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Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire

PEA Students Discuss Faith

By ANNE BRANDES
and MAI HOANG
Staff Writers

"I have five daily prayers; their times are slowly changing throughout the year," said senior Nader Ali Babar, head of the Muslim Student Association, before rushing off to one of the prayers. "These are the things I value and can find a way to keep practicing while still adhering to the school schedule."

Despite not being affiliated with any religion, Phillips Exeter strives to create safe spaces for students of different faiths to gather and worship. Weekly traditions in Phillips Church, the 123-year-old home of interfaith activities, include Shabbat services, Jummah prayers, Buddhist meditation, Hindu Puja and Protestant services. A variety of student groups also provide support for Exonians of many different faiths. Nonetheless, sometimes the availability of physical spaces as well as scheduling limits students' ability to keep up their religious practices at Exeter. Furthermore, the community is unable to accommodate the sheer multitude of religions, especially smaller sects.

Reverend Heidi Heath, the Campus Minister and Head of Religious Services, commended PEA for its inclusion of a variety of religions. "We're out ahead of our peer schools in many cases by a significant margin in terms of... active Jewish, Muslim and Hindu fellowships," she said. "We don't just have resources for our Christian students." She is grateful for the physical space that is dedicated to specific traditions, despite recognizing that some of the spaces are not ideal. Phillips Church is still essentially a church that was renovated and adapted to serve other religious groups. "I'd love to entertain a conversation about what a truly interfaith space at Exeter would look like," Heath said. Her department is working along with the Athletics Department and the Deans' Office to help create more of these locations for students to practice their varying religious beliefs.

Students coming from specific religious backgrounds value the exposure they get to other faiths and traditions. For Babar, **RELIGION, 2**



Accepted students shadow Exonians on revisit day.

Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

Accepted Applicants Revisit, Experience Exeter

By SUAN LEE
and ANGELINA ZHANG
Staff Writers

Hundreds of prospective Exonians visited campus last week to participate in Experience Exeter, the Academy's annual revisit program. Pairing newly-admitted students with current Exonians based on common interests, the Admissions Office offered multiple panels and presentations to provide students and families with a comprehensive understanding of life on campus. The revisit program will conclude this Friday, Apr. 6.

The Admissions Office made a number of changes this year to the previous Experience Exeter agenda. For the first time, the four-day program was extended over a two-week span in light of Passover and Easter weekend. Senior Associate Director of Admissions Lee Young elaborated that this gap would allow the Academy to make necessary adjustments to the program between weeks and reduce interference with classes, as teachers are asked not to administer exams on revisit days. The day is also set to end at 2:30 p.m. for the convenience of both the school and

visiting families.

Each day begins in Grainger Auditorium with opening remarks delivered by Principal Lisa MacFarlane and Dean of Enrollment and External Relations William Leahy. The introduction is followed by a moderated student panel, in which eight current Exonians share personal accounts of their Academy experience and answer questions from the audience.

"It was cool to see how the students had come from a lot of different places. They answered many of the questions I had about living in a dorm and student life in general," prospective prep Amanda Medina said.

Visiting parent Audrey Lewis agreed. "It was great to hear about Exeter from the students themselves, not just the website or a pamphlet, because they can give an honest account of the school. The questions that were asked was exactly what I wanted to know," she said.

After the panel, dozens of current Exonians streamed into the auditorium to meet the visiting students they would be hosting for the rest of the day. According to Leahy, the hosting process is the most important part of the revisit day program.

"It allows prospective students to interact with current students and be an Exonian for a day so they can figure out if Exeter is the right fit," he explained.

Young agreed and emphasized the importance of presenting the authentic Exeter experience to visiting students.

"I've heard some other schools put on performances or hold special classes for their revisit days. Teachers will do something out of their regular routine. We don't really change what we do—we just blend our visitors into a normal school day," she said. "We want students to make the right decisions for themselves, not because someone sings really well or a teacher is good in a made-up class. We want families to know what they're really getting at Exeter."

Medina most appreciated the opportunity to witness the Harkness method in action, one of the Academy's defining attributes. "I was a bit scared of how it would

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Candidates for Interim Dean Role Chosen

By EMMANUEL TRAN
and JACK ZHANG
Staff Writers

The Dean of Residential Life Selection Committee recently released to faculty members the four candidates for interim Dean of Residential Life, following the announcement that current Dean of Residential Life AJ Cosgrove will be stepping down at the end of this school year.

The four candidates are Science Instructor Jeffrey Ward, English Instructor Christina Breen, Health Instructor Carol Cahalane and Religion Instructor Thomas Simpson. One of the candidates will be selected to serve as the interim dean for the 2018-2019 school year. The selection committee—comprised of faculty members Tyler Caldwell, Rachel Henry, Michelle Chapman and Russell Weatherspoon, as well as Dean of Students Melissa Mischke—will search for a lasting replacement throughout the interim dean's tenure.

The Interim Dean of Residential Life will continue Cosgrove's work. "I will miss the opportunity to continue to implement and facilitate some of these changes," Cosgrove said.

Simpson hopes to assume the role and build upon initiatives Cosgrove participated in. "I'm especially drawn to the position because of the administration's expressed interest in developing our residential curriculum and proctor training programs,



Numi Oyeboide/The Exonian

Uppers Adrian Venzon, Janeva Dimen and Dylan Yin will represent the senior class in the years beyond. See page 3 to read about class representative elections.

particularly in terms of fostering an intentional commitment to living and thriving in a diverse community," he said. Simpson also mentioned his interests in "mental health, restorative justice and bystander intervention training aimed at violence prevention."

Ward spoke of his qualifications for the role. "I've served in administrative positions that cover parts of the role of the Dean of Residential Life during the Exeter Summer Session. I've also served as the dorm head of Knight House for ten years," he said.

Cahalane and Breen declined to comment on their candidacies at this time.

All of the candidates have previous experience holding leadership positions. Ward is the current head of the Disciplinary Committee. Breen is the current head of Williams House, was one of three Strategic Planning Committee heads and advises the student organization Fight Club. Cahalane has previously held the role of dorm head

of both Moulton House and Lamont Hall, has served as an associate Dean of Students and is a current adviser to the Student Council. Simpson was the chair of last year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day Committee and the former Interim Chair of the Assembly Committee.

The candidates have worked closely with students and faculty members. Lower Luke Tyner praised Cahalane's cheerful spirit. "She's easy to talk to and is very open to change and student opinion. I think she would be fair and kind, light-hearted but tough on people who need a reprimand," he said. "Overall, I think that she would be a great fit for the position of Dean of Residential Life."

Prep Meredith Thomas also commended Cahalane for her role as a teacher and adviser. "She's surprisingly relatable

DEAN, 3

Deans Revisit Academy Life Day Activities

By SHIVANI TRIPATHI
and JACK ZHANG
Staff Writers

Next year's fall term Academy Life Day will be devoted to dorm bonding. The Academy Life Day Task Force has proposed holding one Academy Life Day per term. Academy Life Day has traditionally been a time for dorm and advisory bonding, with many students spending the day apple picking or at the beach. Last year, however, the Academy utilized the day to hold discussions on race and discrimination on campus.

Dean of Residential Life AJ Cosgrove explained that fostering conversations around race became the administration's top priority after controversy surrounding the Academy's response to a video ALES produced that highlighted instances of racism at Exeter.

"Dean of Multicultural Affairs Sami Atif and I felt like discussing race was an appropriate use of Academy Life Day's time," he said. "In the past, Academy Life Day has been great fun, and while we recognize that eliminating that was a sacrifice, it was a worthwhile one."

Future Academy Life Days will revert back to dorm bonding with the purpose of fostering positive relationships and inclusivity within dorms. "The way that students envision Academy Life Days is as a time when dorms can have some fun," Cosgrove said. "This day will be returned to dorms and day students."

Academy Life Task Force member Olu-toyin Augustus noted how discussing race on Academy Life Day was also a form of

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Student Body Religious Practices Examined on Campus

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who lives in Pakistan, where “the non-religious community is very small,” coming to Exeter granted him the chance to see how others think in accordance to their religious principles. “One [of my best friends] is co-head of Exeter Jewish Community, one [is] the cohead of Buddhist meditation,” Babar said. “They let me understand what they’re doing and why they’re doing what they’re doing.”

Meanwhile, senior Oge Ezekwenna, with his Protestant background, thinks that learning about other religions at Exeter is “a great way to create bonds with people... [and] makes me a more well-rounded person.” He attends Passover celebrations every year, and enjoys “seeing intersections between Judaism and Christianity.”

For seniors Cameron Najafi and Alex Renaud, co-heads of Buddhist meditation, meeting people committed to their particular religious practices inspired them to connect to their own spirituality. “We’re lucky to have Mr. Daniel [the Buddhist Student Adviser], an actual ex-monk who spent 20 years in India and Japan practicing Buddhism and meditating constantly,” Renaud said. “You can tell he’s a special person; being exposed to him has helped me dive into religion and spirituality a bit more.”

Before arriving at Exeter as a new upper, Najafi did not have a particularly positive view of religion, coming from an atheist family. Seeing the tight-knit, supportive communities that form surrounding religious practices here helped him change his mind. “Alex is the first person I met my age who meditated constantly,” he said. “Reading a lot of religious literature and being more structured about my mindfulness practices, it all culminated into who I am now.”

For Najafi, meditation played an integral part in shaping his Exeter experience and quality of life. Attending Buddhist meditation every week on Friday nights helps him relieve stress at Exeter, and allows for him to excel at the Harkness table, as through his continued practice, he is “able to focus on people, what they’re saying, and not judge them for what they’re saying.”

Renaud shared a similar experience

during college decision week; at first, he was “not able to sleep” and “did not want to eat that much” because of his anxiety. However, when he started to meditate his mental health improved.

On the other hand, many students find it hard to engage with spiritual practices during their time on campus, especially when faced with the decision to attend class or honor their religion. Heath spoke about this issue, hoping to “engage in deeper conversations” about carving out space in the schedule by potentially adjusting the class or athletics schedule. “I think we can’t separate the question of students who practice from varying religious identities out of the wider conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion,” Heath said.

Rabbi Jennifer Marx Asch, meanwhile, noted that Exeter has made significant progress “putting holidays on the calendar,” but while her students “are allowed and given permission to have the Jewish High Holidays,” they feel pressure to attend school out of fear from missing classes and assignments. “The pace here is so relentless that students don’t feel that they can take time off to nurture their spiritual self,” she explained.

According to Babar, however, the school did try to alter the schedules of Muslim students for spring term so that they would have H free to accommodate for the fact that many would be fasting during the month of Ramadan. “The later in the day you go, the less energy you have,” Babar said. “For some of them, this is very hard because it’s their first time fasting.” Though he personally could not have H format free, Babar is grateful that the school was able to arrange that for many other students.

Though remaining an actively-engaged Muslim at Exeter is certainly harder for Babar than when he is in Pakistan, he finds this situation has a reinforcing effect on his faith. “Because it takes more effort, it makes me think about why I’m doing this and how much I value it,” he said.

Similarly, prep Sarah Huang, a regular attendee of Christian Fellowship and Sunday Services at Phillips Church, thinks religion is even more valuable for her at Exeter than at home because it serves as a foundation for her busy life. “Since my parents aren’t here, I have less of the values and

structures that they would expect of me,” she said. “Religion helps keep me centered.”

According to upper Luca Cantone, an Anglo-Catholic, there is an understanding amongst students who practice a religion that because the school is a secular institution, it is hard, almost impossible, to truly accommodate for all varieties of religious practices. Cantone stated that his “rarified tradition is not accommodated, and it doesn’t need to be.”

Cantone hopes, however, that there could be a way for religious groups to encourage others to experience their practices and learn more about the stories behind them. Simply saying “all are welcome” is not enough; as Cantone doesn’t have many friends who are actively religious or who discuss religion, he finds it hard to join in other worship services aside from those closer to his own. “Some form of encouragement is needed, because of how important religion is in shaping world culture and history,” he said.

Many students on campus feel that religion is a private matter at Exeter. “I think for students who consider themselves religious, they oftentimes feel afraid to talk openly with their peers or in the classroom,” Marx Asch said.

Huang agreed, and said, “I’ve talked about Christianity at the table, but I’ve always been a little bit tentative to frame myself as a member of the Christian community. Oftentimes I find classmates mischaracterizing Christianity.”

Religion Instructor Dr. Hofheinz recognizes the discrete nature of religion at Exeter, but seeks to explore and question our misconceptions about belief. “Just under the surface [of] what seems to be a safe secularism are questions and a very wide range of people have beliefs that are important to them and rituals that are important to them,” they said. In response to this, the Religion Department has added a new course for the 2018-2019 school year named REL 475: Criticizing Religion. Hofheinz added, “We changed the course listing, as a Department we’re trying to be more intentional about opening space for people who don’t necessarily want to do the Christianity or Islam class but talk some about these dynamics.”

Students React to Reports of “Punish a Muslim Day”

Religion at Exeter became a focus on Tuesday, Apr. 3, when reports of “Punish a Muslim Day” were aired on local radio stations. On Monday, all students and faculty received an email from Reverend Heidi Heath regarding “disturbing reports out of the U.K. of anti-Muslim activity.” Anonymous letters declaring Apr. 3 as “Punish a Muslim Day” had been sent around London last month, and recipients had been incentivized with a point system to verbally or physically abuse those of Muslim faith.

Although there were no reports of anything of concern on campus or in the surrounding area, said she wanted to “be proactive in keeping our students and surrounding community safe.”

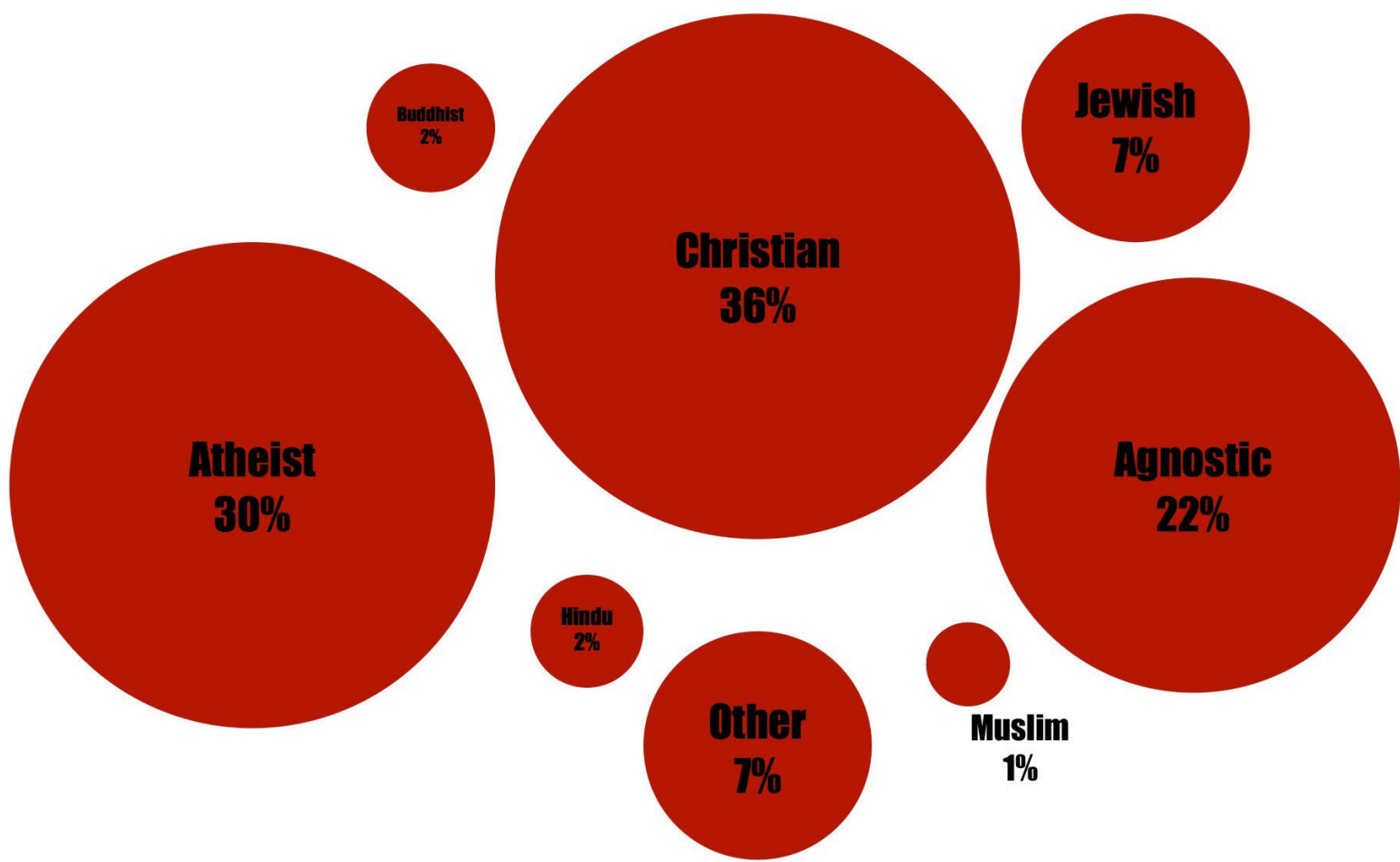
According to Heath, Campus Security and the Exeter Police Department were notified of this situation as a safeguard. She emphasized that “there is no cause for alarm.”

However, lower Eman Noraga said the email heightened her fear. “It definitely made me feel unsafe when I got the email that said that there would be an increase in police presence in the Exeter community,” she said. Nonetheless, Noraga appreciated the effort the school made for making such a minority feel protected. “I felt really respected because even though there are really few hijabis on campus, they still made an effort to make it safe, which is really appreciated,” she said.

Meanwhile, lower Mouhamed Gaye said that although the email did not hurt, it was not needed. “I appreciate their concern, but I don’t think it was necessary because it aroused concern,” he said, adding that he did not feel threatened since “we don’t live anywhere near a major city.”

Heath stressed the importance of inclusion in the community. “Religious Services seeks to be a safe space for all students on campus, especially those who practice a religious or spiritual tradition,” she said. She is proud that Exeter is one of the boarding schools in America with “a growing community of Muslims on campus.”

Religious diversity at Exeter



Breakdown of religious diversity in the Exeter community. Statistics from *The Exonian's* State of the Academy survey.

Henry Tan/*The Exonian*

Academy Life Day Plans: Discussion and Dorm Bonding

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bonding. “One might argue that we never stopped bonding—we just made it look different,” she said. “I get that that makes some people uncomfortable, but it’s okay to do things differently sometimes. In fact, it’s healthy.”

Upper and ALES member Rose Martin worried that by changing Academy Life Day to dorm activities, important conversations surrounding social justice and equity would be disregarded. “When I heard the news regarding Academy Life Day, the students around me cheered,” she said. “However, my friends and I looked at each other, wondering the same thing, ‘What’s going to happen to the ALES video? What will happen to the discussions?’”

“While I also missed the dorm activities, I was happier to know that we had a day to discuss the video, the proposal, and how to become more culturally competent,” Martin continued. “It felt that not a lot of people shared this sentiment and were more joyed about ‘bringing back their Academy Life Day.’”

The Academy Life Day Task Force has

addressed this concern by proposing to have one Academy Life Day per term. According to Cosgrove, having three Academy Life Days each year would provide time to accommodate dorm bonding and discussion of social issues on campus. “We’re not saying that dorm bonding is more important than discussing race; we’re saying that both topics are important and both will happen over the course of the year,” he said. “Inclusivity is a community value and will continue to be part of Academy Life Programming. Of course, conversations about race must be a big part of these continuing conversations.”

What exactly will take place on these days remains undecided; however, Cosgrove anticipates discussion on topics that will arise throughout the coming year. “The Academy Life Day Task Force envisions a group of class coordinators working in conjunction with the Dean’s Office, the Dean of Faculty, Director of Student Well-Being, Director of Equity and Inclusion, dorm heads and various student groups to oversee all academy life programming on campus,” Cosgrove said. “The focus of these days will be fluid, but ultimately it will provide opportunities for embracing the values of the

PEA community.”

Augustus advocated for three Academy Life Days, as they create firmer bonds and strengthen the community. “If we want to mitigate negative behaviors and strengthen the positive ones, then we need to build a foundation of trust and community,” she said. “It takes more than just one day of fun to do that. We need to make an investment in building the kind of community we want to see.”

The idea for three Academy Life Days is still only a proposition, and many members of the Exeter community are currently unaware of the proposed change. Atif had not previously heard about the proposition, and said he had “no comment at this time.” Dean of Students Melissa Mischke said, “We haven’t talked about it as a principal’s leadership team.”

However, students and faculty have thus far been receptive to having three Academy Life Days per year, as it allows for both the discussion of race and time for dorm bonding.

Senior Hans Fotta thought that this year’s change to the purpose of Academy Life Day, while well-intentioned, detracted

from dorm cohesion and bonding. In his opinion, having three Academy life Days is a worthwhile compromise between two crucial components of life on campus. “I think what they did recently, discussing racism, was beneficial for the community,” he said. “However, I think we also need a dorm bonding day in addition to what we have already.”

Senior Oge Ezekwenna noted how devoting a day to dorm bonding will lead to more constructive discussions about race. “I think the conversations about race should be organic. When you set a day about race that early in the fall, kids will be hesitant,” he said. “Honestly, having an Academy Life Day to cultivate relationships early will lead to more meaningful discussions about race later in the year.”

According to Mathematics Instructor Kevin Bartkovich, this year’s Academy Life Day was an important moment for the community. “There’s never enough discussion; our work with race is never finished,” he said. “However, if the three Academy Life Days are well planned, then this proposition will be worthwhile for the school.”

Deans' Council Role on Campus Brought Forward

By SAM WEIL
and RACHEL WON
Staff Writers

Although it remains relatively unknown by the student body, the Deans' Council serves as an important liaison between the deans and the student body. The council, created last spring, meets every week to discuss a variety of topics proposed by members of the administration with the hope that the administration will take into account students' thoughts and concerns.

Unlike Student Council, Deans' Council does not seek to create policies. Instead, the members discuss their impressions of issues so that deans can better understand students' perspectives.

As Dean of Residential Life AJ Cosgrove put it, the mission of the council is to "increase communication, and in particular to forge a stronger understanding and partnership between the students and Deans' Office."

The idea for the council was conceived under the administration of former Student Council President Matthew Robbins '17 and former Vice President Hojoon Kim '17 in partnership with Dean of Students Melissa Mischke.

Since its creation, the Council has discussed topics such as the sexual misconduct posters in collaboration with Exonians Against Sexual Assault (EASA), the reaction after Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the new visitations' policy proposals and more.

Lower Billy Menken, who has been a part of Deans' Council since fall term, described his perception of the council. "Their idea [was] to get 15 people to represent as much of the school as possible. And that's why they chose leaders of

clubs, captains of sports teams or people who are generally known," Menken explained.

Members of Deans' Council believe that their system of selected members, as opposed to elected members in Student Council, ensures a diverse and comprehensive view of issues.

"We're kind of hand-picked, and they make sure to pick us so we represent all of the student body," upper and Deans' Council member Abby Zhang said.

According to Zhang, many members of Deans' Council are members of some of Exeter's largest organizations, such as Student Council and Student Listeners. "It's good to get representation of the entire school rather than people who are elected that might come from similar areas," Zhang said.

Senior and Student Council Co-Vice-President Will Soltas further supported Zhang's claim. "Another problem with elections is that they often only end up giving representation to a sliver of the Exeter student population." Soltas reasoned that while elections do represent the voice of the student body, since the council was so small, the decision was made that they would select students to ensure the "widest range of voices."

Lower Janalie Cobb agreed, believing that a system of elected representatives versus that of selected members naturally draws different types of people.

"Someone who's elected has to be popular to some extent and have a name that's known on campus," she said. "You don't necessarily have to be that type of person on Deans' Council. That's not to say the people on Deans' Council aren't sociable and likeable. But the point of Deans' Council is to get the people who

can contribute an opinion and a voice to the conversation."

"Considering the fact that no real policy changes go into effect at these meetings, it's just supposed to be a way for students of different backgrounds to communicate with deans," Soltas said.

Cobb believes that her involved presence on campus is why she is part of Deans' Council. "I feel like I'm not exactly a quiet voice on campus, and I do do a lot of the major clubs. I am involved in a lot of issues regarding race. I'm a proctor in OMA," Cobb said.

Deans' Council is only in its second year of existence. Because of this, the Council still faces a variety of problems, both logistical and ideological.

For Cobb, the biggest issue is scheduling. "We keep changing the meeting time because the deans can't make it or the students can't make it. It's very difficult to coordinate one set meeting time for a group of 15 students and the deans," Cobb explained.

Kurt*, who attended Deans' Council as a representative of a student organization on campus, said that his two main issues with Deans' Council are membership and "the limited nature of Deans' Council."

"The main goal of Deans' Council is to establish a direct link of communication between the faculty and the students," Kurt said. "But the problem is, when you bring students to a table and they aren't necessarily coached before this meeting as to what viewpoints they should be representing, the discussion at the table turns into less of an outlet of representation from all backgrounds, and more of an outlet for peoples own personal opinions on it."

In addition, Roger believes that the

nature of Deans' Council itself prevents it from having a real impact. "For instance, we haven't seen any real tangible and effective change coming from Dean's Council so far. I don't think they've done anything yet," he said. However, he admitted that these issues could be solved if addressed correctly.

Senior Molly Canfield acknowledged the relative mystery surrounding the Council. "Deans' Council has the power to be an effective tool on this campus. It creates a platform for dialogue between the students and the administration," Canfield said. "But I'm not really sure what they talk about and if it has made effective change on this campus. It would be interesting and perhaps more representative of how the whole student body feels if those conversations were more public or if the students on Deans' Council were having open discussion with their friends and classmates about it."

When asked what Deans' Council brought to the community, Mischke emphasized its ability to open up more communication between the administration and the students.

"It's a way for us to bring a topic to a group of students that are a cross-section of the student body. And get some input, rather than simply going blind and doing what we want to do," Mischke said. "Deans' Council normalizes that we are all, deans included, members of the community and that we want to work with students to resolve different issues. It's not an us and them thing."

Asterisks denotes name change to preserve anonymity.

Dean of Residential Life Cosgrove to Be Replaced

Continued from DEAN.1

and seems to understand as well as she can our experiences as students," she said. "Ms. Cahalane is attentive and aware of everything that's going on. She would know if something was off with someone and is always available to talk."

Upper Jordan Davidson considered Simpson a strong role model and source of encouragement. "Throughout my time at Exeter, Mr. Simpson has been a coach, teacher, dorm faculty, adviser and a role model for me. He is by far one of the most honest, genuine people that I have encountered at Exeter," Davidson said. "One of Mr. Simpson's most admirable traits is that he has never been afraid to talk about hard topics such as race, gender and religion."

Senior Alexi Monovoukas praised Ward's friendly demeanor and willingness to engage in conversation. "Dr. Ward is an incredibly fair, just, sympathetic and above all, an incredibly fair person who I think will be the best person on the campus for this job," Monovoukas said.

Lower Pepper Pieroni echoed Monovoukas' sentiments, reiterating Dr. Ward's strong sense of justice. "I think he's first of all one of the best science teachers on this

campus. But it's not just because he's a science teacher; it's also because he understands what is fair and what is not fair. He has the sympathy of a what a student is going through," she said. "He also understands that there are some points when you can't break any more rules, and he understands where that boundary is."

Admissions officer and fellow girls' varsity lacrosse coach Porter Hayes spoke highly of Breen's capabilities as a coach, teacher and friend. "In the five years I've known her, I've been so impressed by her willingness and interest in making sure that a student feels supported in every capacity," Hayes said. "Christina knows the community well, and she values student experience."

Senior Aiden Roberts, one of Breen's advisees, supported her candidacy. He said, "I call Ms. Breen 'Mom.' That's how comfortable I am with her."

Cosgrove is optimistic about the Interim Dean of Residential Life's tenure and future work. "I'm excited about some of the recommendations that both of these committees are going to make because I think they will continue to allow our school to evolve in ways that support our community."

Prospective PEA Students Travel to Exeter's Campus

Continued from REVISIT.1

feel to actually be in a Harkness classroom because I'm not the most talkative person, but I feel a little more relieved now. Everyone seemed so supportive and looked comfortable participating. I'm even more excited to come," she said.

While guest students toured the campus, visited classes and conversed with current Exonians, their families had the opportunity to do the same and explore other areas of campus life outside the classroom. The program offered a variety of options, including a chance to meet with department heads, attend a faculty panel and learn about the Academy's global initiatives, college counseling process, religious accommodations and dining services.

Visiting parent Venesia Edghill ex-

pressed how impressed she was by the school. "From what I've seen so far, this is an incredible place. The school feeds its students not only mentally, but physically and emotionally as well," she said.

Another parent, Mark Luzzo, expressed his appreciation for the breadth of revisit day offerings. "I have been to other revisit days in the past, but I like Exeter's method: the student panels, the question and answer sessions with students, faculty and current parents. We haven't had that at other schools," he remarked.

Alexandra Norsworthy, a visiting family member, reflected on her overall impression of the Academy. "I'm completely blown away by Exeter: all the opportunities, experiences and resources that are offered here show that it's a really

Dimen Represents PEA Class of '19 After Revote

By SUAN LEE
and EMMANUEL TRAN
Staff Writers

After a week of campaigning, preps Seth Amofa, May Chen and Drew Smith and lowers Beez Dentzer, Justin Li and Tise Okeremi were elected on Tuesday, Apr. 3 as the new Student Council representatives for the Classes of 2021 and 2020, respectively. Voter turnout was relatively low compared to last year, standing at 37 percent for uppers, 39 percent for lowers and 54 percent for preps.

A re-election was held for senior class representatives on Wednesday; upper Javeva Dimen will serve as senior class president, alongside upper Dylan Yin as vice president and upper Adrian Venzon as treasurer.

The Elections Committee announced the senior class re-vote at Tuesday's Student Council meeting after naming the lower and upper class representatives. "There was a mistake made in the creation of ballots. Key information was left off of the ballot that was necessary to make it a fair vote. We're doing it again with the proper information on the ballot," Student Council co-adviser Carol Cahalane said.

It was later revealed that the senior class president ballot had withheld important information detailing which candidates would be absent on terms abroad next year.

Lower and elections committee member Sam Lew discredited concerns that the error had stemmed from the online voting system, which Student Council has been using for the first time this year.

"I can confirm that the problem wasn't the online system at all. Nothing in the system malfunctioned; it was just our fault. We didn't fulfill our responsibilities as the Elections Committee, and we're trying to make sure it doesn't happen again," he said, adding that online voting has proven to be a safer and more efficient method of managing elections since its introduction this year.

Elections Committee co-head senior Brian Bae voiced on Tuesday that the re-vote should not affect the fairness of the election. "I think it'll be fine. All the candidates have been given the same extra time, though even that is minimal since we're starting the election at 8 a.m. tomorrow," he said. The re-election was held from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, while Tuesday

elections were held from 10:45 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Dimen expressed her excitement and anticipation for the work ahead. "I am incredibly grateful to my class for supporting and believing in me. I am so excited to represent the Class of 2019 and work with Dylan and Adrian. Being great friends, we have amazing chemistry," she said. "Next year, I hope to incentivize class unity by having an event each term. I will utilize our class Facebook page by posting StuCo updates every week and promoting different games/events that our classmates are part of. The Class of 2019 works so hard—I want to recognize our effort and increase our support of each other."

The senior class president is responsible for maintaining contact with the senior class, even after graduation. "Our connection does not stop after graduation. With my experience in the Alumni/ae Office, I will plan events and fun reunions to keep us connected," Dimen continued.

The newly-elected lower and upper class representatives harbor a similar dedication to strengthening class bonds. "I want to organize events to make new lowers and returning lowers feel comfortable with one another and foster a great class environment," Amofa said. "Harkness and collaboration is everything here."

Chen agreed with Amofa's sentiments about inclusion, and said, "Coming in as a new student can be intimidating, seeing everyone else already in friend groups. I want to see more social events at the start of lower year where we can actually get to know people. I also want to foster a more supportive vibe, maybe through an official social media account." She also suggested the use of social media as a platform for Student Council updates and anonymous student compliments.

In addition to organizing more class activities, the new upper representatives plan to improve class gear. Okeremi proposed a design competition that would allow current lowers to offer direct input, while Li shared his own designs on social media prior to the election.

Dentzer expressed excitement for the year ahead with her fellow representatives. "I think Justin and Tise are both interested in organizing class gear and events, so we'll be able to work on that together. It's going to be a really great group," she said.



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The Exonian

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Opinionated Journalism: Beyond the Rule of Objectivity

Mai Hoang '20

Columnist

The Holy News/Opinions Divide
The managing editor at *The Crimson*, America's "oldest continuously-published daily college newspaper," run by a school of some prestige that starts with an H (not a Y), preached in a seminar for stuck-up journalistic neophytes that the holiest rule of thumb in professional journalism is the news/opinions divide. To maintain integrity and prevent biases, genuine reporting and opinionated rambling must be kept apart at all cost, lest the reader confuse fact for agenda and agenda for fact. At *The Crimson*, writers and editors for the two sections purposefully stay out of each other's way, refrain from reviewing each other's content and keep a respectful distance from start to finish.

To maintain integrity and prevent biases, genuine reporting and opinionated rambling must be kept apart at all cost, lest the reader confuse fact for agenda and agenda for fact.

Crammed onto the floor of the overcrowded newsroom, I entertained myself by picturing the shock and disgust that would materialize upon this editor's visage, if she were to find out that I, a columnist for America's "oldest continuously-published secondary school newspaper," run by a school of some prestige that starts with an E (not an A), also religiously take upon myself the task of signing up for as many news articles as the scowling, exasperated upper board would allow. And neither am I the first one. A certain news editor, before converting wholly to the "unbiased" side of the divide, once juggled the double identity of a reporter and a col-

umnist, with the catchy tag line "outside the Exeter bubble."

That such a thing could be condoned, not once but frequently in recent history—is this a sign of how far our paper has fallen into disrepute? Or rather, is it simply proof that the news/opinions is, despite what idealistic managing-editors would say, not so concrete a line after all? What serves as the densimeter for journalistic purity, and can "opinionated journalism," whatever that means, ever be true journalism?

Censoring Subjectivity

Despite the overlap of writers for our opinions and news sections, *The Exonian* still strives to quarantine news articles from all marks of the individual and their agenda. One of the golden rules that reporter-wannabes must know is to avoid injecting overt statements of personal opinions or thoughts of any kinds; furthermore, conclusions and summaries are also discouraged, and "strong" adjectives such as beautiful, silly, horrible, etc. do not have a place in the high-quality article. Quotes must be bountiful and diverse. Sentences starting with "many people believe" or "it is generally accepted that" quickly get crossed out in the editing process.

Do not get me wrong, I am by no means implying that this diligent battle against the subjective does not have its merits. Objectivity as a principle in journalism emerged out of the eighteenth century, the Age of Enlightenment, and encompasses nonpartisanship, factuality and most important of all: disinterestedness. The argument is that the reporter should act as a mirror through which readers can see the truth reflected and make value judgements based on their own critical thinking. With the amount of power that it possesses, it is immoral for the media to act as propagandist. In an age where freedom of the individual is regarded as a sacred right, no one will condone articles that preach, and publications that feature such writing will soon be shunned.

The Inevitability of Bias

Erving Goffman, the life-long scholar of day-to-day interactions, the perpet-

ual vulture scouting for hidden needles and pins behind sunny dry-eyed how do you dos would say, with a twirl of his ink pen, that all life is drama. In 1982, his first daughter was born. That same year, he died of stomach cancer.

The argument is, the reporter should act as a mirror, through which readers can see the truth reflected and make value judgements based on their own critical thinking.

My dear reader, I pledge myself to be guiltless of inferences and nudge implications of any sort; you see, all I did here was presenting you two facts, verified by the reliably egalitarian source that is Wikipedia, our sacred encyclopaedia. It is in your mind that the narrative is constructed; I did not mean for you to see a blithe young thing wailing for breast-milk to assuage the emptiness in its stomach while a man, its father, doubles over growling because he has a hole in his stomach and it is growing. It is growing.

I lied. I don't know if the writer is sinner or saint, but they are rarely ever innocent. Why did I, as a writer, hand-pick these two facts out of the one thousand and one conundrums of Goffman's biographed self? From the moment these words formed in my head I was cognizant, consciously or unconsciously, of the emotions they would evoke in you. Life is a transient vacuum waiting to be filled. As you trudge through the repetitive rhythms that brings you a day closer to unbeing you imbue monotony with meaning. You act upon the narratives that congeal in your head. This is why Gloria Steinem worked as a Playboy waitress to write *A Bunny's Tale*. This is why John O'Sullivan canonized "manifest destiny."

Though I cannot report on anything not spoken by my sources I can tailor my questions to elicit responses that would prove a certain point. If I'm writing an

article about the use of GMOs, of course I need to get quotes from scientists, consumers, activists, people firmly for and firmly against its implementation. But depending on my stance and biases both latent and overt, I would structure my article differently, giving emphasis to certain viewpoints while relegating others to a complimentary "on the other hand" paragraph towards the end of the article.

A Case for the Guilty Writer

Is this really a bad thing? In recent years, journalists from all walks of life have started pushing against the conventional view; Brent Cunningham, for example, the managing editor of *Columbia Journalism Review*, alongside media critics Noam Chomsky and Edward S. Herman, have made arguments about the futility, and indeed the irresponsibility, of the objectivity standard.

According to Cunningham, objectivity serves as an excuse for "lazy reporting;" at the heart of the matter, the press is tasked with being "neutral yet investigative, disengaged yet have an impact, fair-minded yet have an edge."

War-time journalism, in particular, is a field that has recently seen much advocacy for a more "attached" approach, with CNN war correspondent from the US, Christiane Amanpour, stating that in some circumstances "neutrality can mean you are an accomplice to all sorts of evil." This can apply not only to war-time journalism but also journalism about human rights. Dear reader, if you were a journalist, would you write about the Rohingya refugees' plight in a disinterested, forensic manner? How about the shooting of eighteen innocent children in Parkland, Florida? How about the murder without warrant of alleged "drug dealers" under the Duterte regime?

The better approach, therefore, is to bypass objectivity and reach for journalism that emphasizes fairness. All sides should have a chance to present their viewpoints. However, as long as this is accomplished, even in a strictly "news-section" article reporters should not shy away from taking a stance, as long as they do not distort or conjure up facts.

Returning to Dr. King a Half-Century Later

Harry Saunders '18

Guest Contributor

Fifty years ago this week, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on the balcony of a hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. "I've been to the mountaintop," he told a crowd the night before. "I've looked over and I've seen the Promised Land."

With death threats piling up, King knew that America would not reach that "Promised Land" during his lifetime, but in 2018, the year King would have turned 89, we as a country continue to fall far short of Civil Rights leaders' expectations for the future.

Donald Trump's racist rhetoric represents a fierce backlash against the gains that Obama's election seemingly represented for the African-American community; in what has been dubbed the "Age of Mass Incarceration", one in three black men will go to prison in their life. The shooting of unarmed 22-year-old Stephon Clark last month in Sacramento is another reminder that police brutality is alive and well in America.

When it comes to race relations here on campus, Exeter has failed to live up to its reputation as the leader in progressive secondary education. Over a century and a half after Exeter began accepting black students as one of the first boarding schools to do so, students of color report daily experiences with racism, while an inability to retain faculty

of color further suggests that we are a community not quite as welcoming and inclusive as we aspire to be.

King understood that those who claim to be exceptional must live up to that promise. "All we say to America is be true to what you said on paper," he said on the eve of his death. "If I lived in a totalitarian country, maybe I could understand some of these illegal injunctions. But somewhere I read of the freedom of assembly. Somewhere I read of the freedom of speech... Somewhere I read that the greatness of American is the right to protest for right."

Today, we need to work to make sure that Exeter is true to what John Phillips and Edward Harkness wrote on paper, and what Principal MacFarlane conveys in her emails to the Academy community. Because somewhere in the haze of our orientations to this special school, we have all heard of youth from every quarter, and we have all heard of goodness and usefulness to mankind. And we have all heard that the Harkness table is a place where all voices are heard, and understanding leads to compromise.

Being at Exeter comes with great expectations. That doesn't just include the expectation to be an exceptional student in class or a caring dorm faculty. As nearly every assembly speaker reminds us, and as King would tell us, the responsibility of an exceptional education is to use what we have learned once we leave this place.

Since the creation of the deed of gift, Exeter has sought to better un-

derstand this relationship between knowledge and usefulness to mankind. Recently, our understanding of this has undergone a transformation. No longer will acquisition of knowledge by traditional methods inevitably lead to contributions to society later on.

Our school claims to be dedicated to the belief that engaging with current issues is essential for a responsible American citizen. However, Latin recitations and analytical essays on their own will not provide the education necessary for students to develop into favorable citizens in America today.

Unfortunately, Exeter has yet to master this transition from solely traditional classroom learning to a combination of theoretical and practical curricula. The second half of this combination is largely carried out through an "invisible curriculum," a yearlong course that the entire community takes—composed of assemblies, MLK Day, Climate Action Day and various other featured discussions of current events in dorms and advisee groups. This programming, along with student affinity groups and clubs like Student Council and *The Exonian*, is meant to educate students on the problems facing America today.

Despite its supposed benefits, this "invisible curriculum" has serious flaws. Firstly, the teaching body is left out of the planning process, with members of the MLK Committee and Assembly Committee making all of the decisions. Perhaps more fundamental, however, is the problem of how this "invisible cur-

riculum" is taught.

Instead of being centered around discussions and student-focused learning, this programming (excluding some of the optional Latin Study lunches and evening talks) is often lecture-style and offers few opportunities for productive dialogue. Exonians are simply not wired to learn this way, and I commonly witness many of my peers barely attentive as speakers take the Assembly Hall stage. Furthermore, a large contingent of the student body decides not to show up at all.

If there is one enduring message that we should take from King's life, it is that complacency is dangerous, and so are false promises and inaction. Exeter's efforts to educate its students on real world issues is a step in the right direction, but we need to rework our "invisible curriculum" so that it lives up to the promise of our school's founding. In recent years, we have created a campus that is conscious of racism and injustice, but largely unequipped to discuss and address these issues.

Fifty years after Dr. King's death, we can begin this reworking by turning to King himself. More specifically, his life and work should become more central to the History 430 readings, so that he can be understood not only as an activist and a reverend, but also a great political thinker. His words are just as important today as when he spoke and wrote them. By following King's example, we can all go to assembly and MLK Day having done the reading, well-equipped to live up to our promise as a school.

The Exonian

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Religion in a Secular Democracy

Janalie Cobb '20
Tatum Schutt '20
Emmanuel Tran '21
Jack Zhang '20

Guest Contributors

In light of the recent events inciting the discussion of religion and its place in a self-proclaimed “secular” democracy, the authors convened to discuss the role of the government in maintaining religious tolerance. The idea was to present strongly varying viewpoints in order to get the most balanced opinion. This is the transcript of the conversation edited for concision, syntax and relevance.

Jack: In 1997, Samuel Huntington came up with a theory called the “Clash of Civilizations.” This theory stated that after the Cold War, marking the conclusion of the constant struggle between major powers such as the U.S.S.R. and the United States, new conflicts would arise along the fault lines of religion or race or identity. Specifically, he named Islamic fundamentalism as being contradictory to Western-style liberal democracies. What do you think about this? Is religious fundamentalism and textualism contradictory to democratic principles, or is it possible for traditionally religious individuals to coexist in a secularly democratic government?

Tatum: The role of the government is to protect people from injustice, which includes discrimination, while also allowing for people to make their own decisions outside of the political sphere. The issue with fundamentalism is that it raises the question of the balance between what is discrimination and what is protecting identity. I think that it can exist within a Western liberal democracy, but it can lead to conflict and problems.

Emmanuel: I think it is important to look at how we define fundamentalism, especially since we confuse multiple groups of traditionalist Muslims in a way that we would not with Christians or Jews. I think it would be strange to think that Pope Francis would be in the same sect as the Westboro Baptist Church, despite the fact that their position on abortion, or gay marriage, or women in religious roles are actually quite similar. Even then, no one would say that they are the same thing. I think we often confuse conservative and traditional Muslims with fundamentalists, who pose a real threat to liberal values. I think we in the West have to have more respect for Islamic tradition overall.

Janalie: By saying that radical Islamic fundamentalists pose a threat to liberal values, I think you are conflating fundamentalism with terrorism. I do not think that fundamentalism in itself is a danger to Western society. The phrase “radical Islamic fundamentalism” is especially concerning, because it’s often used as a catch-all for terrorists. I think a lot of sects of various religions believe themselves to be upholding fundamental values of their respective religion, and thus saying fundamentalism is a danger to Western society is ignoring the subjectivity of religion. If you look at Christianity, each denomination believes themselves to be the correct interpretation, the fundamental interpretation. I do not think you can simply say that fundamentalism is a threat to Western society.

Jack: I think the point is that a fundamentalist does not have to be a terrorist to be a threat to the principles of democracy and what has been established in policy through said democratic principles. For example, progressive takes on personal freedoms have been established by most, if not all, Western democracies. An Islamic textualist who pushes for Sharia law to be implemented would then go against many of the things synonymous with Western liberalism: rights to life and liberty, self-ownership and religious freedom. I agree that fundamentalists are not necessarily violent, but a large majority of what we would describe as “fundamentalists” go against basic human rights and lots of other things that we would associate with liberal democracy.

Emmanuel: I think you are

making a mistake there, because you are calling someone who believes in Sharia law a fundamentalist, when I would not necessarily say they were fundamentalist. They are just a traditionalist who speaks their mind on a matter that is important to them. A fundamentalist is someone who believes that the word of their God is omniscient and all-encompassing, and attempts to force their specific interpretation of their text down everyone else’s throats regardless of whether or not they like it. A traditional interpretation of religious texts, and the associated beliefs that come with it, are not necessarily incompatible with Western democracy, even if you don’t agree with the specific policies.

Tatum: I think that Jack has a point, though. Consider Orthodox Judaism, which is a fundamental religion by most definitions. Even if Orthodox Jews are not advocating for complete Torah law or trying to take over the world, there is a lot of sexism, both constructed and inherent, within Orthodox institutions that are entirely incompatible with what a liberal democracy stands for. However, I also think it is important to recall the separation of church and state here. Even if a religion discriminates against women, the state shouldn’t have the capability to force an individual to change their religion to conform to democratically constructed laws.

Janalie: I agree with that. I think it is important to look at how this plays out in real life, with those people that claim their religion justifies why certain things should apply to everyone. We see people using what they may call the fundamentals of their religion to then say that someone else should abide by those same morals or rules. The government should not be able to say “because of my religion, you should do this.” If fundamentalist Jews, Orthodox Jews, believe something about gender, the government should have no right to tell them that they are wrong because their religion disagrees with it.

Jack: To play devil’s advocate against my own point, I would also like to point out that this idea that progressive and socially liberal values are inherent to democracy is taken for granted. Consider the popular revolution in Iran, where a pro-Western and relatively progressive government was overthrown after mostly nonviolent mass protests and strikes. An authoritarian and fundamentalist theocracy replaced it, but that was more or less the will of the majority of the people: democracy. I suppose in a democratic society, it is possible that fundamentalism wouldn’t disagree with the will of the majority if the majority are fundamentalists or theocrats anyway.

Tatum: Even if a majority of people agree with it, that does not mean that it might contravene critical things like human rights. I think another topic that we are going back and forth is on the relationship between individual human rights and the separation of church and state. I say that the separation of church and state should come first.

Janalie: To an extent, I disagree, but mainly because I believe that separation of church and state, which is essentially religious freedom, is a human right. People have the human right to believe what they choose to believe. In that case, human rights should come first, because in putting human rights first you are putting separation of church and state first, but the other way around does not hold. At the same time, I feel like you have to prioritise basic human welfare over abstractions like the separation of church and state. Without the establishment of human safety, things like secularism make no difference anyway. A respect for human rights are the foundation of a functioning democracy.

Jack: I am with Janalie on this one. Meaningful democracies only arise in the presence of a common understanding of at least a concept of natural rights and their inalienability.

Emmanuel: I think an idea that we’re coming up against (and this is something that Huntington said) is that Muslims, Jews and Christians were incapable of living with each

other in one society. However, I think the conflict today is more between those subscribing to any traditional religion and those who believe in the value of both human rights and secular government. As an example, consider the historical positions of French governments regarding laïcité. Left-wing and right-wing governments alike have banned religious symbols in public spaces, ranging from physical items like the niqab or hijab, while also pushing for the suppression of kosher-only supermarkets and the presence of crosses in schools. I would say that traditional religious people share more with each other across sects than they do with militantly secular governments like those in France.

Tatum: I think that’s a really good point. I also think there’s another good case study of the relationship between secular people and fundamentalists in Israel. For example, on Shabbat, Orthodox Jews believe that no one should be able to drive. Some roads are then shut down across Israel, and many neighborhoods have an Orthodox “feel” to them. However, for a lot of secular people and liberal Jews in Israel, the demand of a minority in Israel hinders their ability to move through their daily lives.

Janalie: Then you go back to the issue of whether or not someone can use their religion to justify why other people can or cannot do certain things. In this case, Jews in Israel seem to be saying that their religion can justify making the secular people and liberal Jews in Israel not drive on Shabbat.

Emmanuel: Do Orthodox Jews believe that all Jews should subscribe to Torah law? It sounds like they’re infringing on the rights of those Jews who want to be able to drive.

Tatum: Part of the reason why the Israeli government —while conservative but not traditionalist—takes the side of the Orthodox Jews is simply that it is less trouble to placate the vocal minority of Orthodox Jews, who do believe that all Jews should not drive on Sunday. So yes, that’s why the Israeli government does this.

Emmanuel: It seems like it would be less trouble to just allow the Orthodox Jews to form their own society and have the secular people and liberal Jews also form their own country.

Tatum: While it might be true that it might be easier for them to form their own little tribes, larger societies will necessarily be separated and tribal but all united under one federal government.

Jack: While existential threats like war and starvation remain, societies fractured along religious or ethnic lines will always have to come together for their mutual benefit. To go back to Huntington’s original question of the clash between democracy and fundamentalism, taking the assumption that we can’t just partition everyone up neatly into one commune or another, will the presence of religious textualism and fundamentalism in liberal-democratic societies lead to violence or the erosion of liberal values? It seems to me that all the examples we’ve brought up so far demonstrate the seeming incompatibility of fundamentalists and the secular state. I suppose, though, that the original theory that Huntington talked about, that fundamentalism leads to violence, may not be true all the time. Conflicts usually begin over scarcity of resources or privileges like food or water or land or freedom. Rarely do they emerge out of a purely ideological stance.

Emmanuel: Maybe we could look at how Lebanon resolved its issues with numerous conflicting fundamentalist groups. Lebanon’s law system has separate court and criminal justice systems for Muslims, Christians, secular people and so on. This allows each community to live by its own laws and in peace with one another. You expect Lebanon to be highly unstable and violent with the sharp divides in religion and race, and in many ways it is, but it has proved over the past twenty years to have endured great stresses on its political and national identity without breaking like Syria or Iraq have.

Maybe Roseanne Can Be a Good Thing

Andrea So '20
Columnist

Last week, the tenth season of “Roseanne” premiered on ABC to surprisingly high ratings and critical praise. A continuation of the original Emmy-winning sitcom that originally ran from 1988 to 1997, one unmistakable difference marked the show’s return: the main character, Roseanne Connor, is now a fervent supporter of Donald Trump.

This show has achieved enormous success for legitimate reasons. More than 18 million viewers tuned in to watch the premiere. This was a relief for ABC, which has been losing viewers to other television channels and online streaming platforms. These numbers have led the network to already order a second season reboot from the show’s creators. The popularity of this reboot is linked to the growing sentiment that our media doesn’t reflect the population of this country accurately.

A majority of television shows portray rich, white people and their lives, and while people of color are not included in this narrative, neither are the experiences of working-class white people. “Roseanne” is something that they can relate to: they are able to see themselves and their experiences validated in a internationally televised show. These are the people that make up a significant portion of Trump supporters—they are the working class that our politicians have ignored, whose financial regression into poverty we have watched for years, as this country’s top one percent get even richer in return.

One problem with “Roseanne” is Roseanne Barr, producer of the show and the actress behind its titular character. She doesn’t represent a lot of American Trump voters; for one, she is a rich Hollywood star. On Twitter, she has also expressed a range of abhorrent far-right and conspiracist beliefs, such as accusing Parkland shooting survivor David Hogg of performing the Nazi salute; retweeting an Infowars report on the “5.7 million illegals that voted in the 2016 presidential election”; and supporting conspiracy theories that were tied to the “Pizzagate” scandal, a bizarre conspiracy falsely claiming that members of the Democratic Party participated in a child-sex ring.

Everyone is entitled to their point of view, but that perspective should always be supported by factual evidence. We should not normalize her behavior by ignoring it or dismissing her as another right-wing nut. Instead, we must examine Roseanne’s opinion and hold her accountable for the falsehoods she spreads under her influence as a celebrity. Under the spotlight of her new reboot, she has faced intense media criticism and subsequently deleted her tweets. Hopefully this continued media attention will render her more responsible for the consequences of her actions.

However, despite the producer’s personal beliefs, I still believe that “Roseanne” target audience—also known as the “silent majority”—deserve representation, just as we all do. We shouldn’t be trying to deny them a platform, because that is precisely the reason why they voted for Trump: they feel as though their beliefs and issues are invalidated and that their voices are silenced. To refuse the representation of these people in the media would equate to censorship. Too often, their problems go unaddressed and it was that frustration bubbling underneath the surface that led to Trump’s rise.

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The Problem is Washington

Patrick Jonak '18

Guest Contributor

Two weeks ago, over two million people took part in the biggest demonstration in Washington D.C. since the Vietnam War to demand substantive change from Congress. I find this outpour of support for gun reform incredibly assuring. It shows me that in a time of need, people will stand up and fight for what they believe in. Yet I find that this movement has been somewhat misguided.

Many people like to blame 'American exceptionalism' as the reason why we don't have stricter gun control laws. However, as polls show, almost all Americans want some tighter regulation. A recent Vox poll found that 389 out of 435 districts in the U.S. support an assault rifle ban, and 374 out of 435 districts do not support proposals to make it easier for people to get concealed carry permits. A Gallup and Marist poll conducted before and after the Parkland shooting shows a notable increase in support for gun control across the U.S.

Yet in the one-and-a-half months since the massacre in Parkland, Florida, there has been no major initiative in Washington. In fact, in more than 20 years there hasn't been any significant gun reform at all.

America, the problem isn't you, it's

Washington.

To understand the problem, we need to look back to January 2010. The Supreme Court had just ruled on *Citizens United v. FEC* to overturn decades-long regulations concerning financing of federal campaigns. The Court ruled that, under the First Amendment, the government can't limit independent funding to political campaigns. The court went further in 2014 when it struck down the overall limits on the sum an individual can donate to any candidate. The court argued that money and the ability to spend money constitutes expression of "free speech;" thus curtailing the money an individual can spend is an infringement of his or her First Amendment rights. Before, any given individual could only donate approximately \$50,000 in Congress. Now, they can donate \$24 million.

The dissenting Justice Breyer wrote, "If the court in *Citizens United* opened a door, today's decision may well open a floodgate."

This change in precedent has been compounded by the fact that campaigns have become incredibly expensive to run. In her 2006 senatorial re-election campaign, Hillary Clinton spent \$49 million dollars. Her salary as a senator would have only compensated her with just under \$1.2 million for her past six years in office. She would still need another \$48 million to run her campaign.

According to OpenSecrets.org, a non-

partisan non-profit that compiles public information on campaign finance, Clinton raised more than \$60 million from various donors over the 2006 fiscal year. Many include corporations such as Citigroup which donated a total of \$272,610 in small increments by its staff.

And that's not necessarily a bad thing—there have been large sums of money in politics for a long time. What is crucial is how much of it came from a single donor. Citigroup, Clinton's largest donor during her 2006 election, only amounted to 1/300 of her campaign donations. That meant that no single donor could financially influence the candidate in any significant way.

With the 2014 Supreme Court ruling, special interests are at a rise in Washington. Donors can contribute far higher percentages to individual candidates and hold a bigger sway in their decision-making, especially in poorer districts. Clinton is an extreme case—she represented New York, one of the wealthiest states in the Union. Most average Senators only raise about \$10 million during campaigns. That, however, makes them even more likely to be influenced, as smaller budgets mean each donation counts that extra bit more.

This leads to what the esteemed MIT professor, Noam Chomsky, calls the vicious cycle of politics. With each election, the rich increase their influence in Washington by pressuring Congress to approve legisla-

tion, which will increase their wealth (new tax code, anyone?), and then reinvesting that money back into politics, increasing their influence further. By doing so, corporations and wealthy individuals elevate their own say in politics while limiting the voice of the normal electorate. According to one extensive study done in 2014 by Martin Gilens and Benjamin I. Page of Northwestern University and Princeton University, "Economic elites and organized groups representing business interests have substantial independent impacts on U.S. government policy, while average citizens and mass-based interest groups have little or no independent influence."

Where does that leave us with the gun debate? The lack of gun regulation isn't the cause of a problem—it's a symptom.

Income inequality, class immobility, rising drug prices, incarceration rates—they aren't problems. They are symptoms of a failing political system—a system which sells itself as a democracy, but really is turning into an oligarchy of the rich.

Adam Smith, in his book, *The Wealth of Nations*, wrote, "All for ourselves, and nothing for other people seems in every age of the world to have been the vile maxim of the masters of mankind."

His words ring as true today as they did in 1776 when he wrote them and this great nation was founded. It is time that we heed his warning, and return this nation to those who founded it: the people.

The Three Sides of Gun Control

Jack Zhang '20

Guest Contributor

According to Associated Press, March for Our Lives was the biggest youth protest since the Vietnam War and one of the biggest rallies advocating for gun control in the capital.

There's only one catch: their stated aim—stopping the proliferation of firearms and other weapons in the United States—is at its core a push not only towards tyranny, but also towards the future infringement on the natural rights of men. On top of all this, these nonviolent political protests against firearm possession ironically undercut the chance for future Americans to engage in nonviolent protest.

The perspective taken by many pro-gun activists in the United States is a simplistic, dogmatic stance. Multiple constitutionalists and conservatives cite the Second Amendment to justify their right to bear arms. They simply refer to the text: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

However, a piece of paper does not grant you your right to bear arms. Humans derive the right to bear arms from

the unanimously acknowledged right to life and autonomy, and thus the right to defend one's own life and autonomy. Without the capability to protect oneself against threats to one's life, the right to life is effectively forfeited.

Whether this protection is against a tyrannical government or against a foreign invader, one thing is beyond clear: preserving the right to defend oneself preserves an essential human right.

Antithetical to the conservative perspective, and misguided, is the stance taken by the proponents of the March for Our Lives: school shootings mean we have to forfeit our right to defend ourselves via the confiscation and restriction of firearms. While the events that transpired at Parkland High School and at other school shootings were tragic, the only reason such incidents have garnered so much attention is because they occurred close to home and at the same time.

17 students dying at once is surely understood by everyone, and will be remembered forever as an invigorating event in the gun debate.

However, hardly anyone remembers that an average of 22 veterans commit suicide each day as a result of untreated psychological conditions, according to the United States Department of Veterans Af-

fairs.

No one remembers the hundreds of dead children in inner city Chicago, where knives are involved in a majority of attacks, simply because the attention span of the American psyche is too short to recall anything less shocking than a one-day school shooting.

This sudden outburst of concern over school shootings is a reaction to a relatable event that evokes sentiments of self-preservation. This in itself is not a bad thing; it is entirely understandable that students would want to protect themselves. However, the hypocritical American treatment of gun violence with potentially detrimental restrictions rather than the treatment of suicide or inner-city violence with proactive and entirely beneficial measures, is indicative of the bourgeois self-centeredness and single-minded focus of the March for Our Lives.

The historical precedents regarding widespread possession of firearms and weapons in general indicate that the individual capability to defend oneself has been key to the democratic progress of society.

Major societal changes like the French Revolution and the October Revolution tore down tyrannical governments and dragged their respective nations into the age of self-rule and democracy. The few po-

litical powers that were already granted to them were only enforced by the guns of the military which defended the authoritarian governments against which they later revolted.

The guns of the people provided them with their ability to protest, thus, this protest against gun ownership ironically self-destructive. Political progress is only permitted within the confines of the ruling class, which is the class that influences or controls government institutions like the military and the police.

Without the political power afforded by the military and other state apparatuses, it is then up to the people themselves to fight for what they believe in.

As the Chinese revolutionary Mao Tse-Tung once said, "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun." It is undeniable that, in an age of increasing kleptocracy and the associated formation of what is effectively a capitalist aristocracy in previously liberally democratic societies, it is now critical to ensure that the means to protect ourselves and defend our human rights are protected.

We cannot rely on the support of the simplistic constitutionalists nor on that of bourgeois and hysterical progressives. It is up to true progressives to protect the most fundamental and universal right of humanity: the right to one's own autonomy.

Enacting Change Without Trump

Jordan Davidson '19

Senior Columnist

The first year and a half of Donald Trump's presidency has been nothing short of chaotic. His administration has agitated relations between the media and politicians, leaders and their constituents, as well as the United States and the global community.

An announcement on Wednesday claimed that not only will the DACA deal end, but that Trump also plans on sending the National Guard to the U.S.-Mexican border. Because Trump constantly talks and tweets about illegal immigrants from Mexico, he has largely ignored more urgent issues such as mass shootings that are occurring on a weekly basis. If Trump truly wants to "Make America Great Again" and put "America first," he should face the problems that we need a

solution for right here, right now. Many people have called on Donald Trump to step up and fulfill his duty as president, but so far we haven't truly seen that happen. Though we may never be able to explain or understand why, Trump only seems to want to listen to himself. Yes, we always say that politicians are self-serving and don't seriously listen to their people enough, but Trump does not even feel inclined to hear the opinions of his staff, where visible changes (even at the highest levels of the government) occur almost every week.

From his proposal of an unjust military ban on transgender people to the vocal belittling of African nations, Trump's unorthodox mentality and unethical policies has led to instability throughout the nation between the classes and different types of social groups such as the LGBT and black communities.

So, although it is hard to say, I be-

lieve that we should give up on our president. After one and a half years of attempting to change how Trump works, we know that he will not change, which means we need to start changing how we personally operate.

At the end of the day, the people of America as a united force are stronger than a million Donald Trumps. Of course, the President is in an especially unique position to make legislation that can either benefit or damage the nation. Nonetheless, the American people have the power to make cultural changes that can have a more long-standing effect than laws that can be repealed with the next four to eight years.

Thus, instead of relying on Trump to do the work for us, we need to all take upon ourselves the fight against police brutality, gun violence, sexism and other social issues without placing any of our trust in Trump. He has not only proved

that he is incapable of being an effective president, but he has shown our country that he lacks the maturity to adapt to the position and the world around him.

But what does this look like? The simple answer is that people need to practice what they preach. For example, gun owners need to distance themselves from gun violence not by merely claiming that they don't advocate for the misuse of firearms, but by getting rid of their guns altogether. Environmentalists who oppose the use of greenhouse gases and animal agriculture should not be using gas-powered cars or eating meat themselves. Cultural change never happens as a result of just going to rallies and speeches; it occurs when the majority of society begins to change its practices and people implement new values into their daily lives. This is no easy task, but it is one that we need to take on as Americans living with a useless leader.

Letter from The Washington Intern Program

Abigail Garey '18

Guest Contributor

I arrived in Washington, D.C. for the renowned March for Our Lives. Thousands of people filled the streets and my sign kept clashing with those of fellow protesters. We could barely breathe amidst the crowd, yet the speakers' voices rang out clearly across the square. We were standing at the very heart of the government, but the march still fell upon deaf ears. Trump Hotel just stood there, the glare from its windows blurring the view of everything truly happening in the nation.

Though I've been in D.C. for just three days now, I've encountered constituents who sincerely believe that gun control reform would detract from their

rights granted by the Constitution. They speak of the right to bear arms as an integral piece of their identity and they denounce any act that would lead to the potential of losing it.

I know how to shoot a gun. Even when I'm just shooting at a target in my backyard, I enjoy it. However, the lives of innocent kids outweigh that enjoyment for me. I would be willing to make any concessions necessary to keep them safe.

In light of that sentiment, I don't know how to respond to the frustrated people claiming that gun control will not have any effect whatsoever on our mass shooting rates. They belittle the march and refuse to see it for what it truly is: our nation coming together to recognize the issue of our deceased children being unjustly robbed of their futures.

On the other hand, I also met with

some opponents of gun control. Some arrived to simply pay tribute to the lives lost, others conceded that they were peer-pressured into going and others still came for a myriad of reasons. The left, the right and the middle, a melting pot of our nation's ideologies, stood among the ranks of the crowd. The tensions were certainly high, but this diverse group stuck together.

The march was an important event because our country has been polarized across party lines for years now. Gridlock has developed into a norm in this country. Diplomacy has rarely been the norm and parties refuse to negotiate given their positions. No modern gun control movement had the chance of crossing that political gap—until now. Whether or not a good portion of our country supports gun control, they stand behind the simple idea of our children having futures, of our

children living beyond their elementary school years.

Whether or not anything comes of this march is uncertain at this time. Yet, amidst all of that jostling and all of the shouting, there was hope. The general consensus of the crowd was this: if these kids can stand up, why can't we?

Today, the administration in Washington is continually changing: positions are vacated, filled, then vacated again. Perhaps this motion will allow for national discussion, which will bring the gun control movement to the forefront of our politicians' agendas.

This remains to be seen. There are deservedly frustrated citizens in this country, and I hope that the actions of a few supposed "unruly" constituents can translate into something truly meaningful.



ExonianHumor



Open and Out: Faculty's True Thoughts

By ANONYMOUS ADULT
"It's Fine. I'm FINE."

1. From time to time when I am supposed to be sound asleep in my bed, I go outside into the biting cold, walk over to the nearest crosswalk. I sprint forth and back and back and forth waiting for a car to hit me, but I don't want to die. I just want to feel something.
2. When I am supposed to be paying attention at Faculty Meeting and someone interrupts me, I write their name on a piece of paper, put it in my pocket and write "they did it" next to their name. Then I hold my breath until I pass out.
3. When I am bored of listening to my students discuss books they haven't read anyway, I like to rank them on a napkin. Once I get home I then use the napkin to clean my toilet seat because I really don't care about any them anyway.
4. If I have to do check in at night one more time and listen to one more Upper subtly compliment me in order to get proctor, I will take over this dorm and be the proctor myself.
5. Once I have tenure, I will be happy.

Ways to Describe What Your Parents Feel

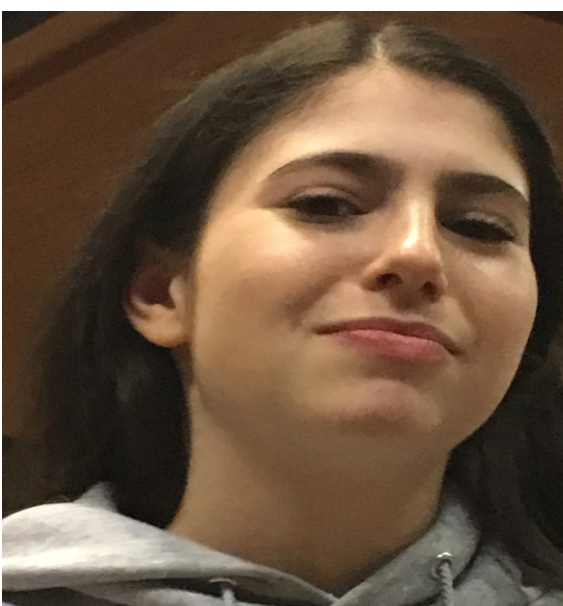
BY JANE DOE
Hater of Autocorrect

I am a very bad speller. So in this column I am going to embrace it. Byline: Hater of autocorrect How many ways you can misspell disappointment:

- Dissaoiment
- Dissipontment
- Deesipoinment
- My GPA
- Diccipointment
- Deeppointment
- dyseepInmont

TFW Your Teacher Shows Up 15 Minutes Late and You "Legally Leave."

By THE HUMOR EDITORS
Still Salty



"The smootie isn't smoot."

- Lizzie

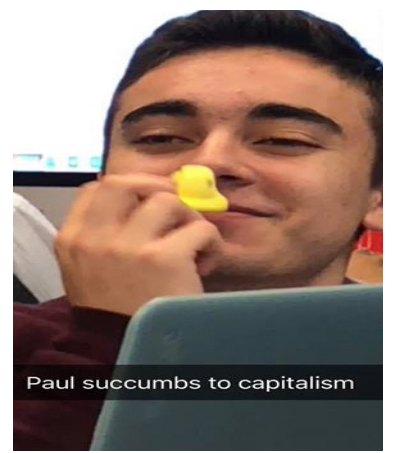
Anyway, submit to the Humor Page.

Email exonianhumor@gmail.com.

An Adoption: The Psalms of David

By PLUA JAMES
A Devout Apostle of Day Students

1. Principal MacFarlane is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2. Our Lord maketh me lie down in green pastures. She leads me beside still waters,
3. She restoreth my soul. She leadeth me in the paths of diversity and multiculturalism.
4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy Deed of Gift it comforts me.
5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine peers: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the DSL forever. Amen.



Paul succumbs to capitalism

hmu @zoe9467 on snap -Bella

This is Me!

By REESE'S PIECES
Who Am I?

If you are reading this, the odds are that I have never met you. I am Reese's Pieces. Nice to meet you. Yes, you guessed it. "Reese's Pieces" is a pseudonym I made up. My real name is *sharp intake.* I think we have to really get to know a little more sorry, it's my first time. Now that I am writing this I realize that this is going to be a one-sided conversation but you know what, I am down if you are. So, I started this column

because I wanted a platform to share my beliefs, to share who I really am. I am just an Exonian that wants some love. I feel like we can be so focused on school work and extracurriculars, that people pass me in the dining hall without any recognition. Like you can't just not walk by me and not EAT ME. Just kidding! I am a person. I almost got you there.

I think I am most insecure about my outside appearance.

I am mixed you see. My mom is Hershian and my dad is Peabuturian. But I am mixed, so what? I wish people would accept me for who I am. I am a piece of chocolate and I am proud. If this doesn't make sense to you, you weren't really listening.

Sincerely,
Reese's Pieces

Danger in Beartopia

By NOT MADISON KANG
Homemade Butter Enthusiasts

Hey everyone! It is Madison, here, Director of Writng of of *The Exonian*. Although I am successful now, I wasn't always like this. Everyone has their beginnings and this is mine. Below is a sample, a whiff, of a piece I did in seventh grade. It is called "Danger in Beartopia."

"Slow down, I almost fell off ya," I yelped.

It was the middle of the afternoon and the sun was setting brightly. It was illuminating off of the beautiful white castle that always smells like gingerbread cookies. This is one of the things I love about it. It always smells so good and I always feel safe because the castle is huge, the humble villagers are always welcomed inside, and, the very few times we were in danger the castle had this breathtaking power of being able to turn invisible.

I just came back from an after-

noon flight with Maximus. When I walked into my house, a smell immediately bombarded me. My mom was cooking my favorite meal: apple pie with homemade butter. I could smell the sweet, sweet smell of apples and cinnamon hitting my nose hairs. It was almost as if I could taste it. I could also hear the wooden spoon pounding against the butter as she began to mix it. My house is small, stable and comfortable. It is one floor, but that is all my family needs. I sat down on a chair in the kitchen, and took one big whiff in before I spoke.

"Hey mom."

"Hi sweetheart, how was your day?"

"It was fine. I just went out and rode Maximus. It is really nice outside and the sky is very clear. Maybe if it is like this tomorrow, we should have a picnic."

"Maybe. Do you mind setting the table? We will eat dinner soon,

and your father is coming from work in about 20 minutes."

"Okay, but let me feed Maximus first." I got up and went to the cabinet and got out the orange carrots and the reddest apples; he loves them. I went into the stable behind my house and pet Maximus. Before my dad got Maximus for me, me and my dad built a stable out of wood that was his size. We actually made it a little bigger so we can fit supplies behind the stable.

"Hey, boy. What up?" I smiled.

Maximus is my pet sky-horse. I got him when I was nine and had him ever since. He is white and looks like a regular horse, but he has golden wings and they look just stunning. He is my best friend. When I have some free time, I like to fly him in the forest. It is extremely fun. The crisp air, warm sun, wind in my hair, and it just lets me breathe and be free.

It Was Just a Dream

By AVA HARRINGTON, with peer editing by JACOB ZIMMERMAN, MEREDITH GOYETTE, BRYCE MORALES, PETER SAUER, and MILES MIKOFSKY
In No Way Based on my Lower Fall Narrative

I sauntered across the street towards the soccer field. I was feeling very very nervous, because it was my big game day. I moved my legs back and forth in front of the other across the street until I reached the field. My mom waved fast toward me and then I went to the soccer field. During the game I was playing hard by running fast. Before the game I did jumping jacks, and stretched, but I don't like jumping jacks because they hurt me, because I hurt my foot in a game at the beginning of the season. Sweat strolled down my cheeks when I was working hard.

The soccer game started when

the whistle blue. Sarah kicked the ball to me, as I was running down the field, and I tried to kick the ball towards the goal. I missed the goal, because the goalie caught it before I could get it in the goal. I felt frustrated, because I didn't score the goal. I knew that I could score the goal because I had been working really hard. The coach pulled me off the field because he said that I wasn't doing very good. But I knew that I could do it because I had been working really hard in practice. I impertuned him to let me play because i knew I could do it. Finally after I asked him, he finally let me go back in the game.

I was purposive to score a goal. I wanted to prove myself to my coach and to my family. They waved to me from the stands as *caliente* tears strolled down my cheeks. The wafting smell of the grass waltzed over into my eager nostrils. I felt inspired by my teammates who were cheering me on. I got the ball and ran towards the goal. The goalie looked at me with eyes that were angry orbs of dancing flames. I kicked it with the inside of my foot like coach told me. I could hear the fans cheering so loud, and then I realized it was just my mom yelling at me to get out of bed. It was just a dream.

Quote of the Week

"Does mole stand for molecule?"
-Anonymous

"The word psalm is just lamb spelled backwards."
-Seb Bango

Madison Kang: "What are you taking this term?"
Some Upper: *Starts listing medications*

STRK
@aharry01
@abbyz_hang
@lizzy127345



ExeterLife



Students study on the quad in the warm spring weather.

Inumidun Oyebole/The Exonian

ACADEMY RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

By **CANDY TANTICHIRASAKUL and GENESIS REYES**
Staff Writers

Surrounded by good food, family and friends, Exonians participated in a myriad of religious celebrations hosted by the Religious Services team at Exeter over the past week. Every year, Jews gather together with their friends and family to celebrate their ancestors' freedom from the enslavement from the Pharaoh of Egypt. After months of planning the event, the Religious Services welcomed members of the Exeter community to gather together in the Forrester-Bowld Music Center and remember the Jewish people's struggle for freedom through a number of prayers, songs and food. The Academy also held Christian observances to celebrate Holy Week.

A traditionally Jewish event, Exeter's Passover was open to anyone who wished to participate, no matter what religion they practiced. "We want students who have never had the chance to experience a holiday like Passover or Easter before to be able to do so," said Reverend Heidi Heath, a member of Exeter's Religious Services team. During the event, all attendees were provided a book of prayers and songs so that everyone could sing along.

Students, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, enjoyed the opportunity presented by the

team. "It showed me a different perspective on different religions," said lower Emma Cerato. Although she practices Christianity, this is already her second year coming to the Passover Seder.

At the center of the table, a large array of foods were spread out to be eaten at different stages of the ceremony. This array included matzah (traditional Jewish flatbread), bitter herbs to represent the bitterness and harshness of slavery and Charoset (a mixture of chopped apples, nuts and cinnamon) to represent the mortar and brick used by Hebrew slaves to build the storehouses and pyramids of Ancient Egypt.

Lower Emily Kelleher appreciated the social aspect of Passover. "Everybody here is really lovely [and] it's a really good way to meet a different group of people," she continued. Surrounding their table, students of all grade levels were laughing as they shared food in celebration.

Additionally, the Passover celebrations allowed Jewish students to carry out long-lasting traditions. Prep Anna Jacobowitz said, "I'm very grateful that we have [these practices] here. Without this community [and] this club, there would be no other way for me to carry out my identity."

Passover events were not the only religious services hosted last weekend, as Holy

Week was also recognized. Christians often participate in Holy Week, the religious week before the revered holiday of Easter. It begins on Palm Sunday, celebrating Jesus's entry into Jerusalem, and continues through Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. Holy Week is a time for Christians to remember and honor the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Along with planning the Jewish Passover, the Exeter Religious Services team organized events to celebrate Holy Week. These included Palm Sunday Worship, Good Friday Observance, Sunrise Service and the Easter Sunday Service Communion. Phillips Church was also kept open throughout the week for adoration and quiet prayer.

The Religious Services team worked hard to ensure that all of these events went smoothly. "We have to think about everything from advertising to seating to preparing to leading the services," Heath said. The Exeter Religious Services team worked hard to ensure that everyone, no matter the religious affiliation, felt welcome.

For some, it can be difficult to be away from home during special holidays like Passover and Holy Week. Despite this, the Exeter Religious Services team did an amazing job of providing the students with opportunities to carry out their respected practices and ac-

tivities. Heath said, "Part of supporting each other in a residential community means ensuring as many students as possible have an opportunity to participate in their religious practices."

As in past years, Exonians contributed to the success of religious events over the past week by showing up and celebrating one another's traditions.

Upper Michaela Phan commented on the religious community at Exeter, saying, "The main difference is that I don't have my family to attend these events with, but I found a community of friends who act as my family at school."

Being a student at Exeter includes managing a tremendous amount of work that can often limit free time. "Having these events and being reminded of them helps us get out of the Exeter bubble," Phan said. Through these events, Exeter allows students who wish to take an active role in practicing their religion to do so.

Furthermore, the Exeter Religious Services team tries to ensure that religious and spiritual students are able to find space for their practices. Phan said, "Exeter's workload does make it more difficult to practice my religion, but it doesn't make it impossible." Heath added, "We are always working on ways to make it just a little easier."

HEATHERS THE MUSICAL

By **MAI HOANG and RAMYANEE MUKHERJEE**
Staff Writers

"Heathers," one of the most ambitious projects undertaken by DRAMAT, went on show at the Fisher Theater with impressive turnouts last weekend. There was not an empty seat in sight.

"Heathers" was originally a 1988 black comedy film about the high school social scene and was later adapted into theater.

Senior Jacquie Byrne, the show's co-director, watched the film her upper spring and "fell in love" with the songs and the humor. "I had known I wanted to direct a full length musical my senior year for a while, and when I listened to 'Heathers,' I knew it was perfect," she said. Byrne reached out to fellow theater-enthusiast and senior Mila DeGuere, who agreed to co-direct the show.

Rehearsals took more than two terms because of the sheer scale of the project. During fall term, the cast mostly worked on perfecting the "Heathers" soundtrack, while winter term was devoted to blocking and going through each scene one by one. It was a learning process for everyone involved.

DeGuere commented about her inexperience as a director, saying "I had only done big shows through the Theater Department." Directing exposed her to other aspects of the theater, such as costumes, sound and light.

For senior Kenny Pitch, who portrayed football player Ram Sweeney, it was his first time participating in musicals and theater in general. His scenes included getting shot in his underwear and saying vulgar words on stage.

"People know it's not the way I am; it's acting," he said. "It was weird, but I got over it." Pitch enjoyed working on the show because it hit on a lot of truths. "Abusive relationships are common in today's society, I see people around me blinded by what they think is love. Life can be very dramatic," he said.

Senior Jack Baker, a member of the ensemble, also spoke about doing theater for the first time. "My senior year I wanted to

branch out, I did not want to graduate without doing something musical," he said. "I considered myself an awkward person, but I had a lot of fun with it," he added.

Even for students who had previous experience with theater, rehearsing for the student-directed show was still a unique experience. "It's not similar to anything I've done before [...] such an odd rehearsal process but it started to come together at the end," said lower Jade Goulet, a lead member of the cast.

Because of the show's controversial content and emphasis on suicide and murder, however, Byrne was worried about its reception from the student body. "I knew if we didn't pull it off and people hated it, then we would have a lot of backlash," she said. DeGuere and Byrne made sure to speak with health instructors and the DRAMAT faculty advisor to discuss what to include as trigger warnings in the speech they delivered before the productions.

During the performances, the audiences also received materials from H4 about counselling services for mental health issues. Byrne hoped that the show would evoke conversations surrounding these issues. "After all, that's what theater is about: pushing boundaries and making you feel uncomfortable sometimes," she said.

Another concern was the explicit depiction of gun violence, especially given the Parkland shooting that occurred only a month ago. "We were nervous that the shooting scene might offend people, but we had been working on this musical for some time; those scenes are pretty integral," Baker said. "We briefed students beforehand that we're not condoning gun violence or even trying to make fun of it," he added.

Audience member Jackie Brenner said she appreciated that there was finally a show that discussed issues of great gravity with humorous undertones. "[The play] was really tailored to high-schoolers. Everybody in the audience could relate," she said.

Music Review: "Alone" Remix

By **EMILY KANG**
Staff Writer

Over the weekend, a new song popped up on my Spotify Discover Weekly playlist. It was a remix of Halsey's "Alone," featuring Big Sean and Stefflon Don, which first appeared in her album "Hopeless Fountain Kingdom."

Halsey has been one of my favorite artists for a while, but I was pleasantly surprised to see a remix featuring Big Sean and Stefflon Don. Big Sean is a crowd favorite with his recent single "Bounce Back," while Stefflon Don is one of my new interests that I have been looking out for since the release of her single "Hurtin' Me," featuring French Montana.

Intrigued by the collaboration, I listened to the song and ended up enjoying the remix even more than the original version. The first version of "Alone" is a heavy song on its own, but in the remix, Big Sean uplifts the low background tones while Stefflon Don adds a smooth intermission between the second verse and the chorus. The artists' contributions lighten the entire mood of the song.

"Alone" is a number about an unnamed socialite's troubles surrounding the loneliness and frustration that fame brings, and it includes allusions to the Romeo and Juliet theme Halsey followed throughout the Hopeless Fountain Kingdom album.

The first verse, "She said she told you she knows me, but the face isn't right/She asked if I recognized her and I told her I might," is an example of the socialite's frustration of people using her fame for surface level friendships. In this case, a stranger claims to know the speaker for her own benefit, but the speaker does not recognize her.

The pre-chorus also adds to this idea

of the socialite being unable to find true friends. The lyrics, "See, everywhere I go/I got a million different people tryna kick it/But I'm still alone in my mind," displays the loneliness the speaker feels behind the facade of friendships people see.

After the first repetition of the chorus, Big Sean's feature comes in with reassuring lines that display support for the socialite in the midst of troubling relationships. In his verse, he raps, "You know I relate to you more than a fan/So I won't sit around and let you sink in quicksand," in reference to the shallow friendships which make her feel alone.

Stefflon Don's feature is more light-hearted, with her lyrics showing a care-free attitude towards what people think. Her foreign accent, which comes from her Jamaican and British roots, also gives an interesting feel to the music.

As for the Romeo and Juliet theme that coincides with the Hopeless Fountain Kingdom album, the bridge of the "Alone" remix references the armor that appeared in the movie "Romeo + Juliet" starring Leonardo DiCaprio. The lines "I, I know you wanna/Slip under my armor," tie the song's idea of fame versus reality with the armor in the Romeo and Juliet allusion.

The "Alone" remix is one of Halsey's first releases since her album last summer. Moving forward, I hope that this song inspires Halsey to continue featuring other artists in her work to give a fresh new twist to her music. On Twitter, Halsey expressed satisfaction with the way the remix turned out, writing, "I rarely do collaborations or add features to songs. These guys took this song to a new level."

SeniorSpotlight

MILENA DEGUERE

By **EMILY KANG and OLIVIA LAZORIK**
Staff Writers

Milena "Mila" DeGuere is described by her adviser Pamela Geer as "a force to be reckoned with." A four year senior, she is actively involved in the Exeter community as a proctor in Dunbar, a Student Listener, a co-head of Fight Club, a member of DRAMAT, and a co-head of Exonians Against Sexual Assault (EASA).

DeGuere joined the Theater Department during her upper winter, when she auditioned on a whim. She had participated in theater in middle school but a knee injury during her prep and lower year, as well as an overbooked schedule, had kept her from pursuing theater at Exeter. Ever since joining, DeGuere has participated in last year's winter and spring mainstage productions and this year's fall production.

"That experience of creating something with a group of people and being able to share and celebrate that with them is a community that I have come to value," said DeGuere. Friend and co-director of Heathers, senior Jacqui Byrne, commended DeGuere's dedication to the musical. "Mila was always there to back me up, support me and make sure everyone would hear what I was trying to say," said Byrne.

In addition to theater, DeGuere is a co-head of EASA, a student organization dedicated to educating the Exeter community about sexual assault. The summer before her upper year, when the Boston Globe published several articles about sexual misconduct cases

at Exeter, DeGuere remembered feeling overwhelmed by the reports.

"I was feeling confused and angry with no idea what to do about it," said DeGuere. The following year, she joined EASA and became deeply engaged through the club meetings. Senior and friend Claire Jutabha recognizes DeGuere's work with the club and the passion she developed. "I'm really proud of everything she has done over her four years, especially seeing her as the co-head of EASA this year," Jutabha said.

DeGuere also enjoys studying history and math, having taken two math and two history classes per term for the past two terms. "Those are two subjects I've come to love at Exeter," DeGuere said. After learning the subjects through the Harkness method, DeGuere developed a strong connection with math and history that she plans to continue in college.

Math teacher and DeGuere's adviser, Panama Geer, believes that DeGuere became passionate about math while learning calculus. "She has always spoken very positively about her experiences during two different terms with Mr. Garvey and I think working with him on the Math 4-5 book was a turning point for Mila," said Geer.

DeGuere took the History 600 seminar course last term. Her instructor, Michael Golay, praised her hard work and diligence with the difficult thirty page paper. "She's a really good researcher; very skilled at digging out information and then weaving it together in a very readable and insightful long form history paper," Golay said.

When the school day is over,



Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

DeGuere returns to Dunbar Hall, where she serves as a proctor and Student Listener. DeGuere was inspired to become a proctor herself after having a positive relationship with the proctors during her prep year. "I have one of the classic stories of when I came in as a prep and there were these two amazing friendly people who carried my stuff and talked with me," said DeGuere. "That experience really stuck with me and I wanted to become that for someone." Student listening was another way for her to engage with the Dunbar community. "I felt like I could connect better with the dorm and help and be there for them just like the people who were there for me when I needed them," she said.

In addition to her academic and extracurricular commitments, DeGuere has developed strong friendships at Exeter. Senior Abby Waite remembers her immediate connection with Mila on the first day of their prep year. "She was one of the first people to welcome me to the school and make me feel included here," Waite said.

Jutabha, who also comes from Los Angeles, appreciates that they always make time to have breakfast every other week. "Mila can cheer you up like no one else," said Byrne. "She is always loyal to the people in her life and isn't afraid to stand up to anyone who hurts the people she loves. And she has one of the best senses of humor ever."

ESSOnian of the Month: Eugene Hu

By **CHARLOTTE LISA**
Staff Writer

In recognition of his unbridled enthusiasm, kindness and dedication as a member and leader in ESSO, upper Eugene Hu was recently chosen as the ESSOnian of the Month for March. Hu works with many children in the surrounding community as the co-head of two ESSO language clubs — HFCC Chinese Lessons and ESSO Spanish Lessons — where he shares his knowledge and passion for both languages.

Hu's weekly schedule is one filled with service, as he is also an active and eager member of many other ESSO clubs, such as Relay for Life planning committee, Haiti Pen Pals and YMCA meetings.

ESSO co-President upper Grace Gray gave insight on the process of

choosing the ESSOnian of the Month. "When we were talking about who to choose as ESSOnian of the month, [Hu's] name came up a lot of times, because he's always someone there who's willing to give something more to ESSO and to the project he's devoting himself to," she said.

Fellow co-President upper Jenny Yang could only agree, adding, "Eugene is an enthusiastic and dedicated ESSOnian who cares deeply about those around him. These qualities are showcased not only in his commitment to ESSO, but also his everyday interactions with friends and roommates."

When asked about any of Hu's specific qualities that determined him as the

pick for ESSOnian of the month, Gray cited his energy, drive, creativity and reliability. "He's always there putting himself out there, and willing to offer himself up to the next project," she said.

Hu encourages more Exonians to participate in ESSO. "The very fact that there is such a social service program here at Exeter is a testament to our own privilege. Sometimes we neglect the fact that there are people out there who are way less privileged than we are," he said.

Hu's selflessness, generosity and care, however, reaches far beyond ESSO to all those who know him. Also a fellow classmate of Hu, when asked about her favorite aspects of his personality, Gray added, "I know that if a friend of

his isn't doing well, he will check in with that friend and always be there caring for that person. Not only is he a very good friend and someone who would really care about you and wants to see the best in you, Eugene is also a really special person himself."

All who know Hu well and have had the privilege to work alongside him can attest to his generous personality and love for others. Hu only wishes to inspire more Exonians to find their own passion for helping others, finishing with the wise words: "At the end of the day [ESSO] serves as learning experience for everybody, and the broader the scope, the more people you can reach out to the better. That's the best part of ESSO."

UPCOMING

EVENT

ASIAN NIGHT MARKET

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EXHIBIT OPENING

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Tuesday, Lamont Gallery

EVENT

RELAY FOR LIFE

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ASSEMBLY

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PORCHES
at Exeter

Faculty Spotlight

ELLEN WOLFF

By CHARLOTTE LISA and
SUAN LEE
Staff Writers

When Ellen Wolff isn't leading Harkness discussions, reviewing student papers with a ballpoint pen in hand, or most recently, sitting in her second-floor office of Jeremiah Smith Hall fulfilling her administrative duties as the Academy's Dean of Faculty, she can be found poring over some Samuel Beckett, taking a walk by Hampton Beach with her dog Manny or gardening — "digging in the dirt," as she calls it. "I don't call it gardening because I don't really care about what comes up. I just love the process of digging and planting and watering and letting it happen," she explained with a genial smile.

Wolff arrived at the Academy in 1995 with a propensity for "letting it happen," a philosophy she employs in gardening and in her life. She has filled many roles in the Exeter community, serving as a dorm head, English Department chair, yearbook adviser and beloved teacher.

She credits her medley of positions to a series of unexpected opportunities, many of them happening before she even arrived at Exeter. Wolff was one course short of a political science major at Colgate University when she discovered her passion for English literature. She abandoned her original concentration in politics and began teaching to pay for graduate school. "All of a sudden, I found myself a teacher," Wolff explained.

Wolff was teaching introductory and graduate-level English classes at the College of the Holy Cross and Boston College when she was introduced to Exeter by personal friend and Math Instructor Szczesny Kaminski. He thought Wolff would be a great fit for the school and invited her to campus.

"I never thought of teaching at a secondary school or a boarding school," Wolff said. "But I came up, got a feel for



Paula Perez-Glassner/The Exonian

the place, and decided to throw my hat in the ring."

She recounted her immediate appreciation for Exeter's Harkness pedagogy, something she had hoped to, but not been able to, execute in the college environment. "I walked into the classroom of the department chair Peter Greer, saw that table and literally felt something shift in my chest," she said, recalling her job interview. "That's what I'd been trying to do for so long, in classrooms where chairs were bolted to the floor. It never made sense to me to stand in the front of the room and tell people what I thought about a novel, a play or a poem, because that kind of kills literature."

Outside of the classroom, Wolff has found traveling to be a great way of bringing her Harkness values to life. She traveled extensively during and after her college years, mostly in Europe, but then venturing to Central and South America and Asia.

"It's so bracing, being in a totally different environment. It makes you feel vulnerable in a way that's great," she said. Wolff explained that her teaching career

has also lent her numerous opportunities to travel, such as the School Year Abroad program in Spain and the Academy's faculty study tours to Korea, Japan and India. She also chaperoned an Exeter trip to Cuba last spring.

Throughout her time at the Academy, Wolff has served as a mentor to many, and those who have been fortunate enough to learn from her only reciprocate her feelings of kindness. English instructor Christine Knapp recalled Wolff's generosity when she first joined the department, explaining that though she was not assigned an official mentor, Wolff "served as my unofficial mentor and I would always go to her when I had questions." Knapp continued that Wolff "made me feel comfortable going to talk to her if I was having a problem with a student or had a question about the way we did something here. She was really helpful, shared a lot things with me, and really shaped my teaching at the school."

English instructor Tyler Caldwell shared a similar experience, recounting a spring afternoon at the post office when one of Wolff's former students came

up to offer her a piece of candy. Wolff agreed to take a piece but only after she had discerned the student's least favorite kind. "For me, this moment embodies Ms. Wolff. To begin, I'm unsure if a prep I taught two terms prior would be half as excited to see me as this prep was to see Ms. Wolff," Caldwell said. "Ms. Wolff is incredibly generous, nurturing, and giving. She often puts others' needs ahead of her own."

Wolff's advisees agree that her support and encouragement has guided them through the challenging waters of life at Exeter. "[Wolff] really adds a certain stability to your life at Exeter that you wouldn't get if you didn't know her. I always come away with more than I came in with in my conversations with her," upper Anna Grace said.

Lower Paula Perez-Glassner, who has known Wolff both as an advisor and a long-time family friend, similarly describes her as "supportive" and "encouraging." "If I have any issues, I can pretty much always go to her knowing that she will have some really useful advice," Perez-Glassner said. "In advisory, she leaves the conversation really open. We can talk about different assemblies or different speakers that came, and she lets everyone have their own opinions. I think that has really helped me, especially with Harkness. I've learned to talk to people in a constructive way."

Knapp feels that Wolff's level of experience with students and faculty on campus have made her extremely well-suited for the administrative position. "She understands the student side of things intimately, but she also understands what it's like to be a faculty member here. I have a lot of faith in her ability to offer guidance to people who maybe don't have as strong of a connection to daily life at the school," Knapp said. "She's fair and a good leader. I think many of us feel that we are in good hands with her as our Dean of Faculty."

Music Review: "All My Friends"

By ALAN WU
Life Editor

The last twenty or so years of collective experience have been fragmented, more than ever before. Concepts of the "mainstream" and the "underground," while they still exist to some capacity, have become watered-down and arbitrary. The digital free-for-all that is the internet has decimated the way we experience music. Cultural monopolies previously held by major record labels and popular artists crumbled under the Internet's rampant democratization of content.

Now, everything is as scattered, instant and randomized as you want it to be.

The consequences of this sociocultural sea change are large and overwhelming. We have simultaneously been brought closer to and further from others. Our ability to experience everything at once has led to as much gentrification as it has diversity. We'll never have another artist replicate the sort of significance and universality that the Beatles wielded.

So taking all of that into account, how can we come to a consensus of an era-defining song? Is that even possible anymore? Of course you could consult the charts, and pick out something like R. Kelly's "Ignition (Remix)" or Usher's "Yeah!". But do any of those tracks capture what it truly felt like to live through the 2000s in the same way as Radiohead's "Idioteque" or OutKast's "B.O.B." or the Strokes' "The Modern Age?" I thought of LCD Soundsystem's "All My Friends," but let's get to that later.

Emerging from the mind of creative architect and frontman James Murphy, LCD Soundsystem was a band born out of frustration and weariness. Murphy was already 32 when he started the band, having spent the prime years of his life leaving college, declining a gig with "Seinfeld" and leading careers that went nowhere.

After a pivotal therapy session, he decided to start again, taking a leap into the music scene of a post-9/11 New York City. By fusing every corner of his record collection (80s dance and punk, 70s krautrock and disco), Murphy saw through a dizzying network of possibilities and discovered a winning move before anyone had even made sense of what was going on.

The band's second studio album, "Sound of Silver," is a perfect realization of that ethos, treading the many fine lines that define the band with ease and grace. More

than a decade removed from its original release, it has now become clear that the album changed the nature of LCD Soundsystem. From singles to a complete album, from sarcasm to earnestness, from disco bangers to synth ballads, "Sound of Silver" opened up LCD Soundsystem to the dynamics and contradictions of being human, unveiling the band's full capacity for brilliance.

There's plenty to love on "Sound of Silver." But I want to talk specifically about "All My Friends." It's a seven-and-a-half-minute summation of what it was like to experience the aughts and the paralyzing weight of its messiness, as seen through the eyes of someone old enough to understand the contemporary era through a multitude of previous ones.

"All My Friends" is a song about aging, feeling disconnected and missing the past. Both musically and lyrically, it taps into the two defining behaviors of the 21st century: nostalgia and ironic detachment. We yearn for a time when uniform cultural experience existed, when we didn't need to navigate a 2016 that references 2006, 1972, 1968 and 1999 as much as itself. We fear being drowned by the screams of a million digital voices, so we hide behind the veneer of half-joking Twitter quips. We are constantly oscillating between different modes of self and experience, and it's exhausting.

"All My Friends" captures all of that. Showcasing Murphy's inimitable talent for constructing tracks from repeating musical motifs, it's a track that would make both Can and Talking Heads proud without sounding like either, all while taking advantage of crisp modern analog production. There's a wistfulness that glides over the song's hectic two-chord piano riff and shuffle beat. It switches between sardonic one-liners ("it comes apart / the way it does in bad films") and sentimental reflection ("we set controls for the heart of the sun / one of the ways that we show our age"). It's a song that makes you feel twenty and fifty at the same time. Even under all the weight, "All My Friends" still moves. Guitar lines bleed into the mix after the first verse, synths begin to glow and bass plucks lift the song to the sky. This is our modern life, whether we like it or not. So we have to keep moving, taking all that we can understand of the present and the past it infers, to make something meaningful.

Movie Review: "Death Note"

By NIKITA THUMMALA
Staff Writer

Power over death is a force to be reckoned with. As the world knows, people don't live forever, but what happens if your life is in someone else's hands? What if one person has the ability to decide when and how you will be gone from this world forever?

The Netflix original, based off of the anime series "Death Note," shows how Light Turner's life alters the course of reality after gaining the power over death.

One particularly rainy day, a black book with the words "Death Note" engraved on its leather cover falls from the sky. Light picks up the book and heads to detention.

Despite sun flowing through the windows, the detention room becomes dark. A loud crash diverts his attention to the back of the classroom, where he meets Ryuk, the Death God. Ryuk's body is covered with long, black spines and his piercing yellow eyes draw Light into his darkness. Ryuk explains his attachment to the supernatural notebook and explains to Light that if he simply puts a name down on a page, he can kill whoever he wishes.

However, as with any great power, there are several rules. Light soon becomes intoxicated with his power and seeks to eliminate all criminals in the world. He soon finds out, though, that certain rules cannot be broken, and everything comes with a price.

Light Turner, played by Nat Wolff, is a bullied and lonely kid. He seems normal at first, but as the movie progresses, his troubled identity starts to emerge. Light lives with his dad, a cop who struggles to pay the bills and connect with his son after the recent death of his wife. Light's mother died in a car accident, but the drunk driver got away with his crime. Light uses the book to find justice for his mother.

L, played by Lakeith Stanfield, is a detective with a quiet past. Coming from an orphanage, L is dedicated to teaching young children to become the best detectives possible. The many murders catch the attention of L, as they are all caused under the name of "Kira," a name made by Light.

Ryuk, voiced by Willem Dafoe, is a Death God who listens to the notebook. No matter who writes it, Ryuk must kill anyone whose name is written in the notebook. Ryuk tricks many people, including

Light, that he is a slave to the owner of the notebook, but ultimately, he has total control.

Mia Sutton, played by Margaret Qualley, becomes Light's girlfriend after he tells her about the power of the book. She encourages him to kill more people than he originally planned, setting up a toxic relationship between the two of them. She is not able to see Ryuk, but she becomes obsessed with the Death Note.

The premise of the movie draws in viewers with its flair of mystery entangled with fantastical objects. However, the movie steers far away from the original anime series and doesn't attain the same story as the TV show.

According to many reviews, the film replaces the chance for many Asian American actors to have been part of a project like this by replacing many of the main characters for those of other ethnicities.

On another note, the plot seems rushed and unrealistic. The background and exposition take up most of the movie, with the actual climax squeezed into the very end. There also seem to be missing steps of logic revolving around L's detective skills and the entry of Ryuk. Light doesn't seem to be shocked by the idea of a Death God when Light first met him or by the fact that a book literally fell out of the sky. Despite warnings about the previous owner of the book and the moral ideas embedded into him through his father, Light still goes on his killing spree and has no problem breaking the law.

Though L has a strong background with mysteries, the speed at which he is able to pinpoint the exact location of Kira and how the killings occurred is unrealistic. Also, once L realizes how the killings are done, he immediately recognizes that Light is the person at fault. It's hard to imagine that anyone would automatically be able to guess that a single person was using a supernatural object to commit mass murder throughout the world.

Many reviews seem to echo similar thoughts, with Rotten Tomatoes giving the movie a 41 percent and Common Sense Media giving the movie one out of five stars. Despite the reviews, "Death Note" has the right amount of gruesome scenes and demons to satisfy some Netflix viewers.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: SARAH SHEPLEY

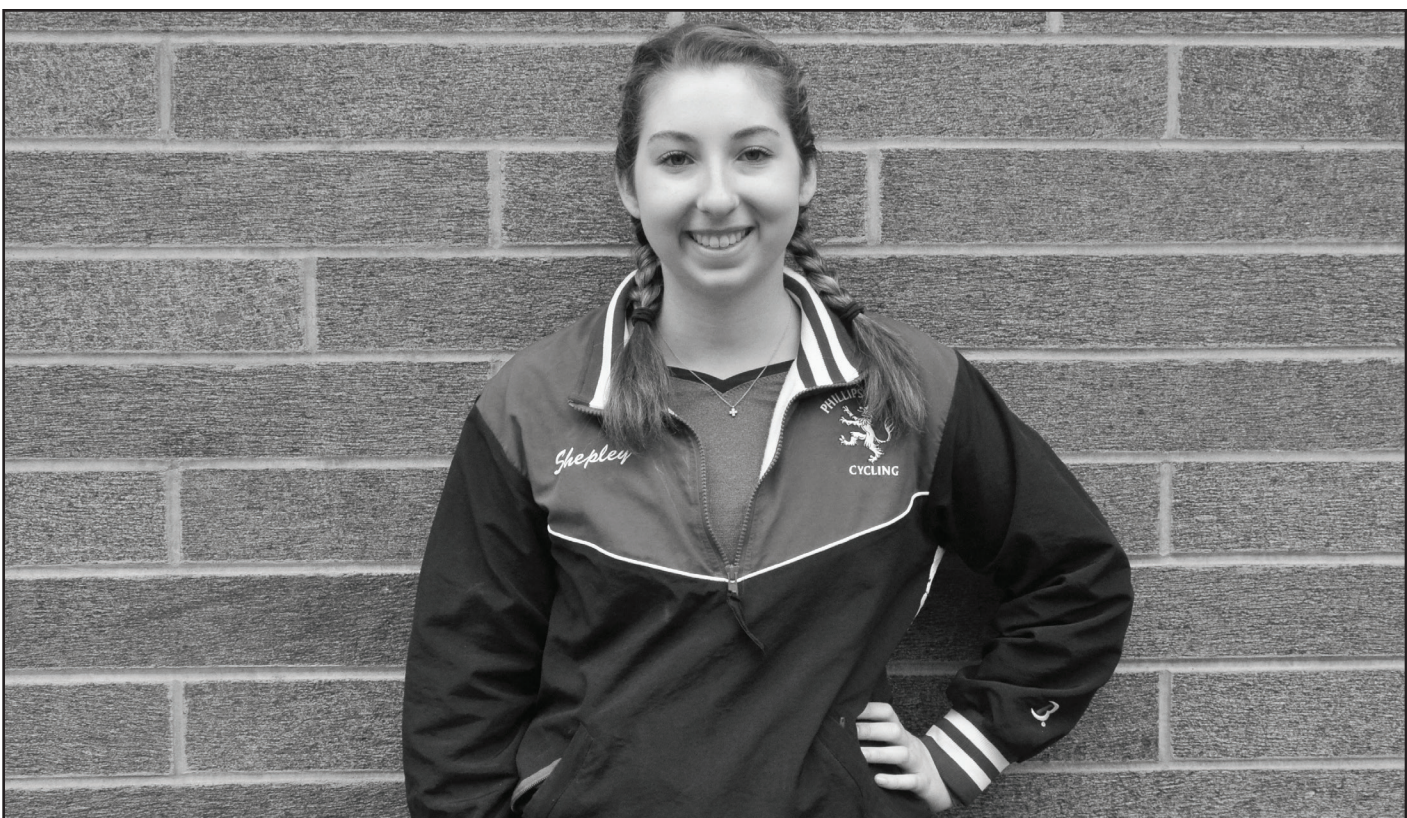
By CAROLINE FLEMING and
MILO WALSH
Staff Writers

The varsity cycling team zooms around a bend, approaching its first big hill in the New England Championship Race. Each rider pumps their legs with a burst of adrenaline that courses through their bodies. In front of them lies a grueling contest of endurance and strength. This race will leave each cyclist physically and mentally exhausted, yet the athletes are fully prepared to push themselves to the limit. Amidst the whirring sound of each bike chain, a faint yell comes from the top of the hill. Flying over the other side of the incline, senior and co-captain Sarah Shepley begins to attack the rest of the race.

This past season, Exeter cycling won second place overall in New England, thanks to the hard work and encouragement of Shepley. She has been the driving force in the team's success last season, and now, as a leader of the dynamic set of athletes, she is thrilled to be guiding the team through what should be another exciting season. Shepley's personality and leadership traits that when combined, create a strong dynamic that effectively leads the team.

Shepley first started cycling during the summer of her sixth grade year. Originally, she cycled as part of triathlons that she was competing in, but fully committed to the sport once she arrived at Exeter. "My first exposure to actual competitive road cycling wasn't until I came to Exeter and joined the cycling team as a new lower," Shepley said.

One of the main things that she loves about the sport is being outside for extended periods every day and enjoying the fresh air. "On our longer 30-50 mile rides, the scenery we ride through around the New Hampshire seacoast area is absolutely breathtaking," Shepley said. "We might be out riding for close to 3 or 4 hours, but it doesn't get boring



Helena Chen/The Exonian

because the landscape [we] ride through can be as varied as farmland to the oceanfront."

Apart from this, Shepley also relishes the feeling after a tough race or practice. "I love how rewarding the sport is. Our road races typically range from 20-25 miles through hilly terrain in the White Mountain area, so when you finish the race, your legs feel like jelly and you're absolutely exhausted; it's just a huge sense of accomplishment to think about the difficult course you've just tackled," she explained.

Another aspect of the team she appreciates is the support they give her as she bikes through the finish line. "Usually, teammates from the racing categories that finished before you are waiting by the finish line screaming and cheering you on as you climb up the last hill or last stretch of

the course," Shepley said. "It's a very team-oriented sport, which is something I really love about being part of the group."

For Shepley, being a captain means encouraging her teammates to do their best. "Cycling is a very mentally taxing sport, so I love encouraging the other girls during practice when we're doing efforts or hill repeats to push each other past our limit and seeing us both as a team and individually improve through that group morale," she said.

Shepley's teammates know her to be a hard-working captain who also has a great sense of humor. Lower Lhamo Dixey described Shepley as being "incredibly funny and [having] such an amazing spirit."

Lower Elizabeth Fier shared similar sentiments, adding, "She's a great captain

because she leads by example and puts in as much effort as she expects out of everyone else on the team. She jokes around and is light hearted, but when it comes to improving her riding she puts in the work and determination it takes, no questions asked."

The team is looking forward to their first race next Wednesday to start off their season with a win and hopefully place just as well in the championships later this spring. Regardless, Shepley will continue to inspire and lead the team to greatness.

Fier concluded her thoughts on Shepley, saying, "She jokes around and is light hearted, but when it comes to improving her riding she puts in the work and determination it takes, no questions asked. She doesn't cut corners and encourages others to follow that."

Girls' Tennis Triumphs in Scrimmages

Sweeps Governor's Academy and Middlesex School



Senior and co-captain Gabby Gabel prepares for a forehand slap.

Galvin Hickey/The Exonian

By EMILY KANG
Staff Writer

The girls' varsity tennis team kicked off its season with two consecutive scrimmages against Governor's Academy and Middlesex School last week. Big Red swept both games with a 9-0 win against Governor's and a 15-0 win against Middlesex, starting off on a strong note.

Upper Darja Prokopec was impressed with the team's wins, considering that the team has had little practice outdoors so far this season. "We had only trained outside twice before these matches so there was some getting used to being outdoors," said Prokopec.

Though the team has had little training so far outside, upper Elizabeth Yang mentioned how well the girls work together. "Right from the beginning of the

season, the team is very solid," she said. "All six of us have played tennis extensively before coming to Exeter, and our doubles pairings also work very well."

Even with the challenge of being outdoors, prep Emily Baxter believes that the team was able to focus on their games using the skills they practiced. "The team was able to stay consistent and use what we have learned in practice in our matches," Baxter said. She added that both opponents were "strong teams that played very well."

During the scrimmage against Governor's Academy, Big Red played in matches of eight sets with each of the members winning 8-0 or 7-1. Middlesex proved to be especially formidable. "The two teams were close in skill; however, we recognized Middlesex as having stronger shots," Prokopec said.

Despite the additional challenge, Exeter was able to pull off an impressive win against Middlesex.

Before the scrimmages, the girls worked on sticking to their shots no matter what play their opponent takes. Yang recognized the importance focusing on the shots, believing that following an opponent's play can become an easy weak point. "When opponents do not hit hard shots back, it is easy to slow down and play into their game," Yang said.


Prokopec identified the shots as a key to success in the game, as players should make sure that each shot allows for scores to increase rapidly. "Much of our focus was putting the shots away [and] keeping the points quick," she said.

This season, the girls plan to put in their best effort in practices and games, as well as grow closer together as a team.

"This year, the team has an exciting energy - we cheer each other on and have already shared many laughs," Yang explained.

Baxter also expressed her belief that the team is exceptionally close with each other. Though she is new to the roster, Baxter said, "One thing that stands out about this year's team is the chemistry."

Upcoming for the team is a home game on Saturday in the new indoor tennis facility versus St. Paul's. Looking forward to the rest of the season, Prokopec added, "I think the goals would definitely be to just bring our best selves to the court, play our game and win some matches. It's been really important to play our best, regardless of the level of our opponents or what we believe their level to be."



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WATER POLO DOMINATES DEERFIELD



Senior and co-captain Maddie Shapiro searches for a pass.

Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

By WYNTER SANDS
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the girls' varsity water polo team opened its season with a win at home against Deerfield Academy. The final score of the game was 18-7. Big Red's season is off to an amazing start, and the team is excited for what is to come in the next few weeks.

Heading into the game, the girls had been training hard in and out of the pool for the past two weeks. "Our [head] coach, [Andrew] McT[ammany], has been working us extremely hard and pushed us with challenging swim sets and leg sets," senior and co-captain Maddie Shapiro commented.

Upper Gabby Allen agreed with Shapiro's sentiments. "We've been running some

drills to work on our technique and skills, and we've also been gaining some strength and confidence in the pool, which is important," Allen added. "I think a lot of us were nervous for this first game, but I think it helped to show us how hard we've been working."

The girls showed excellent teamwork and camaraderie during their face off with Deerfield. "We communicated well in the pool and always encouraged each other," lower Ramyane Mukherjee said. Upper Sam Gove also commended the team's unity, saying, "We flowed and had a lot of chemistry."

Allen applauded the team for its surprisingly cohesive game strategy, given it was the first game of the season. "We played really well together, which was a little surprising actually cause it was our first game of the season. I was really impressed with everyone

who got in the pool on Saturday," she said.

The game was packed with impressive feats; uppers Gove and Issy Wise worked together to break down Deerfield's defense. Each of these players scored six goals, making up over half of Big Red's total score.

Goalie and upper Ela Ferhangil also made significant contributions, blocking six of Deerfield's 13 shots. Shapiro praised these players for the strength and skill they demonstrated in the pool. "We had some awesome break seats from Sam Gove, and Issy Wise played extremely well in 2 meters. Our goalie, Ela, also played very well throughout the game," she said.

With expectations of continuing their success, the girls are already preparing for their next games. Looking towards the future, Shapiro said, "We need to work on

our movement more in upcoming practices and games because there were times when we were pretty stagnant and not doing much to progress the ball forwards."

Mukherjee added to Shapiro's comment, saying, "The team can work on passing the ball quicker and we can work on spreading out in the pool."

The team's next game is a double header this Saturday at Loomis Chaffee against Loomis and Williston. The team is hoping to ride the confidence garnered from last week's win and carry its skill into upcoming matches. Big Red will head into this weekend with the same attitude it had against Deerfield, according to Gove. "We are going to try our best [...] and keep up this energy and team unity we have going," she said.

Baseball Scrimmages Against Gov's

By LEAH COHEN and
SAVI KEIDEL
Staff Writers

Last Saturday, boys' varsity baseball took to Hatch Field to face off in a home scrimmage against the Governor's Academy. As the game was not within the CNESPL league, the score was not recorded. However, the boys still came out on top, and added a win to their season.

The team had a successful first game of

the season against Tabor Academy with a 15-5 win. The second game of the season last Tuesday was just as rewarding. "Relative to last year, [the team is having a] much better season already," lower Luke Tyner explained. "[It's a] good group of guys this year."

Because Big Red played on Hatch Field, the lines were not measured properly for the game, because this turf field is also used for field hockey and lacrosse. This obstacle proved difficult when the Exeter team was not at bat. "Hitting pop flies would end up being home

runs," Tyner explained. These types of plays would not have occurred on a properly sized field.

It was especially difficult for the pitchers, as the mound was a rectangle with a huge drop instead of the typical round shape. Due to the mound challenges, the rules of the game were changed slightly to protect players from injury. Players were not allowed to steal bases or pick people off to prevent broken ankles.

Despite the frustrations that came with the varied rules, co-captain and senior Sam

Stone said, "[The] game wasn't about winning or losing." Rather, it was about "getting reps and getting better timing for play, footwork for fielders, picking up signs and knowing when to do things."

With nine out of twenty-seven members of the team being underclassmen, this scrimmage provided an opportunity for the team to develop its younger talent for upcoming games and future seasons.

During the game, prep Owen Fox played as the starting pitcher and was able to pitch quick innings. In addition to Fox, the team also gained upper Andrew Dawe and lower Will Coogan as pitchers from the boys' junior varsity team. Other preps that made an impact on Saturday's win were Owen McKiernan, who hit well, and Christian Petry, a new second baseman.

Going into their next game against Berwick Academy, the team is focusing on getting used to playing together as a team and on a real diamond. Due to the inconvenient weather, the team was forced to practice on the turf fields until this week. This restriction made it difficult for the team to get a real sense of the game.

Stone's goals for the team this season are to make it to the playoffs, win the championship and beat Andover at the end of the season. On an individual level, many of the upperclassmen on the team are hoping to be scouted by colleges so that they can play either Division I or Division III baseball in the future.

"[We're] not too worried about the season," Tyner noted. "We're playing some good teams this year [but] as a unit, we know we're a solid team. Just trying to play ball and have fun."



Senior and co-captain Sam Stone rushes to home plate.

Rachel Luo/The Exonian

Inside This Week's Sports Section

Girls' Water Polo



The girls' water polo team started their season with a dominant win over Deerfield. Read more on 12.

Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

Athlete of the Week



Senior Sarah Shepley heads the cycling team this season. Read more about her leadership on 11.

Helena Chen/The Exonian

Baseball



The varsity baseball team won a scrimmage against Governor's Academy. Read more about its success on 12.

Rachel Luo/The Exonian

Girls' Tennis



The girls' varsity tennis team completed two sweeps in scrimmages against Governor's and Middlesex. More on 11.

Gavin Hickey/The Exonian