really cute.  
Meet me at agora on Sunday.  
-Z

Richard from Dow is bae.

## Deciphering the Nature of Activism

Jack Zhang '20  
Guest Contributor

In the West, political expression ranges from indirect form, like voting for representatives, to form more direct and specific demonstrating and marching. Protests and rallies already push the boundaries of common tolerance; activism is considered the highest form of political activity, and anything more radical is shunned as being immature or improper. However, modern activism is an elitist interpretation of social change.

Today, nobody doubts the power of civil protest to affect change within the concessions from the ruling political-capitalist class. Furthermore, it is foolish to mistake activism for what will truly be required to break the oppression of the ruling class: direct action and revolution.

Activism is only effective with the blessing of the political-capitalist class. The 1960's American black liberation movement only succeeded with relative non-violence because the ruling class did not care enough to openly combat it.

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While there were isolated incidents of violence, the tempered moderation of the American movement and accompanying peace came in sharp contrast to the open race wars of national liberation movements in Rhodesia and South Africa. The socialist characteristics of African black nationalists posed a direct and immediate threat to the ruling class, leading to a violent kickback against black revolutionaries.

The American suffrage movement also brought about change because the

ruling class did not care enough to openly combat it. The same is true for every single nonviolent activist movement in American history: any successful change proposed had to first be acceptable to the political-capitalist class.

Many of these successful movements, such as the gay rights struggle and campaign for interracial marriage, were supported by the capitalist class in the name of profit or simply accepted for lack of harm, sometimes despite a mass rejection. There was simply no reason for the ruling class to oppose these movements because the benefits outweighed the negatives. Thus, the movements were permitted to succeed without resorting to violence.

In contrast, mass revolutionary action is effective, regardless of the opinion of the ruling class. These revolutionary actions range greatly in their resemblance to activism, from the mostly non-violent overthrow of the Egyptian state in 2011 to the violent revolutions of 1848 throughout Europe and the French Revolution.

However, one detail clearly distinguishes activism and revolution: in activism, political consciousness arises only after the action has taken place, whereas in revolution, the development of consciousness precedes the spontaneous and organic action that eventually develops.

This distinction is critical in determining the success of the movement with the resistance of the ruling class. In activism, the formation of consciousness is influenced and corrupted by hegemony. While the activist-oriented political consciousness remains undeveloped, the revolutionary potential is easily snuffed out by reactionaries and other elements of the ruling class.

Consider the case of Tsarist Russia, where the primary organization of activists, the Socialist Revolutionary Party, ended up leading the reactionary movement against the Bolshevik revolution. Activists without a developed political consciousness should not be relied on during periods of great upheaval. For this reason, it is critical for any progressive or radical movement to develop and foment new ideologies before acting on their newly-developed consciousness.



However, this does not mean that revolution can be interpreted as a "struggle of ideas," as political leader Amadeo Bordiga states in his article *Activism*. The revolutionary struggle is one that emerges without guidance from intellectuals or academics.

Notably, this excludes the possibility a vanguard party of professional revolutionaries that protect the revolutionary party's ideology. Political consciousness, be it of class or of race or of sex, must emerge from the mass of individual revolutionaries who join together in the revolutionary party.

Just as bourgeois influence corrupts activism, elitist vanguardism corrupts revolution. Revolution is an expression of the natural and real oppression of individual revolutionaries against the existing and accepted order, and should not be confused with moralistic ideological struggle between the intelligentsia and the ruling class.

It will always be the responsibility of individual revolutionaries to develop their own consciousnesses before acting. When a mass movement progresses past trade-union and activist consciousness, true change may finally come to exist, even if it goes against the wishes of the ruling class.

It is far past the time to understand that activism is not the highest and most commendable form of political activism,

**Revolution is an expression of the natural and real oppression of individual revolutionaries against the existing and accepted order, and should not be confused with moralistic ideological struggle between the intelligentsia and the ruling class.**

and that it should not be the backbone of progress. When a movement becomes reliant on activism solely sanctioned by the ruling class, it is often the first to defect to the side of reaction when the time for revolution comes.

By keeping the nature of activism in mind, especially during these turbulent political times, we ensure that any movement will maintain its potential for the development of consciousness and substantive progress.

## From Public School to Private School

Clara Geraghty '21  
Guest Contributor

According to the Facts page on the Academy website, 52.4 percent of the admitted class in 2017 previously attended a public school. This means that roughly half of the student body at Exeter has experienced what constitutes an often stark contrast between their former and current education. So the question remains for many: should I have stayed in public school?

**According to the Facts page on the Academy website, 52.4 percent of the admitted class in 2017 previously attended a public school.**

Admittedly there have been many times during which I have woken up

10 minutes before class, sprinted to the Academy building and wished that I could be back in the thirty-student classroom, sitting in the back of the class and playing Flappy Golf on my phone. I have often thought about what it would be like to still be at my old school where I did not have to study

**It is during those late nights, hunched at my desk trying to force out those final hundred words of my paper, that I find it difficult to remember why I left public school for Exeter.**

into the late hours of the night to receive a somewhat satisfactory grade. It is during those late nights, hunched at my desk trying to force out those final hundred words of my paper, that

I find it difficult to remember why I left public school for Exeter.

However, it is during the moments when I look around the Harkness table and see every single member of the class completely engaged that I remember the reason I came here. This school truly has so much to offer. The sheer magnitude of students here that are so incredibly intelligent never ceases to amaze me. The things I learn in a single biology class go above and beyond what I learned in one week last year. Despite the many downsides, I have found that the opportunities which this school has provided with me outweigh what I have sacrificed.

This does not mean I wouldn't prefer last year's hour of homework. I don't claim to prefer dining hall food over a home cooked meal. In no way have I enjoyed trading in my nine hours of sleep for—at least—the seven I receive now. To claim any of this as true would be a lie. And I am positive that I am not the only person here who feels

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this way. Nevertheless, I am part of the 52.4 percent who chose to give away those conveniences for this unrivaled education.

Ultimately, Phillips Exeter Academy is an institution for education, and that is really what matters most. The majority of students currently attending were aware that enrollment meant giving up many of the small conveniences they enjoyed before, yet they continued to forge ahead into their journey here at Exeter. In the long run, Exeter's many advantages outweigh these perks and I have never regretted my decision to attend PEA.

## Revamping Exeter's English Curriculum

Dennis Kostakoglu Aydin '21  
Guest Contributor

Being the literary buff that I envision myself to be, I am somewhat appalled by the English department's mundaneness and unoriginality in its choosing of books for students to read. Most of the time, we are given more literary realism-type books, which regard more current political issues or issues stemming from coming-of-age and the awkward teenage years. While I believe that these are necessary to read, and can be enjoyable at times, I would also like to see more diverse books from which to read.

As a prep, I have my immediate future in English planned out for me, which—while it has its upsides—does not allow me much leeway in what I am able to study. This area of contention is definitely not the most important or talked about, and I know that most people don't really care about it. However, I still believe that since books are the catalyst for free thinking and opinion, we deserve a greater variety of books to increase the amount of opinions that people have.

This is incredibly important, es-

pecially in these times where free speech and opinions are under attack. We, the younger generation, need to be able to learn the importance of having our own opinions, being able to form them without exterior pressures, and stick to our opinions without fear of oppression. The ability of a person to maintain their own beliefs in a respectful and responsible way is the cornerstone of a person's personality.

With that in mind, I would like to explain some of my ideas for broadening the scope of books we read. One of the main genres that I feel does not get enough recognition is experimental literature.

Experimental literature is a form of literature that focuses on the delivery, or rather the medium in which the literature itself is presented.

