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Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire



Uppers Jadzia Tedeschi and Issy Wise enjoy time together.

Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

Second National Women's March Draws Exonians

By SUAN LEE
and MAEGAN PAUL
Staff Writers

Exonians joined the seas of pink-hatted protesters for the second annual Women's March this Saturday, Jan. 20. Marching with the ranks of millions across the globe, students took to the streets to advocate for legislation protecting the human rights of different marginalized groups, including women, workers, immigrants and members of the LGBTQ+ community. The message resonated across the globe, with each empowering speech earning cries of fervent resistance, each demonstration inspiring change and each sign rallying a call to action.

According to organizers, the movement's mission is "to harness the political power of diverse women and their communities to create transformative social change." The first march took place last year on Jan. 21 after Trump's inauguration and gained publicity for its expansive reach across America and around the world.

Several students felt compelled to show their support, regardless of personal cost, and arranged private accommodations or traveled by train to various locations where a march was taking place. "High school is the perfect opportunity to speak up for what you believe in and participate in important movements," lower Addie Graham said. "2016 and 2017 have been really packed years, and I wanted to take advantage of that."

Many expressed similar sentiments. Lower Tien Duong, an international student from Vietnam, explained that her own childhood experiences of gender inequality inspired her passion for feminism and her determination to join the march. "I saw growing up how unequal my opportunities were because I was a girl. I was in an environment where there was a specific female role I was expected to conform to; this happens at Exeter as well," she said. "It was just an issue I needed to address."

Participants described the lively energy harnessed by thousands of their fellow marchers as "passionate" and "empowering." "The speakers ral-

MARCH, A2

Exonian Surveys Campus Political Culture

By ERIN CHOI
and JACK ZHANG
Staff Writers

Following the controversial events on campus regarding both the MLK Day keynote speaker and statistics on police brutality posted on a mathematics instructor's door, conversations on campus have often grown divisive or accusatory. Exeter reflected on its political climate and nature of discourse on a campus where some consider liberal voices underscored and conservative voices understated.

According to the recent State of the Academy Survey conducted by *The Exonian*, Exonians' political ideologies span a wide spectrum. 36.1 percent of students identify as moderately liberal, 27.3 percent as moderately conservative, 24 percent as moderate, 21.9 percent as very liberal and only 2.1 percent as very conservative.

Despite this, 47.3 percent of students felt the Academy was moderately liberal, and 42 percent felt it was very liberal; the other categories amounted to just 8.5 percent. In this perceived liberal environment, most students, 58.2 percent, felt comfortable or very comfortable with expressing their political opinions, 23.5 percent responded neutral, 11.7 were uncomfortable and 6.5 percent felt very uncomfortable sharing their ideologies.

Many of the Academy's politically active students participate in liberal student organizations like the Democratic Club and Feminist Club. Upper Isadora Kron, co-head of both, noted that campus culture is mostly progressive. "I think that it might be harder to find conservative

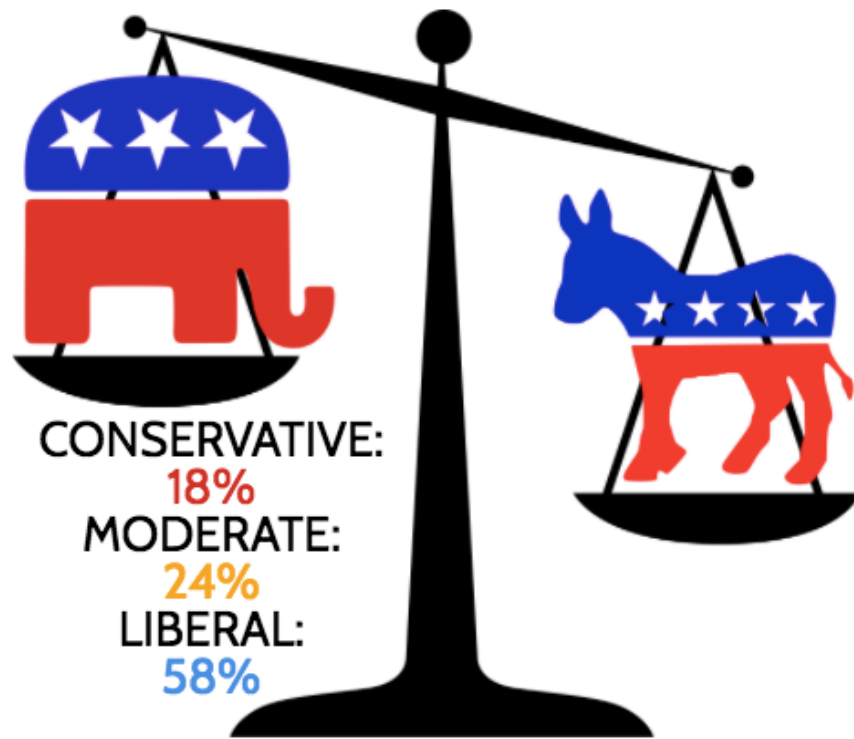
voices, and I think for some students, that can be troubling," she said. "It's not a result of active silencing as much as the fact that there are just more liberal students on campus."

Prep Sarah Kennedy agreed, adding that conservatives were less willing to share their opinions due to the overwhelmingly progressive campus. "I think that both liberals and conservatives are likely to have polarizing views, but that liberals are more comfortable voicing those views," she said.

Even on a campus that values intellectual diversity so heavily, Republican Club Adviser Townley Chisholm found

that the stifling of conservative voices occurs regardless, even if it is partially due to the differing subcultures between progressives and conservatives. "The cost-benefit ratio for public displays of opinion are quite different for students and faculty who express the prevailing progressive view than for those who disagree," Chisholm said. "Members of the Democratic Club actively campaign for Democratic candidates. Republican Club members are far more philosophical and never campaign for anything."

Chisholm believes that the campus culture is not necessarily espoused by the school, but rather an indirect product of



POLITICS, A2

Alumni Deliver Assembly to Honor Perry '85

By SUAN LEE
and ANDREA SO
Staff Writers

Edmund "Eddie" Perry graduated from Exeter as a proud, Stanford-bound, four-year student in 1985. He was full of passion and excitement for the bright years that lay ahead. "Work to adjust yourself in a changing world, as will I," he wrote in his yearbook page. But 17 year-old Perry lost all those years ahead of him and instead, he was brutally stripped of the right to live when a white police officer shot him in Upper West Manhattan on June 12, just two weeks after his Exeter graduation.

Alumni and members of Perry's family crowded the Assembly Hall last Friday as five former Exonians sought to honor Perry's memory and affirm his enduring legacy. Jonah Perry, Eddie's older brother, joined them on stage, as did History Instructor Russell Weatherspoon, who delivered the opening remarks. "You have this moment in time when you are students here, creating memories that

will become more and more precious to you. Listen, then, as people who are very much like you talk about one of their classmates whom they loved and the powerful impact he had and continues to have to this day," Weatherspoon addressed the student body.

Although during the assembly the atmosphere was inevitably somber at times and more than a few tears were shed, many of the speakers chose to share joyful memories and on several occasions prompted laughter with particularly humorous anecdotes. Amanda Thomas '87 recalled how Perry had been her first high school love, though a close friendship outlasted their short-lived romance by many months. She spoke of the times in which they sat together in his first-floor room of McConnell Hall, listening to the lyrics of "No Woman, No Cry by Bob Marley." "Good friends we have, good friends we have lost along the way. We would rewind the tape and sing that line over and over because it meant something then. It meant uprooting yourself from your friends to go and

live in cold, cold New Hampshire. It meant making new friends there, only to have them decide not to come back, or maybe to get sent away. In the best case, it meant winter giving way to spring and everything going exactly as planned and heading off to that great future at Stanford," Thomas said. "But ten days after graduation, it meant something even darker. It made that song impossible to listen to for years to come."

Michael Eberstadt '85 reflected on the injustice of Perry's passing in light of the greater issue of police brutality against African Americans and the institutionalized racism that led to his death. "When Eddie was killed, I finally understood that while he and I were both from New York, our apartments not two miles from each other, our circumstances could not have been more different. I was born into every advantage that my money and race could afford. At Exeter, I did not have to contend with the myriad of daily stressors, small and large, that must have sapped the energy of so many

ASSEMBLY, A2

College Climate Cultivates Calm Competitiveness

By JACOB FEIGENBERG
and MAI HOANG
Staff Writers

With cold, snowy weather looming and assignments piling up, winter term can be a time of stress for many Exonians. For seniors, early application results and regular application deadlines only add another layer of pressure and worry during winter term.

In an email sent out to all seniors in December, the College Counseling Office (CCO) commended them for a "job well done" and reminded the Class of 2018 to be proud of their achievements, essays, test scores and applications. "Many colleges reported having a record number of early applications, with 'exceptional students' in the applicant pool. Admissions readers described making 'painful decisions,' because 'so many deserve to be admitted!'" the email read.

Although the widespread usage of social media has made information about college decisions much easier to access, unwritten social rules have kept the subject taboo. However, many in the class of 2018 would agree that their peers were much more open about discussing this topic than previous graduating classes.

Senior Emilio Karakey said he was transparent with others about his college decision. "Most of my friends and anyone who asked knew. If it came up in conversation, I mentioned it," Karakey said. Because his college matriculation was such a big life decision, Karakey wanted his friends to know.

Similarly, senior Wendi Yan agreed that it was completely fine to share one's college decisions, though she mentioned how many friends seemed uncomfortable upon hearing that someone got deferred or rejected. "I didn't

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Students Discuss Impact of College Application Process

Continued from COLLEGE, A1

really get that upset because I ended up not liking the college I applied ED to that much, so when I told people the news it was harder for them to take it," Yan said. "They didn't know how to react and talk about what was supposed to be my 'bad' news."

On the other hand, some seniors chose to remain "tight-lipped" about college applications. Senior Grace Gasper explained that she personally planned on sharing her final decision in the spring. "If I do say a school and then not get admitted, I don't want people to think my dreams are crushed," she said.

As a new upper, Gasper admitted that she did not at first understand why college decisions should be such a sensitive issue. "The whole idea of how asking seniors where they are going is taboo was really strange for me. I asked the seniors in my math class where they were going to college, and they all just stared at me and then acted like it was a forbidden topic."

Some students expressed frustration as they dissected why their peers got in or not. Senior Katie Lee mentioned rumors that students had created spreadsheets to record schools their peers had applied to. "At one time, it comes to a point where all you could discuss with friends was the credentials of other people and where everyone was applying. I found that very toxic," she said.

Senior Andrew Hong shared a similar sentiment. "As [with] most years, I'd say the attitudes that most students have, and with good reason, is that the college admissions process is often unfair and sometimes even arbitrary," Hong said. "We know that all our peers have worked hard for their past three to four years in high school, and while seeing the weight lift from some friends is great, watching as some get denied hurts me."

Others took note of their peers' disappointments. "The first acceptance I heard about, I was really excited. As more started to come out I realized how skewed it was; people who were expecting to go to certain places did not get in and other people did," senior Ellie Locke said. "There were certain factors out of your control."

While some resented the encroachment on privacy, others embraced their friends' curiosity because it showed that they cared. "I think it's fantastic that we know the results of our friends," Karakey said. "I care about them. I want them to go far in life, and knowing what college they end up in is part of that process. Also, if an Exonian is feeling down on [themselves] because of a rejection, it might be a comfort to know that many of their friends got rejected as well."

In their email, the CCO asked seniors to keep in mind the delicate nature of the subject and to remain respectful and kind in their dialogue about college decisions. "As this can be an emotional time for students, we ask that you be sensitive to your classmates," the email said. "In the spirit of non-sibi, we hope that seniors will be supportive of one another and that those who are pleased with the outcome of their admissions process will be aware of the feelings of those who are feeling disappointed."

Many seniors believed the class' approach to college applications and decisions followed this advice and was relatively "healthy." "We're a class of relaxed people," said senior Alice Little. "I haven't met anyone who was very uptight or competitive about it." She described it as a "team atmosphere" and said that she had no problem with letting friends peer-edit her application essays and vice versa. "We all wanted each other to get where we wanted to go," Little said.

Similarly, seniors in Yan's dorm, Dunbar Hall, also helped each other out with

college essays. She even noted that the atmosphere at Exeter was less stressful than the one at her public school in Beijing. "I feel very grateful to be at Exeter while doing college apps. My friends have time to talk to me," she said. "We read books together or go to meditations and value each other for many things whereas back home college was what people lived for during their high school years."

Some lowerclassmen aren't especially interested or knowledgeable about the college counseling process. "As a prep, I haven't heard that much about college counseling except for the snippets of information that I've heard from my upperclassmen friends," said prep Philip Horigan. "But even that hasn't really helped because I don't really know much about college applications."

Yet for uppers who will have to go through the process soon, some seniors hope that their class is more open about the process. "We should keep it healthier for the classes below us; adults aren't really talking about it, it's the students who are doing it," Little said. "We should let them live their lives and not put our stresses onto them."

Wei-Ling Woo, instructor in English, graduated from Exeter nearly a decade ago. Looking back on her experience, she commented, "I think there has always been pressure on Exonians to get into Ivy League schools, but I'm sure that the pressure mounts every year because acceptance rates are going down, so the stakes are higher, and college admissions are getting more competitive." Woo added that she did not recall publicizing her college acceptances widely. "I also don't remember talking about other people's college acceptances that much," she said.

Other alumni also commented on the general trend of college season becoming more and more tense. Michael McCarthy '67 said, "Because of the good relationship between the Exeter office and the

many admissions offices at the Ivy League and Little Ivies, Exeter was able to place its seniors at some of the best eastern colleges and leading institutions across the country. I graduated in the bottom third of the class but was accepted at Penn and Georgetown because of Exeter's reputation."

Alumna and George Bennett Fellow Mairead Small Staid felt that her experience with college admissions, while taxing, did not carry the same weight as it does in the current day, especially with the presence of social media. "Facebook came out the year after I graduated, so there wasn't any social media where people would [share] their success, unlike now," Staid said. "Of course, there was a lot of tension because people were making the most important decision of their life up to that point, but looking back in hindsight I think college, though important, did not make up an essential part of my individuality."

In contrast, Minh Nguyen '16 recalled an Exeter that was very stressful around the time of college decisions. "Often people will make judgements on whether someone deserved it or not, and who got screwed or got lucky," Nguyen said.

The CCO urged seniors to keep a broad perspective regarding their early acceptances or rejections. "In the end, the college process is only one aspect of your life," the email read. "We (your counselors, your teachers, your staff and your parents) are all confident that you will be successful wherever you go to college."

With Exeter's unique culture in regards to college admissions, Karakey hopes that students come to a greater understanding of this process. "The college process is something that everyone in this school goes through. It's tiring, difficult and a bit stressful at times, but it's important that we understand how universal it is," he said.

Edmund Perry '85 Remembered Through Stirring Speech

Continued from ASSEMBLY, A1

of my classmates. At home, I did not have to worry about my personal safety from regular people or agents of the government," he stated. "Eddie was not put on this earth for my personal edification, but nevertheless, I am eternally indebted to him."

Russell Washington '89, the final speaker, explained that although he had not known Perry personally, he harbored immense gratitude for the indelible mark he left on the Academy and the many generations of Exonians that followed him. He recounted how the Office of Multicultural Affairs originated from the Advisor to Minority Students position that was established in 1986 in the wake of Perry's passing. Washington also recalled that Martin Luther King Jr. Day was added to the Exeter curriculum by the second advisor to fill this position, and was therefore another part of Perry's legacy, as was the

Dean of Residential Life position. He recounted how he quoted Perry in his own yearbook page because he "could not think of words more appropriate for this community, in both the immediate and the ongoing."

Washington concluded the assembly by reflecting on Perry's lasting legacy at the Academy and his consequent pertinence to every member of the audience. "Consider with care and thoughtfulness those words and the history of Eddie that is, by your own presence here at Exeter, your own history and present," he concluded.

Upper Jacob Hunter recognized Perry's acknowledgement of his privilege as an Exonian as a part of Perry's character which resonated deeply with him. "I think the legacy the speakers meant to reflect in their assembly was how Eddie Perry believed so much in helping others, especially students who often feel left behind. It holds as a testament to the duty we have

to help others succeed," he said.

Upper Mary Provencal-Fogarty appreciated how the assembly gave emotional depth to an issue like police violence, which can "feel very impersonal for a large section of the student body." She said, "It truly felt like a celebration of a life that was tragically cut short instead of a faceless statistic the way issues like these are often presented." Provencal-Fogarty added, "We all felt like we knew him and couldn't help but imagine close friends in his position. Bringing that issue close to home was powerful and an important reminder that issues like racism are pervasive."

Religion Instructor Hannah Hofheinz shared similar sentiments and particularly expressed her gratitude for Thomas' narrative. "I felt that her speech was so true to human experience which made it real," she said. Hofheinz also appreciated the wide range of voices that were represented by the speakers, adding, "They offered many perspectives into his life and the experi-

ence of knowing him. Russell Washington gave the history of many offices here which presented a nice historical and personal relationship to Exeter's administrative structure."

Almost fifty students and faculty gathered in the Latin Study for the lunch meeting later that day, serving as a space for students to engage in dialogue with former Exonians about their Exeter experiences. Although conversations focused more broadly on Academy life, several alumni also made references to Perry and addressed the challenges of coming from a minority or marginalized background. "I was really happy to hear from some alumni who came from similar backgrounds as myself in terms of socioeconomic status," lower Skye Newhall commented. "I think it's extremely important for our community to care about Eddie Perry's death not only because of how it affected us as an institution, but also because of how it touches each of us today."

Exonians Consider Conservative Voices Stifled at Academy

Continued from POLITICS, A1

the type of people who attend Exeter. "The status quo reflects the economics of families who send their children to Exeter and the fact that the administration doesn't really concern itself much with issues in economics," he said.

Other students and teachers expressed similar concerns over the silencing of both conservative voices and unpopular opin-

ions in general. "Because most people are liberal, I feel that the implied sentiment in many conversations tends to be 'all conservatives are bad,' which I think excludes more conservative people and their opinions from important conversations," prep Eunice Kim said.

Mathematics Instructor Aviva Halani suggested that new avenues may need to be created to encourage dialogue. "I have heard that conservative students do not

have many spaces to voice their opinions. Perhaps we can create more forums for discussion and dialogue. I would love to see that happen," she said.

Students and faculty voiced that overall, the school should try to promote more genuine and inclusive conversations. "I think we need to talk to each other in a way that actually promotes conversation rather than 'I'll tell you my view, you tell me your view' and we just butt heads," Mathematics

Instructor Joseph Wolfson said.

Lower Aiwon Desai agreed, adding that conservative opinions should be embraced even by those who disagree. "I think that especially after MLK day, everyone's been saying that we should try to listen to more diverse opinions like conservative voices. I don't know if that'll actually end up happening, but I think there will be a push from some people to try and make it happen," she said.

Exeter Students Participate in March for Women's Rights

Continued from MARCH, A1

lied up the crowd, and every time they said something especially powerful, you heard this giant cheer of all the men and women in the crowd," Graham recalled. "It was a really great demonstration of the millions of women across America and the world who aren't settling for injustice. It felt great to be a part of it."

Upper Isadora Kron, a co-head of

Exeter's Feminist Union, recognized that certain areas of the movement's organization and execution, however, needed improvement. "Though the march is an important symbol of our resiliency and ongoing efforts to make America fair, there are some issues pertaining to inclusion, especially for women of color and trans women," she commented. "The group of speakers isn't always diverse and the space could be made more accessible. These are difficult issues to solve, but the

first step is to acknowledge the issue itself and promote discussion on ways to solve it."

Many Exonians similarly acknowledged a lack of diversity in the political spectrum represented by the march's participants. Senior Nick Song attributed this to the fact that many feminist issues, such as reproductive rights, have commonly been associated with more liberal views. Preps Ella Sudduth and Annie Smaldone felt similarly, noting how the March for Life, a movement protesting

the practice and legality of abortion, had taken place on the same day in Washington, D.C.

Kron nevertheless emphasized that the fundamental principles of the Women's March were not intended to be political. "Our mission is equality, not necessarily the impeachment of Donald Trump," she said. "Feminism is the fight for equality between the sexes. It's a fight everyone should support."



The Exonian

Interested in the behind the scenes of the paper? Write for *The Exonian*.

Come to our Writers' Meeting on Sunday at 7:00 p.m. in the Forum!

“HQ Trivia” Craze Grips Exeter, Students Win Money

By **EMILY KANG**
and **RACHEL WON**
Staff Writers

The Academy Building bell rings nine times, echoing across campus as a group of students huddle in a circle, their phones glowing. The two-minute countdown reaches zero and the theme song plays. One million viewers are online, all vying for the ten thousand dollar prize. The only thing standing in their way—twelve trivia questions.

Every weekday at 3 and 9 p.m., and only at 9 p.m. on weekends, players of the gaming app “HQ Trivia” have a chance to win money. The game asks twelve trivia questions that must be answered correctly within ten seconds each. The questions increase in difficulty as the players answer them correctly. The winners split the prize money—which is usually \$2000 per round—and receive cash transferred to their Paypal accounts.

Vine creators Rus Yusupov and Colin Kroll released the game at the end of 2017 and HQ has since gained widespread popularity. The app ranks #1 on the iTunes App Store with an average of 800,000 players participating per round. The Exeter community quickly picked up on this new trend, and before long, several students were playing “HQ Trivia” each afternoon and night, some even referring to it as a “dorm tradition.”

“HQ Trivia” is set up as a game show, with the host being actor Scott Rogowsky. The players can see how many others are tuned in throughout the game, how many people answer questions correctly or incor-

rectly and who wins the jackpot at the end.

Exonians encountered “HQ Trivia” in a variety of different ways. After her cousin told her about the game during Thanksgiving break, senior Anna Reaman downloaded the app. Upper Sarah Liberatore decided to play the game after seeing people tweet about it and recognizing it on a TV award-show about this year’s fads.

Regardless of how students discovered the game, the main appeal for most is the experience, not the potential financial gain. “I play HQ for the sole purpose of having fun and answering fun trivia questions. If I’m lucky, I’ll get money, but I don’t do it just to get money,” prep Isa Matsubayashi said.

Reaman agreed with Matsubayashi, and said, “‘HQ Trivia’ is just really fun because it’s so interactive, and they have a live host that shows up on the screen.”

Quiz Bowl co-head and senior Nick Song said that he is glad for the opportunity to translate his passion into financial gain. “My parents have been very disappointed with me up until this point, but since I found HQ, my parents are slightly less disappointed,” Song said. “As the co-head of Quiz-Bowl, it feels great to be able to use my experience [in a way] that can actually create financial gain for myself.”

While prizes can range from \$2,500 to \$15,000, the chances of winning are relatively slim. Not only is the prize split among all the players that make it through the twelve rounds, but the money is not immediately available for withdrawal unless the winnings are larger than twenty dollars. “I think it is

very unrealistic that I’m going to win enough money to be able to get it out of the PayPal account. I would need to win two times, which is statistically very unlikely,” prep JaQ Lai said.

Upper Natalie Love faced the problem that Lai described. Love has made it to the final round of “HQ Trivia” before, but was not able to withdraw because her winnings were so small. “I only won about five dollars but I couldn’t collect any of that money until I reached twenty,” Love said. On the day Love won, the jackpot was two thousand dollars, meaning she was one of nearly four hundred winners. Despite a compelling reward, the individual prize value for each winner decreased significantly because of the amount of winners.

With a monetary reward attached, some raise concerns that “HQ Trivia” goes against the Academy’s gambling policy. The E-Book states: “Gambling for money is prohibited.” However, most students playing “HQ Trivia” believe it is allowed by the school. “The definition of gambling is when you give something in return for something. But aside from your time and energy, you’re not giving anything up, you’re only getting something in return,” Reaman said. “That’s just the same thing as studying for a test. You study for a test, and the outcome is a good grade.”

Liberatore also thinks that “HQ Trivia” does not violate the gambling policy. In her opinion, if Abbot Casino doesn’t count as gambling, then neither should “HQ Trivia.” Liberatore said, “The problem with gambling is that you can lose money and get addicted

to it. Theoretically somebody could gamble once at Abbot Casino and be addicted to the idea of putting in money and winning money. But with this app, you’re not putting anything at stake, so I don’t think that counts as gambling.”

Referring back to the original E-Book statement, Discipline Committee member and upper Euwie Park believes that the essence of the debate lies in the semantic of the phrasing. “I think the E-Book is giving a gray area by not strictly defining what it means by ‘gambling,’ and ‘HQ Trivia’ could potentially fall under this gray area that the E-Book is giving,” Park says. However, while she does believe that the vagueness of the term “gambling” allows room for interpretation, she also thinks that being a trivia game, one could claim that while winning is somewhat based on luck, the game is also based on a certain level of knowledge and skill.

Dean of Residential Life Arthur Cosgrove believes that the language of the E-Book statement is clear. “My understanding is that you are playing a game with a reward, and not gambling,” he said. “However, one might argue that students who are wagering significant amounts of time in order to try and win a reward are gambling.”

Prep Noah Lee maintained that the game was just that. “I play ‘HQ Trivia’ because it’s like being part of an inside joke, with all the different hosts and personalities,” he said. “‘HQ Trivia’ is not gambling, it’s more like a competition. People use their knowledge and intuition to play, not just luck.”

Elm, Wetherell Dining Halls Show Decreased Food Waste

By **SAM WEIL**
and **CHRIS SUHR**
Staff Writers

Before winter break, students and faculty diners were encouraged to dump their leftover food and liquid into clear bins in Elm and Wetherell dining halls. Over the course of one Wednesday lunch, half-eaten sandwiches, soup and chunks of meat filled the bins and the noxious odors wafted throughout the entrance of the dining halls. The remains of meals repulsed some members of the Exeter community. Others avoided scraping off their food into the bin and hurriedly put their plates onto the trays.

Still, the majority of the school engaged in the school-wide food waste audit and acknowledged that food waste is neither good nor pretty. As a result, the overall food waste from both Elm and Wetherell decreased by 14 percent in the following days. Elm Street dining hall reduced its food waste by 15 percent, producing 1809 pounds of food waste from Dec. 11 to Dec. 15, compared to the 2133 pounds of food waste produced from Nov. 13 to Nov. 17 when there was no school-wide food waste audit. Similarly, Wetherell dining hall reduced its food waste by 10 percent, producing only 1112 pounds from Dec. 11 to Dec. 15 compared to the 1248 pounds of food waste from Nov. 13 to Nov. 17.

As Environmental Proctor co-head Ashley Lin explained, “People seemed to be more cautious about their food waste that week, and it showed through the results.” Senior Jane Li, the other co-head of the E-Proctor Dining Hall Committee agreed, noting how the community became more aware of the food waste. In light of the positive results from the food waste audit, Li said, “Everyone should feel incredibly proud of themselves! Compliment yourself and compliment your friends when you see a clean plate.”

As part of the E-Proctor Dining Hall Committee’s campaign to reduce the school’s food waste, the school-wide audit sought to start conversation about excess and promote food waste reduction. During the two weeks before winter break, Lin and Li, along with other members of the E-Proctor Dining Hall Committee, worked with both dining hall staffs to implement a school-wide initiative.

During the first two weeks, the dining hall staff measured post-consumer food waste, and the same menu was used for both weeks, with a one-meal exception. Students and faculty were encouraged to scrape food off their plates and into clear bins placed at the entrance to each dining hall so they could see a visual representation of how much food the school was wasting. The hope behind this self-cleanup was that students and faculty would become more aware of how much food they were wasting and try to throw away less food or take less food to begin with.

Both the E-Proctor Dining Hall Committee and dining hall staff, including dining hall managers Heidi Brousseau (Wetherell) and Michael Como (Elm), support reductions in food waste through school-wide audits like this because of its many benefits. From the E-proctors’ point of view, reducing food waste meant protecting the environment and saving natural resources that could be used by others in the future.

“There are people in the world going hungry everyday, yet we throw away food like it’s nothing. We are adding to the landfills and combustion centers when we waste food, and

that creates more unwanted greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane that trap heat in the atmosphere. This is responsible for climate change, which is one of the most prevalent problems today,” Lin explained.

There is also an economic incentive to reduce food waste. According to Li, a whole day’s worth of food waste was eliminated during the second week even with the extra food from the Hawaiian-themed lunch. As a result, the dining hall staff would be able to order less food to begin with if less food is wasted and in the long run, would save money. Como explained that reducing food waste not only “saves money for the Academy but allows the dining hall to reallocate funds.”

Li advocated for students to be more aware of their food waste and at least try to reduce the amount of food they take. Li said, “The line usually dies down after the lunch time rush, and unless you have to eat as quickly as possible, you should be able to go back for food when there’s less of a line.” Li hopes that students and faculty will resist the instinct to grab more than they will eat, and feel proud when they take less food, finish their plates and ultimately reduce waste.

Students expressed that they found the food waste bins unpleasant. Others were unsure about whether the audit would lead to any reductions in food waste. Tour guides found that the prominent displays of the bins filled with leftover food scraps at the entrances of the dining halls could reflect poorly on the school. Senior Louisa Bartkovich mentioned that, “one of the facts we [tour guides] mention is that our [dining hall] is one of the best among all prep schools and even in the country and offers a variety of food,” but seeing the food bins “may make the tour second-guess the quality of Exeter’s dining hall.”

That being said, the audit was still highly effective in sparking conversation about food waste, according to members of the E-proctor committee. Upper Grace Gray, who was responsible for supervising the students and faculty as they scraped their food off into the bins, noted how “people came up to me and talked about how the waste audit made them more conscious about wasting food.”

Currently, the Dining Hall Committee is expanding upon their food waste audit project in hopes of increasing awareness of the amount of food students are throwing out. Thus, the Dining Hall Committee has started to photograph and document the amount of waste on student and faculty plates and plans to eventually make collages that students and faculty can see and reflect upon. Lin believes “results come with visuals” and hopes that the released results of the food waste audit and the photographs of food waste will inspire further food waste reduction.

Li added that the Dining Hall Committee is “considering implementing a system in which students have to scrape their plates instead of just putting their plates on a tray or conveyor belt, in order to always remind students of food waste.”

For now, the school-wide food waste audit proved the effectiveness of such a system being implemented, paving the way for further food waste reduction that will benefit both the community and environment. In the following weeks, Li and Lin hope that the consciousness of this aspect persists. As Gray described, “If we continue to work together, we, as a community, can strive to reach a new standard of minimized waste.”



Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

Student Artists Recognized, Draw on Personal Experience

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

The Regional Scholastic Art Awards recognized six Exonian artists for exquisite and diverse submissions ranging from photographs of mountain bluffs in Cape Town, South Africa to colored pencil pieces centered around felines.

The results were announced on Jan. 9, 2018. According to the website, the Regional Scholastic Art Awards are “the nation’s longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in grades 7-12.” Out of 330,000 submissions, 90,000 pieces of art won awards, including the “gold key,” “silver key” and “honorable mention.”

Many Exonians began submitting their work before high school. Prep Christina Xiao has entered her work since the seventh grade, and senior Jasmine Lee had once entered a piece of writing before attending Exeter.

Senior Ivy Tran, who was awarded one honorable mention, four gold keys and two silver keys, first submitted poetry to the awards while in middle school. “I began entering my art when I thought about pursuing it as a career because I wanted to know what other people thought of my art,” she said. “They also offer scholarships and programs to winners, so that would help me pursue art further.”

Students submitted a variety of works, ranging from poetry to photography. “I submitted around ten pieces, and most of them were fashion pieces with a few drawings and paintings,” Tran said. Xiao, who won four gold keys, one silver key and two honorable mentions, submitted drawings. “Three of the pieces were colored pencil, and one was smaller,” she said. “My general theme every time I do art is cats.”

Senior Jasmine Lee submitted photographs that captured the cultural diversity of Singapore. “I don’t use any Photoshop, and my style is really about using outdoor lighting and manipulating the contrast,” she said.

Upper Raj Das, who won a silver key and two honorable mentions, also entered his photography. “Over the summer, I had the privilege and blessing of visiting some relatives in South Africa, which was incredible. A lot of the submissions were centered around the wildlife that I noticed and the differences in culture,” he said. “We saw a rhinoceros lying down on the street as we were driving by, so I just snapped a

photo of that.”

Exonians submitted art that holds great personal meaning and value, providing the viewer with a glimpse into each artists’ life. Tran’s art depicts Chinese culture. “Some of the pieces that I submitted are part of a collection that I made lower year in an Art 444 course to celebrate my Chinese heritage,” Tran said. “They use Chinese ideals in western fashion to accurately represent and portray Chinese culture, which is rarely done [in] current media.”

Lee’s art focused on portraiture and discovering Singapore’s unique populace. “My style is more documentary so I really enjoy taking pictures of people, and I remember specifically going to Singapore because my dad is Singaporean,” she said. “By going there, I kind of discovered the multiculturalism of the country, and I really wanted to capture that.”

The submissions also centered around the artists’ personal experiences. “Other paintings and drawings explore my childhood neighborhood in Las Vegas and what it is like to be a child of immigrants in America,” Tran said. “I also submitted fashion pieces that were dedicated to a friend back home who suffers from childhood depression, and their purpose was to create discussion around such issues and to help erase the stigma around depression.”

For some students, the awards enable them to pursue their passion through their artwork. Lee most values the competition because of “the fact that you have the personal satisfaction of getting your work recognized.”

The awards also help students recognize their skill and motivate them to continue to create art. Das had only begun to experiment with photography before the awards. His sister told him about the awards and convinced him to submit the photos of his trip to Africa. “So I was just looking at the photos I had taken before the trip but also during the trip, and she recommended that I submit around twenty photos,” he said. Das never foresaw that he would win an award for simply taking a photo on his phone of the bluffs in Cape Town; however, this confidence boost has propelled him into continuing with his work.

Xiao personally felt that the competition served as a platform to share her work. “Although there’s a submission fee for each piece, honestly I don’t really feel like I’m losing anything when I send things in. I have art—why not send it and see what other people think?”

Protests in Iran

Emmanuel Tran '21

Guest Contributor

After a recent wave of protests against the Iranian government, the American media responded hysterically. They ignored the pro-government counter-protests that followed and instead talked about how this “democratic revolution” would bring about revolutionary change in the country. One article in *The Federalist*, a libertarian and conservative-leaning website, trumpeted these protesters and criticized those in support of peace with Iran for allegedly “leading from behind.” The article, along with others in mainstream sources, repeatedly portrayed Iran as an oppressive and totalitarian regime. This publicized, oversimplified characterization of Iran veered into even more disturbing territory. According to Fairness in Accuracy and Reporting, a non-partisan journalistic accountability group, both liberal and conservative western media uploaded images to their websites of protesters in Europe and America, without mentioning that those protesters were not actually in Iran at all. This misreporting is only one example of how the press throughout the Western world has unfairly decried Iran.

Frequently, Americans point to Iran as one of the most oppressive countries in the world. They underline its supposed lack of democracy and human rights as well as its oppression of women and religious minorities. Many of these critiques are certainly valid. However, American sources sometimes exaggerate. For example, Iran is often accused of not embodying the traits of a real democracy. But, on the contrary, Iran has competitive elections for a parliament and president. Iran's last legislative election in 2016 was one of the most competitive

in the country's history. The people faced a legitimate choice between parties: the democratic reformist party “List of Hope” (which supported the moderate president Hassan Rouhani) and the “principalists,” supported by Iran's fundamentalist clergy and a group of moderate conservatives. Despite the fact that the supposedly all-powerful mullahs and ayatollahs supported the fundamentalist candidates, the moderates and moderate conservatives won an overwhelming victory.

Similarly, blatant misconceptions have been formed regarding Iranian treatment of religious minorities and women. Although there are definitely too many restrictions on both marginalized groups, Christians, the largest remaining religious minority, are allowed to worship openly but banned from converting. While certainly oppressed, many Middle Eastern Christians view Iran as a place of refuge from the threats and abuse they face on a day-to-day basis in other countries, such as Iraq.

While certainly oppressed, many Middle Eastern Christians view Iran as a place of refuge from the threats and abuse they face on a day-to-day basis in other countries, such as Iraq.

Mainstream media has also failed to accurately represent the full extent of rights that Iranian women enjoy. According to the Huffington Post, they make up one of the highest proportions of university students of any country in the globe. And while the media has continually posted headlines like “Iran Bans Women From Universities,” they ignored that even

in 2011, under the leadership of Iran's pro-fundamentalist president Ahmadinejad, an attempt to segregate university classes was suppressed. While women are required to cover their head, there is also the option of wearing a light covering that leaves their hair and face visible. Obviously none of these laws are particularly progressive by American standards, but they do not approach the level of Iranian totalitarianism touted by American media outlets.

Obviously, none of these laws are particularly progressive from the viewpoint of American standards, but they do not approach the level of Iranian totalitarianism touted by American media outlets.

Western policy on Iran is particularly hypocritical if you consider who else America supports in the region. Certain neoliberals in America portray their opposition to Iran as based on democratic principle. Many of the national security experts who supported George Bush and Hillary Clinton saw attacks on Iran as a sort of “neoliberal crusade” against an oppressive,

Western policy on Iran is particularly hypocritical if you consider who else America supports in the region.

anti-democratic power. But many of these men and women were happy to work with Saudi Arabia and had no concerns about their lack of human rights and democracy.

In fact, the organization “Freedom House,” a generally pro-American organization, rated Iran as “Not Free” but gave it a higher freedom rating than Saudi Arabia.

Even if Iran is indeed totalitarian, the US still needs the country to prevent other, more severely totalitarian groups from gaining power in the Middle East. Iranian-supported militias in Iraq played a crucial role in defeating the Islamic State in Iraq. The Popular Mobilization Forces, an organization of citizen soldiers, was one of the largest of these. It was formed by ordinary men and women, mainly Shiites, who wished to protect their homeland from the Sunni “Islamic State.” PBS, in partnership with the Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting, interviewed Iraqi commanders of the militia, who described Iran's crucial role in helping fight terrorism and accused American-allied powers of supporting and funding the organization. One commander told PBS, “While the whole world watched as Iraq was collapsing, in fact, it was only Iran that stood with us.”

Even if Iran is indeed totalitarian, the US still needs the country to prevent even more totalitarian groups from gaining power in the Middle East.

As Iran moves into the future, it could face more turmoil. Nevertheless, Iran plays a crucial role in defending the Middle East and maintaining a Sunni-Shia balance in the region. If Iran disintegrates, either a Sunni caliphate could seize power and control the region or the overall region could descend into political instability. A strong Iran means a stable, peaceful Middle East. Regime-change hawks should keep that in mind as they gloat about a crisis in the country.

The Return of Romney

Jeffrey Cui '21

Guest Contributor

In 1787, 55 of our founding fathers convened and drafted a government predicated on the idea that no one institution should hold too much power. They splintered authority into so many pieces that no one of them could possibly make any rash, ill-conceived or outright malicious decisions without the loud objections of their colleagues. The Senate and House check each other, as do the president and their cabinet, and over that, the legislature and executive; the judiciary restrains all their fellow branches. This system characterized democracy.

They splintered authority into so many pieces that no one of them could possibly make any rash, ill-conceived, or outright malicious decisions without the loud objections of their colleagues.

So when President Trump announces that another unfit executive appointee or judge has been approved, blatantly obstructs justice and tyrannically bashes

The answer to that is simple: the current Congress has failed its job as a branch of government that checks its fellow branches.

his checks—the judiciary, the media and the states—and still no serious discussion of impeachment has begun, you might be wondering why. The answer to that is simple: the current Congress has failed its job as a branch of government that keeps

its fellow branches in check. It has allowed the president to make poor decisions and has stood idly by, allowing his tantrums to pass without consequence.

That is why I believe that in the wake of Orrin Hatch's retirement announcement, Mitt Romney should run for a seat to represent Utah in the Senate. Hatch has one of the president's most powerful enablers. He has openly supported Trump, calling him “one heck of a leader,” while Trump has shown that he depends on Hatch in the Senate, having begged him to run for an eighth term in office. We should seize the moment to replace him with Romney, who is actually willing to fulfill a senator's purpose as a check and balance.

We should seize the moment to replace him with Romney, who is actually willing to fulfill a senator's purpose as a check and balance.

Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts and 2012 Republican presidential nominee, has not shied from criticizing the president, calling him a “phony, a fraud” and saying that his promises are “as worthless as a degree from Trump University.” Trump has not been friendly to Romney either; his urging of Hatch to run

Trump has not been entirely friendly to Romney either; his urging of Hatch to run for an eighth term was ultimately to block Romney from the Senate.

for an eighth term was ultimately to block Romney from the Senate. I would personally prefer to see a Democrat elected, but

seeing how Orrin Hatch's seat is in Utah and a Democrat has close to no chance in being elected there, Romney would, in my opinion, be the most well-suited politician to take his seat.

I do not believe that Romney will vote against Trump in most issues; he is, after

His presence in the Senate is important in demonstrating that standing up to the president is not reserved for Democrats, and is a bipartisan matter.

all, still a Republican. However, he will be a Republican senator who won't yield before

the president; a Republican senator who is willing to put the security of this nation and its democracy over their party's wishes; a Republican senator who is capable of doing his job as mandated by the Constitution. His presence in the Senate is important in demonstrating that standing up to the president is not reserved for Democrats, and is a bipartisan matter.

I do not agree with Romney on many fronts. However, I do know that we both love this nation, and we both want democracy to be preserved for our posterity. Right now, democracy is under great threat. I believe that by electing people like Mitt Romney we may see a Congress that can look past the lines of partisanship and act to properly check this current administration.



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My Relationship with Western Culture

Mai Hoang '20

Columnist

Mai, look. Let's start with the language. You are speaking white people's language. Remember when you were four and your parents sent you to your first English class with that white expat? This is the language of success, daughter. It will open doors, daughter. You will not get anywhere in the world without speaking this language, daughter. By the time you were nine, you were on the lookout for tourists, the white couple standing at the crossroads looking lost with maps in their hand, eager to surprise them with your perfect accent. You were wide-eyed and eager. You laughed when they stared at you, a little yellow girl in your school uniform and red Communist scarf. Wow, girl, you speak like an American. How did you learn English here? Their praise elated you, filled you up like an air balloon. In your public middle school you spoke English with only the four classmates who could, acutely aware of how the others shot you looks of envy and contempt. You took pride in the fact that you could mold your tongue, enunciating diphthongs with ease, the mul-

As you were brainwashed, your aesthetics are inveterately rooted in a hierarchical ranking of cultures that you have internalized.

titudes of consonants too: the /thr/ and the /str/ and the /pl/ that so tried the average Vietnamese speaker. You gobbled up British classics; if presented with Jane Eyre and Truyện Kiều you know which book you would reach for, which literary canon you would find beautiful and interesting enough to be worthy of your time. As you were brainwashed, your aesthetics became inveterately rooted in a hierarchical ranking of cultures that you have internalized. US-UK pop music—that's all cool. Vietnamese cải lương—that's not cool.

Now you want to rebel against all of this, but trời ơi nếu tôi viết bằng ngôn ngữ của tôi, tiếng nói thật của tôi thì có ai hiểu tôi không không một ai không một ai cả no one would understand you—the world works this way. A Vietnamese in America feels stupid unless they are eloquent in English. An American in Vietnam is either tourist or expat;

they live in District 7 with their fancy cars and immaculate lawns. They don't need to talk to us; they barely know how to say xin chào.

By the way, do you think your language is yours? Very funny, but, girl, you know your language was invented by white men. Is your name Mai? Is your name M-a-i? Would your great-great-grandparents have written "M-a-i the Portuguese?" Brought you civilization? Alexandre de Rhodes created your script. French colonists enforced its use. Before that, your people were primitive. You had no written language, which is to say you did but it was too complicated for them to decipher and now too complicated for you too—good God.

What God do you worship? The Communists say you are a traitor—you worship a white God, a French God. And you say no Jesus has no color; God has no color; God is love; God loves everyone; but really, Mai, really look at

Before that, your people were primitive. You had no written language, which is to say you did but it was too complicated for them to decipher and now too complicated for you too—good God.

the statues in your church, look at the advent calendar at your grandmother's house, look at it, look at the angels. You did not grow up around diversity. The first time you met a white person your age you thought he looked like an angel: white skin, red lips, blonde hair, curly, the cherubim—you caught yourself in time. Mai, what are you thinking, this is so messed up, that pang in your stomach, stop, Mai, stop, stop, s-t-o-p, but it comes back each time. For a split second it comes back, you look like angels, you look like angels, you look like angels.

Now that you have started you cannot stop. You question everything—your grandparents are Catholic and their grandparents before them but that's the furthest you can trace. How can you know? How can you be sure? What if your great-great grandparents were forced into it? What if they converted to please the French colonist, to escape being murdered? That's the common narrative. You want to know the answer, but then you don't because what if, what if, what if? Can you still be Catholic? Can you still look at your religion the same way?

The clothes on your back—probably invented by white people. Your grandparents didn't dress like that, the

Vietnamese people in the countryside still don't. And the phone that you use, and the science that you learn. Communism was invented by white people, too. You go down the rabbit hole—am I conforming, am I covering, am I losing my identity? What is your identity? What can you claim as yours? Can you be who you are and still like what you like? Don't conform, they say. Wake up, they say. Guilt weighs down on your chest, constricts your throat. What must you do to not conform: sacrifice your norms, your hobbies, your passions, your sonnets, your religion, the language you speak? Will that be enough? Will it ever be enough? You cannot go back in time and change history; although you do wonder: if the Spanish had stayed in Spain, and the French in France, if capitalism had not enriched one part of the world, while turning the rest into mines and plantations, if the Age of Discovery had never taken place, if James Watt had not perfected the steam engine, if Edison had not churned out a thousand inventions while your people lived and died on water buffalos—too occupied with pleasing the colonists, hating the colonists, fighting the colonists, to do anything productive or lay down foundations for their own future nation. You still wonder—if the French had left after WWII, if the second Indochina war had

You go down the rabbit hole—am I conforming, am I covering, am I losing my identity? What is your identity?

never happened, if your people had not morphed into an eerie race of writhing ochre limbs on blue waters—the boat people. In short, you wonder—if history had been different, would you be more comfortable in your own skin?

Sometimes, you pretend it all doesn't matter. Sometimes, you glide in and out between cultures, which is to say, you think of yourself as existing in a vacuum. Wear an áo dài to class on Lunar New Year's day. Close your eyes and dive into the sound of bells, pipes and choral hymns. Play Debussy on the piano. Eat bánh dày by yourself in the dormitory basement. Read C.K. Williams on the plane home during break. After all, history has already passed; you ponder the reality of inequalities, wonder: if you had not thought about them in your head so much, would they still exist? Can an individual have the freedom to create their own culture, pick out elements of different communities that

they identify with and live with them in peace?

You find yourself liking a white boy. Don't beat yourself up, it's normal, you have the right reasons, you're not a Miss Saigon or a Cho Chang or an anyone but you. You try to not ask questions, though the more you try the harder it gets. Do you like him as a person? Yes. Are you sure? Yes. Are you very, very sure? Yes. Are you sure it doesn't have to do with the color of his skin? Yes, Yes, YES. Still, you don't tell your best friend from middle school about it when you two meet again after one and a half years. She would make assumptions. She has just immigrated to Houston, Texas; lives with her aunt while her mom tries to learn English—the very first requisite to finding a job. Dating an American-born white would add to her sense of legitimacy, demonstrate to her family, her friends, but most importantly, to herself, that she has successfully assimilated, that she belongs. How

You come from a "s*hole country" with four thousand years of "s***hole history" and you are proud of it. You will come back.**

to explain to her that you want none of this? That you are not looking for assimilation, a green card marriage or for that matter, a green card?

You live here nine out of the twelve months, but you're not American and you don't want to be. Slowly, you come to terms with it, accept what you have to do—separate the inventions from their inventors, admire the culture, the bold spirit of possibility, learn how things are done, and make the most out of the experience that is granted to you because you worked hard for it. Worked hard for it since kindergarten when your parents pushed you into the English center and said, learn! You worked hard for it.

But you will come back. You cannot tolerate the images of children in your country: scrawny, bare-boned, without water, without shelter, megasized on the United Nation's multi-million dollar screen as a symbol of poverty and destitution while the magnanimous delegations of the first world dry their eyes with a handkerchief. No matter how sympathetic they are, this is not their responsibility. They cannot make you feel better. History has happened. You come from a "s***hole country," with four thousand years of "s***hole history" and you are proud of it. You will come back.

Reflecting on a Year with Trump

Andrea So '20

Columnist

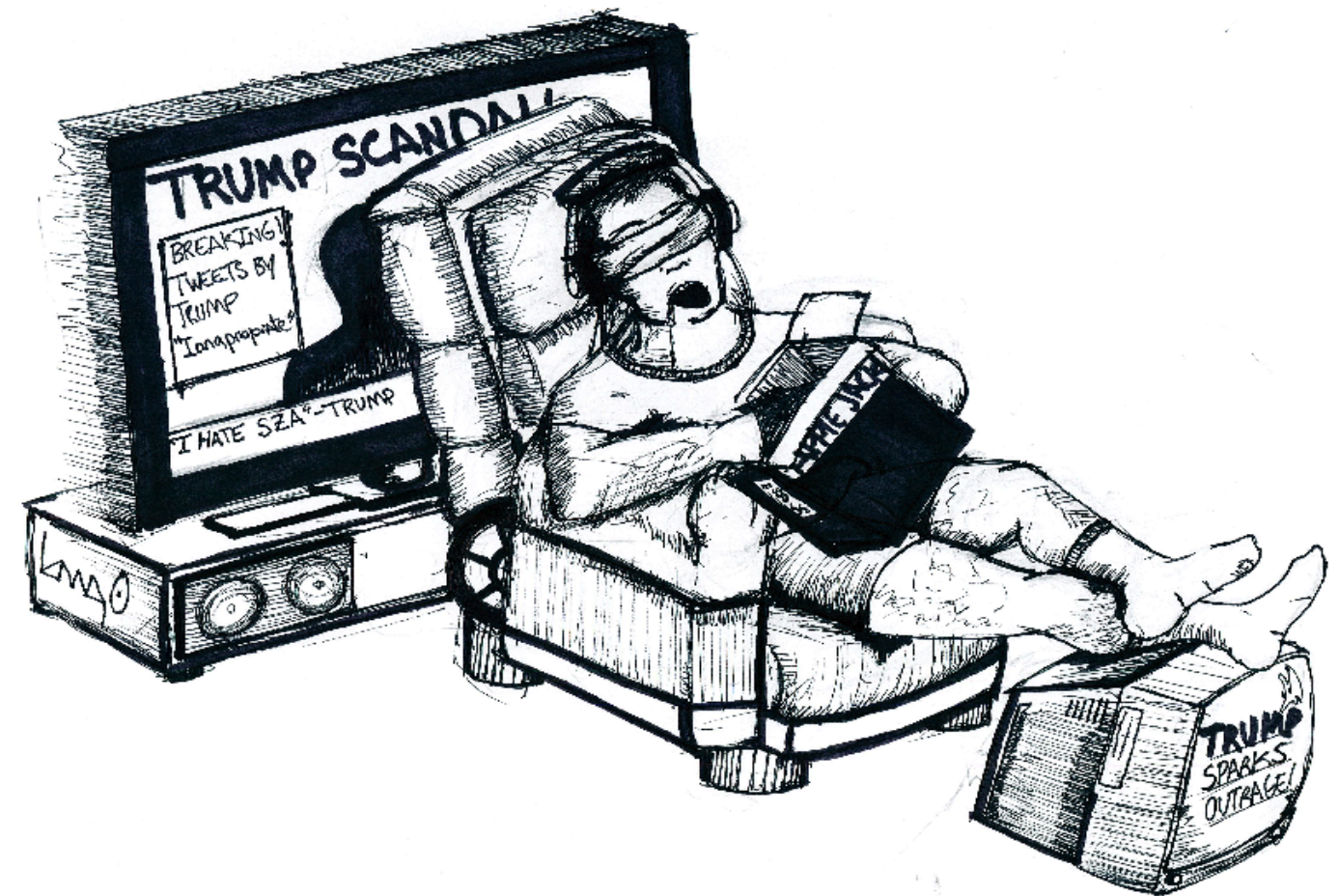
It has officially been one year since Donald Trump was elected as president of the United States—this fact leaves a bitter aftertaste in my mouth. Hillary Clinton was widely considered to be the more popular presidential candidate, and people thought that the Senate majority would be Democratic. However, neither of those things came to fruition, and now we have been stuck with a trigger-happy president with no political experience for one whole year.

One of the things that bothers me most about this year with the Trump administration is not Trump's actions, but people's reactions to them. It seems like the more we are exposed to his irrational and impulsive decisions, the more desensitized we become to them. Often, when I read a headline about Trump's North Korea Tweets or how he said something hateful about yet another country, my response is to roll my eyes and think, "Not again." The normalization of his behavior is truly becoming a problem throughout the nation. We are slowly getting accustomed to Trump's behavior, and we are able to more easily brush off one of Trump's questionable actions than we would have if, say, Obama or Bush did it.

If it was revealed that Obama talks about his daughters the way Trump does or made

We must never forget to hold Trump to the standard of representing the United States to the rest of the world and call him out when he violates those boundaries, no matter how often that may be.

a comment about women even half as offensive as "grab them by the p***y," he would be criticized by media outlets across the entire political spectrum. He never would've been



a presidential candidate, let alone president of the United States. We must never forget to hold Trump to the standard of representing the United States to the rest of the world and call him out when he violates those boundaries, no matter how often that may be. A president should be gracious, have integrity and serve his country's people. The normalization of his hatred and ineptness is exactly what his administration wants of the public: that we will all grow so tired of his actions and let him get away with anything he pleases, holding no one accountable.

Reflecting upon this year with Trump has also made me think of the next election cycle. During the 2016 elections, Democrats became too complacent, which is what ultimately cost them the election. The next time around, we cannot make the same mistake again. We cannot assume that the majority

of the population will vote for a Democratic candidate simply because statistics show that most people are extremely dissatisfied with the Trump presidency.

In order to win, Democrats must make genuine efforts to reach out to voters living in every corner of this country and address their problems, instead of betting that the pendulum will swing their way, and staying in their enclaves of liberal wealth. Last year, some media outlets cited Democrats being "out of touch" as a reason why Clinton lost the presidency; they are not completely wrong. The reason that Trump won was because his message reached a big enough population of people who felt that his proposed policies could solve their problems. To ignore the genuine concerns of these people would be both a morally wrong and politically detrimental thing to do.

With Doug Jones' recent surprise victory in Alabama, the spirit of America still gives me hope. I believe that most voters have genuinely good intentions and are try-

During the 2016 elections, Democrats became too complacent, which is what ultimately cost them the election. The next time around, we cannot make the same mistake again.

ing to vote for the right person. Trump's presidency may be a dark period for this country, but we cannot let it taint our morals or divide us.

Oprah as 2020 Presidential Candidate

Erin Choi '21
Guest Contributor

After delivering a passionate speech at the Golden Globes and receiving a standing ovation from the most important people in Hollywood, Oprah began receiving suggestions to run for president in 2020. Although it started as a joke, the idea gained more serious support as #Oprah2020 went viral on Twitter. Then, a few of her acquaintances claimed that she was intrigued by the idea and “would absolutely do it.” This idea grew so popular that it warranted a response from the current president himself, who said, “Yeah, I’d beat Oprah,” when questioned by a reporter.

Why did such a proposition go viral so quickly? And why would so many people endorse a TV show host with no political experience so enthusiastically?

In my opinion, the sudden zeal for Oprah’s hypothetical campaign is fueled by the hopelessness and desperation that many feminists have been experiencing. In the wake of the attention brought to injustices directed towards women, ranging from the #MeToo movement to the Women’s March, people, especially women, have been subconsciously looking for a strong female leader in politics. Hillary Clinton was by far the most politically qualified woman to fit this role; however, due to her extensive career, there were too many scandals throughout her life to allow her to be a political leader. Perhaps this is why respected celebrities with no political experience—such as Trump and Oprah—have become so appealing. Oprah not only is seen throughout the country as a trustworthy and wise T.V. personality, but also considered to have a decent understanding of the cultural and political landscape today due to the nature of her work.

More importantly, Oprah is the polar opposite of liberals’ perceptions of Donald Trump; while he is seen as an unintelligent, corrupt, white sexual predator with little scruples, Oprah is a woman of color known and respected by nearly all of America. Coupled with her sophis-

Oprah should continue to support the causes that she cares about, but she should do so from her current position as a famous and influential celebrity.

ticated yet emotional oration on behalf of the Time’s Up movement, she is seen by much of the liberal population as the perfect replacement for Trump.

One point in which Oprah and Trump could have in common is the way in which they gain supporters. Politics in America today are extremely volatile and sensationalist; it makes sense that the easiest way to grow a supporter base is to

Although Oprah may be aware of issues in this country such as the feminist movement or Black Lives Matter, this does not mean that she could write or champion proper legislation to support such causes.

use divisive, extreme language and to garner just as many opponents. Trump exploited the overall hate



against Washington, D.C. and used extreme demagogic tactics, saying the things that people were too afraid to say, but perhaps wanted to hear. If Oprah employs a similar tactic while appealing to a liberal base, it is possible that she could actually win the presidency due to liberals being fond of her as well as her charismatic nature.

Despite her likeability and talents as an entertainer, I still do not believe that she is qualified to serve

as president. Now, more than ever, we need a president who has experience in both domestic policy and foreign affairs. I find it hard to understand how the same people who have been condemning Trump for his lack of experience and immaturity are endorsing yet another celebrity with no experience whatsoever in both politics and foreign policy. Granted, Oprah may have a more composed and mature approach to presidential duties; however, it is crucial that someone with not only a calm approach, but also the expertise to handle present day’s aggravated international affairs should assume the influential role of president in 2020.

Although Oprah may be aware of issues in this country such as the feminist movement or Black Lives Matter, this does not mean that she

could write or champion proper legislation to support such causes. We don’t need entertainers like Oprah or lifelong politicians such as Hillary Clinton to lead our country. Going into politics would only worsen Oprah’s virtually immaculate public image and possibly limit her respectability and influence. Oprah should continue to support the causes that she cares about, but she should do so from her current position as a famous and influential celebrity.

in entertainment, in Congress and on campuses. These two sides have been in a political war for ages. The debate has resulted in angry and sometimes violent confrontations. While no side has necessarily won yet, one aspect of the conflict has

Instead of preventing liberal students from facing the fact that their cause is not perfect, PEA needs to open the discussion between liberal and conservative students.

been made clear: in the United States, the feelings of conservatives and liberals don’t matter. Only the facts matter.

In the fight between conservatives and liberals, the facts have often been undisputed. Facts inherently cannot be racist or target any association or person. Facts also reveal the truth rather than present opinion. However, on PEA’s campus, facts are not accepted for what they are.

We at Exeter are currently fostering a false conception of acceptance on this campus that prevents students from seeing both viewpoints of the political battle in America. Students are shielded from facts that reveal the merits and drawbacks to both sides of the conflict. Many conservative students on campus are being silenced and these students have not been given the right to speak their minds, due

to liberals not offering an open mind. Phillips Exeter Academy has made a claim that the Academy provides a platform for students to speak regarding their political beliefs. However, this school does not only silence conservative ideas, but strongly promotes liberalism. With Exeter being a community that accepts students from around the world, it is hard to prevent the liberal viewpoint from being promoted. However, Exeter has shown a strong bias towards the liberal side by bringing in liberal speakers to Assembly Hall every Tuesday and Friday. Many students believe PEA’s strong liberal viewpoints are affecting their grade in certain classes. Many Exonians have said that they sometimes feel excluded in class for being conservative. This bias is not only inappropriate, but simply should not happen at such a prestigious institution that supports the inclusion of everybody.

PEA needs to step up to the podium and face the fire they have started. The administration needs to start accepting the viewpoints of both liberals and conservatives. Instead of preventing liberal students from facing the fact that their cause is not perfect, PEA needs to open the discussion between liberal and conservative students. PEA needs to allow students and teachers to express their own political views instead of shutting down viewpoints that are controversial to the liberal mindset of the PEA community. Even if there is a majority of one party, nobody’s viewpoints should be shut down.

PEA's Politicized Campus

Emmanuel Tran '21
Guest Contributor

Political topics frequent campus conversation. We all have our ideas and make them known in class, in our dorms and in the pages of *The Exonian*. There is a Republican Club and a Democratic Club. There is even an Association of Communist Exonians for those on the far-left. In class, political debates often flare up as a result of the politicized nature of what we read and study. Some think that the responsibility of the school is to teach students how to be political activists. Supposedly, the role of the institution is to train the conservative teacher and student minority to be future “free speech” activists; for the liberal majority, the role of the institution is to train them to be “social justice” activists. But the question remains: why should the Academy focus on training activists, rather than real thinkers with insightful ideas?

The past few weeks have been full of political discussion. Over and over again I hear talk of “oppression” and “free speech.” Some students want discussion. Others prefer more radical actions, like sit-ins. Either way, almost all students see themselves as activists with an agenda, a team with ideas. Here on campus we have a particularly dumbed down and policed version of the modern culture wars, a little league for Berkeley.

A politicized environment is strongly encouraged on campus. We have sponsored political clubs. We have organized debates in Assembly: of course, these debates feature one “conservative” and one “liberal,” with no acknowledgement whatsoever of people who are neither. After MLK Day, whole classes spent the time talking about what happened, while others didn’t even meet to allow time for “reflection.” In the midst of all these

campus politics, how can we concentrate on learning?

Exeter alumnus Gore Vidal once wrote, “Every four years, the naive half who vote are encouraged to believe that if we can elect a really nice man or woman president everything will be alright. But it won’t be.” With these words, he attacked the idea that the game of politics we see on television and on our own campus holds value or importance. Will the political discussions

that we constantly have on campus matter in the future? Let’s be honest. Most of the students here, whether they are radical libertarians or socialist revolutionaries, will end up the same way: fiscally conservative, socially liberal, against socialism for the poor but all in favor of socialism for the rich.

That’s not to say that we don’t need to talk about politics and philosophy. But how about replacing Ben Shapiro and the rest of his idiotic band of conservative YouTubers and radio hosts with Chesterton, an English Catholic royalist politician and intelligent writer? Instead of spouting off about “economic and social justice,” why don’t we talk about Pierre Proudhon or Fyodor Dostoevsky’s socialism, its ideas, its influences and its flaws? Let’s hope that the debacle of MLK Day has convinced everyone, whatever their politics, that we should take a break from the game of campus politics.

Want to have your voice heard?
Submit a piece to the Opinions
section of *The Exonian*!

Contact exonian@gmail.com
Send Letters to the Editor to the
same address.

MLK Day: Facts and Free Speech

Chris Suhr '21
Guest Contributor

These last few weeks at PEA have been quite the rollercoaster ride. Everything began when a math teacher posted statistics about police brutality on his door. After incurring angry reactions from the MLK Committee and across the student body, these postings were taken down. When we all thought the controversy was over, on Exeter’s MLK Day, keynote speaker Lourdes Ashley Hunter threw a verbal bomb into the middle of this discussion, implying that this math teacher is a white supremacist and racist. In reaction to these events, the MLK Committee sent out an apology email, notifying the PEA community that they did not

We at Exeter are currently fostering a false conception of acceptance on this campus that prevents students from seeing both viewpoints of the political battle in America.

endorse Ms. Hunter’s accusatory remarks. Many people have, not incorrectly, characterized MLK day as a manifestation of the friction between liberals and conservatives on campus.

In America, there is constant conflict between conservatives and liberals that pervades what we see



ExonianHumor



Things You Find on the Left Side of Elm

By AVA HARRINGTON and GABBY ALLEN
We've Been Told by People Who Sit on the Left Side That this Article Sucks

1. Teachers you make eye contact with every time you fill your cheeks with wet rice
2. The gluten-free fridge, for my sensitive tum-my and the hipsters
3. Not the ice cream machine
4. Preps
5. People complaining about being on the left side
6. A bunch of strange rooms that seem to only appear when you have a club meeting
7. North Side girls, nearly in tears, wondering why they aren't playing ukulele and eating pizza on their cushy beanbags
8. If we had a large-scale fencing team, those kids would probably sit there. Star Wars Club too. Science Bowl, even.
9. The seltzer machine that somehow produces sour water
10. Hot chocolate that's somehow even more watery than the rice
11. The dish line that is ALWAYS CLOSED
12. The hot sauce everyone's scared to touch
13. Teams who couldn't find a full table on the right side so they sadly trudge to the left side, faces filled with sorrow like the martyrs they know they are

Alternative Ways of Asking What Grade Someone's in

By JASMINE LIAO
And the Humor Editors

How sad are you?

When was the last time you were satisfied with your GPA?

How long have you been waiting for a new V's policy?

How many clubs have you dropped?

How frequent are your mental breakdowns?

Have you given up yet?

How relevant do you think Billy O'Handley is?

When was the last time you got ASAP'ed?

Do you remember Exeter before the GJP (Great JUULing Pandemic)?

TFW You Went to Assembly and It Was Actually Mildly Okay

By THE HUMOR EDITORS
Ballis Ije Found Not Guilty



Did you think Mock Trial Assembly was better than Debate Assembly?

Submit to the Humor Page.

Email exonianhumor@gmail.com.

Teachers and Students React to Midterm Grades

By AVA HARRINGTON
EEEE

Recently we interviewed several teachers and students about midterm grades. First, we spoke with some teachers to find out how they determine their students' grades. One English teacher spoke with us as she wrote her midterms. "You know, I really can't picture his face," she explained. "But it looks like he got a B on his last essay and he has a nice sounding name, like he's president or co-head of something. Not that only certain people can run those clubs. He just seems trustworthy, that white name. Sorry, that right name. I'll give him an A-." Nodding to herself, she carried on with her grading, entirely forgetting our presence.

"So far we've had a pop quiz

on the names of historical figures as well as a major paper," a history teacher explained. "I haven't gotten around to grading their papers so their grade is based solely on the results of that quiz. My favorite student tragically got a 60% on the pop quiz because he forgot who William Jennings Bryan was. These things happen, of course. I decided to be as understanding as possible; I bumped him up to a C."

One Art teacher commented, "I only give B+'s during midterms. I don't think you need anything besides that. They know they'll all get A's in the end anyway."

Finally, we interviewed a chemistry teacher. "This student has an 84.5% test average and has alright

participation, which deserves a B. So I gave him a B." We encourage readers to take this statement with a grain of NaCl, as this seems far too logical to be true.

Of course, not all students agree with these policies. "It's kind of weird, when you look at my midterms across, they spell out B**** (some letters have been redacted). I didn't even know I could get an I..." Another student noticed something similar. "It spells out DEADD, which is a little bit concerning." Another student, upon reading his grades to us ("EEEEEE!" he hollered before he showed us his 5 D's) got taken away by the APPP (Academic Probation Protection Program) mid-interview.

Exeter Mothers Give Life Advice

By EUWIE PARK and SOPHIA ZU
Mothers at Heart

Dear Euwie and Sophia, how can I learn to love myself?
Be Better.

Dear Euwie and Sophia, how can I learn to lose weight?
Cut off your leg.

Dear Euwie and Sophia, how do I get an EP date?
Don't Study.

Dear Euwie and Sophia, how do I get over my boyfriend asking

someone else to write his history paper instead of me?
Take his SAT for him and win him back.

Dear Euwie and Sophia, where is a good place to take your date out in town?
The Exeter River has great fish these days.

Dear Euwie and Sophia, How do I get people to sign up to write Exonian articles?

Show them their future Harvard acceptance letter.

Dear Euwie and Sophia, what do I do when my dorm fac wants to give me sevens for my messy room?

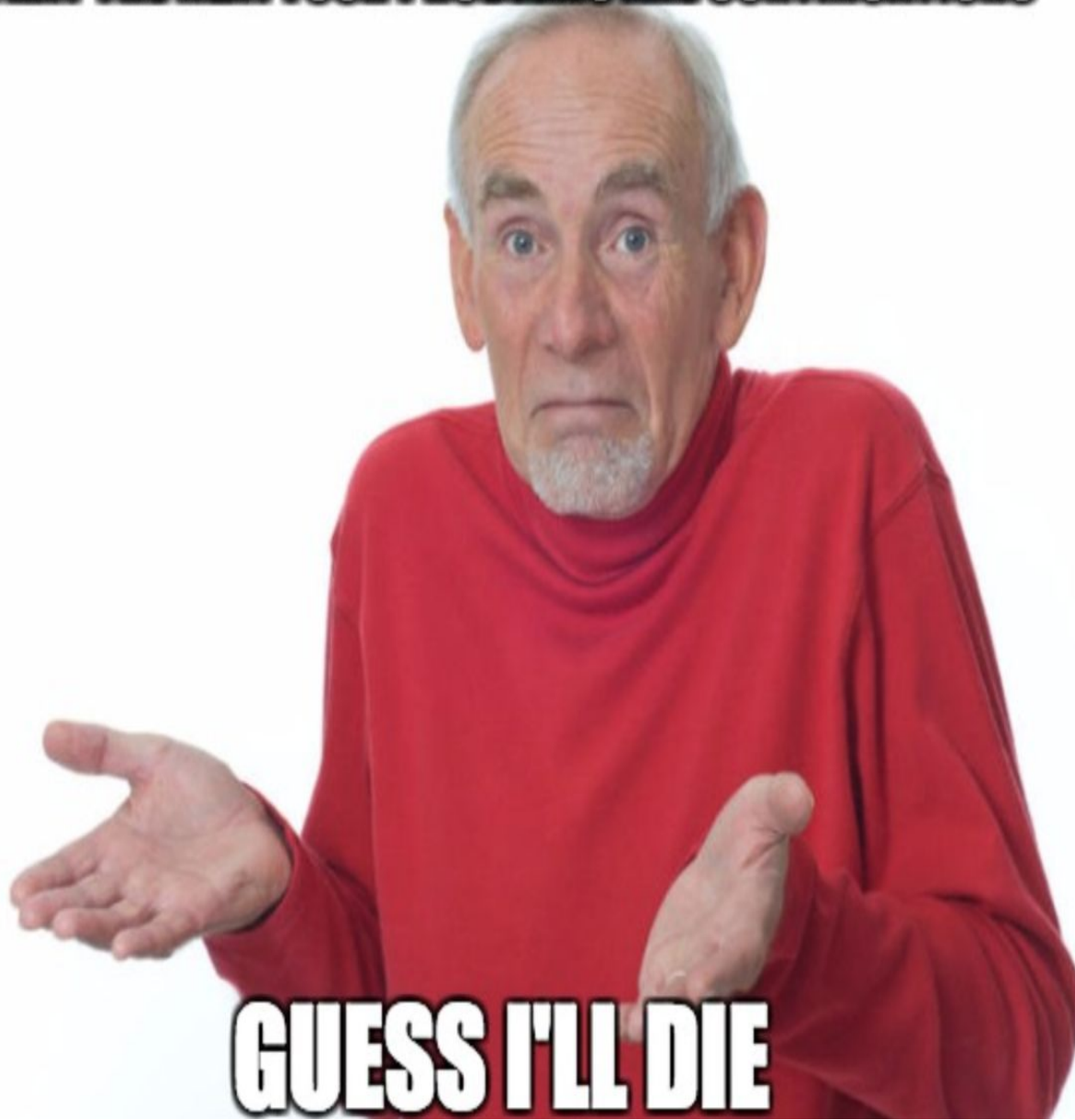
You can't get rid of the mess if you are the mess.

Dear Euwie and Sophia, what do you do if your friend dislocates their hip twerking?
ASAP them.

"Recyclable Meme"

By LIZZIE MADAMIDOLA
Stretched

WHEN YOU SKIP A MATH PROBLEM BUT THEN YOU REALIZE THAT THE NEXT FOUR PROBLEMS ARE CONTINUATIONS



Quote of the Week

"My mom didn't know she was pregnant with me for six months. SIX MONTHS. She was probably like, drinking coffee and stuff. That's why I'm so short; I never got sleep in the womb."

-Isabella Ahmad '21

"Huh, my mom was a vegetarian while I was in the womb."

- Seb Bango '19

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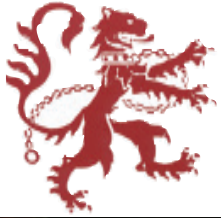
Exonian Photo



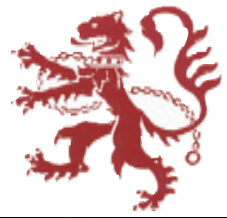
Women's March 2018



Photographer: Reina Matsumoto



ExeterLife



Lower Mia Kuromaru performs a poem at PEA's first ever poetry slam.

Gracie Goodwin/The Exonian

PEA'S FIRST POETRY SLAM

By MAI HOANG and ANGELE YANG
Staff Writers

Bursts of applause resounded through the Lamont Gallery as professional poetry slammer Emily Eastman walked onto the stage; for the last two and a half hours, Eastman had trained various members of the PEA community in the art of slam poetry and the competitive performance of spoken word poetry.

Eastman is part of the professional slam poetry group "Slam Free or Die," and, alongside co-facilitator Mark Palas, led Exeter's first Poetry Slam last Saturday evening. Similar to spoken word poetry, slam poetry uses no props and emphasizes the interaction between the audience and performers.

Eastman discovered performance poetry in Manchester, NH after graduating high school, and has been helping coordinate "Slam Free or Die" since then. "Through being able to be a part of my local community where I could share my own work, I was suddenly given exposure to this vast collection of people who had been published and performers who were so impressive," Eastman said. "[It was] the most challenging performance that I'd ever done, way more challenging than either theater or music because it's so much more vulnerable and direct."

Reminiscing back to their first performance, the professional slammer said that it was normal to feel "very shaky and uncertain of [one's] own voice." However, they are grateful for having had the support necessary to improve. "I think a lot of people don't have that reinforcement off the bat [...] they deserve to occupy space for their own voice." Knowing this, Eastman was eager to work with high schoolers. "I want to give the next generation more access to art spaces that I know I would have benefited from as a young person," they said.

With a desire to learn more about slam poetry, lower Elizabeth Kostina organized the event alongside Assistant Director of Student Activities Kelly McGahie and Director and Curator of the Lamont Gallery Lauren O'Neal. "The idea of being able to combine spoken word and acting is so interesting," Kostina said. "It's distilled theater." Since this was Exeter's first poetry slam, performers were not allowed to use original poems. "It's more welcoming and comfortable for people to not do personal works because that might involve a lot of emotions. We're still testing the waters," Kostina said.

Judge and senior Vivienne Kraus wished the slam had included original work. Lower Pepper Pieroni agreed, having participated in slam poetry in the

past where she could express herself more through her own poems. She said, "The only issue for me was that a lot of judges focused on the content and not the performance, which is the point of the cover slam."

McGahie admitted that she had doubts about the success of the event. She said, "I didn't know if people would perform. I knew there were some people who would enjoy performing, but I doubted there would be enough." However, she supported the Poetry Slam by reaching out to Mark Palas, an artist she had met at a poetry reading. "I thought he was awesome, so when Elizabeth contacted me I immediately thought about him," she said.

Along with Pieroni, uppers Sarah Hardcastle and Sarah Liberatore, lowers Mia Kuromaru and Ervin Williams and prep Rose Chen each chose three poems to perform: one for each round. Five randomly-selected judges rated the performers on a scale from one to ten based on content and delivery.

Prep Madeline Lembo found slam poetry different from the previous poetry competitions she had witnessed or performed in. "Each performer had a different way of telling their story and portrayed their feelings so beautifully, and you felt their pain," she said. She went on to characterize her overall experience as "mind-

blowing."

After the first two rounds, the top two poetry slammers, Williams and Chen, moved on to the final sudden-death round. For their final performances, they recited "Knock Knock" by Daniel Beaty and "A Boy Tells You He Loves You" by Edwin Bodney, respectively. Williams won first place with a score of 29.8 out of 30.0, while Chen followed with a close 29.0 out of 30.0.

Williams has performed poetry since he was ten, and finds it is a versatile medium to share thoughts and emotions with Exonians. "[One of my poems is] about a boy who is dealing with a lot of the pressures in the black community and journeying into a more educationally stable environment," he said. "I think the main thing is to show [listeners] that despite where we come from, we each have our many faults and disadvantages, but it's time we take a step back and realize how we're all the same to some extent, and we're all imperfect."

Kuromaru, who has been performing slam poetry for the past three years, found that each performer had specific, unique qualities. "Ervin's voice was very powerful, and it spread throughout the whole room. I saw some people crying during Ervin's performance because it was so impactful," she said. "Whereas Rose was soft spoken, yet her words and her expressions affected every single person."

BIG RED GOES GREEN

By ISABELLA AHMAD
Staff Writer

It was a warm spring day in the midst of my kindergarten career, minutes before my 21 classmates and I were set to be released to our favorite part of the day: recess. I was on the smaller side, even as a five year old, and I remember standing on my tiptoes to reach the art supplies shelf so I could put away the box of multicolored beads as quickly as possible and experience the wood chip glory of my elementary school's playground. I can't recall now if the dried glue on my fingers got caught in the container holding the beads or if I just lost my balance, but the next thing I knew my posterior was on the ground and hundreds of beads were rolling all around me.

I did what any—and mind you I'm not proud of this—little child of slightly higher than average levels of selfishness would do: I bolted for the door, passed the rows of cubbies and ran right to the tire-swing. I later learned that two of my good friends cleaned up my mess so that they would be allowed to go to recess.

I preface my piece with this anecdote because I compare my friends to my small home country of Bangladesh. Unfortunate enough to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, the 56,977 square mile subcontinental country of Bangladesh deals with the messes which those of us living in the United States and other luxurious countries impose on its people daily.

Before we further discuss this metaphor, here is a brief refresher on how climate change works: our Earth is surrounded by an atmosphere composed of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide. The atmosphere is the reason Earth can sustain all this life; it traps in the sun's heat and then radiates it back into space. But every time we release greenhouse gases, the atmosphere thickens. It has been thickening since the 1760 In-

dustrial Revolution, when people first began to burn oil and coal. Ever since, more and more heat is being trapped within the atmosphere, causing extreme temperatures across the globe. For Bangladesh, this means sea levels rising, violent cyclones and frequent floods. People who waste food, go on planes or leave the lights on too long are major contributors to this problem.

Bangladesh is poor, at a GDP per capita of 1,358.78 USD. As a result, the average Bangladeshi doesn't emit even one-seventieth of the carbon the average American does. So why are they having to figure out ways to salvage their land after saline contamination? Why are so many Bangladeshis forced to relocate after melting run-off from the Himalayan Mountains wipes out their farms and houses? Why are groups of young people across Bangladesh convening to find ways to create healthcare after The World Health Organization made a claim that water-borne diseases like cholera are becoming even more common? It isn't their responsibility. They didn't make the mess, but they're having to clean up everyday, and that is an enormous injustice.

The world currently faces two possible scenarios of total destruction: nuclear warfare and environmental catastrophe. To preserve the well-being of our planet, we must act at every level of our lives, large and small. Exonians must live deliberately and consciously to aid this cause. We have to prepare to vote for, and maybe even be, the politicians that establish carbon taxes. We have to go to affected areas and provide help and constructive ideas for improvement, and we have to ensure that climate change and its effects receive the awareness and news the world currently merits.

MOVIE REVIEW: JUMANJI

By NIKITA THUMMALA
Staff Writer

With crazy special effects and comedic actors, "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" is sure to deliver laughs to everyone in the family. The 2017 film remakes the 1995 version with a brand-new cast, including the ever-present Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Karen Gillan, Jack Black and Nick Jonas. The story revolves around a group of four teenagers with varying personalities who find the titular game in their school basement and decide to play it. They are quickly trapped in the game, becoming their own adult avatars. In order to get back home, they have to return a jewel, "The Jaguar's Eye," to a jaguar statue. If they fail at this mission, they will be stuck in the game forever. The main characters learn to put their differences aside and use their strengths to work together.

Dwayne Johnson plays the tough and muscular Dr. Smolder Bravestone, who is the avatar for Spencer, the thin, smart outcast of the high school group. Spencer's wit and his in-game avatar's strength combine to help the group through their adventure. Kevin Hart plays the tiny zoologist avatar, Franklin "Mouse" Finbar, Bravestone's sidekick. The avatar is chosen by football player Fridge, Spencer's former best friend. Karen Gillan plays the gorgeous fighter Ruby Roundhouse, Martha's avatar. Martha is an activist and honor roll student who, like Spencer, is an outcast. Jack Black plays the stout cartographer avatar, Professor Sheldon "Shelly" Oberon. Oberon is the avatar for Bethany, the popular girl in school. Lastly, Nick Jonas plays the handsome pilot avatar, Jefferson "Seaplane" McDonough. He is the avatar for Alex Vreeke, a teenager who got sucked into the video game twenty years ago and has been in hiding ever since.

When the players land in the game,

Nigel, a nonplayer character guide, informs them about the mission to return the jewel. The jewel was stolen by a corrupt explorer, Russel Van Pelt, played by Bobby Cannavale. He sent a curse through the land and was able to control all of the Jumanji animals using the stone. With a mix of anxiety and uncomfortable jokes, the group of four also learns that they have three lives; if the three lives run out in the game, they die in real life. Before Nigel leaves them, he tells them of the upcoming levels they have to pass before the final return of the jewel.

The first time each of the characters loses a life serves a more comedic purpose, whereas the characters' second deaths are more serious and help add drama to the plot. As they pass the levels, Spencer and Martha's affection for one another grows. He saves her life multiple times, and the strong bond they form repeatedly protects the lives of the other players. Van Pelt's men find the group, and Alex saves them. The players learn that Alex has been stuck in the game for twenty years, and the five characters then devise a plan to get through the remaining levels and return home.

The weaknesses and strengths of each character build a hilarious dynamic within the group. Kevin Hart's undying sarcasm lights up every conversation, and Karen Gillan's failed attempts at impressing boys make everyone in the audience chuckle. However, the most hilarious of them all has to be Jack Black, who perfectly impersonates a popular high school girl. With the body poses and high-pitched accent, the actor's comic performance is one of the movie's major highlights. Though the ending is cheesy and predictable, the characters' adventures provide a family-friendly comedy all should see.

SeniorSpotlight

MOLLY CANFIELD

By **RAMYANEE MUKHERJEE and SHIVANI TRIPATHI**
Staff Writers

Senior Molly Canfield skips through the legitimate storyline in a movie to watch the romantic scenes, but she cherishes every moment she spends at Exeter. From planning doomed-to-fail Halloween group costumes to spending lazy afternoons in Elm Street Dining Hall filling out crossword puzzles and drinking black coffee, Canfield brightens every room she enters with her vivacious personality and infectious smile.

Originally from Tamworth, New Hampshire, Canfield discovered Exeter through a family friend. “I did not grow up thinking I would go to boarding school,” she said. “I’m very close to my parents, and I couldn’t imagine not eating dinner with them every night.” Canfield and her twin sister Willa both applied during eighth grade, but only Willa was accepted. “I went to the public high school my father teaches at for a year, and I loved it, but Willa was at Exeter, and Exeter is such an amazing place,” Canfield said. “It was difficult to leave my old school, after just one year there, but I came here. I’m so happy that I did.”

Senior Emily Pelliccia, Canfield’s former roommate, described Canfield’s love for Exeter as contagious. “Back in lower year, whenever we were feeling worn down by this place, we would rewatch the 2015 Exeter acceptance video of Exonians singing the song ‘Rather Be,’” she said. “Molly has never let go of her gratitude for this amazing school and has never stopped spreading it wherever she goes on campus.”

At Exeter, Canfield’s favorite subjects are English, history, and Spanish. Outside of the classroom, Canfield channels her passion of human rights advocacy and social justice into her role as a co-head of Amnesty International and member of Democratic (Dem) Club. “Last fall during the election, I would put two or

three hours a week into Dem Club,” she said. “Every week, we would phone bank or canvass or go to a political event. I had so much energy that whole time—we all had so much hope.”

Although the election didn’t turn out the way she’d hoped, Canfield learned from the defeat. “That wave of energy sort of crashed, sadly, but from that defeat came along more energy to keep fighting—to fight for what we believe in,” she said.

Dem Club adviser Jacqueline Weatherspoon described the motivational effect Canfield had on other club members. “Her happiness is infectious; it makes people want to work,” Weatherspoon said. “People actually loved to listen to her talk when we were doing phone banking. They loved that her voice was clear and full of joy, interest and engagement.”

Amnesty International co-head Pedro Sanson agreed, noting Canfield’s constant upbeat attitude. “Molly is always the optimistic person who is great at encouragement and lifting the spirit,” he said. “As a co-head of Amnesty International, she is constantly fighting for human rights and really wants Exeter to be aware of the many issues around the world.”

Canfield is also a Student Listener and a proctor in Bancroft Hall. “I think that she’s in those roles because of the confidence people have in her,” said her adviser Margaret Foley. “They really respect her, they know that she cares for them, they have a lot of fun with Molly and they really trust her.”

Senior Sophia Zu agreed with Foley, saying that Canfield’s warmth “seeps into everything” she does. “It is very clear that Molly cares about the people around her and envelops them with lots of love and care,” she said. Pelliccia added, “Anyone who knows Molly knows that she is a natural listener. She is someone who I, and many others on this campus, confide in, seek advice from, trust and love.” Pelliccia continued by saying that Canfield “takes care” of the people around her.



Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

“Molly is selfless, always there as a shoulder to cry on, as a leader in Bancroft—the best dorm on campus—and as a friend,” she said.

Canfield brings her listening skills to her classes and serves as a natural leader at the Harkness table. Canfield described how much she values discussions she’s had at Exeter. “The thing that truly sets Exeter apart is Harkness,” she said. “For me, Harkness has meant not just conversations around the table, but conversations in the dining hall, conversations in the dorm and conversations on the paths.” Canfield noted how grateful she is to have met so many people at Exeter. “We have such a unique opportunity on this campus to be surrounded by people from every background imaginable,” she said. “From different countries to different socioeconomic backgrounds, I’ve gotten the chance to get to know so many people. That’s been amazing.”

Exeter has also helped Canfield develop her confidence. “Before I came, I had very little faith in myself,” she said. “It was so scary

for me coming to Exeter because of that.” However, Canfield soon found her place at the Academy and flourished. “I was positively convinced that I would fail out after the first term, but I’m still here, almost three years later,” she continued. “I have gained so much faith in myself as a student, and a person, and in many different capacities.”

Students and faculty appreciate the bright, loving impact Canfield leaves on everyone around her. “My favorite thing about Molly is her unconditional love for everybody,” Foley said. “She’s a bottomless well of warmth, and time, and an ability to listen and connect with people. What underscores everything she does is just a belief in the dignity of everyone.”

“Molly gives more to this community than almost anyone I know, and as a result I think she also gets more out of it,” Pelliccia said. “She has turned Exeter into a home for not only herself, but for so many others.”

Horoscopes

By **LAUREN LEATHAM and ALEXANDRA VAN DIJKUM**
Columnists

Aries: This is your week to shine, Aries! With the sun in your sign, all of your personality traits are highlighted. You might notice that the spotlight has been pointed in your direction this week. Enjoy it! You can use this time to create new connections with the people around you. You might be surprised who you meet!

Taurus: Keep calm and carry on this week, Taurus! With Mars in your sign, you might be prone to overreacting. Just make sure to think before you react. Lead with your head, your sign is strong and you will be able to handle anything that comes your way.

Gemini: Get outside this week, Gemini. With Mars in your sign until May, you might be more susceptible to cabin fever on campus. Just make sure to stay on track with your work this week so you can have lots of time for fun.

Cancer: This is the week for your squad, Cancer. Your sign is naturally loyal, and this is a great week to spend time with your friends. See how they are doing; you might find out something new and create closer connections with those close to you this week.

Leo: Go for gold this week, Leo. You are naturally an achieving sign, and this week is the time to push for your goals. You are so close! Leo, you might notice others becoming inspired by all of your hard work. Be flattered and keep it up!

Virgo: This is your week, Virgo! With Jupiter in your sign, be prepared for great things to come your way! Enjoy how everything unfolds, but try not to overanalyze any situations this week. Everything

happens for a reason.

Libra: You may need some extra good luck this week, Libra. You will face a lot of challenges with friends and school, but you’ve been through worse. Keep in mind that the bad luck will end soon!

Scorpio: Start looking at things in a new light, Scorpio, and make an effort to get out of your old habits. Stretch your limits and you never know how things may end up! Nothing ever happens without a little change.

Sagittarius: The moon is in your sign this week, Sagittarius, so it is time to relax and focus on homework. Do some extra studying and spend the night in doing your English reading. It may not feel like the fun choice, but it will pay off this week.

Capricorn: Your week is going to be very turbulent, Capricorn. Be careful with your decisions and choose wisely. Spend this week re-evaluating what has happened so far this term, and make a choice on how you would like to continue. The midterm is always a good time for reflection.

Aquarius: Take this week to relax and prepare yourself for the rest of the term. Listen to music or do some writing. Any alone time will do you good this week. Soon you will be happy to socialize again, but for now just let yourself rejuvenate.

Pisces: Get out there and have some fun, Pisces! You’ve spent too many nights studying lately, and now it’s time to go out with friends. Grab some lunch or dinner, and let yourself escape your work for a little while.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

By **VERONICA CHOULGA**
Staff Writer

Eyran Katsenelenbogen is a classically trained jazz pianist who has performed around the world at venues in Europe, The Middle East and East Asia. He has produced countless CDs and holds his own record company, Eyran Records. I had the honor to see him perform, as well as the greater privilege of becoming his student. Born in Israel, Eyran is a distant relative of both German composer Felix Mendelssohn and Israeli philosopher Martin Buber. I spoke with Eyran about his life and career.

Q: How did you get to where you are, playing in world tours and such?

A: It’s mostly just a measure of creating connections over the years. You make this wonderful opportunity that could bring others together because somebody could walk into a concert or invite you to another place. A pianist who hears you playing may want to collaborate with you. You have to be very open to the flow of things. If you try really hard to create opportunities, they don’t really present themselves. When you just let them present themselves on their own and you respond to it when it pulls, things can turn out even better. It just has a lot to do with personal connections, being open to them presenting themselves and being open to gather them.

Q: When did you want to start playing music?

A: I started when I was very young, around five or six years old. My first teacher was a lady called Aida Barenboim, mother of Daniel Barenboim, who is a very famous conductor and composer. They lived in the neighborhood where I grew up, so it was just a ten minute walk to their house. They were extremely serious about classical music. It was very practical, very disciplined. She wanted me to practice as long as five or six hours a day when I was around six years old. Naturally, as a six year old, it really didn’t speak to me. I stopped but started again when I was around sixteen. There was this guy who was teaching guitar, chords and piano. He would come to my house to teach. He showed me popular songs like the Beatles and Elton John. He would explain everything and do the theory and chords. Somehow, that really inspired me. Soon after that, I started very seriously to want to be a pianist. It was at that time, 16, when I really made the decision. I also think it was because I heard the Köln Concert by Keith Jarrett. When I heard it,

at that point I really wanted to be a pianist. Just today I listened to him again. He’s a really, really great pianist.

A: Do you have any funny stories? Or interesting stories?


Q: I think a nice, anecdotal story that everybody likes to hear is about the town. In Germany, there is a town called Katzenelnbogen. In 1482, my great, great ancestor was born there: Rabbi Meir Katzenellenbogen. Basically the Germans gave him the right to choose the name of the town. That’s where my family really started. I was invited back there two years ago to play in the town hall for their 700th anniversary. The town was built around the castle, which was made around the year 1000. The castle looked like a cat because it had 2 pairs of stairs which resembled the ears of the cat. There was a riverbed right under the castle so they called it Katzenellenbogen which means “the elbow of the cat” in German. Katzen—cat, ellenbogen—elbow. Something else which is interesting is that one of the family members is Felix Mendelssohn, the composer. Some other Katsenelenbogen was his grandfather so we share a relative, I have the official paperwork somewhere. There are many incredible people that come from my family, another life Martin Buber and also Karl Marx.

Q: Do you have any advice for people who want to follow in the same area as you? As a musician?

A: Teaching is very valuable. If you don’t like teaching, you’re going to find it very difficult to make a living as a musician. I think it’s an absolutely wonderful feeling; it’s incredibly pleasant to work in music and I think it all boils down to passion. I don’t believe in talent, I believe in passion. Music is my calling, this complete devotion and knowing that I am doing what I was supposed to do. I feel very passionate about recording, performing, and also writing. I have been writing a book in Hebrew for many years. It’s really what I want to do and I’m pretty much willing to sacrifice everything else like which country I live in and standard of living. All of these come in second as long as I feel that I am doing what I need to be doing, music.

Q: What’s your favorite kind of muffin?

A: Definitely the double chocolate muffin from Dunkin’ Donuts.



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StaffSpotlight

ELLEN SCHEFFLER

By CHARLOTTE LISA and SAM WEIL
Staff Writers

As students pass through Grill, staff member Ellen Scheffler smiles and spreads a cheerful message: “Have a wonderful day!” Indeed, Scheffler’s charm and joy usually receives a smile in return, as it helps improve so many Exonians’ days.

Amidst a busy day of work and classes, one of the most common places to stop and relax is Grill. Besides being able to catch up with friends or grab something to eat, Grill provides students a place to talk to and spend time with its lovely staff. Most students know Scheffler as the incredibly kind Grill lady—a title she lives up to—but she is so much more. Scheffler currently works behind the counter, cleans up the eating area and keeps food stocked up. “I’m very happy here; it’s a very good team. It’s a really good working environment,” she said of her job.

Scheffler started working on campus in April 2017. Since then, she has not only enjoyed her work, but never fails to spread that enjoyment to her customers and coworkers. She moved to Exeter in January of last year after moving from China to America in 1998. Before working at Exeter, Scheffler had only worked at colleges with older students and admitted that she thought this job would prove to be challenging due to her lack of experience with high school students. Nevertheless, Scheffler was pleasantly surprised by her initial encounters with Exonians. “This has actually been much better than I ever thought,” she said. “You guys are awesome kids, such good kids, and I’m really proud of all you guys.”

Scheffler lives with her husband and



Angelina Zhang/The Exonian

nine-year-old son. “The commute is very nice, I love it. There is never any traffic at all,” Scheffler said. Each morning, it takes her about 20 to 25 minutes to get to the school. At home, Scheffler spends her time gardening with her family. She began gardening about ten years ago after moving out of a city-setting for the first time in her life, and it has since become one of her favorite pastimes.

This year, Scheffler and her family are making their garden even bigger. “I love to grow tulips. And sunflowers, too. We grow sunflowers because my son told me that sunflowers can absorb radiation, so we said, ‘let’s grow something that helps the environment a little bit.’” Scheffler’s garden is indeed a source of pride, and she is more than happy to send pictures of her lush garden to anybody interested.

In the near future, Scheffler will transition to work in Elm Street Dining Hall in order to spend more time with her family. “My son is kind of young, and

here we work until ten o’clock. It is a little bit late for me, and if I am not home he won’t go to sleep.” Scheffler has already begun taking shifts in Elm.

When asked what her favorite aspect of her current job is, Scheffler did not hesitate to say that it is being around the students. “I like to see them with their big smiles. Their smiles always make my day. When I get home, I’m still thinking about the kids’ big smiles in my mind,” she said.

When speaking to other students, many of whom have a close, friendly relationship with Scheffler, they said that Scheffler is in fact one of the reasons that they smile. “I really appreciate Ellen’s kindness and joy she brings to her work,” said senior Winslow MacDonald. “She is always smiling and courteous—and seeing her in Grill or Elm brightens my day.”

Lower Audrey Vanderslice, who often shares conversations with Scheffler in Chinese, reflected that sometimes “you walk into Grill and you have had

a bad day and she’s always there asking you how you are doing and stuff like that. And then I’ll talk in Chinese again and it just makes me feel really comfortable and happy.”

According to senior Cody Nunn, Scheffler never fails to remind him that there is something to be happy about. “Sometimes [Scheffler] tells me ‘I’m glad you’re smiling,’ and then some days if I’m not she’ll go ‘Aren’t you the smiling boy? Why aren’t you smiling? There are so many reasons to smile today!’”

Many students are grateful for her presence on campus and feel that people like Scheffler are very important. “Exeter can, as people always say, be a stressful place,” MacDonald said. “Oftentimes people like to focus only on the negative experiences in their days, but if you open yourself up to joyful people like Ellen, it can change your mindset and brighten your day.”

Vanderslice agreed. “I think that anyone on campus who fosters that kind of positive energy is really important to have because it’s really the small things that make people happy

if they are having a bad day,” she said. “It’s very much how I want to be in life because she is so happy and content with what she does... she finds ways to be happy all the time,” Nunn said.

Scheffler was very humbled by the prospect of being The Exonian Staff of the Week. “I really appreciate this. I’m just a regular person. I do the same things as my coworkers. I can’t believe you guys picked me. Everybody is good like me; actually I learned from them,” Scheffler said with a smile. “Thank you. You kids, you really are gifts to me. I love to see you guys with your big, big, beautiful smiles. It makes me so happy, and I have really enjoyed working here.”

Life Advice

By RACHEL WON
Columnist

Dear Rachel,

So far, my upper winter has been neither great nor terrible. The weeks pass by in a monotonous cycle of homework, eating, and barely getting enough sleep. Feeling “just okay” everyday is growing tiresome. What do I do to spice up my life?

Please help,
Anonymous

Hi, anonymous! The problem you describe is one that I can relate to, and one that I’m sure many others on this campus also suffer from during winter term. Thankfully, there are many ways you can pull yourself out of this pit of boredom.

School life is inevitably very routine—most days you’re repeating the cycle of waking up, going to classes, grabbing quick meals, retreating to your room to finish homework and then finally going to bed. It’s especially heightened by the monotonous, gray, cold winter weather. However, you can change this.

First things first, if you’re spending more than four hours on homework each night, you can probably cut down on that. Unless you have five or six classes the next day, you’re only going to have four subjects of homework. One of those is probably an English reading or an art assignment which shouldn’t take you a full hour. It is more important to do your homework effectively than to spend a significant amount of time on it.

You want to spice up your life? Well you can’t do that if you don’t have time to do anything other than homework. The golden rule here is to put your phone away! You’re never going to get anything done if you’re checking Snapchat or Instagram every five minutes. Give your phone to your roommate, leave it in a friend’s room or throw it under your bed. While your phone is probably your biggest distraction, it’s also the easiest one to get rid of.

While technology often gets a bad reputation, you can also use it to your advantage. You could try out the Pomodoro Technique, where you work in intervals of twenty-five minutes of concentrated studying, separated by a short break between each session. You could

install the Self Control app, which you can download onto your Macbook to prevent you from opening certain websites (Youtube, Facebook, Instagram, Netflix, etc.) for a certain period of time.

Now that you have some free time, how do you spend it? Find a passion. While this may sound cliché, if you still find your life monotonous, chances are you haven’t discovered your passion yet. There are many things you can do other than academics: produce music, make films or sing your heart out.

So, you’ve found something in your life to do other than homework. But you still feel too productive. What else can you do to make your life more interesting? Well, did you go to PEA’s First Poetry Slam last Saturday? How about the Neuroscience Symposium? If you said no to either of these questions, you’re not taking advantage of the Academy’s activities. Each week, every student receives an email listing the campus events happening that weekend. While there are weekly trips to the Fox Run Mall, there are several other events that only happen occasionally. If you find you and your friends have nothing to do on a Friday night, there’s probably something occurring that you don’t know about. Attending these events with your friends is always a lot of fun. Not only does your friend group have an excuse to come together, if you find yourself not enjoying the event, you can always leave and go somewhere else.

Anonymous, I hope this answers your question! The main points were that you should spend less time on homework, use this newly-found extra time exploring your passions and make use of the events on campus. Good luck!

To submit questions to Life Advice, contact us at exonian@gmail.com.

MUSIC REVIEW: SCARY HOURS EP

By JOHANNA MARTINEZ
Staff Writer

This Saturday, Drake released two new songs after teasing the new music on his Instagram account. The quadruple platinum-selling rapper from Toronto has spent the last few months out of the public eye. Yet, last year, he did promise his many fans that he would release new music in his song “Do Not Disturb” by rapping, “I’ll be back in 2018 to give you the summary.”

As of midnight on January 20, Drake kept his promise by releasing two singles: “God’s Plan” and “Diplomatic Immunity.” The songs are both part of his upcoming “Scary Hours” extended play (EP) record. Though they are by the same artist, the two songs could not be more different. This is partly because Boi-1da and Nick Brongers produced “Diplomatic Immunity,” and Cardo, Yung Exclusive and Boi-1da produced the other single, “God’s Plan.”

From the very cover of his upcoming album, one can instantly tell that it’s going to be a bop. The thick white text with a layer of thinner red letters spelling out “Scary Hours” in a black background match perfectly with the tone of the song. Recently, an underground rapper by the name of Rabbit accused Drake of stealing his style of his former tour poster. While this may or may not be addressed by Drake in the near future, it is also important to not let the allegations stray from the quality of Drake’s two new songs and how this cover adds to the nature of his album.

In addition, “God’s Plan” is a bouncier song, fitting with Drake’s usual upbeat style full of beats that one can instantly dance to. It is clearly the better of the two songs, given its overall melody and beat. In the song, Drake incorporates playful lyrics and speaks of his various accomplishments from last year. One of his largest accomplishments being the fact that he was the second most streamed artist of 2017. One of the best lyrics in his song

is “Don’t pull up at 6 a.m. to cuddle with me.” It’s not only funny, it’s also the type of line that sticks with you. This song contains catchier bass and a stronger beat that the listener can instantly vibe with. From the very beginning, the song is energetic and electric, especially due to Drake’s repetition of the title “God’s Plan.”

“Diplomatic Immunity,” on the other hand, is a refreshing change from the same “6 God” songs we are used to listening to. The song provides Drake with a platform to respond to his haters both in the present and the past. He even speaks of breaking up with Jennifer Lopez, referencing the rumors and drama from last year. By far one of the best lines of the song is when he sings, “I’ve seen budding careers turn to sit around and talk about other careers / Judging their peers.” This is a direct diss to the people who judge Drake and his career but do not have one of their own. Its rhyming bars enhance this message. He is honest with all his listeners and talks about being in “better company with [his] own reflection” than with these haters. This particular line resonates with all of his fans familiar with people who belittle their accomplishments. It also teaches them not to be afraid to talk back to the haters not only through words, but through actions. Drake is a wonderful example of how accomplishments can shut some haters down.

Drake has done it again. Both his songs are incredible and sure to be hits. “God’s Plan” is catchier and lighter in content than “Diplomatic Immunity,” but both are equally great. These two songs show Drake’s versatility in rapping and style-bending. Like many of his fans, I’m excited to hear the other songs off his newest EP, “Scary Hours”. Hopefully, it comes out soon. But, for now, his fans will just have to play his two new singles on a loop while awaiting the rest of “Scary Hours.”

UPCOMING

EVENT

GOT VOICE?

Sunday, 6:30, The Forum

DANCE

ALES REGIONAL
DANCE

Saturday, 8:30, Grainger Auditorium

EVENT

NO MAN’S LAND
FILM FESTIVAL

Friday, 6:30, The Forum

Track Toughs up College Teams at Harvard



Senior Abel Ngala catches air in the long jump.

Diana Davidson/The Exonian

By LEAH COHEN
Contributing Writer

With Exeter's own indoor track undergoing construction, the Big Red track team traveled to Harvard University to race around the banked Gordon Indoor Track last Sunday. The team left campus at around seven in the morning and didn't return to campus until seven at night. The full day event, hosted by the Greater Boston Track Club (GBTC), was packed with competitive racing and resulted in a successful meet for the Exeter team.

At the GBTC meet, the team not only competed against other high school athletes, but also several colleges and track clubs. Exeter competed in some events with Andover and St. Paul's; however, there wasn't much intersection between schools throughout the day's events.

When talking about the competitiveness of this meet, Upper Raj Das saw the older compe-

titution as an advantage. "It's always nice to run against college teams, especially since a lot of us, myself included, hope to run in college one day. It was really fun to run heats with athletes from Brandeis or Northeastern, and also against running clubs," he said.

Despite competing against talented, older athletes, Das said, "I always like to say that the clock is our biggest competitor and that we should always seek to improve on our own times, regardless of the competition." His positive attitude helped him place in the top half of competitors in the 60-meter dash and the 200-meter dash. He praises his teammates for their stellar performances at the meet: "I was really inspired by some amazing performances from Ogechi Nwankwoala, Hannah Brown, and Marymegan [Wright] on the 60-meter hurdles, from Matt [Wabunoha] in the 400-meter dash and from Greg Zhu, Calvin Henaku, and Miles Mikofsky on some longer races in the 800 meter

and 1000 meter."

Big Red athletes broke personal and school records. Prep Marymegan Wright finished fourth overall in the 60-meter hurdles. Her times propelled her above college and track club athletes, running a phenomenal time of 10.08 seconds. Her time also earned her a new prep record for the event, beating out lower Helen Xiu's time by .55 seconds.

Upper Maggie Hock excelled in the 600-meter event. Her 1:35.67 time secured her a first-place finish over a Brandeis University runner by 1.45 seconds.

Although track is primarily an individual sport, the Exeter team is very close and prides themselves on camaraderie. Lower Matt Wabunoha says, "[The] best part of the meet was cheering on my teammates, especially those in distance events. Those races are mentally grueling so having people cheer you on, I imagine, helps boost their morale."

Going forward in their season, the team is looking forward to the grand opening of the new indoor track, known by the athletes as "The Palace." While under construction, the team practiced on the basketball courts and gym hallways.

A few years in the making, the indoor facility opened up to the track athletes late last week for practices. "Going from a gym to an actual track is going to allow us to make our running workouts more targeted. Jumpers and throwers will be able to practice in an ideal setting, and people can finally see us compete in the winter," Wabunoha exclaims. "It's a blessing I hope many won't take for granted."

"[The new track] will finally give us a place where we can defend our house," says lower David Kim. Come watch the Exeter boys' and girls' teams "defend their house" on Saturday with their first home meet beginning at noon in "the Palace."

Lowerclassmen in the Varsity Limelight

By MAI HOANG and JASPER YU
Staff and Contributing Writer

Prep Osiris Russell-Delano plays varsity water polo. As one of the youngest members on the team, he encountered some difficulties at the start of the fall season, despite the fact that water polo fostered "a close-knit community," Russell-Delano shared, "It was a little tough at first, but then I realized everyone was going through the same things, everyone was here for me. It got easier."

As a lowerclassman, Russell-Delano said that he often feels like he has "something to prove, a sense of urgency to perform better," acknowledging that usually lowerclassmen do not get to contribute as much compared to their older teammates. "Upperclassmen are going to get more playing time in games," he said, though noting that this does not affect how he's treated.

At Exeter, students are immersed in athletics early on; the Academy's varsity teams are comprised of skilled athletes of different ages, including lowerclassmen. This winter season alone saw 81 preps and lowers on varsity rosters, excluding track, according to PEAs website. Many other lowerclassmen also participate in junior varsity (JV) teams.

The Exeter athletic department states in its mission statement that one of its goals is to "Build healthy, enjoyable and supportive team environments based on trust with no tolerance for hazing." Russell-Delano feels this goal has definitely been met. He said about the upperclassmen on the water polo team, "Everyone is here to watch [lowerclassmen] grow so we can get better as a team. It secures a sense of community within the team, breaking through our age gaps."

Many lowerclassmen agree that as younger players on a team, they face certain physical difficulties that their older counterparts do not. Prep Matt Ngai, an athlete on the varsity boys' soccer team, acknowledged that he experiences some pressure as a lowerclassman on a varsity team. "You're at an age disadvantage, physically and mentally," Ngai said. Senior Jackson Parell, an athlete on varsity boys' swimming and varsity boys' crew, as well as a captain of varsity boys'

water polo, echoed Ngai's sentiments when reflecting on his prep year. "There was definitely a physical disadvantage that I experienced when facing other water polo teams," he said. "That was difficult for me because I had come from a place where I was a pretty good water polo player on the eighth grade middle school team. So coming to Exeter where there were players who were 18 years old facing against 13 year olds was definitely difficult."

Despite this challenge, some athletes at Exeter cite their time playing sports as lowerclassmen as a part of their motivation to triumph over difficulties and grow as a person. Parell added that "the sense of responsibility to the team I feel as someone who has risen through all four years is something really special to me, and has been something I've taken into my position as a captain. It teaches you how to lead and how to face adversity [and] overcome it despite certain disadvantages." Russell-Delano agreed with Parell, noting that knowing his captains were once in the same position as him motivates him to work harder.

As the coach of both JV girls' soccer and track, which incorporates the boys' and girls' varsity and JV groups into one team. Olutoyin (Toyin) Augustus said she definitely sees a difference in the level of team spirit. "Although we do scrimmages for JV girls' and varsity girls' [soccer], compared to track where all teams practice together, the [JV and varsity soccer] girls are not as tight," she said. Toyin also mentioned that during bus rides to the same race, JV and varsity girls would arrange themselves on the bus according to an established trend. "Always, JV sits in the back and varsity sits in the front," she said. "I want to have a conversation on why we do that [...] It's not necessarily bad, but I think there's a manifestation of hierarchies."

Prep Erin McCann, a varsity volleyball and basketball player, found that despite certain distinctions between upperclassmen and lowerclassmen athletes, the athletic spirit, determination and vigor translates regardless of age or ranking. She said, "I think it's similar throughout JV and varsity: you want to put in your best effort."



Lower Keaghan Tierney shoots from the point.

Julia Goydan/The Exonian

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: KALEIGH CONTE

By CANDY TANTICHIRASAKUL and
VERONICA CHOULGA
Staff Writers

In their signature Crocs, a group of Exonians squeak through the gym hallways as snow piles up on the ground outside. Heads turn as they walk through Love Gym. "Who are they?" a confused prep asks.

"I don't know, but they're on the varsity girls' ice hockey team," a senior answers with a smile. Both students look on as the group speeds up past the squash courts and towards the rink.

Leading the group is Kaleigh Conte, a three-year senior and captain of the girls' varsity ice hockey team. Joining the team as a new lower, Conte has led twenty of Exeter's strongest female ice hockey players through a rigorous schedule of twenty-five games each winter season.

Inspired by her older brother, Conte began skating at the age of three. Two years later, she picked up a hockey stick, which immediately sparked her passion. Although her older brother did not pursue ice hockey in college, Conte credits him as a "big influence" in her sporting career. Conte added that her brother "always pushed [her]" to train and improve her skills. Seeing him play Division 1 football at Boston College introduced her to the possibility of pursuing sports, and she became more involved in hockey.

She also credits her parents for helping her to become the athlete she is now. After she decided to start her athletic career by playing ice hockey, Conte recalled that "both her parents were very supportive." She thanked her mother for sacrificing her personal time to "drive her everywhere."

After coming to Exeter as a new lower, Conte joined the varsity hockey team. She described how the program not only helped her grow as an athlete, but also provided her the opportunity to meet new people. Her teammates are "the best thing I've gotten from ice hockey," Conte said. "There's so many



Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

supportive people and they just understand what you're going through."

The team dynamic helps make hockey practice one of Conte's favorite aspects of each day. "When I'm having a bad day, I can let go of everything and go to hockey and get my mind off of it," Conte said.

The team's chemistry translates to better plays on the ice. Coach Melissa Pacific, Conte's "second mother," needed a center-position player for the team. Because of Conte's flexibility and selflessness, she switched to play the needed position despite being a lifelong defender. After a few games, the team needed her back on defense, and Conte was ready to switch back "without missing a beat," Pacific said. She described

Conte as "an amazing kid who would do anything for anyone."

Conte also cares for her teammates off of the ice. In addition to wearing Crocs before and after practices as the team's form of unity, Conte also started a new tradition to make laminated cards of inspirational quotes that she distributes before each game. Conte describes it as "a unifying [custom] that tries to get the players into the winning mindset." Lower Jenna Brooks complimented Conte's enthusiasm for the team. "It's just little things like that that make her a special person and a really great captain," Brooks said.

Conte is also known for her sense of humor. Upper Jane Collins, a fellow team member and dorm mate in

McConnell Hall, recalled the hilarious gift Conte gave her. "Kaleigh had me for Secret Santa this year and she got me a giant box of every inside joke that we've ever had," Collins explained. The box contained an Exeter fanny pack that Conte specially customized to have Collins' jersey number on it. "She just puts a lot of time and effort into everything, and I think we all appreciate that," Collins said.

Throughout her time as captain, Conte has learned many valuable lessons that have been pivotal to both her athletic and academic career. One lesson distinctly came to her mind. "I would say probably the most important thing I learned at Exeter is how to ask for help, and how it's not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength," she reflected.

Conte emphasized how, during her time as captain, she wants to share this mindset with the team and make both the new and returning players feel comfortable to voice their opinions and reach out for assistance.

Pacific commended Conte for her positive, hard-working attitude. "She had to battle in the classroom and on the ice. The work was hard for her at first and even on the ice, she didn't get a regular shift. She really has succeeded since her first term on campus," Pacific said. "She has excelled in the classroom and on the ice; we couldn't ask for anything more from her."

Although she has not determined which college she will be attending next year, Conte definitely wants to continue playing ice hockey after Exeter, in addition to majoring in English.

It's hard for her team to imagine what next year will be like without Conte. "I'll miss how observant she is when anyone is having a tough day. She'll always go out of her way to make sure everyone is okay," Collins expressed.

Pacific agreed in saying, "It's heart-breaking to think she is graduating. I am trying to savor every moment of her senior year."

Come see Conte in action this Friday night at 5pm as her team takes on Rivers School.

Boys' Basketball Extends Win-Loss Streak



JaQ Lai/The Exonian

Senior Ben Eckstrom looks for a pass.

By CAROLINE FLEMING
Staff Writer

Postgraduate Zach Stenglein swats the ball, intercepting a crisp pass from a New Hampton player. Instinctively, he rushes down the court, the opposing team in pursuit. When he reaches the three-point line, Stenglein pulls up for the shot, arching the ball in the air. It bounces off the rim and onto the top of the backboard. The players sigh and turn their heads back to the defensive end of the court. Miraculously, the ball drops downwards and through the hoop to score yet another three points for the Exeter boys' varsity basketball team. Unfortunately, this skillful play wasn't enough for Big Red to take the win last Friday night, and the team fell 57-81 to the New Hampton School.

New Hampton is one of the strongest teams in the area. They proved to be an excellent opponent and allowed the Exeter team to identify its own mistakes and improve. "Personally, I felt that we took a step forward even though it wasn't how we imagined it to be so. New Hampton is usually a powerhouse in New England," senior and co-captain Brian Zhao explained. "They're always a very strong program. They have a lot of talent and have a great coaching staff over there." The tough competition didn't level the team's spirits, igniting a spark of intensity in the players.

The team expects to improve from this game, declaring that losses occur in the beginning of the season when players are still finding their footing and learning to play together. Stenglein talked

about the team's plans for practice this week, in which they will prepare to win against the Belmont Hill School. "We are going to keep up with our identity: a team that gives it all on defense. The next few days will be dedicated to that as well as executing our offense. We've got a very important week ahead of us. Two big Class A games."

The game at New Hampton was also challenging because the team was playing in an unfamiliar gym and did not have friends cheering in the stands. Lower Kerick Walker said, "In terms of the atmosphere, there was a decent crowd rooting for them and obviously nobody rooting for us, so it was important for us to build our own energy." Regardless, after a tough 3-23 start to the game, Exeter recovered and fought until the end, striv-

ing to play its best regardless of the score.

The boys expect to have a successful rest of the season. Their 5-5 record is already impressive compared to the 4-3 start last season. Despite a bumpy start to last season, the team won the championship tournament. Zhao described his hopes for the rest of the season. "We're almost there as a team, even though perhaps the outside noise doesn't give that impression," he said. "I think that we've grown a lot from where we've started, but once we get there I expect to see a lot more positive results, a lot more wins [and] a lot more smiles."

The team hopes to demonstrate its improvement at its upcoming home game versus Loomis Chaffee on Saturday. With support from the home crowd, Big Red is ready to win.



ExonianSports



BOYS' SWIM SMASHES ST. JOHN'S PREP



Senior Harry Saunders pummels through the 100 fly.

Jena Yun/The Exonian

By WYNTER SANDS
Contributing Writer

Senior and co-captain Taylor Walshe rushed towards the wall, anchoring the first event of the meet: the 200-yard medley relay. As he peered at the "1" next to his lane number on the scoreboard, the rest of the swimmers finished close behind. The relay quartet—lowers Charlie Venci and Andrew Benson, upper Jared Zhang, and Walshe—finished a staggering seven seconds ahead of the other team's best squad. Accompanied by the cheers of Exeter teammates, this race set the tone for the rest of the meet.

On Saturday, the boys' varsity swimming team hosted St. John's Prep (SJP) in a cutthroat dual meet. After a competitive matchup, Exeter won with an outstanding score of 105-81. This meet added another victory to their season record of 4-1.

Entering the meet, the team's goal was to gather as many event wins as possible. Walshe expressed the team's attitude going into the

meet. "The mindset was to win," he said. "Everyone knew it was going to be close, so we had to swim strong to the finish for each race."

Senior Jamie Cassidy mentioned SJP's infamous winning chant and how it affects the Exeter team's motivation. "St. John's is known for having a very obnoxious chant where they yell 'P-R-E-P PREP PREP' after every win," he explained. Lower Andrew Sun agreed with Cassidy and stressed the team's desire "to win every race [to] stop them from saying it."

The meet was filled with noteworthy swims from all members of the team. Benson and Zhang each won two events. Benson won the 200-yard individual medley and the 500-yard freestyle while Zhang took the 200-yard and 100-yard freestyle events. Walshe and Venci both clutched much-needed wins in the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard backstroke respectively.

In a thrilling end to the meet, relay anchor Benson made up a near two second deficit to overtake SJP's 400-yard freestyle relay team. Prep Adam Tuchler described

Benson's triumphant swim. "All it took was his dive to get right next to the rival swimmer," he said. "He ended up crushing the other team, bringing a victory."

Another highlight was the 100-yard breaststroke, where Cassidy charged into a second place finish. Despite getting edged out by his opponent, Cassidy dropped an incredible two seconds from his previous personal best time. It was his electrifying energy and reaction to the swim that made this an exciting race. Venci praised Cassidy's race by describing him as a "powerhouse breastroker on [the] team."

Cassidy's spirited swim was only one of many which demonstrated the team's positive attitude throughout the meet. Walshe recognized this as an improvement from previous meets. "The team has gotten better at motivating each other," he said. "Coach [Don] Mills told us afterwards that our support for our teammates was a huge factor in the win. Jamie was a big part of that." Agreeing with Walshe, Cassidy elaborated on the new team

dynamic. "A big piece for us has been having each other's backs," he said. "We're putting up good times for this part of the season, and we just love getting each other going."

Cassidy also commented on the unprecedented energy on the pool deck. "After every swim we would play short bursts of music on the sideline and go nuts, running and dancing around the pool deck," he explained.

The boys are looking forward to their upcoming away meet this Saturday against Choate Rosemary Hall. Choate has a unique 25-meter pool, which is longer than Exeter's 25-yard pool. Walshe stressed the team's need to prepare for the different format. "I presume we will increase the yardage in practice to get us ready for the longer pool," he said.

Big Red will be seeking a decisive win against Choate to set them up well for the interscholastic championship at the end of the season. Venci commented, "There is a freight train headed full speed at Interschols, and it's gonna go right through the competition. That freight train is us."

GVH Holds on Honorably to Nobles

By Charlie Venci
Contributing Writer

This past weekend, girls' varsity hockey had a hometown throwdown with the number one seed, Noble & Greenough School, falling 2-1. Going into the game fresh off of a 4-0 win against Holderness, the team harnessed a lot of momentum and was looking to bust up the favorites.

Exeter's first goal came from upper and defenseman Kathryn Kester on a blast from the point that went top cheddar. As the third period began, the score was tied 1-1. But, only a minute and five seconds after the ref dropped the burnt biscuit, Nobles struck again and finessed a shot from the slot that got the best of Exeter's all-star goalie, upper Michaela O'Brien.

With 3 minutes to go in the game, both teams received penalties and duked it out in

4-on-4 fashion. Exeter pulled their goalie and surged down the ice in the last few seconds. Lower and forward Ally DeCoste ripped a bunker buster from the blue line as the buzzer sounded, but it was swallowed up by the opposing goalie. Nobles barely escaped with the win, which is quite a different finish than last year, when Big Red fell to Nobles 4-1.

Although trailing for most of the third, one performance that cannot be overlooked

was that of the Exeter netminder. O'Brien made seven major saves in the final ten minutes and denied Nobles on all chances to extend their close lead.

Looking back on the game, senior and co-captain Kaleigh Conte commended the team's hard work. "I think that we dominated most of the game. There were many times, though, where we really could have won it," she said. Lower Abby Smith shared similar sentiments to Conte, agreeing that "we played very hard, and I am proud of that fact."

Conte hopes the team improves in seizing shot opportunities. "You might get only one or two [scoring chances] per game playing a team like that," she said. "Moving forward, that's the thing that separates a good team from a great team—capitalizing on opportunities." The team will be working on finishing their shots and getting pucks to the net during practice in the near future.

Seeing as Nobles is a powerhouse team in the girls' hockey league, the Exeter girls are ecstatic to be able to maintain a high ranking with a team of that caliber. As stated by Kester, "The game could've easily gone the other way," she said. "When we go to play other good teams like St. Paul's, we are going to have more confidence going in and it will hopefully benefit us more."

Big Red's current record is 6-6-2. The team is confident in its abilities as it hosts the Tilton School on Saturday the 24th at 2:30 PM on home ice. Lower Jill Cloonan expressed her excitement for the upcoming game, saying, "I think we are going to do really well if we play like we did against Nobles. Tilton is a good team, but I think we can beat them."



Lower Abby Smith rushes the puck past a defender.

Jena Yun/The Exonian

Inside This Week's Sports Section

Lowerclassmen



Find out more about what it's like to be a lowerclassman on a varsity team on B4.

Julia Goydan/The Exonian

Athlete of the Week



Kaleigh Conte is the charismatic leader of the girls' varsity hockey team. Read more on B5.

Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

Winter Track



The track team does it all -- running, jumping, throwing; what else? Stay up to speed on its successes on B4.

Diana Davidson/The Exonian

Boys' Basketball



The basketball team continues its not-so-coincidental win, loss record in last Friday's game.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian