



Exeter Raises Funds to Send To Puerto Rico

By MADISON KANG and VIRGINIA LITTLE
Staff Writers

Hurricane Maria, a powerful Category 4 hurricane with 150 mph winds, made direct landfall on Puerto Rico early Wednesday, Sept. 20. The storm barreled through the island, leaving in its wake regions without power, cell phone service and potable water. A total of 51 people have died as a result of the storm. One month later, national relief efforts continue with less than 15 percent of the island having electricity. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, Puerto Rico is now responsible for the largest usage of temporary power in U.S. history. In response to the tragedy, the Exeter community has organized a fall term fundraiser to raise money for Puerto Rican hurricane relief, spearheaded by Director of Service Learning Elizabeth Reyes, English Instructors Matthew Miller and William Perdomo and senior Menat Bahnsny. The fundraiser has garnered support from faculty, staff and students. "The initiative has grown so much. This cause is important to Exeter because despite being a larger world event, the crisis in Puerto Rico touches the lives of many Exonians, students and faculty, who have family and friends there," Reyes said. "Even for people without family there, this is a humanitarian issue with Puerto Ricans unable to access water and electricity, as well as an environmental issue with climate change concerns."

PUERTO RICO, A2



PEA mailroom employees Philip Conlon and James Legere sort mail in the post office.

Paula Perez-Glassner/The Exonian

Students Work to Reduce Waste in Post Office

By MAI HOANG and SOPHIE LIU
Staff Writers

Seniors Anna Clark, Abel Ngala and upper Gwyneth Crossman, students at the Green Umbrella Learning Lab (GULL) are working with Phillips Exeter's Post Office to reduce the number of packages processed on a daily basis. The project was inspired by the visible need to decrease waste and help mail room staff work more efficiently.

The GULL is part of the Exeter Innovation program—a host of multidisciplinary courses added to the Academy's course catalogue at the end of last year in the hope of extending the spirit of Hark-

ness to extracurricular activities. English Instructor Jason BreMiller, who is also the Sustainability Education Coordinator at Exeter, worked with the Senior Manager of Sustainability and Natural Resources Jill Robinson to create the class. "In our collaborations we thought about pitching a course that would be based on the idea of having students learn more about the problems related to the environment in our school and actually formulate as well as execute plausible solutions, while getting credit for class," BreMiller said. He uses the phrase "design-thinking class in sustainability" to describe the GULL, also calling it "a logical extension of the Hark-

ness method into real life." As an instructor, it is important for BreMiller to see students living the non-sibi spirit and taking on real community-directed initiative.

The 13 students in the class are split into four different groups, each focusing on one project that would help Exeter meet its Sustainability Master Plan and carbon reduction goals. "We divide the class into four stages," BreMiller said. "Stage 1 is just brainstorming ideas, team building, and training; stage 2 is coming up with concrete group projects and writing down the ideas; stage 3 is execution and stage 4 is reflection."

The Post Office project was created

POST OFFICE, A2

Town of Exeter Residents 'Walk a Mile for Racial Unity'

By GRACE CARROLL and MAI HOANG
Staff Writers

This past Saturday morning, members of the Exeter community gathered in small groups to walk through the town, following a path marked by balloons emblazoned with the words, "I Stand Against Racial Injustice." Each group was led by a name-tag-wearing member of the Racial Unity Team. Participants ranged from eight-year-old children to seniors from the Riverwoods Retirement Community.

The event, "Walk a Mile for Racial Unity," was sponsored by the community-run nonprofit Racial Unity Team. Using historical landmarks in Exeter, they encouraged community members to examine racial injustices of the past and present. Each red balloon either marked the site of a racially

charged incident or highlighted institutionalized racism in Exeter.

Stops on the tour included the town hall, where Abraham Lincoln spoke about blocking the expansion of slavery in 1860, the Red Brick Church, the first congregation to allow black members—which just appointed its first black pastor last year—and Phillips Exeter Academy. The Academy, as it was noted on the tour, admitted students of color as early as the 18th Century, but kept housing segregated. In 1864, during the civil war, three Kentuckian students left the school rather than attend school with a black classmate. That black student, however, went on to attend Harvard and Harvard Law School. In addition to the history of race at the Academy, the tour also mentioned the ALES video, as well as the larger student-led campaign for more faculty of color.

The tour also touched on slavery in

Exeter. Exeter had at least 50 slaves in 1767, but also had the highest percentage of free blacks in the state by 1790. Most black residents, whether enslaved or free, lived in a neighborhood near the current location of the Harris Family Children's Center.

Also included on the walk was the site of a former Chinese laundry, now the site of the retail store Ganes. The owner, who ran the laundry until the early 20th Century, was unable to bring his family to the U.S. as a result of the Chinese Exclusion Act. There were nine Chinese students enrolled at the Academy in 1881, but the act—which went into effect in 1882—prevented any further Chinese immigration until it was overturned in 1943.

"Walk a Mile for Racial Unity," now in its third year of operation, is organized by the Racial Unity Team. Ken Mendis, the Malaysian-American founder of the Racial

Unity Team, was moved to action by the 2015 shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, in which Dylan Roof killed nine black worshippers during a Bible study with the explicit intention of igniting a race war.

"I was sitting in church the next day thinking about it and I realized that we needed to do more to get people thinking differently about race and the different identities that we have in the world," said Mendis. His wife, Joy Meiser Mendis, who emigrated from Czechoslovakia, was also involved in the effort. "Dylan Roof wanted to start a revolution of hate, so we decided to start a revolution of love," she said.

The effort was slow at first, but through his church connections and community involvement, Mendis assembled a group of fifteen volunteers to plan the walk. He also

RACIAL UNITY, A2

Filmmaker Byron Hurt Asks Boys, Men to Combat Sexism

By MADISON KANG and SHIVANI TRIPATHI
Staff Writers

Award-winning documentary filmmaker, writer and self-proclaimed anti-sexist activist Byron Hurt, spoke at public forums Monday and Tuesday nights and Tuesday's assembly, analyzing perceptions of masculinity and advocating male alliance in the prevention of misogyny and sexual violence.

Hurt is the former host of the Emmy-nominated television show, "Reel Works with Byron Hurt," and a founding member of the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) program, the leading rape and domestic violence prevention initiative for college and professional athletics. Hurt has also served as an associate director of the first gender violence prevention program in the United States Marine Corps. His documentary, "Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes," premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and was later broadcast on the Emmy-nominated PBS series Inde-

pendent Lens. Byron's latest film, "Soul Food Junkies," is critically acclaimed and won the CNN Best Documentary Award at the American Black Film Festival and Best Documentary at the Urbanworld Film Festival in New York City.

On Monday night, students, faculty and townspeople gathered in the Assembly Hall to listen to Hurt's public lecture regarding rape culture and machismo. Hurt began by addressing recent sexual assault allegations against prominent pop culture figures, such as Harvey Weinstein, Bill Cosby and Nate Aflleck. He claimed that the power and status of such influential men caused the female victims to feel helplessly "intimidated, coerced and harassed." He said, "Instead of putting a microscope on girls and women, it's time that we see the culture of masculinity."

Hurt cited education and critical thinking as the most effective ways to counter sexism. Using his own childhood as an example, Hurt said that many men grow up unaware of gender discrimination and the "privilege they operate under." Attending a



Byron Hurt delivers assembly talk on anti-sexist activism.

Garvin Hickey/The Exonian

workshop with filmmaker Jackson Kratz in the 1990s encouraged Hurt to think critically about the pervasive sexism in society. Like Kratz, Hurt hopes to inspire men and boys to reexamine normalized misogyny. "I hope I can bring my experiences with different boys and men to engage in these issues," he said. "If we want to end a culture of rape, we have to make fundamental changes at the educational level."

Students and faculty appreciated Hurt's mission to inform male youth about gender issues. "Many people often overlook the role that men can play in feminism and

often associate the movement with angry women," said senior Benjamin Harrison, the first male co-head of Exeter's Feminist Union. "Hurt's words emphasized the importance of male alliance in inhibiting sexism." Religion Instructor Hannah Hofheinz echoed this sentiment, describing Hurt's message as "impactful."

During assembly, Hurt linked the persistence of sexism to negative pop culture influences, such as hip hop, sports, military culture and fraternity traditions. He screened a clip from his 2006 documen-

BYRON HURT, A2

INSIDE

NEWS

Meme pages are taking college campuses by storm, and one has now appeared on Facebook for the Exeter community. Read about it on A8.

Dorm heads expressed concerns over Student Council's latest visitations proposal. A3.

LIFE

Read about senior Dara Okeremi, a beloved resident of Dunbar hall. B3.

A Far Cry, a conductorless orchestra, performed for students last Friday, Oct. 20. Read about it on B1.

OPINIONS

Peter Georgescu '57 thanks the Academy for shaping his life. A4

SPORTS

Exeter Crew teams excelled at the Head of the Charles, which took place in Boston last weekend. B6.

WEB



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Dorm Heads Voice Concerns over Visitations Policy Proposal

By GRACE CARROLL
and MAI HOANG
Staff Writers

Student Council's (StuCo) latest draft of a reformed visitations policy was met with concern from dorm heads Oct. 9. The most recent version would allow students of all genders in all grades to visit any dorm between 10:45 a.m. and their check-in time without having to sign in, doors would be half-way open during the visit. These rules apply to students of the same gender who reside in different dorms. The policy also would forbid sleepovers for all students except in some cases for day students such as inclement weather.

This proposal is the latest of many installments put forth by StuCo, as the administration has been attempting for the past four years, to create a more inclusive policy that is applicable to students of all genders and sexual orientations. Despite their agreement that the current policy requires major revision, dorm heads are still not convinced that StuCo's latest draft is the ideal solution. Many pointed to issues in the policy ranging from supervision and liability to the consequences of potentially creating a more disruptive dorm atmosphere.

Dow House Dorm Head Amadou Talla said that, though the council is taking "a great step towards changing the heteronormative message," their proposal still has several flaws that would be unsettling for dorm faculty and likely also for parents. "One of the concerns I have is simply that the visitations would be unsupervised, with maybe the potential to cause more situations that could create unease for students visiting each other," he said.

Dunbar Dorm Head Jennifer Marx Asch raised a similar point, noting important considerations in light of recent campus-wide discussions. "Given the conversations we've been having about sexual assault, safety concerns and all the issues of litigation they've been talking about in the news, supervision is a huge concern," she said. The prospect of completely unsupervised visitations is concerning to many faculty members.

The question of supervision has been considered by StuCo, whose technology committee and the Exeter Computing Club collaborated on an app over the summer to allow students to sign in online for visitations. The app, if implemented, would still alert faculty of visitors in the dorm while eliminating the need for them to check in physically. According to StuCo's co-president and senior Tim Han, the council did not end up incorporating this technology into its proposal, based on suggestions from council members as well as Dean of Residential Life Arthur Cosgrove.

However, StuCo's co-secretary and upper Elizabeth Yang noted that dorm faculty's concerns for students extend far beyond their own legal liabilities. "Even if there's less accountability, faculty members would still feel horrible if something were to happen. I'm very sympathetic in that regard," she said.

Marx Asch also drew attention to the disruptions that longer visitation hours could cause in the dorm environment. "One of my concerns for Dunbar was just about the noise level and the traffic in and out of the dorm. We're a large dorm, so we'd have a lot of people to supervise and the amount of noise

would be disruptive for students trying to take naps or do work," she said.

In regards to the recent discussion among dorm heads, Webster Hall Dorm Head Alex Myers noted that student input would be crucial in the future as further revisions are made on the proposal. "I think it is important that all parties share what they are honestly most concerned about—what feels like a risk, what feels like a reward, what feels like a restriction," he said.

Students across campus have expressed mixed opinions on the policy. Lower Charlie Venci expressed his approval of the proposal but acknowledged possible inconveniences for adults in the dorm. "Faculty would have to check the dorms from 10:45 a.m. until check-in everyday, and that's a lot for them to handle. If they don't check the dorms, who knows what could happen," he commented.

Upper Nat Love, a resident of Will House, explained that the unique visitations policy currently enforced in Exeter's two all-gender dorms, Will House and Kirtland House, was very similar to StuCo's most recent proposal and stated that residents have been satisfied with the policy so far. "All of us in the dorm are respectful of each other's privacy so everyone is conscious of noise level and the number of people they have over at a time," she said. "I think this policy is good for everyone, not just good for people who might want to take advantage of the relaxed system. It's on the teachers to be able to trust the students, but it's also on the students not to mess up and violate the policy."

Many students and faculty members voiced specific adaptations they would like to see implemented. Senior

Alexis Gorfine hopes that the new policy will include extended visitations hours and promote greater inclusivity. "One thing I know the new policy will absolutely address is the heteronormative language, and I look forward to seeing that change, especially since the school has already created all-gender housing," she said.

Love believes that the implementation of an online system would be a better alternative than students notifying adults in person as some dorm heads have suggested in the past. "Faculty members would have to trust that students are signing in, but at least they would know where students are. I think that might be a nice middle ground because it allows teachers to be a little more aware," she said.

Regardless of the length of visitation hours, Talla hopes that the policy will lean more towards a system of controlled visitations for all students. "You can't have anybody at any time in your house, so if it's controlled at home, it should be controlled here. I just think it should be the same for everybody," he said. Talla also suggested that StuCo incorporate input from parents, a side of the story that "hasn't really been explored yet."

By fostering community-wide discussion about the new policy, Han is hopeful that the Academy will be able to establish an ideal system in the near future. "This has obviously been a very long-term project, but we're hopeful that we can get it done before the end of the year. It won't be perfect, just because the dorms by nature are heteronormative, but we're trying as best as possible to create a more inclusive policy to reflect our values," he said.

Student Quote Box: The Ideal Visitations Policy

By SEBASTIAN BANGO
Staff Writer

"I hope that the new V's policy would be aware of all students and their needs but not too liberal that it would become unsafe...a system that would extend V's hours throughout the day without being too taxing on faculty."
- Upper Jeremy Xiu

"I would change the times, so you would have longer [V's hours] during the day, not just [starting] at 7 or 8 p.m."
- Senior Jackie Brenner

"I personally really like how liberal the hours are for visitations and how a more concrete punishment has been established for illegal visitations in the new [proposed] additions to the V's policy."
- Senior Jack Baker

"I'm a proponent of a graduated system for the V's policy. Seniors can have open visitations while the dorms are open while preps should have the current policy."
- Senior Aiden Roberts

"Anyone should be able to be in anyone's room at anytime. I could be more bold, but I don't want to get too deep."
- Prep Alexander Knopp

"In a world where everyone understood consent and its implication, I would want to have a completely open closed-door V's policy. However, given that we don't live in a perfect world, I know that the school should take certain precautions to ensure the safety of its students that I definitely respect and support... I like the previously suggested idea of 10:45 a.m. to check in V's with a sign in sheet so that faculty can keep track of students."
- Upper Hanna Pak

"In general I support policies that put more emphasis on transparency and honesty with reasonable restrictions, like leaving the door open between certain hours etc."
- Upper Mary Provencal-Fogarty

"I think the V's policy needs to be more inclusive with day students, continuing the conversation already in place with dorm affiliations as well as expanding beyond that."
- Senior Nick Song

Sixteen Seniors To Be Inducted Early to Cum Laude Society

By EMILY CLOONAN,
MAKINROLA ORAFIDIYA
and JACK ZHANG
Staff Writers

Sixteen seniors, whose cumulative GPAs place them in the top five percent of the Class of 2018, were designated last week as early inductees into the Cum Laude Society.

The Cum Laude Society is the national high-school equivalent of the collegiate Phi Beta Kappa society. Both institutions recognize scholarly and academic achievement among outstanding students.

Instructor of Mathematics and President of the Exeter Cum Laude Branch Jeffrey Ibbotson explained the function of the Society. "The purpose of the Cum Laude Society is to recognize and reward academic achievement," he said. "It is parallel to the function of the National Honor Society in public schools."

Senior Peter O'Keefe, one of this year's early inductees, described his excitement when he discovered he was one of the sixteen. "I was ecstatic when I heard the news. Early Cum is an honor that I, like many Exonians, have hoped to receive," he said. "It certainly feels good to have your effort rewarded in such a tangible way." O'Keefe also noted the internal motivation driving some Exonians to strive for early induction. "I do feel that there is pressure to make Early Cum, but it's a pressure that we mainly put on ourselves," he said.

Instructor of Mathematics and faculty member on the Exeter Cum Laude

Branch Stephanie Girard emphasized that while there might be pressure to succeed, the pressure is not specific to Exeter alone. "At Andover, I'm sure they have the same problems," she said. "It's not unique to Exeter. I think seniors everywhere are worrying about grades."

Ibbotson said that he did not believe there is a specific pressure among students to be inducted early to the Cum Laude Society. "The only pressure that could be relevant is the pressure to get good grades," he said. O'Keefe, however, believes that his classmates view Early Cum as a metric of success. "I've always seen Early Cum as a way for students to keep score, and that's unfortunate. There are so many factors that go into raw GPA that a small difference overall is not a reflection of anything," he said. "I think we tend to take Early Cum too seriously."

O'Keefe emphasized the importance of engaging in other aspects of life at Exeter, beyond classwork and grades. "I have devoted copious amounts of time into my schoolwork, as many Exonians have. However, I've still found plenty of time to do sports and extracurriculars," he said. "I think I've found a good balance between school work and clubs, sports etc. as all the other inductees have."

Another Early Cum inductee, senior Anna Clark, also discussed the importance of balancing school work and extracurriculars and how through doing so she eventually developed more effective time management skills. "I'm glad to see the work I have put in the

past 3 years pay off, but I never worked for the purpose of obtaining Early Cum," she said. "[I] always tried to keep a healthy perspective; relationships and extracurriculars form an integral part of our school experience as well."

Early Cum inductee and senior George Matheos also highlighted the importance of a diverse Exeter experience. "Finding a balance between various aspects of life at Exeter is something I've made a conscious effort to achieve throughout my time here, since I think it's very important to be happy," he said. Matheos also mentioned that although there is not direct pressure for most students to be inducted into the Cum Laude Society, there is a lot of pressure to work hard and receive good grades. "I think some students do feel

pressure about it, and I did feel like it was something that would be nice to achieve, but I think that the pressure to get good grades in general is more significant, and the pressure to join the Cum Laude society is merely an extension of that," he added.

Similarly to O'Keefe, senior and inductee Celeste Wu expressed her excitement when she discovered she was selected for early induction. "I felt proud and happy when I found out about [my induction.] It's some uplifting news amidst the chaos of senior fall," she said. Wu described her selection as a pleasant surprise and not the end goal. "Getting inducted was more of something that came out on the side; a recognition rather than a motivation," she said.



The Exonian

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

Alumni Reflections: Peter Georgescu

To highlight the many voices in Exeter's extended community, the Opinions Section in this series was written by Peter Georgescu, class of '57. Former Chairman and CEO of Young and Rubicam, Georgescu was recently appointed as a Trustee of Phillips Exeter Academy.

I was mid-August 1954. My father and I had been invited to have dinner at Exeter by Principal William G. Saltonstall. I remember that dinner with amazing clarity. I should. That dinner marked a remarkable turning point in my life. I recall I was excited and in awe of the campus I saw on the way to the meal. The three of us chatted for a while with "Salty" gently asking a few probing questions. At the end of dinner, this imposing person said simply, "I like you Peter. If you can pass your classes on your own, with no consideration for your background, you get to stay here. If not, I'll find the right school for you. Is that okay?" Not really grasping the full meaning of the statement, I said, "That's okay." As he escorted us out, the principal tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Well, what grade would you like to be in?" If there was a right answer to that question at that time, I did not know it. "I'd like to be in the same class with boys my own age," I blurted out. He smiled broadly, patted me on the back and said, "What difference does it make? Welcome to Exeter. You'll be a loser."

And so, it was my first encounter with Exeter. I was fifteen years old and in April of that same year, I landed in New York to be reunited with my parents after an eight-year separation. I didn't speak a word of English and I hadn't been in school for the previous four years. Instead, I had been in a forced labor camp. I had been cleaning sewers and digging holes for electrical poles six days a week, ten hours a day. It was an experience common to Eastern Europe after World War II. The Iron Curtain separated the Communist Bloc from the West. Luckily, with intervention from Congressman Frances Bolton and President Eisenhower, my older brother and I arrived in New York in April 1954. Days

after I landed in New York, Saltonstall called my dad and said, "I'll keep a place for your younger boy in our school." My dad told him how grateful he was, but that his son didn't speak English and that I hadn't been in school for several years. A reassuring answer came back. "I read the story in the press. Your son has learned a lot of other things about life. You help him learn English and let's have dinner at Exeter in August." That's how I found myself at Saltonstall's table four months later.

Exeter did change my life in every way. For the first time, I was exposed to the joy of learning. I spent days doing physical labor and used my mind upwards of ten hours a day. The support I felt from the faculty was reassuring. They responded to my obvious enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge. Dealing with Chaucer that first year and learning how to divide in my Algebra course made for a challenging but uplifting experience. I even got into intramural sports; although I had never played soccer before, I joined the team and got my "E" sweater. By the end of that year, passing with a solid D, I knew I belonged on this campus. My experience was pure joy.

What made Exeter special for me? It clearly revolved around the Harkness Table. I learned to speak out. I was strongly motivated to prepare so I could contribute in class. My classmates soon began to treat me like any other boy, rather than the oddity who constantly mispronounced words. (Why in the world would you not pronounce both "bs" in bombers?) Was I teased? Absolutely, but I knew my peers respected me, and that it was all in good fun.

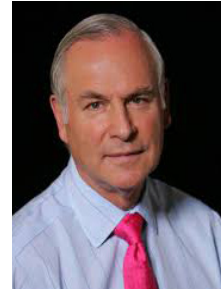
The Harkness experience drove my growing confidence and built my self-esteem. It taught me to defend my perspectives, and allowed me to take risks and to always be

prepared with ever increasing rigor. The table encouraged new ideas and different perspectives, as long as the explanations were sound. I did find that I had an advantage over my classmates; after working in a forced-labor camp, the intense academics at Exeter was a breeze. Homework preparation bordered on fun. Exeter's community, with its supportive cast of classmates and teachers, was a far cry from the brainwashing sessions I had endured from the Romanian Secret Police.

At Exeter I learned how to compete fairly everywhere I went—on the playing field, in the classroom and in dealing with roommates and neighbors down the hall. I learned that values matter. I learned that shortcuts don't work. I learned that Exeter's culture permeated every experience on campus. I learned that I wasn't the brightest kid in my class, nor was I the best athlete. But I also learned to push myself to be the best I could be, every chance I got. And being my best, was good enough.

By the end of the third year at Exeter, I was in the top half of my class. I scored well enough on my SATs to get into Princeton and graduated cum laude. From there, I headed West and got an MBA from the Stanford Business School. After my Stanford years, I entered Young & Rubicam, a multidisciplinary communication company in advertising, PR, promotion, design and digital. I started as a trainee in the research department. Thirty years later I became the company's first non-American born Chairman and CEO.

After retiring from Y&R, Exeter's motto drove me to give back. I've done that in various educational not-for-profits, as a Trustee of Polytechnic University, Vice Chairman of New York Presbyterian Hospital and more. My third book, *Capitalists ARISE!* challenges



Courtesy of Google

business people to change their behavior and begin to heal the grave inequality which permeates our nation.

In every chapter of my life the shadow of Exeter follows me. The joy of learning is now an everyday guest. I seek out the more talented and better minds for inspiration and guidance. I am comfortable speaking out. When I give lectures, my favorite part is the Q&A period. There, I'm back to the Harkness table which, in writing this, feels like yesterday.

It's easy for me to say what Exeter did for me. You see, this immigrant boy got to live the American Dream—being the best Peter Georgescu I can be. It all started at a dinner in Exeter that August afternoon in 1954. Now, as a new Trustee it's so very appropriate to say thank you, Principal Saltonstall.

Insurgency: The Next Big Problem

Paul James '19
Columnist

This summer's campaign against the Islamic State (IS) was, by most measures, a success. Major capitals of the self-established caliphate, most notably Mosul and Raqqa, were reclaimed by an international coalition of U.S., Iraqi and Kurdish forces. Even Russian and Iranian backed Syrian government forces; they took back cities that served as fallbacks for militants forced out of Iraq. Nevertheless, the battles for Mosul and Raqqa left much of both cities destroyed and the campaigns were stained with civilian and military deaths. The Mosul offensive in June displaced about 270,000 residents, the number increasing with each further month of fighting. Even now, with the Islamic State's major power centers broken, there are still thousands of militants left in the region, and more may join the cause. Insurgencies are notoriously difficult to eradicate because, unlike more conventional enemies, the center of the movement is not a leader or geographic location. Instead, it is an idea that guides the actions of people unbound by physical separation.

The most striking example of their continued power, even in retreat, came last Sunday when Syrian government forces drove IS out of Qaryayn. When 50 militants overran the

Although it will be harder for them to terrorize Syrian and Iraqi citizens, having relinquished control over most cities, an insurgency poses an even greater challenge.

town last month, they immediately began their revenge killings. In the following weeks, IS beheaded or shot 70 civilians, 120 by some counts, dumping a large number of the bodies in ditches or open spaces.

The Islamic State began as an offshoot of



Courtesy of Google

al Qaeda until the latter organization's downfall by 2014. In June of the same year, IS controlled

Anyone that identifies with the anti-Western sentiment or has been adversely affected by the presence of the United States in their country need only drive a car or own a knife, proven again and again by the terror attacks across Europe

more than 50 locations and grew that number to over 127, taking hold of large expanses in both Syria and Iraq. This widespread dominance proved to be the key to sustaining the self-dubbed caliphate. They created revenue from extorting civilians, kidnapping, taxes and access to oil fields and dams. Their fighting was sustained by seizing military bases and checkpoints.

Now that its property has severely decreased, IS will have to return to its original state of insurgency. Although it will be harder for them to terrorize Syrian and Iraqi citizens, having relinquished control over most cities,

an insurgency poses an even greater challenge.

The power of insurgent movements like IS lies in their ability to constantly adapt. Leaders or soldiers may be eliminated by military force, but as long as the driving idea remains appealing to even one person, the harm is not over. IS may have lost the majority of its revenue, but there is no end to the possible damage when you consider the group as a body committed to a goal rather than a ruler or other tangible goal. Anyone that identifies with the anti-Western sentiment or has been adversely affected by the presence of the United States in their country need only drive a car or own a knife, proven again and again by the terror attacks across Europe. IS then gets to claim the civilian death count without expending any effort or losing anything at all. Their soldiers are, after all, completely interchangeable.

In spite of the international coalition's success on the battlefield, the IS networks to create this kind of damage aren't disrupted. The militants can still gain popular support, often using the United States' intervention to incite further violence. Their clever use of social media also makes it nearly impossible to stop their message from spreading, especially in societies that value freedom and privacy rights, the same societies against which IS wages war. Even barbaric acts like beheadings give the group credibility and

are widely covered by the media.

If American troops remain in the Middle East, where they have been training government forces and remained a constant presence for the past 16 years, they will be targeted and used to radicalize others. American airstrikes in particular galvanize local opposition. The United States has been heavily criticized for the civilian death toll and its support of other countries, such as Saudi Arabia, which commit war crimes. One instance stands out in particular: when Saudi Arabia bombed a funeral in Sana'a, Yemen, the White House did nothing to condemn the action.

The nature of insurgency leaves any opposing country with limited options. The most

The nature of insurgency leaves any opposing country with limited options.

secure one is to eliminate the motivation to follow IS ideals. As a rule, people tend to value their own life and won't throw it away unless their only perceived course of action is to follow these types of extremist terrorist groups. Take away the grievance and you take away the need for revenge. Of course, it is extremely hard to shift the culture that drastically, especially given the United States' horrible track record in the Middle East. The more realistic option, then, is to mitigate the risk such an insurgency poses. In the United States, where a culture shift is easier to create, the government must build a society that welcomes everyone in it, rather than opening up the possibility of radicalization. Abroad, the government can't expect that throwing more fire and manpower at the problem will make it go away. But if IS can no longer fund itself, can no longer disseminate its twisted message and is shown to have no foothold in the minds of the people, it is limited to spreading hatred rather than acting on its extremist ideology. It would seem that the only way to protect from insurgency is not to eliminate it, because ideas always find a foothold, but to manage it effectively.

The Exonian

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Myanmar: The Path Forward



WORLD
COMPASS

Mark Blekherman
Senior Columnist

In his November 2012 trip to Myanmar, former President Barack Obama galvanized Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi as "an icon of democracy who has inspired people not just in this country but around the world." Long infamous for its military dictatorships and Chinese partnerships, Myanmar finally embraced the West—or so it seemed—when it adopted a new constitution in 2008 and carried out a peaceful transition of power in 2011. Unfortunately, new political institutions cannot expunge the remnants of five decades of military rule, let alone alleviate the overbearing influence of generals, who still occupy key public posts. To de-escalate the Rohingya genocide, ensure the sustainability of the Burmese government, and salvage her international image, Aung San Suu Kyi—the leader of the ruling party, the National League for Democracy—will need to tame the

In addition to the narrow scope of the Agreement, the flimsiness of previous ceasefires suggests that the underlying causes of ethnic violence have yet to be addressed.

military.

During the presidency of Thein Sein, the Burmese government inaugurated a peace process between the Tatmadaw (the Armed Forces of Myanmar) and ethnic armed organizations, non-state militias that recruit from local communities. In 2015, the Tatmadaw and eight active militias signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, calling for more dialogue between the two parties. Although the Agreement is a step towards reconciliation, the international community has no reason to be hopeful. For one, some of the largest ethnic organizations in Myanmar did not sign the Agreement. One of these groups is the Arakan Army, which instigated clashes between the Rohingya Mus-



Courtesy of Google

lims and the Burmese security forces, and later blamed the conflict on "save Bengali Muslim terrorists."

In addition to the narrow scope of the Agreement, the flimsiness of previous ceasefires suggests that the underlying causes of ethnic violence have yet to be addressed. In the 1990s, the government signed up to twenty agreements with a plethora of ethnic rebel groups, many of which ignored the terms of the ceasefires and continued their armed insurgencies. Even when the ceasefires succeeded in establishing peace, local populations approached them with incredulity; instead of giving minorities more representation in the national government, Burmese leaders co-opted and bribed ethnic groups in exchange for an unreliable peace.

To achieve a lasting peace, Aung San Suu Kyi will need to disarm all ethnic organizations while simultaneously giving them a greater voice in the legislature. Militant groups grow illicit crops and sell them abroad in order to finance their weapons and pay their soldiers. Chinese companies—the biggest clientele for the Burmese drug industry—encourage ethnic groups to produce opium and amphetamines. Aung San Suu Kyi should negotiate with Chinese leaders and ensure that foreign entities cease to condone ethnic warfare. Unless the government destroys its war economy, Myanmar's ethnic groups will continue to exploit the black market.

Marginalized minorities turn to smuggling, drug trade and ammunition because they have no way of expressing their grievances in government bodies. The 2008 Constitution gives army officers a quarter of the seats in Parliament and allows the military to monopolize the gov-

ernment through the National Defense and Security Council, which is Myanmar's supreme authority. More shockingly, the 2008 Constitution—the same one that was hailed for its progressive ideals—offers impunity to military officials that commit sexual violations, submit their soldiers to forced labor, and recruit children into their armies. It is precisely this disdain for the rule of law that precipitated the Rohingya genocide, and this blind trust in the military that prevents Aung San Suu Kyi from sympathizing with the other side.

A permanent solution to the crisis would not only require humani-

To achieve a lasting peace, Aung San Suu Kyi will need to disarm all ethnic organizations while simultaneously giving them a greater voice in the legislature.

tarian aid, but also an overhaul of the Burmese constitution. Citizenship should be granted to all long-standing Burmese residents, and the military should not reserve seats in the bicameral legislature. Civilian participation in government should be encouraged, not stigmatized, and US aid should be conditional on the integration of the Rohingya into Burmese society, more particularly on their ascension to legal status. When Trump visits Asia in two weeks, he must depart from his predecessor's legacy and clarify that "partial democracies" are not democracies, and should not be treated as such by Western leaders. But he will also need to play a constructive role, offering the US's support in curbing the crisis in exchange for democratic reforms in the future.

What's Next in the World of Language?

Mai Hoang '20
Columnist

Why do we speak so many languages? A seemingly redundant question, yet the answer is not so obvious. According to the Bible, every human living on Earth used to be able to understand each other, until the day they decided to construct the tower of Babel, a device to "reach the heavens," thus eliciting the wrath of God. Linguistic diversity is the Lord's punishment sent to humans so that we can no longer speak to those outside of our small subgroups. Whether one has faith in this origin myth or not, it is worth noticing that the general view, held by academics and the public alike, is that modern languages can be traced to some ancestral "common tongue," which through time broke down into languages that became more and more differentiated as people migrated to different habitats, led unique lifestyles and ceased coming into contact with other groups.

In fact, according to many linguists, there were fourteen to sixteen of such "parent languages," which branched out into the 5000 plus languages that we see today. Depending on how one defines "the largest family"—by the number of languages originating from it or the number of current speakers—the Proto Niger-Congo, with 1,538 languages, or the Proto Indo-European, with more than two billion speakers, would take the top spot. It is interesting to note how geography might have influenced the breaking up of languages: the Niger-Congo family has three times the number of languages as the Indo-European, yet the number of speakers is only one-fourth that of the latter.

Yet with the advance of the industrial age, we have been seeing what almost looks like the reverse of this language diversification process. Of course, there are still new languages and dialects being created across the globe, and even the individual vernacular tongues that are

in existence right now have shown no signs of ceasing to evolve. However, the breaking off of languages into smaller subgroups is less common, as the current social mobility means that mountains, rivers and deserts are no longer barriers significant enough to isolate sections of the population for a long time, giving rise to distinct languages or even just dialects. The most recently-created languages—Afrikaans, South Africa's national melange of Dutch, German, English, Portuguese, French, Bantu, Khoisan and Malay, Light Warlpiri, a pidgin of English and the Warlpiri indigenous tongue, and the notorious, "man-made" Esperanto, are all products of combination, rather than differentiation. To facilitate cross-cultural communication, whether it be in discomfiting situations where colonists force their presence upon once peacefully isolated tribes, or where trade brings people of different nationalities together in a common space, modern languages follow an organic trajectory of merging together, taking some elements from each original tongue.

The artificially-created Esperanto is a particularly interesting case. The brainchild of Ludovik Zamenhof, a Polish Jew with the dream of engineering world peace, it is officially the most popular constructed language, with 2000 native speakers in 120 different countries. Zamenhof was inspired to create a "universal language" from his childhood experiences growing up in a community which "consisted of four diverse elements: Russians, Poles, Germans and Jews," as he later wrote in a letter to a friend. Attributing all of the local hostilities to a lack of understanding between the different groups, he spent the rest of his life working on Esperanto. Considering Zamenhof's lofty aim of building a language to be spoken by all humans across the globe, Esperanto is incredibly limited in the array of languages it incorporates, employing the conventional letters of the Latin alphabet, it has a vocabulary that essentially mirrors that of a Romance language, with some hints

of Germanic tongue and a Slavic phonology. Its creator boasted that "the most uneducated man could learn this language in a week;" he was right, as long as the learner was European.

Even if Esperanto had truly managed to draw elements from the representatives of all fourteen language families, the chances that a product constructed by a single individual would ever be embraced by the thousands of different cultures in the world are exceedingly slim. Engineering a language to "unite all peoples" is a nice thought experiment, but bound to fail in real life. For mixing languages together like assembling legos inevitably takes away from the beautiful complexity of each, a complexity that arises from centuries of culture and history; even the organically created pidgin tongues, no matter how advanced their lexicon, will always be deemed inferior to the original languages they draw from.

So, at least for the foreseeable future, us humans will hold on to different ways of indicating earth, sky, sun, and completely confound each other. However, as globalization continues to spread, the needs for a simple means of communication between peoples of different nationalities is not likely to go away. Whether this will lead to a gradual "convergence of language," as different dialects become standardized, and linguistic subgroups merge back into something reminiscent of the proto-languages they originated from, remains to be seen, perhaps by generations far succeeding ours. What is more likely to happen though, indeed what is already happening at a dizzying pace at the present moment, is that one dominant language, one mainstream tongue will grow in its role as the global lingua franca, and slowly command all peoples, no matter their native tongue, to master its usage if they desire a chance to be heard, a chance for advancement in all pursuits, be they commercial or academic.

I have never felt this truth more saliently than while looking up words in the dictionary to complete my op-ed.

Combating Sexual Assault at Exeter

Andrea So '20
Columnist

It was recently revealed that Harvey Weinstein, Hollywood movie producer and mogul, had sexually harassed and assaulted a number of women over the course of decades. He is not the only influential person to make headlines regarding sexual misconduct, as Amazon studio head Roy Price was also recently placed on leave due to accusations of harassment.

Although both cases are extremely serious and need to be fully addressed, one particular aspect of Weinstein's case stands out to me—the people around him had known what was happening for years, and no one had ever chosen to speak about it until now. Famed director Quentin Tarantino, in his own words, "knew enough" of the abuse Weinstein inflicted on women to put a stop to it, but instead he did nothing. Tarantino only admitted to his inaction as accusations against Weinstein came to light. Actor Matt Damon tried to absolve himself of any blame by saying that he never personally witnessed any abuse from Weinstein, but he later backtracked and admitted to knowing that Weinstein had harassed actress Gwyneth Paltrow. Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep, both deeply connected actors, also initially denied any knowledge whatsoever of Weinstein's sexual misconduct.

Some aspects of this scandal remind me of Exeter. Even though the sexual assault allegations of 2016 have all but dissipated, are they really as distant from us as we think they are? That doesn't seem to be the case, at least when it comes to the general attitude and culture that allowed those incidents of sexual misconduct to happen. I have heard guys referring to girls in all the sexist slurs known and witnessed countless examples of mansplaining around the Harkness table.

Another poignant example that we all know of

Girls can also be, and are, guilty of perpetuating this culture of normalized casual sexism and a lack of consequences.

is in the ALES video, where a girl was accidentally added to the group chat of a boys' dorm and witnessed the people in it talking about her in a repulsively racist and sexist way. Although that happened a while ago, there is no way for us to find out the difference in how people act in private settings and the language that they choose to use around a Harkness table versus with their friends where no one can hear them.

Girls can also be, and are, guilty of perpetuating this culture of normalized casual sexism and a lack of consequences. Although usually they are not the ones who speak or act in that manner, we still can't let those actions slide or slut-shame other girls behind their backs. I know that I definitely have been guilty of this as well, of not speaking up against a casually sexist joke or act when it was easier for me to laugh along and not say anything. The worst thing we can do is to create and maintain a culture of silence, which allows sexist and sexually violent acts to be repeated over and over again without consequence.

Let's not pretend as though the culture doesn't exist. If we are quick to separate ourselves from people like Harvey Weinstein and the people who knew about his abuse of women while doing nothing, then we will never be able to solve our own problems. We still have a lot of work to do, and it can only progress when all of us voice out about the everyday incidents of sexism and sexual misconduct that we witness and experience, no matter how big or small. By remaining silent, we contribute to the normalization of harassment and assault.

Want to have your voice heard?

Submit a piece to the Opinions section of *The Exonian!*

Contact exonian@gmail.com

Send Letters to the Editor to the same address.

The Search for Stability in the Western World

Shaan Bhandarkar '19
Guest Contributor

Externally, society seems to be growing at unprecedented rates. Technology and medicine have advanced at exciting rates. Still, Mr. Ross Douthat, the conservative *New York Times* columnist who visited us last week, argues that our society, at least internally, has essentially stagnated. From Hollywood practices to religion, he sees a common thread between earlier periods of American history and our current situation. But has Western society really stagnated?

The heart of "Western" society seems to have evolved from more hierarchical-based systems like monarchy to democracies, all in the hope for an elusive social "stability."

Stagnation and stability are very similar terms, but their connotations often differ. The heart of "Western" society seems to have evolved from more hierarchical-based systems like monarchy to democracies, all in the hope for an elusive social "stability." However, as we constantly compare our political advancements to our scientific advancements, "stagnation" comes off as undesirable. The term outlining this shift of mindsets, which Mr. Douthat used in both his Monday evening talk and his Tuesday Assembly talk, was "nostalgic futurism." There's an almost ironic idea that to move forward, we have to return to a moment of the past, as embodied in the appeal behind Trump's renowned slogan, "Make America Great Again." As many were quick to point out, this idea of "great" is very subjective and the whole notion is ambiguous as we don't even know which part of the past to return to. Mr. Douthat notes that President Trump's tax reforms are tentatively reminiscent of Reagan's. But, the appeal itself

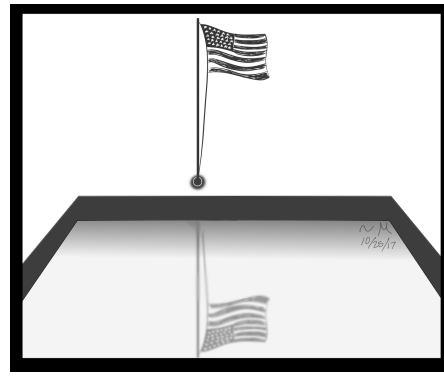
does clearly bolster the hypothesis that we've found ourselves in a near-perpetual loop of recycling cultural experiences. Novel cultural shakeups, like the Civil Rights Movement and the Women's Rights Movement, usually respond to a perceived obstacle of growth.

The only problem is now, as racial issues resurface in the 21st Century, we've exhausted tangible ways to compromise and change. Those previous cultural movements entailed much clearer objectives and specific visions of which laws to make or further impact. As a result, we were able to develop the 19th and 24th amendments. However, the problem is more internal now, deeply rooted in each of our own personal biases. Overall society seems like the quintessential "stability" expected and envisioned in "Western" society, but major debates are still to be had. The big question is, as Mr. Douthat poses, whether these new cultural movements like Black Lives Matter are indicative of some new trend

The only problem is now, as racial issues resurface in the 21st Century, we've exhausted tangible ways to compromise and change.

that would affect the current stagnation we see. Mr. Douthat hypothesizes that novel immigration patterns in Europe are greatly impacting cultural policies. At the Monday evening talk, one local additionally raised the question of our environmental situation. Our current rates of consumption do insinuate a larger, existential crisis in terms of environmental sustainability. President Trump's administration has time and time again expressed skepticism towards using terms such as "climate change." As the Exeter local worried about, such ignorance might not bode well for our society as a whole and could present a shake-up in Western stagnation.

So, Western society does seem to be in some sort of dynamic equilibrium, centered around the hope of sta-



bility from its inception. But, it's certainly hard to definitively say that the Western society has stagnated. Since we can't even pinpoint the beginning or the end of "Western" society, we can't be sure that we're recycling old ideas. Since I was born in 2001, I'll concede that I don't have a complete sense of another era to compare to 2017. I've seen stagnation in a more specific time range. When I read up on the NCAA's new sexual policy enforced as of last summer, I noticed how the rhetoric essentially matches the message given in a policy made half a decade ago. Our society's conversations on cultural and racial diversity have become less clearly defined and haven't been tethered to concrete objectives. Dialogue, in general, just seems to be harder, so I personally see stagnation in light of the obstacles we face in social change. Mr. Douthat also provides a valid argument of pointing out movements from the 60s and 80s such as the Sexual Revolution as mirroring those we have today. We can even debate the overall success of such momentous changes in cultural outlooks, which begs the question of why "nostalgic futurism" is so appealing. It seems like a declin-

ist attitude to say that Western society has just "stagnated" and is inherently looking to the past for inspiration, but the appeal behind Trump's slogan is intriguing. The development of re-

The development of recent cultural battles like the national anthem debate seems to be indicative of how President Trump's agenda is backing us into, as Mr. Douthat puts it, the "very stagnation he campaigned against."

cent cultural battles like the national anthem debate seems to be indicative of how President Trump's agenda is backing us into, as Mr. Douthat puts it, the "very stagnation he campaigned against." I agree with Mr. Douthat that our society is recycling old ideas and is technically "stagnating," but there is some change, albeit predictable, that directs our past national conversations from the external aspects of society on the level of federal laws to the internal aspects of our society as dependent on each individual constituting it.

The Town of Exeter: Untapped Opportunities

Bianca Beck '19
Columnist

The Exeter bubble may be something we joke around about, but it truly does affect our culture on campus. The bubble creates a huge disconnect between us and the outside world. Exonians are so busy and wrapped up in our own lives—from getting up the courage to ask your lab partner to EP, to making sure that you go to that study session for your math test—that we forget about what is happening outside of PEA. Exonians always look inwards but never out. It turns out, that not only are we disconnected from the world, but also from the town a stone throw away from us, as well.

And that should change. We keep talking about how many great opportunities we have at PEA; the whale skeleton hanging from the

ceiling of the science center is a clear embodiment of this. We are so caught up in how amazing the many opportunities here are, that we forget about the opportunities that are offered outside of PEA. And, ironically, instead of adding to the already impressive list PEA offers, students stay oblivious to the remarkable events and opportunities that pop up outside our Exeter bubble.

For instance, on September 26, the Water Street Bookstore hosted the annual Banned Books Night. English Instructor Courtney Marshall and Elliot Stork '18, along with other readers, read from books they enjoy that have been challenged or even banned. They read from the likes of *Carrie* by Stephen King, "Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich" by Shel Silverstein, and *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle. It was a fantastic night, but nobody at PEA knew that it was happening. Barely any Exonians showed up to show their support for the cause.

On top of that, just on Sunday, there was a walk for breast cancer sponsored by the American Cancer Society. There were several hundred people there, and some military personnel even came to show their support. The walk started with a ceremony in front of Lincoln Street School, where students sang the national anthem and military men marched and saluted the flag. There were tents with food and water, and everyone was wearing pink to bring awareness to breast cancer. After the ceremony, everyone walked along a designated route, trudging through town and sometimes even on campus. It was a huge event, some of which even took place on campus, but very few knew about it. It wasn't publicized at PEA; we didn't get an email about it, or an announcement at Assembly, or hear about it from our teachers. It wasn't talked about at all. As a result, not more than fifteen Exonians showed up to the walk, out of

over the one thousand students here.

As a school, we could have and should have shown solidarity. There were a few Exonians at the American Cancer Society walk and the Banned Books event, but there could have been so many more if PEA had only announced it. They don't even have to make a fuss about it; we can simply add it as an option to the list of activities one can do over the weekend in the email Ms. McGahee sends out every week. It's a change in the way things are done that's beneficial to students, and with a quick and attainable solution. Why not take advantage of the opportunities that the town of Exeter has to get involved in something you are passionate in? Not only would those opportunities add to the already incredible list of opportunities we already have here at PEA, but it would also help in creating a more well-rounded relationship between students and the town of Exeter.

Reflections on the Kurdish Referendum

Charlie Preston '21
Guest Contributor

As the Kurds begin to feel a greater sense of nationhood, the autonomy of Kurdistan has become more important to this ethnic population in the northern provinces of Iraq. After the devastating atrocities in the Iran-Iraq war, Kurdistan has become a successful region, rich in oil and productive in governmental functions.

Recently, the Kurdish Regional Government conducted a referendum asking whether the Kurdish people would like to be independent or not. Over 90 percent of Kurds voted for independence. The referendum was non-binding, and was only intended to be used as a talking point, when negotiating with the Iraqi Government.

Even though many have said that this "isn't the right time," I believe that the Kurds deserve independence, and they need it now. The Kurdish people have been suppressed by the Iraqi majority for long enough. They have also shown that they can form a competent government, displaying some of the freest elections that can be seen in the

region. The addition of Kurdistan may even help bring stability to the region over the long run.

During the Iran-Iraq war, the Kurds ended up siding with the Iranians against Saddam Hussein. Hussein responded with chemical weapons and the deaths of at least 50,000 people. Even though some reparations, particularly increased autonomy for Kurdistan, nothing can excuse this. For both countries to function without splitting, it would take a great deal of work. The reparations that Iraq can make will never wipe away the Kurdish national grief from that awful genocide. The differences between these two peoples are too major and too many to stay together.

From the beginning, it was made clear that the referendum was only a talking point for Iraqi-Kurdish negotiations and was, as aforementioned, non-binding. Baghdad's response to the referendum, unnecessary violence and threats show that whatever promises that Iraq can make will not be upheld. Cuts that run that deep cannot be healed.

Iraq is broken up into semi-autonomous regions, Kurdistan being one of them, each with control of a few provinces. With many exceptions, these regions are in charge on domestic affairs



Courtesy of Google

and the government in Baghdad oversees international affairs. The Kurdish Regional Government has shown that it can function well on its own, and although the international community has been making it hard, Kurdistan's relationships with the US and Russia make both good candidates for strong allies. The Kurds have even been able to send their own troops to fight against ISIS, the Peshmerga, which have been quite successful in their fight against the terrorist organization.

Also, with some criticisms, just as any government has, the national elections in Kurdistan have been some of the fairest in the region. The people vote directly for president; that's it. There is

very little evidence that elections are ever tampered with, so an independent Kurdistan would represent its people fairly and equally, which may help bring a wave of stability to the region.

Although the Iraqi military has complicated the situation, the Kurds still deserve their independence. The invasion of Kirkuk, threats from Ankara, and ISIS are all going to hurtles for the Kurds to jump over. It's going to be tough, but we can't make the Kurds wait any longer. The referendum may affect all of us, whether it's in the oil market or in the military, but our concerns aren't greater than the Kurdish concerns. Our oil prices are not more important than the lives of innocent Kurds.



ExonianHumor



Fun Facts about Exeter

By EMILY GREEN
Latin for "Pellicca"

It's October, which means that for the Exeter Admissions Department, tour season is in full swing. If you give a tour, or even see a tour, here are some fun "facts" about Exeter to tell those nervous parents with neck scarves and thirteen-year-olds in oversized suits.

- "Exeter" is Latin for "Harvard."
- Mr. Chen was once a world champion volleyball player. Teaching math is his hobby.
- Crying is weakness leaving the body. Exonians no longer have any weakness left in their reserves by senior year.
- Dean Cosgrove uses Pantene Pro-V conditioner to get those luscious curls.
- Getting a Classics Diploma is useful.
- Mock Trial is a respectable institution.
- When John Phillips founded Exeter, he did so to impress a beautiful, upper class woman, the daughter of a New Hampshire statesman. That's why "finis origine pendet" roughly translates to "finishing depends on how you start :)"
- Exeter has a population of 1 million people, it just doesn't look that way because it's spread out.
- Edward Cullen in Twilight was named after Edward Harkness.
- Mr. McConnell was actually a Civil War general. He time travelled to now to make sure we learn the mistakes of our nation's past. You can tell by his stature, and the blue of his Yale sweatshirt represents the blue of the Union's uniforms.
- The library has infinite floors. You will never reach the fourth floor—it doesn't exist. Where the fourth floor should be is a black hole that takes you twisting deep into the time-space continuum, never to escape your endless plight going up the stairs.
- We write all our papers in mobius strip format. Any other format is not good enough and therefore unacceptable, as of last week on Wednesday.
- We all wear wigs so the government doesn't know what our real hair looks like. I'm actually a ginger.
- Exeter, NH is the birthplace of John Cena, William Faulkner and Vladimir Putin.
- As opposed to by hamster wheel, all of Exeter is powered by intro fit kids on treadmills. #sustainable
- Nobody has ever seen Dean Mischke in person. She exists as a godly entity, residing above us benevolently.

Cilley Hall to Replace "C Funk" Assembly Cheer with Contented Moaning

By BILLY O'HANDLEY
Mhhhhm

This Tuesday, Cilley Hall proctors decided what the dorm would do whenever an assembly speaker says the words "Cilley Hall" and the result is as everyone expected: a loud, satisfied humming noise. "We wanted our Assembly Cheer to reflect the good name of Cilley, something that would show how much classier we are as a dorm than Webster or (shudder) Wentworth," said Taylor Walsh, the

proctor who came up with the idea of the entire dorm letting out a low moan every time they heard the word Cilley. "We brainstormed for a bit, then came to the conclusion that there would be no other way to capture the dorm's spirit but with a pleasurable sigh."

Other students in the dorm are upset about the idea of an aggressive mhhhhm being the dorm's cheer. One Senior who would like

to go nameless and edits the humor page said, "We could literally say anything. C Funk was a really fun idea, it even sounds like a team cheer. Just saying 'Cilley' or 'C Hall' or even doing nothing would be fine. But letting out an intense croon is just weird."

Hopefully, Cilley Hall resolves this issue soon. But if not, you might hear some contented moaning come assembly on Friday.

How to Get an A Squared in a Class

By LIZZIE MADAMIDOLA
Put No Effort into this Fantastic Article

Getting an A squared is a rare form of recognition you can get here at Exeter telling you that you are really smart, but most importantly, really good at not caring. But how does one get this acknowledgment? Well here are some tips you can do to get an A squared.

- Well first, you gotta be super duper uber smart. Getting into Exeter is not enough, you gotta be an internationally-renowned genius or something.
- Then during class, just sit and enjoy the view out the win-

dow. Pay no mind to the fierce arguments made by your struggling peers at the table. They shouldn't phase you. No, in fact they should remind you about how you didn't do your homework for next class, but that's okay, because you'll probably get by.

- Homework! More like Leaveittohelastminuteandthen copywhatisontheboardthenext daywork! In class, you retain what you learned and just use it for tests. Easy as pie! You ask no questions in class because your classmates are just always really clear when explaining things, so you are

all set to go!

- The final tip is not studying under any circumstance. If you don't study then you should be fine. But the key to this is to vocalize your lack of enthusiasm to the teacher, explaining that you didn't feel the need or frankly you got distracted watching the south side cat clean itself and wondering the advantages of ingesting your own filth. Hmmm... But anyway, vocalizing your lack of motivation to your teachers is important because it lets them know you don't care, which is good! It shows them you worked really hard to deserve your A squared.

5 Types of Preps

By ABBY ZHANG
Still a Prep

- The Fetus - Stands at about two feet tall and weighs a whopping 70 pounds! Looks exactly like that really stubborn kid who always hogged the swing during recess in 3rd grade. (Also keep an eye out for the vineyard-vines-wearing, forever-repeat sports recruit on the other end of the spectrum)
- Prep Posse" - You never knew a group of kids two years younger than the first Shrek movie could be so intimidating until you cut across the quad to avoid them on the paths one day. But it's okay because they won't stay friends for long.

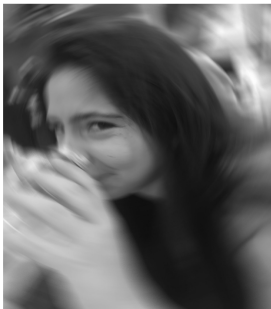
- The Overachiever - Most likely is one of the extremely ~qualified~ prep rep candidates (they were the student body president at their old school so they definitely know what they're doing, don't worry). Also constantly asks everyone the question, "what math are you in?" Secretly wishes they were in prep posse. Managed to sneak into the college fair.
- The Dazed and Confused - Always looks like they just woke up from a two year long nap and they've forgotten how the world operates. Gets dizzy from walking around campus in circles, try-

ing to find to Academy Building. Mistakes upperclassmen for preps. Introduces themselves as "a new prep." Doesn't understand what "pass-fail" means. Says "The Grill." Wears their lanyard to sleep. Has not yet successfully opened their PO box.

- Your Roommate who's a New Lower - Sat completely still in a chair for four hours while you unpacked your stuff on move in day. Once referred to Agora as "the circle place." I mean, if that doesn't sound like a prep, I don't know what does.

TFW You Really Should've Taken U.S. History as an Upper and Your Early App is Due in a Week

By THE HUMOR EDITORS
Lilicc Enthusiasts



Do you have COLLEGE AHHHHHHHHH?
Submit to the Humor Page.
Email exonianhumor@gmail.com.

Nightmare on Elm Street

By MAEGAN PAUL
Hungry

After a strenuous and physically challenging two hours of Prep Spaz, I went to Elm Street DHall for a nice breakfast. However, I was met with locked doors and I immediately began to feel the effects of hunger. Doesn't the Exeter website advertise that the dining halls are open from 7am to 7pm? Many other preps looked at each other in confusion and I asked the gods,

"Why me? Which sin am I being punished for now? Is this because of that one time I didn't like that Instagram post about loving God in 0.03 seconds?" Then I began to think about the other bad things I've done recently. Perhaps I should have joined an ESSO club instead of keeping up with my Snapchat streaks. Or maybe I shouldn't have eaten so much ice cream since I

have arrived at Exeter. I may never get to the bottom of this cruel punishment, but as I made my weary way back to my dorm someone pointed out that Wetherell was open and that as a vegan, I should prefer to go to the more vegan-friendly dining hall anyway. No, I will only eat at Elm because, like Kendrick Lamar, I got loyalty inside my DNA.

Best Date Spots

By AVA HARRINGTON
We Forgot this Article Existed

EP	That McDonald's that takes a mile to walk to	Hannafords
Meditation	A big tree on Swazey, climb it, keep going, never come back	A stall in the library basement
...Christian Fellowship	The Wheelwright dorm bathroom	That really sketchy alley in town
EJC?	Webster's "study" room	Quizbowl
Stillwells (order a large in the smallest cone possible, they won't get mad I promise)	^2 (the D comes later)	A Harkness table

Quote of the Week

"Either E&R shrunk my shorts, or I've gotten significantly thicker in the past week."
-Emily Green '18

We need friends. Add us on social media. @billyfromcilley, @green_beans or @senorblaise on Snapchat. @ced_blaise and @green2000 on Insta. DM us a funny joke or zesty meme. Or just DM us :)



Exonian News



Stacy Schiff Delivers Assembly on Salem Witch Trials

By GRACE CARROLL, YUNSEONG CHOI
and ROSE HOROWITZ
Staff Writers

"History is Snapchat, not Instagram. History is not the one directly staring you in the face." Speaking from the assembly stage last Friday, Stacy Schiff, a Pulitzer prize winning historical author, shared her experience and wisdom with students in the audience.

Schiff was introduced by her daughter, senior Josephine de La Bruyère, and spoke about her latest work, "The Witches," which detailed the infamous Salem Witch Trials of 1692.

"The whole idea of American exceptionalism begins in Salem, so everything points back to it. Here's a fresh piece of history that we've reduced to three meaningless words. So what are we really talking about when we talk about Salem?"

In "The Witches," Schiff aims to unlock the historical events around Salem, while giving life to its characters. "One reason to write about the events that year is that we see them as having involved a cast of starched, bleached characters that seem like stick figures. I wanted to put flesh on their bones, a difficult task, but also a rewarding one," Schiff said. "Suddenly personalities, class tensions, family strains, and politics that are nearly invisible at first glance begin to surface."

Schiff started the assembly by sharing Raymond Chandler's practical writing advice. "Lock yourself in a room. You can look out the window, you can stand on your head, but you have to respect two essentials. You don't have to write, but you aren't allowed to do anything else, because motions come to thoughts." She then confessed that she believes in an opposite school of thought, "the stray from your desk" school. "Motton creates thoughts. And thoughts, blessedly,



Schiff speaks at the Family Weekend assembly.

Gavin Hickey/The Exonian

come to us in words."

She then moved on to talking about her research, sharing an anecdote to illustrate the process of trial and error that producing a large work of literature requires. In one of the book's earlier drafts, Schiff had set the time that the "witch" Anne Foster took her flight at night, following popular belief about witches. However, she later stumbled upon a testimonial from Foster's granddaughter that said the "flight" took place at noon.

Textual evidence and other specific materials were also integral to her research. This included carvings and documents of the time, much of which she conducted through the Institute for Technology in the Advanced Studies of the Humanities (IATH) at the University of Virginia. History Instructor Kent McConnell was involved in the development of the database, one of the

most comprehensive resources about the Salem trials.

"Among other things, this project makes available most, if not all the primary source documents related to the court cases for the witchcraft trials," McConnell said. "Dr. Benjamin C. Ray (Professor of Religious Studies) and I spent many years of collaboration working with primary sources and mapping these sources so they are represented in a geographically accurate historic timeframe."

De La Bruyère mentioned her excitement on hearing her mom's assembly and how much she appreciates having her mother's historical expertise available as she studies similar subjects at Exeter. "She can answer really every question I ask her—whether it's about syntax or history or crafting a good argument," she said. "She's the smartest person I know; every conversation I

have with her makes me smarter. She pushes me to think critically, to argue convincingly, to read as much as I can. She's the best."

Other students had varying reactions to the assembly. Prep Beatrice Burack saw the talk as informative and engaging. She especially enjoyed hearing about Schiff's struggles and triumphs as a writer.

"I thought she gave really good insight in the crossroad between fiction and history," said upper Niko Amber. "It inspired me for my 333 and made me realize how important research is."

Others were not as entertained. "I thought the speaker had good information, but her presentation was a little boring and lacked emotion and passion," prep Carly Mae Buckner said.

Alongside the highly prestigious Pulitzer Prize, Schiff has also received prizes from the Guggenheim Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities for her book "Vera."

In 1995, Schiff was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in biography, the same category she won 5 years later, for her book "Saint-Exupéry: A Biography." Later, in 2008, she was invited to be a juror of the prize.

An alumni of Phillips Academy Andover, Schiff was a guest columnist for *The New York Times* prior to starting her career as a nonfiction author. Her other articles appeared in publications such as *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, and *The Washington Post*.

Schiff emphasized the importance of examining history from a critical and fresh perspective. "The past often reverberates loudest in what someone hesitated to say, or crossed out, in the letter he chose not to mail. The story is not about what happens at the center of the frame but in the bottom left corner: It's about the blurted words and the uncurated moments."

'Non Sibi Teens' Share Memes in New Facebook Group

By DON ASSAMONGKOL,
and BENJAMIN CAI
Staff Writers

School Facebook pages are not a new phenomenon. Recently, however, academic institutions across the country have seen an influx in meme pages, on which students can post and share memes, humorous images, videos or pieces of text relevant to everyday school life. This trend is exemplified by pages such as UC Berkeley's Facebook meme page, "UC Berkeley Memes for Edgy Teens," which boasts over 100,000 members. Students at the Academy have followed suit, forming their own page called "Exeter Memes for Non Sibi Teens" (EMNST). While most students see the page as a light-hearted outlet for student-generated humor, the creation of such groups raises questions around the risks of an anonymous platform for students to submit content.

EMNST was created over the summer by an anonymous admin account named "PEA Mims." The page currently has just over 1000 members. Content on the page depicts everyday Exonian struggles, such as assembly checks, as well as satirical reactions to school news, like the 2016-17 Student Council Elections. Students can choose to post directly to the public group, or submit content to be posted at the discretion of the admin.

Similar groups have existed in the past, such as "Bus Ride," which took on the same role of posting content and facilitating discussions. Harvard's decision to rescind at least ten acceptances this year for students who posted "obscene memes" in a private group, as reported by *The Harvard Crimson*, points to the potential for abuse within such meme platforms.

Upper San Michaels, however, saw Exeter's page as an opportunity for students to take a break from their strenuous schedules and enjoy some humorous memes. "I think it's just a place for people to spread good humor pertaining to the community. Exeter's already pretty stressful as is so this can actually be pretty good for the community," Michaels said.

Lower Nathan James expressed similar thoughts about the page, saying that Facebook pages like EMNST also allow students to vent about any nagging concerns, annoyances or issues they have with their lives in the form of memes. "I think with all the stress students can feel during the school year, this page can allow them to express some of their frustrations in a humorous way." Thus, the page allows students to be heard and sympathize with one another.

Part of the success of the page may be due to the fact that students can connect with each other through the memes posted on the page. "Understanding what makes people laugh and capitalizing upon that really lets people feel like they're an intri-

cate part of this community," senior Anzi DeBenedetto said. "Everyone likes to complain. You can't go a day on campus without hearing someone bragging about how little sleep they got or fishing for sympathy points with a bad grade. Making memes is probably one of the healthier ways to cope with school."

DeBenedetto further explained that in a school like Exeter, students may feel isolated or overworked due to the rigorous curriculum and schedule. Facebook pages like EMNST help strengthen the bonds between Exonians. "The rush of posting something and having it liked, shared or commented on, plays into our desire to connect with those surrounding us," he said.

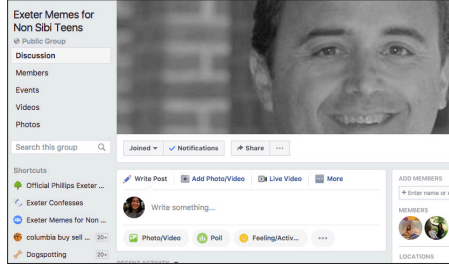
Since EMNST's creation, there have not been major concerns from students or alumni about the page. The moderator, PEA Mims, has the power to remove inappropriate content and track all submissions, and has the power to censor anonymously submitted content. "As it is, I think it's pretty harmless," DeBenedetto said. "There's a moderator (PEA Mims) so inappropriate content can be filtered out, and any cyber-bullying is prevented under the community's watchful eye."

Michaels shared similar beliefs, saying that students are actively taking responsibility for posting and viewing memes on the page. Michaels said, "If you want to post content, you have to put your name with it so I think that makes people more cautious." If a student wants to post a meme but does not want to necessarily be associated with it, they can also submit it to the PEA Mims Moderator.

Once the meme is posted, the other students viewing the meme are welcome to comment their opinions and whether or not it is appropriate. Thus, Michael said, "...in the case that that doesn't work out, we always have the community who can condemn such posts."

Senior Stuart Rucker also believed that the page provided an environment conducive to open and responsible content. Citing how the majority of posts are not anonymous, he said, "I don't think there is much potential for hearsay or bullying, or whatever Principal MacFarlane is worried about when there is a name linked to a post."

As a page run by students of the Academy, EMNST is subject to the Internet and Social Media Policies outlined in the E-book. This includes a clause about Bullying, Harassment and Hazing. Arthur Cosgrove, Dean of Residential Life, expressed concerns about the nature of the page. "In my experience, anonymous commentary that is directed towards individuals on social media is unpredictable and without any context or vehicle for conversation, has the potential to be misunderstood and have a negative effect on the community," he said. "If there is something happening on social



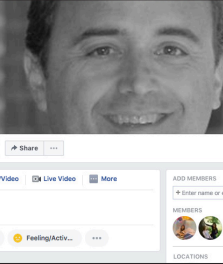
The home page of Exeter Memes for Non Sibi Teens.

media that is directly impacting our student body in a negative way, we have a responsibility to at least engage our community in a discussion about what is happening."

Director of Communications Robin Giampa acknowledged that there are many social media groups and pages for PEA students and alumni that aren't official or managed by PEA. From the communications perspective, Giampa said, "Some of those may be helpful platforms for dialogue on important issues, but there are others that can be less productive and may run contrary to building a healthy and respectful community." Giampa did not say which category Facebook pages like EMNST fall under. However, she did say, "Exeter students learn the value of dialogue and disagreement and listening and that's not always possible or effective to do online."

On the other hand, users in the EMNST Facebook page argue that memes help start conversations about serious topics such as politics and sexual assault. Jeffrey Drummond '68 said, "I think social media groups like Facebook groups and pages provide an outlet to spread information quickly to many people." While the memes posted on the page may not directly initiate solutions to issues brought up by students, they are broadcast to a large audience and often instigate debate in the comments section.

Drummond believed there are certainly instances in which the administration should step in to deal with a situation of bullying or discrimination, but otherwise believed that the page should be left to the realm of students. "We, the entire Exeter community, need to have an unrestrained flow of information so that issues can be criticized when they rightly deserve to be," he said. "If we don't have these outlets then administrators can do things unchecked. For example, I know that a significant part of the alumni community heard of the sexual harassment scandals through such platforms, and was able to participate in important discussions only because of these mediums."



Vamsi Gadde '17, former moderator of Bus Ride, says that these types of Facebook groups are an easy way for students to "Harkness" online. "I thought of it as a big Harkness Table where anyone could discuss whatever they found interesting," he said. "Topics changed all the time and included politics, morality, school issues or simple jokes."

In terms of maintaining the page, Gadde said that he and other moderators followed basic guidelines to ensure that posts were non-toxic. "It was a general forum for anyone to anonymously voice their opinion as long as I deemed it acceptable for the page, i.e. no bullying or targeting of a single person."

Gadde expressed that he ultimately supports these Facebook groups for the positive benefits that they bring. In response to whether or not Facebook groups should be continued, Gadde said, "Absolutely. It's fun for the community and excellent for discussion with such a large audience. I hope these groups continue at Exeter and beyond."

The current moderator for the group, account name PEA Mims, shared similar thoughts. "I don't believe Exeter Memes allows much room for offensive content, as most people post in the group under their real names," the user said. "Usually trouble comes from anonymity, and unlike Bus Ride or Yik Yak, most of the posts in Exeter Memes are not anonymous. Hence, I believe there is no need for administrative oversight, especially given the history of administration systematically killing fun."

For the most part, students appear to be supportive of Facebook groups like EMNST and Bus Ride and it certainly seems that they are here to stay. As of now, EMNST has not run into any major issues concerning the posts on the page and the administration has not had to step in or monitor the page. Whether or not EMNST will continue to remain a place where students can connect and humorously discuss issues will depend on the students.



The music ensemble A Far Cry performs with PEA orchestra in the Bowld.

Helena Chen/The Exonian

A Far Cry from Traditional

By MAI HOANG and
VERONICA CHOULGA
Staff Writers

October 21 marked the start of Phillips Exeter Music Department's Fall 2016 Concert Series. Ten minutes before the official start, the 200 seats of the Bowld had all been filled up with Exonians, faculty members and seniors from the Riverwoods Community, yet students were still rushing in from the main entrance, causing concert ushers to scramble to arrange two additional rows of chairs. Though it took place on a Friday before Saturday classes, A Far Cry's Music in Migration attracted a remarkable turnout after the group's preview during Assembly. According to Rohan Smith, Director of Exeter's Chamber Orchestra, more than four hundred people attended the event.

A Far Cry is a chamber orchestra hailing from Jamaica Plain, MA nominated for the 2015 Grammy Award in Best Chamber Music. This self-conducted group has performed in concert halls across the globe and currently serves as Chamber Orchestra in Residence at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. It is composed of 17 tight-knit members, each bringing something new to the group. A Far Cry's first albums, "Dreams and Prayers" and "Law of Mosaic," from their own in-house label, received critical acclaim from the *New Yorker's* Alex Ross.

The group has gone a long way since its formation in 2007, when the first Criers "went out to lunch one day and started brainstorming," as bass player Karl Doty recalls. "We wanted to do something which we could own, so we got together and just started rehearsing," he said. From the beginning, the group determined that every member would have an equal voice in all decision-making processes; any new member added to the group has to be unanimously approved by current Criers. Despite the fact that they do have a management structure, all of the bylaws and documentation, including the process of becoming

an incorporation and a non-profit, "was all done by the musicians."

The first item members of the group had to agree upon was choosing a suitable name for the ensemble. Staying away from "traditional" choices like "the Boston String," the founding members wanted a name that sounded similar to that of a band. "The concept of criers, there's something very visceral and human about it," Doty said. It turned out to be their final choice, despite not being the most popular one at first. A Far Cry performed their first concert in the First Church on Harvard's campus, then branched out to Brookline, Vermont, the West Coast and Europe for subsequent tours.

The group's special leadership structure allows each Crier to step up and take charge of different concert series. The quality of each concert is maintained by the absence of a conductor, a factor that usually surprises the audience. Prep Carly Mae Buckner, who played alongside A Far Cry as a bassist, said, "When you have a chamber orchestra without a conductor, it can be hard to stay together rhythmically and also stylistically." She was impressed that the group was able to listen to each other so well and maintain perfect rhythm throughout the performance.

The proposal to bring A Far Cry to campus was brought forth by part-time cello instructor Loewi Lin, also a member of the group himself. The concert series manager further recommended them to Chair of the Music Department Peter Schultz, who was intrigued by the group's concept and stylistic choices. "The themes of internationalism and fluidity and movement in the music fits the spirit of our school, it's something we want students to internalize especially now," he said.

While guest performers of the Concert Series often get involved with students through Masterclasses or rehearsal, an actual performance together is "not something that happens usually," according to Schultz. "It's a rare, special thing."

Rehearsals were a great learning experi-

ence for chamber orchestra members, who started working alongside individual Criers, cellist Rafael Popper-Keizer, Michael Unterman and violinist Sarah Darling, three weeks before the performance. "They came for three rehearsals in a row after sending us some music with notes on interpretation style," said Smith. "It was a very compact phase." Describing the learning curve of Chamber Orchestra members as "a combustion," Smith was amazed by their improvement in technique and style over the short period of time.

"A Far Cry's bass players were very helpful in showing me and Nosa different techniques for playing some of the harder parts in the piece," Buckner said. "In one movement, we had straight sixteenth notes and were supposed to be playing them very 'roughly,' the bass players taught us how to channel that tone so that we matched the rest of the orchestra and the mood of the piece." For senior Amanda Sherwood, the challenge was exploring a different musical style with her instrument, the cello. "Now, I definitely have a greater appreciation and understanding for baroque music and how difficult it is to replicate a baroque sound with a modern instrument," she said. Echoing these sentiments, lower Sophia Cho, also a cellist, said, "I'd have to say that rehearsing and performing with A Far Cry was one of the best experiences I've had at Exeter."

The Criers also had a memorable experience performing for and alongside Exeter students. "It's great to see how involved they are, you look into their eyes and see that they're genuinely into the music, and they're very present and focused," Doty said. He noted that while this level of attention may be a conventional occurrence at PEA, it is very rare amongst students of this age group. "The rehearsals went very well," he said.

Violinist Alex Fortes said that the connections created between players and the audience were the most important part of performing. "We all measure concerts in different ways but one thing that's important to us is that we're

connecting with other humans and I felt like we were doing that today, contextualizing [music] as different kinds of human movements, some happy, some not." Crier Robyn Bollinger also expressed her satisfaction with the group's performance. "I had a great experience working with students [...] With everything that had gone into tonight, it was very rewarding to finally do it," she said, adding that for her, the concert was a success.

The audience agreed. "It was really neat to see how a larger sized ensemble/orchestra operated without a conductor. That really stuck out to me because their attacks and cut-offs were all super clean," lower Jack Liu said. Lower Jasmine Liao also found a special connection with the piano concerto. "I really liked the second piece, where the pianist performed a concerto about her life [...] I've always wanted to be in the Symphony, but I can't because I don't play a string instrument, so I liked seeing the talent in Exeter," Liao said.

"It's a nice program because it has something old, Telemann, but also unusual, and a completely brand new piece was being heard for the first time in public tonight," Schultz said. Prep Christina Xiao also enjoyed the final piece particularly, because it was a collaboration between the Criers and Exeter students, while prep Serena West preferred the final Weinberg symphony, which incorporated many unconventional ways of using the instruments. "My favorite part was when the cellos did the slide with their note," she said. Liu agreed, saying, "I quite enjoyed the craziness of it all, it was pretty contemporary."

For Smith, the music is special because it "provokes and invites [the audience] to imagine the setting it was composed in," drawing parallels to current migrations and the movement of refugees. He elaborated, "Each piece came from a different world; it requires an active listener to fully appreciate the program. The calibre of members in a far cry is so high, and they play with such communicative conviction [...] It's an enveloping experience."

Movie Review: *Marshall*

By JOHANNA MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

Marshall was released on October 13. The film centers around the story of civil rights lawyer, Thurgood Marshall, and sheds light on the Supreme Court justice and his role in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The film addresses racism and reveals that the notion of "justice for all" is far from true when it comes to the black community in America. The film begins with a scene of Thurgood Marshall in 1941, running around the country handling cases where racial injustice are prevalent. He soon is called to take on a case in Connecticut, where a rich white woman falsely accuses her African-American driver, Joseph Spell, of raping her. The truth is later uncovered when Joseph confesses to having had consensual sex with her.

A racist judge forbids Marshall from arguing the case. As a result, Marshall seeks out a local attorney named Sam Friedman who's at first reluctant to help. Friedman unfortunately has no experience with criminal trials, which makes the case that much more difficult to win. The prosecutor, on the other hand, is an affluent and well-connected white man who knows the judge personally. Thus, due to white supremacy in the justice system, the odds are stacked against him. Yet, he remains driven despite numerous hardships. The film brilliantly illustrates the sacrifices that must be made in the pursuit of justice as it detours from the case to

follow Marshall's wife, Vivien, as she tragically faces a miscarriage alone because her husband is off fighting racial inequality.

The movie also does an excellent job conveying the prejudices that Marshall faced as an African-American and that Friedman faced as a first-generation Jewish man. Friedman's character development is quite inspiring because over the course of the movie, he becomes an advocate for the black community and develops a greater awareness of racism. Keeping in mind the best interest of his client, Friedman suggests pleading guilty to get Spell a better deal. However, he fails to comprehend how this plea would fit into the historical context of black America. In an emotional scene, Marshall explains how his great-grandfather was enslaved and fought hard to be free. If Spell pleads guilty and faces life in prison, Marshall explains, it would be like giving up the freedom that their ancestors fought so hard for. After all, as was true back then and is still true now, mass incarceration is the newest iteration of slavery.

Overall, the movie is educational and provides the audience with a look into the racial inequality of the '40s and '50s. Racism is portrayed in all its various forms throughout the film, manifesting as everything from physical aggressions to racial slurs to microaggressions. This film is also provocative in the sense that it forces the audience to contemplate today's justice system and hopefully realize some hard truths. It is sad to say, but racial injustice still exists today, even if it may not be as openly expressed as it was when Thurgood Marshall took on Joseph Spell's case.

Horoscopes

By LAUREN LEATHAM and
ALEXANDRA VAN DIJKUM
Columnists

"Horror"scopes: What should you be for Halloween, based on your zodiac?

Aries: Pirate — This is the perfect costume for you, Aries. You pay attention to the little details and are not afraid to choose a more quirky outfit. So grab your eye patch and tricorne hat and practice your best "ay, ay mates!"

Taurus: Giant Dinosaur — Go big or go home with your Halloween costume! That's your motto, Taurus. What's bigger than a giant inflatable dinosaur costume? Nothing. That's right.

Gemini: Slice of pizza — Perfect as an individual or group costume, a slice of pizza is ready to be the center of attention. Your overall likable character is perfectly akin to the cheesy pie, so why not dress like one for Halloween?

Cancer: Vampire — You're a true classic, Cancer, and it's clear to see that in your Halloween costume choice. So don the dark eye liner and break out the sharp teeth. You can't go wrong with this classic choice.

Leo: Cat — You don't like putting too much effort into your Halloween costume, Leo.

All you need for the perfect cat costume are some whiskers, ears and—if you're really feeling it—a tail. Keeping it simple is your forte, and the cat costume is a perfect way to do that.

Virgo: Hippy — Embrace your inner groovy for Halloween this year. Your happy-go-lucky vibe fits perfectly with this seventies-inspired costume.

Libra: Pineapple — You are sweet, just like a pineapple! Show off your non-sisi side and spread your kindness around the school. Reach out to people you don't know yet and enjoy your day. You still won't be very scary on Halloween night, but you'll still have a fun time.

Scorpio: Giant M&M — You bring the party, Scorpio. You're always fun to be around and never fail to make someone's day. Hang out with your friends this Halloween and eat lots of candy!

Sagittarius: Lumberjack — You've always been into the outdoors, so embrace it this Halloween, Sagittarius. Dig that flannel out of your closet and impress your friends with your outdoorsiness as you brave the cold, windy Halloween night.

Capricorn: Animal Onesie — The perfect costume for being comfortable while piling up on the candy. This way, if it's cold out, you will always be warm, and you will be ready for nap time any time.

StaffSpotlight

Cook Extraordinaire: Derek Jones

By ISABELLA AHMAD and ALAN XIE
Staff Writers

The breakfast line is especially long on Sunday mornings at the Elm Street Dining Hall. Members of the PEA community hold empty plates, and two by two, slide them on the counter towards three smoking pans. Derek C. Jones is the second cook at Elm Street Dining Hall. Most on campus recognize him as the man who makes delicious omelettes every Sunday morning during brunch. Jones has worked at the Academy for five and half years. Born in Queens, New York, he and his family moved to Brooklyn soon after, where he grew up before moving to New Hampshire twelve years ago.

In Brooklyn, Jones worked for Uber, as a part of their night transportation program, doing what they call "forklift work." He had a friend in New Hampshire, and after a weekend visit to the state, he decided he would like to stay. "I got tired of that lifestyle down there and I wanted something different," he said. However, Jones didn't move immediately. "I don't want to depend on anybody," he said, explaining that he refused to move unless a job was waiting for him in New Hampshire. "I like to pull my own weight," he added. Soon, the same company that he worked for in New York hired him in New Hampshire, and he made the move.



Summer Hua/The Exonian

Once at the Academy, Jones started out as a pot-washer in the dining halls. The former cooks often invited Jones to help them in the kitchen when he had free time. "I, loving to cook and wanting to be a cook anyway, did it," he said. Jones' supervisors recognized his skill and encouraged him to apply for an official position. He began as third cook, but he was soon promoted to second. "I've been the second cook ever since. I'd rather be a second cook; first cook is just too much headache," Jones joked. Jones works Wednesday through Sunday from 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. On

days that the Academy hosts important events, he has to begin at 5 a.m. and often leaves past 2:30 p.m. "Gotta stay 'till the job is done," he said. On top of cooking, Jones also arranges the food.

Jones has always wanted to be a cook. As a schoolboy, he looked up to chefs like Julia Child, in addition to Guy Fieri on the Food Network and Andrew Zimmerman on "Bizarre Foods." But it was his family, particularly his mother and aunts, who inspired him the most. As a child, he liked to watch them prepare meals, especially around Thanksgiving. As he grew older, his interest grew with

him, and he begged his family to teach him everything they knew. "Can I help chop the onions, can I help do this, can I help do that?" Jones asked, recalling how eagerly he asked his older family members to help in the kitchen.

His love of cooking is clearly evident at the Elm Street Dining Hall, where he works most days. Most notably, every Sunday, he makes his famous omelettes for hordes of hungry, tired and grateful kids. "He has a great attitude. Every Sunday morning, he's always there making omelettes, and I'm always excited to start the day," said lower Charles Venci. Upper Raj Das agreed and explained that Jones always brightens his day. "He just seems like such a great dude," said Das. "I always make sure to say hi to him whenever I see him, just because he is such a positive influence in my life."

Jones' co-workers can also attest to the positive impact he's had on the Academy. "I admire his work ethic, he is almost always on time and early," said staff member Dakota Treloar. "He's a good worker." Staff member Qiao Qiao Doane agreed and added, "He is fun and supportive of the team and is a really nice guy." Treloar recounted how Jones constantly goes above and beyond for Exonians, exemplifying PEAs' core value of non sibi: "He always goes out of his way to make food for the kids, even after his shift is over."

Lamont Poet Tyehimba Jess Performs Poems from *Olio*

By PAUL JAMES and MADISON KANG
Staff Writers

Flat cap atop his head, this year's fall 2017 Lamont Poet Tyehimba Jess ripped a page from a copy of his Pulitzer-Prize-winning poetry collection *Olio*. The audience watched as Jess folded and unfolded the sheet to shape a cylinder, a donut and finally a mobius strip to demonstrate the infinite dimensions of storytelling. His Wednesday night poetry reading in the Assembly Hall was met with an immediate standing ovation, with many students returning the next morning for his question-and-answer session and book-signing.

In addition to *Olio*, which chronicles the plight of first generation freed slaves, Jess is the author of *Leadbelly*, a poetry collection recounting the life of African-American folk musician William "Huddie" Ledbetter. The Library Journal and Black Issues Book Review named *Leadbelly* one of the "Best Poetry Books of 2005." His work has been featured in numerous anthologies and at the 2011 TedX Nashville Conference. He received the National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship in 2004, among other honors and fellowships. Jess has taught at the Julliard School, the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and is currently teaching English at the College of Staten Island in New York City.

Jess began his Wednesday night presentation by reading selections from *Leadbelly*, which many students had analyzed in their English classes prior to Jess's arrival on campus. He recounted stories from Ledbetter's biography through a series of personal poems ranging in form from lyrical, prose, boast and song, all reminiscent of the rhythm and dialect of Southern blues.

"There were a lot of myths about him [Leadbetter]. People were indulging in the myths but didn't seem to be very interested in the facts of his life," Jess said. "I wanted to get the facts as clear as I could get them, then read between the facts and look for the places where imagination could illuminate the issues that he was dealing with. I wanted to set the record not necessarily straight, but create something that explored Leadbelly's full humanity."

Students found Jess's lyrical deliverance of the poetry especially meaningful. Upper Niko Amber enjoyed his poem *Leadbelly sings to his #1 crew*, as Jess incorporated the lyrics of the southern folksong *Pick a Bale of Cotton* into the poem's stanzas, which reflected on his imprisonment and labor. "While I had read those exact same words in English class, it was a whole new experience listening to Tyehimba sing the words we had so passively glossed over," Amber said. "He was a captivating performer, engaging both our senses of sight and hearing for a more complete understanding of Leadbelly's life."



Paula Perez-Glassner/The Exonian

Jess also presented excerpts of *Olio*, a collection named after the theatrical term meaning a hodgepodge of varied theatrical acts. Fitting its namesake, Jess examined minstrel performers' transition from plantation slavery to a less overt servitude where, marked as entertainers, overburdened black women and men mocked themselves for the audience's merriment.

"Minstrel shows shrouded a lingering white ownership of the black body," Jess said. "I wanted *Olio* to give witness to the shows' effect on specific performers and humanize them beyond their particular talent. I wanted to breathe life into these two-dimensional black caricatures, make them three-dimensional characters."

Jess impressed students in attendance with his application of various literary forms and craft elements. Senior Ivy Tran praised Jess's two-sided concrete poem detailing the lives of conjoined minstrel twins Millie and Christine McCoy. One side of the poem reads as Millie's voice, while the other reads as Christine's voice, but Jess's adept arrangement of the poem enabled readers to read both sides of the poem as one cohesive narrative.

"I was amazed by his McCoy twins poem and the voicing and counter-voicing in it," Tran said. "The twins' double consciousness contributed to the complexity of the poem, while its multifaceted legibility maintained clarity."

At his question and answer session, Jess explained his writing process. Both *Olio* and *Leadbelly* are grounded in history, so Jess had to balance factual accuracy with artistry. "The form has to complement the context and the purpose of the poem. Each decision is made taking the other factors into account, aimed at creating the maximum impact of the poem," he said.

Jess also discussed his research

process, saying, "[*Leadbelly*] was more than seven years of writing and research. More time was spent on research. One of the driving factors in choosing each of [my subjects] was their obscurity and whether I could do a good job of representing them."

English Instructor William Perdomo, who has known Jess since the 1990s when they both read their poetry at the Guild Complex in Chicago, commended him for his unique merging of history and visionary verse. "He's a historian, a legislator, a fact checker, an innovator," Perdomo said. "His poetry fuses classic, formalist tendencies with a blues sensibility. He's a poet of the re-imagining."

ESSO SQUASH

By ALAN XIE and RYAN XIE
Staff Writer and Copy Editor

Exeter provides many amazing squash courts for Exonians, but other people also take advantage of these courts through ESSO Squash. By partaking in ESSO Squash, young children from the town of Exeter get the chance to learn and play squash, a relatively uncommon sport that many Exonians never played until coming to PEA.

Through ESSO Squash, kids in the greater Exeter area can learn how to play squash from an early age, enjoying the opportunity to exercise, have fun and develop a lifetime hobby.

However, it is difficult to learn squash without a teacher. The more coaching these children can receive, the more they will improve. ESSO Squash welcomes you to help them improve their squash skill and have some fun in the process.

It is very rewarding to be able to work with these kids and see their improvement over time. Many of them go from not knowing how to hold a racket to hitting multiple shots back and forth. ESSO Squash will allow you to connect with members of the town outside the PEA bubble and extend your reach into the community.

Even though many Exonians have never played squash, and therefore, may not think they could help these kids significantly, if you have a background in racket sports like tennis, badminton and racquetball, you could teach the kids a thing or two!

ESSO Squash meets every Sunday from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the squash courts in the Love Gym. Every meeting, we warm up, practice the stroke techniques, play some matches and have fun! We encourage you to join ESSO Squash and other ESSO clubs to help children and give back. If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Xie at rxie@exeter.edu or Alan Xie at axie@exeter.edu.

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SeniorSpotlight

Dedicated Dara

By ISABELLA AHMAD
and NIKITA THUMMALA
Staff Writers

Senior Dara Okeremi rows vigorously alongside her teammates. The cold spray from the oars and the wind in her face don't bother her; she is only thinking about the team, the sport and her will to continue. Okeremi is a model co-captain of the crew team. However, she doesn't stop there. On Tuesday nights, she can be found leading the club Transitions, where she inspires other female students of color with her hard work and optimistic attitude. She is the secretary of the senior class. She is a head tutor and proctor. Classmates know her as a force inside the classroom as well, where she possesses a grace and poise at the Harkness table.

Okeremi is truly a "citizen of the world" and has lived in a number of different countries. From the age of ten to thirteen, she lived in Malaysia, which she considers to be her favorite former home. "That place is just amazing," she said. "Our school field trips would be to Malaysian Islands; real casual." It was in Malaysia that Okeremi says she soaked up different cultures. "It was so diverse," she said. "Not many people were like me, so I could absorb their culture."

Okeremi has also lived in Nigeria, where her parents were born. Although her family recently moved back to the United States, she explained that her time spent in Nigeria will always hold an important place in her life. "It was easier for me to keep in touch with my roots there," she said. "Now, I can cook Jollof rice, plantains and efolegusi (a Nigerian vegetable soup)."

In order to continue to keep in touch with her culture, she founded Exeter's African Student Association, a new affinity group that holds discussions and cooks as a group. She also brings her culture to the Exeter community through her lively writing. Instructor of English Duncan Holcomb remembered Okeremi's Reporter-At-Large (RAL) piece. "She has a natural honesty and good humor and empathy that comes through in her writing as well as in life. Dara wrote a wonderful RAL in my class about a hairdresser she used to visit in Nigeria," Holcomb said. "She submitted it for a prize, and it got first place!"



Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

Okeremi is a huge advocate for people of color on campus. In addition to African Student Association, she is the co-head of Transitions, an affinity group for women of color. "We foster a very safe space where anyone can say whatever they mean. I feel like that is very important at Exeter, with my minority group," she said. As co-head, she works to extend the connections between members of minority groups at different New England boarding schools. The club also has many bonding nights, such as spa nights or parties. Currently, they are organizing a meeting with Exeter's Young Brothers Society, an affinity group for men of color. Okeremi uses the club to provide a sheltered place for women of color on campus to discuss different topics affecting them or the world.

Okeremi also is a head peer tutor. "I love peer tutoring," she said. When she arrived at Exeter as a new lower, the supportive environment at peer tutoring drew her to join. "I came every Wednesday to help other people, and other people would help me. It's a give-and-take community," she said. As a lower, she always looked up to the head peer tutors that would help her. In addition, she explained that even the tutors are getting something when they contribute to a struggling student. "To actually know something, you have to be able to explain it to someone. When you're helping someone else, you're also helping yourself," she said. But most of

all, what brings Okeremi to join clubs is her fun-loving personality. She doesn't do anything unless she believes it to be fun. "At peer tutoring, we're sometimes loud," she jokes. "But it makes work more enjoyable."

Perhaps, Okeremi's most prominent extracurricular interest is rowing. However, when she came to Exeter, her main sport was basketball. She was the junior varsity basketball captain, and a friend on the team persuaded her to start rowing. "I started crew in my lower spring. I was on novice, and it was a really fun time," she said. "I just kept doing it, and now I'm here." Okeremi loves the community that the team has built. Crew coach and Instructor of Classical Languages Sally Morris commented on Okeremi's strong leadership. "She sees the team as 'one big boat,' rather than six separate boats, and she includes the entire team in her leadership model," Morris said.

Okeremi explained that, though incredibly taxing physically, crew is really more of a challenge mentally. "You have this hidden resilience inside of you, that 'I can do this!'" she said. Her mental discipline carries over to basketball as well. Instructor of Religion Russel Weatherspoon, who coaches the junior varsity basketball team, has noticed Okeremi's drive on the basketball court. "No one can compete with her," Weatherspoon said. "She remains undeterred, regardless of how challenging the situation."

As a proctor in her dorm, Dunbar Hall, Okeremi loves to spend quality time with her dorm-mates. "We are such an amazing dorm," she said. "I feel like everyone is just so close. You can go to anyone's room if you need anything." She especially loves being a proctor in the dorm, as it allows her to form deeper connections with the Dunbar girls and help bridge the gap between students and faculty.

Okeremi's life at Exeter would not be complete without her wide circle of friends. Many remarked on the positivity that she spreads. Upper and friend Isadora Kron reminisced on getting to know Okeremi when the two were new students. "I've known Dara since my prep year when we played JV basketball together. It was really easy to become friends with her because she is super outgoing and kind," said Kron, calling Okeremi a "gift to Exeter." Senior Grace Gasper, who first met Okeremi when living next door to her in Dunbar Hall, also reflected on Okeremi's kind heart. "The first thing I noticed about Dara is that she is one of the nicest people I've ever met. I was a little caught off guard because I couldn't understand how someone could always be that happy. Even in the midst of senior fall, she's still always smiling when I see her," Gasper said. Although Gasper and Okeremi have different interests, they still have a lot to talk about. "We're from completely different places, play different sports and do different extracurriculars, but rather than that being a gap between us it just gives us more to talk about."

Okeremi excels in the academic sphere as well, and she consistently signs up for some of the toughest classes at Exeter, even winning some prizes. Her passion for biology has made the biology section of the science building one of her favorite places on campus. In the future, she hopes to be a researcher that contributes to the discovery of a vaccine for malaria. However, what makes Okeremi a truly exemplary Exonian cannot be summed-up in a grade or award: it lies in her innate ability for gentle leadership. Weatherspoon put it best. "Though humble, understated and comparatively soft spoken, she rallies her teammates," he said. "What's not to admire?"

ALBUM REVIEW: VILLAINS

★★★★

By ALAN WU
Staff Writer

In the day and age of the Internet, when music is more widespread and accessible than ever, the world of rock has experienced an almost contradictory increase in diversity and homogeneity. Everyone's pulling from a larger library of influences, so much so that everything becomes one big blur. This blur is not a new sound but the same cursory attempt to make something idiosyncratic. On the complete opposite side of the spectrum are the rock purist bozos, who believe that repeating the same distorted riff over and over again is "keeping it real." Unfortunately, it's these guys, the Foo Fighters and Royal Bloods of the industry, that get praise from the likes of Jimmy Page. If these are the bands at the forefront of mainstream rock, then maybe it is time to put down the axe and call it a day.

Enter Josh Homme, part rock guitar genius, part all-American badass and the mastermind behind the Californian desert rock band Queens of the Stone Age. For lack of a better term, Homme is a bona-fide rock star, refraining from the introverted pretensions of indie rock front-men and the relentless positivity of dad rockers, who is unabashedly cocky and charismatic without being a total cornball. Having started his career at the ripe age of fourteen, the musical uniqueness of Homme's guitar playing almost seems second nature to him and his place of origin, namely Palm Desert, California and its stoner rock scene. Beginning as guitarist for stoner rock pioneer band Kyuss, Homme then rose out of the band's demise to create Queens of the Stone Age, one of this generation's finest rock offerings. In the early 2000s, with records like *Rated R* and *Songs for the Deaf*, Queens developed an impeccable synthesis of catchy hooks and melodies with hard-hitting riffs and a pummeling rhythm section. As the band

progressed through its various different lineups, they began to deviate from desert rock, instead opting for robot dance rock on 2007's *Era Vulgaris* and moody vampiric hard rock on 2013's *Like Clockwork*, two of the band's most distinctive and accomplished records. Even through these changes, Homme's thick, tight, unique desert rock guitar tone and indelible musical instincts have remained intact. This stands true on their newest album *Villains*, which sees them collaborating with producer Mark Ronson, the pop stalwart known primarily for his work with Amy Winehouse and "Uptown Funk."

The news of Ronson's presence on *Villains* sent a collective shock through the rock music world with many doubting Homme's intentions and the album's quality. I never shared these concerns. If one were to actually pay attention to Queens' music, it is very apparent that at the heart of the band's volatile hard rock is a stone-solid and totally danceable rhythmic foundation which meets a perfect musical DNA match in Ronson's penchant for air-tight funk grooves. If done correctly, Ronson could help grease and tighten the gears of the Queens of the Stone Age machine while still allowing for the occasional burst of gas-fueled fury, forming the perfect concoction of rhythm and bruises. But that's a huge "if," one that is very much capable of faltering. So does *Villains* succeed in reintroducing Queens' special brand of rock and roll? Well, sort of.

Villains is nowhere near as poppy or Ronson-fied as we were led to assume. Homme, having led this band for more than twenty years, would never allow anyone to turn the knobs too freely. Under the veneer of Ronson's slick, air-tight production are still the same riffs, grooves and moody atmospherics that encompass the essence of Queens' sound. Sadly, the production occasionally falls flat, depriving certain tracks of much needed space. "The Way You Used

to Do" and "Domesticated Animals," two tracks which translate beautifully in a live setting, fail to bloom in their studio recordings, often being confined to strict boxes of rhythmic jerkiness and shallowness. "Domesticated Animals" could especially use more room for its bludgeoning drums and guitars to truly swing and kick ass. Album closer "Villains of Circumstance" suffers the same fate. What is supposed to be a deeply touching closer is reduced to confusing dynamic shifts with only hints of emotional finesse being displayed towards its progressive rock-inspired outro. "Fortress" and "Hideaway" are melodically sterile and lacking in imagination, a piercing statement to make about such a forward-thinking band.

That being said, when the production and composition do match, they produce some of the band's strongest material to date. Butt-shaking opener "Feet Don't Fail Me" snuggles in perfectly with the band's tradition of teatime, kicking openers. The track slowly creeps into your ears with layers-upon-layers of processed guitars, strings, synths and ambient vocals right before a set of razor snare hits send the song into full throttle. Homme and co. clear the smoke and burst through the door, sending it right into your face with a series of chugging guitar riffs, sludgy bass lines and intricate drum patterns that tangle and pummel into each other. Homme sings with perfect imperfection, smoothly sailing along the guitars with confident accentuation. The song never loses its momentum, even when it takes a brief respite in the bridge, and forces your hips to take a life of their own. The Zeppelin-esque funk rock of second single "The Evil Has Landed" demonstrates Queens' balance between head banging juiciness and song arrangement prowess, managing to carry its various passages across a breezy six-and-a-half minutes. Homme launches the song with a tornado of guitar riff, coated in ample amounts of

fuzz and catching various spiraling guitar solos along the way. Muted guitar scrapes scratch along to persistent drum rolls while bassist Michael Shuman grounds everything with his bursting bass arpeggios. The track ends in a total frenzy, with riffing that rivals that of early thrash metal. "Un-Reborn Again" is the record's magnum opus, a sheer exercise in instrumental variety, sonic boldness and experimentation. Never has a Queens track had so many instruments. From swampy synths to staccato strings to bubbling saxophone all the way back to classic guitar riffage, the track is laminated down by the production into perfect unity, creating a vivid, singular vision that combines disco with darkness. Homme's vocals evoke Bowie in its bravado and Thom Yorke in its desperation. It is a track of pure transcendence where the listener comes out feeling something profoundly different.

Villains is a deeply polarizing effort and nowhere near the heights of Queens' best work. But it is important to put some of these criticisms in perspective. Were these Blink-182 tracks, they'd be the best thing they'd ever done. What *Villains* lacks in innovation and singularity, it makes up for in pure energy. In various interviews, Homme described the record as an ice cream parlor or an arcade, where listeners may escape from the pains of daily life. Even when the album stalls, it doesn't distract from its mission of pure, unadulterated fun. It is a record that is constantly on its feet, ready to drag you in every direction it can in its busy 48-minute runtime. Queens is still taking leaps into the unknown and the unanticipated with a success rate that is simply unrivaled by other mainstream rock bands. For a record named *Villains*, Homme is still very much our sole guitar rock hero, who continues to simultaneously respect rock tradition and defiantly throw up his middle finger in its self-righteous face.

Wopo Defeats Deerfield in Close Game

By ROSE HOROWITZ
Staff Writer

The boys' varsity water polo team edged out Deerfield Academy in its Saturday game to add a ninth win to their stellar season. After a long commute to the away game at Deerfield, Big Red triumphed over the opposing team, scoring ten goals to Deerfield's nine.

Despite the team's victory, lower Charlie Venci commented that the players struggled to motivate themselves through the game. "Luckily, we escaped with a win. It was nobody's day to have a big game. The whole team had an off day," Venci said. He added that the players' biggest challenge was confronting the dichotomy between their strong practices and weaker performance during the game. "I think the whole team was feeling poorly about that inconsistency," Venci said.

Upper Justin Psaris agreed that Exeter fell below its usual level of play. "The game was messy, we struggled to be cohesive with one another," Psaris said. He added that though the team anticipated defeating Deerfield by a wide margin, the players struggled to meet their expectations. "We thought we had an easy win, but things just weren't working," Psaris said.

Although some of the team members were disappointed in their performance, they were motivated by the positive attitude the second-string players maintained. Venci said, "There was a lot of spirit and motivation coming from the bench; they were a huge part of our win and they definitely kept us alive in those moments of the game when it wasn't looking good."

The team still had a few positive moments during its triumph. Lower Andrew Sun said, "Harry Saunders took a shot half way across the pool and scored just as the shot clock went off." Saunders' shot brought Big Red within one point of Deerfield to end



Senior Harry Saunders rips a shot from beyond half-tank.

Rachel Luo/The Exonian

the first quarter. Bear Polo went on a 4-0 tear in the second quarter, which stemmed from the team's stingy defense. Deerfield did not have much depth, but Exeter was able to shut down the threats on the opposition, forcing Deerfield's weaker players to shoot the ball.

The challenges the team faced at its game helped Exeter to identify what areas of play it can improve. Psaris said, "We learned to not take anything for granted and never to go into a game thinking it will be easy."

Venci concurred that the match showed Big Red will not always exceed its expectations, commenting that the players' main takeaway from the week was that they had to keep their motivation despite this challenge. "We will have bad days seemingly out of nowhere, and it is a challenge to deal with them, but you have to in the end," he said. Along with these lessons in attitude towards approaching a game, the players also learned concrete areas in which they can improve. According to Sun, the team

hopes to better the success rate of its shots on goal in its upcoming games.

Exeter will utilize these lessons as it enters the last stretch of its season. In the coming week, Big Red will play against the Loomis Chaffee School in one of its final games before Interschols. Venci said about the upcoming match, "Our goals are to take this tough day in stride and work to move forward in the final weeks of the season. We will take the win this week and with some work we will only get better."

Girls' Cross Country Falls to Deerfield

By JOHN BECKERLE
Staff Writer

Big Red girls' cross country traveled to Deerfield Academy on Saturday after routing victories against Northfield Mount Hermon and the Brooks School in which Big Red prevailed by margins of 19-44 and 19-42, respectively.

Big Red's season began with three invitational races: the Choate Invitational, the Codfish Bowl and the Coe-Brown Black Bear Invitational. Exeter's girls crushed the competition at these races with a 6th place finish at the Codfish Bowl and Big Red runners finishing in the top two places of the Choate Invitational.

The team's third head-to-head duel of the year went vastly different than the first two as Deerfield's team handily defeated Big Red 18-38. The girls' loss was partly due to the ridiculous running speed of the Deerfield team, with their top runner clocking under eighteen minutes for the five kilometer course.

Upper Alexandra van Dijkum felt that the team had a peculiar performance at the meet compared to usual. "The meet at Deerfield was kind of weird. A lot of people on the team PR'd for the season despite feeling tired," she said.

Senior and co-captain Sara Kopu-

nova expressed pride in the team's efforts but conceded that their opponents had some great talent. "We were up against tough competition. The first girl from deerfield got a sub-18 5k time, so it was difficult for us to get up there and compete against that," she said. Kopunova also noted that the Deerfield runner clearly held an advantage on their home course.

Van Dijkum also respected the skill of Deerfield's team. "They have a few really fast girls and their strategy personally threw me off a little bit in the beginning," she said.

Some of the senior runners on the team felt that they have been cursed on the Deerfield course. Senior Anna Clark explained that since the senior class's first time competing there, the course has plagued Exeter runners with bad luck. "which is how we're explaining our loss to them this weekend," she said.

Clark continued, explaining the team's persistence throughout the race. "Despite our loss, I'm incredibly proud of our team working together and packing up to push each other through the finish line, no matter how much we might be suffering," Clark said.

The team will host the St. Paul's School this Saturday at 4:10 PM for their last home meet of the year.



Senior Kate Lu bolts down the course.

Gravin Hickey/The Exonian



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SATURDAY SCORE REPORT

Boys' Water Polo	10	Girls' Volleyball	3
Deerfield	9	Deerfield	0
Girls' XC	38	Boys' XC	29
Deerfield	18	Deerfield	27
Boys' Soccer	4	Girls' JV Soccer	6
Deerfield	0	EHS JV	1
Field Hockey	2	Football	14
Brooks	8	Deerfield	42

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: JAMIE CASSIDY, JACKSON PARELL & TAYLOR WALSH

By DON ASSAMANGKOL, SARAH RYU & CHIM TASIE-AMADI

Seniors Jamie Cassidy, Jackson Parell and Taylor Walshe captain one of Exeter's strongest teams: boys' water polo. Exeter water polo, nicknamed bear polo, has seen a resurgence under these three captains, which can be accredited to their leadership prowess. Coming from different levels of experience, the three embrace their roles to the best of their abilities, whether it means firing up the team before games or helping out the younger players.

Both Cassidy and Parell began playing for the varsity water polo team in their first year at Exeter as preps. Walshe joined them on the varsity squad the following year after learning the fundamental skills and rules on JV.

Cassidy entered Exeter already a strong water polo player, playing for the Varsity B Team at Greenwich High School a year earlier. After a few interactions with Coach Don Mills at the Cardinal Cup, where his team had played a strong game and ultimately beat Exeter, Cassidy chose to come to Exeter and has pursued the sport since.

As three incredible players whose strengths and weaknesses truly play off one another, Walshe, Parell and Cassidy were elected as captains by their teammates and coaches. Assistant Coach Reavill explained how the three play off each other. "Jamie has a lot of finesse moves when the ball is in his hand and brings an infectious energy to the pool every day," he said. "Jackson's a gritty player who holds himself responsible for shutting down our opponent's biggest threats on offense and Taylor is a player who can get the whole team fired up by sometimes taking on two or three defenders and coming away with a goal."

Mills agreed with Avery Reavill's sentiment, commending each captain individually for their strengths. "Jamie's determined and relentless, Jackson's calm and composed [and] Taylor's enduring and focused," he said. "They complement each other's strengths and weakness while bringing the rest of the squad on board."

Upper Troy Marrero agreed that each of the captains had distinct strengths, yet all of the captains always "bring fire to each practice" and give tips throughout games. "Jackson is a talented whole set who is incredibly strong and always gives his all. Taylor is crazy



Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

athletic, he gets out of the water higher than anybody else, and makes impossible steals and goals. Jamie is a leader, and will never give up," he said.

In addition to their their passion for the sport, their dedication to the team is evident. Walshe explained that the team and coaches were why he loves going to the pool each day for practice. "I've played with some of the veterans for four years, so we have become great friends and developed into a lethal defensive unit. The younger guys are also phenomenal. It's great to see them improve and find a passion for the sport," he said. Cassidy agreed with Walshe's sentiments, explaining that the current team was a team of "love."

Cassidy works hard to maintain a healthy team atmosphere. "When you lose games you turn on each other. Water polo's a team sport and sometimes that sucks because your teammates can't pull their weight but sometimes I can't pull my own weight. That's why I actually prefer water polo over swimming. We cared more about the assists not just the goals. It's all about how we work

as a team."

The three captains hope to foster a team culture of mutual respect and responsibility. "Earned not given," Cassidy said, eyes steely and determined. "There was a lower on this team who told me to put him in the scoring position on the team. I said no. You earn your spot on the team. You work your ass off and you're in. And when he pulled through, I moved him there."

Teammates and coaches both share the view that as captains, Walshe, Parell and Cassidy work together to fill their role and take on this responsibility. The three of them trust each other to do their own jobs and hold each other responsible. Walshe commends Cassidy's work ethic in the pool, describing him as the hardest worker. Parell emphasizes both Cassidy's and Walshe's dedication to the sport and team. "They never fail to keep the team focused and fun," he said. To Cassidy, his co-captains are family. "Jackson and Taylor are like family to me. We're all brothers."

Having played side-by-side since their lower years, a bond like theirs is not surpris-

ing. This season will be their last together as water polo players and they can all agree that it will be a difficult goodbye. Parell described what, over the course of four years, this team has meant to him. "The Exeter polo team has been like a family to me since prep year. It was the community I first felt a part of when I came to Exeter, and it will be the community I miss the most when I leave."

As they close this final season together, besides hoping to leave some mark on the team and program, their goal is to win their championships this year. Cassidy put it bluntly. "You need a driving goal, and my goal is to win the championship. To get the banner on Exeter's walls, I have one shot left, and this is my chance to leave a footprint on Exeter." The only way to do this is through hard work, coupled with what Mills called their "never ending desire to get better."

"[They're] outstanding captains. They truly care about their teammates and how the team progresses throughout the season," he said. "Driven players who want to win and typically find ways to do so."

Girls' Volleyball Beats Deerfield 3-0

By EMILY KANG, ANDREW SUN & CHARLIE VENCI
Contributing Writers

Last Saturday, Exeter's varsity girls' volleyball team brought home another victory against Deerfield Academy. The game was its first win after its tough defeat against Andover two weeks ago. "The first game against Andover is still fresh in our minds. We had a tough loss and we are still recovering, but the team has been doing very well," co-captain Margaret Kraus said.

Following its first loss of the season, the team came together and discussed ways to improve for the future. In the discussion, they covered topics ranging from motivation and cheers, to what they need to work on as a team and individually.

"After that meeting, I believe our team dynamic shifted and we began playing like I know we know how to, and that played a major role in our win against Deerfield," upper Sophie Faliero commented.

This was clearly true, as the girls swept all three sets against Deerfield with the scores of 25-13, 25-12, and 25-21. Faliero commented, "last year they were one of the worst teams in the league. Although we knew going into the game that they weren't going to be too much of a challenge, we still played them like we would for any other game." Upper Jenny Yang added, "in previous years we'd beaten them. We weren't too worried."

Big Red came out strong in the first two sets of the game, embarrassing the Deerfield team in front of its parents. However, in the third set, Deerfield started to pick up the pace, keeping a close score with the Exeter girls. Nonetheless, the girls' volleyball team still edged them out.

In the absence of a few starters, the team saw many bench players step up to the challenge. In particular, lower Joy Liu shined during the game. Senior Molly O'Day shared with pride that "Joy played very well and helped the team out a lot." Faliero seconded O'Day's comments,



Exeter volleyball players celebrate a successful point.

Chiara Correa Perotti/The Exonian

"Joy, one of our setters, did an amazing job filling in for Jenny when she was sick. It was a very last minute switch and Joy did an amazing job setting throughout the game." This statement was echoed by Kraus as she talked about how much the team has been improving over the course of the season. "In general, I cannot pick a single most improved player on the team

because everyone has come a long way."

One aspect that the team implemented in their play this season was mental toughness. The speech given by former Navy Seal, Jason Kuhn, has been a point of reference for working hard and building a successful season to the girls. This mindset helped the team build an encouraging atmosphere in the game.

Faliero said, "whenever someone made a mistake, the whole team yelled 'good.' This made everything more positive."

As the season continues, the girls' look ahead with newfound motivation. In the coming week, Exeter will play at Buckingham Browne on Wednesday. Nothing stands between Big Red and the championships.



Exonian Sports



Crew Shines at The Head of the Charles

By SARAH RYU
& JARED ZHANG
Staff Writers

On Sunday, 19 Exonians competed at the Head of the Charles (HOTC) Regatta in Boston, Massachusetts. In arguably the most competitive regatta in the world, the three Exeter boats all competed valiantly and ended the weekend with strong results. The men's fours, women's fours and the women's eights finished in 8th, 22nd and 41st place in the youth division, respectively.

The Head of the Charles is an annual regatta held on its namesake river, the Charles River, which separates Boston and Cambridge, Massachusetts. It is the largest two-day regatta in the world with around 11,000 participants rowing in 1,900 boats in 61 different events. With collegiate, high school and club teams from various states and countries competing, the regatta brings the world's best rowers together.

The members of Exeter's HOTC team were able to train throughout fall term through club crew. With multiple practices and weight sessions every week, the team was able to prepare for the regatta. Senior and co-captain Lucas Stevens explained that the boys group have been working hard all term. Senior and co-captain of the girls crew team Dara Okeremi added that the practices they've had in the past few weeks have allowed the team to improve their coordination on the water. "Watching us practice this fall season has given me so much hope because we've been practicing with each other and getting our dynamic together," she said. "Chemistry is really important for all of us."

Upper Maddy Potter described the support system that has emerged from their practices. "It really is some of the most fun I've ever had in my life because I'm on a team with people who can challenge me and make me the best I can be," said Potter. Senior Chase Ryan-Embry explained how the friendships made on the team throughout the fall season have affected their team attitude. "If someone gets moved, we support each other the whole time," said Ryan-Embry. "We all have a positive, 'be better' attitude."

Many of the members of the team felt nervous for the upcoming race. "I feel a little nervous, but I think that it's normal because it's a huge regatta with a lot of people," said Potter when asked how she felt. Okeremi agreed, but explained how the nervousness benefits her performance during the race. "Nervousness is actually nice because when you get onto the water, you turn that into adrenaline. That adrenaline really helps you go." Upper Isadora Kron had different feelings from her teammates about the race. "I'm actually super excited because I've always wanted to race in a regatta and I never have so I'm super excited," said Kron.

With the boys, Stevens described how he felt about the upcoming race. "I am nervous and excited for the upcoming race; it's one of the



Big Red's girls' eight cruises down the Charles River.

largest rowing events in the world, and anybody who's anybody is going to be there," said Stevens. "It's just a huge event, and we feel like a nobody, but we have a great chance to do well this year." He described the goals they had for the race: "For each one of us, our goal is to go out and row as hard as we possibly can. If we do that, we'll get results." Senior Evan Saltman agreed with Stevens and explained that despite the nerves, he knew that they'd perform well.

The girls had very similar goals to the boys, but they wanted to do better than the previous year because of the unusual situation. "I think it'd be sick to have both of our boats to keep our bids," said upper Ashleigh Lackey, explaining how it was the first year girls crew had sent two boats to the Head of the Charles. "If we could keep our bid and bring a four and an eight every year and set a precedent that would be awesome." Okeremi agreed with this sentiment, describing her goals for Exeter girls crew as a whole. "I want this team to get stronger every year. When the seniors leave when we leave, I want next year's team to beat us," said Okeremi. "We're going to keep chasing the tails of last year. We're gonna set a precedent for everything."

During the regatta, members of the team recognized the grand and tense atmosphere of the competition. Senior Jordan Hillyard explained that the prior to the race the environment was quite "nerve wracking" because of the sheer number of teams around them. However,

Kalikman also recalled the support he received from friends and spectators. "It was really nice to see our friends from the rowing community, especially at the points on the course where the audience can be really close to the course," he said. "At those points, you can really hear people cheering and yelling your name. It really gets you going and it's a lot of fun." Senior Francis Baviera Maloney agreed with Kalikman and added that the race was "outrageous fun."

Upper Amelia Lee commented on witnessing first hand high level rowers competing at the regatta. "The Head of the Charles is the biggest regatta in America so there were a lot of inspirational rowers and crew teams from all around the world," she elaborated. "It was a great exhibition and it was inspirational to watch a lot of big league rowers."

After the race, both teams were happy with their results. "For the amount of time we practiced and practiced together we performed really well," Lee said. She elaborated that it was difficult for the team to find sufficient time to train. Hillyard also commented on achieving one of the goals the team had. "Both boats qualified and that was the goal. I'd say it's a success," she said.

The boys team also reflected upon their success. Saltman said, "I was very happy that we placed top ten. I think we did better than I was expecting." Kalikman also stressed that they beat out the ninth place finisher by a narrow margin, making their success even sweeter. "Afterwards

when you look at the results, we were 2 seconds faster than the 9th place crew," he explained. "It was really rewarding because everything we did paid off for the 2 seconds."

Looking ahead to the spring, Lee expressed her optimism for a successful crew season. "The spring [term] is going to be fun because our team this year has such a brilliant dynamic and everyone is working together and learning off each other," Lee exclaimed. Lackey attributed the close team environment to the leadership of the team. "I think that our team atmosphere is rooted in our leadership. I've gotten to be pretty close with [the captains] this year, they seem more approachable and they seem like family," she explained.

The boys team shared a similar outlook for the spring season. "I also think it's great that as Exeter crew, we have a supportive team environment," Kalikman said. "Seeing both the boys and girls crew team improving is really awesome." Baviera Maloney expressed the optimism he has for the coming season based on the successful outcome at HOTC. "One thing I took away was placing trust into the crew going into the race. I was very confident with my teammates and them doing their job, but they really exceeded expectations," he said. "Moving forwards, this makes the future spring season much better because I know that everyone can do their job excellently. Doing well in the Head of the Charles foreshadows a successful spring season."

Soxie Gives Back to Exeter Community

By JARED ZHANG
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, the Exeter girls' varsity soccer team, nicknamed "Soxie," hosted Kimball Union Academy. The game was close and very competitive, but finished with a disappointing 1-2 loss for Big Red. The latest in a series of frustratingly close games, the Kimball Union duel brings the team's season record to 1-8-1.

Soxie started the game off slow, and Kimball Union pressured the defense throughout the first half. A standout player on the opposing team managed to score two goals against Big Red. Senior and co-captain Anna Reaman said, "We weren't as aggressive as we should've been throughout the first half, so we struggled to push the offensive."

However, Soxie increased their intensity after halftime. Led by a goal from lower Denmesha Rolle, Exeter controlled the ball throughout the second half of the game. Unfortunately, Big Red was unable to catch up to Kimball Union. Despite a valiant comeback effort near the end, Exeter still trailed the opposing team by one point. Senior and co-captain Lauren Arkell expressed the frustrating nature of the game. "We were so close but we

just got unlucky on many occasions," she explained. Reaman agreed with Arkell saying, "We started to pick up some momentum near the end but unfortunately we ran out of time and weren't able to catch up."

Arkell described the difficulty the team experienced in scoring goals despite possessing control of the ball. "We had way more shots than the other team we just couldn't find the back of the net," she said. "We have been working on our shots a lot more in practice, though." Reaman explained that the team has a positive attitude and is still eager to improve for the six games in the season.

On the following Saturday, Soxie got a rare break from competition. Instead of a game or hosting practice, the team coordinated a field day for foster children from the local area. The team organized a myriad of activities designed for the children including a bouncy house, sack races, crafts and face paint. Reaman stressed how important this event was for not only the team but also the community. "To spend that day helping the children brought the team closer together," she explained. "But more importantly, it was so amazing to go out there and see those children smile and really enjoy

themselves." Arkell also expressed the joy and positivity she witnessed. "All the kids were so energetic and adorable and loved everything we had setup for them," she exclaimed. Arkell elaborated that this was Soxie's first time hosting this event.

However, based on its success, she foresees more of these events to come in the future. Reaman echoed Arkell's sentiments saying, "I'm glad we were able to make a positive impact in our community. Hopefully, this is something that will happen more frequently."



An Exeter defender moves the ball up the pitch.

Gavin Hickey/The Exonian

Inside This Week's Sports Section

Boys' Water Polo



Rachel Luo/The Exonian

Boys' water polo did not play a pretty game but came out of Deerfield with another win. Find out more on B4.

Athletes of the Week



Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

Seniors Jamie Cassidy, Jackson Parel, and Taylor Walsh lead this year's Bear Polo team. Read more on B5.

Girls' Cross Country



Gavin Hickey/The Exonian

The girls' cross country team ran well on Saturday but Deerfield proved to be the faster squad. More on B4.

Girls' Volleyball



Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian

Girls' volleyball is back to its normal ways of thrashing opponents. Deerfield was this week's victim. More on B5.