Some famous examples include the poem "The Grasshopper" by E.E. Cummings, and "Ulysses" by James Joyce.

This genre deserves more recognition because it espouses innovation in technique and in writing, and we are not usually taught how to innovatively express ourselves through stories that are not written in the more

mainstream writing style.

Another genre that I feel deserves more acceptance is fantasy. While PEA already has a fantasy literature course, it is only open to seniors. The preps and lowers read books grounded in reality.

Imagination is one of the best ways that we humans can become better than what we already are, for we can think beyond the scope of what is normal and believe in things greater than ourselves. In this way, we can see things from different angles and dream up things we would never have dreamt of before. The fantasy genre, simply by giving us a medium in which anything is possible, allows us to believe that: from there, the possibilities are endless.

The third genre that I believe has been more suppressed is classical. Besides Shakespeare, there really aren't that many truly classical books that we read. For example, Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, which is the foundation of all modern mythology; the plays of Hesiod, which form the basis of the classical comedy and tragedy that we use today; as well as Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, the fathers of all Western literature, are among some of the most

important written works of our times.

In order to gain a full and thorough knowledge of literature, writing, and the expression of stories and beliefs, I believe it's important to delve into the foundations of modern literature, which are found in classical literary pieces.

Ultimately, of the enormous variety that exists in the world today, these are only three genres of literature, and thus not the most accurate representation of the types of literature we need to read.

I think it is important to realize that English class, especially at Exeter, is not just about reading books and talking about them: it's forming opinions and being able to ensure that your opinion is heard, while also knowing the value of listening.

Stories expand our way of thinking. We read not only for pleasure, but also to grow as human beings. It is because of this that I believe we deserve more diversity in the literature we are assigned as underclassmen. Without a wide array of books, we will never be able to broaden our horizons, and an ignorant state of being—especially now where fake news is commonplace—is undoubtedly dangerous.



# Exonian Photo



## Relay For Life 2018



Photographs by Reina Matsumoto, JaQ Lai





# ExeterLife



A display of origami pieces in the Oh! Origami Exhibit at the Lamont Gallery.

Numi Oyeboode/The Exonian

## PEA RELAY FOR LIFE

By NIKITA THUMMALA and ERIN CHOI  
Staff Writers

At 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 15, students rushed into the hockey rink to attend Exeter's Relay for Life, the annual fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Students purchased tickets to spend at various student-organized booths for food and activities, ranging from pancakes and boba tea to gladiator fighting and face painting.

The event ran for three hours. Clubs, sports teams and dorms set up booths filled with a variety of activities and food around the rink. Lower Bianca Lee, who helped run Dunbar's Dun-Bubble-Tea Bar booth, believed that the cause deserved everyone's efforts. "We had to cook [the tapioca balls], which took a while, but it was worth it [because] it's for the good cause of cancer research," she said.

Prep Joe Laufer, who was involved with Kirtland Society, a Latin club on campus, said that he came because he wanted the gladiator booth to be "as successful as possible." Other booths included snow cones from Soule Hall, laps around the rink in heels courtesy of Hoyt Hall, a photobooth by PEAN

and the "pie-ing" booth by the boys' and girls' squash team, which was especially popular. By the end of the night, each booth collected dozens of tickets, raising a considerable amount of money towards the cause.

Each student had their own reason to Relay. Several members of the community have been affected by cancer.

Sofina Tillman, a prep at the Wheelwright palm reading booth, said that she "came to Relay for Life because my grandfather died of cancer." Since he lived in a developing country at the time, it was hard for doctors to recognize the signs of the disease. Tillman expressed that she hopes no one will have to go through what her grandfather experienced and advocates for finding the cure by participating events like Relay for Life.

Amelia Lee, an upper involved in organizing the event, shared similar sentiments. "Cancer has been very close to my heart and has affected several members of my family," she said. "Assisting in the organizing and planning of the event was a way I could use what I know to contribute to the cause."

Upper Lauren Leatham, one of the two main organizers of the event, felt similarly. "I have some family members

and friends who have been affected by cancer," she said. "I am glad that I can have an opportunity to try and help everyone who's been affected."

French Instructor Katherine Fair shared her own personal connection to Relay as well. "It brings the entire community together around an issue that touches virtually all of us," she said. "Two members of my family have had the disease, in addition to some close friends, so fundraising for cancer research is important to me."

Amidst the excitement of the activities, the Luminaria ceremony began halfway through the event. The rink was illuminated with golden string lights and candles as survivors and those affected by cancer shared their music and stories in the center of the rink. Glowsticks crackled one by one as names reverberated through the silence.

"This year, our theme was bringing attention to the unheard voices of our community that have been affected by cancer," Leatham said. Many attendees shed tears as they heard the powerful stories and memories.

After the performances concluded, students from the bleachers walked around the rink in a moment of silence. The glow sticks were the only forms of

light as the rink turned dark, allowing Exonians to truly concentrate on fond memories of those affected by cancer.

Lower Bianca Lee said that the ceremony was effective in proving the ubiquity of the disease. "As we just saw, it's such a prevalent cause of death in the world and it affects anyone and everyone," she said.

Prep Bizzie Lynch agreed. "It was amazing how they would say things like great aunt and uncle and people would snap their glow sticks for someone who had cancer. I thought it was interesting to see how it directly affects the entire community," Lynch said.

Through the entertainment and delicious food served at the booths, Relay for Life aimed to educate other students about the impact of cancer on this world and the added importance of finding a cure.

"We really want everyone to have a fun time at the event, and we also want everyone to realize the amazing contribution they are making to help fight cancer," Leatham said before the Relay. "We are really trying to raise as much money as we can for the American Cancer Society. If we are able to raise money and everyone is having fun while doing it, it will be a success."

## BIG RED GOES GREEN

By ANGELE YANG  
Staff Writer

In the common room, there is a recycled soda bottle repurposed as a hanging planter. On every floor, there is a green compost box. In every bathroom, there are towel hooks. With over forty students living in the dorm, Merrill Hall has implemented multiple methods to minimize unnecessary waste to increase sustainability and to encourage other dorms to adopt this mentality.

When she first came to Exeter, Safa Firas, an upper in Merrill Hall, noticed the improvements that could easily be made to increase sustainability in her dorm. Merrill started by closely monitoring dorm light usage, then focusing on reducing paper towel usage by hanging up hooks in bathrooms for hand towels. Though the towel hanging system was a success at first, less and less people continued to use it. On top of implementing these systems, the significance of doing so must be emphasized in the future.

In 2013, the United States alone wasted 254 million tons of trash, 30 percent to 40 percent of which were food waste, contributing to the country's reputation of being the number one waste producer. Merrill's compost bins are an inexpensive way to help nullify this problem.

Composting is about breaking down organic waste, such as a food or plants, to be used for something we already need, such as fertilizer. The dorm compost bins are then emptied out in the school's collective compost pile to be used for agriculture. By implementing compost bins in all dorms, we can easily magnify the impact it has on the environment.

To see the effect of repurposing waste, we only need to look at our local farms. In contrast to monoculture farms, polyculture farms grow multiple crops in the same area to imitate a naturally occurring ecosystem. Increasing biodiversity in these farms allows natural resources to be used more effectively by creating a self-sustaining cycle, which in turn increases the yield rate of these farms.

Animal waste can be used as fertilizer for crops, and different farm animals can take advantage of all food sources. At Polyface Farm in Virginia, for example, farmer Joel Salatin rotates his farm animals through the same field, allowing other farm animals, such as chickens or sheep, to reach vegetation or grubs that cows merely graze over.

The idea of imitating a self-sustaining ecosystem can also be applied to all of our daily lives. Zero Waste is a popular new movement spreading across the country. In addition to recycling and reusing products, its goal is to reduce waste by changing businesses' infrastructure when distributing products with the help of more supporters.

