



Committee to Scout Interim PEA Principal

By YUNSEO CHOI
and MAI HOANG
Staff Writers

Despite the original announcement from President of the Trustees Tony Downer '75 that the Board of Trustees would make an executive decision to appoint Phillips Exeter's interim principal, an advisory committee has been formed to collect community ideas and provide recommendations for the position. The Interim Principal Advisory Committee consists of trustees, faculty and staff who have convened twice to consider feedback from Student Council and faculty members.

The final candidate was projected to be chosen by spring break, but after receiving strong reactions from faculty members during the forum Downer held after the announcement of Principal Lisa MacFarlane's resignation, he decided it was best to formally incorporate the community's opinion into the search process. A survey sent out to staff members enabled them to share "thoughts on the critical questions associated with the interim selection process."

According to Associate Director of College Counseling Michelle Thompson, INTERIM, 2



Lower Ayush Noori, upper Elizabeth Yang, upper Michaela Phan and lower Audrey Vanderslice elected to new Student Council board. Helena Chen /The Exonian

Exonians Report to Anonymous Sexual Misconduct Survey

By MAI HOANG
and RACHEL WON
Staff Writers

"Our Reports. Transparently Told." This is the headline of the PEA Reports home page, created by alumna Susannah Morrison Curtis '90, a survivor of sexual assault during her time at Exeter. The website serves as an opportunity for other survivors to share their experiences through an anonymous survey.

The detailed, anonymous survey is comprised of results from sexual misconduct survivors who graduated from the Academy. Charts display responses from more than 60 survivors. Half of the responses are from graduates between 2010 and 2017, and a vast majority come from female survivors.

The charts reveal that the three most prevalent forms of abuse suffered were emotional abuse, sexual assault and sexual harassment. In most of these cases, the alleged abuser was another student at the Academy. However, about 30 percent of survivors surveyed had suffered abuse from a faculty member.

While 54 percent of survivors said they did not report their cases to Academy officials, out of those that did, over half of survey respondents said that they were not taken seriously. None of the respondents took legal action.

The final questions asks, "How are you doing today?" The most chosen response, selected by a third of the respondents, says, "I get triggered often in my real life and by the news coming out of PEA."

Recent results from The Exonian's annual State of the Academy survey show that sexual misconduct still remains a problem on campus. Out of 507 total respondents, 27 percent of students answered that they have experienced a form of sexual harassment on campus, while 10 percent said they have been sexually assaulted. A third of Exonians believe they know someone on campus who is in an unhealthy or abusive romantic or sexual relationship. The mistrust towards Academy officials demonstrated in the results of PEA Report's survey was again reflected in the results of the State of the Academy survey; only a little over half of Exonians said they had an adult on campus whom they would feel comfortable speaking to about a sexual assault.

Historically, other studies have also attempted to evaluate Academy life. "The Exeter Study," linked on the PEA REPORTS, 2

Student Council Turns Over Executive Board

By SENAI ROBINSON
and EMMANUEL TRAN
Staff Writers

Exonians flocked to poll booths in Agora to elect a new Student Council Executive Board on Feb. 27, with a voter turnout of about 350 students. Upper Elizabeth Yang won the presidential vote, beating out upper Mark Blekherman in the runoff election. Lower Thomas Wang lost against upper Michaela Phan for vice president, while

lowers Audrey Vanderslice and Ayush Noori beat lowers David Kim and Billy Menken for the two co-secretary positions.

For the first time in years, students voted during the winter, rather than at the end of the year. The change was intended to allow more time for the new board to settle into their role. For Yang, the innovation was positive, as it "helps incoming boards gain footing during spring term, which can be beneficial."

Many of the Executive Board members already know STUDENT COUNCIL, 2

Boys' and Girls' Team Schedules Examined

By SHIVANI TRIPATHI
Staff Writers

Exeter's sports teams have earned highly competitive reputations with dedicated athletes and prestigious programs, but some question whether the Academy supports its players equally. An investigation into athletic scheduling on campus found consistent discrepancies between boys' and girls' sports teams.

This winter E/a, the girls' varsity hockey team had the first game of the day, at Andover at 2 p.m., and the girls' varsity basketball game started at 6 p.m. However, spectator buses arrived after the girls' hockey game had started and left before the girls' basketball game ended.

"We had about eight minutes left in our second half when the spectator buses left," girls' varsity basketball player Erin McCann said. "It was a bit disappointing, but I understand that the buses had to get back in time for check in. Sexism could have had something to do with it, but I'm not really sure."

Girls' varsity basketball player Eva Carchidi was also frustrated with the turn of events, believing that the Athletics Department should have foreseen the game's running time and planned accordingly. "It's pretty typical for high school basketball games to take an hour and a half, especially when it's E/a," she said. "If they had cared more, they probably should have scheduled the game earlier or had the buses leave later."

The scheduling methods for this fall E/a also came into question; some students claimed that girls' sports were condensed into the middle of the day, while boys' sports were evenly spread out so that spectators could watch all of them.

Director of Athletics Shane LaPointe attributed the gendered differences in scheduling to Andover's contrasting scheduling methods. "E/a is its own crazy thing, and what we have learned is that we at Exeter have a very different philosophy [to] our rival," she said. "They tend to have everything all at the same time, but we try to spread it out throughout the day."

SPORTS, 2

DEI Director Hopefuls Vie for New Role

By ISABELLA AHMAD
and SAM WEIL
Staff Writers

The Academy has narrowed its search for Exeter's first Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) to two candidates: Stephanie Bramlett of the St. Luke's School in New York and Rasheda Carroll of the Wildwood School in Los Angeles. Principal Lisa MacFarlane employed a group of administrators to create a job description in the fall of 2016. Both candidates currently serve as the Director of DEI or equivalent at their respective institutions.

According to co-chair of the DEI Search Committee Dean Sami Atif, the Director of DEI will work closely with the Principal, Assistant Principal, Dean of Faculty, Dean of Students, CFO and Director of Admissions and Involvement on the principal leadership team at Exeter. In addition, the director will work closely with the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and on independent projects across campus. The administration believes that the arrival of this administrator is an important step in making the campus a more inclusive environment for all.

The initial search, however, was unsuccessful. "After last year, we didn't feel as though we had a strong candidate pool," explained search committee co-chair and Academic Technology Coordinator Lavina Richter. "So we took the opportunity to regroup and look back at the job description and talk to



Candidates for Director of DEI meet with Exeter community. Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

the administration again," Richter said.

Richter, MacFarlane, Vice Principal Karen Lassey, Dean of Faculty Ellen Wolff and Human Resources Director Rachel Henry considered the mismatches between last year's candidates and the committee's goal. "A new committee was formed, one composed of people in the Exeter community more familiar with searching for directors similar to what Exeter wanted." In addition to Atif and Richter, the committee includes Henry, Instructor of Modern Languages Amadou Talla, Coach Bruce Shang, Dean of Residential Life Arthur Cosgrove, Associate Director of College Counseling Cary Einhaus, Coach Toyin Augustus and Trustee Jackie Hayes.

Within a few weeks, the committee found Bramlett and Carroll. The candidates visited Exeter on Monday, March 19 and Wednesday, March 21, respectively, and toured the campus, interviewed and met with students and faculty.

The student meetings took place during Department Meeting on Monday for Bramlett and lunchtime on Wednesday for Carroll. Exonians asked the potential Directors of DEI questions

and voiced their needs for the candidate who fills the position.

Lower Lilly Pinciario, who attended both meeting sessions, was particularly interested in Bramlett's plans to communicate with the students. "She was very interested in including the opinions of students in all of the decisions, if possible," she said. "She understands that there will be decisions that cannot involve students, and because of that she said that when she makes decisions she will be very transparent and explain to students why those decisions were made."

Senior Chi Chi Ikpeazu, who also attended both sessions, agreed that Bramlett "really spoke to her ability to make herself available for students." On Carroll, Ikpeazu explained that her qualification for the job came from the fact that she could empathize through her own experiences. Ikpeazu also added that Carroll spoke about steps she had already taken at her current employment position to further the missions of diversity, equity and inclusion. "That was really helpful because we as students were able to see which projects and plans she would implement at Exeter," Ikpeazu said.

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Curtis ’81 Creates Website for Sexual Assault Survivors

Continued from [PEA REPORTS, 1](#)

PEA Reports page, is an extensive report of student life at Exeter based on surveys conducted by a former counselor in the 1990–91 school year. This report shows that out of 623 students surveyed, eight percent said that they had sex against their will, with 10.5 percent of students saying that they had been sexually abused, a number almost parallel to results of the current survey, despite a 27-year and 116 student difference. Although both of these surveys only consider a portion of the student body, these statistics are startlingly similar.

In addition to the results of the sexual misconduct survey, the website features several other sections that may be useful for those—alumni or not—seeking to learn more about sexual misconduct allegations at the Academy. A whole page is dedicated to listing resources that Exeter alumni affected by sexual misconduct can turn to for alumni support or financial help. For those who seek to replicate Curtis’s project, another page details the process undergone to set up the website, along with the fees associated with keeping the website up and running. A last page titled “Exie Leaks” leads readers to a list of links and files that could possibly benefit public understanding of sexual misconduct at PEA, such as “The Exeter Study.”

Curtis explained her main goals in creating the website, the first one being, “for the

individual who has been harmed to be able to give their responses” and to realize that victims are not alone. The second objective was to shine a light on different forms of assault. “We focused on faculty situations, but two-thirds of these responses are from student on student assaults, so maybe we should look at that closely,” she said.

Thirdly, Curtis was soon contacted by other schools and communities that were “struggling with this power imbalance where victims report their information and they have no control over how it is shared back to the community itself.”

The Exonian contacted Curtis, but she is currently “unable to give a personal quote without written permission from the administration,” a claim which Principal MacFarlane said is “absolutely not true.”

In her interview with New Hampshire Public Radio (NHPR), Curtis explained PEA Report’s creation. Having been sexually assaulted in the fall of 1989, Curtis empathized with other victims’ pain and recognized the importance of “coming forward to the community” publicly as part of the healing process. This motivated her, along with a group of other PEA alumni, to create a Google form survey in 2016. Not long afterwards, Curtis deleted the survey after realizing its results were not legally protected from a subpoena.

Still determined to create a platform for alumni in the community to report the harm they suffered anonymously and safely,

Curtis set out to create the website, which functioned so that information would be “hidden in plain sight.” The survey consists of drop-down boxes to better protect the identity of the reporters while not collecting IP addresses. Alumni are encouraged to report using public devices for further protection.

Alumni from different years have reacted positively to the website. David Knopf ’79, administrator of Processing PEA—an advocacy group for the proper handling of sexual assault cases—commented, “I am glad that Susan did that work [...] terrific addition to resources for survivors. It is an opportunity to report and communicate, which are important steps in healing.”

Michael Henning ’87 shared the link to PEA Reports to his class Facebook page. “I hope that anyone affected by abuse takes advantage of it,” he said. “That process is painful and dangerous for everyone involved, so being able to do so with some hope of impartiality is progress.” It seems to Henning that the Academy staff and trustees are now ready to take the issue on in a “more serious and comprehensive way.”

On the administrative side, Director of Student Well-Being Christina Palmer said, “I appreciate the efforts of the survivors operating [peareports.com](#) to provide a site where [victims and survivors] may feel protected and safe to report.” She agreed that keeping a focus on safety and supportive services for students who report, as well as

implementing preventative programs, trainings and support “is key to the Academy moving forward in a proactive way.”

According to Principal MacFarlane, although the school did not participate in the development of the survey or the website, she and Curtis had been in touch about these resources. “The survey and website provide another way for people to discover that they are not alone,” she said. “I especially appreciate that it provides another way for people to learn about the resources that can support alumni who have been harmed.”

Similarly, PEA General Counsel Holly Barcroft shared her tremendous respect for “the survivors who selflessly worked to create and maintain the [peareports.com](#) site.” She took this opportunity to remind victims and survivors that they are also encouraged to make reports to the Academy when they feel ready—an option also advertised by the PEA Reports website. By reporting to the Academy, Exeter can offer support through facilities such as its counseling reimbursement program, in addition to allowing the Academy to make reports to the authorities.

“This website seems to be a safe haven for survivors to reckon with their past and move forward,” senior Ivy Tran said. “I hope that Exeter, too, can move forward from historical sexual misconduct, and that Exonians keep these survivors’ stories as context for their actions today, so these stories are not echoed in the future.”

Gay ’88 Heads Interim Principal Search Committee for 2019

Continued from [INTERIM, 1](#)

son-Taylor, a member of the committee, the nominations will be presented to the Trustees in a few weeks. “We will not compress the timeline to a point of compromising either the process or the outcome. As a result, we have not fixed for ourselves a deadline,” Downer said.

Some of the questions faculty considered were what the goals or objectives should be for the interim principal, what key attributes he or she should encompass, whether Exeter should consider the position in terms of a one or two year term of service, and if PEA should focus on identifying someone familiar with, and familiar to, the community.

Downer aimed to invite a range of Exeter adults to sit on the committee. “The goal was to have it be representative of the community as a whole,” he said, emphasizing that the committee contains faculty, staff, administrators and trustees. “Several of the faculty were selected from the faculty’s Agenda Committee; the staff were chosen from the Staff Advisory Committee.” The administrators, meanwhile, were selected for their experience and perspective, and the Trustees were chosen based on seniority and their experience in education.

According to History Instructor Meg Foley, a member of the Advisory Committee, the information is streamlined by having faculty and staff members gathering feedback and communicating their suggestions to the Committee Head and first-year trustee, Claudine Gay, and other trustees.

Student Council Co-president Jackson Parell said that the Council reached out to the Trustees asking for an opportunity to input students’ ideas, and was given the same list of questions sent to PEA staff members. During Student Council’s discussion, many voiced different opinions.

Exonians supported qualities including being able to deal with sensitive issues such as race, gender and sexual misconduct at a high school level and being able to contribute new ideas to the school.

Another important issue was mental health. “I’m worried that when Principal MacFarlane leaves, the next principal may forget about that,” upper Jordan Davidson said.

When asked for specific desired backgrounds, the replies ranged from anywhere between a business background to a current dean. Senior Cody Nunn, who advocated for a current faculty to take the job, said, “I think it’s important for someone to know the cam-

pus. For a teacher, we don’t have to worry about getting acclimated to life here.”

All of these responses were consolidated into a statement sent by Student Council to the Advisory Committee. According to Thompson-Taylor, some of the students’ issues corresponded with the faculty’s concerns. “Among faculty members as well as students, things like clear communication and increased transparency are very important.” Another objective was to have as smooth a transition as possible.

Downer recently announced that the committee was opening up the selection pool to an external search; however, according to Thompson-Taylor, the external candidates considered are mostly individuals “specifically nominated by members of the faculty.”

Although external candidates can arrive with a fresh perspective and a set of new ideas, they “will not be familiar with the community...will need to take time to get to know the people and the culture of the community before making significant decisions,” Downer said.

This external retainment option is favored by the alumni community, whose trust in current leadership waned due to recent sexual misconduct cases and the lack of transparency in how they were

handled. Though alumni have not been sent any formal survey or questionnaire, many have posted on the “Exonians” Facebook group expressing their perspectives; alumna Montana Arts ’81 supported the Advisory Committee, saying, “If the new individual was chosen by the Head of Trustees alone, then the level of trust to this interim principal would have direct correlation to how the people view the Head of Trustees.”

Despite the concerns, Gay assured the Academy that, in the spirit of increasing inclusivity, the work being done by the Advisory Committee would be taken seriously by the Board of Trustees when the time comes to make final decisions.

After two meetings to identify potential candidates, the committee’s job is to now contact the nominees and assess their interests. Candidates who wish to be considered further would need to send in a personal statement, and the Advisory Board plans to make these public to the community for feedback. “I am grateful for the energy and insight committee members have brought to our work,” Gay said in her email. “I next will communicate with you to share the shortlist of nominees and invite public comment. I look forward to benefiting from your input.”

Yang ’19 Inaugurated as StuCo Executive Board President

Continued from [STUDENT COUNCIL, A1](#)

each other from past Student Council operations. “I am delighted to be working alongside Michaela because we have been co-secretaries together for the past year. With our experience working together and being on the current board, we can hit the ground running this spring term,” Yang said. “Even before the election, Michaela, Audrey and Ayush were my close friends. I know how hardworking and dedicated

each of them are.”

The newly chosen board will start initiating its proposals. As president, Yang hopes to implement Lion Card compatibility with local businesses, reform the schedule and change Academy Life Day (ALD).

“Reshaping ALD to involve dorm bonding as well as critical campus conversations and holding workshops in the fall for student leaders will foster inclusive, respectful discussions,” she said. Yang also

spoke about increasing student involvement with strategic planning. “Strategic planning continues to be quite a mystery for the student body because we are not invited to meetings nor informed about what work is being done.”

In her election materials, Phan wrote that she wanted to implement a “community listen tour” in the months to come. Noori also emphasized the need to listen to Exonians. “My top priority as co-secretary will be to increase the representation of the

student body in StuCo, to respond to student voices and to take action on student concerns, with feedback from the various clubs and groups on campus,” he said.

