



Deans Introduce Online Directory For PEA Parents

By MAI HOANG and SUAN LEE
Staff Writers

In an email to Academy parents on Oct. 19, Dean of Students Melissa Mischke announced the creation of a new online parent directory. The Deans have been collaborating with the Office of Institutional Advancement and Information Technology Services to create the Parent Directory, which will be accessible through the PEA Parent Portal later this month. It will display contact and student information for Exeter families online and make it easier for parents to connect and coordinate gatherings. Parent reactions have been positive so far, and many are hopeful that it will strengthen community relationships.

According to Assistant Director of Alumni and Parent Relations Jennifer Woodford, the administration began planning the directory three years ago after parents expressed need for a platform where adults of the Exeter community could connect and communicate. Exeter parent Andrea Fleming commented, "At Exeter, I'm part of several different parent networks that cut across grades and across dorms. Exeter students are involved in such a wide range of activities that their families need a way to stay in touch with all the different communities their children are a part of."

Parent Susan Littlefield said that a parent directory could also serve as a resource for parents who want to help their children with schoolwork. "If your child is struggling with something at school, you can certainly reach out to the school about it, but sometimes other parents whose children have gone through the same experiences can be a really great resource," she said. Parent Patty DiTullo agreed, saying that she

PARENT DIRECTORY, A2



Uppers Hanna Pak and Chim Tasie-Amadi talk over doughnuts after Halloween Assembly.

Gavin Hickey/The Exonian

Administration Publicly Silent after Las Vegas Shooting, Works Behind Scenes to Help Students

By ROSE HOROWITZ and SHIVANI TRIPATHI
Staff Writers

In the four weeks after Stephen Paddock killed 58 people and injured 527 more in Las Vegas, Nevada, students and faculty have questioned the Exeter administration's decision not to publicly address the tragedy. The administration privately alerted advisors of students from Las Vegas following the shooting.

Dean of Students Melissa Mischke noted that the school responds to issues within Exeter's campus differently than to those that impact the world.

For an event directly affecting the Exeter community, the school's Incident Response Team (IRT) usually intervenes. The team is made up of the administration, campus safety and members of the health center staff and

follows predetermined guidelines in addressing incidents. For incidents that occur outside the Exeter campus, members of the administration, including the Dean of Students Office, Principal MacFarlane, the Dean of Faculty and the assistant principal, partner with Exeter's Office of Communications to decide what should be addressed and how to respond appropriately.

Mischke said the school struggled with the decision of whether or not to address the issue publicly. "We have people that live all over the world, and you and I know the world is in a pretty crazy flux where there are things happening that are very challenging everyday," she said. "We could spend all our time telling people about all the bad things that are happening around the world if we had to comment on everything. The school isn't a policy maker nor a news organization, so we have to

think about balancing what's going on in and what's going out."

She cited the school's response to Hurricane Harvey in Texas as an example of Exeter not publicly responding to a tragedy but still helping members of the community affected by it. The administration allowed students from Texas to move into dorms earlier or later than normal, and offered them travel assistance if needed. "We did stuff behind the scenes, and a lot of times, that's what we do," Mischke said.

Principal Lisa MacFarlane described the school's response to tragedy similarly. "We try to help all Exonians who are affected by events wherever they occur and as they happen as best we can. We often reach out to employees, students or their families if we know they might need extra support during a difficult time," MacFarlane said. "It's all LAS VEGAS, A2



Zach Iscol '97 delivers assembly.

Emma Cerrato/The Exonian

Ex-Marine Zach Iscol '97 Wins Prestigious John Phillips Award

By ANNE BRANDES and MADISON KANG
Staff Writers

The Academy Trustees and the General Alumni Association (GAA) honored decorated Marine Corp officer, Iraq War veteran and entrepreneur Zach Iscol '97 with the 2017 John Phillips Award at last Friday's Assembly. The speech earned him a standing ovation and attracted many students to his Latin Study luncheon that afternoon.

The award is granted annually to an Exonian who exemplifies John Phillip's ideals of goodness and knowledge and who has contributed to the welfare of the Exeter community and beyond since his or her graduation. According to GAA head魏le Coaxum '88, Iscol stood out as "an unstoppable force for good."

Since his graduation from the Academy, Iscol studied political science at

Cornell University and served as a pilot before pursuing a military career in 2001. He completed two tours in Iraq and was awarded a Bronze Star for Valor; he had other assignments throughout Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia in the infantry and special operations. After his deployment, Iscol founded the Headstrong Project, a nonprofit that funds and develops comprehensive mental health care programs to treat Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Iscol is also the founder and CEO of Hire Purpose, a technology start-up that provides personalized career guidance to veterans and military service members and created the military news and culture online site, Task and Purpose.

Iscol connected his success in combat to his Exeter experience. His interactions with his Main Street hall roommate

familiarized him with Islamic culture. This familiarity proved invaluable during the Second Battle of Fallujah, when Iscol led 30 American soldiers and 250 members of the Iraqi national guard in the bloodiest battle of the Iraq War. "He taught me to say As-Salaam-Alaikum, and I taught him to say Shalom," Iscol remembered. "That small window into Islam so different than the way Muslims are portrayed in media opened the door for me to forge deeper relationships with my Iraqi soldiers and with religious and tribal leaders."

He also emphasized the importance of empathy and understanding during conflict, two values he developed with his Harkness education. "There is something special about [Exeter] where people come together at a round table from so many different backgrounds," Iscol said. "It's a place to listen, argue, let ideas stand on their own, challenge each other and grow from it. Listening and deliberating is the first step towards bridging differences and resolving conflict."

Prep Nam Nguyen appreciated Iscol's humility and the pertinence of his message. "Mr. Iscol was humble despite everything he accomplished on and off the battlefield, risking his life multiple times," he said. "I also found his speech very relevant and reliable. His words of selflessness, consideration and understanding can be carried into everyday life."

Lower Ramyanee Mukherjee shared Nguyen's sentiment. "I was so impressed by his courage and capacity for caring," she said. "He took the school motto non sibi past his Exeter career, holding on to it in Iraq and continuing his social service today, helping veterans recover from war and start anew."

Iscol closed his speech by addressing ZACH ISCOL, A2

Prep Class Elects Student Council Representatives

By ALAN XIE and JASPER YU
Staff Writers

The Class of 2021 elected Yunseo Choi, JD Jean-Jacques and Hannah Lee as their Student Council representatives this past Tuesday, Oct. 1. The three "prep reps" were chosen out of nine students who made the ballot.

To run for representative, students must gather 102 signatures from members of their class. Many preps ran campaigns that promoted better class unity. "I know a lot of kids in the prep class don't really know each other, and they're in these small groups. I wanted to do something to make us a tightly-knit community," prep rep-elect Jean Jacques said.

Prep rep candidate Grace Clark agreed. Part of her platform was adding more events to help the prep class bond. "I think there should be more events on the weekends since we're all new," Clark said. "We should have more of a chance to bond and get to know each other."

Prep Osiris Russell-Delano thinks the representatives will follow through on these goals. "I think that our prep reps will be beneficial in bringing together our class," Russell-Delano said. "I think they'll help us come together as a community and have more fun."

Jean-Jacques plans to add more events and activities on the weekends. "I want to add some things to promote the idea of the prep class getting to know each other and getting to make new PREP REP, A2

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Students Question Lack of Response to Las Vegas Shooting

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to publicly respond to events around us. As a global school, we are affected everyday by tragedies that take place in the world. Some are natural tragedies, made worse by poverty and inadequate systems of support. Others are caused by humans; the violence humans inflict on each other is heartbreaking. And there are private tragedies, too, that often go unseen."

In the wake of the shooting, some Exonians who hail from Las Vegas attended classes while awaiting confirmation that family and friends were safe. Upper Miranda Derossi said it was challenging for her to go about her daily routine following the event. "It was hard to focus on anything else," she said.

Derossi appreciated the support provided by the Health Center, which told her she could be excused from classes that she did not feel comfortable attending. "However, given the fast pace of life here at Exeter, I didn't really feel as if I could do that without falling behind," Derossi said.

Senior and Las Vegas resident Grace Pan also struggled to focus on her courses after the shooting. "During the classes that I did manage to attend, I couldn't focus on anything my classmates or teachers said. I watched everyone live and laugh normally, and I couldn't possibly let myself be happy knowing that my community at home was suffering so much," Pan said.

In contrast, prep Josh Lum, also from Las Vegas, found the shooting did not affect his academic engagements. He did not find out about the shooting until the day after it occurred, but support from faculty helped him to cope with the event. "I feel supported by Exeter given that my advisor and other faculty in my dorm asked me if I was okay," he said.

Although Lum was asked to participate in his classes, he added that, in his opinion, Exeter should have emailed students to ask if they needed help after the shooting. "I think Exeter should have asked if anyone was impacted at all by the shooting and if they were, try to help them in any reasonable way," Lum said.

Senior and Las Vegas resident

Valeria Rios agreed that she felt Exeter should have publicly acknowledged the tragedy. "I think the school should have addressed the shooting considering its magnitude and the number of students from Las Vegas," Rios said. She suggested that Principal MacFarlane could have held a brief meeting at assembly or emailed students.

Without a school-wide response, Rios felt that students were uninformed about the magnitude of the shooting. "I don't feel that I was supported enough by Exeter," Rios said. "Many people at school weren't even aware of what had happened. Besides some of my friends and teachers, I feel no one else even talked about it."

Similarly, Pan felt that few members of the Exeter community mentioned the tragedy of the shooting or offered her support. "It felt like no one even realized something so horrible just happened to a community that a number of us Exeter students belonged to," she said. "I do not blame them, because this seemed to be just another tragic news story and they have other things to focus on, but I would have appreciated more sympathy or at least more acknowledgement that such a tragedy had occurred."

Mischke added that though she was unsure of why the school did not publicly comment on the shooting, in order to help students who may have been affected by the tragedy, the school reached out to the advisors of students from Las Vegas. "Getting to the advisor and the advisor reaching out to their student is the most important thing," Mischke said.

She added that student well-being was her primary concern in Exeter's response to the tragedy. Mischke said, "For me, my job is student care and safety; that's my priority. I want to make sure that if somebody is thinking about home or if they had a friend that was there in the craziness of the shooting, they're my priority."

English Instructor Mercedes Carbonell attributed the lack of campus-wide recognition of the shooting to the absence of a culture in which the community responds to challenging situations. "Here...we do not have a culture of immediate response to tragedy," she said. Carbonell added that, in her opin-

ion, Exeter does not always unite as a community during difficult times.

She cited assembly as an example of the school not utilizing time together to connect, saying that the community "gathers to think, or to experience someone's story, but we don't gather to heal and to feel safe." Carbonell thinks the administration should be responsible for fostering this culture. "They're the only ones who can call a meeting," she said. "Individual teachers and advisors acknowledge and take care of students, but it ultimately has to come from the top."

Upper and co-head of Amnesty International Adrian Kyle Venzon said that he found it hypocritical for the community to lament its distance from the outside world while not publicly responding to such a significant event. "We say we want to branch out and get out of the mindset that Exeter is the world, but in the face of an extreme act of gun violence, the school has not taken action to ensure that its students are okay," Venzon said.

Venzon added that, in his opinion, the administration should have notified the entire campus of the event. He said, "Honestly, probably nothing would have been enough to address the shooting, but having literally no response to it is worse than falling short."

Lower and Las Vegas resident E.J. Porras delegated the responsibility of supporting students from Las Vegas to the administration. "I kind of appreciated the public silence from the school about the shooting, but I think the least they could have done was [write] an email to the kids affected most by the situation, offering their condolences and [having] some sort of outlet for support," he said.

According to Venzon, the lack of a campus-wide response from the administration prompted Amnesty International to hold a vigil for students who wished to unite and reflect after the shooting. "It took an emotional toll on a lot of people, but since we're so busy at Exeter I don't think anyone's really had the headspace to actually think about it," he said. "I hope that the vigil allowed for that."

The vigil was organized in conjunction with religious services and held on Oct. 22. A small crowd of stu-

dents joined Reverend Heidi Heath in Phillips Church to pay their respects to the shooting victims. The church was illuminated by 58 candles, one for each fatality. All students were able to participate in the reflection by holding a lit candle to symbolize hope in the face of adversity, and all were encouraged to speak.

The vigil allowed Molly Canfield, senior and Amnesty International co-head, to reflect on the tragedy. "The goal of our vigil was to give students a space to acknowledge, pause and feel," she said. "It was a powerful experience for me, and I hope that it was for others as well."

Heath noted that the vigil helped Religious Services assist the Exeter community. She said, "One of the roles of religious and spiritual life in a community is to hold space for a community to come together in reflection and/or prayer when major events happen." She added that students have utilized Religious Services to help them face the tragedy. "In the wake of the Las Vegas shootings, we've had discussion, prayer and reflection in many of our religious and spiritual groups that meet here," Heath said.

Canfield and fellow co-head senior Pedro Repsold de Sanson participated in this discussion, encouraging resilience from mourners at the vigil. "In our words we wanted to acknowledge the shooting in Las Vegas, gun violence in general and our hope for peace," Canfield said. She reflected that were she to add to this speech, she would want to stress the proximity of the tragedy to members of the Exeter community. "Looking back, I wish we'd mentioned not how distant the massacre feels from us, but how close it is to so many people in America and on this campus," Canfield said.

Despite the lack of official response to the shooting, the vigil's shared reflection did comfort Pan by connecting her with others confronting the same pain. "I am most thankful to have a community of students from Las Vegas here with me at Exeter," she said. Pan added that she found solace in the shared reflection the vigil offered. She said, "It helped the most to know that I am not alone and I have peers here who understand."

Zach Iscol Reflects On Lessons Of War, Value in Collaboration

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the post-deployment plight of veterans. According to the Research and Development (RAND) Center for Military Health Policy Research, 20 percent of veterans who served in either Iraq or Afghanistan suffer from either major depression or post-traumatic stress disorder, and 19.5 percent of veterans in these two categories have experienced a traumatic brain injury. Even without mental illness, many veterans struggle to readjust to society.

"I knew something was wrong when 33 members of my third battalion died in combat and 23 committed suicide after they were deployed," Iscol remembered. "For many veterans, the wounds of war are hidden. They lose a friend, face the tough and impossible choices of war,

shoulder the pain and guilt of making it back home. They face a mental battle even when they return."

Jane Melvin '80, a member of the Awards Committee, commended Iscol's unrelenting support for fellow veterans. "Zach's story is not a story of one but a story of so many. He literally put his life on the line, time and time again, for his fellow soldiers, for this country and for the greater good. When he finished his service on the front lines of war, he didn't walk away," she said. "In true Exeter fashion, he thought about the lessons of war. The questions are complex and he still continues to learn from what he went through, thinking about ways to make positive change."

Coaxum agreed. "Zach is an ambassador of compassion, an entrepreneur of hope and the embodiment of non sibi."