Though switching to a Zero Waste lifestyle does require adapting a new mindset and becoming more aware of your environmental impact, you do not need to live in a home specifically designed for reusable energy.

A Zero Waste life can start right here in the dorms. By implementing these inexpensive yet effective systems, such as composting, in all dorms, we can contribute to waste reduction and take small steps toward solving the United States' problem as the number one waste producer in the world.

## OH! ORIGAMI EXHIBIT

By SAM WEIL and JULIA DOBBINS  
Staff Writers

A thousand colorful paper cranes hang in an orderly rainbow, while intricate three-dimensional figures rest atop various pedestals in the Lamont Gallery. From April 10 to May 14, the gallery will feature an origami exhibit created by the Origami Club.

The origami pieces exhibit painstaking detail. Lower Elizabeth Kostina, co-head of Exeter's origami club and creator of the project, highlighted the pieces' structural theme of circles, "because circles historically represent perfection and goodness." The exhibit's centerpiece is a 105 piece taurus made out of PHiZZ units by Tom Hope.

Lower Thomas Matheos, a self-proclaimed origami admirer, appreciated the stylistic choices of the exhibit. "I like the peaceful stillness found both in the creases and in the aesthetically pleasing geometric patterns," Matheos said.

Gallery Manager Stacey Durand appreciated how the exhibit invites more students to pause and admire the artwork. "I really like the colors, and how exciting it is, but how it also gets people to slow down and take a minute," she said.

The objective of the exhibit is to convey to students that origami is much more than folding paper. Kostina described that her goal was to show "the intersectionality of the medium."

Math Instructor Szczesny Kaminsky also spoke to the multi-faceted nature of the art form. "It's used in high-tech, it's used in biology, it's used in space flight," he said. Kaminsky accredited the solar panel satellite launching to origami-related fundamentals. "[Solar panels] are nicely folded when they are stored in spaceships, based on very sophisticated origami principals. And then they open up to create these big flat surfaces in outer space."

The exhibit was founded to highlight the complexity of origami, encouraging

students to learn more. Kaminsky hopes that because of the exhibit, some students will feel motivated to "go to the store, buy origami paper and start doing it."

Kostina was inspired by her fall term math class with Kaminsky, which has many modular pieces of origami. "That just sort of started me, looking at the stuff and taking it apart during class," Kostina said. The Lamont Gallery staff were "happily obliged" to help Kostina, and the group started collecting pieces from different people around campus.

Many other faculty who have an interest in origami also donated some of their most treasured pieces to the cause.

Standardized test exam proctor Philip Mallinson contributed models he and other students have made over the years. "They're all modular origami, which means that each piece is made up of copies of the same unit," Mallinson said.

Kaminsky donated a variation of platonic polyhedrons, including a twenty-sided icosahedron and spherical shapes that could be folded into the size of a pencil or a donut. These two pieces each took Kaminsky two days to make.

The creators of the exhibit hope to, if nothing else, educate Exonians on the complexity of origami—that it is more than a means of making a paper crane. "There is more mathematics in one piece of origami than one typical year of math class at Exeter," Kaminsky said of the art form.

Kostina believes that origami is more than just art, and is grateful that the Lamont Gallery can bring awareness and appreciation to the form.

"Origami is not something that is typically displayed in museums. Origami doesn't hang up in buildings or stand up on pedestals like paintings or statues," she said. "It's sort of out of place. I think this exhibit is something that will throw people off a little bit."

## SeniorSpotlight

## MARIA HEETER

By LOUIS MUKAMA and  
ANGELINA ZHANG  
Staff Writers



Reina Matsumoto/ *The Exonian*

In her meditation—which she delivered at Phillips Church earlier this spring— senior Maria Heeter described her journey to connect to her middle name, Denali. Heeter embarked on this voyage of self-discovery without her iPhone in order to be more present in the world around her.

Heeter's friend, senior Cora Payne, said that "Maria's disdain for her phone is somehow simultaneously infuriating and inspiring."

Hailing from Dover, New Hampshire, Heeter has been driving herself to and from campus since her lower year. After a tiresome day at the Academy, she enjoys the time to unwind and decompress that driving home affords her. This solitude is one of her favorite things about being a day student. She has twelve playlists compiled for her half-hour drives, one for each of her terms at the Academy.

Reading and writing have been a large part of Heeter's Exeter career. She has been passionate about writing from a young age, but her time at the Academy inspired her to pursue humanities further. Heeter noted English Instructor Susan Repko as an inspiring mentor for her writing. "[Repko] was a writer and she talked about the downfalls and hardships of wanting to do it full time. But I remember turning in a piece and she said, 'You are going to do this no matter what,'" Heeter said.

Heeter has a group of close friends at Exeter who share her passion for English, and hopes to find a similar community

after her graduation. She plans to major in English at college become a writer. "I am still figuring out what type of writer I want to be," she said.

To pursue her interest in writing, Heeter interned at the Academy of American Poets in New York City last summer. She lived alone in an Airbnb for six weeks and spent her days reading and sorting poetry for the Academy.

Heeter continued her studies in literature at Stratford, England during her senior fall. Her term abroad let her focus and engage with her love of writing "in a beautiful place so rich with art and theater."

In addition to being a prominent writer on campus, Heeter is an avid

member of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA). She has been a cohead of the club since lower year. "GSA has helped me become more confident with myself," Heeter said. "It gave me a support system when I was still figuring things out."

English Instructor Alex Myers, one of the advisers for GSA, described Heeter's tireless leadership with the group. "Sometimes running a GSA meeting is like trying to herd cats, but Maria shows great patience and persistence in getting the group to focus," he said.

Fellow co-head of GSA and upper Adrian Venzon added that "since having her back [from Stratford], there has been a big difference; we are more organized with her here. I will miss having her as a

fellow co-head in GSA." One of Venzon's favorite memories of Heeter is of a night they spent with the club, making buttons decorated with their friends' faces.

Along with the GSA, Heeter is an Editor-in-Chief of PEAL, the PEAL Lifestyle Magazine. She is excitedly crafting the publication's next issue. "Maria has a clear creative vision for PEAL, and she also really cares about making it a collaborative and an inclusive publication. I am excited to work with her," English instructor and PEAL adviser Barbara Desmond said.

Heeter values real conversation, whether it's with friends discussing existentialism over breakfast at Wetherell or engaging with faculty members. "She has often stopped by my room to talk, and it's never superficial," Myers said. "She wants to delve into gender and sexuality and history and politics and a whole host of other topics."

Payne and Venzon both appreciate Heeter's way with people and of looking at the world, remarking how rare it is to find such a friend, who will "make homemade pasta or tin foil hats with [you]," as Payne said, and "have both serious and really comedic, lively conversations," according to Venzon.

Heeter has left a deep impression on those she is closest with at Exeter. Venzon described Heeter as a "big sister," adding that she's become an integral part of his life at Exeter. "I feel like I'm never bored when I'm talking to Maria," Venzon said.

Payne said, "Maria is an absolutely radical person... She's funny, brave and thoughtful—not just in her interactions with other people, but in the way that she sees the world."

## ALBUM REVIEW: "AM"

By ALAN WU  
Life Editor

Remember when Arctic Monkeys were good? Like, really good? Remember when an Arctic Monkeys song sent you into a snotty, punky frenzy? Remember when Alex Turner's lyrics tingled the marrow in your spine at their biting yet glossy eloquence? Remember when all the hype was totally worth it?

Back in 2006, Arctic Monkeys were a vital and important band because they exceeded all the hype. Like their predecessors the Strokes, Arctic Monkeys didn't collapse under the weight of being "the biggest new band since Oasis." The song "Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not" is a miraculous debut, displaying a brand of meat and potatoes rock n' roll brimming with unparalleled wit, energy and distinction.

Then in 2007 came "Favourite Worst Nightmare," a worthy sophomore album that subtly expanded the band's palette in both heavy riffage and sulking balladry. And it only gets better. Another two years later, the Monkeys dropped "Humbug," the best thing they've ever done.

"Humbug" brought them to Joshua Tree, where they recorded with Queens of the Stone Age frontman and rock genius Josh Homme. "Humbug" was a record that opened up a whole new palette of sounds for the Monkeys to play with, drenching their propulsive snarl and lyrical slickness in desert psychedelia and eerie atmospheric.

The band started to experiment with newer song structures and a wider variety of instruments, turning every edge of their old sound inside out to reveal new flavors. Every development in the band's trajectory only felt more and more promising. The Monkeys were going to get weird, innovative. They were going to create new spaces for rock to flourish. They were going to be the next Clash or even the next Radiohead. Right?

"Suck It and See" came out two years later, and it was...not very good. Even among all of the album's desert rock riffs, jangle pop hooks and garage rock arrangements, it felt uncharacteristically tame. All of the energy that was so essential to the band had drained away, leaving a set of barren tunes that could barely stitch together tired sounds from the 60s and 70s. To say the least, it was a massive disappointment. I wouldn't go as far as to call "Suck It and See" a fall from grace, but it signaled a problematic tendency that would only grow more apparent.

Jump forward to 2013, the Monkeys were now greasers with slicked-back hair and a gig at the London Olympic

Games under their belts. They named their new record "AM," taking inspiration from the Velvet Underground, and marketed it as Black Sabbath riffs over Drake beats; a total reinvention of what Arctic Monkeys meant as a band. It sounded like it would be awesome! Like, hell, they were combining a modern musical approach with an older novelty. Basically, using the past to inform the present to make the future. That's the stuff innovation is made out of! The only way "AM" should have turned out was at least good, if not fabulous.

No. No. No. Anything that even remotely falls under the bracket of rock music should not be as gutless, bland, formulaic, sterile and forced as the relentless snooze-fest known as "AM." The plagues foreseen in "Suck It and See," namely the energy-drained performances, lazy implementation of genres and complete lack of imagination, all came true in the worst possible ways. "AM" is a terrible album, with little to nothing that rocks or rolls or feels even the slightest bit invigorating.

Let's talk a little bit about Josh Homme because he's an important reference point here. As I mentioned earlier, he fronts Queens of the Stone Age, one of my favorite bands of all time. More than that, he's been in Kyuss, played with Dave Grohl and John Paul Jones in Them Crooked Vultures, and produced for Iggy Pop. Homme is an insanely creative musician, and he's the only dude who's successfully preserved classic rock ethos by not being an old fart about it. With records like "Rated R," "Era Vulgaris" and especially "...Like Clockwork," Queens gave mainstream rock enough vitality to last at least another two decades.

Working with Josh Homme changes you. The desert sand never left Arctic Monkeys' guitar amps. Those psychedelic touches and blues riffs from "Humbug?" They're all over "Suck It and See" and "AM," albeit in cheaper forms. And that's the problem: they're trying too hard to sound like Josh Homme instead of trying to think like Josh Homme.

After listening to "AM" far too many times, as well as parsing a few relevant interviews, I've come to conclude that the album aims to achieve two primary goals: (1) be sexy, sensual and nocturnal, and (2) be a combination of disparate influences like hip-hop/R&B and hard rock. So let's tackle each.

In all honesty, not many contemporary rock bands understand what sexiness in music means, especially indie

bands. To put it simply, sensuality is all about two things: tension and release. These two ideas must constantly be at odds until they converge into a satisfying whole. Without one or the other, what you get is frustration or apathy. "AM" does none of that. These are math equations as songs; precise and predictable to the point of boredom.

Take lead single "R U Mine?" as an example. Everything about it is awkward and stilted. The confused, mid-tempo drumming fills merely scrape by a set of flat, mechanical guitar riffs and directionless bass grooves. Lead singer Alex Turner's vocal delivery sacrifices charisma for contrived coolness, making the track's apparent lack of depth only more painful. The song's bridge contains a section in which each instrument gets to individually jam out, but it's approached in such a programmed manner that none of it really resonates.

"Arabella" lugs around on a forgettable bassline, sparse guitar arpeggios and a grating kick-snare-hi-hat backbeat. By the time the ripped-off "War Pigs" riff kicks in, the listener has already checked out. Even the guitar solo, the most exciting part of any great rock song, is a whining mess.

"I Want It All" sounds like a fresh puddle of mud. It's so compressed and murky that the track's under-wrought chord progressions, guitar leads and vocal melodies mix into a pile of digital vomit. In these tracks, none of those things interlock or conflict. They just skim across each other, without any tension and too much release. Songs go through one ear and out the other, creating an album that breeds apathy.

And don't even get me started on all of those laughable attempts at swooning rock ballads. "No.1 Party Anthem" and "Mad Sounds" are practically the same song, carrying some of the album's most pathetically clumsy hooks and tempos sluggish enough to inflict eternal sleepiness. Album closer "I Wanna Be Yours" is the worst song Arctic Monkeys have ever recorded, capturing essentially everything that is wrong with "AM" and synthesizing it all into one perfect turd, decorated with some pitifully abysmal lovelorn lyrics.

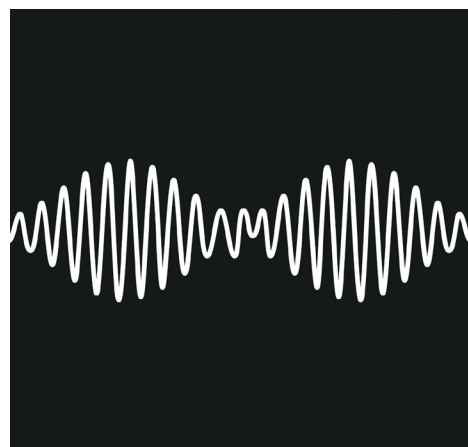
As for the whole "Black Sabbath riffs over Drake beats" shtick, I mean, okay? Nothing here feels nearly as catchy or heavy as the magic coming from Tony Iommi's hands. Just because you play in blues scale with distortion doesn't make you Black Sabbath. Songs as wimpy and skeletal as "Do I Wanna Know?" and "Why'd You Only Call Me When You're High?" don't even come

close to matching the menacing brilliance of something like "Into the Void." A classic heavy metal riff needs gusto, it needs low-end, it needs to punch you in the gut, not whimper around a landscape of droning vocal melodies and stale production. "AM" doesn't sound heavy, it feels heavy, dense and inert.

And, wait, "Drake beats?" As in, hip-hop beats? Sounds like a great idea if it actually panned out in any significant way. Every track on "AM" has some version of the same lifeless stomp-clap backbeat, which is about as conventional a rock beat anyone could think of. Yes, hip-hop's beats are generally programmed on a drum machine. Even so, they still have vigor and spirit. Like jazz, hip-hop beats should swing, which can be accomplished by not being a lazy musician. "Snap Out of It" and "Fireside" come close to capturing that rhythmic dynamism but fall victim to repetitiveness. Arctic Monkeys have merely slapped the most superficial elements of different genres together in hopes of creating something new, when in reality they've only made a gentrified piece of garbage.

I'm appalled at how bad "AM" is. Five years after its initial release, the album's flaws have only stung more and more. "AM" doesn't diminish the power of those first three albums, but it has reduced all of my interest in their sixth album (which, based off the teaser, sounds like a pale imitation of Tame Impala), due to come out in May.

The great thing is, you don't have to wait for Arctic Monkeys to pioneer contemporary rock music. It's already happened with a number of better bands and albums. Go listen to Queens of the Stone Age's "...Like Clockwork" or Titus Andronicus' "The Monitor" or Iceage's "Plowing into the Field of Love." Go listen to literally anything but "AM."



## FacultySpotlight

## MERCY CARBONELL

By SUAN LEE and  
VIRGINIA LITTLE  
Staff Writers

An eclectic collection of art and literature decorates Mercy Carbonell's classroom. Social justice posters hang above a bookshelf crowded with manuscripts. Each piece reflects Carbonell's work throughout her tenure at the Academy to help others develop their passions, as well as her own diverse interests.

"My favorite thing about her is that she curates her settings—home and classroom—with a scrapbook of her life, the words and images that she would say 'make meaning' for her," said English Instructor Rebecca Moore.

Carbonell first arrived at the Academy in 1993 after graduating from Brown University with a major in English. "I never imagined I would be doing this," she said about teaching at Exeter. "I thought I would never return to the boarding school environment."

Carbonell recalled her own high school years at Choate Rosemary Hall, where she was an accomplished tri-varsity athlete of field hockey, squash and lacrosse. "I think I straddled the worlds of art and athletics, but I was primarily an athlete," she said. "I just always imagined I would be a visual artist one day because I grew up in a family where the arts were celebrated."

Carbonell gave up her visual art courses in college when she realized they conflicted with her athletic commitments. She decided to take English instead and fell in love with this new path. "I had a number of English teachers who were really influential, not just as a writer or a thinker, but as someone who helped me integrate who I am and who I was becoming into writing," she said.

Her passion for English only grew once she arrived at Exeter as an English instructor. "When I first came to teach at Exeter, I knew primarily what I hoped for: to ensure that girls could find a voice at the table and on paper, could come to feel whole in a world that had for so long asked them to remain silent," she said. "In some ways, I think I've fallen in love



Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

with literature and writing and teaching more as I've done it. Harkness felt really natural, even when I first arrived, because I love the process of hearing what others are thinking."

In her first years at the Academy, Carbonell kept up her athletic passions by coaching the lacrosse, squash and field hockey teams each term. She continues to coach squash and serves as a volunteer coach for Exeter High School and Portsmouth High School.

One of Carbonell's most prominent contributions to the Exeter community is her work as the chair of the MLK Committee, which holds weekly meetings to prepare the school's annual Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Day program. She has served on the committee "on and off" throughout her years at the Academy and became chair in 2015. Having studied feminist theory, queer theory and race theory in college, Carbonell explained that she has always harbored a profound interest in issues of identity and social justice. "I was curious how I could translate some of my study into this elite space," she said.

Carbonell voiced strong praise for the committee's mission. "The MLK Committee is work that I really love and

believe in," she said. "There was a time when this committee was a few students and a few adults. It is now growing in student membership and that is a serious inspiration."

For upper Jacob Hunter, who has known Carbonell both as a teacher and the chair of the MLK Committee, Carbonell's willingness to engage and accept different ideas has resonated with him. "She allows you to go in your own direction on a lot of things [...] She gives very informative comments, but she focuses more on what she perceives the work to be, rather than what she expects the work to be as an assignment," he said.

Religion instructor and MLK Committee co-chair Russell Weatherspoon agreed, commenting that Carbonell champions this open-minded outlook in and beyond the classroom. "She has a genuinely adventurous spirit because she is curious, because she deeply values voice and the perspectives of a wide range of people," he said.

Upper and committee member Nasa Mbanugo voiced her appreciation for Carbonell's leadership. "A big part of the MLK Committee is the willingness to listen to other points of view, to be calm in the face of adversity, to champion the

strength of human spirit, to embody the words, the messages, the rhetoric of MLK, and I think she does that incredibly well," Mbanugo said. "Even though she's so experienced in her activism, she's always willing to listen and is open to new suggestions. We're not just kids to her. She wants to see where we're coming from all the time."

Carbonell is respected by many community members as a passionate activist and ally, having been one of the Academy's first openly queer faculty members and a previous adviser for the Afro-Latinx Exonian Society and several other clubs and publications focused on issues of social justice. "Her involvement in this school is unparalleled. She really looks out for every kind of student who attends this school even if you haven't had the pleasure of knowing her. She is someone you will want to meet before leaving this school," said lower and Carbonell's advisee Keaghan Tierney.

Reverend Heidi Heath agreed, calling Carbonell an "icon" at Exeter. Heath commended Carbonell for helping to shape the Exeter community. "She has been a leading voice in being an ally to students of color and being an out-queer faculty member, especially at a time when that was less acceptable and less possible for some of our colleagues," Heath said.

Weatherspoon voiced great appreciation for Carbonell's support and camaraderie over the years. "We have drawn support from each other as we continue at this school to help broaden and deepen people's awareness around race, social justice and joy. We have been over a lot of ground together — a lot of debate, discussion, protest, celebration, grief," he said.

Heath expressed gratitude to Carbonell for being "one of my dearest friends at Exeter." "I think many folks on campus see Ms. Carbonell as this fierce and tough activist. She is that to her core. But what folks may see less of is what a big heart she has [...]" "She is fiercely loyal as a friend. I never have to worry if she's in my corner, because she's always in my corner. She's authentic in everything she does, whether it's her friendship or her teaching or her relationship with students," she said.

## TRENDWATCH

By CAROLINE MATULE and URSULA SZE  
Columnists

Welcome back to Trendwatch with Ursula and Caroline! We took a bit of a break during the bitter cold winter months, but we are back and better than ever with hopes of some warm spring weather in the weeks ahead! Now that the brutal winds and snow have (hopefully) ceased in Exeter, spring term presents the perfect opportunity to stunt in your favorite pieces without your trusty winter coat.

The rising temperatures have brought many skirts out of closets and onto the paths on campus. **Bella Alvarez '19** and **Ashleigh Lackey '19** were spotted rocking similar camo-printed skirts, a perfect transition pattern from the dark winter tones to bright, warm spring colors. They kept their outfits simple yet stylish with black sweaters and Nike Air Force 1s.

Another popular style for the spring

is patterned pants. We have noticed both fabric and denim pants sporting vertical stripes. **Katie Yang '19** wore a pair of red, navy and white vertically striped, flowy slacks that were cropped just above the ankle. Their lightweight material made them the perfect staple piece for both cold and warmer temperature days. **Chloe Scocimara '18** wore light blue and white striped jeans, with a raw cut at the bottom with fringe that reached the ankle. She rounded the outfit out with a chic leather jacket, and black platform slip-on sneakers. This outfit reminded us of our favorite European street styles.

Although we are moving away from the winter, it is still necessary for Exonians to wear light jackets. We've noticed **Ty Deery '18** wearing a reflective red and silver North Face windbreaker around campus, and we love the fit. Another lightweight jacket we loved was

on **Ashley Lin '19**. It was a stylish take on the simple denim jacket with a red stripe down both arms. The color red is one of our favorites, because of its ability to be the standout piece of an outfit.

One trend that we see emerging is the mini purse. Fashion websites like Net-a-Porter sell out of the mini purse within seconds after they arrive. Model Kendall Jenner was seen clutching a mini. Gigi Hadid also held a similar purse but in black. We have seen many different ways to carry the mini purse—held by a handle, clutched in your hand or attached to a long strap that slings over your shoulder. Singer P!nk is seen with a black leather mini purse with the handle replaced by a strap. We love this style, because the purse may be small, but you could carry more than you think. Fashion writer Emily Seares has tried out the trend. She says that a phone could act as

so many things that you really don't need to carry much around in this day and age.

Kylie Jenner may have been criticized for leaving her baby Stormi at home to party at Coachella, but at least she looked good! Kylie played with both a fuschia and blue denim colored wig and a black unitard from Fashion Nova. Bella Thorne had also arranged a bunch of different outfits. One our favorites was a white-ish, transparent, full length dress matched with white underwear. Bella added a black leather baker boy hat to this ensemble.

Can't wait to see what new trends spring weather brings to Exeter. Stay stylish!

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**PORCHES**  
at Exeter



# ExonianHumor



## Items for the Zombie Apocalypse

By BELLA ILCHENKO  
AKA Upper Spring

17 ~iMporTanT~ items in the likely event of a zombie apocalypse:

1. CroNcHing zombies in half
2. Negotiation with humans
3. Using staplers (as weapons)
4. Rawr XD
5. Speed walking
6. Hot-wiring mopeds
7. Moped riding
8. Climbing trees (like a cat)
9. Counting
10. Lara Croft
11. Fire and raft building
12. Rafting
13. Firing?
14. Adequate fluid supply for hydration (La Croix)
15. Cultivation/food stealing
16. Courage?
17. Tanks

## Campus Happenings

By RYAN XIE  
Day Stud

1. Prom Tickets!
2. Tuxedos and flowers!
3. "Exeter Athletics" jackets
4. Mock Trial Boathouses
5. Tuxedos and flowers!! Tonight in Agora!
6. Snow.
7. Winter weather. Cold.
8. Rain.
9. CCO MEETING EMAILS!

## Have You Played Yourself?

By MAEGAN PAUL  
Not a Player

Every day, millions of people play themselves and you may be one of them. Please refer to this list if you believe that you are a victim of playing yourself.

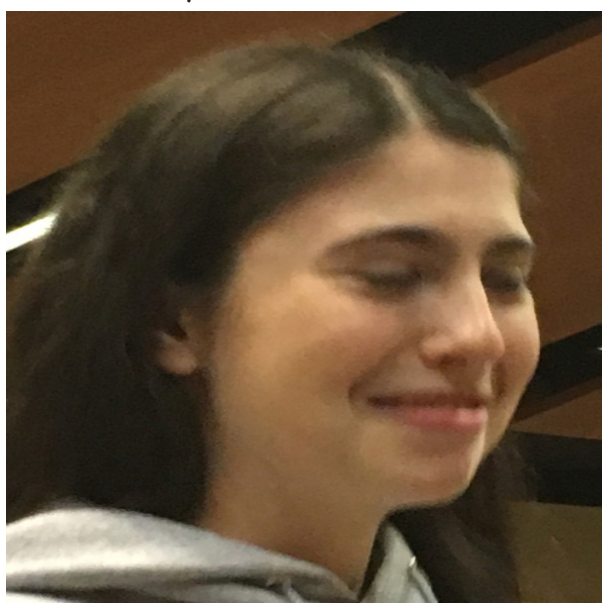
Have you:

1. Tried out for two spring sports?
2. Made senior friends?
3. Taken US History as a lower?
4. Attended Phillips Exeter Academy?
5. Signed up for the debate email list during club night?
6. Rowed crew at Exeter?
7. Slept for less than six hours at night?
8. Forgot to buy club, class or dorm gear?
9. Not done the required reading for homework?
10. Eaten ice cream more than three times a week?
11. Believed that it was actually spring?
12. Tried to be vegan?
13. Mentioned difficult political topics in an "interesting" class?
14. Gone to assembly?

If you said yes, you played yourself. It's okay though, because you can always eat your feelings away with dhall ice cream.

## TFW You Don't Make Caption Space

By AVA HARRINGTON



Submit to the Humor Page.

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

## Promposal Ideas

By AVA HARRINGTON and ABBY ZHANG  
Not Going to Prom

**The Forced:** Create your own sign and make it just bad enough to impress everyone else while also not seeming too fake. Run up to the senior you'd like to go with and shove the sign into their hands. Before they can say anything, start yelling "YES!!!! I'D LOVE TO GO!!!!" and then put it on your Snapchat story.

**Snapchat Messenger:** Snap them, Pron? \*Porn? \*\*PROM? Accept the ODR.

**The DHall:** Rearrange your soggy rice on four plates to say P - R - O - M. Add hot sauce if you want to show that you're serious.

**Assembly:** Want to ensure a successful promposal? Run up during Assembly to make your date-to-be so uncomfortable that they can't say no. It isn't foolproof: if they aren't at Assembly, they'll get a dicky and might refuse, but hopefully they'll still see your commitment.

**Bad Ukulele Song:** Surprise them with a poorly written ukulele serenatde that uses only C, G, and Am chords. It's totally original to rhyme "yes" with "dress," or to write "Would it be so wrong / If I asked you to prom." Those aren't the lyrics I found on every Youtube promposal I watched.

**Optionless option:** Write a letter that says, "Wanna go to prom? Circle Yes or Yes" and sneak it to them in the middle of class. Just make sure you don't write "I like-like you now :)" because Keith from third grade will find and circle the "no" in "now."

**Fake Your Own Death:** This one feels fairly self-explanatory. Be sure to make use of the element of surprise.

**Bus Ride:** Submit "hey (name), do you wanna go to prom?" to Bus Ride. You might get a more positive response if you forget to write your own name in the post.

## Latin Poets on Date Night

By ANDREW LIQUIGAN

*The Latin Students are Taking Over! ("I'm an Adult [unpublishable]")*

**Catullus:**  
-Opens date by complaining about his ex  
-Gets drunk on old Falernian wine and starts spouting obscene but oddly charming phrases in elegiac couplet  
-Eventually gets drunk enough to get really deep and introspective-Oh no  
-Starts crying about his ex in Sapphic  
-Love hurts  
-He is a fragile flower  
-Leaves in the middle of dinner -...I guess he's going to get back together with his ex after all.

**Ovid:**  
-Says he used to have trouble finding anyone lovely enough for him  
-Likes your arms, your neck, and your mouth, probably.  
-Thinks he's the best playboy around and/or a soldier in Cupid's

form of war  
-Writes witty and edgy poetry mocking other poets to get folks going  
-Takes the rejection harshly and gets sad  
-Really sad  
-Writes a book about it called "sad things" because of how sad he is  
-Loses all previous wit because of sadness

**Horace:**  
-Opens date by telling you that you might as well marry him while you've still got time in this mortal coil  
-"I'm different from the other guys. See, I'm \*Greek\*."  
-Guzzles old wine down and starts talking about his farm  
-It's a nice farm. There's this one spring that he really likes. He makes wine jars.  
-He won't stop talking about

the farm.  
-Makes obscure references to trees that you only vaguely understand  
-Tells you that you're a lamb and he's "not" one of your natural predators  
-Talks about Apollo and Maecenas every 5 minutes  
-"Hey, did I mention you're gonna die eventually—so like, how about we get this show on the road, huh?"

**Vergil:**  
-Likes bees  
-Really, really likes bees - Makes 3 similes about bees within the first 5 minutes  
-Explains agricultural life  
-Tells really good stories  
-Thinks his stories are bad  
-Tries to burn all his stories because he thinks they're bad  
-Secretly thinks Aeneas is a real wuss sometimes

## How to Clean Your Room

By AVA HARRINGTON and GABBY ALLEN  
That's Disgusting

First, you have to get into the mindset for cleaning your room. Turn on some music. Lay on your bed for a moment to enjoy the music. It's 1pm; you have plenty of time to get your H homework done and to practice your instrument and get to the gym and clean because you have F free. Wake up six hours later at 7pm, disoriented and probably on stricts. Now that you've gotten into the cleaning mindset, start by staring at the floor. Survey the room. You have posters to hang back up, and maybe some crumbs to clean. It might be a good idea to feed your fish too. And considering how difficult it is to determine if your fish is in the tank, you might want to clean that too. Take a deep breath. Notice that jacket right there? Pick it up--yep, you got it, you're moving to the closet, this is

going well. Okay now--NO! STOP! DON'T PUT YOUR COAT DOWN ON THE CHAIR.

Okay, that's okay. We all have our setbacks. Try picking up the sunflower seeds strewn on the floor. Hmm, I guess your fingers aren't as spry as they used to be. But they're spry enough for what's important ;). Head to the Common Room to grab the vacuum. Don't socialize, do not soci--Wait! They have some tea. You can stay for a minute or two.

So it's 9. That's alright. Make sure that you tell your roommate to check-in in the common room, so that dorm fac don't come into your room and give you 7's. Now start--It's HQ time! Once you finish HQ, it's EP time. You have a special date with your boyfriend pillow.

Once you get back from EP,

RIP the "Eviction Notice" sign off of your door that your roommate posted for not cleaning. Recycle it. This is the first step! Now move some of your clothes and shove them into a) the dresser b) the closet c) under the bed. Pick your illusion of choice.

It's time to clean. Really. For real. You get ready to clean but--you know, you're kind of tired. And it's getting late. You have to be up at 5a.m. to...do your bio reading. It's too late to clean now, you'd be too distracted. Brush the crumbs off of your bed, and maybe move the slice of pizza that's flipped over on the sheets. Hold up, you're not going to eat that are you? I don't care if you missed dinner because of your nap. That's kind of disgusting actually. I guess you'll have to clean tomorrow.

## Quotes of the Week

"Alex Turner makes my ovaries explode."  
- Alan

"I'm learning how to lifeguard...it's hard when you can't swim."  
-Isabella Ahmad '20

"Well, I don't swim. I actively don't drown."  
-Isabella Ahmad '20

"Does anyone know if you can recover an InDesign thingy? Like, if I hypothetically deleted this week's Humor Page?"  
-Ava Harrington '19

"Paul, you're cancelled."  
- Rose Horowitch '19

"Those buildings aren't gonna monitor themselves!"  
- Campus Safety Worker

STRKS (Snap Us)  
@aharry01  
@abbyz\_hang  
@lizzy127345

# ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: MARIA LEE & HARRY SAUNDERS

By MAI HOANG  
Staff Writer

After placing first out of 23 teams at the Kingswood Oxford Tournament last season, the varsity golf team is starting its 2018 campaign in search of a repeat championship. Heading the charge are co-captains and seniors Maria Lee and Harry Saunders. The two experienced and skilled leaders will be guiding the relatively young golf team in the coming weeks.

Lee has four years of experience with Exeter's golf team, during which she has "showed great improvement each year," according to head coach Robert Bailey. Lee was first persuaded by her father to pick up a golf club when she was eight years old. "I initially found it hard to acclimate to the sport because I thought that practicing on the driving range was so tedious, but after I started playing on the courses, golf has really grown on me," she said. "It helped me to practice mindfulness and patience."

For Saunders, it is a more long-winded story. Though he picked up the sport at a young age, he did not take it seriously until the summer after his prep year when he worked at a golf course. Saunders was surprised upon learning about his captainship, since he had only been playing golf since lower year.

"When I joined [Exeter's golf team], there were a lot of strong seniors who helped me, though I wasn't very good," he recalled. "The summer before upper year, though, I got a lot better and had a great season last year." Saunders placed sixth at the Kingswood-Oxford tournament for 23 New England schools, helping Big Red win the championship. "Harry was electric factory, shot 72 and saved the game for everyone," said lower Kennedy Moore. "It's something he'd never say, but he was amazing."

Saunders hopes that the team will renew their championship title this year, but says that his main focus is to acclimate everyone to the team dynamic, especially considering the many young players. "Though all of them have some kind of prior experience with golf, even our best prep players have never played in a team match before," he said. "Just being able to play golf doesn't mean you know the rules and etiquettes and how to work as a team."



Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

His priority for training the new players is to have them practice on the turf as much as possible. "We need to get out on the course more; it's a different situation out there with the distance, the wind blowing and everything," Saunders said.

Making the new players feel welcome has been a priority for both captains. "That's what the captains did when I was a lower and I really learned a lot from them that way," he said. Team bonding is also an important component; Saunders organized a Master's betting pool at the beginning of the season, while Lee has been taking the team out to dinner together once every week. "People with different levels of expertise have joined our team, but there's no division," she said, expressing gratitude for the inclusive dynamic.

"Harry and Maria are amazing captains who always bring a positive attitude to practice," lower Arman Tang said. "This is my first year on the team and I already feel at home on the team."

The positive team spirit is also recognizable to those who had previously played for Exeter before. Senior Grace Pan described this team as "the most inclusive, most supportive team we've had," during her three years with golf. According to her, the team has nicknamed Lee "Smiley" because of her optimism and encouragement. "I always play better when I play with Maria because she makes the day brighter, as she is a delight to talk to and is always incredibly encouraging," she said.

Pan also made some positive comments about Saunders. "Even on days when I'm not playing in the same group as Harry, I will still inevitably hear him yell 'Good shot, Grace!' from a hole behind or ahead of me," she said.

This stands in contrast with her experience the first year on the team, when she was "always intimidated by the more skilled players—afraid of playing with them and slowing them down."

She appreciated how Saunders always emphasizes the importance of playing

with better people to push one's standards. "He has effectively created a team that is unafraid of messing up and asking for advice," Pan said. "Harry's encouragement of friendly competition in our daily practices has really helped me improve my skills and also become more comfortable with the competitive pressure of our official matches."

Prep Eunice Kim recalled a distinct memory when Saunders was encouraging towards the new players despite a loss in their first tournament of the season. "[Saunders] talked about his own mistakes, but laughed it off, saying that we'll all do better next time," Kim said. "His positive attitude brought the mood of the whole car's atmosphere." Such moments define the image of the senior golf captains in the minds of team members, old and new.

Bailey echoed these sentiments, saying, "Harry and Maria are both very good players and great captains. Each bring different qualities to the team and are very respected by their teammates."

## Girls' Lacrosse Beats BB&N

By CHARLIE VENCI  
Staff Writer

Girls' varsity lacrosse is tied with Buckingham Browne & Nichols School with a score of 14-14 at the end of the second half. As overtime commences, senior and co-captain Lauren Arkell sends a pass right into the net of lower Jenna Brooks' stick. Brooks fires a shot, beating the goalie to the short side and rippling through the net. She jumps up, throwing her stick in the air and screaming as her teammates circle around her. The bench empties as coaches and players run onto the field. Brooks' goal is a golden one in overtime. In their only matchup of the season, Exeter held on to defeat BB&N (Buckingham Browne & Nichols School) in a final score of 15-14 after 52 minutes of play.

This game was a huge turnaround for the team coming back from a tough loss against Brewster earlier in the season. The team went in looking for a win, and came out on top in a close, intense game.

Senior Vivienne Kraus expressed her excitement, saying, "I was really proud of us in the end because a lot of people have been injured and we had a couple tough games. We had a better attitude and we came out stronger even when there were times that we were down by 3 or 4 points. But in the end, we really fought to tie it up and we almost had a buzzer beater shot but we went into overtime."

Lower Cam McCrystal was proud of her team, too, and mentioned how much

of a "team effort" the win was. She said, "Everyone wanted to win and so everyone did their job. Jenna scored an awesome goal in OT to win the game, but it was really a team effort because everyone played so well." She also praised the defense, adding, "Their strength was a huge factor in our win."

The team was successful because of their cohesiveness on the field. "I think the attitude overall was very good and a lot of stuff was coming together where people were just connecting with each other. It was really nice," Kraus said.

Upper Peyton Sanborn expanded on the tense nature of the game, commending the team's ability to obtain a victory in the end. "It was a constant battle on the field, but we played with more intensity than ever before. We played more as a team than we had the whole season and ended up pulling out the win in overtime," she said.

Lower Dennesha Rolle shared similar beliefs regarding the team's ability to work together on the field. "We did a great job connecting passes and working together against BB&N. We definitely are improving on this game after game," she said.

Rolle also regarded how positive the team has been on and off the field, and how that will benefit the girls going forward. "Everyone is always there and prepared to motivate each other and put on a positive mindset for the game," she said. "I'm excited to see how successful we're going to be this season because our chemistry and talent will definitely put us ahead."



Girls' lacrosse co-captain Molly Seibel looks for a pass.

Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

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# ExonianSports



## SOFTBALL TAKES DOWN TILTON

*Defeats Defending League Champions 2-0*

By **ABBY SMITH** and  
**SAVI KEIDEL**  
*Staff Writers*

The crack of the bat sounds throughout the field. Senior Mairead O’Sullivan drives the ball into the outfield, allowing Exeter players to advance along the bases. This powerful hit sets Big Red up to score a game-winning run against Tilton, the defending league champions. O’Sullivan’s hit excites teammates in the dugout, inspiring her teammates to win the game.

Last Friday, the girls’ varsity softball team played Tilton in an exciting and close matchup, coming out on top 2-0. Tilton had a successful season last year without facing off against Big Red as the game was cancelled, so the girls looked to make an impression on their opponents. This game, being the team’s second of the season, was important to uphold their impressive record after crushing the New Hampton School’s team 12-5. Their last season failed to amount to a winning season, but the team is rebuilding with seven lower classmen on the team and two wins under their belt.

The girls secured their victory on the newly renovated softball field, cheering loudly in the new dugouts constructed this past fall. Senior and co-captain Kaleigh Conte was proud of her team and discussed how much fun it was to play such a close game. “It was such a clean game with very few errors,” she said. “It made you excited to play.”

The win was a team effort with great performances from everyone on the team. Exeter’s pitcher, lower Amanda Harris, was the star player in this Tilton game, striking out most of their girls to limit their score to zero. Prep Katie Moon praised Harris and



Lower Amanda Harris pitches the ball.

Helena Chen/The Exonian

said, “Amanda did an amazing job at the mound. Her pitching was outstanding—I think there was only one hit from the other team the entire game.” Harris is predicted to serve as a key player for the entire softball season.

Conte shared similar sentiments about the underclassmen star. “It’s hard to believe she’s only a lower. She threw a one-hitter and there was only one walk,” Conte said. “She is so consistent and focused; she’s doing

amazing.” In addition to Harris’ stellar performance, each player contributed critical plays during the match against Tilton.

Because of the nice weather there were many spectators at Big Red’s play, which boosted team morale. “The amount of fans at our game motivated us to play our best,” lower Jill Cloonan said. The positive atmosphere from the fans and within the dugout helped the team capture yet another win.

Varsity softball will continue to be a

strong opponent in the prep school league as they face Worcester Academy at home on Monday. Cloonan believes that “the team will continue to work hard and continue this pitching and hitting dominance throughout the season.”

“People think we can’t bring it, but I think we’ve proven already how strong we are,” said Conte. “I can’t wait to win [more] games this year and finish my senior year strong.”

### Wednesday Scoreboard

Boys’ Lacrosse	9	Softball	15	Golf	8.5
Pomfret	1	Cushing	9	Tilton	1.5
Baseball	8	Girls’ Lacrosse	11	JV Boys’ Lacrosse	10
New Hampton	2	Nobles	12	York	2

## BV Lax Pounds Portsmouth Abbey

By **CAROLINE FLEMING**  
*Staff Writer*

Exeter boys’ varsity lacrosse is up by one goal in the first quarter and the defenseman, senior Andrew Geppert, locks up on his Portsmouth Abbey School attacker. The visiting team attempts to pass the ball around in settled offense, but the attack player doesn’t get far before Geppert steals the ball and hauls upfield. From there, senior Andrew McGurrin makes a cut through the 8 and receives the ball to score an incredible backhand goal. In a 8-2 win, Big Red had many outstanding goals and standout plays to help them secure a win, contributing to its successful start of the season.

By the end of the first quarter, Exeter had already amassed five goals. Prep Griffin Walker spoke highly of the team’s success, saying, “We were really hyped up and excited as a team going out in the first quarter, especially after putting up 5 in the first because we came out very slow in our last game against Proctor.”

Senior Seth Bowman echoed Walker’s sentiments, describing the first quarter as “very energetic.” He also added that the energy helped drive the team to success on Saturday stating, “The team was energetic and involved from start to finish.”

Not only was the team enthusiastic on the field, but the sidelines also helped Big Red capture the win. Senior Wyatt Foster said, “Seth Bowman did an unmatched job keeping the bench fired up and engaged the whole time, definitely the captain of Team Sideline Rage.”

The team was clearly better prepared for the game than Portsmouth Abbey School, and took advantage of its lead to practice settled offense. Griffin described this momentum, saying, “We slowed the game down and took control.”

The first two goals were scored by postgraduate Paul Miller, followed by McGurrin putting away two more and finally postgraduate Chris Fowler making the final goal of the quarter, finishing out an impressive streak for Big Red.

The team also had a star showing from several defenseman. Bowman described some of these outstanding players, saying, “Andrew Geppert had a very good game, as did our other star defenseman [senior] Jake Calnan. The opposing team remarked on how talented the two of them were on defense, especially with takeaways and ground balls.”

Lower Danny Colón also praised Geppert and Calnan’s performances. “Our defense played well and we forced a lot of turnovers thanks to Geppert, Calnan and AJ,” Colón said. He also highlighted the attacks’ roles on the field, saying, “Our attack moved the ball really well, there were a lot of assisted goals and we work on a lot of transition play during practice. It definitely showed in the game and it’s a strong aspect of our team. McGurrin and Walker also had some really sweet goals which helped put us ahead.”

So far, boys’ varsity lacrosse has a 2-1 record and hopes to continue their recent streak of consecutive home game wins. “Looking ahead,” Bowman said, “we have a super busy schedule, so we plan to utilize our numbers to keep fresh legs on



Lax co-captain Tanner McGowan rushes down the field. Gavin Hickey/The Exonian

the field.”

Exeter fans can come out and support the boys on Saturday at Phelps Stadium in their next match-up. Senior and co-captain Tanner McGowan remains optimistic about the team’s success for its upcoming games. “As far as the next game goes, we play Governor’s on Saturday,” he said. “We’re looking to come out with

intensity and focus just like we have with every other game.”

Bowman shared similar ideas regarding the rest of the season, saying, “We’re looking to continue to come together as a team so that we can take our many talented players and get them to work inside a system that will make the team very strong and very challenging opponent.”

### Inside This Week’s Sports Section

#### Girls’ Lacrosse



The BB&N game came down to the wire. In double overtime, Exeter won by one point. Find out more on B5.

Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

#### Athletes of the Week



Seniors Harry Saunders and Maria Lee lead this year’s varsity golf team. Read more on B5.

Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

#### Boys’ Lacrosse



In its second game of the season, BV lax wins with a convincing 8-2 score. More on B6.

Gavin Hickey/The Exonian

#### Softball



Even the defending league champions, Tilton, couldn’t keep up with Big Red Softball. More on B6.

Helena Chen/The Exonian