Yang is optimistic for the new board’s tenure. “Zooming out a bit, the next year of Student Council will not be able to solve all these ingrained problems on campus, but I hope that we will initiate action so that our institution can tangibly step closer to our ideals of inclusivity, equity and diversity,” Yang said.

Gender Inequality in Athletic Scheduling Investigated

Continued from [SPORTS, 1](#)

However, some students saw the situation cynically. “It was unfair how all of the girls’ sports were condensed into the middle, so you could see only one girl’s sport that day, but you could see all of the boys’ sports,” tri-varsity athlete Harriet* said. “It might have happened because of scheduling reasons, but it might have happened because men’s sports are more popular, which is unfortunate.”

LaPointe acknowledged the disparities, questioning the importance of tradition at E/a . “I’ve actually asked to go to Student Council about this. What is our tolerance for tradition? Does the day have to end with football?” she said. “We have so many talented kids who are dedicating hours of their life [to sports]. Is the way the day is set up honoring one group over the others?”

At the same time, she thought that it was important to consider the improvements Exeter has made in scheduling equity in the past few decades. “If you look at the way the program is formatted, it’s very different from the way it looked 10 or 20 years ago,” LaPointe said. “We’re trying to get better.”

However, E/a schedules from earlier years show that the scheduling has not significantly changed. In 1997, girls’ sports had 30-minute blocks between each game, while boys’ soccer occurred at 12:00 p.m., with football three and a half hours later. A similarly blocked schedule was planned during 2001.

Lower Keaghan Tierney believes game scheduling impacts the audience that boys’ and girls’ sports games attract. “For hockey, we don’t get as many viewers,” she said. “Boys get fans and we get our parents and super close friends.” Tierney attributed the different turnouts to the fact that girls’ games are scheduled during the afternoon, while boys’ games take place during the evening, when more people are free.

In addition to game scheduling, boys’ and girls’ sports differ in allotted practice times. At Exeter, varsity sports usually take place at the end of the day, during the GH blocks. However, the varsity girls’ basketball and tennis teams practice during EF, while the boys’ varsity basketball and tennis practice during GH.

Varsity basketball player Sally* noted the inconvenience of EF sports. “I really don’t have time to shower and to get to

class during unifree. I show up late and gross to class a lot,” she said. “It makes eating kind of difficult too because you don’t want to eat before practice, which isn’t healthy.” Annabel* described the effect rushing back and forth from sports to classes had on her ability to focus in the classroom. “I’m not in the correct mentality after sports,” she said. “If I had classes first and sports last, then I feel like I would be able to concentrate more in my classes.”

Having practice during E and F formats can also be detrimental to athletes’ physical well-being. “If people get injured in practice, and if they have GH class, then they can’t get treatment after practice,” Carchidi said.

According to LaPointe, the girls’ varsity basketball team practices during EF in order to accommodate coaches and negotiate the need to share a venue. “There was a request on the part of a faculty member to have girls’ varsity basketball during EF in order to support him,” she said. “By the time the faculty member understood the impact on the student level, it was too late. We could not move it.”

However, Sally believed that the athletics department would have been more flexible if the boys’ team was in in

the same position. “The boys’ sports are definitely taken more seriously, and they like having extra time to practice after H block, too.” One instance of scheduling policies being adjusted for athletic teams occurred this past fall, when some boys’ sports teams were given a GH opt despite their requests contradicting school policy.

In Associate Dean of Multicultural Student Affairs and Girls’ Varsity Basketball Coach Hadley Camilus’ opinion, attributing EF practice to sexism is unfair. “I think this comes down to managing 71 sports, planning for the opening of a new building, and trying to accommodate the broad needs of our students comprehensively,” he said. “Unless there’s a pattern of this sort over time, I think it’s unfair to make that claim.”

Harriet felt differently, saying that the scheduling inequities are indicative of gender-related inequity on campus. “I think this says that people aren’t valuing girls’ sports as much as they should be,” she said. “Every sport should be treated equal, regardless of the sex, or the level, or the success of the team.”

Asterisks denotes name change.

Xi Jinping and Winnie the Pooh

Mai Hoang '20
Columnist

China is often known for its incredible growth in economy, its large manufacturing sectors and its pollution. But alongside overseeing a steadily climbing economy and attempting to deal with pollution, Xi Jinping has a few comparatively more personal issues to tackle. Xi Jinping seeks to eliminate the term limit and recently banned all online images of Winnie the Pooh with the nation-wide firewall.

Beijing does not take jokes—at all. In a country where censorship of dissident political ideas runs rampant, citizens have relied on their creativity to euphemize potentially triggering opinions with symbols of different kinds. Paranoid as they are about potential pro-democracy movements, the government goes to strange lengths to make sure that it is “well-respected” by the general population.

Any innocuous object could mean something else to those “in the know;” hence, when some smart Internet user spotted the eerie similarities between the facial expressions of the party’s leader and this yellow cuddly bear, government officials quickly caught on that Winnie the Pooh cartoons had become the new trend for those wishing to lampoon party policies. Certainly the tagline “Find the thing you love and never let go,” posted next to an image of the bear embracing a honey pot, did not go well. The government interpreted, probably correctly, that it was meant to ridicule Xi Jinping’s preparations to repeal the term limit for himself.

In a political system where power stems from the legitimacy of one individual, maintaining a public image is of paramount importance. Disillusioned democracy-lovers aside, a significant portion of China’s population holds tremendous respect,

almost reverence, for Xi Jinping, and the party certainly wants to keep it that way. This man has been called “the most powerful leader since Mao Zedong.”

Every successful authoritarian excels at convincing individuals to think for the group rather than for themselves, which is not a particularly difficult task in a country like China, where collectivism as a value has been lauded since the days of Confucius. Riding on a burgeoning sense of national and ethnic pride, President Xi ingeniously weaves his policies around proving China, not America nor any other country in the West, holds the key to development in the 21st century. The party leader coined the term “Chinese Dream,” an obvious counterpoint to the “American Dream,” which has lost much of its popularity in recent years. His political doctrine, popularly referred to as Communism with Chinese characteristics, has been incorporated into the Politburo’s Constitution.

It did not come as a surprise, therefore, when The National People’s Congress, China’s legislative body, declared after a 16-day meeting that Xi Jinping could effectively be president for life, with 2959 votes for, three abstains and two against. As is

Paranoid as [the Chinese government is] about potential pro-democracy movements, the government goes to strange lengths to make sure that it is “well-respected” by the general population.

common in the Congress of Politburo-ruled states, the voting was merely stageplay, as Xi had successfully gotten rid of his rivals and monopolized power long in advance. Congress did as it was told. In one-party systems, intra-party rivalry oftentimes makes up somewhat for the lack of debate



typical of multi-party governing bodies; however, this recent development could signify a new era in China in which power becomes more centralized than ever before, and one man gets to steer the Communist state in whichever way he pleases.

The irony here is that Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin and probably even Mao Zedong would not be able to recognize their Communism in China today. Though still highly centralized, the country’s vibrant economy does not lack private markets and successful businessmen conducting trade with foreign investors. What sets Xi Jinping apart from practically any other dictator is his rationality and moderateness; though he has been compared to Mao, unlike his predecessor, Xi Jinping wants to position Communist China as a completely “normal” country, which any partner can reliably work with. He is assertive when need be in pushing for plans that, while centered around his country, are also beneficial for allies, in name at least. These include the Belt and

Road Initiative and the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the multilateral financial institution that has supported the construction of infrastructure across the Asia-Pacific, especially in developing countries.

What China possesses that the Soviet Union did not is economic prowess. Though many have dismissed its growth as a “hoax,” or a “paper tiger,” what we are seeing in truth is an economy that takes up 35.2 percent of global GDP growth. Champions of liberal democracies scout for evidence to prove that China’s model of centrally-planned economy will fail, but it looks like the opposite is happening; in fact, in other countries, most notably Singapore, market economies combined with a strong ruling party led by forward-thinking leaders have resulted in tremendous wealth. The century ahead is a time of reckoning. When the dominion of democratic values fades on the global stage, what are the implications for individual freedom? Only time will tell.

Lobbying for Climate Change: Are We Doing Enough?

Sarah Shepley '18
Guest Contributor

Now, you might be wondering why you’re here in a statehouse lobbying for clean energy on Valentine’s Day of all days,” chuckles Alan Palm, Director of Organizing for 350 Massachusetts. “But as kitschy as it may sound, Valentine’s Day is about showing those around us how much we love them, and at the end of the day, we are all trying to protect our planet, to protect what we all love.”

This February, I attended the “I Love Clean Energy: Mass Power Forward Valentine’s Lobby Day” at the Statehouse in Boston. Around one hundred apprehensive Massachusetts residents wore red clothing and packed a State House hearing room to lobby the Massachusetts legislature, urging them to support the S.1847/H.3400 bill for clean energy.

Their goal is for the state of Massachusetts to pledge to 50% renewable energy by 2030.

As I entered the room, I couldn’t help but notice the sea of gray-haired heads. Of the people who came to lobby, the overwhelming majority of them were white, liberal, middle class men and women between the ages of fifty and seventy. After seeing this sight, I wondered to myself, where are all the young people? Perhaps this lack of diversity could be attributed to the fact that it was a Wednesday morning. But on the other hand, this group of individuals supposedly served as a representation of over two hundred different organizations fighting against climate change in the state of Massachusetts.

So what does that say about the type of people who take action against climate change in the New England area? I struck up a conversation with an older man sitting next to me. I learned that he hailed from

Winchester, Massachusetts and represented his local chapter of 350.org. But this man wasn’t always an avid climate action advocate. In fact, he informed me that he only joined the movement after the 2016 election. Since becoming a member, he told me that he has seen huge improvements in just one year: the Senate could be passing a carbon pricing bill soon. Despite his clear passion for climate action, my new

acquaintance admitted that he doesn’t really see the future of climate change as his responsibility, but that he still joins the fight because he wants future generations to be able to live sustainably and comfortably.

This anecdote of my acquaintance from Winchester poses a critical question to the future of lobbying for climate action: is climate action a path only to be pursued as a “second half of life” endeavor? Is it only something for which individuals are likely



For example, a simple increase in Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), the minimum requirement for clean energy, from 1% annually to 3% would increase jobs by 40,000. Switching to renewable energy creates a circular economy: an increase in clean energy sources increases jobs, which in turn raises the standard of living so that people can afford to utilize those clean energy sources. Those interested in an economic career can channel

their expertise in helping to create this circular economy.

Another contention on the bill addressed social justice. The available sources of renewable energy are typically funnelled into higher income communities, leaving lower-income families to suffer with the health and environmental consequences of fossil fuel use. Individuals passionate about careers in equity and social justice can eradicate this disparity in energy partitioning and ensure that it is accessible to all communities.

If we want to see significant improvements in our energy outputs and in our renewable energy sources, we need to go to our state legislatures and push for the enacting of that change. One Massachusetts representative spoke to our group, saying, “Establishing a relationship with your rep is essential. You need to make the issue personal and tell them why they need to take action now.”

We need people in the 18-25 age cohort to step up to the plate and start speaking to legislators. The legislators need to see fresh faces. They need to hear new perspectives. They need to see the future of America, the future that their policies will affect. There is no escaping the reality that any change, whether positive or negative in our climate, will affect Americans personally.

If we want to speed up the process towards creating a more sustainable community, we need to mobilize the younger generations so that they can direct their tax-paying and voting powers in favor of climate action. Making a long-term connection to these issues is vital in seeing significant change in the future.

Climate action shouldn’t be a hobby that you pick up late in life; it shouldn’t be an extra-curricular you pursue from the cocoon of financial security. Instead, it should be a lifelong pursuit to preserve the Earth for ourselves and future generations alike to live sustainably and sufficiently.

The Exonian

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Russia Should Be Held Accountable

Andrea So '20
Columnist

This week, the British government expelled 23 Russian diplomats from British soil, declaring each of them to be persona non grata. This was Britain's form of retaliation for the poisoning of Sergei Skripal in Salisbury, England on March 4. Skripal was a Russian military intelligence officer formerly convicted of treason for acting as a British double agent, and he was recently found poisoned with Novichok, a nerve agent developed as a chemical weapon by the Soviet government.

In return, the Russian government expelled British diplomats and shut down the British Council in Russia,

If Western politicians imposed easier punishments on the Russian government for the sake of international relations, it would be at the expense of the values that we deem paramount to our way of life.

which was originally introduced to advance "a greater understanding of the UK and the English language." Although Russia has vehemently denied the allegations against it, Skripal's condition comes as the latest in a long string of previous incidents where politically prominent people have died, been injured or disappeared in suspicious circumstances.

In this case, Britain's actions so far have been completely appropriate and necessary, if not slightly inadequate.



The Russian government's brazen meddling in the affairs of other countries has grown exponentially and dangerously in the last few years, and the government must learn that their actions will be met with stern consequences. In 2016, then-President Barack Obama ordered the expulsion of 35 Russian diplomats for cyber attacks against American systems, explaining his reasoning behind this by saying, "These data theft and disclosure activities could only have been directed by the highest levels of the Russian government." This, combined with Russian interference in the latest US presidential election, proves that we are not dealing with low-level hackers wanting to stir up drama in the global political landscape. The highest ranking officials in the government—the ones with access

to the most technologically advanced cyber-weapons—are orchestrating these attacks, and we need to be prepared to fight back.

Yes, this is an inevitable deterioration in the relations between these countries, but if Western politicians imposed easier punishments on the Russian government for the sake of international relations, it would be at the expense of the values that we deem paramount to our way of life. The politicians' insufficient actions and the lack of widespread public outrage is contributing to the erosion of global democratic values and is only paving the way for a new global order that will ultimately be headed by an authoritarian country. This is the greatest threat to democracy and the rights that our system grants every citizen, such as

freedom of speech, freedom to protest, the freedom to vote and many others that should be held as basic, standard rights granted to every human being instead of special privileges. Russia's growing influence is slowly changing that.

The Russian government has proved time and time again that its goal is to spread Russian influence across the globe, regardless of the many spoken and unspoken international rules of diplomacy it breaks in the process. We are not tackling this issue with the same fervor that they are presenting it with—we need to take more serious, concrete action. Soon, America and Britain may literally run out of diplomats to expel, but what grave damage will already have been inflicted on our democracy by then?

Mental Health and Gun Control

Jordan Davidson '19
Senior Columnist

There are so many reasons that I love my generation. We are much more than the phone-addicted, spoiled brats that we are portrayed as in the media. We are by far the most outspoken and accepting group of young people that the United States has seen to date. It seems like every

But my generation is facing an issue that I don't know if we are equipped to deal with: the role that mental health plays in school shootings.

time I turn on the news, I see a teenager fighting for what they believe in. But my generation is facing an issue that I don't know if we are equipped to deal with: the role that mental health plays in school shootings. I am a staunch advocate for the increase of awareness surrounding mental health issues, and I believe that mental health care needs

to play a larger role when discussing, and addressing, problems certain students have at school. However, I firmly believe that mental health should be left out of the conversation surrounding school shootings, because labeling someone as crazy in the head doesn't do anything to solve the problem and it creates dangerous stereotypes about people suffering from mental illness.

You often hear the phrase, "guns don't kill people, people kill people," from those who are in support of organizations like the NRA. And while this statement seems like a simple defense of firearms, there are more layers to it that may not seem obvious at first glance. No person who says that "people kill people" is actually wrong. What they are saying is a factually correct statement. People do kill people. But putting an emphasis on this obvious truth is a mistake that has terrible repercussions.

By creating an environment that only focuses on the individuals who do these mass shootings, we are allowing ourselves to continually psychoanalyze the people who commit these heinous crimes. Sometimes all we want to do is to try to understand by asking ourselves

why anyone would ever want to do such a thing like murder innocent school children. However, we must try and avoid following this train of thought. I know it sounds crazy to ask yourself to not ask yourself these questions, but trust me, there is a reason.

It is obvious that anyone who shoots up a school is mentally ill. If anyone can bring themselves to get a gun, run into a school and open fire on innocent children, there is clearly something wrong with them that goes further than having a bad day. Still, focusing on the mental health of the perpetrator only worsens the already bad ideas our society has about people with mental illness.

I am scared that too many people will move from saying "people who shoot up schools are mentally ill" to "mentally ill people shoot up schools" because while the first statement may be true in most cases, the converse is a ludicrous, sweeping generalization of a statement that shouldn't be taken seriously. But in a world where we hate others based on skin color, religion, and gender, I simply can't trust that we will resist forming ridiculous conclusions about people suffering from mental ill-

ness. So, while I am all for discussing mental health, I believe that making it the main topic of conversations about school shootings is a recipe for hatred.

Mental health is not the main issue. We do need to address mental health on all fronts, especially in the United States. But using mental illness as an excuse for the deaths of innocent children is nothing short of disgusting. What

But in a world where we hate others based on skin color, religion, and gender, I simply can't trust that we will resist forming ridiculous conclusions about people suffering from mental illness.

kind of a person can't sacrifice the right to bear arms when it infringes upon the most important natural right—the right to life? Guns are the problem, not people. We won't be able to save everyone struggling with a mental illness, but we can ensure that they cannot legally access a firearm that could be used to kill.

Being a Conservative at PEA

Raymond Chen '20
Guest Contributor

Preface: This article is not meant to be viewed as an attack towards any student or faculty here at Exeter. I have had wonderful and productive conversations with people leaning towards the left. Instead, the purpose of this opinion editorial is to discuss how my conservative views affect my life at Exeter.

When I heard that 58% percent of the Exeter community is left-leaning, I was not taken aback. I had already felt that as a conservative here on campus, life was certainly different for me. But

The best course of action is to accept that the school is predominantly liberal. That being said, conservative students should still be able to express their contrasting viewpoints without fear of backlash.

before discussing the extreme leftist culture here on campus, it may be useful to note that I grew up in a predominantly Republican town in New Jersey. And so, naturally, my first few weeks of classes left me in shock.

According to Phillips Exeter Academy's website, Harkness is described as "[exploring] ideas as a group, developing the courage to speak, the compassion to

listen and the empathy to understand." However, from my experience, this is the realistic version of the statement: "It is where we pat each other on the back for expressing the same viewpoint, and dis-

[Harkness] is where we pat each other on the back for expressing the same viewpoint, and discourage those with opposing viewpoints to truly speak up.

courage those with opposing viewpoints to truly speak up." Through my own encounters, I've found that bringing a conservative perspective to Harkness discussions results usually in heavy backlash.

A conservative student walking into class at the start of the new term instinctively hopes that his peers will accept his viewpoint, and that the teacher does not hold strong liberal beliefs. If this is not the case, they know to keep their heads down. Unfortunately, I did not follow this norm last term.

Following the tragic massacre at Las Vegas last October, the teacher decided to change the class plan and discuss what transpired. For twenty minutes, it was a never-ending discussion about "banning guns." I decided to interject and say, "Firstly, it is infringing on the Second Amendment of the Constitution, and it defeats the main purpose of its creation. Following the Revolutionary War, the Thirteen Colonies feared another tyrant

taking control of the United States. So, they allowed people to own guns, so that they could fight tyranny. Even if a tyrant won't exist in our lifetime, history has repeatedly shown instances of a democratic government turning into a dictatorship."

The class fell silent. The conversation had already transitioned from discussing the senseless killing of sixty innocent lives, to gun rights. But after I'd expressed my opinion on this issue, they proclaimed that I "supported the killer because I disagreed with laws that would outlaw firearms." Afterward, I was labeled as the "a**hole that supported the shooting." This reaction was similar in other situations when we discussed politically-charged issues such as gender-issues and universal healthcare. I was often met with a similar fate. Nonetheless, it does not compete with some of the markedly one-sided ideologies espoused at Assembly Hall.

If the deans here on campus are

looking for potential reasons for the lack of attendance, they should look at the content of some of our assemblies. I am not supporting the act of students skipping assembly because they simply do not like or agree with the speaker. I am also not implying that all assemblies are egregious. However, with some assembly speakers holding obvious biases and closed-minded political affiliations, it becomes infuriating to hear the same wage gap statistics without diving deeper, or calling Trump a joke, even if I am not a personal supporter of his.

Some conservatives have tried discussing this issue with faculty here on campus and are hopeful for changes to follow these conversations. This will unfortunately not be the case. The best course of action is to accept that the school is predominantly liberal. That being said, conservative students should still be able to express their contrasting viewpoints without fear of backlash.

got tips?

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All correspondence will be kept confidential.



ExonianHumor



Food for Thought

By JANALIE COBB
Your Brain is Hungry

1. How can you learn if you need sleep to learn but have to give up sleep to know what you're learning?
2. If stealing from Grill is bad but Grill's overly high prices are worse, do two wrongs make a right? Asking for a friend.
3. Why did I leave my bed again?
4. Shouldn't you be able to combine two dickies from different days if they both came from sleeping through an 8 am class?
5. Shouldn't you be able to combine ALL of your dickies into one big but still consequenceless dicky?
6. How can I figure out what happens on that group chat for Chinese parents?
7. How many cups of coffee have I had?
8. Unrelatedly, why can't I stop shaking?
9. Since Elm has "L" in its name, doesn't that make it the inferior dining hall?
10. Doesn't sleep top breakfast as the most important meal of the day?
11. When you cross a lion and a gorilla, do you get Andover's principal?
12. I should've known I'd procrastinate my school work here when I procrastinated my application for here.
13. If I were a bird, would I be that bird that forgets it can fly when it's being attacked?
14. Is this all a dream?
15. Is it sad that I've only ever walked down Swasey with my prep year roommate my first week on campus?
16. Is never walking down Swasey better than walking alone?

Avoiding Stricts for a Visitation Violation

BY AVA HARRINGTON and EMMY GOYETTE
Tried & True

1. Owning gear from the dorm you were caught in automatically makes you a member of the dorm.
2. Your violation is actually a form of protest against a heteronormative policy, an act protected by your First Amendment rights.
3. According to the Theory of Relativity, time is a construct, and thus the hours in which your visitations occurred cannot be adequately measured.
4. Dean Cos has caused you emotional distress, and thus deserves to be on stricts instead.
5. Just take the stricts, because obviously you weren't resourceful enough to keep the window open and throw yourself out of it before the dorm fac caught you. (Survival of the Fittest)

TFW Your 333 Is in the Second Half of the Term

By THE HUMOR EDITORS
Never truly 33Free



Are you senior springing? Send us some quotes!

Submit to the Humor Page.

Email exonianhumor@gmail.com.

Released: The Secret Files of Jared Kushner's Diary

By MAEGAN PAUL
Never Before Seen

Dear Diary,

This government sucks. They lowered my clearance, and gosh darn, I just don't know what to do. I mean, I'm only 37 years old and thanks entirely to my hard work and not at all to nepotism I've become the senior advisor to THE president, who I guess is technically

my father-in-law. Before people got really upset about me being in the White House, they swooned over me. Why doesn't that happen anymore? I look the same as I did before this administration, but now my job is terrible. Sure, my brother Joshua has a more likeable significant other and an amazing picture on his Google page, but I

am still better! I support Trump and that's the only way to be a winner, of course. Anyhow, I've got to regain some points because I am really struggling right now. At least Ivanka still loves me.

Hugs and Kisses,
The Superior J. Kush

Unraveling the Secrets of a Day Student's Backpack

By NICK SCHWARZ
Just a Better-Prepared Boarder

The day student's backpack, in terms of essentiality to its wearer, falls somewhere in between the pack of a Navy SEAL and Batman's utility belt. The day student, as he has nowhere to keep his stuff during the day, must cram it all into his backpack, yet leave enough room in there so that he himself can fit in if his ride home is attacked by ferocious New England wolves. This "stuff" must be carefully selected, and like some sort of diluted Tim O'Brien character, the contents of every day student's backpack are sacred

and meaningful. Next time you see a day student struggling to pull out his English reading, see if you can spot the things every day student carries on their backs.

1. Three logs, a box of matches, and some gasoline for when it gets cold.
2. Every textbook since prep fall; "I forgot to take them out over break."
3. A yak and a Sherpa, to guide him if he needs to walk home.
4. At least 600 pencils and four phone chargers. His classmates know that if they forget theirs,

they can ask him, and he knows that if that happens, he might make a friend.

5. Many, many, changes of clothes. What if it gets hot? Shorts and a t-shirt. What if it gets cold? The largest ski jacket you've ever seen in your life. What if he wants to go to the dance? Blazer. He's like a Ken doll.
6. Paper and envelopes for writing home to your parents considering how much time you spend at Exeter.
7. A speaker that plays "Day Stud!" at Assembly.

Global Warming is Ruining Everything

By MAEGAN PAUL
Snow Enthusiast

The Earth is simply getting too hot. If Ryan Gosling or Chris Hemsworth were to leave, that might help a bit, but not enough. But why should we be concerned?

A few weekends ago, in the middle of February, we had rain instead of snow. Weather people said that this storm would be a blizzard if it were colder outside. Not only is snow pretty and fun to play with (not to eat), but if there's a serious blizzard, we get a snow day. Think of the fun

snowball fights you could get in and the pictures you can take! Also, snow is pretty and reflects the sun beautifully. Snow has been scientifically proven to improve your rinstas by at least ten likes and three comments.

Sure, snow can be a bit chilly, but that's okay when grill is giving out soup and you don't have to go to any classes. Rain is wet, heavy, clear and floods the pathways. Rain just makes you look like a miserable, wet rodent. And rain

is no excuse for missing class. Unrelatedly, having temperatures around 70 degrees and then having snow the next day is not okay, but that's an entirely different argument.

If you too are a lover of snow, hater of rain, fearer of the environment, help me in asking ~~mother~~^{nature} YOUR REPRESENTATIVES for ~~more snow and less rain~~ REAL ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE.

Why are Some People Finally Treating Me Like I'm Worth Something?

By AVA HARRINGTON
Don't Worry, "I'm A Good Communicator" is Very Original

Ahh, the glories of spring term. A time when all of the underclassmen decide it's time to get "serious," and seriously blow off their responsibilities to play spikeball, when all of the seniors seemingly disappear into the tunnels of Exeter or some giant senior-sucking hole, and the uppers become.... suspiciously friendly. Those kids who always post "suffering" with tears running down their faces on their finsta suddenly have time to chat with you in the kitchen. That girl in your dorm who must

have vision problems from all the glaring she does suddenly smiles at you. The upper who bangs on your wall every time you take a deep breath suddenly introduces herself to you. Like little roaches, they lurk around the common room, pasty and unsocialized but still searching for their prey. No, these upper are not looking to leech snacks from you. And as much as you'd like to believe, they haven't finally recognized your passion for anime as "cool" or "respectable." These uppers want your vote for proctor.

Proctorship is a sacred role, characterized by a false sense of college security and power in doing nothing ~~except planning Academy Life Day~~. Do not trust any of these so called "friendly" uppers. No upper is friendly, only college crazed or too exhausted to process anger. And all too soon you'll see them recede back into the darkness of their rooms, unheard from until they return in the fall, dragging the preps around on their campus tour and promising that Agora is the coolest place to hang.

Quote of the Week

"I hate when I ask someone to smash and they don't bring an extra Wii Remote"
- Ava Harrington '19

STRKS (Snap Us)
@aharry01
@abbyz_hang
@lizzy127345



ExeterLife



Students pose for a photo in South Africa.

Courtesy of Patricia Burke Hickey/The Exonian

AROUND THE WORLD IN 14 DAYS

Exonians Participate in Global Spring Break Programs

By **CANDY TANTI**
Staff Writers

From palling with penguins in South Africa to sampling gelato in Rome, selected Exonians spent their spring breaks traversing the world by taking part in the Academy's spring break travel programs.

Coordinated by Director of Global Initiatives Eimer Page, Exeter offers these unique travel opportunities to Exonians wishing to further their studies in a specific subject or explore a new landscape. These programs occur during fall, spring and summer breaks. Over spring break, students attended programs in Utah, South Africa, Rome and Gettysburg. Originally, the school offered a program in Cuba, but it was cancelled due to a safety concern raised by the State Department. The remaining trips chose ten to fifteen participants based on a selective application process.

On March 2, a large rainstorm hit New England, causing hundreds of flights departing from Boston Logan Airport to be delayed or cancelled. Following several days of delays, the trips could finally depart, and students were on their way to backpack under the stars in Utah, explore historical monuments of the American

Civil War in Gettysburg, observe the lions and elephants in South Africa or examine the ancient monuments of Rome.

In South Africa, students explored the natural habitat of Cape Town while learning about the country's history and socializing with the locals. Initially applying to explore South African history, lower Janalie Cobb was surprised to discover the cultural complexity that she found on the trip. Her most vivid memory of the program was of baboons walking along with locals on the sidewalks. "The development of both culture and tradition here is extremely interesting and complicated. [The program has] taught me that you cannot simplify down culture to something easily comprehensible, and you shouldn't really want to," she said.

In addition to the fascinating sights found in South Africa, the trip also shed light on the struggles of the native people after the apartheid. Although the system of segregation was abolished during the early 1990s, the effects of the event could still be seen around them. "We found great insight and inspiration from what we saw of the struggle of living through apartheid and the decades of living since then," Math Instructor Kevin Bartkovich said.

Back in the United States, students

went to Utah for a backpacking expedition led by the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). They spent nine days in the canyons of southern Utah, hiking over six miles each day. Throughout the program, Exonians were challenged to learn how to navigate and survive in the wilderness only using supplies from their backpack. To make the excursion harder, students were stripped of all sources of technology while on the trip. As most Exonians are constantly trying to balance their academics, clubs and social life, the program gave students a moment to pause, take a break from stress and introduce a different lifestyle that many of them had not experienced before. "The opportunity to zone out from technology for a week and to be able to sleep outside under the stars themselves was just so thrilling," said lower Smayl Makyshev.

On a different side of the world, the study tour in Rome was one of the trips most affected by the storm. After missing almost three days due to a cancelled flight, the students were able to catch up with almost all the missed activities, examining ancient monuments and thinking critically about their historical and literary context. However, for upper and classics student Ingrid Bergill, seeing the monuments was only a small part of what made the trip

special. "I've gotten a lot closer with the people on the trip, which I think has been the most valuable part," she said.

Unlike the other programs, the Gettysburg trip was exclusively offered to students who were enrolled in the Exeter Innovations Course on Digital Humanities. Students in the course were given the opportunity to spend eight days in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and expand their knowledge of the American Civil War. For senior Harry Saunders, the trip was one of the activities he was most looking forward to after choosing Digital Humanities as one of his courses. "The trip got us out of the classroom and helped us gain a new understanding of the toils of research browsing through pension records at the National Archives," he said.

The students not only enjoyed their travels to a foreign place, but gained a new understanding of topics they had previously discussed around the Harkness table. Cobb expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to learn away from school. "Coming from an underprivileged background and never really having had the opportunity to travel before, the chance to go anywhere is something that I don't want to pass up," she said. "Simply put, this was a once in a lifetime opportunity."

ESSO BOARD TURNS OVER

By **EMMANUEL TRAN**
Staff Writer

One central idea drives every program in the Exeter Student Service Organization (ESSO): helping students identify their passions and how these passions can help others in the non sibi virtue. A pillar of the Exeter community, ESSO lends valuable experiences for student participants, as well as the local community they serve. ESSO recently turned over its executive board, selecting a new group of uppers and lowers to carry on the organization's strong work.

This year, the board includes co-presidents and uppers Grace Gray and Jenny Yang, off-campus coordinator and lower Dawson Byrd, on-campus coordinator and upper Don Assamongkol, children's coordinators and uppers Cade Napier and Gabby Brown and Directors of Communications and Marketing Matthew Kang and Jaime Romero.

This board organizes activities and raises awareness for the service it offers, while many other students organize elements of each respective program themselves. All have vital roles in making sure ESSO runs as optimally as it can, tending to more than 100 service programs that range from beach cleanup to academic tutoring to UNICEF.

Byrd became involved with ESSO his prep year, when he joined Junior Computer Programming. The positivity and connectivity Byrd saw in old co-heads, and experienced himself as a volunteer, has kept him involved in ESSO since.

"Seeing the enthusiasm the co-heads had for simply spending an hour a week teaching kids to code inspired me," he said. "ESSO is a great opportunity to break outside the Exeter bubble and interact with different kinds of people."

Like Byrd, Napier sees ESSO as a two-sided opportunity for both the local community and Exonian volunteers.

For him, ESSO is about giving back. "I feel that at Exeter we have many privileges, so it's our responsibility to share that with the rest of the community," he said, citing ESSO Skating, which allows participants to use PEA's facilities and ice rinks.

Gray has participated in ESSO since her prep year, drawn to the organization's "fantastic opportunities" to "connect with others and help our school and greater community." Gray hopes her board's tenure will maintain its legacy of altruism and benevolence.

To do so, they will enact multiple initiatives this year. According to ESSO advisor Elizabeth Reyes, ESSO will continue to advance several initiatives as part of their five year plan, such as integrating service learning into Academy curriculum, implementing a dorm service program and collaborating on service projects with Exeter High School students to launch events assisting lower income families at the Community Assistance Center.

Reyes praised the new board. "I think this board is very energetic," she said, and wants to keep trying to reach out "to the students and fill community needs."

Gray says her personal goal is to "focus on increasing ESSO's on-campus presence and expanding our reach to help lower income families."

Romero agreed, saying, "I'd like ESSO to change Exeter's culture from one that participates in ESSO to one that lives ESSO."

Napier also wants to foster a new culture of service at Exeter. "One of the main plans of ESSO is to have a new vision of community service so that Exonians see community service as a part of their life, not like homework, but simply part of Exeter's experience," he said.

LAMONT GALLERY: REPRESENTING FEMINISM(S)

By **MAI HOANG**
Staff Writer

On Friday, Feb. 23, the first student-curated exhibition in two years opened in the Lamont Gallery. Entitled "Representing Feminism(s)," the exhibition showcases works of different mediums, materials and topics from 34 artists, with the purpose of demonstrating different interpretations of feminism according to individual identities. Exhibition attendees conversed with the fifteen artists who were present at the opening while watching artist Teresa Ascencao's performative drawing rendition.

The subject of feminism arose from discussions surrounding the gallery's first exhibition this year, "Queer Kids," which extensively featured the works of one photographer Michael Sharkey. Feminism seemed to be a natural progression, especially since spring term encompasses Women History Month and a number of courses exploring gender studies.

Gallery Manager Stacey Durand emphasized the gallery's search for new artists, saying, "We made it a priority to feature many different artists." After calling for submissions in December 2017, the gallery received more than 300 pieces from artists nationwide.

According to Durand, the gallery team wanted to reinstate a student-curated exhibition ever since the success of the first one, "Change Agents," displayed in the spring of 2016. Gallery Curator Lauren O'Neal selected a team of 12 student curators from Exonians involved in visual arts and the Lamont Gallery proctors. Their job was to examine the 300 pieces and cull ones that would make the final cut.

For senior Maya Kim, a gallery proctor since her lower year, the "Representing Feminism(s)" exhibition was her last project before graduating from Exeter. "There are different kinds of feminism [and] intersectional is what we try to be. I was afraid that it would look too pink. One way of

seeing feminism and being womanly is not true for everyone," she said.

Similarly, upper Natalie Love stressed that her biggest fear was that the exhibition would be dismissed as typical feminist art. "People think about lots of unshaven armpits and lots of blooming flowers in the shape of a vagina," she said. "I was worried that it would look like that."

For upper Olivia Ross, the most memorable artwork from the exhibition was Raquel Fornasaro's Cutting Ties, a painting of a woman of color holding a chainsaw. "It was clear to me from the way she held it that she was considering having an abortion," she said. "It symbolized the state of health care for women of color in an interesting way that makes you slightly uncomfortable, and you don't know how to place it."

"The cool thing about having a diverse art exhibition is you have something for everyone," Ross said. She was glad that a lot of her friends felt the exhibition expanded how they thought about feminism, saying, "It's really a lifestyle more than a cause."

The different mediums include video arts, silkscreen, watercolor, fiber arts and lace-making. Several classes have spent time at the exhibition with their instructors, including English Instructor Patricia Burke-Hickey's "Feminism in Literature," History Instructor Betty Luther-Hillman's "Women, Gender and Society" and Religion Instructor Thomas Simpson's "Gender, Feminism and Religion in Film."

Walking away from the exhibition, lower Elizabeth Kostina commented, "What 'Representing Feminism(s)' does is give you a dictionary on the word feminism. There are different forms of it, delineated within each person." For her, the exhibition was so beautiful because it "showcas[ed] their intersections and their deviations, never putting a limit on the word and never stopping it as it keeps growing with generations."

SeniorSpotlight

SOPHIA ZU

By MAI HOANG and SHIVANI TRIPATHI
Staff Writers

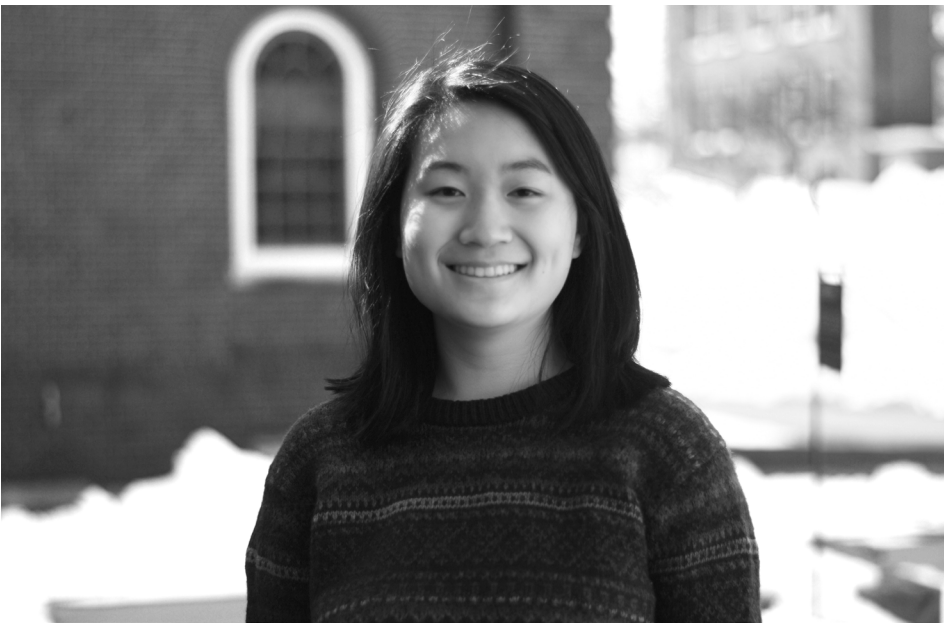
Sophia Zu is a bright intellectual, but can't open a bottle of jam. A talented musician, writer, biologist and caring friend, Zu has made her mark on Exeter's campus and in the hearts of many.

Hailing from Vancouver, Canada, Zu found out about Exeter through the headmaster at her old school, which was influenced by PEA's pedagogy. "We had Harkness at my old school," she said. "It didn't work because there were 17 people at each table, but I was fascinated by a school where it works really well."

At Exeter, Zu is a former news and life editor of The Exonian, plays the violin and the piano, and is a member of Exonian Encounters.

Though Zu plays both the violin and the piano, she has been playing the latter since the age of four and identifies it as "a very big part" of her life. Her instructor Lodowick Crofoot praised Zu for both her raw talent and diligence. "One of the most important things she has is an intuitive sense of musicality," he said. "She understands the nuances of the music while playing which sets her apart from many who just want to show off their technical skills."

Zu has an "adventurous spirit" when it comes to her piano repertoire; according to Crofoot, she has tackled works by the great French impressionists Ravel and Debussy, as well as classical jazz by George Gershwin. Crofoot commented that he had "run out of things" to teach Zu, yet noted that despite her natural ability, Zu never ceases to work hard. "She had a summer internship for science research in Pennsylvania and took initiative to get practice time at the University of Pennsylvania's Music Department," he said. Currently, Zu is preparing pieces for her final recital in the



Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

spring, including a Chopin ballad which Crofoot described as "something I usually don't have students good enough to play."

As a news editor for the 139th Board, Zu brought a spirit of resilience to The Exonian board, and, as fellow editor Harry Saunders put it, remained "a consistent presence on an Editorial Board that had many fits and starts throughout its tenure." He attributed Zu's close relationship with staff writers to "the combination of being good at her job and being a very kind person."

Saunders also noted Zu's proficiency with layout. "We called her the layout wizard, because she often stepped in and solved problems with the InDesign software that none of us could crack," he said. Zu herself described her Exonian experience as something that has "taught me more about work ethic and patience and collaboration than pretty much anything else at Exeter."

Zu's experiences at Exeter have helped her develop personal political awareness.

"As this girl from Canada, I didn't know anything about American politics," she said. "I went through lower year as the candidates campaigned, and dealt with the aftermath of the presidential election upper year." She described these times as challenging yet rewarding, attributing her increased involvement to the diversity of perspectives she has been exposed to at Exeter. "Especially in America, you are forced to see opinions you don't agree with," she continued. "It was an interesting experience to have in a Harkness environment."

Senior Meg Bolan also noted Zu's passion for debate and dialogue. "I appreciate how open to discussion Sophia is," senior Meg Bolan said. "After assembly, I always look forward to heading over to Wetherall, getting warm beverages or food, and diving right into discussing our thoughts."

Zu believes that one of the best things about Exeter is the people she's met. "There are people who have reaffirmed what I had believed in when I applied to Exeter and came," she said. "The people here are

incredibly self-motivated, driven, kind and fun, and there's not a better group of people to sit with, study with or eat with."

Zu's friends at Exeter also shared sentiments. "Her company in her lovely little Bancroft room solves any blues," Bolan said. "There, one can find a level-headed friend to dump your problems onto while eating Applecrest honey-roasted peanut butter with your fingers and sipping San Pellegrino." Bolan went on to describe Zu as "splashing your face with cold water and a breathe of fresh air at the same time [...]" She is fearless, absolutely brilliant, unabashed, overflowing with talent, loyal beyond belief, compassionate and inspires me every time I speak to her."

Senior Tricia Moriarty recalled the day she first met Zu at the dining hall lower year. "We immediately bonded over our similar sense of humor," Moriarty said, explaining that they shared a mutual love for music and similar artists. "Some of my ultimate favorite [memories] have been going to an early autumn Father John Misty concert in Boston, going on evening walks around Exeter, curating Spotify playlists and then listening to said playlists together in her room."

Bancroft Hall is another integral part of Zu's Exeter experience. "Bancroft has been the best part of Exeter and I don't know where I would be if I was in a different dorm and if I didn't have the support group I have," she said.

Senior and Bancroft resident Molly Canfield praised Zu's love and consideration towards not only her friends, but to everyone she meets. "I have spent more time with Sophia than anyone on this campus, other than my twin," she said. "Sophia is the most loving, amusing, quirky person, and I am so lucky to have her in my life, in my dorm and on this campus."

BIG RED GOES GREEN

By GRACE GRAY
Contributing Writer

Dear Exonians,

What is your secret food stash? Is it pistachios? Perhaps granola bars or Goldfish crackers? Whatever your preference, this is the stash that fuels you during those late nights and keeps the Exeter machine running. Among these prized possessions, however, lies a silent killer: plastic water bottles. Most people are not aware of the repercussions of using plastic bottles—in fact, many Exonians don't even know that our campus banned bottled water in 2012. Bottled water tricks millions of Americans into believing it's fresher than tap water with its branding of pristine springs, but in reality it greatly hurts the Earth—in fact, bottled water is less regulated than the filtered tap water in our fountains.

We do not want to blame anyone for drinking bottled water, but rather to raise awareness about the astonishingly large impact of each plastic bottle. When one carries their bottled water, they drag with them the 17 million barrels of oil annually used to fuel plastic bottle production. By tossing the bottle in the trash, one is committing the Earth to 400-1,000 years of decomposition. During this time, the plastic toxins fully seep

into our soil and water while choking millions of marine wildlife. The United States alone uses fifty billion plastic water bottles annually; why do we Exonians still contribute to this problem when we have a safe water supply? In fact, our data shows that 87% of Exonians even prefer tap water. At our blind water-tasting stations in February, 91 of 104 Exonians unknowingly preferred the taste of tap water, although only 63 of them expected they would.

While some, maybe even you, still blindly prefer the taste of bottled water, the Earth certainly doesn't prefer the taste of your bad habit. When it comes down to it, each sip of water can either sustain our world or help to destroy it. In this time of increasing climate destruction and resource depletion, it is critical that we modify our lifestyle to nurture the Earth that has sustained us for so long. Let's start with small things, like refilling your water bottle instead of using another plastic one—if we all commit to this, we really can start to change the world.

Yours Truly,
Jolina Dimen, Shelby Quay Ernst, and Grace Gray

UPCOMING

ASSEMBLY

PADDY SPENCE '85

Friday, Assembly Hall, 9:50 am

EDIT-A-THON

ART+FEMINISM

Sunday, Class of 1945 Library, 4 pm

EVENT

JELANI COBB

March 27, Assembly Hall, 7 pm

DANCE

WHEELWRIGHT

WHITEOUT

Saturday, Grainger, 8:30 pm

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* Please note that we cannot guarantee that any of our menu items are free of allergens because we use shared equipment and handle common allergens throughout our supply chain and restaurant. This restaurant serves shellfish.

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HAMPTON - 1/4 mile south of downtown Hampton (Rt. 1) on right, 1/4 mile north of Hampton Rotary Intersection of Rt. 1/Rt.101 on left.

WELLS - Rt. 1 at the Wells Corner Shopping Plaza

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SPRING BREAK ATHLETIC TRIPS

Teams Bond and Prepare for Season in Warmer Climates



Girls' tennis poses after a hard workout on the courts.

Courtesy of Katie Lee

By CAROLINE FLEMING
& ABBY SMITH
Staff Writers

An airport bus rolls up to the Cabana Bay Beach Resort in Orlando, Florida. The girls' lacrosse and softball teams and the boys' baseball team eagerly roam around the resort, exploring their rooms and outside attractions. The hotel has a large pool with a lazy river, surrounded by white sand, and there is a constant rumble of roller coasters from the Universal Theme Park.

Over this past spring break, Exeter sent spring athletic teams to Florida to get the season started with competitive practices and games. Not all the teams stayed in the Cabana Bay Resort; boys' lacrosse was located in other parts of Florida, and girls' tennis practiced in Los Angeles.

The teams comprised athletes of all grades and ranges of skill level. The purpose of the trip is not for tryouts, but rather for the players to get back into the pace of their

respective sports. Upper and lacrosse player Troy Marrero said, "The trip just made me a more confident and capable player, and got rid of the rust I had taken on in the offseason."

The trips also provided ample opportunity for the players to get to know each other better and bond while at the pool or amusement park. Senior and baseball player Hans Fotta mentioned he enjoyed "making friends with our opponents on the bus rides back, eating and hanging out in the amusement park." The spring break trips clearly provided our Exeter teams an advantage by starting the spring sport season early.

Down in Florida, Big Red scrimmaged against many local and prep school teams. Girls' lacrosse played two games, including one at the ESPN Worldwide Sports location. Marrero said some of his favorite game memories "were going to IMG Academy and playing against them."

Lower Jill Cloonan summarized that "softball had some strong wins against competitive Florida teams which showcased our

strengths and weaknesses as a team." All the Exeter teams had scrimmages, which regardless of the score have helped prepare them for the upcoming season.

The multitude of Florida spring trips had the advantage of not being solely focused on athletics. Taking place in one of the sunniest parts of America, girls' lacrosse players made sure to take advantage of the local theme parks and clean beaches during their stay. "It was an incredible team bonding experience," lower Keaghan Tierney said. "Going in the parks with my friends and singing on the bus ride with a group of random baseball players had to be the highlights of the trip for me."

While it's important to get in shape, train and scrimmage with a team, it's even more important to get to know them and form bonds that will last long after the season has finished. What better way to get closer to teammates than early morning beach runs, team pool parties and late nights in the local theme park? "The trip was absolutely a blast," Fotta said. "In addition to on-field work, we had the oppor-

tunity to explore the Universal Parks and hang out with each other in a recreational setting."

The girls' tennis team ensured time for fun in the sun, but players also benefited from challenges and growth off the field as well as on. Senior and captain Gabby Gabel was injured, but planned the trip and said, "It was such a great way to get our team dynamic flowing before the start of the season."

Upper Reina Matsumoto agreed with Gabel's sentiments. She added, "We played for four hours a day with an hour of fitness afterwards. We went to the beach twice after playing and had the chance to swim. Even though it was a relatively small group, we had so much fun."

As for the lacrosse team, Marrero explained how he developed as an athlete and a team player, saying, "I think the trip was great preparation for the season, helping me grow and bond with my team. A particular aspect of this were our 7:00AM breakfasts every morning, the group was weary and sore. We figured out early how to support each other."

Academy Reacts to March Madness

By EUWIE PARK
Contributing Writer

Every March, Americans spark hype for the NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament, known colloquially as March Madness. Some create brackets, predicting the results of each game, while others simply watch for pleasure. Students on campus shared their varying views on the tournament.

Ivy Tran, a knowledgeable sports enthusiast: "Oh yeah, I know about March Madness. It's when all the college football teams go to the playoffs in brackets."

Sam Gove, causing a racket with her bracket: "I'm going to win. I'm winning. I've won already. I'm beating everyone in everything... If my parents put me in the money pool, they would have won big money."

Margaret Kraus, a.k.a Marg the Charge: "This year, I put together a PEA pool with about twenty people... The winner gets bragging rights. And maybe a Grill cookie. The stakes are huge."

Dylan Yin, focused on the real deal: "I guess March Madness is pretty cool. But we should really pay attention to is the March Concerto Competition coming up at the end of the month. It's going to be huge."

Chloe Scocimara, a winner at heart: "Last year in the Dunbar pool, I came in first... out of three people. But I still won."

Lucas Grandison, can't catch a break: "I was about to make a bracket, but then the Wi-Fi stopped working. But if I were

to have had made a bracket, then it would have been busted by the first round."

Anonymous three year upper: "March Madness? Isn't that the gun violence protest?"

Taylor Walshe, just a lad who loves the mad(ness): "The upsets are insane. It's just madness... I don't think anyone, ever, will pick a perfect bracket. But that what makes it fun, it's madness, such madness. The madness is interesting this year because you've got all the investigations going on as well."

Yuvraj Sethi, Cilley's top dog: "It feels really nice to be on top of the dorm. A lot of peoples' brackets are really bad. But I put in effort and research into mine, clearly it's paying off. I got that free dorm grill coming my way."

Matthew Wabunoha, only speaks for himself: "I don't follow March Madness. I'm not good at sports that involve balls, or hand-eye coordination. That's just me, personally. I don't know about you but that's just me, like, personally."

Claire Melvin, the pun-niest girl ever: "How do I feel about March Madness? Well, I guess I feel pretty UPSET about it. Hehe."

Cedric Blaise, still in awe: "The last seed beating a one seed, that's just crazy. It's once in a lifetime. It's the first time its ever happened."

Responsible Anonymous Lower: "I stayed up late watching the NIT tournament, and slept through my first two classes in the morning."



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