Parents Exposed to New Network through School Directory

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"would be happy to speak with parents of new students and answer any questions they might have."

Director of Parent Giving Laura Schwartz believes the directory will be a great resource for families who wish to organize parent gatherings independent of official school events. "I've received a lot of requests from parents in San Francisco, in Shanghai and all other places who want to host a social event. They ask me to give them the contacts for parents in their area but I can't because I don't have permission. Now, a parent who wants to host something can simply go on the directory and reach out," she commented. Echoing these sentiments, Janice Ziemba, the Dean of Student Office's Administrative Manager, said that the directory would facilitate conversations and gatherings, adding "parents can more easily make updates to personal information like email addresses and phone numbers, because right now the only way to do that is sending the Dean's Office an email."

Another strong argument for the

creation of a parent's directory is that even without the school's involvement, parents are already trying to establish informal networks, using different forms of social media. "There is a self-formed, unofficial day student parent Facebook group," DiTullo said, though she noted that it "hadn't been particularly active." To coordinate carpooling, day student parents have also received a printed directory by town of other day student families. "In China there's a wechat group for parents to connect," Director of Major Gifts and current Exeter parent Chuck Ramsay said, who recently travelled to Hong Kong on a tour of Asia. "If the school doesn't do it, they're going to try to find each other anyway," he added.

Most of the work that went into setting up the directory happened throughout the previous year. According to Woodford, the eight-person team consisted of personnel from the Institutional Advancement office and the Dean's Office and IT, working in conjunction with On Modules, a private management software vendor. "It took a long time to get them to do exactly what we want. The colors, the logos,

Choi, Jean-Jacques, Lee To Serve as Prep Reps This Year

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friends," he said. "I don't want them to be in their little groups."

Prep Veronica Choulga originally ran because she thought it was fun. "It was originally supposed to be a joke among my friends," Choulga said. "I wanted to do stuff about stress, like puppy nights." Another candidate, Katie Sauer, had similar motivations for running. "I don't know, it just seemed like fun," Sauer said. "I really care about the prep community, and I want us to have the best year possible."

The reps chosen were very enthusiastic to begin their work on StuCo. "I was ecstatic, and I am so honored to have this incredible opportunity," prep rep Hannah Lee said. "To have the chance to represent the grade and take everyone's opinions and put them into action, it makes me

super excited." Jean-Jacques was also very proud that all his work paid off. "Getting all the signatures and telling people to vote for me, all that work definitely paid off," Jean-Jacques said.

Many preps are excited to see the three reps start their work on StuCo. Prep May Chen was confident in them, saying, "I feel like they will actually represent us that they will actually make a change." Prep Drew Smith trusted that the reps would do a good job. "Personally I have good faith in them—I feel like they are great candidates and that they will represent the class of 2021 well."

The reps have many goals for their tenure. "I've heard that prep reps don't do much usually and don't have a lot of power," Jean-Jacques said, "but hopefully the other prep reps and I will make it so that this conception will be changed."

the wrapping around of the product has to reflect Exeter," Woodford said. "Also, it has to be seamless for the parents to go from the parent portal to the directory without having to enter another password."

The IT department is currently running final tests. "I'm excited. It's been a long time in the making; we're thrilled that it's going to happen now," Mischke commented.

Some families have raised concerns regarding safety and privacy issues, which the administration has tried to address by allowing parents to choose and limit the amount of information they share. Parents not wishing to be displayed on the directory were also given the opportunity to opt out before Oct. 27, though both Schwartz and Woodford affirmed that even after the directory was up and running, parents could still choose to discontinue having their information displayed at any time. "There's a button you can click on to hide your home address or where you work," Ziemba said.

Fleming expressed her satisfaction with these measures. "The main concern in the task has been to keep stu-

dents safe and protect people's privacy. It's clear that the school is being mindful of this. The fact that parents can be in charge of their own data makes it a lot more convenient and safe for us," she said. Similarly, parent Gail Browne said that she was planning to opt in, but might "look at the kind of information they're sharing and pick and choose." She added, "I think some families do have privacy concerns [...] some people might not want to share their contact information with a large audience."

Parent Sharmi Ahmad stated that she was comfortable displaying her email address and phone number on the directory. "All schools have it at some point," she said. "Over breaks or even on weekends, sometimes kids want to stay at each other's houses, so I would like to have information about the parents to ensure that my children are safe."

Parent Cathlyn Cantone believes the directory will be beneficial, especially for a global community like Exeter. "Our children attend a boarding school and come from all over the world. This will be a way of connecting all of us," she commented.

Queer Kids Exhibit Displays Photos of LGBT+ Individuals

By JOHN BECKERLE
and BELLA ALVAREZ
Staff Writers

Brought to national attention by *The New York Times*, artist Michael Sharkey's Queer Kids exhibit opened in the Lamont Gallery on Sept. 15. Met with praise from both those at PEA and beyond, the exhibition was extended past its original closing date until Oct. 21. Sharkey also conducted interviews with PEA students, which he plans on utilizing in a short documentary about life for the Exeter LGBT+ community.

Queer Kids features 27 photographs of young adults from around the world who identify as part of the LGBT+ community, with ages ranging from 12 to 22. While Sharkey has captured hundreds of images before, the collection displayed at Lamont is a "very edited" group of subjects, according to the artist.

"The idea for Queer Kids originated from Sharkey's own identity. My initial inspiration came out of an interest in investigating my own queer youth and upbringing and how that was sort of different than what was happening currently in the world, and [to] sort of [try] to understand the new generation and document how these changes have come about and continue to happen," he said.

Beneath or beside each photograph is an excerpt from Sharkey's interview with the subject or subjects displayed. Sharkey's questionnaire was formulated with the help of writer and journalist Rosie Schaap. "We wanted to put together a group of questions that not only addressed issues of identity and sexuality, but also just what it was like to be a young person in the world," he explained. Some questions concern music taste and other, less serious topics. "Anyone, no matter their orientation or identity, could relate to [the questions] at some level," Sharkey said.

Originally, Sharkey reached out to LGBT+ youth through the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), an organization for American public school students identifying as part of the gay community. However, after first publishing his work, many kids reached out to Sharkey and asking to be a part of the exhibit.

Sharkey's decade-long project came to Exeter through Director of Student Activities Joanne Lembo, who has known Sharkey since they worked together as co-editors of Bennington College's student-run newspaper. The exhibit originally debuted at the Stonewall National Museum and Archives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 2014 before Sharkey worked

with Lembo to bring the project to Exeter.

Lembo, who is a prominent figure in many LGBT+ clubs on campus, felt that the exhibit was relevant to life in the Exeter community. "Over 15 percent of our students identify as part of the queer community," she explained. "This exhibit is a powerful representation of these students—it says we believe that all Exonians should be able to bring their whole selves to the table regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation."

Sharkey highlighted this message of inclusion and acceptance as incredibly important to the basic foundation of his work. "There's so many different issues that young, queer people are faced with today, and those things need to be talked about, and there needs to be more platforms for these kids to tell their stories and talk about their lives—tell the world who they really are," he explained.

Upper Jacob Hunter, who also identifies under the "queer umbrella," found familiarity when viewing the exhibit for the first time. "I immediately saw a black queer woman with long dreads and black glasses, the one I had saw in posters. That had to be the first one I printed to, because for me, it is very rare to be exposed to queer people of color," Hunter said.

Sharkey could not single out one painting that he liked or identified with best. "All of my pieces are my children in a sense, and as the cliché goes, I don't love any of my children more than the rest of them," he said. "I think of my pieces as a pantheon of characters and all of their differences make up a good representation of where young people are in the world today."

Co-head of Exeter's Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) upper Elliot Diaz and many others enjoyed the variety of life on display. "The broad representation in the exhibit really struck everyone [in GSA]. It was amazing to be able to look around and see faces like myself surrounding us in the gallery, not just the ones we see represented," Diaz said.

Lamont Gallery proctor and upper Bella Ilchenko emphasized that people that do not identify as queer could also find a way to relate with the stories of the persons portrayed in the gallery. "People who attend the exhibit and read the stories of LGBT+ people and view their photos may understand the LGBT+ community and feel like they can relate to it more," she said. "I am proud of our school for being so inclusive and for featuring this exhibit."

Diaz felt that the exhibit provided not only GSA but the whole Exeter community with important lessons about queer people. "The LGBT+ style that the Queer Kids exhibit high-

lights is a form of self-expression, celebration and revolution all in one," Diaz said. "Queer Kids sends a powerful message that queer people don't have one 'look' or one experience."

Hunter said that he appreciated Sharkey's willingness to bring such a campaign to Exeter. "Sharkey's works is beginning to synthesize a closer look at our identities at Exeter, and how we can move past our initial thoughts on each other and become closer as a community," Hunter said.

Sharkey was extremely grateful for Exeter staff and student's receptivity of his work. "Lamont has been an extraordinary thing, because there's been so much programming around the exhibition and so many classes that come through the exhibition—there's really been a high degree of interest in it and it's been fantastic," he said.

Along with many teachers requiring their students to view the exhibition, Hunter and senior Maya Kim hosted a coffeehouse and open mic night at Lamont Gallery on National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11) with the theme, "Who Am I?" Those in attendance read aloud slam poetry and prose pieces, performed songs or played an instrument. "Queer Kids is all about coming to terms with identity and breaking the barriers that identity sometimes introduces. And so with the coffeehouse, it was a medium through which students could express their stories to other students in order to better understand where we come from," Hunter explained. "It turned out to be a very great turn out, and I was excited that so many students had an interest in sharing their stories with each other. I think that the idea of that connection is what Queer Kids is all about: making connections with other people on different levels that extend beyond the surface."

As a result of this attraction to his work, Sharkey has conducted interviews with students in the LGBTQ+ community on campus, which Sharkey plans to compile in a short film with the help of his brother, Daniel.

Diaz, one subject of this project, thoroughly enjoyed working with Sharkey. "It felt very natural to be interviewed on camera," Diaz said. "He made it feel like we were just having a conversation." Diaz recalled the questions being of a casual nature, concerning his day at Exeter and at home, as Diaz is a day student. Diaz especially enjoyed Sharkey's upbeat personality. "He's such a positive person; it was lovely being around him," he said.

Diaz felt honored to be a part of the Queer Kids legacy. "Queer Kids as a movement has important stories to tell," he said. "I'm so glad I

could be a part of it."

Senior Aiyana Brough, another of the interviewed students, valued Sharkey's artistic eye. "As a photographer, he's super adaptable, which I think is important when you're trying to capture a whole personality," she said. "We had a lot of fun playing around with framing, location, how my hair looked, how to pose."

Brough, describing Sharkey as "down-to-earth and professional," noted that he gave her his undivided attention. "He really makes an effort to get to know the person he's photographing," she explained. "Obviously he asks questions in the interview, but even outside that he asked about clubs, college, future plans."

Brough was grateful for the comfortable atmosphere Sharkey created. Before the interview, Sharkey did a photoshoot with Brough, allowing them to connect on a casual, personal level. "It gave me a little time to get to know Michael before divulging my hopes, dreams and fears," Brough said.

She also liked the thoughtful questions Sharkey posed. "He asked about how I identify, when I realized I was gay, if and when I came out and to whom, and then some very personal questions like what my typical day is like, my favorite class, my least favorite class, what I do in my free time and for extracurriculars, what websites I like, who the most important person in my life is, and obviously the zinger, which is, 'Have you ever been in love?'" Brough said.

Brough acknowledged the vulnerability she felt expressing her sexuality on camera; however, she valued the project's emphasis on being proud of different identities. "It feels good to be celebrated for something that I've often been made to feel scared or ashamed or insecure about," she said. "Although slightly nervous about being publicly open about her identity, Brough hopes that when her pictures are added to the exhibit, someone will be able to identify with her look and her story." "It's amazing to see queer people celebrated for their identity in such a way. Having my sexuality displayed so publicly is obviously a bit nerve-racking, but it's mostly strangers on the internet and mostly people who are accepting and want to see queer people celebrated," she said.

Sharkey appreciated the Exeter community's hospitality during his time on campus, especially those who contributed to his upcoming documentary. "It's been a great privilege and a great experience as a whole—it's been so wonderful, and I feel really lucky to have the opportunity to meet all these amazing kids and hear their stories and to include them in the project!" Sharkey said.

Campus Safety Practices Lock Down Drill During Classes

By MAKINROLA ORAFIDIYA,
SHIVANI TRIPATHI
and RACHEL WON
Staff Writers

During the past couple weeks, safety drills have been executed across campus to ensure that students and faculty are aware of proper protocol in the case of a real threat. However, some concerns have surfaced pertaining to the efficiency and infallibility of these drills. Some students worry that drill procedures aren't being followed and don't align with the reality of a threat on campus, leaving the community ill-prepared to face potential emergencies.

Campus Safety Officer Andrew Pixley emphasized the importance of administering drills on campus. "The purpose behind the drills is to educate people on how to safely exit a building during a fire or other emergency," he said. "We all need to be trained on the sound of a fire alarm, what to do and where to go." He also mentioned the faculty involvement during said drills and how they can facilitate the process. "Faculty should take the lead during fire drills, getting everyone together and accounting for all students in their charge," he added. "Also, it's a great time review the process as a class or dorm."

On Oct. 23, Campus Safety held a school-wide lockdown drill. The drill took place during the school day, when classes and sports were being led. "We never conduct drills with the intent to disrupt school activities," Pixley said. "However, emergencies can happen at anytime, and that's why we practice and train like we do." Prior to the lockdown drill, Campus Safety sent out several emails alerting the school of a lockdown drill in the following week and detailing proper procedure during the drill.

Students were in various academic and non-academic buildings when the lockdown alarm rang. "I was in art class when the drill happened," prep Alicia Cobble said. "My teacher started to lock the doors, close the blinds and told us to be quiet." Students in other required academic appointments followed the same procedure. "My math teacher asked us to close the window blinds and to close the door, then we resumed class," senior Michael Garcia said. "When the drill was over, [my] math class resumed normally."

However, in some classes, the lockdown drill didn't pass as smoothly. Lower Samuel Park was in his detention class when the drill occurred. "When we heard the drill, the coaches instructed us to gather in a group," he said.

"From there, we were told that if there was a real emergency, we would have run and climb over the fence to get into town and away from campus." Although this would have been the procedure in a real emergency, the students continued playing, as it was impractical to leave campus just for the drill. "This seems a bit ineffective and unplanned to me," Park concluded.

Senior Katie Lu was in the middle of a physics test when the drill began. "We just locked the doors and continued working through the alarm," she said. Lu also mentioned her discontent with the current drill procedure protocol. "I think drills are necessary for our safety, but it might be helpful if they were organized in a better way," she added.

Lower Eva Carchidi's English instructor was locked out of the classroom. "I was in my class METIC for English during the lockdown drill," she said. Due to the absence of the teacher, the students were initially unaware of what to do. Then, a student locked the door and the rest of the class joined him in piling objects against the door. "Our teacher tried to get back in, but he couldn't," Carchidi added. "Our teacher was basically locked out of our classroom."

Senior Lara Galligani noted the importance of teacher presence in a lockdown situation. "Some teachers don't really follow proper drill procedure—they continue on with the class like nothing happened," she said. "However, others acknowledge that there is a drill and they actually talk you through what you are supposed to do in case of a real emergency." According to Galligani, this results in students remaining calm and more informed.

To most students, having the lockdown drill during the school day was an effective method of preparation. "It's better to be safe than sorry," Garcia said. "I would rather take the time out of class to learn the proper procedure than not know what to do in an actual emergency." Galligani agreed, saying that "it's important to be prepared in case something does happen and I think it's imperative that we practice that and all know what to do."

Pixley acknowledged the favorable response to the drill on Oct. 23. "Text alerts reach all faculty, staff and students in under three minutes and all access control buildings were locked down in under three minutes as well," he said. He concluded with the development he has noticed since past school-wide drills. "With all things in safety and security, there is room for improvement, but with that, we as an entire school have gotten better each time the drill is conducted."

Duck Hunters near Exeter River Disturb Crew Practice

By MADISON KANG
and SUAN LEE
Staff Writers

Five Exeter rowers heard and witnessed two gunshots on the Exeter River last Monday, Oct. 23, leading the Exeter Police Department (EPD) to suspect unusual hunting activity in the area.

According to senior varsity girls' crew member Olivia Petersen, three boats—a single, a double and a pair—were nearby when the first gunshot sounded near the Exeter water treatment plant. Senior Grant Summermatter, leading the three boats in a single, immediately turned around and began rowing back when Petersen and upper Ollie Young saw a second gunshot enter the water.

"When we heard the first one, we didn't think we should be that worried since it's hunting season, but when we saw one actually go into the water, we decided to turn around," Petersen said.

Senior Chase Ryan-Embry, who was rowing with upper Maddy Potter in the double, gave a similar account and remembered seeing a duck when he heard the gunshot. Like Petersen, he assumed the shooter had been aiming for the bird. "I was pretty calm about it because it didn't seem like that big of a deal. After that, there were no more gunshots," he said. "It was a little scary when I thought about it later, but it really was not anything that I think should be made into a big deal."

Varsity practice had been cancelled earlier that day because several Exeter rowers had just competed in the Head of the Charles Regatta the previous weekend. Since their expedition in the smaller boats was an optional practice, the five rowers were unaccompanied by their coaches, who were still at the boat house. "This is an important part of the story. Usually, our coaches are with us all the time. We just thought it would be fun to go out in small boats, which is why we were out on the water without a coach," Petersen said.

Junior varsity teams were conducting

practice as usual, but they were far behind the five rowers and turned back after Petersen and her teammates notified them of the situation.

The occurrence raised some legal concerns, as chapter seven of the Exeter Town Ordinances mandates that "no person, firm or corporation shall fire or discharge any cannon, gun, pistol or other firearms, rocket or squib within the compact area of the Town of Exeter" or "fire or discharge any cannon, gun, pistol or other firearm, rocket or squib within 300 feet of a dwelling, building or person."

Petersen estimated a 30 yard distance between the boats and where the bullet landed on the water surface. "There's nothing illegal about hunting, but if [the hunter] was being that reckless as to shoot near people in the water, then he's probably got something going against him, like being unlicensed or underage," she said.

In response, the Academy's Campus Safety Department reported the incident to the EPD and the NH Fish and Game Department and Director of Athletics Shane LaPointe sent an email to parents of all students enrolled in fall crew.

"I want to assure you that your child is safe," she wrote. "As the investigation of the incident unfolds, we have taken steps to keep our students safe and support them should they be feeling anxious about the incident." The following Tuesday, the EPD asked the rowers to provide statements about what they had witnessed. While the police investigation is ongoing, Exeter rowers hope that campus rumors surrounding the gunshots will not distort the reality or gravity of the incident.

"People have been hyping the situation up, taking it out of context and making it into something bigger," senior and varsity crew co-captain Dara Okeremi said. "It's important to stick to the truth and the facts. Around this school and probably the world, people tend to dramatize things that don't need to be dramatized or take it out of context and undermine the importance of reporting the truth."

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Protecting the Right to Refuse in East Asia

Mai Hoang '20

Columnist

In my language, there are no words to describe marital rape.

"As a country steeped in East Asian culture, Vietnam does not formally recognize marital rape as a public concern; it is understood 'by default' that the penal codes regarding rape only apply for extra-marital encounters," says the representative of the Ministry of Justice at the Conference on Laws Preventing Gender-based Violence. The sole option for women who experience forced sex in marriage is to plea domestic abuse to the local court or the People's Committee (the party's executive arm at the provincial level—there is little separation between the two arms under an authoritarian one-party government) and hope for a restraining order. However, this type of protection is granted only if all two conditions are met—the abuse causes life-threatening physical injuries, and the two parties no longer cohabit. Law enforcers agreed, in a survey conducted three years ago, that "domestic violence is a small problem," adding that they rarely received reports about sexual abuse. According to a UNFPA report, 58 percent of Vietnamese women have experienced some form of violence perpetrated by their spouse.

Influenced by two thousand years of

Confucianism, we directly translate the protection of women as the protection of women's "dignity," as long as the relationship is not "illicit," consent does not count into the equation. Traditionally, sex is viewed under the utilitarian lenses of procreation, and women as social commodities whose sole function is to bear children. As soon as she enters into marriage, she is the property of the husband and his family. Her opinion, even in such matters as the usage of her body, is rarely sought after. This, coupled with the deeply-rooted belief that sex is a taboo subject, means that women, even in modern times, find it impossible to talk about their abuse. In most of the cases, they might not even perceive what they are experiencing as abuse; a wife has to fulfill her responsibility of taking care for her husband and procreate, does she not?

The recent increase in awareness about rape in the workplace and other social settings is ironically coupled with the equation of sexual abuse to sexual promiscuity, and the subsequent blaming of foreign influence and "Western culture," which, as the national media insists, supplanted the healthy, virtuous relationships promoted by the traditional moral code. The problem is, no such healthy, virtuous relationship existed in the distant past; before the twentieth century the prototypical family model was composed of a man as head of the household, with wives and even concu-

bines, if he was of high standing in society. The word for consent itself is rarely heard in local campaigns or workshops about relationships; sex education is entirely absent from the public school education system; and NGOs that provide this service use a curriculum that only covers up to biological anatomy.

Around the globe, there are 41 other countries where marital rape is not an offense by law, including both India and China, which effectively means that more than 1.4 billion women would not be granted legal support if they fall victim to such cases. Even more disturbingly, in eight countries the law states that rapists who subsequently marry their victims, thus "legitimizing the relationship," would be exonerated of all criminal charges.

Though the UN clearly included marital rape in its list of violence acts against women in the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and international NGOs including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have campaigned, from time to time, against the lack of clear legal definitions for marital rape, the problem lies in the government's willful neglect, motivated by the inability of society at large to admit that for any kind of sexual encounter, the presence of consent is more important than the relationship between the two individuals involved. And their method succeeds,

to a certain extent; when one thinks of rape culture, the image of American college campuses, with its alcohol-infested parties and locker room encounters, usually comes to mind. In fact, *China Daily* recently ran an article, blatantly titled, "What prevents sexual harassment from being a common phenomenon in China, as it is in most Western societies?" The only reason why more sexually conservative countries don't seem to have a rape problem is not because there, the rigid institution of marriage stands firm. Rather, it is due to a universal lack of awareness, and no concrete research has been done to collect data on the actual prevalence of non-consensual encounters. Sure, if miniskirts are not the fad then girls might not experience inappropriate advances on the subway as often, but does that really solve the problem if upon entering into marriage, they are daily submitted to wrongful violations of their bodies, without even knowing it?

While I was growing up, consent was never a topic that was discussed at school, among teachers or peers. Till this day, I have never had a conversation with my parents about it. If I had not heard the message repeated again and again, in assembly speeches, in health class prep year, in posters hanging in the academy center, would I have internalized it to the extent that I do now? I hate to admit it, but no. I don't think so.

The Tangled Web of Mexican Politics

Mark Bleckherman '19

Columnist

When Mexico transitioned to a multiparty democracy at the turn of the century, the international community saw it as an opportunity to mend the economic uncertainties and political tensions that had plagued the Latin American country for decades. For 80 years, the Partido Revolucionario Institucional had monopolized political power and entrenched industries and businesses that served their own interests and coffers. Mexico's debt crisis in the 1980s only highlighted the ineptness of PRI, and the ensuing protests forced the government to make concessions, amending the Constitution to allow for more parties and civilian participation in government.

After Vicente Fox, a leader of the opposition party, won in 2000, Mexicans thought that government legitimacy would be restored. The truth, however, is that Mexico's decentralized system of governance has spelled more harm than good. Each of the 31 Mexican states has its own constitution,

legislature, and police force. On the outside, this structure bears complete resemblance to the United States; a closer look reveals that these local governments exacerbate corruption and condone violence rather than creating substantive policies for the community's betterment. In September 2014, 43 university students disappeared from Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers' College in Guerrero, Mexico. A lengthy investigation showed that the local police force and government were complicit in the deaths of the students. Journalists that expose this corruption receive death threats and in some cases mysteriously "disappear."

More concerning, local governments accumulate their money from illicit sources, mostly through investments in Mexico's malignant drug cartels. Low wages, lack of training, and poor equipment embolden policemen into supplementing their incomes with bribes and discourage qualified individuals from joining law enforcement. The Pew Research Center reports that only 42 percent of Mexicans follow the news and stay engaged in politics, representing the citizens' justified disrespect for the government and disenchantment with its incompetence.

Restoring law and order to Mexico's ravaged rural communities will require greater accountability between government officials and their constituents. The government could start with smaller steps. The sentence for homicides and drug trafficking should be lengthened, and the government should conduct more public awareness campaigns. Vigilante movements should be outlawed, replaced by greater military presence in areas with burgeoning crime.

Ideally, the Mexican government would reform the Constitution to allow for reelection. Article 59 prohibits legislators from being reelected to consecutive terms. Once elected, Mexican politicians launder money and accept bribes, as they will never run again for political office and need not fear negative publicity. The one-term limit also prevents successful leaders from leaving a more lasting impact and opens the electoral pool to casual opportunists and uneducated wannabes.

Although the Constitutional amendment may be a long-term goal, there are steps that the Mexican government can take now to squelch the drug cartels and hold local officials responsible. President Enrique Peña Nieto must find a new ap-

proach to law enforcement, one that forces police to responsibly confront the issue of drug trafficking. Under the status quo, the federal government funds the state governments, providing them with a set budget for each year. Peña Nieto should expand this policy, making future funding contingent on tangible improvements and allocating portions of the budget for specific purposes. Only when a state's counter-drug policies are effectively enacted can the federal government grant it more financial freedom. A federal oversight and transparency committee should be established with the purpose of monitoring progress in each state and supervising the distribution of funds.

On May 15, 2017, veteran journalist Javier Valdez Cárdenas was killed by gunmen at the age of 50. His newspaper had reported on the drug cartels in the state of Sinaloa. Unfortunately, Cárdenas is one out of 104 Mexicans journalists that have been murdered since 2000. Drug cartels continue to operate with impunity, proliferating their narcotics business while preying on helpless civilians. If this culture is to stop, it must happen from above. So far, the government's efforts have been half-hearted at best, and self-centered at worst.

Localizing the Effects of Sexual Assault

Jack Zhang '20

Guest Contributor

Byron Hurt's "Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes" is a powerful, thought-provoking piece on the state of gender relations in the United States through the context of the hip-hop scene. Real, on-the-ground footage from the hip-hop convention "BET: Spring Fling" shows numerous men openly accosting and groping random women without repercussions. We were disgusted at the flagrant violations of personal space and respect, but where did our famed discussions about socio-political issues go? Why has Hurt's eye-opening documentary failed to provoke discussion at a school that otherwise loves to talk about social justice and societal issues?

To answer this, we must first take a step back and recognize what his documentary is more broadly. It is designed to inspire us to action, to take a stand against sexism and the toxically masculine-centric culture in American society; it pushes a message. However, the potential for a documentary of this power is lost on an audience like Exeter. Sexism

at Phillips Exeter does not usually take the form of molesting people on the paths, but instead manifests itself more subtly. Perhaps it might be that teachers grade one sex more harshly than the other, or maybe financial aid gets given out more freely to one gender than the other. Whatever form it may take here, it certainly isn't the sexism shown in the Hurt's documentary. The shock of seeing his documentary faded quickly, as we began to realize that the pervers on screen weren't us. Thanks to this difference, we very easily dissociated ourselves with the men in the documentary.

This mixing of media and social commentary is not a new idea. In the early Soviet Union, agitprop was used to great effect to provoke discussion in the lower classes. Propaganda movies about the struggles of peasants were shown to peasants, movies about the struggle of factory workers were shown to factory workers, and so on. The product of this focused, specific campaign to improve efficiency resulted in a devoutly loyal agricultural and industrial base. From there, the Soviet Union was catapulted into an era of massive economic growth and restructuring. Their propaganda was terribly efficient at its goals, thanks in huge part to their specific

targeting of special-interest groups. We can see a clear contrast between the efficacy of Soviet group-specific propaganda versus the impotency of Hurt's catch-all documentary. While Hurt's film might be very effective when shown to the correct audience, we were not the correct audience.

As our society becomes ever more tribalistic and fractured, it seems that it only gets more difficult for filmmakers and social justice activists.

In the future, perhaps it would be more effective to show a documentary on the state of sexism at Exeter, rather than at a hip-hop festival in Florida. Definitely proving the existence of some form of sexism at Exeter would do far more at Exeter, even if it is not as universally despicable as what we saw in "Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes." This is not a Byron Hurt specific problem, but instead an issue with effecting social change through media in general. There are only so many filmmakers with the artistic and jour-

nalistic willpower to create group-specific films that might be effective at provoking discussion within that group. As our society becomes ever more tribalistic and fractured, it seems that it only gets more difficult for filmmakers and social justice activists.

Perhaps the future of social activism does not lie in this sort of top-down approach, but instead in local grassroots movements with solid understanding of their group's interests. Just consider Donald Trump's campaign: rather than being driven by massive ad campaigns, his candidacy was powered by local movements mobilizing to support and promote Trump. Hillary outspent Trump 2-to-1, yet still lost the electoral college. Even her slogan was a top-down slogan: "I'm With Her." Why not "She's With Me," or "She's With Us?"

The era of top-down politics and activism is nearly over. The future lies in communities and campuses organizing into forums dedicated to local social justice, effecting change for their own locales. Byron Hurt, for all his magnanimity and journalistic prowess, is still a top-down activist. For this reason, his documentary failed to reach us beyond the superficial, and will continue to fail to reach us until he studies our own brand of sexism.

The Exonian

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Social Media and Suicide

Paul James '19
Columnist

News of an apparent serial killer shocked Japan when police searched the apartment of Takahiro Shiraishi, 27, uncovering dismembered parts of nine bodies, eight women and one man. Severed heads and limbs stored in tool boxes and cold-storage containers covered in cat litter apparently didn't arouse the suspicion of Shiraishi's neighbors for over two months. Police have charged him with abandoning bodies, some of whom were teenagers, but are expected to add murder and dismemberment to the list of crimes. Several news sources reported his occupation as a recruiter for a Tokyo red-light district escort service. Shiraishi confessed to sexually assaulting some of the women before their deaths.

The most twisted part of the case is how Shiraishi selected his victims. He confessed to searching Twitter for suicidal women to lure them to his apartment, where he later killed them under the guise of a suicide pact, reportedly creating Twitter accounts for that specific purpose. His first victim compli-

Whether conscious or unconscious, every social media account is made with an image in mind, a curated assembly of someone's life.

cated things by bringing her boyfriend, leading Shiraishi to kill him as well. Japanese media reported that he had complained to his father that his life had no meaning. Evidently, he gave it meaning by taking the lives of others, usually sharing his feelings of worthlessness. He was exposed when the brother of his first victim reported his sister missing a month ago. After reviewing her Twitter account, he traced a conversation about suicide to Shiraishi.

Paradoxically, Japan has one of the lowest murder rates in the world but the third-highest suicide rate in developed countries, preceded only by South Korea and Hungary. There have been rare acts of tremendous violence, like last year's knife rampage at a center for

the disabled that left 19 dead, or other killers who capitalized on online message boards that fostered widespread suicidal sentiment. As a result, the government has actively tried to create suicide prevention programs, even paying attention to online message boards like the ones used in the 2005 string of murders. Nonetheless, suicides persist, especially among younger demographics.

This will no doubt bring heavy scrutiny of social media services, as it should. People enter into an inherent and often unacknowledged, danger when they expose deeply personal feelings on public platforms. An affirmation-seeking, positive or negative, public deludes itself by thinking the world is their therapist's couch. The psychological, and even physical, harms of social media are well-documented, but the larger issue is the reinforcement people receive when they post.

Whether conscious or unconscious, every social media account is made with an image in mind, a curated assembly of someone's life. When people exaggerate their feelings of despair, stress or anxiety to the point of suicidal thought, there is rarely a meaningful voice of reason. In fact, the more common response is a multitude of comments "admitting" the followers' similar penchant for suicide. A forum that could be used for discussing these

With more of these cases likely to continue in the future, the facilitators of social media have to weigh the inevitable harms of their technology with user autonomy and users must step back to evaluate the culture they participate in and promote.

feelings, if it must be used to lay them bare at all, is thus turned into a perversion that breeds more of the stress-inducing, anxiety-creating, despair-encouraging culture.

Given this, it is not a large leap of the imagination to see how



By Chris Luke

these exposed vulnerabilities can, and will, be used to deadly effect. Someone like Takahiro Shiraishi, themselves in a vulnerable and

An affirmation-seeking, positive or negative, public deludes itself by thinking the world is their therapist's couch.

most likely mentally unstable position, has a digital world of opportunity at their fingertips. An opportunity to find like thinkers and future victims.

Another case earlier this year where Conrad Roy, an 18 year old, committed suicide with encouragement from his girlfriend brought up the role of texting and social media services in mental health debates. The girlfriend's two and a half-year prison sentence also set an important precedent that one can be held responsible for incitement, if not physical murder. With more of these cases likely to continue in the future, the facilitators of social media have to weigh the inevitable harms of their technology with user autonomy and users must step back to evaluate the culture they participate in and promote.

What's Wrong with Polarization?

Emmanuel Tran '21
Guest Contributor

In the early 1990's, famed philosopher Francis Fukuyama predicted the "end of history." According to this sage, all the messiness of political debate and ideology would vanish. Instead, a new "paradise" of globalist capitalism would replace the old political debates that had plagued the last century. This prophecy was soon adopted by the entire establishment, right and left in every country in the world. With such fine leaders as Tony Blair taking the helm of parties across the West, all ideological differences in political parties began to go away. It looked like Fukuyama was turning out to be right after all. Yet the globalist elite was shocked with a rude awakening. Over the last eight years voters on the right and the left have expressed their dissatisfaction with globalism and have demanded their political parties actually stand for something other than a mess of recycled centrist slogans.

For the centrist establishment, this is deeply worrying. And so they have adopted as their cause du jour, the fight against "polarization." All moderate commentators, liberal and conservative, now seem to lament how their respective voters have "turned towards the extremes" and discuss how to bring them back to their centrist "realism." They argue that everything from the Tea Party to the movement in support of Bernie Sanders leads to a climate of radicalization and sloganeering instead of a place where people can rationally discuss issues. And they see the fact that many are not afraid to take strong positions, either about shutting down the government or single payer healthcare, as signs of stubbornness. Again and again they lament, crying in their soup about "partisan politics" and asking what can be done.

What I ask is, why should we do anything?

What they call polarization, I call actual ideas. It is a sign of a healthy and vibrant democracy that people disagree and are willing to voice those disagreements. Whether it's about the economy, immigration, environment or social issues, vital questions that confront any country should be discussed seriously. People should stand up and argue because we cannot allow such questions to be decided by shadowy technocrats who all agree with each other from the start. It is a sign of hope that enough men and women care about these questions to voice their beliefs. And there is nothing wrong with demanding that political parties actually have values and stand for those values. There is nothing wrong with wanting the right to be truly conservative and the left to be truly progressive.

Exeter is no stranger to these debates. This campus counts an active Communist Club among its many political groups. But Exeter is a perfect example of how strong politics can also lead to real discourse. No one here is afraid to express what they believe. Men and women at the recent lunch with self-described "Catholic social conservative" Ross Douthat certainly did not share his views. Yet both Douthat and those speaking with him were polite, civil yet still fervent in every one of their convictions. Likewise in other political debates I have observed there have been multiple people who strongly disagree. Yet the discussion has never degenerated into name calling. Exeter can show us that those who argue that strong convictions are a problem for democracy are purely and simply wrong.

Now of course, sometimes strong opinions go too far, leading to violence and extremism. This does have to be taken into account. And of course compromise is also necessary in order to actually get things done. But this excessive fear of "radicalism" and "polarization" is misplaced.

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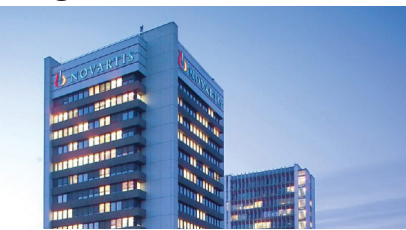
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The Rocky Beginnings of Personalized Medicine

Shaan Bhandarkar '19
Columnist

Back in late August, a renowned therapeutic drug known as Kymriah was approved by the FDA. Specifically, this drug was approved for patients with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a form of cancer most prevalent in children. The therapy entails a re-engineering of the patient's own immune cells in order to be prepared to combat cancer. Heralded as the "first gene therapy" in the U.S., the drug developed by Novartis astounded the science community. The prospect of gene therapy has surely been amped up by recent breakthroughs in gene editing methods such as CRISPR/Cas9. But, this event proved to be the first-ever, formal materialization of the concept in the U.S. Now, just a few months after, we're seeing another gene therapy developed by Gilead now being approved by the FDA. This recent turn of events begs the question if we're finally doing justice to the immense potential that gene therapy can have in the context of medicine.

One potential hurdle behind such novel gene therapies is the level of personalization involved. There's obviously nothing wrong with personalized treatment: in fact, that's a step that medicine should take and is gearing towards taking in the near future with the aid of technology. But, the process for a new drug like Kymriah or Gilead's new therapy is that each "drug" is not necessarily an ordinary pill that you can simply pop in while you move on with your life. The doctor actually has to acquire a sample of your white blood cells before re-engineering them and eventually re-administering them in the patient. That process can take almost three weeks, a disadvantage not too dissimilar with the conventional trial-and-error nature that current



Courtesy of Google

drugs can have. Without a robust system of personalization, this would not be a sustainable operation. Novartis's therapy has also proven to be supremely difficult to mass-produce. According to *Business Insider*, such factors contribute to the therapy's exorbitant price of \$475,000, making for a therapeutic regimen that only 600 people can get per year. Kymriah has simply not been thought through enough for this approval and the approval of Gilead's therapy to have a lasting impact.

We can definitely rectify our system with regulations that can ensure such operations for gene therapies can be as efficient as possible. What might not seem as corrigible would be the side-effects that would inevitably come with any gene therapy. One of the reasons why gene therapy was essentially banned globally was due to the side-effects that came to light in a 2000 trial in France. A three-year old patient who was seemingly cured of his severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) soon developed leukemia. The treatment was not specific enough to target the correct portion of the patient's genome, resulting in a cataclysmic sabotage of genes crucial for controlling cell division and preventing cancer. It's true that Kymriah and Gilead's treatment are both giving the second chances to patients that conventional medicinal

practices can't. But, in phase 2 clinical trials, a common side-effect of re-engineering T-cells to fight cancer was a condition known as cytokine release syndrome. The condition mostly entails a seemingly innocuous excess of inflammation-inducing molecules known as cytokines. The symptoms such as fever don't seem to be too grave, but we can't oversee correctable side-effects as trivial again. For the future of gene therapy as well, another tragic mishap would most certainly doom gene therapy's use for yet another decade. Again, we see a minor hitch in the dream of personalized medicine. Personalization leads to less uniformity across different therapeutic situations, which translates to a lessened ability to regulate and possibly correct the treatment in every individual case.

In an official statement, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said that "gene therapy has gone from being a promising concept to a practical solution to deadly and largely untreatable forms of cancer." Gene therapy undoubtedly retains a place on the front lines in the future of medicine. From CRISPR/Cas9 to Kymriah, the right pieces seem to be coming into place for a revolutionary institution of gene therapy nationally and hopefully globally. But, at the same time, we need to be vigilant of the accessibility and safety regarding this novel, but powerful therapy.

Nationalism Divides Us

Jordan Davidson '19
Columnist

For the past few weeks, the global community has sat back, watched and analyzed the events that led up to the declaration of independence by Catalonia. The tension between the small region in the Northeastern part of Spain and the government in Madrid has existed for years, but only recently has it come to a boiling point.

Although the level of international involvement regarding the Catalan independence movement has been limited to the overwhelming verbal support

The only way in which delegitimizing a declaration of independence works is if a supermajority, if not all, of the global community stands together in agreement.

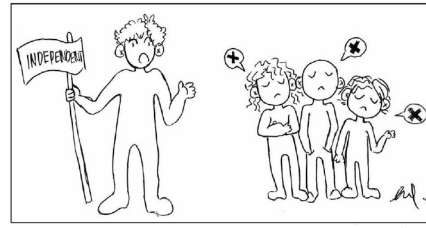
of Spanish unity by foreign leaders, many fear that we are witnessing a resurgence of European nationalism. With Brexit causing disarray in 2016, nationalist Marine Le Pen gaining the support of 33 percent of France, Catalonia declaring independence, and the alt-right party (AfD) in Germany making noise, there are concerns about the future of European politics. The issue has seemingly spread to the Middle East, as well, with the Kurds holding their first legitimate independence referendum since 2005.

Looking to the history regarding a

rise in nationalist sentiment in a certain region, as well as applying logic to the current situation, is the only way guarantee the rapid decrease in these dangerous, destabilizing movements. Thus, instead of increasing the tension across the European continent, we should encourage European nations to denounce the nationalist movements in their fellow countries while doing what we can to ensure that superpowers like the US do not legitimize new regimes, which would assure that they are not globally recognized.

Though it is an old example, the dynamics that led up to World War I can still apply to today's society. In a nutshell, World War I was the result of alliances and rivalries between nationalistic European countries and empires spiraling out of control. The isolationist U.S. laid back and watched the violence unfold (at least for a while) while Europe fought in one of the bloodiest wars the world has ever seen. While it may have helped for more international involvement at the start, the real issues were the rivalries formed in the years before war broke out.

So what can we learn from World War I? The core lesson is that at a time when there is a clear revival of nationalism concentrated in a specific part of the world, creating blocs of alliances that all turn against each other is detrimental. Whether we are discussing 1917 or 2017, the consequences of mass rivalry between nationalist countries remain the same, if not worse, in today's age. If the leaders of these kinds of movements get powerful enough to take office and then antagonize other nations, the problem will only worsen. Thus, it is vital that the current heads of state in European countries denounce far-right nationalist par-



By Celeste Wu

ties and fight to maintain stability.

A key step in gaining independence from any country is receiving international recognition of the new nation's legitimacy. Two prime examples of this are the Catalan and Kurdish independence movements. In both cases, the supermajority of the world superpowers have agreed that they will not view either groups as sovereign nations if they choose to declare independence. This, among other issues, is a problem facing the Catalan leadership as the U.S. nor any EU country will recognize them as a legitimate country. If this lack of recognition becomes a trend for the future, it would effectively shut down any and all attempts at a nationalist succession from a European nation.

The only way in which delegitimizing a declaration of independence works is if a supermajority, if not all, of the global community stands together in agreement. For example, in 1949, the U.S. had a foreign policy dilemma; they needed to choose whether to recognize the Republic of China or communist People's Republic of China as the true Chinese

government. For decades, the US refused to recognize Mao's government and thus they did not change their foreign policy. This not only proved disadvantageous for the US, but their plan to ignore the communist regime failed; other foreign powers had already recognized the People's Republic of China.

In sum, the best measures we can take to quiet down the nationalism plaguing Europe is to work with leaders already in office to make sure that there is no political encouragement of nationalist parties. If we can successfully eliminate the chance of nationalist leaders gaining power, and further the opportunity for destructive alliances and rivalries to form, room for change in terms of support would be limited. To quell the uprisings that are active today, such as Catalan independence, we need to continue delegitimizing any regional government that holds a referendum for secession on a global level. By taking all of these steps, the world will have a more stable, safer and peaceful Europe.

Rosa Hernandez: An Example of American Immorality

Johanna Martinez '20
Guest Contributor

On October 25, 2017, a 10-year-old girl was detained by ICE and faced deportation after undergoing surgery. While most undocumented youth experiences fear of deportation everyday, Rosamaria Hernandez also faced additional struggles. Rosa has cerebral palsy which is a congenital dis-



Courtesy of Google

The fact is short and simple: most undocumented people are exemplary members of society and are not criminals, no matter what Trump says.

order of movement or posture that leads to involuntary movement. Rosamaria has lived in Texas since she was 3 months old and after an emergency surgery, all she knew was taken from her. Hernandez rode in an ambulance with her mother and cousin, and was escorted by immigration agents to the hospital.

The ICE agents waited outside her door and detained her just after having a gall bladder surgery. The lack of compassion and humanity by ICE agents has been seen a lot lately. They tear families apart on a daily basis just due to a trivial matter of having paper or not; of being born on American soil or not. Even though Rosamaria has lived in the U.S.

for practically all of her life, she will face deportation to a country she does not know - Mexico. Her mother came to the U.S. for treatment for her daughter's unique condition; something that would have been too expensive and unattainable in Mexico. Yet, because of an emergency surgery, Rosa's life was turned upside down as she was taken to a children detention center in San Antonio. Rosa was taken away from her mother who is in Laredo immigration, away from love and support that a patient needs to recover.

After such a long and risky surgery, a patient like Rosa should receive follow-up medical attention not be taken to a detention center away from her family. The inhumanity of the laws that permit this and the ICE agents is quite evident. This is just one of the many recent cases where under Trump's administration, undocumented people who pose no threat to anyone, have been taken away from their families. Being a child with

CP is hard enough, but being taken away from family and threatened to be deported to an unknown place is a cruel punishment for such an innocent child like Rosa, who has done nothing wrong. ICE agents aren't supposed to make arrests at sensitive locations like hospitals, schools or churches except in the case of a serious safety threat. What possible threat could a 10-year-old girl with CP recovering from gallbladder surgery possibly pose? Why rip her away from those she loves and medical treatment she needs to recover? Why deny her mother access to see her?

Although US congressman Henry Cuellar is tracking the case, a hearing has yet to set. The future of Rosamaria Hernandez and her family still hangs on the balance. Congressman Cuellar understands that Custom and Border Protection has a great duty of protecting the United States. However, he says that they should "be devoting resources and

focus on bigger threats". In other words, they spend so much money on "protection" to our borders and focus attention on deporting so many people like Rosa and her family, who have done nothing wrong and pose no criminal threat. The fact is short and simple, most undocumented people are exemplary members of society and are not criminals, no matter what Trump says. They should not be treated so unjustly.

It is unbelievable that we have come to such a time that cruelty like this is

This is just one of the many recent cases under Trump's administration in which harmless undocumented people have been taken away from their families.

exerted on someone so young and innocent just because of where she was born. Trump has been cracking down on undocumented immigrants and has been deporting various people like Rosa, who pose no threat to anyone. How can someone stoop so low? Undocumented immigrants deserve better treatment from the Trump administration and ICE agents, especially those with medical conditions. Just because someone is not an American citizen does not mean that they should not be treated like humans. Lack of papers should not justify removing a child from a hospital, deny her basic human rights, separate her from family, and threaten to deport her.

Outdated Out of Towns

Yunseo Choi '21
& Isabella Ahmad '20
Guest Contributors

Currently, Exeter requires students to complete out of town forms to leave campus. The process begins by students walking over to Jeremiah Smith Hall to pick up the out of town forms, located on the second floor of the building. After students complete their forms, they are required to find a dorm faculty member to sign their paper, and return the slip back to Jeremiah Smith Hall to submit their forms. The forms then are approved and typed into an online system by a faculty member. Not only that, parents or guardians of the students are required to submit a form online to approve the students being out of town. Although the current system makes sure that everyone is informed about the whereabouts of students, it is a tedious process that can easily be made simpler.

Before out of town forms are officially submitted, the paper goes through the hands of the student applying to go out of town, that student's dorm faculty, and the faculty at Jeremiah Smith Hall. During the process, even the smallest mistake can lead to the loss of the blue slip; and yet it is nearly impossible to

hard to find the paper due to the numerous number of places it can be at. Not only that, if the paper gets lost after the student submits it, there is no way for them to know that along the way something went wrong. Thus, it is only after the deadline that the student is alerted to their lost paper.

In addition, even prior to the process of completing them, simply acquiring the OOT forms from Jeremiah Smith Hall can be tedious. For students, especially those who live on the South Side of campus, walking across campus

just to pick up a piece of paper seems to be nonsensical. Whether it slips from their minds as a result of the perpetually packed schedule of most Exonians, or there simply isn't an optimal slot of time between their required appointments, it can be difficult even for residents of North Side to get to J. Smith. But currently, in dorms that don't have or allow forms to be kept in their respective common rooms, there is no alternative. This is especially an issue when Exonians make last-minute plans to leave town.

Another potential conflict with last-minute plans and the OOT process is the required faculty signature. Sometimes, a student will need a form to be filled immediately but there is no faculty member available to fill the form they need to deposit at J. Smith by noon.

Lastly, the current OOT system poses a threat to the environment, as the sheets of paper used are wasteful. Whether it is unused OOTs sitting in a forgotten box in a common room or an imperfect student signature prompting a restart on a fresh OOT, the number of wasted OOTs is an easily avoidable issue.

With an electronic system, such as Google Forms or another survey-like program, all three of these issues with the OOT form would be resolved. Students wouldn't need to schedule a trip to J. Smith into their lives because they would be able to fill it out in their own rooms on their laptops. Faculty signatures would be acquired just like parental permissions is acquired: electronically. This prevents a long search for faculty using time Exonians don't have. This electronic method also saves paper. It also saves time, as administrative faculty in J. Smith have to manually transfer the information on the blue sheets onto an electronic platform.



ExonianHumor



Lies Exonians Tell Their Parents

By AVA HARRINGTON
I Ain't Callin' You a Truther!

- "Teachers like to lowball you on midterms"
- "No I've never been to their bedroom I swear"
- "Dumping pills into the trash" "Yeah I've been taking my vitamins"
- "I'm happy"
- "I've been getting eight hours every night!"
- "I woke up at five and I uh—I went back to sleep."
- "Don't worry mom I have lots of friends!"
- "The humor editor said my articles were funny."

5 Reasons To Leave Your Dorm At 5 a.m.

By AVA HARRINGTON
Would Never

1. The Hampton Inn's continental breakfast runs out early.
2. You left your backpack in another dorm and really need to study for AP Bio grad.
3. You need to go to the trainers because you fell out of bed.
4. You really need to put up a math problem.
5. You forgot to do your astronomy homework and the sun is coming up soon.

Make Me a Red Bandit: A Plea

By EMILY GREEN
Too Short for the Lion Costume

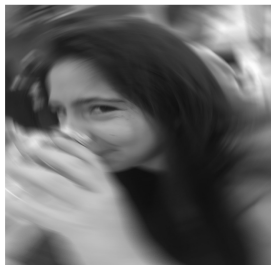
Dear Ms. Lembo,

Please make me a Red Bandit. I know I would be the very best crimson criminal around. I am utterly uncoordinated, so I don't play a fall sport, meaning I'm completely free to take on the role. Also, while I was cut from the JV Basketball team after my prep year, Coach Weatherspoon can attest to the fact that what I lacked in athletic ability, I made up for in spirit. In fact, Coach Weatherspoon once told me, in his soothing, deep voice, "Emily, I think you just had too much spirit for us." Although I'm not sure if this was a compliment or an insult, I'm sure that it proves one thing: I have the spirit you're looking for. I know that, if given the opportunity, I will rile up the crowd like they've never been riled before. I will turn those apathetic nerds into screaming rascals. I will bring Exeter the joy it needs. Also, I've already bought the pom-poms, and I would like to get something out of my investment.

XOXO,
Emily Green

TFW You Just Need to Send in Your Apps to Finally Be Free

By THE HUMOR EDITORS
Elfin Pork Enthusiasts



Do you want to sneak into your GF's dorm?
Submit to the Humor Page.
Email exonianhumor@gmail.com.

Recipe of the Week: Nighterita: An Elixir to Help You Stay Up All Night

By LIZZIE MADAMIDOLA
Secretly Martha Stewart

Nighterita: An elixir to help stay up all night
One stormy night, I was faced with the dilemma diorama of finishing my 331 due the next day. I realized the only way to finish it was to stay up all night. My eyes were droopy and legs loopy and I needed something to keep me awake. Being here for three years made the effects of coffee weaker, and tea, "sigh", it's just not my cup of tea. So, I stirred up this elixir to help me stay up all night, and it did just the trick. The results were revolutionary and I was compelled to share this gospel to the rest of you, so here it is. Below you will find the recipe for a Nighterita:

Two cups of fresh tears: emphasis on the fresh. They have to be fresh. This will be your base so the more the better, it just gets better. You will get a nice even consistency, and trust me, it will really make the drink.

Three packets ramen seasoning: Gotta add a lil spice to the night!

A prep's nightlight: To keep you enlightened.

A cup of a shredded failed SAT practice test: To keep thou humble.

A singular hair in the bottom of the drain from your dorm's bathroom (or on the wall of the shower whichever one is more accessible): This is to remind you that your dormates love you and you have support.

2 tablespoons of the chemicals from the custodian's closet: A little NaOH never hurt nobody.

And lastly for good luck, the little fortune cookie note in the Szechuan cookies.

I hope you enjoy. Till next week, Exeter.

Five People You See at the Gym

By ABBY ZHANG
Swole

1. The "finally going to get my life together" - Catch them at the beginning of every single term with a different buddy they've dragged along for the ride each time. Spends 30 minutes making a work out playlist and another 20 minutes unangling their headphones. Goes for a run on the treadmill for a grand total of three and a half minutes before switching to a "fast walk." Appears at the gym less and less as the term goes on but don't worry, they'll "definitely be there tomorrow."

2. The athlete who's "opting" this term - Makes a big deal of lifting

that large weight thing above their head with an abrupt grunt that can be heard halfway across campus. (Disclaimer: I don't do sports so I don't actually know lifting works.) Always has that half angry half gratified look on their face.

3. Chon Jen - No matter what time of day you go to the gym, Chon is always there, without a doubt. And it's not just you. Everyone is always seeing Chon Jen at the gym. In fact, one of the weightlifting benches is reserved for him at all times—he actually sleeps there every night. Can he

flex harder? The answer: honestly, probably.

4. The Boys Varsity Hockey Team - The hockey team is the Back in Black of Exeter sports. Everyone always hypes it up but at the end of the day, it's just a little too loud, a TON of sweaty bodies continuously bumping into each other, and more PGs than you knew even existed.

5. Faculty - Can be found reading while pedaling away on one of the stationary bikes. Definitely better at life than you'll ever be.

Student Lights Room on Fire to Prove Couch is Fire Resistant

By BILLY O'HANDLEY
On Fire

After being told that his couch wasn't up to Exeter's very specific fire code, a student burned down his dorm, Wentworth, to prove his couch was fire resistant. Eye witnesses say that the student poured gasoline on the couch before shouting "I'll show you!" and throwing a lit match on in a high arch onto said couch. The student

is in custody, but police said that the investigation is "incomplete" despite a full confession from the student involved.

Later that day, fire fighters searched through the charred remains of the dorm looking for unburned possessions. There, the firemen found a single couch,

slightly smelling of gas, singed but completely intact.

This comes after a controversial move by Campus Safety to search rooms for fire hazards without proper forewarning.

Note: Harry Saunders contributed reporting for this piece.

The Unfairness of the Exeter Halloween Costume Contest: a Manifesto

By EMILY GREEN
Bitter

Exeter, I am bitter. As many of you may remember, last year, for the annual Exeter Halloween costume contest, I entered dressed as none other than my favorite founding father, Benjamin Franklin himself. I was incredibly proud of my costume, and it was accurate, from the knee-high socks to the baby powder in my hair to turn it grey. I spent so much time on that costume. It was my peak, and I doubt I will ever wear a better costume in my life.

When I entered, I was sure that I would AT LEAST place in the costume contest. And yet, when all was said and done, I did not place. I was fourth! Fourth place! A sixteen-year-old-girl dressed as statesman and inventor Benjamin Franklin did not win the costume contest. And we claim we're an academic institution.

This being said, I believe my failure was due to no fault of my own, but instead due to institutional bias in two different ways: I was the first costume presented, and two of five judges were math teachers.

The first problem, the fact that I was the first costume to be viewed by the judges, is perhaps the most

simple of the two problems. Since I was the first costume up, the judges didn't know how tough the remaining competition would be. Therefore, they couldn't give me the high score I deserved without fear that it would be inaccurate. By putting me first, the system set me up for failure.

The second problem, the fact that two of five judges were math teachers, is perhaps the most outrageous. The winning costume was a paper cut-out Alex the Geologist group costume. While this is certainly clever, I don't believe it was worthy of the esteemed first place. It seemed, to me, very last minute, and just simply not as cool as Ben Franklin. It seems that the fact that two math teachers were judges contributed to a great deal of bias in this competition, thus ousting me from my rightful throne of at least third place in the contest. Furthermore, the institutional bias is not even consistent. This year, there were two history teachers judging. Had I entered this year, I certainly would have taken the cake. I call for a completely unbiased, randomly selected judge's panel of non-departmental faculty members to stop skewing

the contest results. Benjamin Franklin is, undisputedly, the coolest, and the fact that his coolness went unrecognized due to institutional bias is like a stab to my heart. The contest is biased, and we, as Exonians and as Americans, can not stand for this any longer.

Exeter, I call upon you to fix the costume contest, for the fate of all future Franklin fans and Exonians alike.

(PC: Rachel Luo)



Quote of the Week

"I think my greatest achievement at Exeter was not getting caught sneaking over to my girlfriend's dorm in the middle of the night."
-Zach Iscol '97, John Phillips Award recipient

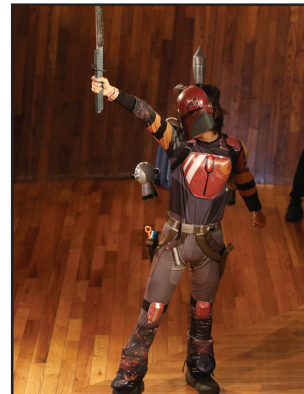
We need friends. Add us on social media. @billyfromcillee, @green_beans or @senorblaise on Snapchat. @ced_blaise and @egreen2000 on Insta. DM us a funny joke or zesty meme. Or just DM us :)



ExonianPhoto



Halloween





ExeterLife



Students gather around the stage at PEA's Cofehouse for Puerto Rico.

Jasmine Lee/The Exonian

Frank Chiou '97 Wows at Concert

By VIRGINIA LITTLE and
ROSE HOROWITZ
Staff Writers

On Tuesday, October 31, students, faculty and members of the greater Exeter community crowded into the crimson seats of the Forrestal-Bowld Music Center (The Bowld) to listen to Frank Chiou's piano concert. Illuminated by a spotlight on his black-lacquered grand piano, Chiou mesmerized the audience with seven pieces at the evening concert.

Chiou, a member of Exeter's Class of 1997, started playing the piano at five years old, and continued playing the instrument throughout his time at Exeter. After graduating from the Academy, he obtained a degree in piano performance from Oberlin University (B.M.). Chiou also graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in piano performance (M.M., D.M.A.) and a master's degree in music theory.

Chiou returned to Exeter to attend student music classes, and perform for

the public. In fact, he himself reached out to the school to see about a performance. "Dr. Chiou contacted us and offered to bring this concert to the community, and we were delighted to host him," Music Instructor Kristofer Johnson said.

Prior to the concert, Chiou visited student classes to advise them on pursuing music in the future and to share memories from his time at Exeter. According to Johnson, Chiou educated students on practice methods and on choosing a college where they could continue to play music. Johnson added that Chiou discussed "how theoretical analysis can inform a nuanced and expressive performance, as well as his memories of the PEA music department during the early 1990s."

Aspiring pianists were eager to witness Chiou playing the music that he had discussed during their classes. Upper Emma Dixon said, "I went to the concert so that I could take advantage of the chance to hear a professional pianist live." Prep Nahla Owens attended the concert to study Chiou's skill at the piano. "I just

started learning how to play piano when I got here, so I thought it would be really interesting to see someone who's been playing for so long and who does this as their career," Owens said.

Math Instructor Gwynneth Coogan said that she went to the concert because she was "hoping to hear some great music." She added that The Bowld provided an ideal backdrop for her to appreciate the performance. "Walk into the music building on any night, and it is bursting with energy and life. The Bowld acts as an elliptical lens on that energy, focusing it on one spot," Coogan said. Coogan added that she has previously attended concerts in the center and has never been disappointed.

In the first half of the performance, Chiou played pieces by composer Franz Liszt. Following a brief intermission, he transitioned to music by Frédéric Chopin. Chiou began the concert by providing background information on Liszt, explaining how Liszt drafted many endings for the composition, but eventually chose to finish the piece with a quiet, po-

etic tone.

While immersing themselves in the music, students appreciated learning the story of how the piece was composed. "It was nice to be able to hear the piece and connect it with what he told us about the composer," said Dixon. Owens agreed that the music's context helped frame the work. "Even though there weren't words in the song, you could see kind of the backstory of it as it was being played," Owens said. "That's pretty awesome."

Owens added that she will remember this concert when considering whether to keep up with piano in the future. "I definitely want to continue lessons and learning piano after high school," Owens said.

According to Johnson, the concert opened Exonians to the many possible ways to keep music in their lives. "One strong message that did inspire our students is the vast freedom in college and beyond to continue to pursue and perform music, even if it is not through a career."

TV Review: *Stranger Things*

By SAMANTHA WEIL
Staff Writer

On Friday, October 27, Netflix released the second season of *Stranger Things*, a binge-worthy nine-episode saga that's perfect for watching during this spooky time of year. The first season of *Stranger Things*, which dropped last summer, instantly became a cult-phenomenon, earning 18 Emmy Award nominations for having a narrative that just about anyone could watch and obsess over, in my opinion. The show's comedic, 80's-centric tone, combined with the thrill of a horror movie and lovable characters, led the first season of *Stranger Things* to become one of the most-watched shows on Netflix. Yet, *Stranger Things* is not like your average show—like all Netflix TV shows, you don't have to wait until next week's episode to continue the adventure, as the entire season drops on Netflix as a whole. Furthermore, the 50-minute episodes are essentially short movies in and of themselves, with a cliffhanger ending each episode.

I thought that the show couldn't get any better, but with the second season, the showrunners outdid themselves. For those of you who have not yet watched the first season, the show follows a group of four boys in the 1980s—they're classic nerds, who play their own version of Dungeons & Dragons, communicate through walkie talkies, and have hearts of gold. Suddenly, one of them disappears, and the eight-episode arc is devoted to the search for the missing boy, Will Byers (Noah Schnapp). And when Will disappears, a new character comes into play: an eccentric-looking girl with buzzed hair and an unclear backstory. Her name is Eleven (Millie Bobby Brown). Each episode introduces many different characters from all over Hawkins, Indiana, all of whom search for Will, and learn clue by clue that

there's something strange taking place in their small town where nothing ever happens. The intensity mounts until the season one finale, which answers the question of whether or not Will can be found.

The second season is even more of a must-watch (although season one is certainly required viewing). It echoes the year detailed in season one, with even stranger things taking place in the Byers' house. The season also follows Eleven through a journey that tells viewers more about her past, and shows us more of the endearing and hilarious boys as they, along with other Hawkins residents, try to figure out what other strange things are still going on in their town.

If you've seen the first season, you're in for a treat. If you want more of the love triangle between Nancy, Jonathan and Steve, or are curious about what happened to Will, or just want to be back in the odd world of Hawkins to figure out another mystery, this is the show for you to indulge in this weekend. Season two brings back all of your favorite characters and settings, such as Dustin, Steve, Hopper, the eerie government lab and Mike's basement. The newest season also introduces Bob, Joyce's brainy yet putzy new boyfriend, and Max, a fiery redhead from California who beats all the boys' high scores at the arcade, their latest hangout spot. Additionally, season two engages with its period setting in understated ways, grappling with the gender norms and racism of the 80s. And if you haven't even started the show at all, get ready for a day of immersing yourself in the puzzling story of *Stranger Things*, and yelling out "I knew it!" when one of your favorite characters does something you told them not to do. Prepare for heartbreaking backstories and relationships that you won't want to let go of. Now, you have two whole seasons to watch—turn on your TV, and if it flickers, don't be afraid!

Horoscopes

By LAUREN LEATHAM and
ALEXANDRA VAN DIJKUM
Columnists

Aries: This week is full of surprises! With Jupiter entering your sign, expect lots of small changes—both good and bad—to be happening in your life. Just roll with it, Aries, and see where life takes you.

Taurus: This week is the calm before the storm, Taurus. Since there's very little movement of the planets within your sign, expect a chill week coming up. You are a naturally stable person and will thrive off of this week. Make sure you take the time to recharge. Finals are coming sooner than you think!

Gemini: Focus on your friends this week, Gemini. With Mars zipping through your fourth house (which symbolizes relationships), now is a good time to get in touch with all of your friends to see how they're doing. Keep your weekend hangouts restricted to your inner circle to have the most fun this weekend.

Cancer: This is the week for adventures, Cancer. The moon rotates through your sign and blocks your fifth house (which symbolizes activities), making it harder to get out there and be social. Fight this urge, Cancer, because when you create your own fun, you will be grateful for it.

Leo: This week is all about perseverance, Leo. Jupiter is retrograde in your sign, leading you to have trouble picking up communication signals as well as you normally do. This might cause you to disconnect to some of the people around you, but fear not! Keep living life as the best version of yourself, and you'll be fine.

Virgo: Focus on yourself this week, Virgo. Jupiter is in your sign for the

next month, prompting you to work on self-love. Maybe that means a spa night in, or turning off your phone for the evening and getting ahead on homework. You do you.

Libra: Buckle down and get to work, Libra. There's a lot for you to be focusing on right now, but be sure to give your classes the attention they deserve. The moon is just entering into your sign, so it shouldn't be too difficult to calm yourself down and focus on your studies.

Scorpio: The sun is just entering your sign, Scorpio, so expect some fun to come your way! Take a break, and head into town or visit a friend's dorm. You've been working hard, so reward yourself with a little time off.

Sagittarius: This will be your week of love, Sagittarius. Put yourself out there, you never know who you'll meet when you try something new. Expect some fun and excitement! This will be a good week to take a chance and ask your crush to Evening Prayer.

Capricorn: Only a few weeks left in the term, Capricorn, and you can make it! You have a tough week coming up, and it will demand a lot from you. Keep your focus and stay on top of your workload.

Aquarius: You can be indecisive sometimes, Aquarius, but now is the time for you to make up your mind. You have to decide how you want the rest of your term to be, and who you want to spend it with. If you lay out a plan for your immediate future, you'll be happy with the outcome.

Pisces: Let loose, Pisces, because you can't control everything. Sometimes, it's best to leave things to fate. When you let go of your smaller worries, you'll feel yourself free up and will have more time to spend on the things you want to be doing.

SeniorSpotlight

Outstanding Oren

By ZAC FENG and
SAM WEIL
Staff Writers

If you've ever been to an Exeter Association of Rock (EAR) concert, ordered from Swyft or participated in QuizBowl, you've seen senior Oren Stern. Whether he is behind the scenes running Swyft, on stage experimenting with guitar to the melody of "Hotel California" or playing a drum solo in the halftime show at the Exeter/Andover games (E/A), Stern's passion is apparent in everything he's done during his three years at Exeter.

Stern is a three-year senior in Gould House from Las Vegas, Nevada. To Exeter, he's brought his passion for all genres of music, his love for QuizBowl and his intellectual interest in all subjects, from mathematics to history. According to his advisor, Director of Choirs Kristofer Johnson, the strengths that came with Stern to Exeter have only developed further throughout his time here. "He's grown profoundly in his time at Exeter. Certainly as a musician, but also as a student and as an intellect, he's really blossomed," Johnson said. "I think he's a very different young man than he was when he came."

The day he arrived on campus, Stern immediately joined as many ensembles as he could, such as the PEAs Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble. Stern's talent with instruments is not restricted to just percussion. He also plays the piano and the bass guitar, in addition to singing. Additionally, Stern is a co-head of EAR, where his leadership qualities are on full display. Fellow EAR co-head and senior Bobby Murray believes Stern's musical competence make him a remarkable co-head. "He's a really good guy for co-head because he knows what he's doing," Murray said.

Stern's passion for playing music began in sixth grade, when he joined his middle school concert band as a concert percussionist. Stern explained the logic behind his choice: "I had to take an elective, and so I chose band, because I didn't like orchestra and I'm terrible



Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

at art. I couldn't draw or paint to save my life, so I chose the one thing that I wasn't terrible at, which was music."

Soon after he played in his 6th grade band, Stern was introduced to rock-and-roll music, which quickly became his new specialty. "I discovered rock and roll music, and I realized what I was playing was really boring," he said, explaining his musical transition. Within two years, Stern developed into a "kinda good" player, in his own humble words. Others give him higher praise, such as Murray, who described Stern as "a super talented musician." Technically a professional, Stern's accolades include playing in a band in Las Vegas, releasing a song on SoundCloud and being paid by the town of Exeter to perform at concerts.

One of Stern's favorite performance venues, however, is Exeter's stadium. Perhaps his best-known performance occurred during his first year at Exeter, when he performed a drum solo during halftime at the E/A football game. "At E/A, two years ago, when I was a new lower, the football game was here, so we put on a halftime show," he said. "And

I had a big drum solo. And for like a week after, people would come up to me and be like, 'Oh, you're the drummer guy!' and I'd respond, 'Yeah!' And that was sort of my moment of fame." Stern is currently looking forward to his next performance at this year's E/A halftime show. "It's going to be pretty awesome," he gushed.

There are many other Exonians who are eagerly awaiting the halftime show and can further attest to Stern's talents. Upper Toby Abelman, a friend of Stern and an EAR member, lauded Stern's musical ability, saying, "He's probably one of the best drummers on campus, if not the best," he said. Murray echoed Abelman's sentiment, expressing his awe at Stern's musical prowess. "What I love most about Oren is that he always loves to play, and loves to get together and jam," he said. Murray continued, describing a former weekly ritual with Stern, in which they'd play together on the weekend. Stern never needed to practice the songs before they got together. "He'd just hop on and start listening to the song, and blow us away with his drumming and his skills, which was super impressive, all

the while laughing and having fun," Murray explained.

Stern is not only good at music. His generosity and leadership is evident from his work as a two-year proctor in the dorm. "Despite the fact that he's a headbanging rocker in the way he presents himself sometimes, he's incredibly gentle and he's really unbelievably good-natured. Really sensitive to people around him, and how they're feeling and how they're doing. I think it makes him both a great friend and a good proctor in the dorm," Johnson commented.

Stern is also involved with the food delivery service Swyft. Describing Swyft, Stern said, "It's main purpose is to deliver food to people in the Exeter community, and then also to give the members of the club a business type experience, [to learn] what it takes to run a business." In other words, along with all of his other pursuits, Stern is more or less running a fully-functioning business. The students who partake in Swyft manage their own books, do advertising and marketing, deliver the food themselves, manage Swyft's Facebook page and code the website.

Stern is also co-head of QuizBowl, a club that meets every Friday night to be quizzed on random facts about a range of topics, from history to science to pop culture. Stern already loved QuizBowl before he came to Exeter, having discovered his aptitude for QuizBowl in the sixth grade. "My middle school was really good at [QuizBowl]. And so I got into it there, and have been doing it ever since," he said. Stern's favorite part of participating in QuizBowl is "going to a lot of tournaments, and knowing a bunch of random stuff."

Across campus, Stern is known for being a model Exonian. He is not only excels in music and leading clubs, he's also dedicated to improving the PEA community through his kind, pleasant nature. "I love how nice he is to everyone. He's one of the nicest guys I know. He's always laughing and smiling," Murray said. "He's just such a sweet and talented guy."

ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNIST EXONIANS

By JOHN BECKERLE
Staff Writer

Exeter's Association of Communist Exonians (ACE) is the newest addition to the wide range of political clubs on campus. Founded by lower Jack Zhang, the club provides Exonians with a discussion space for topics relating to Communism.

The club meets every Sunday at 12:30 in the Elm St. Dining Hall Mezzanine. A typical meeting usually begins with a general question or an article. "It is not a topic that overtly deals with Communism, but it might provoke thoughts related to it," he said.

Zhang felt that such a club did not yet exist on campus. "There was a lack of political diversity on campus. Sure, Democratic Club and Republican Club exist, but those only represent a tiny sliver of the global political scene," he said.

The club was founded in an effort to promote political diversity on campus as well as to remedy students' unfamiliarity with Communism. Zhang believes that most political and social activist clubs belong to the "neoliberal parties" which "perpetuate American class oppression and international imperialism," despite the fact that "perhaps one of the [clubs] believes in the right to bear arms, or one pushes for LGBT+ rights more than the other." By establishing ACE, he wants to bring more liberal voices to the community.

However, the ideologies of the co-heads vary quite vastly. Upper and co-head Eva Herget doesn't even consider herself as a proponent of Communism. "I'm not pro-Communism, in that I'm not Communist. However, I respect it as an ideology," she said. "People often make unfounded accusations about Communism because of its history."

Although Zhang recognizes some of the advantages of Communism in comparison to capitalism, he also recognizes the limits in the implementation of this ideology. "I believe that communist thought includes legitimate criticisms of the capitalist mode of production, but also acknowledge and understand the horrible conditions in statist countries like the Soviet Union and China," Zhang said.

Co-head and prep Charles Preston

echoed Zhang's comment and considers himself a pro-Communist only in a few topics. "There are some aspects of Communism I like, and some I don't like as much," he said, adding, "nevertheless, I think that it's important to discuss these things in a civilized manner."

In the club's short lifespan, they have already held a Skype session with Duke University's Michael Hardt. Hardt is best known for his collaboration with Antonio Negri to write *Empire*—a critically acclaimed novel published in 2000 discussing, among other things, the emergence of globalism.

In their meeting, Hardt and ACE discussed what Zhang described as "leadership-less movements and their proliferation in the modern era." The whole conversation covered a wide spectrum of political topics. "Our conversation dealt with matters ranging from the contrast of the disorder of modern movements like Black Lives Matter compared to old civil rights movements like the Black Panther Party, to the roots of the disease on the American left-wing that is progressive identity politics as a result of Crenshaw Kimberlé's theories of intersectionality," Zhang said.

The club had also planned to host Republican senator Bill Gannon on campus last week before his visit was canceled by the school's administration. "Luckily, John Bachel, chair of the Communist Party USA, will hopefully be skipping in very soon," Preston said.

Preston also mentioned that ACE is looking to hold discussions with other political clubs on campus. "We're hoping to put something together with the Republican Club—a 'red and red mixer' of sorts. We'll have a barbeque and we'll discuss political topics," he said.

Herget and the rest of the co-heads expressed an overwhelming enthusiasm to discuss topics with varying types of people. "We're interested in hearing from politicians, professors and philosophers from every part of the political spectrum, not just those who are pro-communist," Herget said.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY

By SEBASTIAN BANGO, PAUL JAMES and MADISON KANG
Staff Writers

Bluebird, Bluebird by Attica Locke

Set in East Texas, Houston-born Attica Locke calls her newest crime fiction book *Bluebird, Bluebird* "a love letter to black Texans," exploring race and justice in America and tracing a heritage of racial prejudice in a small town's troubled past and present. The novel follows Darren Matthews, a black Texas Ranger grappling with a broken marriage, a pending suspension, a drinking problem and dissociation from his Lone Star roots. When two battered bodies wash up on the bayou just days apart, one body a middle-aged black lawyer from Chicago and the other a local young white woman, Darren suspects the two deaths are connected and begins an investigation in Lark, a town where white supremacy prevails and the meth-dealing Aryan Brotherhood of Texas holds legal clout. In between swigs of Jim Bean, Darren uncovers secrets in Lark's fraught history and tries to make sense of a couple of murders that don't "fit any agreed-upon American script."

How To Kill a City by Peter Moskowitz

Peter Moskowitz's *How to Kill a City* illustrates the negative effects of gentrification across major American cities including, New Orleans, Detroit, New York and San Francisco. The persistence of gentrification in these dramatically different settings serves to highlight the scale of the issue. The book gives a fully fleshed out perspective of gentrification, from its cultural causes and corporate incentives to its perpetrators, participants and victims. This exposure of the systematic cycle comes with a warning of the impending collapse of American economics and culture. Art Agnos, former mayor of San Francisco, praises the author, "Moskowitz makes a compelling and important case that gentrification is a 'knowable and replicable act' that, if left unchecked, can destroy what we love about cities in the seductive name of progress."

No Knives in the Kitchens of This City

by Khaled Khalifa
Khaled Khalifa's *No Knives in the Kitchens of This City* brings Aleppo to life in vivid detail, breathing life into a war-torn place. More a collection of stories, the book centers around a family struggling with its government and place in society. Spanning from 1963, during the Baathist coup, to a few years before the recent Syrian civil war. An unnamed narrator guides the reader in and out of his family members' routes into power and exile. They each go to extremes to survive a city with lackluster prospects, contending with fear, shame and dire need. "Cities die," Khalifa writes, "just like people." In his book though, he managed to bring Aleppo out of abstraction and into intense reality.


Nomadland by Jessica Bruder

Jessica Bruder's *Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty First Century* is a sobering look at the way this country takes care of its destitute. The result of three years and 15,000 miles traveling alongside these nomads, the book focuses mainly on 64-year-old Linda May, houseless and often unemployed but cheerful nonetheless. The wanderers that figure prominently in *Nomadland* are all victims of a society where they have been unlucky, either being too old or having found themselves obsolete. "I felt like I was talking to prison inmates. It was tempting to cut through the pleasant-tries and ask, 'What are you in for?'" Bruder writes. By and large these people are prisoners of circumstance, losing everything to economic recession, illness or a monotonous cycle too tough to break, so they take to the road, where fortune isn't much kinder. Most end up in odd jobs no one else will take or Amazon warehouses. Lack of bright future aside, *Nomadland* tells an important truth, and the humor of its subjects in the face of adversity is enough to keep you caring.

Interested in the behind the scenes of the paper?

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FacultySpotlight

Madame Dion

By EMILY CLOONAN
and MAI HOANG
Staff Writers

Whether she's teaching French on the fifth floor of Phillips Hall, coaching the girls' cross country team or advising for PEAN, Instructor of Modern Languages Sheryl Dion brings infectious passion to the Exeter community. In her third year at the Academy, Dion continues to support others through her constant optimistic outlook on life.

Dion had ties with the Academy even before becoming an instructor here; her husband grew up on campus, and her father-in-law taught French, Spanish and German at Exeter for forty years. Before Exeter, Dion was teaching at the Boston College High School. She was intrigued by the unique pedagogy of the Academy, the Harkness method, saying that it offers a "formidable opportunity" for language-teaching in particular, because students can "learn about culture while refining their French language skills and developing critical thinking abilities." Dion now lives with her spouse and two daughters on Court Street. "This is a great community family-wise, I've felt supported by the school, the administration, my colleagues and everyone here," she said.

Dion obtained her graduate degree at Boston College and is in the process of completing her PhD at New Hampshire State University. One of the lesser-known facts about Dion, however, is that her ambition used to lie with the military. "My great-great-grandfather François Étienne de Kellermann was a Napoleonic general in the French cavalry," she said, joking that he was "important enough to Napoleon to have a statue sold on eBay." Dion was a plebe at the U.S. Naval Academy



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

in Annapolis, before realizing that her passion lay in teaching.

"I started working as a teacher's assistant in French literature while going to graduate school," she said. "After the first day, I told my adviser that I wanted to teach. I've never looked back." For Dion, teaching is a wonderful lifestyle because it keeps her actively engaged with the literature; she loves "rediscovering the material over and over again." Quoting one of her favorite authors, Marcel Proust, Dion said, "The voyage of discovery is not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes." Because every student in the classroom had a unique perspective, she felt that teaching a Harkness class was like having ten new pairs of eyes all at once.

Dion cherishes a life-long passion for French literature, which started when she first took lessons in the language. "French never felt like work, no matter how hard it was," she commented,

reminiscing, "When I got my first set of books in French, I cried for joy." Before going to graduate school, she spent one year in Paris translating World War II letters and conducting interviews with survivors who were still alive at the time. For six years, she spent her free time compiling and editing volumes of a bibliography of 20th Century French literature for the Associated University Presses. "I compiled relevant articles, book chapters and dissertations on francophone literature, not necessarily from France only," Dion said, adding that she was fortunate to receive help from librarians "all over the world."

Dion also thrives off of learning new things and has a passion for challenging herself in other aspects of her life that she may find difficult. She is enrolled in a class right now called "applied recognition." She said, "That's one thing I've never done before, it's mathematical, controlling variables, but the Naval

Academy encouraged me to be more diversified in my interests." She also enjoys running, listening to hip-hop music, photography and reading.

Her love for running led her to join the cross country and track teams in college. "I did cross country and track in college, and I loved it," she said. She is also involved with the girls' cross country team here at Exeter. As for her interest in photography, Dion grew up with a dark room in her house, which encouraged her to start taking and developing her own photos. She advises PEAN (Exeter's yearbook) and works with students to share her passion of photography with others.

Students across campus love "Madame" Dion and note that her compassion and ability to make learning French enjoyable has helped them in their academic careers. Senior Kate Fitzpatrick said, "She was super welcoming to me as a new student and really helped me get into the French curriculum at Exeter. There was a big emphasis on conversation, more than I've seen in other French classes here, and that really helped me grow as a speaker." Dion noted that she often plays French music for her students in order to help them grow as speakers and feel more comfortable. Upper Jane Collins appreciated Dion's academic support. "She makes the class very comfortable for everyone, and there's a casual environment. Especially if you're not the best at French, she's really understanding and doesn't make you feel bad about it."

On top of coaching, advising PEAN, and getting a PhD, Dion finds little ways to show her students how much she cares for them. "In her class, we talked about everything from current events to the French book," said Fitzpatrick. "Best of all, she always made rolls with tiny French flags every time there was a birthday."

TRENDWATCH

By MICHAEL BAMA and SHERRY LIM
Columnists

This week has been exceptionally cold and windy. Hope you dress up warmly for the rest of the term!

This week at Exeter, as Halloween approached, we were able to see the creativity of our fellow Exonians expressed through various classic and trendy Halloween outfits: from glamorous Disney princesses to dodge ball players. One Halloween theme that caught our attention was a group of Exonians—Michael Garcia '18, Samantha Resnick '19, Makinrola Orafidiyi '19, Lara Galligan '18 and Michaëla O'Brien '19—dressing up as the Upper East siders from the drama series *Gossip Girl*. The gentlemen pulled off their navy blazers. They paired straight-fit cream pants with yellow and blue button-down shirts with skinny ties. The ladies flaunted white button-down shirts with black ribbons and loose ties. They all wore different-colored plaid A-line skirts, bringing back the early 2000s schoolgirl look. The girls completed their look with knee-high black socks. Seriously, great teamwork guys!

Another super cute group costume for Halloween were the cereal sisters. A group of seniors—Gabby Gabel, Emily Coombs, Chloe Scocimara, Molly Seibel, Sophia Oguri and Maddie Shapiro—dressed up as different cereal mascots. They really embodied the different styles of each mascot from our favorite cereal brands. A big congrats on winning the costume contest, you guys really deserved it!

Caroline Fleming '20 and Sophia Chang '20 dressed up as hippies. Caroline wore elephant-printed balloon pants with a matching flowy blouse. She topped off the look with blue headband and clear circular glasses. Sophia wore navy blue bootcut leggings with paisley designs.

Counter to the Halloween spirit, a group of preps dressed up as Christmas for the day. Preps Savi Keidel, Allison

Hanlon, Brody Faliero, Dylan O'Day and Avery Napier wore a variety of warm, fuzzy Christmas sweaters for the day. When asked about their outfits, they said "they forgot the holiday."

Mariam Jebari '18 dressed up as the classic photo of actor Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. She wore a black turtleneck sweater, and light blue jeans. To imitate The Rock, she wore a green Fanny pack and showed off her a gold necklace.

Students weren't the only ones dressing up. Faculty did so as well. Ms. Breen wore a silk light pink adidas tracksuit and dressed up as the seniors in "Bobby Murray's Ice Cream Man" video, along with Ms. Dean and Mr. Hayes. Ms. Breen complemented her tracksuit with her all white, original Stan Smith Adidas.

A huge shoutout to all Exonians who dressed up in their best costumes for Halloween and made this week such an eventful one!

Love,
Sherry & Michael



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

ESSO BEACH CLEAN-UP

By MATTHEW KANG
ESSOman of the Month

What's up my beach people, dudes and readers of The Exonian?

Hopefully, this message in a bottle will wash up in the paper to tell you about ESSO Beach Clean-up, the coolest, splashiest and surfiest club on campus!

One of our firm beliefs at ESSO Beach Clean-up is that no matter who you are—prep or senior, Andover wax-head or Exonian, Seattle native or Londoner—we can all appreciate watching the tides curl up to a beautiful, clean beach. And if you're a gremlin who likes dirty beaches, then I'm sure you can tag along to every trip to appreciate one before we clean up!

Combining our efforts with only the gnarliest dudes and dudettes from the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation, we can stop this environmental hazard from terrorizing our fellow beach goers! All it takes our consistent

and diligent work to keep the evils of beach trash at bay. The most satisfying feeling, besides shredding a wave, is walking back along the beach knowing that someone's dog can run around without tripping over some driftwood, and being able to smile to yourself and say "I did that."

So, if you want to join us, we kick out on the first Sunday of every month at 1p.m. on Tan Lane, and get back to school around 3p.m. We walk along Seabrook Beach and help our local community by keeping beaches as clean as they should be! This Sunday (November 5), you'll have the chance to stop being a sand-for-brains, get off campus and fight against the persistent evil of beach trash! If you have any questions or want to sign up, shoot Jolina Dimen or Matt Kang an email at jdimen@exeter.edu or mjkan1@exeter.edu.



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Girls' Soccer Drops Close Game to SPS

By CHARLOTTE LISA & JARED ZHANG
Staff Writers

On Saturday, the Exeter girls' varsity soccer team, affectionately nicknamed "Soxie," hosted St. Paul's School. In a heated and energetic game, Exeter ultimately fell to their opponents with a final score of 1-2. Despite a frustrating season record of 1-10-1, Big Red has remained persistent and competitive, pushing each of their opponents till the last second of the game.

On the prior Wednesday, Soxie held another home game against Groton School. In the latest of a series of frustratingly close games, Big Red lost 0-1. Despite the loss, senior and co-captain Anna Reaman explained that the team remained motivated. "Even though our game against Groton was upsetting, the team does a good job of remaining positive and we're always hungry to be better." Senior and co-captain Lauren Arkell agreed with Reaman, adding that the team brought "a ton of energy" to the game on Saturday. Arkell elaborated that the team remained level-headed despite going against St. Paul's, one of the stronger teams in the league with a skilled goalkeeper.

As the game against St. Paul's began, both teams brought a lot of intensity. Throughout the first half, the ball went back and forth between both sides before St. Paul's took the lead with a goal by halftime. Upper Gillian Quinto described the game as being "fast-paced and evenly matched." Soxie retained the same intensity during the second half and managed to tie the score after a goal from a penalty kick by prep Alli Hanlon. However, within the last quarter of the game, St. Paul's stormed back with another goal to edge out Big Red by one goal. Reaman expressed her disappointment in the unsatisfying result. "It's so frustrating to work so hard and be so close, upbeat and intense and have them score," she said. "However, we



Senior Jennifer Zecena works the ball up the pitch.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

were still able to finish strong and put our best effort forth until the end of the game." Despite the narrow loss, members of the team also expressed their feelings of content. Arkell described the match as being "one of the best games this far in the season." She continued by saying that the game allowed the team to demonstrate the improvement they've at this point in the season. "We've really improved our speed of play and communication," Arkell explained. Reaman echoed Arkell's sentiments, praising

the team's improved teamwork which has resulted in better possession of the ball and a tighter defense.

The game also allowed the team to recognize areas of improvement for their upcoming games. Reaman stressed the importance for her and the team to practice and refine their shooting skills. "We have the possession skills and we dominate in the field but we haven't been able to put the ball in the back of the net," she elaborated. "That has been our one downfall during games."

Arkell agreed with Reaman, and she also expressed her optimism for a breakthrough performance in the near future. "I think the whole team really wanted a win but the improvements we have made show that it is coming," she said.

Big Red's next game will be a home game against Worcester Academy. In the penultimate week of their season, Soxie will be looking for a strong performance to set them up well for their final two games against New Hampton and Andover.

Girls' XC Dominates on Home Course

By JOHN BECKERLE & LHAMO DIXEY
Staff Writers

Big Red girls' cross-country hosted the St. Paul's School last Saturday in their last home meet of the season. Led by captains and seniors Jo de La Bruyère and Sara Kopunova, the girls finished with a decisive win over the visitors from St. Paul's.

Before the St. Paul's meet, the team only had three previous head to head meets. The first half of the season consisted of three invitational-style competitions: the Choate Invitational, the Codfish Bowl and the Coe-Brown Black Bear Invitational.

In the team's head to head meets, the girls brandished astounding victories over Northfield Mount Hermon and the Brooks School. The team's successes came as a pleasant surprise to de La Bruyère. "The team has certainly done better than expected. We graduated a strong core of seniors this year and have really seen our younger runners step up to the plate—in training and races," she said.

Despite the team's stellar performances throughout much of the season, the girls suffered a loss to the runners from Deerfield Academy on Oct. 21. After a long week of practice, Big Red held its meet with St. Paul's.

They compensated for their loss in the previous week by utterly demoralizing St. Paul's runners 15-50 in the JV race and 20-39 in the varsity race. "It definitely served as a confidence boost, as a little jab of redemption. We face Andover's historically strong team next Saturday so it was nice to buffer [that] with a resounding win," she said.

Upper Grace Gray enjoyed finding vic-

tory with her teammates at home for the last time this year. "[St. Paul's] was an awesome meet! It was lots of fun to run with everyone on our home course again," she said.

Members of the team felt that the meet with St. Paul's was indicative of Big Red's talent this year. "The meet against St. Paul's was a good demonstration of how one or two fast runners can't win a race alone—it's a matter of having a strong team overall," upper Hanna Pak said.

The team's next meet will be at Phillips Andover Academy this Saturday. When the teams met for the first time at the Coe-Brown Black Bear Invitational, the Andover runners finished 5th place, just ahead of Big Red who finished in 6th.

De La Bruyère thinks that the team's training since the Black Bear Invitational might give them the edge in the head to head matchup. "I'm excited to see what the past month of training has done for our team," she said, but she acknowledged that this race isn't the final goal for this team, unlike many other Exeter sports. "In the end, though these duo meets do not matter. We train through them, not for them, [because] they are just little steps on our road to Interschols."

This time around, Big Red is taking a more specialized approach for the meet. "We're preparing for Andover by talking about how to break up their runners and score more points, and by starting to taper the training a little bit," Pak said.

Gray still expressed confidence for the Andover meet. "Andover could go any way, but I'm confident that we can pull through with another win if we work together and run with love," she said.



Upper Grace Gray sprints to the finish.

Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian



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SATURDAY SCORE REPORT

Boys' Water Polo	17	Girls' Volleyball	2
Loomis	8	St. Paul's	3
Girls' XC	20	Boys' XC	21
St. Paul's	39	St. Paul's	42
Field Hockey	1	Girls' Soccer	0
St. Paul's	2	St. Paul's	1
Boys' Soccer	1	Girls' JV Soccer	5
St. Paul's	0	St. Paul's	0

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: VICTORIA GLIDDEN & VIVI KRAUS

By BELLA ALVAREZ
& JARED ZHANG
Staff Writers

Seniors and three-year co-captains of the girls' JV field hockey team, Victoria Glidden and Vivienne Kraus have led their team to seven victories during the season so far. Glidden and Kraus hope to inspire a love for the sport and foster a friendly, inclusive team environment that supports all of its members. "We have a ton of fun together and are always laughing, but we also take field hockey seriously," Kraus explained. "We both try to put 100 percent effort in, and I like to think that balance of fun and focus radiates out to the whole team."

Glidden began playing the sport in 8th grade, liking both the athletic rigor and the pure fun. As she continued to play at Exeter, she found kindred spirits in her teammates and kept up both the fitness and enjoyment. "For the past four years, I have spent many hours singing and screaming in buses and getting to know people I never would have, while being able to learn a new sport and stay in shape," Glidden explained.

Kraus' experience with field hockey began her prep year at Exeter, after preparing for the sport during a few summer camps before that fall. She and Glidden met on the field, and have been co-captains since both of their lower years. "It's a really fun—[it's] pretty fast-paced for a field sport, which is a lot of fun," she said.

Kraus' love for field hockey is something she hopes to carry over into her role as team captain. "Of course the goal is to have a good record, but what's more important than that is helping everyone grow as a player, and making sure everyone is having fun," she said. "I want to make practice something everybody can look forward to every day." Kraus described seeing the team laugh as a highlight of her day and something incredibly validating to her position. "That's one of the most rewarding things as a captain—to see the kids on the team become good friends with each other, and to feel like I've helped create an environment where those friendships can form," she explained.

Going into her third year as a captain, Glidden wants to be a supportive figure and inspire her same passion for field hockey in her teammates. "I hope to be there for everyone on the team. [at] sports can be not only physically draining but also emotionally," she said. "I hope to help people find a good way to get physical activity and relax from Exeter stress."

Kraus explained that as she's been a co-captain alongside Glidden for three seasons, their



Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

leadership roles feel "comfortable and natural." "I appreciate being trusted to set a good example, and I try my hardest to live up to that expectation," Kraus said. "Being a captain has helped me learn how to keep a positive attitude, and when I can't do that, to at least keep a positive face."

When asked about their cohesive leadership, Glidden added that she and Kraus recognized the importance of an uplifting team morale. "At times, [it] can be hard to keep up," she said. However, Glidden believes that she and Kraus have been successful in boosting the team's spirits. "Through positive reinforcement and trying to foster a hard-working but still relaxed environment, we have kept the sport fun," she said.

Glidden commended Kraus for her contributions to the game. "Vivi is one of the team's strongest players. We rely on her heavily for defense and to keep up team morale when we are down a point," Glidden said. Kraus complimented Glidden's form for hits and dribbling, as well as her value as a right midfielder or link.

"She's all over the field all the time," Kraus said. "She's always there when you need her, and she never gives up on the ball. Even when she falls down, and she falls all the time, she keeps playing the ball." Lower Ramanee Mukherjee echoed Kraus' sentiments, praising Glidden for the skill and perseverance she displays on the field. "Wherever the ball is, Victoria is too. As a link, she is always running up and down the field but somehow never fails to be there for the pass."

Prep Katie Moon said that Kraus and Glidden are both strong field hockey players, and that she looks up to her captains and hopes to emulate their abilities. "They have inspired me to work hard during practice, and to try my best in order to improve and play my best in games," she said. "They both have a lot of good tips on the field."

Moon described her captains as friendly, fun and assertive mentors for younger players on the team. "They have done a good job helping the team bond and become close," she said. Moon also praised them for their inclusion of lower classmen, often greeting and smiling at

teammates on the path. "On the field, they encourage us to always hustle and put 100 percent into every drill," Moon added. "I notice Victoria is constantly hustling and both of them cheer and encourage us." Mukherjee explained that Kraus and Glidden are also friendly and supportive off the field. "When we're not at practice, they always say hi to us and I know that I can always go to them if I needed to talk." She elaborated that the two seniors are incredible role models on campus. "They look out for us, on and off the field," she said. "They're both great role models and always remind us that it's better to play clean and respect the other team."

"Victoria and I met each other through the JV field hockey team prep year, and now we're best friends. We spend a ton of time together, and we have to work together to overcome obstacles and think about what's best for the team," Kraus said. "I really love working together with her." Glidden expressed similar sentiments, saying, "[Kraus is] my best friend! Play sports [and] you will make friends that can last past Exeter."

Volleyball Falls Short to St. Paul's



Senior Molly O'Day serves the ball.

Chiara Correa Perotti/The Exonian

By MADISON KANG
Staff Writer

Big Red girls' varsity volleyball faced tough competition in a close home game against St. Paul's School last Saturday. The game ended at a score of 2-3, with tight tallies in each of the five sets: 25-18, 20-25, 26-24, 18-25, 14-16. This is only the second loss in its season record, which now stands at ten wins and two losses.

The Exeter players went into the game expecting a challenge, given their long-standing rivalry with the St. Paul's team. "We go against them every year and it's always a close match. They are a strong team. We are a strong team," said

upper Tara Weil. "I think our teams have the same skill level, but the win just goes to whomever has a better system and better communication among players that day."

Exeter cruised through the first set with a solid seven-point lead, bolstered by precise hitting from upper Sophie Faliero and smooth passing by senior Molly O'Day. "Our energy was high the first set, with good teamwork to pass the ball and block the opposing team," prep Brody Faliero said.

Despite their vigor, the girls faltered in the ensuing sets. "The hustle was there, but the execution wasn't," said senior and co-captain Charlotte Polk. "We had solid efforts all around and

throughout the game. It's just that our performance was a bit sloppy towards the end. With 24 missees, we missed out on 24 easy points."

Going forward, upper Jenny Yang feels that the team will better heed Head Coach Bruce Shang's guidance during games. "Shang had warned us of the St. Paul's libero earlier, but we kept giving the ball to her," she remembered. "I think this loss will remind us to keep focused and listen to each other, as well as our coach."

O'Day agreed with Yang. "Our technique and strategy could have been better, but every team has its off days," she said. "That said, we had some of our players step forward and put out really

strong plays, even when we were behind."

Senior Bridgette Han commended Yang for her consistently strong serves. "Jenny has a force throughout the game. She didn't miss a single serve given to her," she said.

Meanwhile, Faliero appreciated the captains' spirit and leadership. "Charlotte and Margaret are always so positive and peppy," she said. "They always cheer for everyone on the court."

The Exeter players gear up for an away game at Northfield Mount Hermon School this Saturday. "We're strengthening and working to hone our technique throughout this week's practice," said Weil. "We've brushed off this loss and we'll be ready for Saturday."



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Boys' Water Polo Crushes Loomis 17-8

Bear Polo Clinches Second Seed in Liquid 4 Playoffs

By VERONICA CHOULGA
& ROSE HOROWITZ
Staff Writers

The boys' varsity water polo team triumphed over the Loomis Chaffee School in its Saturday away game. Big Red won with seventeen goals to Loomis' eight, cementing its standing as a strong competitor.

The team came into the week having won its previous game against Deerfield Academy, but unsatisfied with its level of play. Senior Will Soltas commented that overcoming the previous week's problems was the team's biggest challenge going into the match against Loomis. "Coming off last week's close game, we knew we had to make some substantial changes to both our lineup and our practices."

He added that the team improved tangibly throughout the week, culminating in a skillful match against Loomis. "This past week we trained hard physically and worked to eliminate any of our team's complacency in our standings and level of play," Soltas said.

Big Red showcased its improvement in both spirit and skill in its Saturday game. Soltas highlighted senior Harry Saunders, and said, "As we fought hard with Loomis during the first half, Harry was the one to make those crucial outside shots that ultimately tipped the scales in our favor for the second half."

Soltas continued, saying that that Saunders' play inspired the rest of the team. "He was constantly one step ahead of the opponent and really stepped up as a role model to not only the starters but also to the underclassmen who didn't get as much playing time," Soltas said.

Upper Troy Marrero said that the second-string players also helped the team stay enthusiastic and determined. "No individual lacked team spirit, whether on the bench or starting." This enthusiasm has helped Big Red throughout its season, and the players attribute some of



Senior and co-captain Jamie Cassidy picks a corner to snipe.

Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian

their success to the friendly dynamic on the team, which encourages each member to play their best. Marrero elaborated, saying that this culture has contributed to a successful season "in every possible way. We play better together, and we enjoy doing it." Soltas added that the strong dynamic has elevated his fellow players from teammates to friends. He said,

"There's nothing like spending two hours a day with some of my closest friends." The dynamic resulted in skillful play in Saturday's game. "We felt like a well-oiled machine this past Saturday," Soltas said. He added, "As a team, we shine when all of our individual players [put] in their very best. This is no time for us to become complacent."

Big Red is heading into one of the final weeks of the season. The team clobbered Andover 16-5 this Wednesday, and it now beings to prepare for the Liquid Four Tournament. As the second seed, Bear Polo will wait to see who emerges as its first round matchup, but the team is mainly focused on beating Brunswick, if both teams make it to the championship.

Boys' Cross Country Drubs St. Paul's

Big Red Runners Capitalize on Home Turf Advantage

By JO DE LA BRUYERE
Contributing Writer

Boys' cross country secured a commanding victory against the St. Paul's School last Saturday at home. Big Red had not faced St. Paul's' squad since last season; few runners knew what to expect.

Regardless, Exeter took control of the race from the start. "St. Paul's' first, second and third boys all went out fast," said upper Charlie Neuhaus. "But packed up with them was lower Will Coogan and another group of our guys stayed right on their tail." According to senior Alex Renaud, Big Red's runners comfortably maintained those positions until the second mile of the race. At that point, Coogan surged ahead of the front pack. Neuhaus and prep Connor Chen followed his lead; they began to try to chase St. Paul's' runners down. In the last mile of the race, they managed to do so. Chen handily beat St. Paul's' number one, and Neuhaus nearly out-kicked him in the last two hundred meters of the race. Preps Croix Mikofsky and Varun Oberai rounded out Exeter's five-person scoring team. They each placed in one of the top seven positions; in all, the team walked away with a 21-42 win.

The junior varsity race ended equally well for Exeter. According to upper Jimmy Liu, the "top group went out fast and never looked back." That group consisted of post-graduate Ryan Foley, Liu and upper Jed Breen, lower Jimmy Allen and prep Carlos Jones. The five of those runners paved the way for Exeter's perfect 15-point

score. Next week, Big Red faces Andover away. Andover's team is historically strong. It beat Exeter's by a considerable margin at the Choate Invitational earlier this season. And the members of boys' cross country acknowledge the huge challenge they will have to face on Saturday. But they aren't hugely worried. "We're student athletes," said upper Charlie Neuhaus. "We're in love with knowledge and winning. And I think we'll find we're going to start getting closer and closer, that is, if we want to, and if we look for it and wait for it to the kind of information that will be very, very dear to our hearts. Among other things, we'll find that we're not the first team who was ever confused and frightened and even sickened by the competition. We're by no means alone on that score, we'll be excited and stimulated to know. Many teams have been just as troubled morally and spiritually as we are right now. Happily, some of them kept records of their troubles. We'll learn from them if we want to. Just as someday, if we have something to offer, some team will learn something from us. It's a beautiful reciprocal arrangement. And it isn't education. It's history. It's poetry."

Senior Alex Renaud was slightly less poetic in his description of his hopes for next week's race. "We'll have to pack up like never before. There needs to be an invisible tether that binds all of us to stick with our best runner. If we can do that, and I know we can, then there will be little standing in our way against Andover."



Exeter runners sprint from the start line.

Gavin Hickey/The Exonian

Inside This Week's Sports Section

Girls' Cross Country



The girls' cross country team took advantage of racing at home and crushed St. Paul's. Find out more on B4.

Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

Athletes of the Week



Seniors Victoria Gidden and Vivi Kraus have led the girls' JV field hockey team for three years. More on B5.

Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

Girls' Soccer



Soxie competed in a close game with St. Paul's, but the team ended up losing by one goal. Read more about the game on B4.

JaQ Lal/The Exonian

Girls' Volleyball



Volleyball faced a tough St. Paul's squad last weekend. The game was decided in the fifth set. Find out who won on B5.

Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian