



The Exonian

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Permit Number 78

"The Oldest Preparatory School Newspaper in America"

Vol. CXXXIX, Number 28

Thursday, December 14, 2017

Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire



Upper Andrew Loevinger rehearses for Sunday's Holiday Concert with the Concert Band. JaQ Lai/The Exonian

Former EPA Head Delivers Assembly On Environment

By SUAN LEE and SOPHIA ZU
Staff Writers

Gina McCarthy, former head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under President Obama's administration, visited Exeter on Tuesday as this year's Bragdon Fellow to deliver an assembly on environmentalism and public health. In her question and answer section, McCarthy spoke of the importance of federal investment in clean energy sources. Her spirited hand-gestures and emphasis on the need for immediate and united efforts to combat climate change captivated the audience and drew frequent applause and a standing ovation. Others, however, critiqued her delivery for being too vague and unnecessarily divisive.

McCarthy began her speech by criticizing the Trump administration for its lack of environmental awareness and leadership. "I figure you may be pretty interested and, in some ways, concerned about what is both happening in Washington, D.C., as well as what is not happening in Washington, D.C.," she said, receiving her first round of snaps from the audience.

"The administrator [of the EPA] is not really embracing the initiative of the agency and understanding how necessary and important the work is that his agency does, and as a result things aren't being enforced, and everything that the Obama administration wanted to do was apparently misguided because now it's being undone," she continued. "Am I ticked off? Absolutely. Am I giving up? Absolutely no way."

Throughout her speech, McCarthy reflected on the progress her agency had made during Obama's presidency, organizing national and international efforts for environmental action. "If you think that's all going to deteriorate because one president decides to write a tweet or

ASSEMBLY, 2

County Attorney Releases Unredacted Documents

By WILLA CANFIELD and EMILY PELLICIA
Staff Writers

After releasing over 900 pages of investigative documents detailing allegations of misconduct at the Academy dating back to the 1950s, the Rockingham County Attorney informed Exeter on Wednesday that there would be no further report releases until the middle of January 2018. The County Attorney Patricia Conway released the documents last Wednesday to Seacoast Media Group under New Hampshire's Right-to-Know statute (91-A). These reports revealed identifying information about victims, whistleblowers and accused perpetrators whose confidentiality the school and the Exeter Police Department (EPD) had worked together to protect through significant redactions in their own reports.

When the Schubart case broke in the spring of 2016, Exeter asked that victims of misconduct at the Academy come forward, and committed to passing along to the EPD all allegations they received. Many documents included in the com-

pilation pertain to reports made following this time. The compilation consists of Academy reports, EPD reports and state reports, and, according to Exeter's in-house legal counsel Holly Barcroft, only two of the cases listed in the documents have led to actual charges.

PEA's legal counsel has reached out to Conway for assurance that the names of minors will be treated with care in the future. Exeter lawyers emphasized how important it is to the Academy that the names of minors who come forward remain permanently redacted.

Upon the release of the documents, Exeter's legal representatives contacted Conway, arguing that more information should have been redacted. They also proposed specific redactions the county attorney's office might make in the interest of protecting victims and minors. In an update to the Exeter community, Principal Lisa MacFarlane said, "I also want to report that we have requested in writing - and the County Attorney has agreed to review - a detailed list of redactions before that office releases the files to any additional parties."

Lawyer David A. Vicinanza at Nixon Peabody LLP wrote a letter to Conway on Dec. 10, saying, "The adverse impact associated with the public disclosure of student and employee identifying information is apparent, particularly for minor students whose identity New Hampshire law requires be kept confidential in all proceedings initiated under RSA Chapter 169-C."

Vicinanzo also expressed concern in his letter about the possibility of future victims being unwilling to come forward for fear of their confidentiality being violated. "Disclosing the identity of student reporters, witnesses and victims—many of whom came forward believing their identities would remain strictly confidential—without their knowledge or consent will also discourage other students from coming forward and reporting suspected instances of misconduct," he said.

He continued, "This is precisely the type of collateral consequence that Chapter 91-A seeks to avoid by protecting from disclosure information that, if publically known, would constitute an invasion of privacy. Protecting privacy,

DOCUMENT, 2

Exonian Board To Turn Over

By ISABELLA AHMAD and VIRGINIA LITTLE
Staff Writers

Uppers Rose Horowitch, Madison Kang and Bella Alvarez will lead *The Exonian's* 140th board, respectively, as the newly-selected editor-in-chief, director of writing and managing editor. In a turnover process that has continued annually at the end of every fall term since 1878, the 139th editorial board of *The Exonian* and the newspaper's faculty advisers finalized the 140th editorial staff following three hours of deliberation last Saturday night.

In selecting the new editorial board, the outgoing editors aimed to assemble a group of diverse talents that would work well together as a cohesive unit, sharing the responsibilities of a demanding weekly publication. In particular, the outgoing board wanted editors who would work well as a team and complement each other's strengths.

The application process started with a comprehensive written section that assessed applicant's strengths as editors. For example, a series of questions asked how applicants would tackle hypothetical situations encountered by editors, such as how they'd respond to allegations or misquotations. A later section evalu-



Kang, Horowitch and Alvarez to lead *Exonian*. Angelina Zhang/The Exonian

ated his or her previous work for the newspaper. In addition to these questions, all candidates applying for a position on the Executive Board underwent 20-minute interviews with the faculty advisors and the current board.

English instructor and *The Exonian* club advisor Alex Myers stated that the most admirable quality of the new board is their "care and attention to writing," explaining that this new board is especially relentless when piecing together stories.

"I've worked with many of them

on individual articles and have seen just how many interviews they've conducted, how they have tried to get multiple angles and how they have put time into analysis and understanding," he said. "I'm also impressed by how they have developed good working relationships with faculty and administrators."

But perhaps what most stands out to both faculty and the editors, past and present, is the power of the newspaper and the platform it provides.

Outgoing Director of Writing **NEW BOARD, 2**

PIRC Statistics Spark Discussion

By HARRY SAUNDERS and SAMANTHA WEIL
Staff Writers

Exonians returned from fall break to find posters hung across the busiest locations on campus, from classroom whiteboards to Dining Hall cork boards. Each poster presented a statistic, such as, "73 percent of single Exonians said they would like to be in a committed relationship, but still haven't found the right person" or "80 percent of Exonians don't send messages about sex or sexual activity on Snapchat."

The nine images, which depict current and former students holding up sheets of paper with messages that supplement the statistics written at the top, were posted for five days before they were taken down last Sunday. The statistics were taken from the results of a survey on Exeter's social climate, completed by 869 students last January.

According to senior and EASA Board Member Lara Galligani, the posters were put "in places where you wouldn't want them to be...so that when you see them every day, the posters will be ingrained in your mind."

The distribution of posters is the first initiative in the Exeter Social Norms Campaign. Former Director of Student Health and Wellbeing Jane Stapleton, along with her group at the University of New Hampshire, the Prevention Innovations Research Center (PIRC), started the campaign last January in collaboration with a working group comprised of Exeter students, faculty and staff. Leadership of the effort has since been passed on to current Director of Student Health and Wellbeing Christina Palmer.

According to an email Principal MacFarlane sent to the Academy community last Thursday, the campaign is part of PEA's and PIRC's shared goal of developing "a comprehensive plan to prevent sexual and relationship violence and stalking at Exeter."

The working group met bi-weekly with PIRC last year to develop the campaign, of which the posters are only the beginning. After gathering student feedback in a survey which will

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WEB



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Social Norms Campaign Posters

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be sent to all Exonians under the age of 18 this Saturday, Dec. 16, PIRC and Stapleton's group plans to work with EASA to develop semi-permanent replacements. Furthermore, MacFarlane's email presents the initiative as a brief "pilot program," created to encourage student reflection and discussion.

Many students mentioned the posters' aesthetic as a particular weakness. "The posters are in Comic Sans first of all, and they're just kind of obnoxious," lower Avery Clowes said. "I don't take the font Comic Sans seriously."

In some instances, stylistic deficiencies and awkward phrasing detracted from serious discussion of the campaign's subject matter among students. "I know a couple of my friends made jokes about the posters, but other than that, it hasn't really sparked a conversation," lower Charlie Venci said.

Upper Miles Mikofsky also took issue with the design, focusing more on the process by which the posters were developed than the messaging itself. "I didn't pay as much attention to the statistics as I did how strange it was that they held up blank sheets of paper that people then wrote on," he said.

However, Galligani sees the reactions to the design as an advantage, committed to the view that any publicity is good publicity. "The font is a font that will stand out to you," she said. "I've noticed that people have started talking about them, and people are putting them on their Snapchat stories. Obviously, some people are doing it to make fun of them, or are making jokes, but ultimately it reaches our goal of bringing awareness."

Alumna Emma Norton '17 participated in the working group last year and is pictured in one of the posters holding a sign that reads, "People think everyone here wants to hook up, but we're all just looking for love." According to her, one of the main goals of the campaign is to challenge students' preconceived notions about the Exeter community. "Hopefully these posters...make people realize that the things they think are true about the sexual climate on campus aren't always true," she said.

For Venci, the posters achieved this goal. "Seeing [the statistics] in writing is so unexpected in some cases," he said. "I saw one about 82 percent of Exonians asking for consent, and it just seems odd that you wouldn't get consent. That was really eye-opening for me."

Others were largely unaffected by the information. Upper Jeremy Xu said that while he found some of the statistics "a little bit interesting, most of them were expected." Lower Destiny Rogers was similarly nonplussed. The statistics didn't affect her outlook on the hookup culture on campus, as she does not feel that Exeter has a toxic sexual climate. "I've learned, but they didn't really change my opinion on anything regarding sexual assault," she said.

Venci thought this lack of reaction may be indicative of a community that is already aware of the issues on which the posters commented. "We've had a lot of assemblies about [the sexual climate]," he said. "I feel like it's kind of a prevalent topic, so people are generally pretty well-informed about the statistics."

Despite PIRC's efforts to place posters where they would have the greatest impact, some students found their widespread distribution bothersome and intrusive. Mikofsky mentioned that faculty had told him that the campaign is the first in many years that requires teachers to hang signage inside their classrooms. "Everywhere you turn on the first floor of Webster, they're there," Mikofsky said. "I think they are alienating both the faculty and, to an extent, students. But with the faculty, it's worse."

Venci agreed that the location of the posters should be reconsidered. "Don't hang them in classrooms," he suggested. "They're large and brightly colored and right there on the board, and it's kind of distracting."

Both EASA and Palmer plan to use these critiques to make refinements for a new set of posters. "Palmer's goal is to eventually hand the project over to EASA, take the feedback, adapt [the posters], probably retake the photos every few years and put them up every year to showcase what they're about," senior and EASA Board Member Mila DeGuere said.

EASA faculty advisor Barbara Desmond stressed the importance of these continuing efforts. "Making real and lasting change will take time and involve a coordinated effort by all of us as well as a willingness to come back to this subject again and again every year, as new students arrive," she said.

Palmer elaborated on these future projects. She detailed three plans for the EASA and PIRC collaborations, which include "providing training for EASA, proctors, student listeners in bringing in the bystander [and] training with Haven," as well as "providing...circle training for faculty to begin piloting this tool in helping with difficult conversations and strengthen community."

Palmer hopes that student leaders will take this training and share it within dorms, groups, teams and more. She also plans on assisting with the implementation of EASA's "presentations on healthy relationships in prep health classes winter term," and wants to "be a resource as they plan for April (Sexual Assault Month) school-wide activities."

Upper Euwiew Park hopes the Social Norms Campaign will continue to raise awareness of campus cultures and their consequential effects on PEA. "This sexual assault poster movement may have received backlash, but it is the start of a necessary initiative," she said. "Exonians may unknowingly participate or perpetuate certain cultures, some positive and some negative, but we need to reflect on our experiences. This reflection starts with consciousness."

Conway Stems More Disclosures

Continued from [DOCUMENT, 1](#)

on the other hand, will encourage future reporting by students and faculty alike. To be clear, PEA does not oppose the RCOA's disclosure of its investigative files; rather, PEA believes that careful redaction of the files could protect the privacy of reporters, witnesses, victims and subjects, while still providing insight into the workings of government and satisfying the public's right-to-know."

Last night, Conway informed the school of her commitment to honor the redactions they requested. "The County Attorney is taking our redaction requests so seriously that there will be no further

releases of the documents until the middle of January 2018," Barcroft said. "We have great respect for the County Attorney's decision and feel lucky to have a good working relationship with her."

In her update to the community, MacFarlane emphasized the proactive measures the school continues to take. "In addition to investigating each allegation, we also continually review our policies, our training and our employment actions, to ensure we are being as responsive as possible to safety concerns. We stay vigilant about emerging threats, as they can change over time," she wrote. "Our guiding principle is the safety of each individual in our community."

academy has not received any formal complaints about Hewitt, many current and former Symphonia students have expressed discomfort with the former conductor.

Upper Adrian Venzon described an incident from his prep year where Hewitt played a student's clarinet during rehearsal, and expected her to play the clarinet right after him. "The student was really upset," he said. "We were all pretty rattled."

A teacher in the music department, who wishes to remain anonymous, expressed his surprise to hear about the allegations against his former colleague whom he respected greatly as a musician. "I'm really upset by this because he's a fellow musician I know and respect very much. The music side of him is very excellent, and very inspirational—that's all I know," he said. "I'd be astounded for one thing—although we know people have done this—if he has done anything wrong here, knowing the ages of the students involved."

Peter Schultz, the Head of the Music Department at Phillips Exeter Academy, declined to comment about the allegations of misconduct of his former colleague. However, he did assure Symphonia, the music ensemble that was headed by Hewitt, will continue to play and perform music throughout the rest of the school year.

Gina McCarthy's Rousing Speech

Continued from [ASSEMBLY, 1](#)

speak in the White House about everything going away, you're wrong. It's happening, it's moving forward, and we are actually going to be a part of that as long as you remember to stay active," she said, rallying the audience.

Later that afternoon, almost fifty audience members joined McCarthy to ask questions and engage in further dialogue about climate change. She addressed the lack of public awareness, the dire consequences of excessive food waste and overconsumption, while attendees discussed the Academy's own initiatives to become more environmentally sustainable.

Pete Bragdon '54, the son of former Academy instructor Henry Bragdon, for whom the Bragdon Fund is named, expressed his admiration for McCarthy. "The key to a great teacher is passion, warmth, love and excitement, and Gina has it. I was impressed with her and with the audience," he remarked.

His wife Dottie offered similar praise, saying, "Henry would be very proud that the school brings in brilliant speakers like Gina McCarthy once a year."

Not everyone was equally enthralled. Lower Nosa Lawani found McCarthy's speech to be a simple crowd-pleaser. "There was no substance. It was just anti-Trump lip service to the audience. She got her claps, she got her snaps, but she said very few things that I could act upon or learn from. She should have addressed concrete issues, not just phrases that are either anti-administration or broadly pro-environment," he said.

Senior Molly Canfield agreed that the assembly did not achieve a great deal

of specificity. "I thought that it was very similar to a campaign speech," she said. She nonetheless appreciated McCarthy's animated and encouraging rhetoric because it "gave me more hope than I've had since November 8, 2016."

Dottie Bragdon and lower Elizabeth Kostina agreed that although bipartisan efforts were crucial, the impact of the Trump administration's environmental policies could not be undermined or overlooked in contemporary discussions of climate change. "I respect the opinion that the assembly might have been too political, but it can't be denied that when Obama was president, we didn't have this issue," Kostina said. "Most countries are signed on the Paris Climate Agreement, but the United States withdrew. What does that say about our country as a whole? It reflects poorly on the people making the decisions."

Bragdon sympathized with McCarthy's frustration. "Of course she was political. She was the head of the EPA, and now she's watching it be ripped up. Trump thinks you can't have a good economy without polluting, but they're not on opposite poles. McCarthy is for clean air and a good economy," she said.

Kostina believed McCarthy's use of more generic terms served her cause in uniting the assembly audience and allowed her to refrain from polarizing certain sides of the political spectrum.

"Giving an action plan is a hard thing to do. You cannot pinpoint a certain thing that people should act on because it's likely to change, and people have different mindsets on how to do things," she said. "This needs to be a collaboration, and if one person came up with the idea, it wouldn't be collaborative."

140th Board Begins its Tenure

Continued from [NEW BOARD, 1](#)

senior Willa Canfield had full confidence that the 140th Executive board, working alongside "strong News and Life sections," will use this power to "publish the truth, and keep our community informed."

For Ashley Lin, a new Sports editor, a benefit of writing is being personally educated by the platform. "I can basically be 'in the know' through writing about what's going on around campus," she said.

Former humor editor senior Billy O'Handley said that journalism is a method of keeping governing bodies and leaders accountable for their actions. "The Exonian holds the Exeter administration accountable," he said.

O'Handley continued, expressing his confidence in his successors and his aspirations for the next terms of *The Exonian*. "I'd like for them to keep [up] the political agenda [in the humor page]," he said. "It can really have a message."

Alvarez says that the new board will work hard to continue its goal of educating the community about what's happening in the world around them. "Although the Exonian is a student-run publication, we cover a lot of really important topics, especially those that pertain to the population on campus and even beyond," she said. "For example, we've written about the StuCo scandal, the opioid crisis in the surrounding town, student abuse of nicotine and the socioeconomic divide between PEA and Exeter residents."

Newly-chosen news editor Paul James echoed Alvarez's sentiments. He emphasized his intent to continue the discussion of the pertaining topics on campus through *The Exonian*. "I want to continue reporting on issues that are important to the Exeter community and make every effort to add to *The Exonian's* pedigree of high-quality content," he said. "We've recently investigated the sexual culture on campus, as well as written some articles about drug use."

Horowitch believed that the unity of the board would help accomplish these goals and has faith that they will carry their passion for investigative journalism with them into their new positions. "Having worked with almost all of the board members on

articles throughout my time on lower board, I know we'll fulfill our roles admirably," Horowitch said.

Kang agreed with Horowitch's sentiment, commending the talents of the new board and their commitment to high-caliber journalism. She highlighted the strengths of the news team as a major asset to the paper. "[News editors] John Beckerle, Paul James, Don Assamngkol and Sarah Ryu are all veteran writers who have been writing since their prep year," she said. "They have a good eye for newsworthy content and will be the creative force directing the scope of our paper."

The outgoing and new board will work on one final issue together before winter break, helping to further the transition of the new editors into their new responsibilities. Outgoing Upper Board members assured the new board that they are always available as a resource, but according to outgoing Director of Writing senior Willa Canfield, the new Executive and Upper Board editors have learned most of the necessary skills to be successful board members.

Faculty adviser and English instructor Erica Lazure said that while the duties of the new board will be demanding, the new editors are up to the task. "There is definitely an adjustment period, but the new board has been trained well by the 139th Board," she said. "It will be great to see them pass on their expertise and knowledge of writing and reporting news that's important to Exeter to the next generation of writers."

As the new Editor-in-Chief, Horowitch is confident that the 140th Board will succeed in managing the oldest secondary school paper in America by encouraging collaboration between writers and editors to enrich the experiences of every club member and to improve the quality of each article. She is thankful to have worked under the 139th Board, who led the publication with "grace, kindness and skill, creating a positive environment in the newsroom and training all writers."

"The 139th Board has had a lasting impact on *The Exonian*, and I am honored to have the torch passed to me," Horowitch said. "I will strive to act as the mentors they did during my tenure."

Eric Hewitt Placed on Leave

By CLAIRE JUTABHA and SOPHIA ZU

Eric Hewitt, former director of the Academy's Symphonia Orchestra, has been placed on leave and barred from the Exeter campus after reports of sexual misconduct and other inappropriate behavior resulted in the termination of his contract at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee College of Music. Principal Lisa MacFarlane announced the development in emails sent to the student body, faculty and PEA parents this Tuesday.

According to an article published in *The Boston Globe*, Hewitt has been placed on leave from both the Boston College High School and Phillips Exeter Academy after the Boston Conservatory placed him on permanent leave Nov. 28. Hewitt planned to resign from the Boston Conservatory after receiving a performance warning from the conservatory in October due to "his behavior and interaction with students in the classroom and in rehearsals," according to *The Globe*. While the conservatory did not reveal the precise reason for Hewitt's termination, *The Globe* conducted multiple interviews with his former students that reveal a history of sexual misconduct and assault.

While MacFarlane writes that the

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Exonians set up their tents on a Maui seaside bluff.

Courtesy of Kacper Rebeszko

Student Council to Launch Widely Anticipated Website

By **EMILY KANG** and
SHIVANI TRIPATHI
Staff Writers

For the past three years, Student Council has been designing a website to update the student body on policies, events and developments. The widely anticipated website will be launched next week, featuring the StuCo constitution and links to community updates.

According to upper and StuCo Tech Committee member Rajrishi Das, the website will serve as a “portal of information between student council and the greater Exeter community.” The site content will range from information on campus events to updates on StuCo policy deliberation.

Secretary Tara Weil explained that StuCo “is gearing the website towards what students need and what they need to know.” To accomplish this, the website will also display school protocol such fire code policies and instruction on applying for financial aid towards sports equipment or school supplies.

The website’s Student Portal section will gather and publish student feedback. “Under this portal, students can provide feedback to The Grill, the dining halls and even assemblies,” StuCo President Jackson Parell said.

StuCo hopes that establishing the website will fulfill the student body’s demands for transparency and feedback and give students a voice in decisions and enable them to make propositions of their own. Currently, the website is structured as a WordPress blog, where visitors can submit paragraphs of information they would like to convey to StuCo officers. “There is also a section called the motion box that allows students to fill out a motion and submit it,” Parell added. “We, as an executive board, will review it and bring it to council for a vote.”

In addition to site features designed for the student body, aspects designed for faculty may be integrated in the future, though they remain currently unspecified.

Furthermore, the StuCo executive board aims to update the website at least once a week. “Raj had a very large role in the creation of the website, and he will manage the more technical aspects of it,” Weil said. The PR committee heads, seniors Billy

O’Handley and Greg Miller, will also contribute to updating content.

Students look forward to the new website as a means of receiving information. “I think it’s a good idea for the student body to be informed of what’s happening on campus,” lower Jasper Yu said. “I hope to see a better transit of information through campus, because I feel like I’m sometimes left in the dark about certain events.” Upper Mary Provencal-Fogarty echoed these sentiments, saying that she would appreciate a way to be involved without having to go to StuCo meetings. “I would love a way to engage that doesn’t compromise my Tuesday nights,” she said. “It’s a great idea to incorporate it into student life without necessarily having to be there.”

Prep Yunseo Choi hopes to find the information helpful as a new student navigating the many committees in Exeter’s student council. “I think it’s a good idea because it will have descriptions of different committees and who you would need to contact if you are interested in a certain committee,” she said.

Day students feel like the new website will help them be more involved in the Exeter community. “I’m a day student, so I don’t spend ton of time on campus,” lower Thomas Beaulieu said. “So I think a website informing me of all the happenings at Exeter will be helpful for me.” Provencal-Fogarty agreed with Beaulieu, saying that the website would compensate for the student council meetings she misses. “I think the main reason I don’t go to student council that often is because I have to go home,” she said. “So if I had access to a website, I would definitely feel more involved in the community.”

Along the same lines, day student representative Bella Ilchenko believes that the website will be useful to day students inconvenienced by the two hour gap between the end of classes and StuCo meetings. Before, day students had to rely on day student representatives such as Ilchenko, but now, all content can be accessed online, and day students can even take action individually by providing feedback. “We are continuing to work on it and improve user interface,” Ilchenko said. “I think that website is for everyone to have equal access and understand what decisions are being made.”

Exeter Students Return From Thanksgiving Trips

By **JAMIE CASSIDY, MAI HOANG**
and **SAMANTHA WEIL**
Staff Writers

While most students went home to wind down from the arduous fall term during the Thanksgiving Break, a group of Exonians was instead learning about completely unfamiliar cultures. From visiting the church in which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. preached and eating authentic Southern fried chicken, to hiking for hours on a 7,000 foot mountain in torrential rain while exploring the native wildlife of Maui, students and faculty were able to experience the U.S. through many facets.

Originally, the intention of the Thanksgiving Break programs was to provide for international students who were not able to travel home for the break, according to Director of Global Initiatives Eimer Page. This year, the three trips that took place were the Civil Rights Tour in Montgomery, Alabama, the NOLS Bahamian Sea Kayaking trip in Maui, Hawaii, and the “Making of America: Rock and Roll and the Civil War” trip to Nashville.

As the programs started off as an outlet for international students, Page said that the Thanksgiving trips were confined to areas within the United States. “We’ve made a conscious decision to make Thanksgiving a time for Exonians to explore the U.S.,” Page said. “The trips should also connect with the Exeter curriculum or the values we foster, like diversity and community,” she continued.

In Maui, students explored the island by snorkeling at Molokini crater and visiting the Waikamoi Preserve of the Nature Conservancy. “We saw all kinds of rare and beautiful birds and plants, from ‘iwi and amakihi birds to koa and ohia trees to nearly extinct lobelia plants to a swarm of coral reef fish when we were snorkeling,” Biology Instructor and leader of the NOLS Bahamian Sea Kayaking trip Townley Chisholm said.

For Chisholm, the highlights of the trip were “the physical beauty of Maui, the incredible diversity of terrain and ecosystems, the chance to talk with people who love the place and who care for it and spending time with a wonderful group of students in a magical place.”

Having taken AP Biology with Chisholm, senior Lili Hernandez spoke of the value in working with him outside the classroom. “Students will ask [Mr. Chisholm] a question and often he’ll have you go find the answer for yourself,” she said. Hernandez specifically reflected on when Exonians had the opportunity to speak with the native people of Maui, many of whom live off of their own land.

The Maui trip ran for the first time this year because of its biological, geological and cultural resources available for students to explore. Chisholm said that because Hawaii is “the setting for some of the most astonishing adaptive radiations of plants, birds and insects on the planet. It also has a tremendous volcanic geology and incredibly rich traditional Hawaiian culture.”

While the group in Maui spent time snorkeling and engaging with Hawaiian

culture, Exonians in Nashville explored the regional history of the South revolving around slavery and the American Civil War.

Having visited a cemetery in Chattanooga, upper Sarah Liberatore said, “You hear about the numbers in history books, but seeing the cemeteries in real life and thinking about all the wars that are going on right now, how they deeply impact individuals’ lives—it had an impact on me.”

Students also visited hallmarks of the music production industry, including the Ryman Auditorium, home of the historic Grand Ole Opry, the Johnny Cash Museum, RCA’s Studio B and the famed studios of Music Row.

Senior Danny Miller, a multi-instrumentalist, was especially drawn to the musical aspects of the trip. “I wasn’t interested in country music before, but going on the trip gave me an open mind about different types of country music, not the popular kind,” he said, adding that he enjoyed visiting places like the Reformed Baptist Church where Elvis Presley had once recorded.

Around 300 miles away, the Civil Rights trip, consisted of seventeen students and three faculty members, explored the origins of the Civil Rights movement. This was the largest group of the three, composed of students in all grades as well as day students. The group started off the trip with a visit to Selma, Montgomery.

The most memorable moment in Selma for prep Dennis Kostakoglu was when the group visited Brown Chapel. A striking aspect of the entire trip for Kostakoglu was his discovering how “religion ties people together in the South.”

Meanwhile, for prep Lilly Pinciario, the experience was “very emotionally tolling” because of the content presented at historic sites. “In school, we were taught that America has gone really far in its dealings with racism, but then you realize it’s actually not true because there’s still systematic oppression in the government of people of color,” she said.

To prepare for their experience, all students had to finish Bryan Stevenson’s Just Mercy and the first two chapters of The New Jim Crow. During the trip, they spent an average of two hours each night to discuss what they had learned and debrief. “The group of people were interesting; discussions worked well and brought our understanding to a new level,” Pinciario said.

“It was such a diverse group which I love,” said chaperone and Athletics Instructor Olutoyin Augustus-Ikwuakor. “We had people with diverse experiences, so there were definitely times when people in the group disagreed with each other.” Reflecting on the significance of the trip, Augustus-Ikwuakor added, “What I want people to take away is that there is no one way to do things. It’s important for us to be able to listen to people with different opinions from ours.”

After coming back to Phillips Exeter, the group is working on assembling a video from footage that senior Ori Evans took throughout the trip and planning other ways to share what they learned with other students on campus.

Exeter Meets Donation Goal on First Ever Day of Giving

By **MAI HOANG** and
EMMANUEL TRAN
Staff Writers

Starting at 10 am on Dec. 6, Phillips Exeter Academy organized the first ever Day of Giving, a fundraising challenge where classes of alumni and parents competed to see which had the most number of donors. If the campaign reached 1,727 donors, this would unlock an additional \$830,000 gift made by an anonymous group of parents and alumni. Within 24 hours, 2144 donors contributed to the Exeter Fund, totalling nearly \$1.5 million.

The number 1,727 was chosen, as it represented the number of students and employees working on campus. Taylor thought that this would “have great meaning” because it served to “show what the Exeter Fund does — support the entire experience on campus,” not just one particular department or building. “The money goes to everybody,” Lynn Taylor, Director of the Exeter Fund said.

The campaign was administered online via GiveCampus platform, which enabled the Institutional Advancement office to see the incoming donations as they were submitted.

“There was a class leaderboard and we saw the competition going on between the classes,” Taylor said. “As people make [donations], the numbers update live on the giving page, so you can see the bar graph grow. It was so exciting.”

Taylor published the results online to generate an atmosphere of “healthy

competition.” Echoing these sentiments, Director of Parent Giving Laura Schwartz said, “There were a lot of families on WeChat and Facebook pages, so they were all abuzz.”

GiveCampus is utilized by other higher education institutions, and was first introduced to Exeter’s Institutional Advancement Office at the most recent Eight-School conference. “Other peer schools have used it successfully. We did not know if it would resonate with our specific constituency, but we decided to try it out,” Taylor said.

To publicize the Day of Giving, the Institutional Advancement Office relied on a six hundred-strong network of volunteers, who hung up posters on bulletins and advocated for the event during E/A Weekend. “We also sent out blast emails for alumni and parents over a few weeks time, and told people while we were travelling to Asia,” Schwartz said.

In addition, the Institutional Advancement Office worked with the Communications Office to film a video that showcased the Exeter experience, featuring Principal Lisa MacFarlane, science instructor Rich Aaronian, senior Ivy Tran and upper Nick Luzzo.

“We wanted to have a teacher that would be recognizable by the most people — Mr. Aaronian had been here for 43 years — and then to have two students, an artist and an athlete, because Mr. Aaronian teaches science,” said Schwartz. “We were trying to cover a diverse group of interests.”

In the video, Tran described her passion for considering identity through fashion design, and how Exeter made this a possibility. “They explained that it would be about my art and I interviewed first and then did the filming later,” Tran said, speaking about the process of participating in the video. “I enjoyed doing it.”

The Class of 2017 had the highest number of donors, followed closely by the parents of the Class of 2020. Alumni and former Senior Class President Joel Lotzkar ’17 said, “I am proud to say that our fundraising efforts paid off—our grade had the most donors of any Exeter class, with our total amount raised climbing over \$6,000.”

Together with other class agents, Lotzkar organized a series of Facebook posts to spread the word on social media about Exeter’s Day of Giving. “Our goal was to reach out to as many of our friends and classmates as possible online, and ask them to contribute towards bettering the Exeter experience for current and future generations of students,” he said.

He added, “I myself donated on December 6. I wanted to give back to Exeter, a school that, despite its imperfections, has provided me and many others with opportunities and life-long friends and connections that few high school students in the world are fortunate enough to receive.”

Speaking of his hopes for the future generations of Exonian, Lotzkar emphasized the importance of the Harkness table and the school’s pedagogy. “I hope that Exeter will remain the rigorous,

Harkness-based institution that it has been renowned as for the last two and a half centuries,” he said.

While stressing that Exeter should take a firmer stance on student wellness, he expressed confidence in the school’s ability to remain ethical and equitable. “I look forward to seeing improvement in the administration’s handling of important issues like the recent sexual misconduct and assault cases,” he said.

Though she acknowledges that like all institutions, the Academy has its imperfections,

Schwartz sees the support from alumni and parents as “a vote of confidence” for the school’s ideals. They both considered the fundraising campaign a great success.

“We had a grandparent come in who lives locally with a cheque of \$1,000 after seeing the video,” she said. “His son went here and his granddaughter; he felt that Exeter had changed his life and that he’s part of the family,” Schwartz said.

She also shared a story of a senior at Phillips Andover, who made a contribution to “express his gratitude towards Exeter for hosting E/A this year.” Schwartz emphasized that the monetary value was not the major take away from this experience, but rather, “the fact that people cared.” Seeing the success of the GiveCampus platform, Schwartz believes Institutional Advancement will utilize it for future Day of Givings in fall term, alongside possible smaller campaigns like the Reunion Challenge or the Parents’ Fund.



ExonianHumor



An Ode to Dean Coole

By AVA HARRINGTON
Wide Awake

One noon in November
before club tennis,
old sleep called to me,
the great ceaseless menace.

"You'll take a quick nap;"
I believed it was true.
I set an alarm,
But then, out of the blue,

I woke up at three
With my legs and arms sore,
and knew in an instant
my dickies were four.

Soon an email from Dean Coole
came confirming my fears;
I would be on stricts for the
next two years.

(okay, two weeks)

I walked to his office,
head hanging low.
I explained the situation,
lamented my woe,

I wailed and I whined,
I begged and I pleaded,
and then good old Gordon
gave me just what I needed

So here's to you Dean Coole,
for clearing my stricts.
I promise my naps
will cause no more conflicts.

A Celebration of the 139th Humor Board

By THE HUMOR EDITORS
"Relevant"

(In our unnecessarily long Humor Editor applications, we were asked to "complement" the 139th Humor Editors.)

Billy
"Okay, it's 'compliment,' Billy. Good thing you weren't a copy editor." -Abby
"Really good at compliment fishing." -Ava
"He's a class clown without the class." -Lizzie
"Billy is just soooooo funny, you know. He's uh...really special. I've never met someone so uhh..." -everyone
"Not only is Billy handsome and intelligent, but I also heard he writes fantastic compliments" -anonymous

Emily
"Emily is like the Ben Franklin of the Humor Page. You decide how." -Abby
"Deserves a thousand falafels." -Ava
(Lizzie would like Emily to know she seems like a really nice and well liked person even though Lizzie doesn't really know her)

Cedric
"Sorry, who?" -everyone
"Wait, that was a real person?" -heard on the paths

TFW The Humor Page Is Already Better And It's Only Been Twenty Minutes

By THE HUMOR EDITORS
New And Improved



Students Look Inward to Resolve Recent Problems, Exploration Finds Other Issues

By AVA HARRINGTON
Currently Looking Inward

Recently, the community has been asked to look inward in order to resolve recent social issues on campus. Many students took this to heart, but only found unrelated issues. "I don't think I'm part of the problem," one student lamented. "However I've come

to realize I'm addicted to anime, and it's becoming a real burden." Others had similar realizations. "I can't stop going to boy's varsity hockey games. Sometimes I give tours during their practices just to stare from above. Every winter I tell my mom my grades drop be-

cause of seasonal depression, but really I'm too busy watching the the hockey players to do anything but--" (we couldn't publish the rest of her response). We hope that as many problems as possible will be resolved by this method.

Kwanzaa

By LIZZIE MADAMIDOLA
African American Correspondent

Alright, Kwanzaa! What is it? Most people mention it when they are wishing their ethnic friends and acquaintances a Happy Holiday. "Merry Christmas," they say. "Oops, sorry Kwanzaa?" I myself do not know what this mysterious holiday is. However, I do know how people view Kwanzaa. This cryptic holiday is believed to be celebrated

in some rural parts of Africa by people in traditional patterned African clothing and with candles that are suspiciously similar to the candles used for Hanukkah. It is ten days long, long enough for high school student volunteers to donate canned-foods for the poor African children during their winter break. Also, Kwanzaa is in December, but

that doesn't make any sense because there is no snow in Africa. How do they get in the Kwanzaa spirit? Do they have sandball fights and maybe, in a gesture of good-will, share their one cup of water to a friend? I bet however they celebrate it, it is a holiday Africans hold dear to their hearts, and unknown to the the hearts of pretty much everyone else.

A Comprehensive List of StuCo Attendees

By ABBY ZHANG
Panini Press Enthusiast

Prep Reps

That kid who took your seat once, I mean, are you a Wheelwright dorm rep? I think not.

"Nothing to report"

Food Truck Fridays

Preps who think being on policy committee will definitely get them into Harvard

Math homework

Didn't get prep rep but has already launched three year long campaign for StuCo President

Kids who got lost on their way to peer tutoring

Our extremely selective Exec Board

Impassioned outrage against D-Hall's cereal choices

Literally every single proposal ever except for the V's policy

ELECTIONS THAT VERY MUCH COMPLY WITH THE E-BOOK AND STUCO CONSTITUTION AND ARE TOTALLY MOST DEFINITELY 258% FINE.

Ayush.

Fun Things to do in the Icy Snow

By EMILY GREEN
Has A Lot Of Time On Her Hands Now

Fall.

Make snow cones.

Resurrect the dead.

Practice hockey.

Try to make a snow angel but ultimately break a bone.

Slither.

Accidentally do a split.

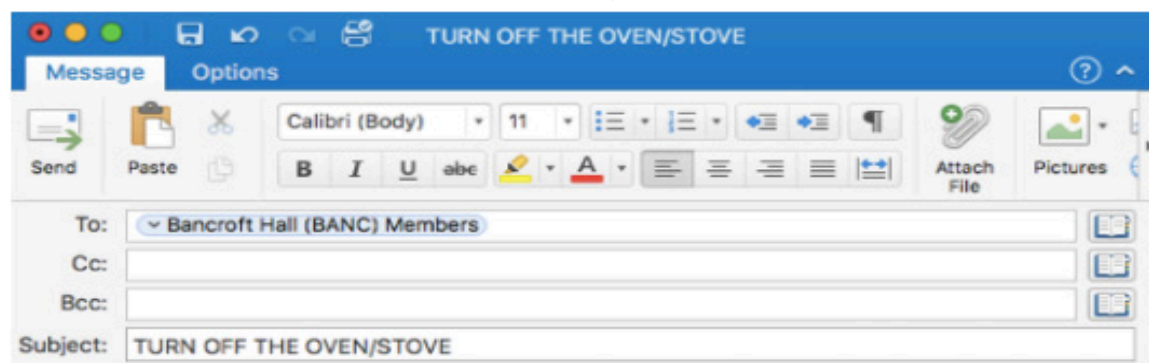
Ice fish but without the fish.

Slide to class.

Do your homework but in a cold way.

Just Don't

By MADDIE MOON
And Stolen by Lizzie



Hi dorm-mates, friends, lowers,

This is just an important reminder to **turn off the oven and stove** when you are not using them! Especially when you are **LEAVING IN THE KITCHEN**, make sure they're all off so you don't **BURN DOWN THE DORM** and damage our equipment further.

Here are some signs to tell you if you are doing something wrong:

- There's smoke in the kitchen
- The room feels exceptionally warm
- You can see the oven/stove-top coils glowing/emitting any light
- See this picture, when you leave the kitchen all dials should be turned to off and there should be no red lights below the dials (that indicates heat).



Unless you want to burn down Bancroft, please make sure that you turn off the stove and oven when you leave the room.

Thanks,
Maddie

Quote of the Week

"Relationships between people should be grown organically, but a little fertilizer won't kill the crop."
-Don Assamaskljdghajbdfs '19
(During his *Exonian* board interview)

Do you drink the Coole-Aid? Submit to exonianhumor@gmail.com
Slide into our DMs @exonianhumor



Lamont Gallery opened "Possible Subject Positions," a new multimedia art exhibit including work by Maud Bryt '83.

Numi Oyebo/Exonian

T.V. REVIEW

BY ATHENA STENOR
Staff Writer

The Atlantic called it "the Norwegian teen-drama series loved around the world." *Dazed* characterized it as "real and risqué," claiming that it was causing "teen hysteria." According to *Fader*, "the whole planet is obsessed with [it]." So, what is it, exactly?

Skam, which translates to "shame," is a Norwegian web series that ran from 2015 to 2017 for a total of four seasons. Owned and distributed by NRK, Norway's public broadcasting company, *Skam* immediately became popular in Norway and other Scandinavian countries. The show's third season—which chronicles the tender, funny story of how an occasionally problematic skateboarder, Isak, falls in love with novice philosopher and movie-connoisseur Even—reached foreign audiences, catapulting the teen drama to international fame and acclaim. Like *Degrassi*, *Skam* doesn't shy away from using its platform to tackle social issues, and like *Skins*, the show centers around a group of friends and unflinchingly depicts party culture. However, that is where the comparisons end. As far as teen dramas go, and even television shows in general, *Skam* is in a league of its own.

In many reviews of the show, critics describe *Skam* as revolutionary, and with good reason—its innovative format distinctly resonated with this generation of teenagers. During the show's run, short, five- to twenty-minute clips of each episode were released on a schedule that corresponded to real time. If a clip took place at 11 p.m. on a Saturday night, the clip would be released on NRK's website at 11 p.m. on a Saturday night. At the end of every week, the clips would be combined and redistrib-

uted as a complete episode. Because the episodes were released in such a fashion, viewers anxiously awaited the next part of the story, like detectives looking for hints and clues, as though they were a part of the characters' lives. The piecemeal release of the clips was merely one aspect of *Skam*'s immersive realm.

Skam is so unique because it tapped into modern teen culture, namely social media. Viewers got to see screenshots of text message conversations between characters, which were also released on NRK's website. Many characters also had social media accounts on Instagram and YouTube, which could be followed by fans. Similar to the *Harry Potter* or *Doctor Who* franchises, *Skam*'s creators invested great energy into the type of old-school world-building that is usually reserved for fantasy and sci-fi, crafting a finished product that is fresh, modern, and most importantly, relevant.

Skam just gets it. The teens on the show are so realistic that it's often jarring. They lounge around in bed a lot; they watch the *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* and *Dr. Phil* while eating excessive amounts of popcorn; they struggle to articulate their feelings and occasionally stutter; and, most of all, they fumble through life's challenges, making plenty of mistakes in the process. The characters' imperfections are reflected in the show's costumes and general aesthetic. *Skam*'s characters have acne and the girls' makeup is often applied poorly, if at all. They dress in a combination of thrift store clothes and popular brands, and rewear entire outfits. For audiences who are used to seeing 25-year old actors play teens decked out in one-of-a-kind designers outfits à la *Riverdale* and *Gossip Girl*, the show's down-to-earth teenaged cast is a breath of fresh air.

That doesn't mean *Skam* isn't glossy or polished, though. The cameras take full advantage of Oslo's scenic cityscape and Norway's famous snowy mountains. The panoramic shots and the cinematography overall are truly breathtaking. The scenes are rendered in bright colors and sharp relief, and coupled with the show's fantastic soundtrack—which includes popular artists like The Weeknd and Kanye West, along with popular Norwegian songs—make for some iconic moments. Who could forget watching the school's most popular boys, covered in bruises, spill out of a sleek gray sports car in slow-motion, as Kanye West's "Illest Motherf**er Alive" plays in the background?

However, the show's real strength lies in its plotlines. Central to *Skam* is the Norwegian tradition of *russefeiring*, a month-long, state-sanctioned period of partying for high school seniors during their last semester. Early on in their high school careers, students form "buses," working together to fund their future partying and purchase literal buses for this endeavor. Especially in Norway's capital, where the show takes place, *russefeiring* plays a huge role in the teen social scene, and naturally, it plays a huge role in the show. Each season follows a specific character, referred to as the season's "main," through his or her unique struggles.

The mains define the themes that are integrated throughout the season. The first season is about the lonely Eva, who joins a bus during her first semester at school and finds a new community just in time for the collapse of her relationship with her boyfriend, Jonas. Season one touches on topics such as identity, friendships, romantic love and independence. The second season follows Noora, a staunch feminist, as she

fights her feelings for bad-boy William and learns how to have a more open mind. The season deals with eating disorders, sexual assault, feminism and the refugee crisis. The third season is all about Isak coming to terms with his sexual orientation, and in addition to homosexuality, the season also tackles mental illness. The final season follows Sana, a devout Muslim, as she tries to reconcile her faith with her participation in *russefeiring* and her budding romance with the non-Muslim, Yousef. Her season explores bullying, Islamophobia and the struggle of navigating multiple cultural identities.

As these characters interact with each other and people of various backgrounds, they must confront the reality of globalization and challenge their preconceived notions about others and themselves. Many conflicts in the show center around clashing ideologies and lifestyles, but the show's characters model the perfect response to these tensions. They ask questions and engage in earnest conversations, all with the intention of understanding each other even if they don't agree. These conversations have spawned the show's most memorable slogans. "Hate doesn't come from religion; it comes from fear," was Sana's gentle rebuke to Isak, after he suggested that Muslims were homophobic.

Skam is a show with a lot of heart, and although its showrunner, Julie Andem, definitely imbues it with messages, *Skam* doesn't beat you over the head with any of them. *Skam* encourages its viewers to be more tolerant, caring and socially-aware while also delivering a work that's stylish, well-crafted and totally entertaining.

WINTER HOROSCOPES

By LAUREN LEATHAM and ALEXANDRA VAN DIJKUM
Columnists

Aries: This is the break to be productive! The sun is in your sign during those two weeks, prompting you to get a headstart on any goals you may have set for yourself. You may encounter some people who stand in the way of your goals, though; just ignore them and focus on you.

Taurus: This is the break to explore, Taurus! Jupiter will just be moving into your sign and prompting your adventurous side to emerge. Whether that means going on a trip or staying at home, get out of the house and find something new!

Gemini: Friends should be the priority of your break. Gemini, Venus is in your fourth house of friendships, and you might notice that all of your friends are surrounding you. Take advantage of this and hang out with friends from home or meet up with other Exonians.

Cancer: Take care of yourself this break, Cancer. Mars is in your sign for the next month and creates an air of stability around you. Use this to build yourself up over break so you can come back to campus refreshed. Whether

that's taking lots of baths over break or going to the gym (or not) — do it. You will thank yourself later.

Leo: This break is going to be action packed. Saturn is in your third house of activities, so expect to return home to a lot of scheduling. Events will be constantly thrown at you, so you do not have to worry about being bored this break.

Virgo: "Try new things" is your motto of the break. Uranus is in your sign for the next three weeks, affecting your sixth house of decisions. Whether it's a new food or a new hair part, try to experience as many different things as you can!

Libra: You will have a fun break full of surprises, Libra. Go out and hang out with people from your hometown, the more you get out the more fun you'll have. On New Year's Eve, you will run into someone you haven't seen in forever, now is the perfect time to rekindle that friendship!

Scorpio: Use this break for rest and relaxation, Scorpio. Read a good book

or just hang out around your house with your family. This will be a pretty mellow break, but that doesn't mean it can't still be fun. Find enjoyment in the little things: make some holiday cookies!

Sagittarius: Watch Netflix all day, Sagittarius. You are always so busy when you're on campus, so give your brain a break! Find a new show that interests you and let yourself relax. There will be plenty of time to work hard when you get back on campus!

Capricorn: Take this break to spend quality time with your family, Capricorn. Being away for school keeps you away from your family for a long time, so be sure to spend lots of time with them when you're back in town. There's nothing better than quality time with the ones you love!

Aquarius: Spend lots of time outdoors this break, Aquarius! All year long you are cooped inside studying, now is your time to go out and explore the outdoors. Go for a hike, or simply admire the view; any way you do it, it will be nice to be outside.

Pisces: Take this time to plan for the future, Pisces. Think about your summer plans and about the goals you want to achieve during winter term. Make it fun and plan a bucket list of things you want to do during the winter!



Courtesy of Google

SeniorSpotlight

ALEXIS GORFINE

By ALICE LITTLE
Staff Writer

The audience grows quiet as the members of Sans Hommes, one of Exeter's all-girls acapella groups, hum the opening bars to their first song. When senior Alexis Gorfine steps into the spotlight, her smooth voice carries the harmony with soft power, lending the song depth. Yet Gorfine's voice doesn't only shine within an auditorium. Throughout many aspects of her involvement at Exeter, Gorfine uses her voice as a medium to help others.

Alexis has loved singing for as long as she could remember. "I always used to sing around the house when I was little, and when I was 7 years old, I started taking lessons," she said. After discovering acapella at Exeter, Gorfine joined San Hommes and fell in love with the group. "You bond in a way with singing that you don't get in other ways," she said. "You have to really listen to each other and figure out if it sounds right. There's a vulnerability involved with it, and that makes the whole group very close."

Friends and teachers alike love to hear Gorfine sing. Senior Lilly Carden, who attended preschool with Gorfine, praised her voice. "She's been singing beautifully for as long as I can remember," Carden said. Caroline Meliones, Instructor of Modern Languages and Gorfine's adviser, also appreciates Gorfine's musical talent. "Alexis is one of the most thoughtful and positive students I know. And, bonus, she plays guitar and has a beautiful voice!" Meliones said.

Gorfine also excels outside the realm of music. Classmates know her as a dedicated student who never fails to work her hardest in every class. Senior Anna Reaman, who was her roommate during their lower year, spoke to Gorfine's intelligence and tenacity. "Alexis is very smart and level-headed," Reaman said.



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

"Alexis is also very driven. If she wants something, she will put her mind to it and work for it."

Senior and dorm-mate Sophia Yoon appreciates Gorfine's intellectual curiosity. "Alexis is very passion-driven—a trait that inspires me," Yoon said. "When she finds something she wants to excel at, she tries very hard to achieve her goal. For example, she is a big language-lover, and she is always the one to start speaking in Spanish with me and gets excited when she learns something new about Spanish culture."

Gorfine's interest in languages stems from her desire to tell others' stories. After learning Spanish for three years, she is currently attending Arabic courses for the while attempting to learn some Italian on her own. "I'm really interested in languages and how that intersects with diplomacy," Gorfine said, before she noted the root reason for her desire to get involved with international relations: making the stories of others known to the world. "What I like so much about

international relations is the storytelling aspect of it," she explained. "My draw to international relations is on more of a people-to-people level, so I've been getting really intensive personal stories, especially like international, different perspectives, different cultures. It's about listening to different people's stories and learning about them."

In the spirit of storytelling, Gorfine is working on a Senior Project that will spotlight those who live in 277 Water Street, a senior residential community in Exeter. Gorfine has high hopes for the project. "It's in its early stages, but I'm looking forward to interviewing them and portraying their perspectives and stories in a very honest way, and making that into some sort of tangible piece that they can have for themselves and their families," Gorfine said.

Through her work as a co-head of Global Citizens Initiative club, Gorfine is trying to bring the stories of immigrants to the Exeter community. "We're trying to get to know refugees and immigrants

who live close by—to connect with them and have a dinner, getting to know them and their perspectives and journeys. We're also trying to set up a pen pals program with Jordanian students, to get to know them and share stories," Gorfine said.

Perhaps Gorfine's kindness shows most through her involvement in the ESSO club Big Sib/Little Sib, which matches Exonians to younger local children in order to create a sort of friendly mentoring—almost sibling-like—relationship. Now, Gorfine has been involved in the club for three years and has grown close to her "little sib," Maddie. "I know her family, her dog, her brother," Gorfine laughed. "I always wanted a little sister, since my siblings are all a lot older than me, so I thought this would be a great time to get together with somebody once a week and kind of have a little sister. Maddie's perfect."

When asked what prompts Gorfine to take such an interest in others, Gorfine's friends and teachers mentioned her genuinely caring nature. Meliones called Gorfine "an incredible role model for younger students in our dorm." As a proctor, Gorfine has played an integral part in supporting younger students in Wheelwright Hall. "She is easy to talk to, a wonderful listener and a kind friend who genuinely cares about everyone around her," Meliones said. Carden believes that Gorfine is "one of the most loyal, compassionate, understanding, determined people I have ever met." Carden emphasized Gorfine's ability to connect with and care for strangers. "Her caring and generosity don't just extend to her close friends. She is kind and generous to anyone who needs it, something I admire deeply," Carden said. "And of course, she's one of the best listeners I know."

LIFE ADVICE

By ALICE LITTLE and JOY ZHANG
Staff Writers

Advice for Helping People in the Dorm:

Hanging out in the common room all the time is certainly not a good way to get work done, but don't underestimate time spent there with your friend group. By having a conversation in a common dorm space, you're inviting other people to listen and become involved - in the end, they will feel welcome in your friend group. Playing video games in the common room can serve the opposite purpose, because people feel shut out when you are absorbed in a game with one or two close friends. However, card games, puzzles, board games and other non-electronic games are the perfect way to get to know those quiet people in your dorm who may be strangers to you, even after three or four years.

Recently, one of my dorm faculty started playing War with one student in the common room, and soon other students were taking sides (healthy competition, of course) or beginning new games of War. I had always thought that cards or board games were old-fashioned and uninteresting, but my dorm faculty knew better. Everyone left the common room feeling ready to start the night's homework because of the stress release.

Holiday activities like angeling (giving anonymous gifts to a dorm member and revealing yourself afterward), gingerbread house building, and holiday card-making also help to create a friendly

dorm community. My dorm even turns gingerbread house building into a competition between dueling hallways. If your dorm doesn't have any of these traditions, ask a dorm faculty member if they could help you start them. Most dorms have some funds to promote bonding, and especially during the cold winter months, people need something fun to keep them positive.

Advice for Winter Clothing:

Every year, my parents remark on how underdressed Exonians are during the winter months. As a prep, I gave away multiple pairs of boots, gloves and some hats to friends who did not understand the severity of New England winters. Although by now, most Exonians have felt the beginnings of this true New Hampshire weather, you still may be unsure how to prepare. Over Christmas break, stock up on these essentials:

Hats (or if you don't like how hats look, make sure you have a coat with a hood) - Every year, people seem to have a hard time with this one.

An insulated coat (something with more than a flimsy cotton, polyester, or fleece lining) - Puffy coats or coats with a shell and warm interior work well.

Waterproof boots (No, your pumps are not waterproof, and neither are your Converse.)

A windbreaker or raincoat (because freezing rain

does happen)

Socks longer than ankle-length (because ankles can get cold, too)

If you're planning on taking any walks outside for longer than fifteen minutes, it would be smart to have a scarf and heavy-duty mittens or gloves (not the thin cotton ones). If you still feel freezing outside, Mr. Bremiller has great cold-weather clothing recommendations. Trust me, I take outdoor fitness.

Places to Get Holiday Gifts in Exeter:

Sometimes, it's hard to get gifts for your parents when you're at home, especially if you don't have your own driver's license. Here are some places to grab small gifts for the family and friends, while also supporting local businesses (because Amazon can't own everything).

Water Street Bookstore: If you don't know what to get for your mom, get her a book. If you don't know what to get for your dad, get him a book. If you don't know what to get for your dog, maybe they'll chew on a book. Note: also has good collection of young adult novels for siblings and friends

Whirlygigs Toy Shop: Got a little sibling? Go here first.

Friendly Pets: If you want to get your pet a gift, or if you just like being in pet stores and seeing animals, you can find this place beside Pine Garden.



**Special: Pick 2
for \$5.99 each,
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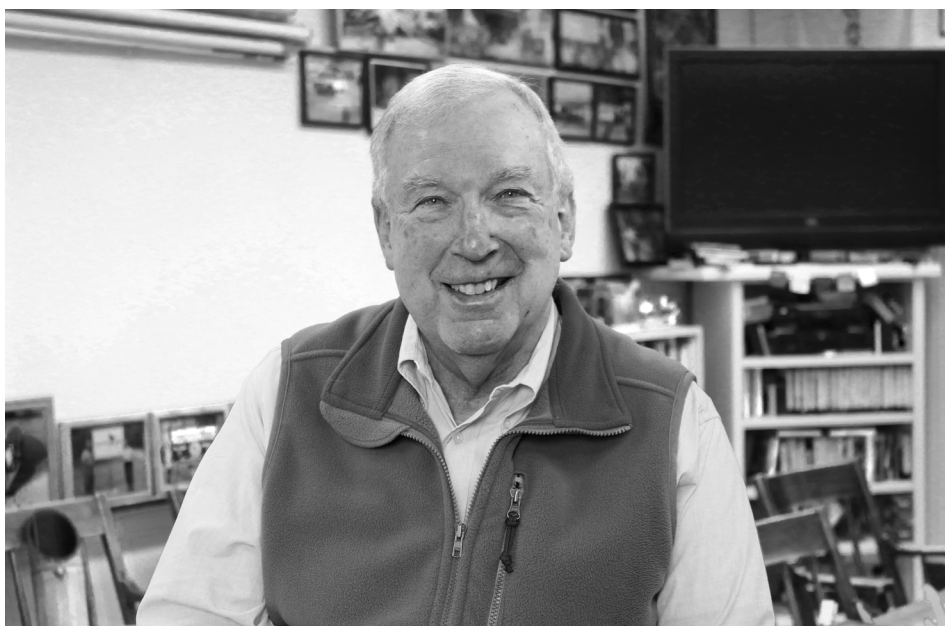
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FacultySpotlight

PETER VORKINK

By JOY ZHANG
Staff Writer



Paula Perez-Glassner/The Exonian

Appointed in 1972, Chair of the Department of Religion Peter Vorkink has worked at the Academy for over 40 years, most often teaching philosophy courses. Coming from an “unchurched family,” Vorkink had virtually no knowledge of religion until he took his first religion class in college to fulfill a graduation requirement. He entered college as a pre-med student, wanting to become a doctor.

“I was scared of philosophy,” Vorkink said. Despite his preconceptions, the first religion course he took aroused his interest in the subject. He enjoyed it so much that he ended up switching his major to religion.

In the summer of his junior year in college, Vorkink was recommended by a friend to join a Civil Rights movement in St. Augustine, Florida, organized by Martin Luther King Jr., in an effort to help local African-Americans combat racial inequality. Given the nature of his work in the South, he was faced with life-threatening danger everyday. Yet, he described the experience as something that “changed his life.”

“I felt challenged by the attempt to translate what I had been studying in my major—the ideas of compassion, justice, forgiveness—into concrete reality, into the reality of people’s lives,” he said. “Martin Luther King was a role model for how one could live out one’s beliefs in the real world and make a difference.”

After his return from Florida, Vorkink started working as the deacon of the chapel in his college. He received a bachelor’s degree in religion and went on to attend Divinity School in New York City and graduate school in Cambridge. Eventually, Vorkink decided to break out of the repetitive “student routine” and devote himself to making changes in the real world through the application of religious studies.

Having originally decided to teach religion at a college, Vorkink was introduced to the independent secondary school system in a church book club in Andover. After multiple interviews, he was offered a position as assistant school minister and instructor in religion at PEA. Vorkink had originally planned to teach at the Academy just for a year or two while finishing his dissertation, but he ended up teaching at Exeter for another forty years. “I found the opportunity to work with young people in so many different capacities very exciting,” Vorkink said.

His passion for working with young people, thorough religious knowledge, and determination to initiate positive change in the community has made Vorkink a prominent figure in various activities on campus.

Coming as the assistant school minister, he later founded the girls’ varsity ice hockey team and became their first coach. He has served as a dorm faculty for seventeen years in Peabody Hall, Soule Hall and Knight House.

Vorkink appreciates the opportunity to

work with Exonians in multiple areas, which gives him immense inspiration. “It was the variety of opportunities to work with young people in those different capacities which encouraged me to make this my career and not work at the college or graduate school level, where the relationship could have been much more one dimensional,” he said. “If you’re interested in teaching and working with young people, there is no finer place to be than the Academy. As the faculty joke, working in Exeter is a ‘terminal appointment.’”

After turning over his dorm responsibilities to new teachers, he took on the job of organizing graduation each year. To this day, he has been in charge of graduation for more than three decades.

“Partly because as a priest, I am interested in ceremony, and secondly, someone has to do that job, and few other people have ever volunteered to do it,” Vorkink said. “I love all those other aspects of working at the Academy, and I find each day to be energizing in the many different things one can do here.”

After teaching in the same classroom for 45 years, Vorkink’s classroom appears to be a little gallery of “exhibits” from his travels around the world. “Our son once calculated that we had travelled to more than 100 countries, and that’s probably accurate, and seeing the rest of the world is one of the best possible educations for a teacher, especially if you travel to places not in the first world,” Vorkink said.

The purpose of putting these photos and objects in the classroom is not just for decoration, but more importantly, for the education of his students. “Most of the objects are religious in nature and that leads to some interesting exchanges before class starts about their correct and incorrect guesses,” he said. “It is not only to entertain the students, but to encourage them to think about the larger world outside of the Exeter bubble. Seeing how others live, and what other cultures are like is probably the single most enriching experience for a teacher. Book learning can only go so far.”

During his years of teaching at Exeter, Vorkink has taken three sabbaticals; one to

England, where he served on the staff of Canterbury Cathedral, the home church for an American Episcopal priest, and two to Japan, one in Yokohama and another in Sapporo. The years abroad provided Vorkink with insights into different cultures, enriching his understanding of religion, as well as allowing him “to have a healthy and constructive perspective on our own country, especially when you see it from the point of view of an outsider.”

Vorkink’s stays in Japan left him with an especially deep impression. “They were significant because it was a first world experience in a totally different culture from that of the west,” Vorkink said. “We traveled the country from top to bottom, and there’s probably not a temple or Shinto shrine we did not visit.”

Teaching has always been Vorkink’s primary contribution to the Academy. His classes are popular amongst students and continue to excite students from a myriad of backgrounds. Many students have described his classes as not only helpful to improving their reading, writing, analyzation and discussion skills, but also to help them become a better self.

“His classes push you to the limit, while not giving busy work, but instead prompting us to maximize the Harkness discussions we have and to extend our reasoning to its limits,” senior Nikita Angarski said. “His teaching is based on us, he leaves us alone when we have a really good discussion, so we can truly learn from one another, and his is the only class in which an entire block was just us students talking.”

Bella Edo ‘17 echoed Angarski’s sentiment, saying, “He creates an environment where you not only feel comfortable to fail and not know the answers, but you’re excited for it. In all three of the classes I took with him he made me think about who I am, who I’m becoming, and who I want to be and I will cherish everything I learned from and because of him.”

Vorkink also guides students to grow and thrive outside of academics. His wisdom and genuinity are appreciated by many of his former and present students. “He truly be-

lieves in and cares about every single one of his students and feeling that kind of support really made me believe in myself,” said Edo. “His banter was refreshing because he treats his students as people and emerging adults.”

Similar to Edo, senior Andre Chan also took three terms of classes with Vorkink. Recalling the times spent with Vorkink, Chan was still heartened by how much he cares about the well-being each individual student. “I was perhaps (in)famous for lingering into his well-decorated classroom way before class starts, and we would talk about anything from the documents of his travels on the wall, or the music of Wagner, or how much vegetables I’m eating,” Chan said. “I wouldn’t be thinking about majoring in philosophy without this friend and mentor.”

Senior Alexis Gorfine shared a similar experience, saying, “I have gone to him for random issues I have, and he has been very willing to talk with me and help me figure out my life.”

Many of the materials read in Vorkink’s philosophy class are challenging, and even contain texts normally assigned to college students. As the instructor of one of the few secondary schools that offer religion and philosophy courses in the country, Vorkink considers it important to teach philosophy and religion to this relatively young age group.

“There’s something special about that ‘betwixt and between age’ of people the age of the student body at the Academy. They’re not yet fully formed adults, yet they are no longer their parents’ child,” Vorkink said. “The openness to new ideas and new thinking makes them a very exciting age group to work with when it comes to philosophical and religious issues.”

Several years ago, he wrote his doctoral dissertation on the topic of “why it is important to teach religion and philosophy to people such as those we have around our Harkness tables.” He explained that the reason why it is crucial for high school students to discuss philosophy is that “this is a special age group who are open to the topic of coming ‘to know thyself,’ a self more open at this age than any other age.”

Thus, he believes that “it is a special task for teachers in our department to help each student in their charge know themselves better both philosophically and religiously.” It is with this belief that Vorkink continues to inspire students both in and out of the classroom, igniting their curiosity for philosophy, religion and learning in general.

With decades of experience teaching at the Academy, Vorkink has some life advice to share with Exonians: “Life is not lived linearly, in a straight line; take risks, embrace the unexpected, take chances and fail often then fail better,” he said. “Go see the world, especially to experience the cultures of places less fortunate than us.”

Vorkink’s role as a teacher, mentor and friend to the students has inspired generations of Exonians, and he remains an invaluable presence at the Academy.

Trendwatch

By JACKY CHO and ALAN WU
Life Editors

Hey Guys!

Love dressing stylish but hate the cold weather? We know just the combination of coats and black boots that will help you brave the rough winter snow in style. Brands like Aquatalia and La Canadienne offer waterproof, chic boots so that you can handle a slushy commute without sacrificing your flair. Saint Laurent is offering a sleek, bold wool coat that is as elegant in its presence as it is striking. The coat is entirely black except for some gorgeous golden rings that wrap around the wrist. It’s a minimalistic design, but sometimes less can say so much more. You will be walking with confidence, even in the harshest of storms.

Business is back in season. Glen plaid is one of the most wearable runway trends of this winter, and looks amazing with anything from a formal gray check suit to a pair of casual blue jeans. During a European trip in 1982, President Ronald Reagan wore a glen plaid suit so “raffish” (in the words of one GQ fashion reporter) that the press

deemed his outfit “unpresidential.” What the reporters did not know then is that glen plaid is one of menswear’s greatest leaders in giving edge and variety to your wardrobe. For you, ladies, a skirt in glen plaid automatically augments your outfit as well.

Since 2015’s Paris Fashion Week, denim has been back on the rise. After being featured on Vetements’ catwalk in the form of re-worked vintage Levi’s, denim has become “cool” again. Sales in the US women’s and men’s jeans market, previously valued at \$13.5 billion, grew 4 percent in 2016, according to market research company the NPD group. Recent collaborations with hot labels, such as Supreme, have revamped the old designs and “up-cycled” vintage Levi’s. Even double denim, like everything else from the 90’s, is making a comeback. Double denim has graced the figure of every ‘Insta-influencer,’ seen often on celebrities like supermodel Gigi Hadid and Kendall Jenner.

Stay stylish (and warm),
Alan and Jacky

ESSO TUTORING

By CATHERINE GRIFFIN and KATIE LEE
Contributing Writers

Exeter provides many service opportunities for Exonians, one of which is ESSO Tutoring for Children. If you enjoy tutoring, working with kids, or any academic subject, this club is probably for you! The club provides academic support for local children, giving Exeter students the opportunity to work one-on-one with kids in any subject area. Through ESSO Tutoring, kids in the greater Exeter area have a chance to supplement and accelerate their academic studies, have fun and build friendships with older students.

Through weekly meetings, kids are able to develop firmer grasps on mathematical concepts, critical reading skills or foreign language vocabulary. Many times, the parents of tutees are pleased with the results, seeing much improvement on report cards and assessments.

For the past three years, I’ve tutored a middle schooler in mathematics. Helping her with homework, or even explaining some basic algebra techniques, has allowed me to view different approaches and methods to solve various problems. Whether it’s using marshmallows from Dining Hall or looking

up online simulations, we can always find creative ways to understand questions and model solutions. Over the past few years, I’ve learned patience and sensitivity, while fostering a close friendship with my tutee. It’s been such a pleasure to see her progress leading up to high school.

Katie Lee ‘18 is the December ESSO-nian of the month, celebrated for the lasting contributions and vivacious spirit she has brought to ESSO during her four years at Exeter. Her fellow ESSO Tutoring for Children co-head Catherine Griffin ‘19 reflected that “Katie exemplifies our club’s goal of encouraging Exonians to take time out of their schedules to engage with our community and teach others.” She went on to explain that, “At the beginning of the year, Katie worked meticulously and carefully to organize the emails of students and parents. She was really easy to work with and is very dedicated to ESSO Tutoring.” Griffin’s comments of Katie reflect the impressed sentiments that almost everyone in the ESSO community has felt after spending time with Katie. Her unrelenting work ethic and caring personality have truly given shape to all ESSO-nians.

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The Last Writes of the 139th Board

Executive Board

"No pressure, no diamonds," one wise news editor of 139 has been known to say. Last January, a pipe in the Academy Center burst on the eve of our inaugural issue, forcing us to evacuate the newsroom. We rose at three thirty the next morning to finish laying out the pages, sending them off to the press despite the unexpected flood. A fitting beginning to a year of challenge and excitement for our board.

As we reported on topics ranging from Exeter's history of racial injustice to *The Boston Globe's* skewed coverage of sexual misconduct cases at the Academy, we sought to maintain the journalistic integrity modeled by our predecessors for almost a century and a half. We sought to honor our community by examining and exposing the truth. We sought to serve the community we love by revealing its flaws and celebrating its successes.

It was a privilege working with such a passionate group of young writers and watching them grow into confident journalists ready to tackle hard news. These writers bring years of experience and a formidable artillery of talents to the 140th board. We wish them luck. We hope that they will love the experience of working with one another as much as we did, and that a year from now they will be as close to one another as we all are now. We end our tenure with melancholy, but we know that we are leaving the paper in good hands.

News

Long before we reported the dangers of rising nicotine use on campus, before we showed Phillips Exeter's proximity to not only deeply impoverished communities but also to the effects of the New Hampshire opioid epidemic, before we questioned sports team culture on campus, before we covered the ALES sit-in and lack of faculty diversity, before all that, we were a team of three that took over the news desk just under a year ago. As we began our tenure, we expected to be flooded with work. But what we did not expect was that in our first week, our office would literally be flooded with water. We survived the pipe burst and made it out of those difficult first few weeks with a new member of the team, assembled the Final Five and soon began to hit our stride. Before long, we were headline connoisseurs

and layout wizards. Looking back on our time as News Editors, we know that while the Academy archives may remember us by the content we published, we will remember our time together by the long Wednesday nights spent in the kitchen, cooking up legendary one-liners and layout-independent content, which were almost always capped by an icy trek or cramped campus safety car ride from Northside to Bancroft, Cilley and Wentworth. As we hand off leadership of *The Exonian's* most important section to a new team of four, we trust that the responsibility of informing the larger Exeter community is in good hands. See Ya! BANG!!

-Harry, Jamie and Sophia

Opinions

In our tenure overseeing the Opinions page, it has been a privilege to share the wide-ranging perspectives offered by our student community. The reason that we each took this job was because we believe in the power of words and the potential that they create for connection. It has been beautiful to watch the fusion of ideas rise from the Exeter body, each week bringing your new and daring convictions onto a public platform. During our term, we sought to keep the Opinions page a stimulating podium for dialogue by offering new and intrepid prompts each week and challenging writers to take a new angle on relevant issues. We expanded our writer-ship by implementing the *Exonian/Phillipian* exchange issue, wherein writers from Andover collaborated with our own to contrast the cultures of our two schools, with the hope of better understanding of our own. It has been an honor to be a part of this publication and to witness the passion for discussion that has been shared here. We encourage you to keep engaging with your peers, to share your opinions when you have them, and to speak up when you disagree. Signing off, Eleanor, Jack, and Annee.

Life

Being on this board has been the most work, and probably the most fun, of any activity at Exeter. As writers, we had no idea what we were getting into when we first signed on to be Life editors. Then, the newsroom used to seem mysterious, and we felt out-of-place. However, ever since we spent nearly eight hours there on the first day, it



has always felt like a second dorm to us. In that room, we have harangued Trendwatch to please, please turn in their article. In that room, we have deleted entire pages of the paper accidentally and left in tears. In that room, we have eaten too many Popcorners, chips and pizza slices to count. Even if we walk into the newsroom as alumnae, it will feel as familiar to us as any hallway in the Academy Building.

Yet, we don't feel a huge sadness in leaving the newsroom today, perhaps for the last time. We know that, in our future, there will be many newsrooms like this one – although perhaps not geared toward putting out a paper – they will be rooms where we spend a huge amount of time working, writing, editing, and writing some more, in the company of others. However, no team will be like the 139th Board. Few high schoolers can claim to have produced an entire newspaper without serious reliance on adults for content and editing. We have produced over 20 papers, and that brings us together. Goodbye, *Exonian*. Life won't be the same without you.

Sports

'T was a decent year for sports. As soon as the section turned over, we sailed the ship straight down. Each week seemed like rock bottom, but we kept one-upping ourselves. We truly discovered the bitter taste of rock bottom for the grad issue. Thank you to the

rest of the board for making sure we completed that second half. The grass was much greener when we returned for Fall term. After making a strong substitution, Ashley Lin helped bring this section back to the top.

Humor

Hello readers of the humor page, the only part of *The Exonian* that people consistently read.

One year ago, we took over the position of humor page editors after our predecessors met with surprising and unhappy accidents in quick succession, and after Billy wrote Cedric's application for him. The three of us made a great team: Emily wrote a ton of filler so that we could get the page in on time, Billy started a controversy every week where he would attempt to get a sexual innuendo into the paper, and Cedric never showed up.

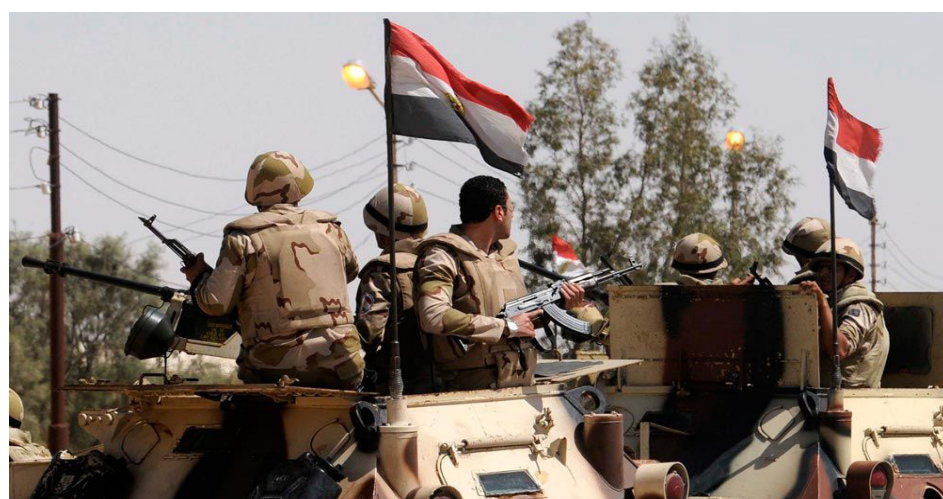
Over the past year, as many of you are undoubtedly aware, many scary things happened in Exeter and in the world outside. We were eternally grateful for our little sanctuary that the page and *The Exonian* gave us every week from 333s, college apps, and the relentless pursuit of Judge Roy Moore. We had a lot of fun and a lot of laughs, and we hope you laughed along with us. From our hearts to yours, thank you for letting us be a part of your week.

Thank you, and God Bless America!

Egypt's Terrorist Crisis

Northern Sinai consists of approximately 370,000 tribal Bedouins, many of whom have turned to the black market in search of economic opportunities. North Sinai is Egypt's poorest region, and government development projects have done little to appeal to disaffected youth. When Israel relinquished Sinai to Egypt in 1982, the Bedouin Arabs were stripped of their livelihoods. Luxury hotels materialized where petite fishing villages previously stood; factories and mass-production farms sprang up on tribal lands. More concerning, the hiring practices of these capitalist enterprises discriminated against Bedouins and favored Egyptians from the Nile River Valley. For many of these tribal youth, unemployment is not an option; terrorist groups and smuggling organizations exploit this insecurity to wreak havoc in Bedouin communities.

"The military and the police will take revenge," Al-Sisi vowed in an official speech, repeating a decades-old platitude. He is flogging a dead horse: with every new terrorist attack, Egyptian leaders have enlarged the security state at the expense of the Bedouins' autonomy and encroached on personal liberties in the name of ruthless "counterterrorism." But this "iron fist" approach has been counter-productive thus far. Rather than pouring its resources into infrastructure projects, the government treats the Sinai Peninsula as an incessant war zone and applies martial law as an excuse to subdue the local populations. Egyptian security forces arrest and torture Sinai residents — often only on the mere suspicion of terrorist ties — and destroy their homes.



Courtesy of Google

Members of the military have gone as far as to perform extrajudicial killings in northern Sinai. Even more, some reports have found that police are directly involved in the drug trade across the Egypt-Gaza border. While Trump Tweeted that the attack directly resulted from unhinged immigration and suggested that a "wall" could help, the atmosphere of mistrust and instability is bred from within, and not from external factors.

To create a long-term solution to Egypt's terrorist problem, al-Sisi will need to reconsider his hardline approach. Yes, strengthening law enforcement will help in installing law and order on the anarchy-prone Sinai Peninsula, but only if the security personnel are held accountable for their breaches of individual privacy. The Bedouins of Sinai will defend their communities from terrorists if they have a stake in their safety. The Egyptian government should set quotas for Bedouins

in both federal and local governing bodies, and depict the tribes as an integral part of Egyptian culture. Local populations should be employed in government-contracted development projects, with all initiatives happening at the grassroots level.

Now is not the time to endow the Egyptian leader with our unconditional support. Unlike his predecessor, Trump has turned a blind eye to Egypt's violation of human rights. When al-Sisi visited the White House in April 2017, Trump extended a warm welcome, stating that the United States is "very much behind President al-Sisi." This offhand policy should worry lawmakers, as Egypt is one of the largest recipients of US foreign aid. Without more leverage from the US side, and furthermore, without a more broad-based strategy from the Egyptian side, this aid will only entrench the power of Egypt's ineffective, vicious military.

Mark Blekherman '19

Opinions Editor

On Nov. 24, Sufi Muslims came together in the small Sinai town of Bir al-Abed for a weekly Friday sermon, only to have their prayers stamped out by bombshells and gunshots. Carried out by 30 flag-bearing, masked militants with alleged ties to ISIS, the massacre left more than 300 people dead. Though unique in that the perpetrators targeted fellow Muslims,

With every new terrorist attack, Egyptian leaders have enlarged the security state at the expense of the Bedouins' autonomy and encroached on personal liberties in the name of ruthless "counterterrorism."

the mosque attack brings back memories of Metrojet Flight 9268, which exploded with 224 passengers and crew over northern Sinai, as well as the more recent bombings of Coptic Christian churches. More importantly, it begs the question of whether the Egyptian government has been complicit in this violence.

The deadliest terrorist attack in Egyptian history occurred in an area long renowned for its militancy and violence.

The Exonian

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Behind Russia's Ongoing Domestic Violence

Emma Paltrow '18
Guest Contributor

Perhaps you already know of Russia's major domestic violence problem. What you might not know is how drastic the problem really is. Over 600 Russian women are found dead in their own homes every month. That's upwards of 7,200 female lives lost to domestic abuse per year, though some surveys estimate that the real number is closer to 12,000. According to a 2017 Human Rights Watch report, up to 36,000 women and 26,000 children suffer violence in their homes on a daily basis. Meanwhile, President Putin has not once used his platform to condemn the rampant brutality, nor has he passed any laws to curb its escalation. Instead, Putin recently passed a bill that, critics say, allows perpetrators of violence to continue perpetrating violence, with practically no repercussions whatsoever. Specifically, the law states that first-time offenders will not face criminal charges. In addition, ever since the law was signed on January 27th, 2017, few repeat-offenders have been prosecuted and jail time is a rarity.

The Internet is littered with anonymous accounts from Russia's domestic abuse survivors, and the stories are harrowing. They tell of smashed feet, smashed ribs, strangulation, and far, far, worse. Still, the Russian government maintains its stance: the overwhelming evidence is that officials simply do not care. The government has turned its back on the victims and because of the inherent flaws in the recent legislation, their voices will continue to go unheard.

I had a sense of all this before I arrived to Russia, but I did not expect that I would witness such violence firsthand. About halfway through my 11-week trip, I was walking down a busy street in St. Petersburg, struggling to sustain the weight of two large bags of laundry. Suddenly, I heard a commotion, and found myself witnessing to a disturbing scene transpiring just outside of a bodega. A woman's body lay in a crumpled heap on the concrete. A man towered over her, tirelessly tugging at the hood of her sweatshirt, her hair, her arms... anything he could grasp in an effort to yank her up off the ground. I wanted to believe that the woman had fainted, and that the man, in a panic, was trying to revive her. But as I got closer, I realized that the scene was all but benevolent.

He was screaming at her. Her face was puffy and purple. Her eyes had been reduced to slits. No, she had not fainted. He had beaten her comatose. He was violent, not frantic. I was horrified. My Russian vocabulary was limited, but I understood that, in between the nasty

names he spat in her face, he was telling her to get up, to finish the fight. The words were slurred. He seemed drunk.

I wanted to help, but my arms were full. Given my small stature and broken Russian, I would have been at a severe disadvantage regardless. I looked around, hoping that someone more qualified would intervene. But nobody did. This was no drunken night brawl. This was domestic abuse at the most fundamental level, and it was happening in plain-daylight. And yet, dozens of able-bodied, native Russians registered what was going on, and proceeded to sail right on by. They didn't even call the police; brutality was the norm.

Once I had recovered from the initial shock, I wondered, "Was the violence so prevalent because the laws were so lenient? Or was there another reason?"

Over the course of my stay, I read countless headlines about the persecution of gay individuals in Chechnya. I listened to a podcast about the hate crimes and targeted attacks against gay people throughout the rest of Russia, too, and learned of Putin's mission to use them as scapegoats. I heard my host-mother praise her twelve-year-old grandson for his athletic accomplishments, but chastise him bitterly when he cried or showed signs of fragility. I watched Russia's famous weekly, political, debate-style talk show, where only one of twelve guests was female. I watched music videos by Russia's most popular rock-band, "Leningrad," some

Once I had recovered from the initial shock, I wondered, "Was the violence so prevalent because the laws were so lenient? Or was there another reason?"

of which might as well have been ads for alcoholism. I observed hordes of people flooding into the bars on my street, even on weeknights, and came to embrace the ensuing brawls as "the Russian way." So by the time I got back to the US, I was prepared to put forth a different theory: the violence problem is rooted in a culture of hypermasculinity and binge-drinking.

Just look at the president. Putin has invested endless amounts of energy into cultivating an image of machismo: Putin, bare-chested atop a horse. Putin, bare-chested, fishing. Putin, bare-chested, hunting, armed with a large tranquilizer rifle. Putin (fully clothed), in the cockpit of a fighter jet. He is also the man who said, "I am not a woman, so I don't have bad days."

Russian men face constant pressure to mimic Putin's hypermasculine template. They struggle to preserve an outer

semblance of silent strength, steadfastness, and power, constantly working to conceal negative emotions. Of course, those negative emotions don't just go away. I imagine that most of Russia's male population go about their daily lives, accumulating deep reservoirs of undetonated fury. Then, fueled by alcohol, a number of these men inevitably explode.

I am fully aware of Russia's surplus of human rights offenses. But I loved St. Petersburg, so much so that when

I imagine that most of Russia's male population go about their daily lives, accumulating deep reservoirs of undetonated fury.

I arrived home to New York City, everything seemed dull and soporific by comparison. I had spent my stay in a constant state of awe—marveling at the old architecture, the monochromatic bridges, and the glass domes on rooftops. I had gone to the Russian Museum and found myself lost in the massive Aivazovsky murals of turbulent seas and maritime adventures gone wrong. I had walked the streets for hours at night, so entranced by the lights and their reflections in the water that I lost my balance and tripped over the cobblestones beneath my feet. I had anticipated that the Russians I encountered would be taciturn and guarded, but instead I found myself in the company of some of the most lovely, generous, and boisterous people I had ever met.

It's often unfair to criticize other cultures by the standards of one's own, to make claims of superiority or inferiority. America itself is far from an equitable society, as the latest prairie fire of high-profile sexual abuse allegations clearly attest. And yet, Russia somehow manages to lag far further behind in its treatment of women. In Russia, the women, no matter how strong-willed and independent they present in public, hold a deeply subordinate position to the men, a fact that most clearly manifests in the attitudes towards domestic violence.

The prevalence of domestic violence in Russia certainly owes to Putin's gross decriminalization of the horrid act. But the problem runs deeper. If the country's overwhelming reaction towards male displays of sadness, weakness and sensitivity were not one of disapproval and deprecation, and if the average Russian man's response to the emergence of such emotions were not to deaden their effect by drowning them in vodka, then Russia would not be in such dire need of stricter anti-violence laws to begin with.

The Double Standard of Sexism

Bianca Beck '19
Opinions Editor

Matt Lauer was a host of *the Today Show* and a well-known television journalist. On November 29, Lauer was fired from his position on the NBC network after allegations of sexual misconduct and assault surfaced. He was accused of exposing his penis to a female colleague, sending a sex toy to a female colleague with a note describing what he'd like to do to her with the toy and sexual assault.

These accusations all indicate that Lauer sees his female colleagues as sex objects first, colleagues second. Looking back on clips of Matt Lauer interviewing many Hollywood actresses, one can see the disrespect he has for women shining through, from staring at Sandra Bullock's breasts to condescendingly asking Anne Hathaway "what she learned" about her wardrobe malfunction, rather than focusing on her movie or her career. It was inevitable that Lauer's disrespect for women and his sexist, one-dimensional perception of them, would permeate into his news coverage of powerful women demanding to be heard. This is clear in the 2016 election.

A staggering amount of women have recently come forward to accuse many of the most influential men in the United States—including Lauer himself, along with Mark Halperin, Ken Friedman, Harvey Weinstein and Dustin Hoffman, among others—of sexual harassment and/or assault.

These men, specifically the journalists, reported and thus shaped the way in which the media portrayed important people and events. Therefore, some reporters are now claiming that this cost Clinton the presidency, because the biases these men hold against powerful women pervaded the coverage of the election.

If one were to compare Lauer interviewing Hillary Clinton to Donald Trump in NBC's "commander-in-chief forum," the difference is astonishing. Throughout

the interview, Lauer interrupts and talks over Mrs. Clinton, and spends eight minutes pelting her with questions on her email scandal. Then he asks her how she thinks voters "feel" when she says her "vote for the war in Iraq was a mistake."

However, during Trump's interview, Lauer doesn't fact-check Trump's false statements, and presents easy, non-confrontational questions.

These questions include Lauer asking Trump how he's preparing for the role as president, and whether Trump thinks he's ready to be commander-in-chief.

Many other journalists took a similar approach while covering the election, painting Clinton as an untrustworthy, corrupt and a hostile candidate, while setting their claws aside for Trump. Now we know: clearly the issue wasn't that Clinton was a hard candidate to connect to, but rather that these men hold biases against women who challenge the sexual-object image they have of women.

Additionally, Trump's "locker room banter" scandal is illustrative of this unfair bias and sexism. He was caught on a hot microphone boasting of his various sexual conquests, saying, "When you're a star, they let you do it. You can do anything. Grab them by the p***y. You can do anything." He was even accused of sexual harassment and assault by multiple women, yet Hillary Clinton's emails were cast as "just as bad" by the media.

Considering that many of the male media figures who spearheaded the election coverage were behaving similarly to Trump, clearly, these men were not as serious as they should have been in reporting on the urgency of incidents throughout the election, or the objective in their reporting. It's terrifying to think now that their reporting was what shaped the way in which the voters viewed the candidates.

The 2016 election was a very close race. It could have been any number of factors that tipped the scale: Russian interference with votes, "fake news," the Clinton family's drama. But considering that Hillary Clinton, the most qualified candidate in the history of the United States, lost against a man who had absolutely no political or combat experience it's undeniable that it wasn't simply that Clinton was going against Trump, who doesn't play by the rules. She had the media against her as well, led by the sexist men who touted Clinton in a way that was detrimental to her public image.

Now, with the exodus of all these repulsive men from positions of power, we can hope that the vacancies will be filled with respectable people who won't perpetuate misogynistic values. Perhaps the next female candidate will have a better chance because of this.

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same address.

Non Sibi and The Academy

Sebastian Bango '19
Opinions Editor

Non sibi is one of three inveterate mottos that appear across the seal of Phillips Exeter Academy. $\chi\acute{\alpha}\rho\iota\tau\iota\ \Theta\epsilon\omicron\upsilon$, which is Greek for the phrase "By the grace of God," borders the top of the image's oval frame. *Finis origine pendet*, which is Latin for "the end depends on the beginning," runs along the bottom of the emblem. *Non sibi*, which is Latin for "not for self" sits within the scene—inscribed within the body of a rising sun.

$\chi\acute{\alpha}\rho\iota\tau\iota\ \Theta\epsilon\omicron\upsilon$ is a relic of a religious past that no longer represents the Academy nor is relevant to most Exonians. *Finis origine pendet* serves as a relatively straightforward reminder that your current choices and efforts will determine your future. Exeter works symbiotically with this motto to assure the student that, by exerting effort towards the one-dimensional goal of academic success at the best school in America, they are achieving an illustrious beginning and promised an illustrious end.

Non sibi, however, is not conducive to that one-dimensional goal. The rigor of the Exeter academic experience rewards the self-serving while neglecting the truly non Sibi. Successful management of the workload often fills each free minute, distracting from the pursuit of personal success at Exeter. Choosing to edit a friend's paper, help them with math homework or explain a missed biology lab ends up displacing valuable time for work and sleep.

This appears to be a simple concept, but I have rarely seen it openly discussed by the administration. Instead, non sibi



Courtesy of Google

is preached while rigor is maintained. If the school is trying to produce both good and knowledgeable graduates, and an Exonian's goodness can be demonstrated and practiced through non sibi, the emergence of a work environment where the two elements are at odds should be cause for alarm and reform. Instead, certain devices are implemented to provide false versions of non sibi, such as ESSO.

While I do not doubt the members of ESSO's genuine intentions nor their positive impact on the community, I do not believe that the majority of ESSO participants would stay committed to the club if it was not recognized on their college applications. Being "not for the self" is an approach, not an action; if my theory stands true, the exposure of a dominating element of personal interest behind the participation of ESSO members discredits non sibi. Thus, the promise of ESSO as an organization that conflates Exonians' participation in community service with a practice of Non-Sibi has no real foundation. However, ESSO is constantly portrayed as a place to go and collect goodness through the

practice of non sibi.

If non sibi cannot be properly practiced during an academically successful Exeter experience, are Exeter graduates entering society with minimal goodness and maximal knowledge? What incentives will these Exonians turn to along their self-serving paths? Will they practice Non-Sibi in the real world?

I have faith in the Harkness gift. As Exonians, we are constantly exposed to, and engaging with, an educational method that is based around the presentation of established knowledge and renowned perspectives as discussion tools to enable the development of a personal perspective.

The constant examination and discussion of agenda and shortcomings of majority perspectives and virtual truths inevitably teach us to be wary of an ignorant existence. When presented with reality, we will recognize injustice. The free development of perspective facilitated by Harkness will translate to an elevated sense of empathy and understanding that leads to action — and that is when non sibi in its most organic form can be practiced.

Tackling Hate Speech

Shaan Bhandarkar '19

Opinions Editor

Freedom of speech. As a columnist for *The Exonian* and an avid journalist, I've come to greatly respect this right. Journalism has truly been the quintessential context for expression, and I feel that this right to expression and speech defines me as an American. I justify my own identity in light of this singular right. However, I've found it intriguingly antithetical that this very right justifies the actions of those who worship hateful ideologies and espouse hateful speech, which is the very non-inclusive rhetoric that my op-eds strive to rebut.

Recently, this dual nature of free speech resurfaced in President Trump's "Re-Tweet" of a sensitive post of a far-right, anti-immigration group, Britain First, on Twitter. Twitter recently vowed to retract the vaunted blue "Verified" button from any account that espouses speech that is detrimental and deliberately offensive to other races and cultures. So, is the obvious answer just to take Britain First's "Verified" status away? Is the solution to hate speech using technology and shutting it all out?

Not really. If anything, simply blocking hate speech might actually perpetuate

If anything, simply blocking hate speech might actually perpetuate future such acts.

ate future such acts. In essence, a move by Twitter to delete Britain First's account would bring even more publicity to their deleterious ideology. Any punitive measure, as serious as it may be, will always draw in more people who inherently believe that the punishment was unwarranted. We have to also concede that hate speech is legal, and furthermore, expected, by the First Amendment. The whole purpose of the First Amendment is to encourage respectful debate: even if I disagree with someone's perspective on a certain issue, their right to voice that opinion constitutes the idea of free



speech.

If anything, the concept of disagreement lends itself to more open-mindedness and more balanced representation of opinions. Inclusion lies at the center of our own Harkness pedagogy as well as our cultural competency objectives here at Exeter, but that inclusion will greatly depend upon the diverse opinions of the Exeter populace.

So, how do we combat hate speech? Looking back at the example of the Harkness table (something I think we'll all be doing at the end of our journeys here), the solution may as well be in more speech. Like the Chisholm-Schwartz assembly debate last fall, we can move towards that archetype of civilized political discourse by setting an example ourselves. I'm not suggesting that we should go and mine for every hateful comment on Twitter and reply to it, but we should collectively as a community at least hear out other ideologies. With the right of free speech, we don't need to necessarily listen to differing perspectives, but that is the key to the major step that will alleviate the effects of hate speech: the response.

Of course, this response can take many shapes and forms. From social media campaigns to online forums to talking in-person at conventions, gradual change can be achieved by respectfully responding and rebutting. However, I acknowledge that this can sometimes

also be dangerous, especially in light of the past summer's devastating events including the tragedy in Charlottesville, Virginia. Social media should continue to outright ban ridiculously discriminatory content, but a supplementary strategy will be needed to tackle the cliques of group thinkers espousing discriminatory notions. Reddit actually proposed a system to Wired in 2015 regarding giving sub-Reddits for groups with hateful

From social media campaigns to online forums to talking in-person at conventions, gradual change can be achieved by respectfully responding and rebutting.

ideologies, but providing more resources for moderators to collaborate to come up with targeted responses to rebut some of the major cornerstones of those perspectives. Reddit moderators described how a Superman radio show in the late 40s leaked codewords and secrets of the KKK that an undercover social activist had found. The KKK actually boycotted the show's sponsors after the show declared a decrease in recruiting and membership for the Klan.

It's true that hateful ideologies can be

founded on our strong group thinking, but even stronger coordinated collabora-

Even though American society has made huge strides in legislation, bias and prejudice continues to rend communities apart.

tion in response can eventually unravel those foundations.

From the Twitter pages of the most influential leaders like Donald Trump or Barack Obama to even the most innocuous cat videos on YouTube, the current hyperpolarized climate in politics has infiltrated the comments of almost every social media application.

Even though American society has made huge strides in legislation, bias and prejudice continues to rend communities apart. Hate speech has been nurtured by bias for years and the natural response has thus far been censorship, but that response contradicts the First Amendment and only gives more credence to espousers of discriminatory ideologies ironically claiming discriminatory treatment.

Instead, we can leverage that same cherished freedom of expression to respectfully and thoughtfully discredit discriminatory bias, all the while moving closer to universal cultural acceptance.

Save Net Neutrality

Jack Stewart '19

Senior Columnist

Net neutrality is a law that affects us all. It gives us the right to watch our favorite shows on Netflix, say hello to our friends on Snapchat and look at funny pictures of cats online without being hindered by big corporations. It gives us the right to use the Internet as we please to do whatever we see fit, so long as it is within legal boundaries. One could say that the net neutrality legislation is an extension of the First Amendment by giving us the right to express ourselves to the world freely and without hesitation.

But the legislation that gives us the freedom to use the Internet without barriers is in danger. Big cable companies, such as Time Warner and Comcast, are pressing the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Congress to repeal net neutrality. Ajit Pai, the head of the FCC, is more

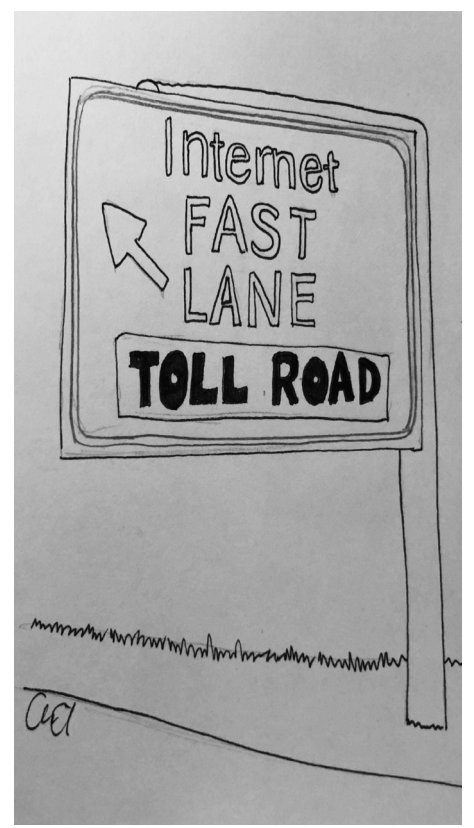
than willing to sacrifice your Internet rights just to collect money from lobbyists.

In fact, many (mostly Republican) congressmen and women are willing to collect paychecks from the major Internet service providers while leaving you under the greedy eyes of the corporate machine. As it stands on Dec. 2, the fight against the repealing of net neutrality is looking pretty bleak. Thousands of campaigns, petitions and phone calls have been received by Congress, but it's still very likely that the legislation will be repealed. If net neutrality is indeed repealed, that's bad news for those of us who are used to using the Internet without barriers.

What would an Internet without net neutrality look like? Imagine paying extra to access basic social services like Facebook. Imagine being charged every time you wanted to watch a YouTube video. Imagine companies like Comcast deciding what you can and cannot do on the Internet. It sounds like something straight out of a dystopian novel, but the scariest part is that this is most definitely going to happen.

Truthfully, it's startling to see such an abuse of power being supported by Congress and the FCC. Corporate lobbying, something that so blatantly violates the freedom and rights of Americans, is an undemocratic travesty. Net neutrality's repealing is yet another sign that our Republican-controlled Congress really doesn't care all that much about the American people—they clearly care more about the corporations that bolster their paychecks than the people who elect them. We see this in other areas of Republican lawmakers. Take, for example, the new, incomplete tax bill that's already raced through Congress. Even that bill offers breaks to corporations while doing little to nothing for the middle class.

The repealing of net neutrality should be a wakeup call to all Americans, reminding us that lobbyists should not run Congress. Instead, we should. Corporations should not control our Congress, but no progress in getting rid of wealthy lobbyists can be made if people turn a blind eye to them. It's up to us to change this, and with enough work, we definitely can.



The Ethics and Economics of Net Neutrality

Jordan Davidson '19

Senior Columnist

In this age of Trump, controversial policy decisions surface every day. The most recent hot-button issue is the repeal of net neutrality. Under net neutrality, the Internet is treated like a utility (i.e. water); this means Internet providers must provide their customers equal access to all web content—streaming services like Netflix or social media sites such as Facebook. If Comcast wanted to create a competing streaming service with expedited Internet access which crippled their competition by slowing Netflix speeds, they would be stopped by the protocol of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The FCC has planned a vote to decide the fate of net neutrality, and the public is outraged. In the past few weeks, protesters have taken to the streets nationwide, forcing many to ask the question: is this hysteria justified?

In conversations about net neutrality, people often say, "Do you really want to lose Netflix?" This argument has convinced the public that we need net neutrality: it only seems fair that everyone should be afforded equal access to all parts of the Internet. Through this lens, the fight to preserve net neutrality appears vital to the

future of the Internet.

There is, however, an argument against net neutrality that is hiding in plain sight: it isn't economically advantageous. When net neutrality was first implemented, economics were blatantly ignored. The Obama Administration and the drafters of the regulation didn't look at net neutrality through the scope of the free market. So, without any bias, let's go through what would happen if the FCC votes against net neutrality.

It doesn't take a degree in economics to understand the basic concepts of competition and supply and demand. In a purely capitalist system, the government does not regulate the market, making any business susceptible to competition. This idea of a competitive system ties into the second idea of supply and demand. The law of demand states that, when the price of a product is lower, the demand will be higher. Conversely, the law of supply states that, when the demand for a product is higher, there will be a greater quantity of that product produced.

In the world of the Internet, there are only a handful of providers, such as Comcast and Frontier; these companies essentially rule the market. Without net neutrality, many people fear that these companies will make their own content and services more accessible than that of their competition, like Netflix.

If we apply the principles of supply and demand, the demand for Netflix will be much lower if the price is raised by the oligopoly of major Internet service providers. Since we have a free market, smaller Internet providers may have the ability to offer Netflix at a lower price (or better speed), thus increasing demand for both Netflix and their own Internet service. Thus, net neutrality hurts the average American consumer as it allows internet monopolies to maintain their powerful grip on consumer access to content with performance at reasonable prices.

Although new regulations have set out to undermine these monopolies, they have not been effective in getting faster Internet. Numbeo, a crowd-sourced, data-collection site that compares international prices, lists the United States as the sixth most expensive country for Internet access, with an average monthly bill at \$55.86. Singapore's internet access averages \$33.96 a month, while South Korea tallies \$22.03. Both Singapore and South Korea report dramatically faster average connection speeds than the United States.

A skeptic may argue that even though the negative impact of net neutrality would be offset by smaller companies offering Internet at a cheaper price, everyone would still be left without equal Internet until those cheaper options were made available.

While this is true, there would be benefits to allowing companies like Netflix to struggle for a short while. Because of net neutrality laws, every Internet provider has to give equal bandwidth to everyone. If this bandwidth were limited, it would make it nearly impossible to stream Netflix because of how much bandwidth is required. If net neutrality were gone, Netflix would be forced to adapt its product to be able to function with less bandwidth.

You may believe that Netflix would do that already if they had the capability, but net neutrality prevents them from needing to change their platform. This would benefit the average consumer because if Netflix were able to operate with less bandwidth, it would not take up as much data, thus saving people money.

In conclusion, keeping net neutrality is useless when we apply simple economics. The nature of the free market ensures that Internet prices will return to their original rate. Additionally, common services will adapt in the period of time that it takes for the market to catch up to a world without net neutrality. This will save more money in the long term for everyday internet users because they won't be using nearly as much data. Instead of taking a hard stance against the FCC for holding a vote to get rid of net neutrality, let's think critically and fight to remove needless regulations.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: JOAQUIN RIOJAS ZAMBRANO

By ERICA HOGAN
& ASHLEY LIN
Staff Writers

It's senior Joaquin Riojas Zambrano's last leg in the 200 free. The Suffield swimmer is blazing behind him, so Riojas Zambrano does what he knows best: he puts in some work. All that is left between him and the win is a couple of meters, some water, that last little bit of energy and that final kick. In a burst of pure energy and power, Riojas Zambrano surges forward and hits the wall. He wins. Later in the meet, he goes back in the pool and does it again, this time in the 500 free. Exeter goes on to beat Suffield that day—Riojas Zambrano did his job.

If there's anything that the senior and co-captain of the boys' varsity swimming team knows how to do, it is work. From his first days in a YMCA pool to practicing and racing with Big Red, Riojas Zambrano puts in the effort. In the off-season, he's completing strenuous workouts early in the morning. During races, he pushes himself to the brink of what is physically possible. "Nobody works harder than Joaquin," said co-captain and fellow senior Taylor Walshe. "He puts on his Speedo and rips through the water."

This winter, Riojas Zambrano, along with Walshe and senior Harry Saunders, will lead varsity boys' swimming. It's clear already that Riojas Zambrano intends to lead by example and share some of that magic that pushes him through each lap and show the team what it means to grind. On the upcoming season, Riojas Zambrano said, "As far as what we're doing to make this season successful, the answer is very simple. More. More than the other teams. We need to work under the assumption that every other team is working just as hard as we are and that every other team wants to win as bad as we do. So, we have to ask ourselves this question: 'What are we willing to do that no one else is?'"

Riojas Zambrano's diligence has had a big effect on his teammates. Lower Charlie Venci spoke of Riojas Zambrano's performance at the Suffield pool with awe. "That is something that's always stuck with me," Venci said. Saunders explained how Riojas Zambrano's competitive spirit encouraged him to work harder, while also bringing them together as friends. "This is one of the things that makes Joaquin and I good co-captains: we both think that we are faster than the other...there is constant hemming and hawing about who is the better swim-



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

mer, and this motivates each of us to work harder," Saunders said. He shared how he and Riojas Zambrano, along with upper Peter Tuchler were roommates for the New England Championships where they made an agreement that whoever placed the lowest amongst the three would have to sleep on the floor. With Riojas Zambrano, the competitive spirit is everywhere, but instead of encouraging division, it brings the team together in a close, lasting bond.

The connections Riojas Zambrano forms with his teammates in and out of the pool have been the most important part of Riojas Zambrano's swim experience at Exeter. Indeed, his teammates fundamentally altered how he views swimming. Before coming to Exeter, Riojas Zambrano swam on a club

team, going to and from meets with his mother. "Before swimming at Exeter, [it] was, for me, a highly individual sport requiring extreme discipline and leaving no room for fun with teammates or cheering," he explained. Entering an environment in which his teammates were his classmates and his neighbors changed that perception of swimming. His teammates were no longer just the people next to him in the pool. They were the people he shared meals with at Las Olas and listened to music with on the bus. Riojas Zambrano's competitive spirit blossomed into something more. "Here, too, swimming is a sport that requires much discipline and dedication, but here the team is brought closer by the hard work and long hours," Riojas Zambrano said. "Although we often find ourselves racing each

other, we do not compete with one another; rather, we push ourselves to be faster swimmers and work together for the betterment of the team."

It's the bond he has with his teammates, born from hours working together constantly to reach victory that has been the most meaningful part of Riojas Zambrano's swimming experience at Exeter. There's a special connection formed between people who work together, who reach the brink of physical possibility together. "I don't know why, but there is something about going through physical pain together that allows you to form connections with people that no one else can," Riojas Zambrano said. "I love being a part of this team, and getting to be its captain is a great honor."

Boys' Hockey Falls to St. Sebastian's *First Loss Ends Undefeated Season*



Upper Paddy Bogart skates past a defender.

Chiara Perotti Correia/The Exonian

By TAYLOR WALSH
Staff Writer

While some students slipped and slid with their traction-less shoes, struggling to get to class, the hockey rink buzzed with excitement. After a bitter loss to Rivers in the NEPSAC semifinals last year, the team prepared throughout the offseason. Back on the ice, the boys opened the season with statement victories against tough competition like The Kent School.

But last weekend, Big Red boys' hockey suffered its first loss of the season, falling 0-6 to St. Sebastian's. A long bus ride, bad bounces, and questionable calls all contributed to the score, but, at the end of the day, the home team out-

played Exeter.

After five straight wins and a tie to Dexter, the Exeter squad went into Saturday's game with confidence.

Maybe the team had a little too much confidence. Senior Bobby Murray said, "We were coming off a bunch of good wins, so Coach [Barbin] warned us not to get too cocky."

The St. Sebastian's game had been a breeze in previous years, but not this year. With six Division I athletes on its roster, the star-studded opponents stymied Big Red. As the puck continuously found its way into the Exeter net, Big Red's swagger diminished. But the lopsided score does not tell the full story. Despite being shut-out, Exeter never stopped fighting, making its opponents work for everything.

In fact, the Exeter puck team embodies grit. Senior Cameron Speck commented on the team's drive, saying, "Like last year, we may not have the skill like some other schools do, but we have a lot of guys so we can wear teams down and outplay teams later in games." Rather than riding the skill of one talented player, the team depends on every player to grind. Coach Barbin ingrained this philosophy into his players from the very beginning, so they have all bought in to the process.

Though the team wanted to add another tally to the win column, the loss did not faze Big Red. Senior Conor Shannon expressed his frustration with the game but also believed that it would "push [the team] in the right direction. It was a good reality check."

The strong core of returning seniors and young talent have lots of room to improve, and the boys will use this tough game to their advantage. The six-goal deficit may cause the league to underestimate Exeter, but Big Red's mistakes in for the St. Sebastian's game will be a distant memory when they compete in the playoffs this February.

Some things just cannot be taught, and grit is one of them. Full of warriors, the Exeter hockey team is well on its way to becoming lethal. The championship is not out of the question, but the boys will take it one game at a time. On Wednesday, New Hampton will experience the bitter taste of Exeter tenacity as the team attempts to bounce back from last weekend's loss. After that, the team plays Hoosac on Saturday.



ExonianSports



Wrestling Comes up Short in Quad Meet *Team Remains Hopeful and Ready to Bounce Back*

By LEAH COHEN
Contributing Writer

Big Red was shut out on Saturday during its second match of the season against Timberlane, Framingham and Noble High Schools. The team earned 18-58, 31-41 and 33-36 points in each game, respectively. This was a crushing blow to a previously acclaimed team that finished at the top last year, securing the Class A Championship, a New England Championship title, and finishing strong at the national championship hosted at Lehigh University.

Lower Tyler Morris explained that the loss at the meet should be viewed in a positive light. "I think the matches today can be looked at as a learning experience for everyone," he said.

Morris also pointed out a key component to winning competitions. "Our team needs to wrestle with grit," he said. "We need some guys to step up...[so] we don't give up important team points in pins." Lower Ethan Rosenthal attributes past accomplishments to the team's strong dynamic. "We have a lot of second and first year guys who have to step up and perform if we want to be close to the team we were last year," he said.

Upper Henry Lagasse expressed discontent with players giving up extra points that cost the team a win. "Many of the kids gave up points towards the end of matches that could have easily been prevented," he said. "These extra points scored end up being the difference in team scores."

While acknowledging the high caliber of skill the other teams presented, Lagasse noted there are improvements Big Red could make to strengthen the team. "There are a few things that we all need to work on," he said. "Those were some very good public schools in the area and we handled them well."

Despite the defeat, the team remains positive and supportive. Lagasse attributed past success to the team's strong leaders. "I hope to keep an atmosphere where the more experienced kids help



Upper Henry Lagasse grapples with his opponent.

Diana Davidson/The Exonian

the newer kids which will help the team this year and in years to come," he said. While wrestling remains a primarily individual sport, the team is held together as a tight-knit group. "We will all be on the sidelines cheering on our teammates. It's a great energy that really helps during your match," he added.

Rosenthal emphasized that in the future, the team needs to start and finish every match with the same intensity to avoid last-minute losses. "We need to keep fighting until the end since there

were several matches that were tied or close in score but we lost them in last 10 seconds by a lucky takedown," he said. His teammates shared similar sentiments, saying they believed the last points of the matches could have been prevented if the wrestlers were able to sustain the intensity throughout the entirety of the meets.

Morris recognized Lagasse for his strong achievements on the mat this past weekend. "I'd like to acknowledge Henry Lagasse as the wrestler of the week with

three pinfalls," Morris said. "He wrestled with grit and got the job done when we needed him to."

Despite a frustrating beginning to a long season, Rosenthal is confident in the ability of the team to "carry forward the power from last year [and] remain the number one team in New England." He also elaborates that the Big Red wrestling team certainly has the skill to "regain the swamp" at this weekend's upcoming Battle on the Bay and Beast of the East.

Girls' Basketball Edged Out By Milton *Close Game Ends with a Final Score of 54-57*

By ANDREW SUN
Contributing Writer

Last Wednesday, the girls' varsity basketball team played its first game of the season away against Milton. Despite Milton edging Exeter out for the win with a close score of 54-57, the team treated this game as a learning experience.

"Although we lost, it was the first time we all played together as a team, so it was really exciting to see how well we already played with each other," commented senior and co-captain Samantha Weaver. Senior Olivia Lei reinforced this statement. "I think we played well, given the fact that we only had a few practices beforehand and were fresh off the bus with minimal warm-up time," she said.

The game started off slowly for Big Red, but the girls found their place and played more cohesively as the game went on. "Coach [Hadley] Camilus made a shift during the game against the zone defense that worked very well," explained lower Eva Carchidi. The team believes that it has a lot of potential, but it will need to work hard in the future. This was seconded by Weaver, who said, "The game showed us that there is a lot we still need to work on, but it also showed that we are going to be a competitive team."

Considering that this year's team is relatively young, many players stood out throughout the game. "[Lower] Bethany [Lucey] played very well in this new offense and played aggressively during the game,"

Carchidi said.

Another outstanding team member was senior and co-captain Ella Johnson, who Weaver named as a crucial player. "She did an insane job pressuring the ball, which is something the team needs to improve on in the future," Weaver said.

Big Red is trying to improve its defense and toughness, both mental and physical, throughout the rest of the season. The team also hopes to continue to better themselves. As Lei stated, "Our goal is always to be improving with each day, so we've been watching game tapes and getting feedback from Coach Camilus. The aim is to understand what mistakes we made last time and make sure those same mistakes don't happen again next week." Weaver also said, "We want to be a tough, competitive team, and as long as we keep working hard in practice, we are going to have a successful season!"

Drawing comparisons to last year's individual focus, players this season feel that Big Red has been much more team-oriented. "Instead of one person getting the majority of the points, we are spreading it around this year. We are much better at working together," Weaver said. "Everyone on the team is a lot stronger and physically in a better shape."

As the season continues, the girls hope to further develop as a team and learn from mistakes made last season. "I think we're already doing much better than we were last year, so I'm optimistic for a great season ahead of us," Lei said, reiterating her confidence in the team.



Lower Eva Carchidi dribbles down the court.

Diana Davidson/The Exonian

InsideSports

Boys' Hockey



Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian

Boys' hockey is fired up after loss to St. Sebastian's. Read more about the team's hopes for redemption on 11.

Athlete of the Week



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

Senior Joaquin Riojas leads the boys' varsity swim team with energy and vigor. Read more on page 11.

Wrestling



Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian

Wrestling remains optimistic despite losses to Timberlane, Framingham and Nobles. Find out more on 12.

SATURDAY GAMES:

Game	Location	Time
Girls' Basketball	Away	TBD
Wrestling	Away	9:00am
Girls' Hockey	Home	10:30am
Boys' Basketball	Home	1:00pm
Boys' Hockey	Home	1:00pm
Winter Track	Away	1:00pm
Boys' JV Hockey	Home	1:30pm
JV Swim	Home	1:30pm