



# The Exonian

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Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire

## Endowment Investments Investigated

By ANNE BRANDES  
and SHIVANI TRIPATHI  
Staff Writers

Amassing 1.3 billion dollars, Exeter holds one of the largest high school endowments in the world, which provides approximately 55 percent of the Academy's operating revenue and consists of 1,400 funds granted by donors. According to PEA's 2016-17 Financial Report, the endowment is invested with the dual goal of supporting Exeter's current operations and maintaining the endowment for future generations. However, the endowment is invested by financial managers, giving the Investment Committee little control over where the money is invested and leading to concerns surrounding the morality and even hypocrisy of certain investments.

According to Director of Investments Justin Merrill, the role of Exeter's investment staff is to hire and monitor managers that determine where to invest the endowment in order to supply the Academy with steady returns. "Exeter invests with managers and not in individual companies or assets," he said. "Exeter's managers invest in a very broad range of markets, companies, geographies and asset types. This helps to diversify the exposures in the endowment to access a wide range of potential return sources."

Comprised of volunteer alumni, current and former trustees and associate members, each of whom are experienced in investing and finance, the Investment Committee is responsible for selecting these managers.

Head of the Trustees Tony Downer elaborated on this process. He said, "The Investment Committee



Seniors Julia Goydan and Grace Khaner spend time outside on McConnell beach.

Helena Chen/The Exonian

scours the landscape of investment managers, comes forward with a set of candidate firms, discusses the merits of each and decides what amount of the endowment—if any—to allocate to that investment manager."

Although the Investment Committee chooses these managers, it has no direct control over where the managers invest the money. "We have no influence or impact on the specific investment decisions that they make," Downer said. "We rely

upon our managers to make those selections and if we are dissatisfied with the investment returns generated by the manager, we withdraw our money from that manager."

To ensure that the Investment Committee is satisfied with the general condition of investments, managers give regular updates of their portfolios. "We do not always have complete security level or individual asset level visibility

ENDOWMENT, 2

## Strategic Planning Work Reevaluated

By ERIN CHOI  
and ANGELE YANG  
Staff Writers

The most recent work of the Strategic Planning Committee, co-chaired by Assistant Principal Karen Lassey and Biology Instructor Anne Rankin, has yielded the "Strategic Directions for Exeter." Released to the faculty on April 5, the document reiterates "a commitment to the kind of exploration and experimentation that will allow [the school] to grow and improve." During the faculty meeting on April 9, faculty reviewed the direction's specific goals.

The Strategic Directions draft outlines five overall directions for the school to build upon: student health and well-being, financial inclusion, equity and inclusion, environmental stewardship and a teaching and learning center.

The directions identify community concerns, including "data and anecdotal evidence [that] show that high-achieving students are feeling increased and unhealthy levels of stress and anxiety and need proper supports for their health and well-being."

In the section regarding financial inclusion, the Strategic Directions notes, "Students on aid do not have a comparable experience to students not on aid."

The draft included that there is a gap in that "students and adults do not all feel included the community." Lassey said that work targeting this issue began before the document was completed. "A lot of what we've done this year has been focused on this priority," she said. "We have responded to a lot of the requests from ALES at the end of last year."

However, lower Genesis Baez, a member of ALES, disagreed. "We haven't seen any changes, whereas [the administrators] haven't answered any of our questions about the proposal," she said. As an example, she added that the proposal requested more faculty of color and said, "We haven't seen a change in that, so we're just waiting."

Rankin noted that this goal would not be assigned to a specific committee until the new Director of Equity and Inclusion was hired. "We want to make sure that that person is involved right from the moment that committee receives a charge," she said. She emphasized that this decision was "about trying to empower the person we're bringing into the committee, not about a lower priority."

She added that, in the meantime, "this area has not STRATEGIC PLAN, 2

## Saturday Classes to Balance Snow Days

By MAI HOANG  
and RACHEL WON  
Staff Writers

To account for the possibility of cancelling school due to inclement winter weather conditions, the Academy has reserved additional Saturdays for classes. The 2018-2019 academic year draft schedule already shows that the reserved Saturdays are Jan. 19, Feb. 2 and Feb. 16.

According to Dean of Residential Life AJ Cosgrove, the administration has discussed including plans for snow days in the schedule since last winter term, when Principal MacFarlane called two emergency snow days in response to growing concerns about winter storms. Because there was no precedent of this practice in the school's history, faculty members were caught off guard. "With the shortened term, we tried to rush a bit at the end," Art Instructor Carla Collins said.

However, Collins believed that with some preparation, snow days would not be a significant issue. "If I had planned with more flexibility, I could have easily shortened some projects," she said. In her opinion, snow days should continue when they are deemed necessary "to be inclusive and compliant with safety precautions." If school is not cancelled, Exeter's population of more than 200 day students would have to drive to school in heavy snow or miss classes.

However, according to Religion Instructor Russell Weatherspoon, when faculty plan out their terms, "they don't usually have a lot of flexibility in them." Weatherspoon thought that the problem could possibly be attributed to scheduling oversights.

Dean of Students Melissa Mischke said, "What has changed is that you look at risk management." She mentioned that different schools in the area, including the University of New Hampshire, historically did not have snow days. "Now, considering the traffic and the risk, I mean people can die," she said.

Learning Specialist and Coordinator of Academic Support Jonathan Nydick supported the idea of reserving Saturday classes in case there is a snow day. He noted SNOW DAYS, 2

## Letter From PEA Interns in Washington

By TIM HAN  
Contributing Writer

Greetings from Washington D.C.,

Here, a group of Exeter seniors have been hard at work learning the ropes, surmounting the Hill and settling into our intern chairs.

This past week was another week on recess, which means that the senators and representatives are all away and the offices remained quiet before the start of the next round of arguments. Fortunately, we were able to settle into the rhythm of our various internships during a lengthy silent note before the violent downbeat of this week's return to session.

We are all doing different work here. Some in the group have spent the bulk of their time giving tours for visiting constituents around Capitol Hill. For example, John [Woodward] seems to give a tour at least once a day. Others in the bigger offices find their days full of breaks between assignments. Most of us have spent time answering phone calls and batching constituent letters into an internal database for each office called IQ (Intranet Quorum). Christian [Flores] spent a full day at the phones on Friday when the rest of his office took advantage of the recess to get a quiet day. The volumes (of the work, of the printing machines, of the staffers bustling to and fro around the Hill) ebb and flow, just as anything else, but the work is always great.

As for the extracurricular offer-



Senior Tim Han sits in on the Zuckerberg hearing.

Courtesy of the Wall Street Journal

ings, we had the pleasure of talking to Harlan Geer, the Senior Foreign Policy Adviser for New Hampshire Senator Maggie Hassan (and brother of Ms. Geer!), about a career on the Hill, experiences to take advantage of at Exeter to prepare for employment and the legislative process. On Thursday, several Exeter alumni who are currently students at Georgetown University (Brian Moriarty '16 among others), came in to speak to us about life around D.C. (where the best brunch spots are) and academic life beyond Exeter—spoiler: life without Harkness stinks.

Fortunately, we were able to enjoy the best of D.C.'s cherry blossoms on Friday morning when many of us got up at the crack of dawn (actually, 5:47 a.m.) to Uber down to the Potomac River and take photos in the early morning sunlight, behind the beautiful, bright bloom of the blossoms, with the Washington and Jefferson Memorials as our backdrops. Juan, Dr. Lim's dog and our unofficial group mascot, joined us. Later on, some of us found our way back at night to wander along the Potomac River and stroll through

the Jefferson, the Washington, the Roosevelt, the King, the Lincoln, the Vietnam, the World War II and the Korean Memorials, mostly in silence. This, not New York, is the city of giants.

Finally, in our Sunday night English class, we discussed the substance and style behind good political writing and discussed, amongst other things, whether or not Trump is a good political writer. We talked about the relationship between thought and language, and last but certainly not least, the alternatively incendiary and subliminally mollifying power of the direct, common speech of Bobby Kennedy.

The recent Zuckerberg hearings have staffers busily walking the Hill. Being in this internship program is like sitting courtside at a basketball game: you cannot join the game, you cannot really step onto the court, but you can listen to the coaches in their huddles, observe the teams call the plays and see the game from up close. Two Senate committees and the House Energy and Commerce Committee will get a chance to question Zuckerberg, and there is a LETTER, 2

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## WEB



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# Strategic Plan Focused on Five Core Community Values

Continued from STRATEGIC PLAN, 1

been ignored while waiting for the hire and charge to a committee.”

The committee had a similar approach to the environmental stewardship goal. Rankin said that the goal would be more focused on changing community standards. “There’s a rare opportunity in a residential school to live in 24/7 community. Could we use that experience to educate students about climate change?” she said.

Though not currently involved with strategic planning, student clubs could also have a significant impact in offering solutions. Co-head of Divest Exeter and upper Sophie Faliero said that her club remains adamant in its effort to make divestment a part of Exeter’s mission for sustainability.

Divest Exeter adviser and Biology Instructor Eben Bein noted that students should be involved in the Strategic Planning process. “There were no student voices. We’re making a strategic plan for

a high school in which no high schoolers have given feedback,” he said. “If the institution is to be non sibi, it needs to think about who it is serving and actively serve them.”

Because many of the goals outlined in the plan are long-term, it is unclear that any small but concrete actions are being taken that would also improve the community. Bein sees many potential actions that would not require anything “hugely radical.” For instance, he mentioned a national movement in schools to implement Meatless Mondays, which would entail eliminating meat from both dining halls one day a week.

The faculty discussed the five topics at the meeting on Monday by examining posters detailing each idea. Faculty wrote feedback on sticky notes and attached them to each poster. The notes were then sent to committee members to be reviewed and addressed. The final edition of the Strategic Plan will utilize the ideas gener-

ated by the faculty and staff.

Rankin said that in developing the draft, the grassroots approach was prioritized over efficiency. “We could probably do this really fast if we had a top-down approach, if the administration just said this is what we’re going to do,” she said. “The process is by definition of who we are going to take a lot longer because we’re trying to build community around the process.”

English Instructor Tyler Caldwell found the poster presentation of the five missions effective, since faculty “do not have time and space for everyone to share their thoughts or ideas regarding Strategic Planning in the traditional format for faculty meeting.” He added that he thought faculty would “emerge from this process with a greater understanding of the vision...and we can all feel involved and invested in the process.”

The Strategic Planning Committee will continue with its original initiatives despite MacFarlane’s departure. “The pro-

cess is absolutely not starting over with a new principal,” Rankin said. She noted that the transition between Principal Hassan and MacFarlane was different than the current one since “we weren’t really as far along.”

A candidate’s opinions on the strategic planning may affect the appointment of the 16th principal, and the committee would like to see the new head of school bring the plan to life. “We’ll show the document we’re generating to applicants to ask, ‘What would you be excited about this plan?’” Rankin said. She said that they would like the next principal to “see this plan and help bring it to life.”

Biology Instructor Erik Janicki hoped that “after the document has reached a final draft and the problems have been identified and prioritized, that we seek lots of different solutions.” Janicki emphasized the importance of being more experimental. He said, “We don’t just try one way of resolving a problem.”

# Details of Exeter’s Endowment Investments Uncovered

Continued from ENDOWMENT, 1

for the whole portfolio, but each manager provides various portfolio disclosures on a periodic basis,” Merrill said.

According to Downer, “In terms of countries, we clearly have a heavy concentration of investment in the U.S., with meaningful investments in Europe and Asia. Our investment presence in Latin America, Africa, Australia and Russia would be very limited.” However, Exeter’s 2015-16 fiscal year Form 990, an internal revenue service form for nonprofit organizations like Exeter, states that there is \$355,610,847 invested in Central America and the Caribbean, while there is \$36,831,118 invested in Europe.

Downer addressed concerns that managers possibly invest in ethically murky markets. “None of our managers have as a strategy a focus on the arms, tobacco or alcohol industries,” Downer said. “Any holdings that they may have would be incidental rather than strategically significant, and we have imperfect visibility at that granular level of detail.”

Another of these controversial markets concerns fossil fuels and unsustainable energy. 95 million dollars of the endowment are invested in fossil fuel entities, a highly-debated issue at PEA, as Exeter advocates for sustainability on

campus and in the world. The EXI519 Green Umbrella Learning Lab course, for example, enables students to take environmental action. As stated in the 2018-19 coursebook, the Green Umbrella Learning Lab “affords students passionate about sustainability the opportunity to enact these ‘big changes’ by doing real work in sustainability to help Exeter meet its Sustainability Master Plan and carbon reduction goals.”

Clubs on campus also advocate for divestment from fossil fuels. Divest Exeter, co-headed by uppers Hillary Davis and Sophie Faliero, calls in its mission statement for the “withdrawal of [PEAs] holding in fossil fuel corporations,” as “it is our responsibility as a leader among global secondary school institutions to endorse sustainability.”

Downer, however, explained the dilemma of divestment. “Given that Exeter selects managers who make those investments for us, are we prepared to part with those managers and face the prospect of lower returns, as they are highly likely to refuse?” he posed. “How do we rationalize our willing consumption of those products as individuals and as an institution and condemn them as shareholders?”

Downer also pointed out that the endowment could possibly not sustain its affordability if Exeter were to divest. As

written in the 2016-2017 financial report, “the single largest use of endowment revenue—35 percent—is for financial aid, which supports student grants for tuition, room and board”—something that could be jeopardized if Exeter completely divested, according to Downer.

Senior Alice Little discussed these very issues in her social ethics class. “I say we should divest because we’re investing in energy sources such as oil and non-renewable energy that aren’t safe for the environment,” she said. “But there’s also a flip side to it that many don’t consider: the school’s operating budget is huge, and the amount of money we put out every year needs to be supplemented by the assets allocated from the endowment.”

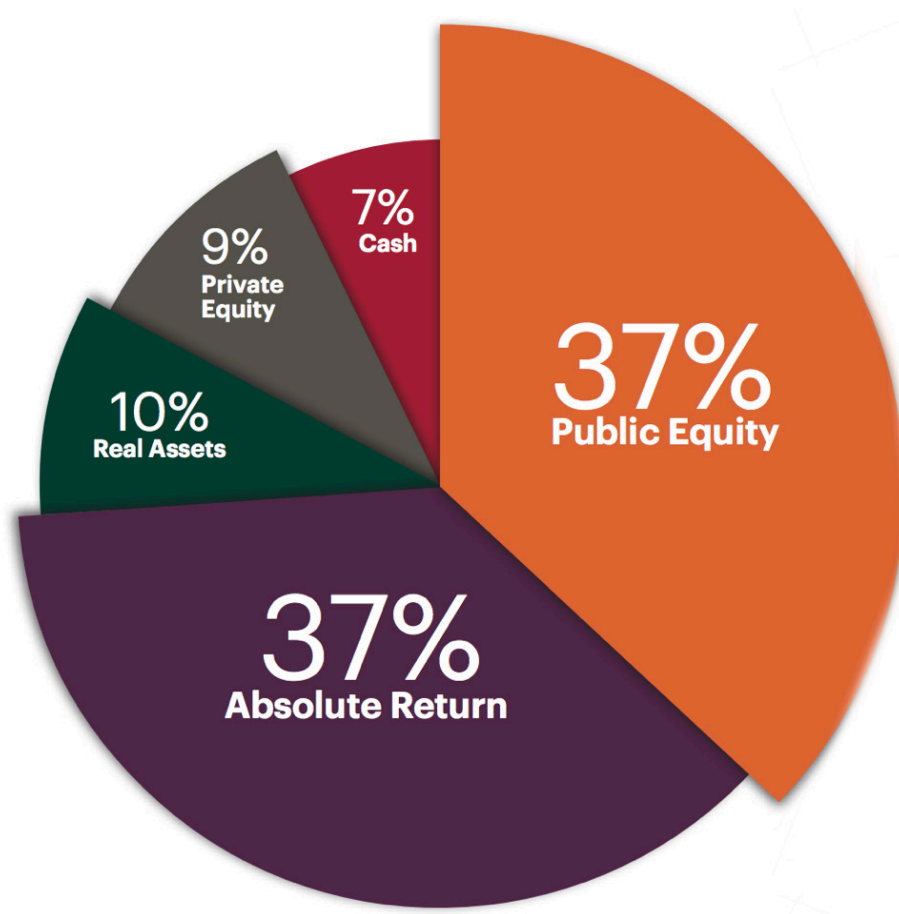
In Little’s opinion, divesting and financial aid aren’t mutually exclusive. “The school would take a financial hit from divesting, but it’s the morally correct thing to do,” she said. “But financial aid shouldn’t suffer from that. There are other places we could budget.”

Faliero agreed, saying, “Initially investing in renewable energy is going to be more of an investment than we have currently in fossil fuels, but we will see financial profit over the course of five, ten years,” she said. “It would eventually boost our endowment, providing more for financial aid students.”

However, Downer challenged the difference between morally questionable markets and their impact on Exeter student life. “Because so many critical aspects of the Exeter experience—student financial aid, faculty compensation, the maintenance of our facilities, etc.—depend so heavily on the endowment for their funding, we purposely invest the endowment to produce attractive returns without exposing the endowment to the full extent of the market’s risk,” he said.

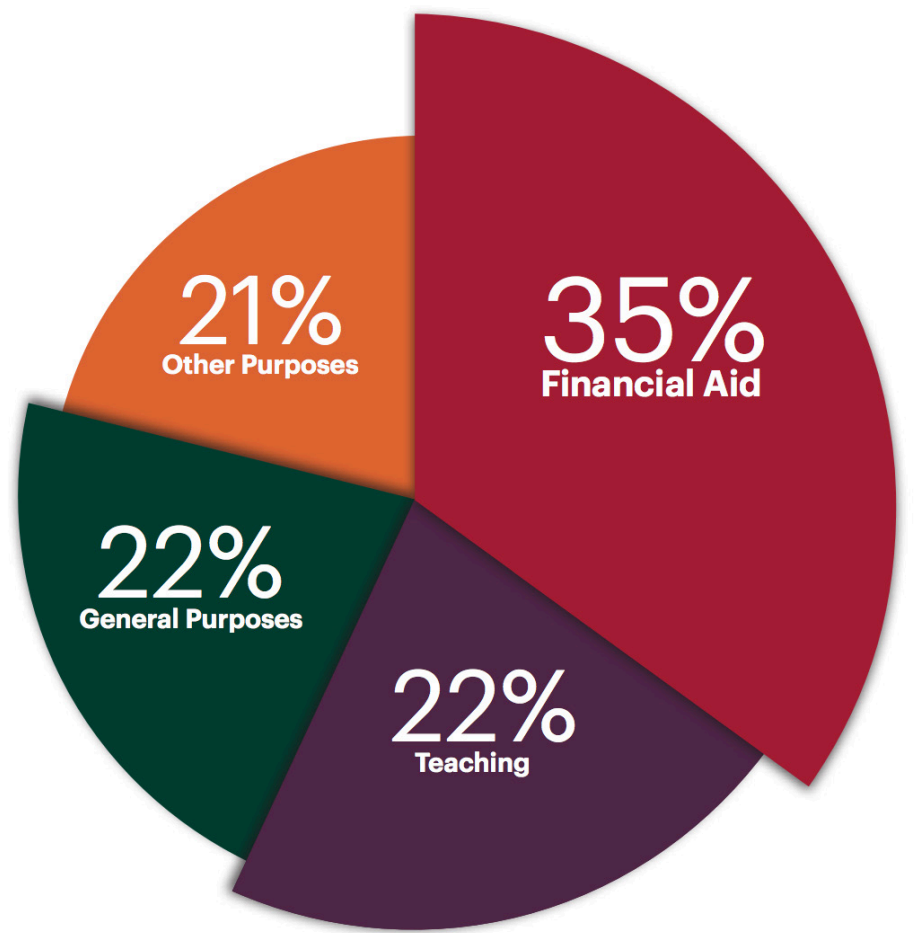
He also noted the dangers of aligning to a certain political agenda by determining whether a certain market is morally correct. “Fossil fuels are critical for the elevation from poverty for many throughout the world. Is it right to condemn them?” he continued. “Should we politicize our endowment, and if we do, where do you draw the line, as people have very strong views on opiates, on weapons, on tobacco and on profit prisons?”

Downer also explained that many funds invest solely on the principle of returns—not political principles. “We have multiple investments with a general partner who runs funds investment in wind farms,” he said. “That same partner also invests in natural gas opportunities; the world does not always run along clear lines.”



Endowment Asset Allocation as of June 30, 2017.

Courtesy of PEA’s Financial Report of 2017



Endowment by purpose restriction as of June 30, 2017.

Courtesy of PEA’s Financial Report of 2017

# Saturday Classes Scheduled, Reserved for Weather Concerns

Continued from SNOW DAYS, 1

that this is a prevalent model at other schools, including the one he worked at prior to coming to Exeter, where an excessive number of snow days would result in Saturday classes.

Nydick does worry, however, that more Saturday classes would be a burden for students having to travel off campus for sports. “I’m not a big proponent of quantity over quality,” he said.

Many faculty members prioritize the number of times a class meets per term. “If most faculty members feel like it’s necessary to reserve a few Saturdays to make up that time then I’d be in support of it, but personally depending on how many

snow days you have it’s a good margin to plan for one to two days off,” Collins said. “I don’t feel like there need to be reserve Saturday classes.”

Mischke said about utilizing Saturday classes in case of snow days, “Ultimately, it’s the principal’s decision.”

Lower Anjali Gupta anticipates many of her peers complaining about Saturday classes. Gupta thinks that the Academy could implement an alternative to having extra Saturday classes that would be more well-received by the students. “Honestly, I’d be fine with a similar system to what happened at my old public school where they added on more days at the end of the school year,” she said.

Other students disagree with the

proposal. “I gag at the thought of having Saturday classes as ‘repentance’ for snow days,” upper Hannah Pak said. Pak, who travels to Boston frequently to take music lessons, said that this new policy would get in the way of her trumpet lessons. “If I had a big recital or audition coming up, I wouldn’t be able to go and get a lesson,” she said.

According to lower Rose Coviello, this policy would affect the academic performance of those involved in sports—especially since Saturdays are usually when there are more away games. “Last Saturday for example, we had to leave at 9:30 in the morning for a water polo game. [With this new policy,] that would cause me to miss almost half of my classes on

Saturday and would make me fall behind,” Coviello said.

Lower Keaghan Tierney expressed her frustration with the tentative policy. “I think this new policy is stupid and absolutely ridiculous. We don’t have a lot of holidays off, and we don’t have a lot of religious days off either,” Tierney said. “It’s stupid that they would want to take away our Saturdays.”

Upper Miranda Derossi, however, said that snow days “are really fun and a mental health break,” and that she would not mind the additional Saturday classes. Derossi said, “I think that it’s a good idea because we do have a required number of days that we have to be in school.”

# Senior Tim Han Writes on Behalf of Washington Interns

Continued from LETTER, 1

mad scramble to get all of the information and coordinate all of the questions before he arrives momentarily. This is the normal

frenetic pace of this city and it buzzes. What a time to be alive.

In the next couple days, Zuckerberg will continue to take this city by storm (look out for your favorite interns on C-SPAN), we will

get a chance to listen to more Exeter alumni in the D.C. area, some members of the group will head on college visits (best wishes to them all!), and the group will head on downtown for Saturday visits to museums and gardens.

All in all, how lucky we are to be alive right now in the greatest city in the world.

Signing off for now,  
Your favorite WIPers

# EASA Plans for National Sexual Assault Month

By **BEN CAI**  
and **YUNSEO CHOI**  
Staff Writers

Exonians Against Sexual Assault (EASA) will be hosting three school-wide events in honor of national Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The student-led organization hopes to foster discussion among students and faculty members to create a safer and more inclusive Academy.

This April marks the 18th annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month. First nationally observed in 2001, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is dedicated to promoting discussion and awareness about sexual assault and related topics including domestic abuse, misogyny and homophobia. This year, the nationwide slogan of “Embrace Your Voice” emphasizes the importance of words as the means to prevent sexual violence.

Over the course of the past few months, EASA has been working with English Instructor and EASA Adviser Barbara Desmond and Director of Student Well-Being Christina Palmer, as well as outside organizations such as the OneLove Foundation, to host a “Consent Fest” from seven to nine p.m. on Friday, April 13, a screening and discussion of the film “Escalation” on Saturday, April 21 and an open forum on Saturday, April

28.

Additionally, EASA will be asking students in Agora to sign pledges in support of sexual violence survivors and to stand up against sexual violence throughout April.

According to EASA co-head and senior Brian Zhao, the “Consent Fest” will share similarities with ESSO’s Club Night in that students will be able to interact with a variety of booths run by clubs and social groups to learn more about topics pertaining to sexual assault. “We just want people to be involved, get a better understanding and carry on these discussions about sexual assault in an open environment,” Zhao said.

The screening and discussion of the film “Escalation,” which was shown to several student leadership groups earlier this year, will seek to provoke intense emotional discussions about sexual assault. The film follows a teenage couple and the evolution of their relationship in the context of sexual assault. Due to the charged nature of the film, EASA plans to provide a safe space for the films to be watched.

Zhao added that the club may hold a day of discussion to allow students the opportunity to voice their thoughts and opinions about sexual assault topics without the stress of academics.

EASA will also honor “Denim Day”

on April 25. This is a day that encourages people to wear denim to symbolize the fight against sexual assault.

EASA has many more goals beyond raising attention through the awareness month, such as pursuing collaborations with organizations centered around sexual violence prevention. EASA has made progress in transitioning the campus into a safer environment with its work thus far.

Desmond described the club as an “independent student group that works closely with (other) students, faculty and administration” and “discusses relevant issues and plan campus initiatives.”

Founded by Claire Dauge-Roth ’17 during the 2016-2017 school year, EASA was a direct response to the publication of sexual assault cases at Exeter—reports which had profound effects on members of the PEA community, both students and faculty.

According to upper Shaan Bhandarkar, one of seven current board members of EASA, many students, including those who work for the EASA board currently, were shocked to learn about the severity and presence of sexual assault at the Academy last year. “After the revelations of the sexual assault cases at Exeter were publicized following my prep year, I found myself confused and frustrated while grappling with this aspect about

Exeter I had never truly considered before,” Bhandarkar said.

EASA has sought to address and increase awareness about sexual assault, especially after the sexual misconduct cases came to light. These measures include working with other organizations like Student Council, providing a space on campus for discussion and hosting their own events. Last spring term, EASA organized hour-long dorm discussions to discuss healthy and unhealthy relationships, catcalling and toxic masculinity that may be present at PEA.

In the following year, the club continued its efforts to encourage discussions by visiting prep and lower health classes and hosting conversations on similar issues. Through these discussions, EASA hopes to encourage members of the PEA community to connect and work together to address sexual assault on and off campus not as bystanders, but as active participants.

Zhao said EASA has revamped its efforts to remind students and faculty about sexual assault and give a voice to those that are affected or concerned by sexual assault. Bhandarkar remained hopeful for the continuation of EASA’s progress, saying, “I truly wish for the future board of EASA to replicate that same sentiment of collaboration.”

# For Better or Worse, Exonians Keep Dorm Pets

By **SHIVANI TRIPATHI**  
and **ANGELINA ZHANG**  
Staff Writers

As the bell rings, students rush out of the science classroom. Lower Bob\* lingers behind, slipping his hand into an instructor’s cage of rats. After pocketing one of the rodents, he strolls back to his dorm and introduces it to its new home. Exeter’s E Book forbids students from having pets at Exeter; despite this rule, several students keep pets in their dorm rooms.

The E Book states that violating the ban on pets in student rooms “can result in disciplinary action.” However, Bob keeps his pet rat, Remmy, in his dorm room. He fondly describes Remmy as harmless. “Remmy is super curious and loves to climb, which is troublesome mostly, but he’s cute,” Bob said. “My roommates and I feed him rodent pellets and fruit everyday and let him exercise when we’re in the dorm.”

Science Instructor Frances Johnson recalled finding mice in a student’s closet in Lamont Hall. “A few years ago, I had a student and an old grey cat,” she said. “They got along very well, but later in the year, suddenly he didn’t seem to like her anymore.” Johnson’s cat would “smell the student’s hands and back off,” sometimes even hissing at her.

“A little bit later, I was checking her room and I heard funny noises in her closet,” Johnson continued. “So I open[ed] up the closet door, and there was a cage of mice.” According to Johnson, the smell of mice on the student’s hands explained why her cat was hesitant to go near her.

Johnson informed the student that mice were not allowed in the dorm. According to Johnson, the student was cooperative and gave the mice to faculty children.

Some students, however, have said that the confiscation of pets causes them emotional distress. “I had a pet hamster for several months. I adopted her as a source of comfort during some really rough times at the school,” lower Bia\* said. “Exeter puts so much pressure on all of us, and at times it can be overwhelming to live at school without our usual safety networks.”

Bia described the positive effect the hamster had on her mental health. “Having a pet to come back to each day made my dorm room feel more like home,” she said. “Having something relying on me to survive prevented many of my self-destructive behaviors.”

Once the dorm faculty found her hamster, Bia was forced to give it away. “It was traumatizing having to so quickly say goodbye to something I had grown really attached to,” she said.

Lower Joshua\*, who was unaware of the rules surrounding pets until he was interviewed for this article, recently bought 10 goldfish with his dorm-mates.

“We just want some dorm bonding,” he said. “We clean the fish bowls and take care of the fish all together, it’s just something fun we do as a dorm.”

In certain instances, students are allowed to keep smaller animals in their rooms. Carol Cahalane, a Bancroft dorm faculty member, elaborated, “There has been a practice in some dorms, with the Dean of Students permission, that students may keep small fish in their rooms as long as they have care plans for breaks.”

Upper Dylan Yin kept a betta fish in his room until it passed away this November. “I got him because sometimes life here can be stressful, especially at night,” he said. “It helps to have something living in your room at night, especially if you’re up late doing homework.” Furthermore, Yin’s betta fish lessened his homesickness. “I have dogs at home and miss them a lot, so having a pet to take care of was a reminder of home,” he said.

“I looked up ways to take care of my fish on WikiHow; it has a pretty extensive guide of how to take care of a betta fish,” Yin said when asked about how he treated his pet. “I fed him twice per day, and I kept the temperature climate. They’re easy to take care of as long as you know what you’re doing.”

In Yin’s opinion, the rules concerning pets are too rigid. “For smaller pets like fish that are not going anywhere, I think of the rule as a bit too restrictive,” he said. “I think that students should be able to

take care of animals as long as they are responsible.”

Bia shared Yin’s sentiments. “There are numerous studies proving that the presence of a pet reduces stress,” she said. “While dogs and cats may never be feasible, small animals can fulfill that need while not interfering with the workings of the dorm.”

Joshua also feels that the rules around pets should be relaxed. “We should make the rule more flexible for those who are capable of keeping a pet of such small size alive and healthy,” he said.

“The rules are dumb; a rat is so easy to take care of,” Bob added. “Students should be able to have animals such as hamsters with the dorm faculty’s knowledge and permission, as well as parental approval.”

However, Johnson noted how even smaller animals can cause inconveniences to students. “We don’t do room searches for pets; often, we notice pets because of the consequences,” she said. “People have allergies to pets. With male mice, they are famous for being very smelly animals.”

Even so, when students are caught with pets, they are usually cooperative with the dorm faculty, and the charges rarely, if ever, lead to the student appearing before the Disciplinary Committee. “I have no idea what the response would be for pets in a dorm, as it has never come up in my 14 years at PEA,” Disciplinary Committee Chair Jeffrey Ward said.

# Academy Flies Garrison Flag, Honors Crabtree ’42

By **GENESIS REYES**  
and **SAM WEIL**  
Staff Writers

A striking Garrison flag was hoisted on Phillips Exeter’s flagpole to honor the late Stephen Crabtree, class of 1942. Tuesday, April 10, marks the first annual raising of this flag. On April 10, 73 years ago, Crabtree died in combat, at the age of 20.

This year, Crabtree’s nephew, Stephen Jones, gifted Exeter this flag along with other artifacts collected throughout Crabtree’s lifetime. Under the condition that the flag be flown each year to commemorate his uncle’s passing, Jones donated a scholarship to a student who has a particular interest in this aspect of history.

Director of Institutional Advancement Morgan Dudley recognized the importance of this scholarship, saying, “The thunder that broke over the Crabtree home 73 years ago is unimaginable. And yet Steve Jones found a way to honor his uncle and his sacrifice by helping future Exonians. [He] has forged a connection between a current student to Exeter’s his-

tory and joins the history of the school, for all time, with the Crabtree family.”

Jones hopes PEA will fly the flag each year to honor the loss of Crabtree. “I’d like the school to agree to fly this flag on the campus every April 10, as long as the flag is in good enough physical condition,” Jones said.

According to Jones, the flag entered his possession after it was sent to his grandparents by the military to commemorate the loss of their son. He decided to contact Exeter with this request when he realized that these artifacts were not being put to use in his daily life. Jones realized that the objects that paid tribute to his late uncle were not being appreciated in his drawer “for decades,” so he then set out a plan to work in conjunction with his uncle’s alma mater.

After graduating on the honor roll from Exeter, Crabtree went on to attend Harvard College and pursue a career as a physician. Despite being a gifted pre-med student, his poor eyesight and even with his parents’ hesitation, Crabtree enlisted in the Army a short year later. “He never would have had to go to the service if he didn’t want to, but he wanted to,” Jones

said. “Not only did he want, he persisted in overcoming a couple of objections to pursue it.”

Dudley also commended Crabtree on his true devotion to non sibi. “Stephen lived his life with a spirit of non sibi, in service to his country,” she said. “He voluntarily chose a difficult path, heading into harm’s way, because he believed in the cause.”

At first, Crabtree was relocated several times into different divisions and training programs, but by 1944, he had been placed in the 97th Infantry Division, responding to Allied plans to invade Japan. Yet, due to the severe American losses during the Battle of the Bulge, Crabtree’s division was sent to Europe instead.

Jones felt that it was important to create this commemoration, as Crabtree was a dedicated and passionate student at Exeter. Although he did not know his uncle, Jones knew many stories that showed his love for learning and his patriotism.

In explaining why he decided to go beyond donating to the Academy, Jones referenced the names of the wall next to the stage in the Assembly Hall, which also lists Crabtree’s name. “At this jun-

ture basically, all those names are statistics, right? They’re just a bunch of names.” Jones said. “But every one of these names has a unique human story, and what I wanted to do in this case is to put in some life into this story of Stephen Crabtree.”

Although Jones has put in great effort to add more meaning into what his uncle’s name signifies at Exeter, many students were unaware that the flag was flown this Tuesday. When asked if she noticed the flag, lower Julie Mae Angevine responded, “No, I don’t even look at the flag.” Several students shared this sentiment, given that the only announcement made about the event was on ExeterConnect.

In addition to donating the Garrison flag, Jones donated several other items to library’s archives, including a Purple Heart decoration engraved with Crabtree’s name, original photographs and personal letters so that Crabtree’s memory will live on. “It is important for us to commemorate Mr. Crabtree because he exemplified so much that we value at Exeter,” Dudley said. “It is a miracle of the human spirit that tragedy sometimes inspires extraordinary generosity.”



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## Over-Saturation: When Free Speech Blinds

**Mai Hoang '20**

*Columnist*

"There is no need to ban books if people are not reading them," wrote Edward Luce, the D.C. columnist for Financial Times, in his widely acclaimed book, "The Retreat of Western Liberalism."

With witty commentary, Luce claimed that Trump's America is no different than a moderate version of Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World," in which ordinary citizens are entertained and given constant gratification to all their needs so that they have no reason to desire freedom and individualism.

Refuting Orwell's more recent yet simultaneously less sophisticated version of dystopia, Luce wrote, "Or-

**Russian strongman Vladimir Putin, a dedicated practitioner of the contentment-breeds-docility principle, is the perfect real-life example of finessed authoritarianism, Huxley style.**

well's fear was that we would always be watching you. Huxley's dread was that we would be too busy watching Big Brothers on TV to care."

The traditional "1984" view of control is no longer as relevant in today's world; towards the latter half of the 20th century, Western leaders and activists watched the fall of authoritarian governments in the Eastern bloc with euphoria, declaring, "Here comes the age of freedom and democracy." Now, two decades into the 21st century, neither word retains its consecrated sheen.

Russian strongman Vladimir Putin, a dedicated practitioner of the contentment-breeds-docility principle, is the perfect real-life example of finessed authoritarianism, Huxley style. Unlike Communist China, Russia does not bother to block Western media with

firewalls; the bulk of internet traffic is directed to sites featuring kittens and Kim Kardashian, not global news or dissident blogs.

"The new Kremlin won't make the same mistake the old Soviet Union did: it will never let TV become dull," wrote Peter Pomerantsev, Soviet-born Senior Fellow at the Institute of Global Affairs, London School of Economics. "Most Russians are happy with the trade-off: complete freedom for complete silence."

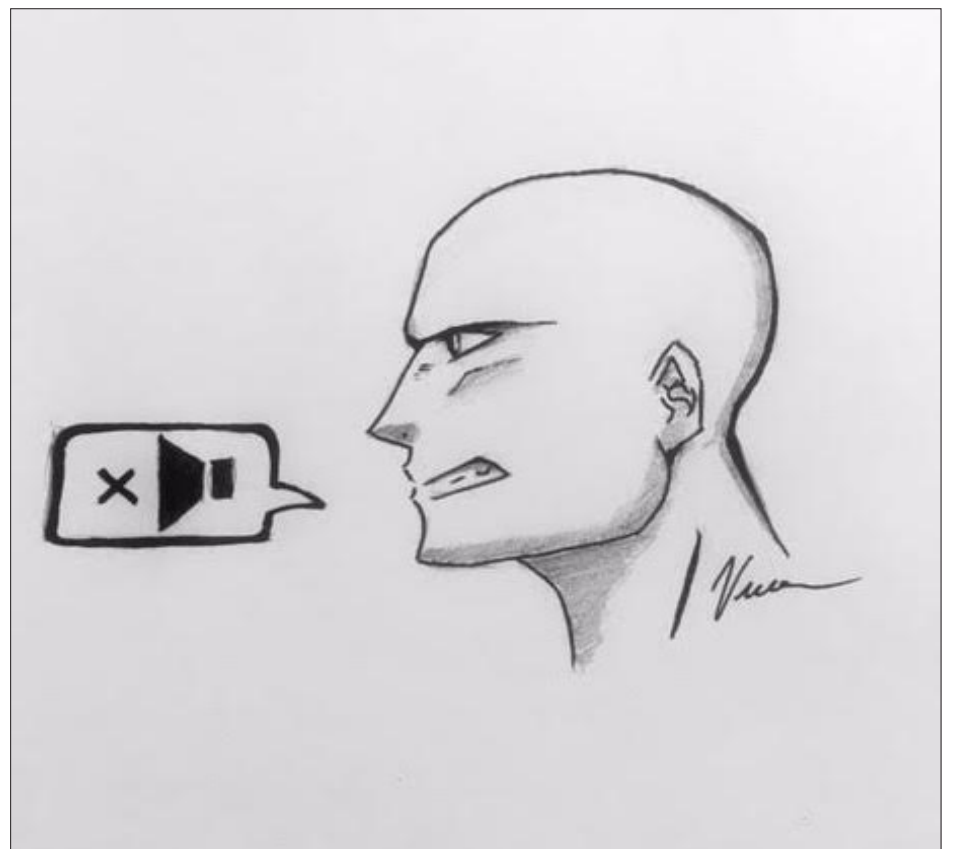
This reality stands in stark contrast with the interconnected, globalized world extolled by freedom fighters and idealistic believers of the net. According to them, following the advent of the world-wide-web, all Luddites would be enlightened, all extremists would be neutralized and all wars would end.

How could anyone cling onto false, one-sided convictions when humanity's collective reservoir of wisdom lies just a click away? What many fail to take into consideration is how this leap of faith is just another iteration of the same blind optimism that inevitably follows the birth of any new communication technology.

The radio tycoon Guglielmo Marconi once exclaimed, "The coming of the wireless era will make war impossible, because it will make war ridiculous." A century later, most of us have access to Wikipedia, Google Translate and the libraries of the world, yet we are still as rooted into our preconceptions, biases and group identities as ever—not just members of Flat Earth

**Freedom is a fragile and complicated thing, and is never absolute – its illusion is often more tantalizing and powerful than its realization.**

Society, neo-Nazi groups and the Ku Klux Klan, but every single one of us. Outside bipartisan America, the same principle holds true. "Information technology has been one of the leading drivers of globalization, and it may



also become one of its major victims," said Evgeny Morozov, one of Europe's most prominent researchers and writers about digital-era politics. Challenged by a world full of contrary ideas, local institutions insulate members by employing group psychology, appealing to morals and the us-against-them rhetoric that never fails to persuade.

Freedom is a fragile and complicated thing, and is never absolute—its illusion is often more tantalizing and powerful than its realization.

Throughout the previous two years, I have had much occasion to ponder upon this. Flicking through the many op-eds on my Google Drive, I stumbled upon one written in the early days of my op-ed career, cautiously titled "Censorship in Asian Countries." Its content was the expected storyline—to the Western netizen: cherish your freedom of press!—from a child born in the repressive Vietnamese Communist regime.

"I still remember the inexplicable joy that first day in September, when I

clicked onto BBC and Human Rights Watch articles without reading the lines 'Error 451—The websites you are trying to access contain delinquent and immoral content,' " I had written, panegyricizing the left-leaning sites with almost religious zeal. How many times have I voluntarily accessed these articles again, unless it is for material to write another op-ed or put into my Model UN binder? Not a number I am proud of—I will not expose myself.

The view that freedom to knowledge equals civic engagement is beyond simplistic; if anything, it is in the half-immersed pockets of society, the urban areas of authoritarian regimes flooded with news of freedom, that the desire to learn, express and discuss politics burns the brightest. The difficult challenge is to preserve this desire, within oneself and one's community, after traversing from an information-depleted to an information-saturated reality, to not yield to the boundless human ability of being tempted by entertaining distractions.

## Angie Thomas' Activism

**Johanna Martinez '20**

*Guest Contributor*

Acclaimed author Angie Thomas took the Assembly Hall stage on Tuesday, April 3, with the confidence, intelligence and unfiltered honesty that readers enjoyed in her writing. Her debut novel, "The Hate U Give," was published last February and soon after became a #1 New York Times Bestseller. It has since been published in over 20 countries. I was thrilled to meet the author of one of my favorite books at PEA, and as a student of color, I was elated to have a woman of color as our Assembly speaker.

From the moment she spoke into the microphone, Thomas emitted an energy across the entire Assembly Hall, making students and faculty alike lean in and really listen to what she had to say. She talked to the student body in a manner that others immediately related to. "The Hate U Give" speaks to many students like me, as we can relate to the protagonist and the hardships she endures along with her juggling of what seems like two completely different worlds: our school world and our world at home.

Starr, the protagonist of The Hate U Give, is a sixteen-year-old black girl who tries to ascertain her place in her lower class neighborhood and in her upper-class suburban private school. Her life is forever changed after she goes

to a party in her neighborhood and later witnesses a police officer shoot her best friend, Khalil.

He was an unarmed black teenager who followed the officer's commands and did not have any weapon on his body. However, as a black man, he was at a disadvantage because most media sources portray black men as threaten-

**This story of an unarmed black boy being shot by the police is extremely relevant today. Starr's struggle to find her own voice and outlet for activism is also one which we teenagers can relate to.**

ing and dangerous. After his death, Starr felt more divided than ever before, as her friends and family at home had vastly different views on Khalil's death than her friends at her prep school. Some of her peers at school labeled Khalil a drug dealer and a thug. Meanwhile, people back in Starr's hometown viewed his death as a life unfairly taken by the police, and thus they started to take to the streets to protest. This story of an unarmed black boy being shot by the police is extremely relevant today. Starr's struggle to find her own voice and outlet for activism is also one which we teenagers can relate to.

The title "The Hate U Give" is written vertically on the cover of the book to spell out "THUG," which is also a reference to Tupac Shakur's iconic "Thug Life" tattoo. Tupac, among other rappers, impacted Angie Thomas' upbringing in Jackson, Mississippi.

During Assembly, Thomas discussed her love of hip hop, and touched upon how various artists like Tupac and Biggie inspired her to help draw attention to issues that her community faces, citing their ability to bring attention to their communities through lyrics. Their music was a form of activism because it emphasized the struggles many marginalized groups experience. This is exactly the same effect of Angie Thomas' book today, where police brutality, racism and the fatal shootings of people of color are commonplace. It's important for

**It's important for people of all backgrounds to read her book in order to understand how privilege affects the experience of different groups in the U.S., and acknowledge the struggles of marginalized groups.**

people of all backgrounds to read her book in order to understand how privilege affects the experience of different groups in the U.S., and acknowledge the

struggles of marginalized groups.

Once readers of this book recognize their privilege, they should utilize it to help create real, necessary change. Thomas' evening talk discussed this and went into further depth about using art as activism, as she encouraged everyone to be an activist in whatever manner they could, whether it be through music, dance, painting or photography.

**Once readers of this book recognize their privilege, they should utilize it to help create real, necessary change.**

At the luncheon, Thomas discussed the movie based off her book. Amanda Stenberg, who played Rue in "The Hunger Games" and acted in "Everything, Everything," will play Starr Carter. The cast also includes KJ Apa of "Riverdale" and Issa Rae of "Insecure," among other talented actresses and actors. Keep your eye out for its release — if it's at least half as great as the book, it's a must-see.

In my opinion, Angie Thomas gave one of, if not the best, Assembly this year. It was incredible to hear about her life, her book and her advice on becoming an activist. Most of all, it was an inspiration to have a relatively young and cool individual talk to students directly and call attention to important issues in such an eloquent manner.

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# The Decline of Affordable Housing

**Ginny Little '20**

*Guest Contributor*

Some may find it strange that a high school student is thinking about the growing shortage of affordable housing in the U.S. today. However, I became interested in this topic after reading several recent articles about the growing number of homeless people in cities across the nation. These articles caught my attention due to the contemporary novel I studied in my English class last term, *The Hate U Give*, which deals with the complexities of housing, community and poverty in urban America.

In her novel, author Angie

concern, the government is taking away incentives, personnel and funding that supported affordable housing at the end of the last century.

Affordable housing in the United States, a relatively new

**In addition to the basic moral issue of taking care of American society's most vulnerable citizens, a lack of low-income housing increases the number of homeless people and contributes to an increase in many urban problems, including the spread of disease.**



Thomas describes an inner-city community where residents are besieged by gang violence, police brutality, racism, substance abuse and overall crumbling infrastructure. When the main character leaves this community to attend a private high school almost an hour away, she enters a suburban world of opportunity, safety and modern buildings with manicured lawns. But Thomas does not imply that her main character is unquestionably better off in the suburbs; instead, Thomas escapes the stereotypes of inner city versus suburb by depicting another side of these two communities.

The inner-city community, though not devoid of its problems, is populated by people with strong family and neighborhood bonds who find support in the social and religious communities around them.

Today, urban communities like these are at risk, as the new federal tax law accelerates the discrepancy between the growing number of people who need affordable housing and the shrinking supply of it.

At a time when affordable housing should be a central national

development in our country's history, has struggled since its beginnings in 1934 with the creation of the Federal Housing Administration. The new federal tax plan which Congress recently enacted has further set back the progress of affordable housing, making it harder for those most vulnerable members of our society to find decent, reasonably-priced housing. Everyone in our society is affected by the decreasing availability of affordable housing. Our government needs to undo these consequences of the new tax law and to continue finding solutions to allow low-income citizens the simple right to an affordable roof over their heads.

Since 1986, the federal government has created tax credits to encourage private investors to invest in affordable housing projects. These are valuable because they reduce the amount of money a taxpayer (an investor) must pay to the government. With affordable housing, tax credits are given by the government to affordable housing developers and the developers give those tax credits to investors, in exchange for the money needed

to build the affordable housing developments. The investors, mostly comprising companies and wealthy individuals, use these valuable credits to reduce their own tax bill.

What is now a \$9 billion-a-year social program, according to a recent New York Times article, is in trouble because the new tax law lowers the investor-company's tax bill and makes the tax credits worth less. The new tax law is estimated to reduce the growth of affordable housing by 235,000 units per year, which already adds to a shortage of such housing. It also increases the cost of building a housing unit by \$50,000, making affordable housing less attractive to developers.

Another problem is that the number of renters in the country has increased by one million per year since 2010. And those who are renting are wealthier, with more than one-third of renters over the past ten years making more than \$100,000 per household. This is placing low income residents, whose numbers are increasing, out of the housing market. A crisis now looms with declining rate of affordable housing construction, a problem worsened by the new tax law. Add to this the fact that President Trump's proposed budget for next year reduces funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by 14%, and the impending crisis is accelerating.

Why should every citizen, and not just those who are in need of affordable housing, care about this problem?

Look closer, and we can see that this will affect everyone. In addition to the basic moral issue of taking care of American society's most vulnerable citizens, a lack of low-income housing increases the number of homeless people and contributes to an increase in many urban problems, including the spread of disease. The New York Times reported that a recent hepatitis outbreak in San Diego, attributed to the city's growing homeless population has killed 20 people. Middle-income workers are being pushed far outside of the cities in which they work, leading to commutes for these workers of up to three hours each way.

Mahatma Gandhi said that "[a] nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members." From rent control and more public funding to decreasing building regulations and increasing available tax credits, solutions are being proposed. But the problem of inadequate affordable housing in various parts of our country continues to worsen.

How do we judge ourselves, and how do we want "our nation's greatness to be measured," in Gandhi's words, if our vulnerable fellow citizens do not even have a place to live?

# Predicting the Effect of Firing Robert Mueller

**Dennis Kostakoglu Aydin '21 and Jonathan Meng '21**

*Guest Contributors*

Many appointed executive officials have come and gone since the beginning of the Trump Administration —some left of their free will and others were removed. We now focus on one man: Robert S. Mueller III. Mueller serves as the Special Counsel tasked with overseeing the Justice Department's investigation into alleged Russian meddling in the U.S. 2016 election.

**Since Trump can't directly fire the Special Counsel, he could instead replace Rod Rosenstein, the Acting Attorney General for the Russia investigation, with someone more inclined to declare that the investigation was unnecessary and remove Mueller on their own.**

Trump has attacked Mueller on Twitter, saying that the investigation was "based on fraudulent activities and a Fake Dossier paid for by Crooked Hillary and the DNC," before declaring it a "WITCH HUNT!" He also complained that the Mueller team has thirteen hardened Democrats, some of who are "Crooked Hillary" supporters, and no Republicans. But how close is

Trump from dismissing Mueller and what could happen in the aftermath? Many groups strongly believe that Mueller's dismissal would lead to Trump's impeachment.

One member of the House Judiciary Committee—in which the impeachment process begins—Democratic Representative Luis Gutiérrez, says that he will consider the removal of either Attorney General Jeff Sessions or Special Counsel Mueller as undermining the rule of law as well as obstruction of justice. Still, both the Senate and House have a Republican majority, so unless many Republicans decide to vote for impeachment, it is highly unlikely that it will occur until the midterm elections.

However, the firing of Mueller doesn't necessarily mean impeachment for Trump. Since Trump can't directly fire the Special Counsel, he could replace Rod Rosenstein, the Acting Attorney General for the Russia investigation, with someone more inclined to declare that the investigation was unnecessary and remove Mueller on his or her own. This would make it much harder for Congress to act since the dismissal occurred within the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Another thing to note is that this wouldn't be the first time a special prosecutor has been removed. In 1973, Archibald Cox, the man charged with investigating the Watergate scandal, was fired by Nixon. However, this

didn't do anything to stop the probe. Firing Mueller could cause the very same scenario with either the Office of the Special Counsel intact and continuing to investigate without Mueller, or the Office of Special Counsel being dissolved and the DOJ continuing the investigation by themselves.

By then, the only step left for Trump to take would be to order the DOJ to drop the probe but that would likely lead to much more public outcry than firing Mueller would ever create. Also, all of this still wouldn't stop the FBI's completely separate investigation into Russian hacking. So, Trump shouldn't fire Mueller. If he were to do so, he would simply draw more negative attention, and if this investigation is truly a "witch hunt" as he claims, then Trump has nothing to be afraid of. Right?

Trump is stuck in between a rock and a hard place. Should he fire the man responsible for his so-called "WITCH HUNT!" and thus face the wrath of the judicial system, as well as ensure that the Russia Investigation is not forgotten for a long while, or will he avoid firing Mueller and risk the possibility of impeachment and even removal from office? For Trump, this decision will have to be answered soon, and the decision will have an impact all around the world.

# Palestinian Catholics on Easter

**Emmanuel Tran '21**

*Guest Contributor*

On Easter, many North American Evangelical Western Protestants flew into Jerusalem to visit the Holy Sepulchre, the Mount of Olives and other religious sites. Zionist authorities welcomed them with open arms. In part, this was due to fundamentalist Protestants' support for the Zionist state. However, a more ancient Christian community, a community whose faith dates to the time of the Bible, was not allowed to enter the holy sites of Jerusalem. Palestinian Catholics and Eastern Orthodox believers were denied permits to enter Jerusalem and were prohibited from taking part in the festivities.

Palestinian Christians are a people that no one talks about. They are a silent minority. Most of them are Catholic or Eastern Orthodox, and most identify as Palestinians. They make up close to seven percent of the Palestinian population. And it was with them that Palestinian nationalism took root. Under the British Mandate they flourished, with many attending Western universities. Their unique outlook on the world was admired by in the West and in the East. But with the advent of a Zionist state and the rise of Islamism in Palestine, they lost most of their power. Western Protestant Zionists saw them as an embarrassment, and Pan-Arabism took over the Palestinian national movement.

During the 1980s, Western fundamentalist Protestants allied with the Zionist movement in return for the right to visit holy sites. So far, this pact has worked. But Western Protestants ignore who this agreement hurts: Palestinian Catholics.

Without the protections of Western powers, the Palestinians Catholics have been oppressed by the Zionist authorities in Jerusalem. In fact, videos

taken on Palm Sunday showed one of the worst examples of this oppression thus far. A

**Without the protections of Western powers, the Palestinians Catholics have been oppressed by the Zionist authorities in Jerusalem.**

group of Palestinians Catholics had met for Palm Sunday. They had palms in their hands and shouted "Hosanna." As they prayed, Zionist military entered and beat up several men.

For the most part there were few reports of the event. A video of it was put on Twitter, and a few pro-Palestinian sites and Eastern Orthodox media organizations covered the news

story. A video is available on the Twitter page of the Quds News Network. New laws allow the Zionist authorities to seize Catholic as well Eastern Rite churches and sell them to developers, a move that Palestinians protested. But Western Protestant leaders remain silent as Palestinian Catholics are

oppressed.

Why are Western ministers so silent when Palestinian Catholics suffer oppression? Palestinians Catholics refuse to reject their Palestinian identity in return for Western help. They refuse to oppose their Palestinian brother and sisters of all faiths. And they are proud to be Palestinian. So for the Western protestant establishment they are not reliable.

So what does the future hold for this population?

Many have fled their homes in Palestine for Europe. But many more have stayed to help fight for Palestine. In the next years they will, along with Palestinian Muslims, suffer oppression. But let us hope that they keep fighting with the hope that one day their nation will be free.

**New laws allow the Zionist authorities to seize Catholic as well Eastern Rite churches and sell them to developers, a move that Palestinians protested.**

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## We Must Recognize Facebook's Impact on our Lives

Andrea So '20

Columnist

On Tuesday, Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg testified before the Senate in Washington, D.C.. He was

**Commercials don't really add any value to our lives, or help us stay connected. More often than not, they are just graphics we mindlessly scroll past in order to reach the posts that we actually want to read.**

asked to do so after the recent revelation that Cambridge Analytica, a political consulting firm with connections to the Trump campaign, had gathered the data of 87 million Facebook users to "psychologically profile" voters during the 2016 election. When Facebook found out about Cambridge Analytica's wrongdoing, they didn't immediately ban the company from receiving user data and using it for advertising benefits until later on.

Now, Facebook is undergoing seismic waves of change. This includes the posts from your closest friends and fam-

ily now appearing at the top of your newsfeed, while ads from brands and publications will appear later.

This change is much needed and long overdue—it fulfills Facebook's original intention of bringing people closer together, of allowing friends and family members who may live far away from each other to not let their physical boundaries stop them from staying connected.

Plus, commercials don't really add any value to our lives, or help us stay connected. More often than not, they are just graphics we mindlessly scroll past in

**According to Zuckerberg, Facebook is also utilizing new tools with artificial intelligence in order to shut down fake accounts, verifying political advertisers and launching ad transparency tools.**

order to reach the posts that we actually want to read. Occasionally, I'm pestered by the repeated ads for things I have no intention of ever buying, but the aforementioned change will help to signifi-

cantly improve that as well our general online experience.

Due to the enormous amounts of pressure from politicians as well as the public, Facebook is finally adopting the

**No one ever thought that a social media site, founded only fourteen years ago, would be capable of exerting such an influence on the presidential election of arguably the most powerful country in the world.**

measures needed to benefit the greater good. Besides the shift in post order, Facebook Inc. also backed a proposed legislation necessitating social media websites to reveal the identities of people who purchase political campaign ads online.

According to Zuckerberg, Facebook is also utilizing new tools with artificial intelligence in order to shut down fake accounts, verifying political advertisers and launching ad transparency tools. These are exactly the kind of actions that we need from one of the biggest social

media platforms in the world— it should be contributing to a sense of connectedness as well as strengthening the values of American democracy, as opposed to undermining them.

No one ever thought that a social media site, founded only fourteen years ago, would be capable of exerting such an influence on the presidential election of arguably the most powerful country in the world.

Two billion people log into Facebook monthly, and one billion people within that number are considered daily active users; many, if not all of these people, are influenced by what they see on their feed.

Facebook is finally admitting to its failure in regulating political campaigns from manipulating users; although Facebook's lack in regulation should never have been a problem in the first place, taking action now is better than never taking action at all.

Facebook's vast power is undeniable, and is only predicted to keep growing in the years to come. However, with power comes responsibility and the people behind Facebook must be willing to confront the challenges hindering them from fulfilling that responsibility.



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## Creating a Student Forum on Gun Violence

Jordan Davidson '19

Senior Columnist

In a period of history where we are so politically polarized, the most important thing we need is an open dialogue with those who disagree with us. Most recently, I have focused on gun control in this weekly Opinions column. I believe that now more than ever we need to push our representatives to reform the country's lax gun laws which have contributed to hundreds of deaths in mass shootings over the past twenty years.

**In a period of history where we are so politically polarized, the most important thing we need is an open dialogue with those who disagree with us.**

In an attempt to initiate change, students—myself included—from Phillips Exeter, Exeter High School, Seacoast School of Technology and Cooperative Middle School have organized a Town

Hall event called Student Forum on Gun Violence that will take place at Exeter's Town Hall this Friday, Apr. 13th, from

**Hopefully, this event will inspire students to take leadership roles and influence people who are not in support of gun control to rethink their positions.**

7:00-8:30 p.m. The Forum is open to the public and will include student panelists, Police Chiefs from the SAU16 (New Hampshire School Administrative Unit 16), legislators and a Q&A session. Hopefully, this event will inspire students to take leadership roles and influence people who are not in support of gun control to rethink their positions.

The Student Forum on Gun Violence will not include legislators because we do not want it to be an event in which politicians can advertise themselves; it will be important to stress how little New Hampshire politicians have been doing to regulate gun distribution in New Hampshire.

When Chris Sununu became governor, he loosened gun regulations, making

it easier for anyone, even residents who are known troublemakers in their communities, to purchase firearms. One key piece of legislation that was repealed under Sununu was a law that allowed police chiefs to use their discretion to block certain citizens with a criminal history from buying a firearm.

Politicians such as Sununu are dangerous to the state of New Hampshire. It is vital for new, pro-gun control candidates to be elected in the midterm elections this year. The Student Forum will be a great opportunity for anyone in the Exeter, or the wider New Hampshire community, to be informed on what

**I urge all students, teachers, faculty and anyone who reads this article to go to the Student Forum on Gun Violence this Friday. We all need to intervene and get involved in this movement.**

their representatives are doing to either increase or decrease gun control at the state level.

Student activism has proved to be an essential part of the anti-gun violence movement. It is of the highest importance that our community listens to these young voices. Students from Parkland used their passion and anger to catch the media's attention and spark a movement nationwide. Similarly, the students who have been working tirelessly to organize the Student Forum on Gun Violence deserve to be heard by their respective schools and communities just as much as the Parkland students do. It is the obligation of the public to be engaged in what occurs within our government by attending events like the Student Forum, participating in walk outs — and even more importantly, being informed voters. We will only be able to achieve change in the midterm elections if citizens who are aware of a candidate's actions and goals vote.

I urge all students, teachers, faculty and anyone who reads this article to go to the Student Forum on Gun Violence this Friday. We all need to intervene and get involved in this movement. We owe it to the innocent victims of mass shootings across the nation to make a stand, or at the very least, get informed.



# ExonianHumor



## Just Harkness Things

By ELLIOT DIAZ  
*Sibi*

“Could you elaborate on that?”

Translation: What you said was just so stupid that I don't know what to say. Have fun trying to justify that one in the text! ;)

“Going off of that...”

Translation: I thought of something vaguely related. I've been waiting for you to stop talking, so I can hear myself talk.

“Could we switch gears and talk about...”

Translation: I want to be a show off. (We get it, YoU aCtUaLlY DiD tHe ReAdInG.)

“On pages 518, 427, 322, 177, and...”

\*Congratulations on being a Harkness Warrior”. Consider this your intervention. I swear to John Phillips, please do not spend thirty minutes providing exuberant amounts of evidence for your elaborate points. Even the teacher is starting to look at the clock and wait until you're done talking.\*

“I'll be the scribe!”

Translation: I'm either a Harkness Warrior” or the person in class who hasn't talked all term!

“No, you go!” :)

Translation: I'm burning holes into you with my eyes, but I don't want the teacher to think I'm rude, so go off I guess.

“What's the construction of...”

Translation: You only looked up the vocab while doing the translation, didn't you? It shows. (Modo discipuli Latii intellegent.) :')

## Why am I Sleeping in Class?

By JACOB ZIMMERMAN  
*Would Appreciate Sleeping as a History Credit*

It's only 8 a.m.!

It's still early in the morning.

It's the middle of the morning.

It's right before lunch.

It's right after lunch.

It's the middle of the afternoon.

It's G format.

It's H format.

## TFW She'll Do Me, She'll Do You, She's Got That Kinda Lovin'

By AVA HARRINGTON  
*ThAt'S aN oLd MeMe*



Are You Grateful that Daddy Zucc Created a Platform That Allows You to Whine Anonymously on Bus Ride?

Submit to the Humor Page.

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

## One Chainz: Exeter's Lion Rampant (a Profile)



By NICK SCHWARZ  
*Most School Spirit*

You see him through the stains on every Grill table. He's there on the bumper sticker you tried to scrape off your grandmother's car out of shame. Sometimes out of the corner of your eye you think he's in your very room, until you realize it's just your roommate. He's the one and only Lion Rampant, but why is he our mascot? Early options for a heraldic creature to represent Exeter included the porcupine recumbent, the javelina peeved, the weasel napping, a piece of d-hall's barbecue tofu and the woodchuck taking umbrage. It's easy to see why the lion won out.

The lion logo is the perfect embodiment of the Exonian and therefore suitable to festoon overpriced t-shirts in the bookstore. Unlike most representations of the “King of the Jungle,” in which a lion is portrayed as a muscular, regal creature, the Exeter lion, malnourished from eating only lukewarm d-hall pasta and Grill cookies, has visible ribs. Instead of a flowing, golden mane, the Exeter lion has the thin, patchy scruff of an animal who has torn his hair out at 2 am trying to stretch a one and a half page idea onto pages 3 and 4, keeping in mind that every

topic sentence should be a mini-thesis and no internal citations will be allowed, before B period. The blood-shot eyes and the lion's frantic pose are familiar to anyone whose energy comes from Monster, Redbull, Ritalin and tepid d-hall coffee. Finally, the flying strands of broken chain remind us that even after we've graduated—or broken free—Exeter will always be dragging behind us, urging us be non sibi, show not tell, listen to learn, find an academic focus and express it to your college counsellor even though you're passionless, and to donate generously to PEA.

## Latin Memes

By ELLIOT DIAZ

*The Only Humor Editor Who Takes Latin Isn't Here So I Don't Understand This One - Ava*



## Mark Zuckerberg's Diary

By AVA HARRINGTON

*Plans to Become the Second Most Revered Alumni*

Dear Diary,

This sucks. This suckity suckity sucks. Back at Exeter, when I spoke 17m languages and lived in a dorm that nobody could even find, life was great. Then I had to go to Harvard and make Facebook. All I wanted to do was muzz answers off of my classmates. I should've just gone to my art history class...Now here I am, in the middle of a lawsuit!

At my hearing, they're asking me really hard questions to trip me up. For starters, they asked me how a company could make money without charging people to use

the service! For a second I didn't know the answer to that one, because they were really pushing me there. These old people clearly know their stuff when it comes to technology. Thankfully I remembered that our website runs on ad revenue; that was something they would've never known. Then they asked me about sending emails on WhatsApp. I didn't even know you could send emails on WhatsApp! I guess I'm just better at creating technology than I thought. Finally, one of the senators asked me to identify which ads he showed me were created by Russians. That one was easy, because obviously

I know the source of every single Facebook post ever created. But I didn't want him to know which ones were the Russians, so I just played it off as if I don't go on messenger and laugh at peoples' memes.

I'm so tired. I just want to go back to Exeter where everyone loved me. It's too bad I've made literally no contact whatsoever since I became rich. Oh well. Those kids will never be as good as me, except all the new uppers. They're chill.

XOXOXOX,  
Markie Mark

## Which News Editor Are You?

By AVA HARRINGTON and THE NEWS EDITORS

What do you do in your free time?

- A. Cook
- B. Despair
- C. Nap
- D. AP Bio

Where are you from?

- A. Bangkok
- B. Schwarzach
- C. Korea
- D. LAS VEGAS

What's your favorite snack?

- A. Not berries
- B. Freedom
- C. Chocolate
- D. Sushi

What sports do you do?

- A. Squish
- B. Tennis
- C. Managing Squash
- D. Wrestling

What's your all time favorite quote?

- A. “Emily, you are Morty and I am Rick” - Don
- B. “Everything you say reminds me of a serial killer.” - Rose (@Paul)

C. “Just search up any funny quote and put it in.”

D. “Speak softly and carry a big [expletive].”

What's your 333 about?

- A. Second half
- B. Vietnam
- C. The Pentagon Papers
- D. Guns

What's your hidden talent?

- A. Being allergic to berries
- B. Erudite sarcasm
- C. Being born upside-down
- D. Lifting

Are you in a relationship?

- A. “You know it.”
- B. ;)
- C. No no no no
- D. “Just with my hot cheetos”

What's your go-to fashion?

- A. Orange polo
- B. Plaid
- C. Flannels
- D. Wentworth hoodie

Mostly A's: You're Don! Exciting, outgoing and reportedly allergic to berries, this ESSO board member is self-described as “cool.” Pajamas + orange polos are your go-to. You wear shorts backwards.

Mostly B's: You're Paul! Seemingly quiet and serious, you're actually just really, really, weirdly interested in ethics or something like that. You've definitely read literally every book ever written. EVERY. BOOK.

Mostly C's: You're Sarah! You're fashionable, friendly and probably own a pair of Gucci shoes. You're super studious and take a lot of naps. You love avocado toast and London Fog from D Squared.

Mostly D's: You're John! While you might seem quiet on the outside, you're actually just waiting for the perfect moment to drop an important question, usually “Is Meatloaf a Bread?” You're also “the master of all trades.” Your one weakness? You're not as good as you think you are at Smash.



Rajrishi Das '19 at the Subcontinent Society booth offers Asian cuisine to Olivia Lazarik '19

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

## ASIAN NIGHT MARKET

By **CANDY TANTICHRASAKUL,**  
**ERIN AHERN and**  
**SOPHIE LIU**  
*Staff Writers*

Students laid out trays of dumplings, sushi and samosas at six vibrant booths set up for the annual Asian Night Market. The auditorium was decorated with national flags and string lights, and filled with the sound of ice machines, K-pop and shouts of "Dried mangoes!"

Beginning at eight p.m. this past Saturday, Exonians filled Grainger Auditorium, forming long lines in front of every booth. At the entrance, each student was given seven tickets from a member of the Asian Advisory Board (AAB) that they could exchange for a taste of cuisine from different parts of Asia.

The wide variety of foods attracted students from all around campus. "I came because it sounded interesting, and I miss Chinese food," said prep Jeffrey Cui. "I think this is a really great event that serves to represent the Asian community to Exeter as a whole."

Asian Advisory Board adviser and English instructor Wei-Ling Woo explained how the board prepared for the event. "We've been planning, organizing

and coordinating the various clubs, working with Student Activities to purchase the supplies and decorations that students need, planning the entertainment for the night, curating the playlist and doing publicity for the event," she said.

After several months of preparation, the Asian cultural clubs of Exeter gathered together to share a piece of their cultures. A variety of clubs were present at the event, including the Association of Southeastern Asian Nations, Japanese American Society, Korean Society, Chinese Student Organization, Pinoy Society and Subcontinent Society.

The Asian Advisory board aimed to represent the diversity of the Asian nationalities at Exeter. "Each of those clubs is bringing cultural foods to share with the community, and the board has had the important job of leading everyone through it," said upper Adrian Venzon, a member of the board.

No matter their native country, Exonians from every corner gathered together to celebrate and enjoy the many great tastes of Asia. "My favorite drink was the mango lassi. I'm really glad I had it," said lower Ella Fishman. As a new lower, Fishman was excited to explore her fellow classmates' cultural cuisines.

Similarly, prep Bizzie Lynch enjoyed the "enriching" experience and appreciated the positive impact it had on PEA's campus. "I know for that a lot of Asian members of the community, Asian Market Night was a nice reminder of their customs and heritage," she said.

Senior Anna Clark, a co-head of the Japanese American Society, added that the event brought diverse, authentic Asian food to a campus usually devoid of it. "It's not like your typical Americanized Asian food; it's actual, real traditional food," she said. "I think it allows for the more domestic, traditional aspect of culture."

Senior Nader Babar, a co-head of the Subcontinent Society, expressed similar sentiments. "I see it as a way for the community at Exeter to see beyond the typical food that you see with Chinese, Japanese or Indian food. What you'll see instead is more street food in a sense and it brings you a bit closer into our culture," he said.

After the frenzy around mango lassi and Korean shaved ice had subsided, the room grew silent as Odaiko New England, a taiko performing group, began its drumming performance. The AAB invited the ensemble "in an effort to make our event culturally educational, because

in the past we've had the problem of [the event] just being about food," Venzon said. To work towards this goal, Shakti and Beat of Asia, two student dance groups, also performed at the event while accompanied by music from all throughout Asia.

In addition to the food and performances, the Asian Night Market served as a platform for the publication of the first issue of The Phillips Exeter Asian, a new magazine on campus aimed at sharing the voices of Exeter's Asian and Asian-American population. "I'm really excited to share our publication with everybody and I hope people enjoy it," said upper Sarah Lu, the director of public relations of The Phillips Exeter Asian. In the publication, Asian-identifying students expressed their creativity and opinions through a variety of platforms including narratives, photography and fashion.

Although some Exonians are thousands of miles away from home, many appreciated the event. These small pieces of home that the Asian Advisory Board gathered together greatly impacted the Exeter community. "We have all these cultural groups," said prep Isa Matsubayashi. "As an Asian, I feel this unity, and I really like that."

## PRESERVATION HALL ALL-STARS

By **VERONICA CHOULGA and SHIVANI TRIPATHI**  
*Staff Writers*

Students clapped and sang along to vibrant tunes and dynamic rhythmic patterns that filled the air. The Preservation Hall Jazz Band performed traditional New Orleans Jazz at Assembly Hall on Tuesday, Apr. 10. In the evening, the band held a second concert in The Bowl.

According to tour manager Ashley Shabankareh, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band was founded in 2011 to "protect, preserve, and perpetuate New Orleans culture." Currently, they seek out potential jazz musicians from underprivileged youth in New Orleans. Their graduates have achieved musical and academic success, studying at prestigious universities such as Juilliard and UC Berkeley.

An anonymous donor invited The Preservation Hall Jazz Band to Exeter. "It spawned all from one person's love for jazz," Shabankareh said. "The donor expressed great interest in us coming to Exeter, extended the invitation to connect us and bring us here."

The band began their assembly concert with a hymnal melody, which included the refrain of "Lord, Lord Jesus" as the main line. Afterwards, they played old school spirituals and continued with the song "When I Grow Too Old to Dream."

After the performance ended, students jumped out of their seats with thunderous applause. Senior Nikita Angarski noted how the performance was a valuable lesson in history. "Sometimes we forget that this is a history lesson as well," he said. "These guys could be playing whatever they want; they're pros. But they choose to keep it traditional to save that piece of history, and to give it to us, and I think that's one of the best things that's happened at Exeter."

Prep Adia Allison shared these sentiments. "I enjoyed the jazz concert," she said. "I think it was a way to bring a culture to Exeter that I'm sure many aren't accustomed to."

"The best part, however, was just how much fun they were having while playing," senior Oren Stern said. "When the band is having fun, it's almost impossible to not want to get up and join in. I was extremely impressed at how well they could tell a story with their music."

The band reconvened at 7 p.m. to deliver a second concert in The Bowl. Students and faculty were immersed in tunes like "Mardi Gras in New Orleans" and "Little Liza Jane." The grand finale was "When the Saints go Marching by."

"The performance last night was the first time that I have ever experienced New Orleans Jazz," prep Anna Rose Marion said. "As a musician, I found it extremely difficult to pick my jaw up off the floor. The room was electric, everyone was dancing, clapping, and enraptured by the virtuosity before us."

The band's soprano saxophonist, Calvin Johnson, hopes that their music will inspire students to love and appreciate jazz music. "It's not everyday you see a group of students your age respond to the music this way," he said, speaking to the PEA student body. "You guys let it touch your soul, and that's how you get the music. I'm waiting to see what you guys sound like when I come next time."

Prep Gabriella Shetreet also noted the crowd's energy, saying, "The whole school really got into it, including me and my friends, and it was awesome to see the smiles on everyone's faces."

Johnson continued to describe the unparalleled impact that music has had on his life. "Music means life, every facet of life and every emotion of life," he said. "Happiness, sadness, trepidation, it's apprehension, it's spontaneity, it's aggression, it's everything."

Trumpet player Kevin Lewis advised student musicians at Exeter to continue practicing and to never lose passion. "Stay open minded, and involved," he said. "Never stop learning, and forever be a student of music."

## Movie Review: "Thor: Ragnarok"

By **DENNIS KOSTAKOGLU AYDIN**  
*Contributing Writer*

"Thor: Ragnarok," the seventeenth film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), received raving reviews after its release in Nov. 2017. Directed by Taika Waititi, the film details Thor's return to Asgard after his two-year search for the Infinity Stones, the greatest source of untamed power in the universe.

However, when he returns, Hela, the Goddess of Death, escapes her bonds and takes over Asgard. As a result, Thor is imprisoned on Sakaar, the Battle Planet, ruled by the Grandmaster. Pitted in sadistic games against his friend the Hulk, Thor must escape with the help of his brother Loki in order to stop Hela from enslaving Asgard and starting Ragnarok, the end of all worlds.

The plot of "Thor: Ragnarok" is a major improvement over its two generic predecessors. The jokes are excellent, the story is well-structured and the character development, in accordance with the principles of the MCU, fits comfortably within the established lore and provides a strong foundation for "Avengers: Infinity War," which comes out later this month.


One issue that I anticipated this film would have was the melding of the "Thor:

Ragnarok" storyline with the "Planet Hulk" comic book storyline. Because the Hulk technically belongs to Sony, the Disney-owned MCU cannot create a solo Hulk movie and has not done so since 2008. However, the deal does not extend to films with multiple characters.

As a result, Disney and Sony made a deal where they would allow the Hulk to be a major character in the third Thor film, permitting the Hulk to appear in films aside from "The Avengers." Originally, I believed this would lower the quality of the movie; however, Taika Waititi did an amazing job in seamlessly switching settings and manipulating the storyline.

Additionally, the soundtrack, a blend of 90s synth music and remixed 80s music, works well with the bold flavor that the film's hair-raising scenery provides.

The film's 92 percent "Certified Fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes certainly doesn't hurt its reputation either. "Thor: Ragnarok" reflects Marvel Studios' recent favor for more comedic action movies, a strain of the adventure-fantasy genre that has woefully yet to be explored and provides brilliant and enjoyable entertainment for viewers of all ages.



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## SeniorSpotlight

## GAVIN HICKEY

By EMMANUEL TRAN and  
LOUIS MUKAMA  
Staff Writers

When asked what food best personifies senior Gavin Hickey, upper Reina Matsumoto had a sure answer: Grill mac 'n cheese with crumbles of Ritz crackers on top. She described his "cool" exterior as "intimidating," but after getting to know him, she found him to be a "soft and kind person." Senior Winslow MacDonald, without knowing Matsumoto's choice, also associated Hickey with mac 'n cheese, calling Hickey "multi-faceted, radiant and, just like a bowl of mac 'n cheese, you feel happy after hanging out with Gavin."

Hickey, the son of English instructor Patricia Burke Hickey, lives in Langdell Hall. During the summer, he and his family go to Newcastle, an island near Portsmouth. Hickey was drawn to the Academy's academic and extracurricular opportunities and the freedom that it could provide him.

Trying his hand at photography during prep year, Hickey fell in love with the artform and is now a photographer for both The Exonian and PEAN. He also enjoys his language courses at Exeter, citing Chinese instructor Ming Wang Fontaine as one of his influences. Specifically, she was one of the reasons why he decided to take Chinese. "She is the nicest person



Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

ever," he said.

Fontaine was also one of the reasons he studied abroad in Taiwan during winter term, a place where he had some of his most formative Exeter experiences. "She's super cool and she runs the trip to Taiwan. I wanted to go hang out with her, and I knew people who had gone before," he said. "In Taiwan, the eight of us and Ms. Fontaine tried to break our dumpling record, which was like a 160 dumplings."

Fontaine fondly recalled exploring China with Hickey. She said, "In Kunming,

he took us to the tea city to buy good teas. He really knows where to go to pick up good things, what to do for fun and how to learn new things. It was so fun to have him in the group."

One cannot know Hickey and be unaware of his deep passion for food. "I do a lot of things with food. I roast my own coffee," he said. "Over the summer, I make kombucha but I am not allowed to do it here."

Despite his love for extravagant, homemade food, Hickey does not look

down on dining hall food. "I actually really like D-hall food," he said. For those Exonians who are unable to stand dining hall, he shared these words of wisdom: "You can always find something good, especially if you know how to use the salad bar, the microwave and the panini press correctly to make your own stuff."

Hickey also enjoys sharing his love of quality tea as a cohead of Exeter's Tea Club, which meets every Sunday. It was through this club that he originally met MacDonald. Neither of them had ever been in the same class or on the same team, and that is part of what MacDonald finds unique about their friendship. "Our friendship came about naturally as a result of our campus reputations as tea connoisseurs," MacDonald said.

For lower classmen, Hickey has two lessons: "Don't do things just for college. Don't worry about college." He also hopes they will explore Exeter's multitude of opportunities like he did. "I stumbled upon all my extracurriculars just because I liked those things," he said.

"Gavin has two traits that I admire immensely, and I think that he embodies these traits more than anyone I know," MacDonald said. "First, he cares deeply about all of his friends and goes out of his way to check in on them, ask them about their lives, etc. Second, he has the ability to make friends with an unbounded ease."

## Music Review:

## "My Dear Melancholy"

By NIKITA THUMMALA  
Staff Writer

On Mar. 30, R&B singer The Weeknd released his first EP, "My Dear Melancholy."

The release surprised fans, and the EP's lead single, "Call Out My Name," quickly topped charts throughout the world.

The EP is comprised of six songs that recount The Weeknd's past relationships and the pain they have caused him. Musically, the project provides a contemporary R&B sound mixed with elements of electro-soul.

The Weeknd, a Toronto-born singer, burst onto the music scene in 2011 after releasing his mixtape, "House of Balloons." The critical success of the mixtape led him to collaborate with some of hip-hop and dance music's biggest artists, including Wiz Khalifa, Kendrick Lamar and Daft Punk.

The son of Ethiopian immigrants, The Weeknd's songs are influenced by traditional Ethiopian music, as well as by Michael Jackson. His music utilizes emotion to produce hits that dominate the Billboard Hot 100. Film producers frequently seek his unique style of music, which has led to some of his biggest hits, including "Earned It" for "Fifty Shades of Grey" and "Pray For Me" for "Black Panther."

As a major pop music figure, The Weeknd has a strong grip on the world of R&B. His uptempo songs and dynamic beats have drawn in mainstream attention, eventually leading to him producing two multi-platinum albums and holding several sold-out tours.

Though The Weeknd's recent work has been less emotional, "My Dear Melancholy" returns to the vulnerability of

his earlier mixtapes. Many critics seem to enjoy the different style of the EP compared to his most recent work and like how he returns to the techniques of his past pieces. On the opening track, lyrics such as "I said I didn't feel nothing baby, but I lied," and "I almost cut a piece of myself for your life," are rumored to be about The Weeknd's most recent ex-girlfriend, Selena Gomez.

The Weeknd's pain is evident as he finds closure through music. Tracks including "Wasted Times" and "I Was Never There" paint vivid images of gloom and sorrow. These songs adhere to the themes of darkness and dejection as The Weeknd reveals the truth about each of his past relationships.

The album cover serves as a strong indication of the EP's music, displaying its solemnity by showing one half of The Weeknd's face and hiding the other in the darkness. It sets up the tone of the EP perfectly and foreshadows the candor in each song.

Though the album will most likely not gain as many awards as his previous work, he has introduced his fans to a newer, darker side of his music. The heartbreaking songwriting and instrumental moodiness have so far received rave reviews, with many praising the EP as a bold step in The Weeknd's career. With the backing of famous people in the music industry, the album has been well-respected and popular. Like his last two hit albums, all of the songs on this EP hit Billboard's Top 100 list. The Weeknd has allowed himself to foster a different kind of connection through his EP, ultimately opening himself up to other musical opportunities in the future.

## BIG RED GOES GREEN

By MAI HOANG  
Columnist

In a world of elevators, smartphones and online shopping, the biggest virtue for any product is convenience—how much it saves creative, intellectual individuals from wasting precious time on performing tedious, mindless tasks.

We as Exonians, the epitome of human productivity, certainly cannot spare twenty minutes to tread down the path to Walgreens for the water bottles, shampoos and snacks necessary for our daily subsistence. We must, therefore, resort to Amazon, the best cash-generating, convenience-bringing invention in history. Members of Campus Facilities and the Post Office Room would agree—every day, they receive an average of 200 cardboard boxes for a campus of roughly 1000 students and 200 faculty.

Convenience, however, comes at the cost of environmental sustainability, particularly when people are online shopping. Last year, transportation surpassed power plants as the United States's top producer of the monster of greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide.

Furthermore, online products come with a significant amount of packaging. To ensure that products are safely transported to consumers, Amazon always resorts to bulky packaging.

Worse still, once the boxes arrive at the mailroom, many students casually toss them into the trash can or carry the boxes with them back to their dormitories.

This is the problem that the Green Umbrella Learning Lab student research team tackled last fall. Under the guidance of English Instructor Jason BreMiller, Senior Manager of Sustainability and Natural Resources Jill Robinson and Mailroom Supervisor Joseph Goudreault, the team implemented a "box-breaking station" close to the mailboxes, complete with box cutters, a gigantic recycling bin and a banner with a catchy phrase: "Break that thang!"

After two months, the results were less than satisfactory. According to senior Anna Clark, not only did students fail to break the boxes, but they employed the box cutters for vandalism purposes, tearing up the bulletin board and pocketing the knife blades. "There used to be paper covering the billboard. The vandalism was pretty bad," Clark said. "After seeing what people did we took [the paper covering] out and painted the billboard red. We also glued the blades to the box cutters."

Goudreault did see an improvement in students' behavior, however, especially when the mailroom staff began to proactively remind package recipients of their responsibility. "It started rather slow but things are getting along. People are break-

ing the boxes and putting them in the appropriate bins," Goudreault said. "Before they ordered the box bin, it was just that corner where people left stuff all over the little trash cans, no organization at all."

After talking to facilities staff members, Clark learned that they started having to empty out the box bin more, which is a sign that students are breaking down their boxes. The only issue now is that some students still prefer to carry the boxes with them to the dorms before breaking them up. To solve the problem, senior Abel Ngala tried to build a similar box-breaking station in Peabody Hall with box cutters in the common room, but the effort has been less successful. "I don't see people use it that often," Ngala said.

To witness firsthand the effectiveness of the box-cutting station in PO, I decided to camp out in the mailroom for part of a department meeting, and observed Exonians flooding in and out with their newly-purchased items. One senior opened his box, took out some sweatshirts, then casually put the box into the bin without breaking it down. Meanwhile, upper Francie Treadwell took up the box cutter and tried to make a cut, exclaiming, "This is so hard!" After one minute, she succeeded in breaking down a carefully-taped box. "I think the set-up is convenient, but I'm having a lot of difficulty breaking down the box," she said.

Despite thinking of the project as a success in general, upper Gwyneth Crossman, a member of the Green Umbrella Learning Lab team, admitted that there were many parts which did not go according to plan. To encourage more students to break down their boxes, the team tried to add a lid to the bin so that only a flattened box would fit. This effort was ultimately unsuccessful because of maintenance issues.

At the heart of the matter are still students' ordering habits. According to Clark, these are "a personal choice" and "hard to fix." The team did, however, try to work with Amazon to implement more environmentally-friendly options, such as packaging that could be reused by the mailroom.

Another solution, Crossman said, was to give customers the option of "delivery pulling," or having multiple packages delivered in the same box. However, they were unable to effectively communicate with Amazon. Crossman, Ngala and Clark have laid the groundwork for more sustainable online shopping and mailroom habits, and they hope the project will be taken up next year by new students so that plans to collaborate with Amazon can still materialize.

## UPCOMING

EVENT

CONSENT FEST

Friday, Agora, 7 p.m.

ASSEMBLY

KIRK JOHNSON

Tuesday, Assembly Hall

EVENT

RELAY FOR LIFE

Saturday, Love Gym, 7 p.m.

EVENT

MATT W. MILLER

Wednesday, Library, 7 p.m.

# Robinson '13 Competes in NCAA Finals

## Michigan Captain Makes Exeter Proud

By CAROLINE FLEMING &  
LEAH COHEN  
Staff Writers

New England native, University of Michigan senior captain and PEA alumnus Duncan Robinson didn't waste any time on the court in the second-half comeback against Loyola-Chicago on Saturday. Making a crunch time steal, the power forward drove up the court, hitting one of his team's biggest 3 pointers in the game. Robinson led the men's basketball team to its eighth Final Four appearance, and the team progressed to the Tournament's Championship Game in early April. As a third-seeded team, Michigan was up against first seed powerhouse Villanova. After a tough battle, the Michigan Wolverines fell to the Villanova Wildcats 62-79.

Robinson grew up in New Castle, New Hampshire and attended Governor's Academy in Massachusetts before coming to the Academy as a postgraduate. Exeter's Robinson made a huge impact on campus and led the varsity team to its first New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) Class A championship title in 2013.

Boys' varsity basketball coach Jay Tilton said, "Coming through this place years ago, he did such a great job for our program. He helped us get our first championship at this school."

Lower Kerick Walker, varsity basketball player, looks up to Robinson as a mentor, even though he never played with Robinson at Exeter. Walker said, "Duncan and I text back and forth every once in a while, and because we play similarly to each other I look up to him as a role model. He was able to be successful at Exeter and go on to be successful afterwards."

Family friend and lower Carly Kirsch remembered meeting Robinson when she was young. She said, "When I met Duncan I was a little 10 year old who was dragged to all of my brothers' games. Even though I was just his teammate's little sister he made sure to always say 'hi' to me. He even

loaded the dishwasher when he was at my house." She added that she and her family were proud of him, and said, "He deserves all the success he's worked so hard for."

Robinson's postgraduate year at PEA helped him improve both athletically and academically. After taking the time to perfect his game and give an incredible showing throughout his final season at Exeter, he continued to pursue his dreams in college. He earned the 2013 NEPSAC Class A tournament MVP and was a NEPSAC All-League First Team selection in both 2012 (Class B) and 2013 (Class A).

He continued his basketball career and committed to Williams College, a Division III NESCAC school. The only freshman starter on Williams team, he improved his game throughout the season, securing countless accomplishments and forming a close relationship with the head coach Mike Maker. But when Maker left Williams to become the head coach for the Marist Red Foxes men's basketball team, Robinson decided to pursue a Division I career at Michigan.

Robinson became the first Division III player to transfer to a Division I school on a full athletic scholarship. The decision to leave Williams, a top-ranking liberal arts college in Massachusetts, to the University of Michigan, a large public research university in Ann Arbor, came with some sacrifice. Robinson was "redshirted" when he first arrived at Michigan, meaning that throughout the 2014-15 season, he was able to practice with the team, but could not play in games. He worked with Coach Jon Sanderson to get into shape and strong enough to play against some of college basketball's biggest stars.

Assistant Coach Jeff Meyer knew Robinson would be a star on the team when he surpassed Michigan legend Nik Stauskas' practice three-pointer record by three points. By the end of his sophomore year, Robinson was ranked second out of the Big Ten players with a 45 percent three-point field goal percentage. Robinson and teammate Charles Matthews also became the first players to score 20 points in a game in over three years. Robinson



Robinson in his postgraduate year.

Courtesy of Jay Tilton

suffered a small setback midseason when he was replaced in the starting lineup by Isaiah Rivers during the schools rival game versus Michigan State, but was quickly reinstated to the first string lineup within the month.

Robinson drove the team to victory in 2018 Big Ten Men's Conference Championship. At the end of the season, he became an Academic All-Big Ten honoree.

The country's eyes are focused on Robinson, waiting to see where he will go next in the sport. Robinson reported to the Williams Record that even though his

career has skyrocketed, he still loves the game, no matter what level he is playing at.

"The truth is, all that stuff – like sold-out arenas and national media attention – is cool, but the game is still the same, and it means just as much," he said. "I love my teammates the same. I love the game the same. One of the things I'm really taking away is that the basketball experience isn't as drastically different as a lot of people think. On the day-to-day level, there [are] for sure differences, but the stuff that really matters is relationships and how much you care and what you put into the game."

# Boys' Tennis Falls Short to Loomis

By MILO WALSH  
Staff Writer

This past Saturday, the boys' varsity tennis A-team traveled to Windsor, Connecticut to take on the Loomis Chaffee School. This was their third match of the season, and despite having a strong roster this year, they fell short. The final score tallied 2-5 L with a valiant effort coming from Big Red. Loomis won the doubles, scoring two points to Exeter's one. However, seniors Ryan Nguy and Michael Chen won their singles matches.

This was the boys' third game so far with ten left in the season, giving the team time to come back stronger after this loss. As it is early in the season, the boys are still trying to find their stride and put more wins on the board.

Nguy emphasized that the A-team hasn't received any new players. However, Nguy is confident in his teammates' abilities to step up and hone their skills. He added, "The team is strong this year and has the capability of beating every other school in the division. All we need to do now is show up to our games and deliver."

Nguy believes in the competence of his team, saying, "In the end, it just came down to who was playing better that day, but we definitely have the skill and drive to improve and do better next time."

Breaking down the specifics, it seemed that the team lacked consistency throughout its matches, which ultimately led to their defeat. "We definitely needed to work on keeping our shots consistent," Nguy said. "We overhit a lot of the time, which made winning games much harder."

Despite some technical shortcomings, upper Frederick Wehlen praised his captain, "Ryan stood out for sure this past match. He always plays his best and keeps the team positive," Wehlen said.

Before this well-played match against Loomis Chaffee, the varsity A-team had only played two other matches. In their season opener, the boys destroyed St. Paul's 6-1. Unfortunately, last Wednesday they could not come up with a win against a strong Groton School, losing 1-6.

Looking ahead in the season, Exeter's next matchup will be away in Wallingford, Connecticut at Choate Rosemary Hall. According to Nguy, Choate's team is "very strong this year," and he anticipates a need to strengthen practice rigor. "We [will] need to be very prepared going into our matches," Nguy said.

Senior and co-captain, Pedro Repsold De Sanson, remained hopeful and said, "Despite our loss, I do feel as though we will pick it back up in our



Prep Tony Xiao sets up a forehand.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

next matches. Everyone is willing to work hard during practice and go all out against Choate."

This year, Big Red is led by a strong core group of seniors with chemistry that has been established over multiple seasons, a great asset for matches to come. Aside from matches against other schools, the varsity A-team also has two

tournaments to look forward to. The New England Team Tournament will take place May 5, followed by the New England Individual Tournament on May 26. Wehlen remained optimistic and determined and added, "I'm definitely looking forward to some difficult matches this season to challenge us and keep us on our toes."

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# UNDERCLASSMAN SPOTLIGHT: DENNESHA ROLLE

By ANDREW SUN  
Staff Writer

Lower Dennesha Rolle was recently recruited to represent New Hampshire's state team in the US Lacrosse Women's Collegiate Lacrosse Associates (WCLA) National Championship. Rolle's coaches noted the passion, skill and drive that differentiated her from other players who tried out for the team.

In order to qualify for the team, Rolle underwent a rigorous evaluation by the regional team's head coach. "This is an honor that Dennesha was chosen for this team," Exeter girls' varsity lacrosse head coach Christina Breen said.

Rolle credits much of her success to the girls' varsity lacrosse team at Exeter because of the accomplished players that she practices and competes with. She praised four defenders who graduated last year- Cara Jones '17, Leah Jones '17, Bella Edo '17 and Kelsey Detels '17, for being exemplary role models both on and off the field. "They guided me to be the player I am," Rolle said.

In the first half of the tryouts, prospective athletes were split into five stations. "For each station evaluators score you [on a scale of 1 to 5] based on your performance at their station," Rolle explained. She passed this first round of tryouts as many other players were sent home.

The few who remained were split into two teams that scrimmaged against each other. "Most of the players who made the first cut will end up on Team 1 or Team 2; although, a few will still be cut," Rolle said.

Senior and PEA co-captain Anna Reaman praised Rolle for her unique determination, athleticism and love for the sport. "Whenever Dennesha falls or gets knocked down, she always jumps right back up, no matter how hard the



Courtesy of Dawn Dentzer

hit was," Reaman said.

Not only is Rolle a skilled player, but also a leader on the team as "her voice is loud and powerful, and her talent and skill allow others to follow in her footsteps," Reaman added.

Off the field, Rolle is one of the friendliest students on campus. She frequently spends her time doing homework in the red Adirondack chairs on Exeter's quad. "She is a very caring and considerate person who would do anything for the people she loves," Reaman said. "She is someone who I admire greatly both as a teammate and person. If anyone could be selected for the National Team, Den-

nesha is the perfect candidate because she embodies the ideal athlete."

Rolle's friend, lower Jill Cloonan, added, "Neesh is a hardworking athlete and student. She never fails to make everyone laugh and inspires her friends and teammates to get better every single day."

In preparation for the tournament, Rolle will practice with the regional team throughout the term to hone the skills that she has learned while at Exeter. "I am most excited to get to play against so many talented players from all around the country, which is something I don't get to do often," Rolle said.

Teammate upper Peyton Sanborn

said Rolle is "strong, outgoing and a team player." Sanborn highlighted Rolle's attitude and determination. "She's always there to encourage us to play our best and sets a good example by giving her all day in and day out," Sanborn said.

The regional tournament will be a crucial part of the recruiting process for Rolle; she will have the opportunity to showcase her skills in front of college lacrosse coaches. With only a month until the tournament starts, Rolle is looking to develop and master her talent on the field. Breen said, "She is still growing as a lacrosse player, but she has all the instincts of an accomplished player."

## Water Polo Dominates Double Header

*Crushes Loomis & Williston in Back-to-Back Games*



Upper Sam Gove propels herself from the water to shoot.

Diana Davidson/The Exonian

By WYNTER SANDS  
Staff Writer

The girls' varsity water polo team faced off against Loomis Chaffee and Williston in a doubleheader last weekend for their first away games of the season. Carrying the momentum they gained from last week, the team took two major wins, keeping the team's season record undefeated with a clean 3-0.

Big Red kicked off their Saturday with a quick first goal from prep Ursie Wise. She set the tone of the game, and the team ended up crushing Loomis 17-4 with ease, illustrated by the impressive score margin. The girls then took a break before entering the pool again to play against Williston.

The second game was much tougher. The two teams remained tied at half time 3-3. In the second half, Exeter pulled ahead of Williston, but the game was incredibly competitive and heated. After having already played Loomis, Big Red began to feel the fatigue. Williston, on the other hand, was fresh and playing their first game of the day. Nonetheless, the girls remained resilient, and Big Red's impenetrable defense prevented Williston

from scoring any goals in the second half, while the relentless offense overpowered their opponent. At the end of the day, Exeter came out on top with a final score of 8-3.

Despite a dominant win over Williston, the game was painful, with many dirty plays underwater. Williston, notorious in recent years for foul play, certainly lived up to their reputation according to members of the team.

"The girl marking me on Williston was grabbing my suit and pretty much trying to strip me," upper Sam Gove said. "We were fighting a lot."

However, the most dramatic incidence of the day involved upper Issy Wise. In the fourth quarter of the game, Wise, the team's top scorer, was involved in an altercation with the Williston player that was marking her during the game and was ejected for allegedly punching the girl.

According to Wise, the Williston player pinched her, and when Wise "tried to get around" the player, she "swung her arm a bit too aggressively and punched her." As a result of this altercation, Issy Wise was also unable to play in Wednesday's important home game against

Andover. Despite this setback, the team stepped up and was successful in defeating Andover.

According to members of the team, after fighting tooth and nail against Williston, members of the opposing team were seen crying. This scene represented a dramatic end to the day, in which Exeter walked away from the pool deck with a bittersweet victory against Williston, a team they lost to last season.

Throughout both of the games, each player on the team showed excellent teamwork and communication. "We played really well together. It was really great to see everyone pushing themselves so hard especially during the second game all the way to the fourth quarter," said lower Rose Coviello. The girls know how to play hard and "when we got into the swing of things we really went for it," Gove added.

The two games highlighted the team's defensive strength. Upper Gabby Allen praised the goalies, uppers Ela Ferhangil and Lizzie Madamidola, for making many impressive saves. "Ela and Lizzie played really well in goal," Allen said. "I was super proud of them for how many shots they blocked."

Gove also praised the players for the skill they demonstrated when they were on the defensive and their ability to "shut down [the other team's] defense." Allen agreed with Gove and also added that they, "had quite a few steals." Coviello also highlighted Wise's offensive strength on that day. "[She] was really good at getting open and she ended up scoring a lot," she said.

The team's victories stemmed from their training in the last week. Leading up to these two games, the team put in hard workouts during practice including a substantial amount of swimming and long sets. "It was our endurance that led us to beat both Loomis and Williston," Coviello explained. Allen agreed with Coviello, adding, "The swim sets and leg work has helped us with our stamina especially in our back-to-back games."

Big Red will be travelling to Suffield this Saturday, and play in another double header against Suffield and Hopkins, putting their endurance to the test. However, the girls will be looking to build off their momentum and utilize their endurance and unrelenting spirit to remain the dominant team in the league.



# ExonianSports



## GIRLS' TENNIS SWEEPS ST. PAUL'S



Upper Katie Yang eyes the ball as she serves.

Bella Ilchenko/The Exonian

By EMILY KANG & RAMYANEE MAKHERJEE  
Staff Writers

Last Saturday, the girls' varsity tennis team hosted St. Paul's in the new Thompson Field House. Big Red won with an impressive score of 9-0, continuing their winning streak this season and raising their season record 3-0.

Going into the match, the team was not sure what to expect, as it had never competed against St. Paul's in the regular season. St. Paul's was previously part of the Independent School League, which limited opponents to sixteen member schools. But this year, St. Paul's dropped out in order to expand their playing field, allowing Exeter to compete with them.

Upper Isobel Anderson believed that

despite the match being the hardest so far this season, Exeter's high-margin win clearly demonstrated the skills of Big Red players. "St. Paul's was probably the toughest team we've played this season, but it wasn't too much of a challenge for us," said Anderson.

Senior and co-captain Gabby Gabel was also confident going into the match. "I think we were expecting what we got: a 9-0 win, however, I was personally not expecting a very close doubles match," said Gabel.

During their doubles match, Gabel and Anderson faced challenges with keeping consistency towards the end, but still performed strongly. "Isobel and I managed to come out with the dub in the end, and were happy that we were able to play through a shaky match and come out with a win," said Gabel.

Anderson considered the doubles match her favorite moment of the game because of its fast pace and intensity. "Gabby and I were both at the net in a quick paced volley rally, which we ended up winning," said Anderson.

Another highlight of the match was Gabel's single match, which stood out to upper Elizabeth Yang, especially with the team coming together to support their captain. "Gabby played her singles match at the end, and both teams were able to support our players. It was a great way to come together as a team and cheer on our captain!" Yang said.

Before coming into the game, the team worked tirelessly on their skills for doubles matches. "The team was really working on doubles play, specifically volleying and coming to net," said Gabel. In addition,

consistency and having a determined mental game was another key component the team has worked on. "The team has been focusing on consistency and being able to stay in long rallies without losing focus," said Anderson.

This season, the girls' hope to keep up their momentum with the impressive wins. Anderson hopes that the team will also finish off the season with a win against Andover, and is optimistic about a victory. "We have a really good chance this year because of our lineup so I think we can pull it off," said Anderson.

Gabel shared similar sentiments as Anderson, and added, "This season, we are beating Andover."

The next game the girls will be playing is a home game versus the Northfield Mount Hermon School on Saturday at

## Boys' Volleyball Crushes Choate

By CHARLIE VENCI  
Staff Writer

The crowd cheers as Big Red makes another successful pass. As the two front players set each other up for a spike in front of the net, spectators rise to their feet expecting a stunning blow. But with a quick slip, Big Red spikes the ball into the net and a lull encompasses Love Gymnasium. The scoreboard now reads "Exeter: 24-Guest: 21." The pressure is on.

On the next serve, upper Don Assamngkol spikes a shot onto the other team's court. With loud applause and a huddle around Coach Shang, the team wins the second of two sets in the game. The upcoming set? A piece of cake.

The boys' varsity volleyball team triumphed over Choate Rosemary Hall in a shutout match, winning three sets to Choate's zero. So far, Big Red has won both games played so far this season.

Exeter has defeated Choate for the past four years. "They placed third in the championships and are looking more like fifth place," upper Sam Michaels said.

According to postgraduate Zach Stenglein, the game kick-started with a 9-1 lead, thanks to a "great serving run" from lower Kerick Walker. The game intensified through a long rally, but that all changed when postgraduate Toni Rocak got a chance at the ball. "The setter set a quick ball to Rocak and he shot it down down," lower Lucas Grandison said.

Stenglein credited the team's success to its consistency in "fundamental plays." "Nothing flashy or special. Just good team volleyball," he said.

With Choate's level of competition,

the team was able to play with new strategies without much consequence and substitute in teammates who would usually get less playing time.

Stenglein explained that the team served the ball to Choate's weakest passer to weaken their opponents, seeing that they would not be able to hit it back. "Overall, we did exactly what we prepared for in practice," he said.

The team exhibited a wide range of talent from all its players, but a few stars carried the game. Rocak blocked Choate with his 6'7" stature, preventing the opponent from seeing Exeter's side of the net. "He stood out in the game because he was tall," Michaels said. Another highlight was captain Noah Asch's amazing seven ace streak. Grandison also hit "kills" half the time he touched the ball.

The boys' volleyball team is undefeated for the past two seasons, winning back to back New England titles, and intends to continue a winning streak this season.

So far, this season is shaping up to be another legendary achievement for one of the first boys' volleyball programs established in the Prep School League.

Riding high from Saturday's victory, the team is very confident. But as always, there is always something to improve upon. "We need to be able to get more kills off of free balls and get more hitters involved in each play," Walker said. "Our serving and passing has been getting better, but it still needs some work."

The team attributes its accomplished history to the hard work and dedication of players and the lowerclassmen's ability to perform when needed.

Another source of success is Shang.



Senior and co-captain Emilio Karakey sets the ball.

Julia Goydan/The Exonian

According to Walker, "Coach Shang does a really great job of giving us new things to work on all the time. As soon as we have mastered something, he pushes us onto the next thing, so that we're constantly challenging ourselves."

Big Red has a busy schedule ahead, with a game every Saturday up until the Final Four Tournament on May 12. The next home game for Big Red is on Saturday, Apr. 14 at Love Gym. at 4:30 p.m. The team aims to continue its season streak and overall undefeated bout.

As Wilbraham and Monson School are set to come soon, and it is looking to be a spectacular matchup. In the coming weeks beyond Wilbraham, Exeter will face Andover and Northfield for a second time.

With a streak to defend and a title to uphold, the team is confident. Judging by this early game in the season, when it comes down to the wire, Exeter seems to have enough left in the tank every time to get the job done.

### Inside This Week's Sports Section

#### Duncan Robinson '13



Exeter alumnus, Duncan Robinson '13, plays in NCAA Final for Michigan. Find out more on 10.

Courtesy of Jay Tilton

#### Underclassman Spotlight



Aside from being a star lacrosse player for Exeter, lower Dennesha Rolle will play in a national tournament. Read more on 11.

Courtesy of Dawn Dentzer

#### Girls' Water Polo



Drama went down in the water against Williston! Find out more about the team's games on 11.

Diana Davidson/The Exonian

#### Boys' Tennis



With two match wins, boys' tennis keeps close to Loomis. Read more on 10.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian