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Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire

Artists, Writers Win Scholastic National Prizes

By MAI HOANG
and SARAH RYU
Staff Writer

Four Exonians earned national medals from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, a prestigious annual competition juried by creative professionals. On March 14, national organization Alliance for Young Artists & Writers announced senior Carissa Chen as one of sixteen recipients, selected from high school seniors across the nation, of the Gold Medal Portfolio of the 2017 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. This award is the program's highest national honor, granting winners a \$10,000 scholarship, as well as additional special scholarships provided by other foundations and organizations. Senior Melissa Lu won the New York Life Foundation award, in addition to a Gold Medal, which provides \$1,000 scholarships to writers "whose work exemplifies how the arts can act as a positive outlet to cope with loss and death." Senior Ali Hassani also received a Gold Medal in the Flash Fiction category and senior Athena Gerasoulis received a Silver Key for her writing portfolio.

This year's panel of judges consisted of distinguished writers and artists such as Edwidge Danticat, Gerald Padilla and Baratunde Thurston. Representatives from reputable organizations including the New York Public Library, *The New York Times* and *The Seattle Times* also played a key role in the adjudication process. According to Virginia McEnerney, the executive director of The Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, submissions were "blindly adjudicated based on three core values: originality, technical skill and the emergence of personal voice or vision." The Gold Medal Portfolio is the highest

AWAT, A2

PEA Reacts to New Visitation Policy Proposal

By JOHN BECKERLE
and ROSE HOROWITZ
Staff Writers

Student Council members discussed on Tuesday the recently unveiled proposal for a revised visitations' policy to be considered for the 2017-2018 school year. The proposed policy, drafted by Dean of Residential Life Arthur Cosgrove, would extend visitation hours through check in and reduce privileges for preps during their first months at the school; it would also require students to get visitations when visiting another student's room in any dorm besides their own, regardless of the student's gender or sexuality, in a step towards eliminating the heteronormativity inherent in the current policy. The latter proposed change has spurred backlash from many students, and the draft as a whole has been met with mixed, though largely negative, responses from the community.

The dormitory visitations section of the latest draft allows students to visit one another in common spaces from 7 a.m. until check-in. Perhaps the most notable departure from the current policy is that all students, regardless of gender, must get visitations from the faculty member on duty in order to spend time in a student's room in a different dorm. Under the new policy, preps would not be able to get visitations during the first month of school, after which they could do so only with other preps; starting in Winter term, they would have access to the same privileges as the rest of students.

VISITATIONS, A2



Upper Dolapo Adedokun leads the way for Experience Exeter visitor.

Julia Goydan/The Exonian

Admitted Students Experience Day at Exeter

By DON ASSAMONGKOL
and HILLARY DAVIS
Staff Writers

Prospective students and their families arrived on campus, some as early as last Sunday, to attend the annual Experience Exeter revisit day hosted by the Academy's Admissions team. Experience Exeter provides an opportunity for prospective students and their family members to tour the campus, attend classes and eat meals at the dining halls, allowing them to experience the daily life of an Exonian. Potential students were matched with current students of similar interest, and shadowed them throughout their day. Parents embarked on tours across campus and were also invited to sit through classes. The event will continue through the end of this week.

For prospective families, the day started off with an introduction from Principal Lisa MacFarlane and Director of Admissions William Leahy in the Grainger Auditorium. Families then interacted with a student panel before leaving to sit in on classes with their assigned Exonian.

The panel consisted of eight students of different years, genders and races. Many of the parents and prospective students asked questions about dorm life, the support systems in place for students and the daily workload. Lower Ingrid Bergill, one of the students on the Monday morning panel, was glad that she had the opportunity to share her experience. "I hope both the parents and the kids realized that the school is more than the amount of homework, a

fancy name or how many kids end up at fancy colleges, and that the best part of Exeter is really the people we meet and the opportunities we get," she said.

After prospective students left with their campus hosts, their parents had the opportunity to discuss classes with instructors of various subjects including math, history, religion, English, modern languages and the classical languages, as well as faculty involved with ESSO and Student Activities. Fred Hu, a parent of a prospective student, said that the morning portion was well designed as it answered many of his existing questions. "The panels were really helpful because we got to see additional insights of the culture and lifestyle at Exeter," he said.

EXPERIENCE EXETER, A2

Orenstein's Talks Prompt Conversation

By MADISON KANG
and MAKINROLA ORAFIDIYA
Staff Writers

New York Times best-selling author, journalist and sex educator Peggy Orenstein spoke at Friday's interview-style assembly, exploring the often inequitable sexual landscape that girls face during their high school and college years. In addition, Orenstein hosted a dinner and Q&A session with the Academy's peer health education group H4 in Wetherell Dining Hall and an evening talk open to the public at the Assembly Hall later that night.

Orenstein is the author of *The New York Times* best-sellers *Girls & Sex*, *Cinderella Ate My Daughter* and *Waiting for Daisy* as well as *Flux: Women on Sex, Work, Kids, Love and Life in a Half-Changed World* and *SchoolGirls: Young Women, Self-Esteem and the Confidence Gap*. Orenstein is a guest contributor for *The New York Times Magazine* and her written works have been featured in *The Los Angeles Times*, *Vogue*, *Elle*, *Time*, *Mother Jones*, *Slate*, *O: The Oprah Magazine* and *The New Yorker*, among other publications. Her commentaries have been featured in NPR's All Things Considered and PBS Newshour, and her articles have been anthologized multiple times, including in *The Best American Science Writing*. She has been a keynote speaker on Nightline, CBS This Morning, The Today Show, NPR's Fresh Air and Morning Edition and CBC's As It Happens.

In 2012, *The Columbia Journalism Review* named Orenstein one of its "40 women who changed the media business in the past 40 years." The Council on Con-



Upper Willa Canfield interviews Peggy Orenstein on the assembly stage.

Diana Davidson/The Exonian

temporary Families recognized Orenstein for her "Outstanding Coverage of Family Diversity," and she received a Books For A Better Life Award for *Waiting for Daisy*.

Orenstein began her day at the Academy with an onstage conversation about teenage sexual climate with uppers Willa Canfield, Erica Hogan and Emily Pelliccia at the morning assembly. The girls asked Orenstein questions tailored to Exeter's sexual culture, addressing issues like consent, casual hookups, age differential power dynamics and the exhibition of sexuality through social media outlets like Snapchat and Instagram.

According to Hogan, the girls prepared for the panel by reading parts of *Girls and Sex* and watching Orenstein's previous speeches. Considering Orenstein's perspective and reflecting on the Academy's own sexual climate, Canfield, Hogan and Pelliccia formulated questions that would target issues both inside and out of the Exeter bubble. "We wanted to ask questions that would force students to think about their own actions and make all this talk about sex and the hook-up culture relevant to all of our lives," Hogan said.

In her responses, Orenstein addressed the objectification of girls' bodies and how they are exploited in a culture that many would argue benefits males, both in terms of the sexual encounters themselves and the consequences of those encounters. "Girls' bodies are open to public critique and scrutiny—a collection of parts to be judged by others. This makes girls conscious of their bodies during intimacy, feeling inadequate and fearful of disappointing their partner," Orenstein said. "Girls may declare sexual liberation and pride in their bodies, but that purported confidence comes off with their clothes."

Orenstein blamed the failure of adults to name female genitalia from an early age for the persisting stigma surrounding girls' bodies. "Women's body parts go unnamed from childhood, considered icky and sacred, while widespread media portrays male masturbation and boys are quickly exposed to sexuality," she said. "I want girls to know that genitals are unique to each person, like a fingerprint, and that there is no right image."

ORENSTEIN, A6

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The heads of Policy Committee give their reasons in support of the proposed visitations policy. A8.

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SPORTS

Read about Gwen Wallace and Margaret Coogan, captains of the track team. B5.

WEB



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Exonians Honored in 2017 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

Continued from AWARDS, A1

achievement a participant can earn in the competition, and to do so, McEnerney noted, means “a student has created a cohesive body of work and developed formidable artistic and literary skills.”

For Hassani, his prize-winning essay, “Windowpane,” was the first and only piece he has submitted to Scholastic. Though never particularly passionate about creative writing, Hassani was inspired by a childhood encounter, from age seven, during which he mistook the deformities on a girl’s body for butterflies. Almost ten years later, he remembered and reflected on the experience, realizing that the bruises were from domestic abuse. With clear, succinct prose, he turned the story into flash fiction. “I never considered creative writing seriously before,” he said, adding that his views were changing as he “experimented with fiction and poetry and other genres.”

Chen submitted a portfolio of writing, including poetry, historical essays, fiction essays and memoirs that were written over the course of the last two years. Her works were inspired by her own experiences, her history and the world around her. One poem, *Idyll*,

drew from her time spent in small town America and from the Academy’s recent discussions of racial tensions. Another, *Musings*, was a Fibonacci poem, inspired by Exeter math, science and philosophy classes. McEnerney quoted national jurors who lauded Chen’s collection of “soaring poetry and complex, methodical essays.” Chen attributed her success to her peers and teachers. “I feel really lucky and grateful. Exeter’s English and history departments are incredible and they taught me so much about writing—the honor should belong to them,” she said.

Lu also reflected on her personal experiences, noting that her fall term English instructor, Patricia Burke-Hickey, played a significant role in her submissions. “You know a class is amazing when the emotions wrap you and something inside you just clicks with the words and the way they fit and sound together,” she said.

Lu submitted two pieces, *Day and Night by the Old Oak* and *Rock-Paper-Scissors*. In her first work, she remembered her best friend who passed away two years ago in a car accident. In her second piece, she commented on the social and political landscape of this country, reflecting on several recent

national events such as the Sandy Hook Shooting and the Boston Marathon Bombing. “They were complex and difficult moments of our country’s past and present that had been explored in many ways, profound and deep, but I wanted to talk about them as I saw them as a kid, growing up, this was my childhood,” she said. Lu received the New York Life Award and Scholarship and the American Voices Medal, respectively.

Gerasoulis, who has been submitting pieces since she was in 7th grade, submitted a portfolio of works, ranging from short stories and personal memoirs to poetry, titled *For My Future Daughter*. The pieces centered around the wonderful and terrifying events during the development of her femininity. “I took a lot of memories from my own experience growing up, and translated all these emotions I started to feel since a young age into pages and pages of work. I observed the women around me, who are all huge inspirations to me,” she said.

Upon receiving news of her students’ achievements, Burke-Hickey, who taught both Lu and Gerasoulis, was thrilled. “Both Melissa and Athena are talented writers and these honors are well deserved,” she said, noting that

Gerasoulis mastered a highly lyrical prose while Lu wrote in a sophisticated, rhythmic manner. From the beginning, Burke was impressed by how these students had internalized “the power of clarity and concision,” and were adept at “pacing readers with sentences of varying lengths and styles.”

Similarly, English Instructor Elizabeth Dean, who taught Hassani’s senior winter elective, observed that his writing was “as introspective as it was aware of and engaged with the world at large.” His achievements in the competition, and in creative writing in general, did not come as a surprise, given his specialty in focused and analytical reading.

Grateful for the wonderful opportunity to share her works and have them recognized, Gerasoulis highly recommended the Scholastics competition to all aspiring writers, with the hopes that they write about what is true to their heart. “Write about things that are important to you, write about things that hurt you, write your heart or soul or about your hair or flowers. It doesn’t need to necessarily be profound and interesting and intended for competition. My firm belief is that any attempt at creativity is one that should be celebrated,” she said.

Campus Questions, Debates Current Draft of Visitations Policy

Continued from V’S POLICY, A1

Some students denounced the draft on the basis that it would further normalize illegal visitations. Upper Molly Canfield said that, because she thinks students would feel compelled to get illegal visitations with their friends in order to find a private space during the day, it “would make getting illegal visitations seem more natural and more prevalent everywhere.”

Lower Gillian Quinto also noted that this policy might make illegal visitations more frequent and commonplace than they are under the current policy. Cosgrove acknowledged these concerns. “It [the policy] might make illegal V’s more frequent and that’s certainly not something we want. We don’t want to create a policy that encourages more rule-breaking,” Cosgrove said.

Moving forward with the policy, Cosgrove plans to meet with the Deans’ Council to discuss the draft, as well as with Student Council to answer questions next Tuesday. Separately, Student Council representatives met with Gould House, McConnell and Wheelwright earlier this week. Over the next three

weeks, representatives from Student Council’s Policy Committee, headed by uppers Tim Han and Alexis Gorfine, will meet with most dorms to gather feedback on the proposed policy. According to Cosgrove, student and faculty feedback will be imperative to the constructive progress of the policy.

Dean of Academic Affairs Karen Lassey echoed Cosgrove’s sentiment. “[It’s] an early draft in an iterative process.” However, Lassey noted that it “needs reworking to be truly inclusive, and not based on assumptions that are heteronormative and gendered. It is a challenge. I believe the administration is committed to continuing work to this end,” she said.

Han sympathized with the administration’s attempts to improve upon the current visitations policy. “It is certainly a very challenging position to be in to try to find a middle ground that is amenable to everyone on campus, and I sympathize with the administration.” That said, Han also wants to ensure that concerns from both students and faculty are addressed and resolved. “What is most important is that everyone’s voice is represented in the conversation on

how to improve the visitations’ policy.”

Member of Deans’ Council and lower Grace Gray agreed with Han, saying that a fair policy will require students and faculty to work together. “It will take the whole school’s collaboration to come together and discover both what we truly desire in a visitations’ policy and how we can achieve our vision.”

Upper Nick Song worried that not all voices are being heard with the current heteronormative visitations policy. Song defended the proposed policy as a way to make some students on campus comfortable. “It’s easy to cast aside the students whom the V’s policy does not cover or to call for another set of rules exclusive to transgender students. It’s easier still to forget about the sexual assaults on campus,” Song said.

Song echoed Gray’s sentiment that students and faculty must find common ground in order to achieve a successful V’s policy. “Arriving at a stalemate when arguing about the validity of the specific cases does not take away from their [the students’] existence within the Exeter community,” he said. “Rather, it guarantees the repetition of similar problems which will arise from an unchanged and

ignored V’s policy.”

Some faculty feel that their expectations for the visitations policy are not being met. Webster Dorm Head Giorgio Secondi said he does not support any overlap between visitations and study hours, a change introduced by the current draft. He said, “Letting some students, with their guests, socialize in one room, with the door open, while next door someone else is trying to do homework is bound to make study hours less productive.” He added that the policy would place a larger strain on faculty members on duty because they would have to supervise visitations while maintaining orderly study hours.

Cosgrove acknowledged the complexities of creating a policy that serves the needs of the entire community. “The question becomes: do you create a policy that fits the majority of people who sit within a certain statistic of the school or do you break out of that and do something that ultimately is more controversial and has less appeal?” He asked. “We would like to have something for next year, but we also know that what we have now doesn’t work well. It may be a problem without a perfect solution.”

Prospective Students Visit PEA

Continued from EXPERIENCE EXETER, A1

“There really is nothing that can substitute for an in-person visit because now, we can mingle with the students and faculty and really get the feel of this place.”

Student visitor Alexis Ramon said that the day was well spent, adding that he was not able to interact much with the students during his tour before receiving an acceptance letter. “I wasn’t able to see every class or the student life when I first visited and so it’s nice to be able to experience what a regular student would—I got a first hand experience sitting at a Harkness table in a science class and was amazed by the quality of the discussion,” he said. “It’s nice to get a complete picture before I make my final choice.”

Current prep William Park found the experience of hosting rewarding, especially since he himself was new to Exeter just last year. “It’s rewarding to be able to show someone else what Exeter especially because I was in his shoes just last year,” Park said. “I think this experience is very fair in that the admissions let the prospective students see Exeter as it is—no exaggerations or cover-ups, but just a typical day for any student. Now that I think about it, a typical day really is quite amazing.”

While the students visited classes with their Experience Exeter hosts, parents sat in on an Academy life Panel and took advantage of a variety of options during their afternoon. Afternoon activities included visiting the Lamont Art Gallery, attending information sessions for day students held by Dean of Students A.J. Cosgrove and touring either the full campus or the dorms.

Director of Admissions William Leahy explained that the afternoon was intended to be more free for parents so that they could have the opportunity to participate in options that interested them. “The afternoon is pretty informal and it’s designed to be a little bit like having a mini open-house,” he said. “We just let the parents go and see all these different things that they want to.”

The day ended with students and parents returning to the Phelps Science Center to listen to the closing remarks delivered by Principal Lisa MacFarlane. Mother of prospective student Frank Mercer enjoyed the overall experience. “The way the teacher engaged with the students and watching the students being so involved in the conversations really impressed me,” she said. “The students were also very nice about helping me answer questions about course selections and placement tests.”

She went on, commending the school still further. “The overall experience was absolutely great,” she said. “If my kid can get this experience, I’d be very satisfied.”

With Experience Exeter coming to an end on Friday, Leahy hopes prospective students and parents will feel aided in making their decisions, whether or not they choose to come to Exeter or not. “I think Exeter is quite easily seen as a very distinctive school because of our teaching philosophy, because of our vertical housing, because of just the incredible power of the faculty,” he said. “These kids are going to have choices and we want them all to see just how incredibly powerful Exeter is, and of course, we want them all to come.”

Chair of English Dept. Wolff Appointed Next Dean of Faculty

By MADISON KANG
and MAKINROLA ORAFIDIYA
Staff Writers

Recently appointed as Dean of Faculty, Ellen Wolff will hold this position—previously held by Dean Ethan Shapiro—for the next five school years.

Wolff was appointed in 1995 as an English teacher and has since become a highly valued member of the community. Her vast experience at the academy, from serving as Dorm Head in Dunbar to Chair of the Discipline Committee, makes her a qualified individual for the job.

The Dean of Faculty serves as a significant voice in administrative affairs, expected to represent all faculty members in the decision-making process. Wolff will advise Principal Lisa MacFarlane on a wide array of academic matters, as well as help her prepare for faculty meetings. Furthermore, the position also carries the executive role of hiring new faculty members that will strengthen the Exeter community. According to the official job description, the Dean of Faculty is “responsible for working with faculty and staff to implement strategic planning, foster curricular development, and assess student learning.”

In addition to the academic aspects of the position, Wolff believes the main duties of the job are also “to build and sustain a diverse faculty body,” and to be responsible for “keeping tabs and doing everything one can do to ensure the wellbeing of the faculty.” Wolff continued by saying that she truly cared for all members of the faculty and plans to do what she can to help them perform to the best of their ability.

Director of Studies Richard Moriarty praised Wolff’s passion for education, a requisite trait for the Dean of Faculty position. After Moriarty first arrived in the English Department, Wolff served as his department mentor. “She is a deep and careful thinker and someone who is also constantly open to learning. [She

is] a tremendous listener and collaborator,” he said. He continued that Wolff embodies the Harkness ideals that will serve her well as Dean of Faculty. He praised her experience and familiarity with Exeter, as well as her enthusiasm toward working with people who have “different perspectives and different interests.”

Wolff seeks to make positive changes to Exeter while preserving classic community values, such as non-sibi. She expressed enthusiasm when asked about the goals she wanted to achieve as Dean of Faculty. “I’m especially eager to do all I can to build and sustain a diverse community of students and adults where all can truly thrive,” Wolff stated.

She also wants Exeter to advance and mature as “any institution should in the 21st Century.” Wolff sees promoting a positive atmosphere and sense of community among faculty, staff and administrators as another important goal. Furthermore, she hopes to fortify the values that make Phillips Exeter unique and admired by schools across the globe.

Wolff also seeks to continue the work Dean Shapiro has done throughout his tenure. “A lot of the work of the dean of faculty is typical, routine work that comes around each and every year,” she stated. Examples of this work include getting new faculty oriented to the school, helping the principal set the agenda for faculty meetings and dealing with requests for sabbatical and leaves. “Every dean is involved in those things,” she concluded.

Wolff’s strong willpower and dedication to the welfare of Exonians is illustrated by her past contributions to the community and enthusiasm for the future. Wolff says she plans to use her new position to help Exonians thrive. “I will miss my department immensely,” she said. “But I’m honored to have been offered this opportunity and will try my hardest to do the best I can at my new job.”

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Branches of the magnificent European Beech Tree, fondly known as the "Peace Tree" among students, fell earlier this winter. Diana Davidson/The Exonian

Planning for Past Year's Assembly Topics Discussed

By MAI HOANG
Staff Writer

For many years, Phillips Exeter Academy has been renowned for its assembly program, which brings award-winning artists, scientists, activists, educators and everyone in between to campus. These speakers give speeches to students in the Assembly Hall, and typically stay for a luncheon in the Latin Study, as well as attending several classes. The assembly speakers' program changes each year, depending on the relevance of certain topics as decided by the faculty, as well as by students in the Assembly Committee. With a mere eight weeks left, the 2016-17 program has run most of its course, with both highs and lows; students from all grades expressed strong opinions about individual speakers, overarching themes and the program in general.

Every spring term, the Assembly Committee gathers to choose the topics for the coming year's assemblies. Oftentimes, the topics are linked to events that happened in the previous school year, and many are even recycled and repeated from year to year. For the 2016-17 program, Head of the Assembly Committee Kathleen Brownback revealed a list which included the presidential election, the Middle East, Cuba, mental health and sexuality. Talks on Syria were intended to be follow-ups to last year's Syria Week, which generated healthy discussions among students. National Public radio foreign correspondent Tom Gjelten's presentation about Cuba's history was incorporated to prepare students for the newly-created Spring Break trip to this socialist country. Typically, one speaker represents each of the chosen topics every term, although pressing issues like sexuality have earned multiple mentions this year.

Once topics are created, the Committee begins to welcome speaker suggestions from faculty members and student organizations across campus. According to lower Mark Blekherman, a member of the Committee, four proposals on average are submitted every term from different clubs to be reviewed. "We introduce and debate proposals," he said, "and also give feedback on assemblies." Most slots were filled by the end of last November, so the Committee had to consider proposals very carefully. Blekherman said that proposals should be "as specific as possible," with clear statements showing why the speakers had "a story to tell [...] that can engage with Exonians." Sometimes, speakers who did not fit into any pre-planned categories were also approved, as the Committee felt they had something valuable to offer. "We try to diversify our program as much as possible," said senior Ellena Joo, another member of the Committee. Departments also came together frequently to co-invite speakers; the rest came from alumni or alumnae connections.

The next step in the chain is to contact prospective speakers and arrange logistical matters with them. Most speakers have to be flown in from places across the country or even abroad. Other compensations also weigh into the equation, such as accommo-

ASSEMBLY THEMES, A6

Community Mourns Fatal Damage to Tree

By JACQUELINE CHO
and SARAH RYU
Staff Writers

The Exeter Community was saddened by the recent announcement that the iconic copper beech tree on the Library Lawn, which had been badly damaged by strong gusts of wind on Thursday, March 2, will be removed. The tree was a European Purple Leaf Beech that spread its broad branches in front of the library and was over 200 years old.

According to the administrator of Exeter's Facebook page Russell Washington, the beech tree was one of the few remaining after One Abbot Place was taken down in 1967 to make space for the new library. The tree was originally planted on the south side of Front Street, One Abbot Place (Principal's House) Front Yard. The beech tree was among the popular trees for planting between 1870-1910.

After Washington's mid-March communication regarding the damage with the Academy community, he shared updates on the future of the tree. Since the damage, the school consulted an arborist and an in-house professional staff for a well-being evaluation and risk issues due to the tree. The school also had to trim and remove limbs for immediate safety concerns, and it was finally announced that the removal was required. The tree was in very poor condition and if left, it would be at high risk for further damage. "It's gotten past the point where it can fight disease, the point where it can fight the wind," Washington said.

The removal of the tree has been scheduled for Apr. 21-22, in order to avoid the large volume of people com-

ing during the May reunion season. English Instructor Todd Hearon will be organizing a commemorative event before the removal, where members of the community can gather to mourn the death and removal of the tree.

Hearon also recently addressed an email to the faculty expressing his own sentiments and hopes for the future of the tree. "The tree had so much sentimental value and history to many of us: a swinging bench, now gone, on which many of us used to sit; initials carved into its trunk over decades; rich shade on spring and summer afternoons; the simple beauty of its spreading form," he said. He added on, mentioning that the tree should be commemorated, as there had not been a notice or ceremony made when the "Separate Peace" tree was recently taken down.

Senior Carissa Chen noted the special connections and memories students felt toward the tree. "The removal makes me incredibly sad because I have a lot of memories with that tree. In the spring I used to climb it and read poetry while sitting on one of the branches. I also think that places at Exeter are pretty significant; I remember seeing all the names carved into the tree branches and thinking about the memories students have there," she said.

Lower Elizabeth Williams was also saddened that a tree that held so much significance in many of the students' experiences was being taken away. "I remember always walking by that tree and admiring its beauty. Now that it's being removed, I realize that I should have appreciated its presence more, especially since it was such a grand and beautiful symbol on campus," she said.

The school plans to preserve as

much of the wood from the tree as possible, where parts of it will be milled and seasoned for future use. With the many suggestions surrounding the use of the wood, a possibility will be to build a Harkness table, which would be located in the Library. According to Hearon, there has also been implications of making PEA-embossed coasters, trivets, clocks, chess boards, etc. "No decisions have been made, but many people are invested in preserving pieces of the tree in some way. It's an iconic member of the community, close to 200 years old, and has been a part of the lives of generations of Exonians," he said. This will also be included in a historical exhibit that will capture the life and history of the tree's presence on campus. The school will continue to be evaluating the landscape planning to make use of the area for replacement plantings.

With the announcement of the removal, many members of the community have expressed their grief and astonishment. Senior Adetayo Zenger was one of the many who shared their special memories of the tree. "During my four years here, it has held a great deal of importance for me and my friends. When I was a lower, the tree was also really valuable to seniors then, as it is now. I will miss the tree a lot, as it is a symbol of Exeter for me," he said.

Alumni also remembered the tree and its special presence during their years at Exeter. Alumnus Mason Polk '15 was appalled to hear that the tree was to be removed, remembering how it had been a safe sanctum for himself and his friends. "It was a space where we could converse, listen to music and simply be away from the crazy daily Exeter life on the ground," he said.

Author of *Girls and Sex* Discusses Sexual Culture and Expectations

Continued from ORENSTEIN, A1

Pelliccia found that Orenstein's stance on societal eroticization of female bodies, through pornography and idealizations of femininity, pertained to unhealthy sexual relationships. "Girls in our society are learning to be sexy before even learning what sex is. Thus it's not so much about sexual gratification or exploration for girls, it's more about furthering this image of sexiness," she said. "This sets our girls up for encounters that are not fulfilling physically or emotionally. Conflating sexiness with sexual exploration and gratification leads to a sort of encounter where communication is not [at] the forefront of either party's mind."

Pelliccia added that girls are far from attaining sovereignty over their own bodies if their sensuality is subject to scrutiny. "Girls talk about sexual liberation in terms of being proud of their bodies, wearing the 'typical college girl uniform' - crop top, short skirt, and high heels," she said. "From that premise, Peggy reminded us all that this 'liberation' isn't really liberation if public humiliation lurks around the corner."

Orenstein said that in today's society, the acts females engage in, from oral sex to sexting, are often staged more for boys' enjoyment than for their own. For males, she said, there is fun and pleasure; for females, too little physical joy, too much regret and a general sense that the boys are in charge. "Sexual satisfaction is a gendered idea," she said. "For many girls, being pleas-

ing during sex is prioritized over being pleased. Females define their satisfaction by the boy's satisfaction and both boys and girls blame girls for bad sex."

In a further explanation of today's one-sided male-female oral sex reciprocity, she asked girls to consider what their reaction would be if boys were habitually asking them for non sex-related favors that they seldom returned. "Say you always bring your partner a glass of water. You would be infuriated if you asked them for a glass of water, and they refused. Or if they only offered a sip," she laughed.

Orenstein warned against the emotionless sexual relationships that the adolescent hookup culture often glamorizes. She denounced the glorification of passive, casual sex and the potential for miscommunication and blurred consent lines that it could open up. "The hallmark of this culture is to 'not care' and teens refrain from 'catching feelings' as if feelings are a disease," Orenstein said. "There's this idea that sex should be the precursor, rather than the result, of loving relationships, and that sex is supposed to be hot, but not warm —there is no humanity, kindness or respect. This carelessness of the hookup culture is directly linked to sexual assault."

In the midst of the Academy's sexual misconduct investigations, Canfield appreciated Orenstein's acknowledgement that sexual violence is, at its core, a result of societal conventions, rather than detrimental dynamics specific to Exeter. "One thing I liked about her

talk was that she was pointing out that Exeter itself is not the problem," she said. "What's driving unsafe situations, especially for girls, is societal. And I think she was giving us tools to think about how to rewrite certain pressures for ourselves and to rewrite our own willingness to submit to those pressures."

Canfield also commended Orenstein for her emphasis on the development of healthy and pleasurable sexual relationships, rather than the prevention of negative sexual encounters. "A lot of the education we have had this year was about sexual assault and the prevention of sexual assault on our campus," Canfield said. "The fact that Orenstein talked so much about good, healthy sex was an invitation for campus-wide conversation about what we as a community should work towards, not just what we should avoid."

Prep Morgan Lebrun enjoyed the panel-style assembly, saying that Orenstein's presentation felt less like a lecture and more like a dialogue. "I appreciated how open Peggy was about teenage sexuality, especially as an adult and mother. The casual way she approached these issues made for a comfortable environment," Lebrun said. "She was blatant and truthful and she didn't sugarcoat anything. She shared her personal experience, backed up with expert facts, keeping the mood light and interacting with the audience."

On Friday night, Orenstein served as guest speaker at the H4 dinner. At-

tending students were randomly assigned to tables to discuss campus sexual climate, define "healthy relationships" and analyze the role of the male conscience in sex.

On Saturday, Orenstein interviewed Exonian boys for her next book, *Boys and Sex*, which will examine teenage male sex culture and perceptions of masculinity.

Upper Michael Garcia, one of the boys interviewed, found Orenstein's deliberation on machismo essential to understanding sexual assault and today's hookup culture and felt inspired to question and counter current perceptions of masculinity. "I liked thinking about what it means to be masculine and how society forces boys to fit in the 'man box.' Women are pressured to have sex and men are encouraged by society to be promiscuous and to instigate the hookup culture. These conditions lead to blurred consent lines," Garcia said. "Peggy made me wonder, 'How can we men change this warped concept of masculinity for an equitable sex experience?'"

Orenstein ended her evening speech by advocating for equity in intimacy. "We have raised a generation of girls with a voice. We push for egalitarian treatment in legislature, in our homes, in the workplace. It is now time to ask for intimate justice," she insisted. "I want girls to find pleasure in sex, to avoid diseases and unwanted pregnancy, to be safe, and to ask for something in bed and get it. It's a lot to ask, but it is not too much."

Objectification vs. Empowerment: Is There a Difference?

Bianca Beck '19

Guest Contributor

It's difficult to differentiate between the words "objectification" and "empowerment," besides that one of the words is supposedly "bad" and the other is "good." What one person sees as objectification can look like empowerment to another. Social commentators say that some women objectify themselves for empowerment and therefore make the two interchangeable. The question, therefore, is the definitions of these two words. Are they different, or do their meanings overlap?

Although there are small differences between the two words, the differences are still very distinguishable. Keep in mind that the Merriam Webster dictionary defines objectification as "to treat as an object" and defines empowerment as "to promote the self-actualization [the process of fully developing and using one's abilities] or influence." The

thing that distinguishes between these two words is who has the power. If the person being looked at, or sexualized, has the power, then that is a form of empowerment. However, if the person looking is in power, then that is a form of sexual objectification.

For instance, if a woman puts on "sexy" clothing and goes out in public and/or takes a selfie, then she is in power because she is the one who chose to put on the "sexy" clothing in the first place. She was completely willing in this situation. Therefore, this is a form of empowerment, not objectification.

This situation gets more complicated once we throw in factors such as beauty standards and respectability politics; these two factors can compel the woman to wear "sexy" clothing because she thinks she won't be considered beautiful if she doesn't wear said clothing or if a woman doesn't wear said clothing because she doesn't want to be objectified. In these cases, the power is not in the woman herself but in society, which is why this would be considered a form of objectification and not empowerment.

The backlash which resulted from a picture of Emma Watson in Vanity Fair serves as an example of a situation in which the line between objectification and empowerment blurred.

In the picture, she was wearing a small, loosely knitted cape that exposed the swell

In these cases, the power is not in the woman herself but in society, which is why this would be considered a form of objectification and not empowerment.

of her breasts. Social media users and even some media outlets criticized her, calling her a hypocrite and "not a real feminist." Pret-a-Reporter even published a story on this, with the headline, "Is actress and feminist Emma Watson a hypocrite for going topless in Vanity Fair?" Emma Watson, who said she was "quietly stunned" by the backlash, said in re-

sponse, "Feminism is not a stick with which to beat other women. It's about freedom. It's about liberation. It's about equality. I really don't know what my tits have to do with it."

So was this objectification or empowerment? Using the aforementioned reasoning, we should ask ourselves who had power in the situation; did Emma Watson have power regarding how she was dressed, or did the photographer have the power? If we think about it, Watson was the one contracted for the photoshoot, and she had every right throughout the photoshoot to say she was uncomfortable with something. Even from her response to the backlash, it's clear that she was proud of her photoshoot and was fine with her breasts showing. Therefore, it's clear that it was Watson who had the power in this situation and that this was a moment of empowerment, not objectification.

Now that we can see the clear difference between these two words, before you judge a situation and immediately say it was objectification or empowerment, ask yourself this: who has the power?

The Gentle Punishment of V's and All-Gender Housing

Harry Saunders '18

News Editor

Our administration's recent announcement of an all-gender housing option for the coming school year has been met with little opposition from the Exeter student body and faculty. An article published in *The Exonian* last week cited not a single dissenting opinion on the question of whether Exeter should establish an all-gender housing option at all. Many conservative voices on this campus often complain about the suppression of their opinions in Exeter's liberal echo chamber. However, the lack of vocal opposition to the creation of all-gender housing is not a case of liberals suppressing unpopular beliefs; it instead illustrates the overwhelming sentiment among our student body regarding the issue of all-gender housing, which is apathy.

On the surface, the creation of an all-gender housing option is a difficult decision with which to disagree. The advantages of such a change are plainly evident. The new housing provides a place for non-binary students to feel more comfortable in their living situation, and has the potential to attract more applicants who, in the past, may have been turned away from Exeter at the

thought of single-gender housing. For the clear majority of the Exeter community, the benefits of this measure, which will serve up to forty students (the number who expressed interest in the housing alternative last fall), will come at the small price of displacing around a dozen students who previously lived in Williams and Kirtland House.

The deans' recently drafted visitations policy, on the other hand, was met with fierce opposition from students and faculty alike. This rejection was apparently due to the inconvenience the reform would cause both groups. The argument against all-gender housing is as plainly evident as the contradiction between it and the visitations policy draft. Through all-gender housing, the administration is promoting increased freedom and comfort in human interactions for a small minority of students, while the visitations policy draft decreases this freedom and comfort across the board. This is a logical argument, but not one many people are making.

I expressed both popular opinions—passive support for the housing measure, disgust at the visitations proposal—to my advising group last Wednesday, both of which were met by the agreement of my peers as well as my advisor. However, after reevaluating both proposals through the lens of a discussion my US history class recently

had on the theories of Michael Foucault, an influential twentieth-century historian and philosopher, it is clear to me that both proposals share the same grave implications for our community.

In the passage my history class read from Foucault's *Discipline and Punish*, the author presents "the gentle way of punishment" as the predominant method by which one group subtly exerts power over another in the postmodern world. Daniel T. Rodgers, whose *Age of Fracture* grapples with the influence of Foucault's thought, described this "practice of power" as "the constant supervisory 'gaze' under which the new human subjects [are] disciplined" into becoming "reengineered" and "docile" individuals.

Both the visitations policy draft and the all-gender housing reform echo this theory of subtle power. Under the proposed visitations policy (or any future draft like it), Exeter students, or "the new human subjects" would come under "the constant supervisory 'gaze'" of faculty members as they seek private moments to bond with those around them. In addition to this, the use of the word 'heteronormative' and the emphasis on sexual assault "reengineer" us to think of all interactions between students behind closed doors—whether sexual in nature, or not—as possible crimes and Boston Globe investigations. In the vast majority of

instances, these interactions are important times for high school students to learn how to navigate and strengthen relationships. The lack of dissent on the matter of all-gender housing shows that we are a community that has slowly been disciplined not to consider the larger implications of serious changes made in the name of tolerance.

The concerns of Exonians who do not conform to either the norm of heterosexuality or the gender binary need to be addressed by our community, but not in a way that is disproportionate to the small fraction of the student body that they represent. We must not allow ourselves to accept the all-gender housing proposal simply because it is not inconvenient for most of us. And we must not allow ourselves to reject the visitations policy draft simply because it is. Changes like these are evidence of a larger trend of politically correct and progressive thought gently punishing the community with its pessimistic view of human nature. The all-gender housing reform may seem logical, and the intentions behind the new draft of the visitations policy good, but because of these reforms, we are all becoming more "docile" and "disciplined" individuals who will, unless we are more self-aware, fail to provide important checks and balances to a group of people whose subtle power will reshape Exeter in the future.

The Importance of Intersectional Feminism

Samantha Weil '20

Guest Contributor

My friend and I amble to the back of the Academy Building, finding ourselves exactly where we want to be: in a sea of fluorescent pink. Each and every chest surrounding us is printed with the bold inscription: Feminist. Soon, the other students and I cluster together, organized from shortest to tallest. The photographer starts taking photo after photo of us. Then, I look up at that wall of pink, splashed with black lettering. I scan all of the faces I see around myself, and a thought strikes me: we all consider ourselves feminists, but none of us are the same feminist. There is no same idea of feminism. Everyone is different because of our differing backgrounds, states of being, character and traits. This is what is called intersectional feminism.

As I waited amidst the ocean of pink for our photo, I thought about how privileged I was to be standing among fellow feminists. Other privileges that I will always check up on result from the fact that I'm white, educated and financially stable. There are so many people who can't say that and don't have even the smallest types of privilege that I have. For me, this is so important to say out

loud, because I am a white person writing this article on intersectionality, which is meant to include all races, ethnicities, genders, abilities, sexual orientation, religion and more.

I believe that it's absolutely imperative that I speak up and check my privilege, so I can become a fully intersectional feminist. What I don't want to become is another white, cookie-cutter feminist who only believes in certain rights and lacks the courage to acknowledge the struggles and discrimination that other people face. I'd also like to point out that I, unlike many in this country and world, have the ability to speak out for people who don't have the ability and will continue to strive to help others through better educating myself.

If you're still confused about what intersectional feminism really is, Kimberlé Crenshaw, the person who coined the phrase, has made the term much more understandable by using a simple analogy. Crenshaw, an African American woman, civil rights activist and professor at UCLA school of law and Columbia school of law, realized in 1989 that most humans are subject to more than one discrimination. Take, for example, a black woman. She stands in the intersection of two roads. The first road is the road of racism, which she is on the receiving end of. The second is sexism, which she is

also the victim of. To solve her problems, she must not only voice the rights of African American people, but also women. She has to voice the rights of her intersection point: her intersectionality.

But here's the real question. Why is intersectionality important? Why can't we just be "feminists" as opposed to "intersectional feminists?" Why should we care?

Let's start with the wage gap. According to the National Committee on Pay Equity, in 2013, white women get 78 cents to the white man's dollar, black women get 64 cents to the white man's dollar and latina women get 54 cents to the white man's dollar. Incidentally, black men get 75.1 cents to a white man's dollar, and latino men get 67.2 cents. Here's the thing about the wage gap: not all women are getting the same amount as other women. It depends on their race! This shows that every single race is discriminated against differently. Not only this, but men who aren't white also have a gap in their pay equity.

Each and every victim of discrimination has many intersection points associated with them. This is why we need intersectionality. Without it, we're just fighting to raise that white woman's 78 cents to her male counterpart's dollar, as opposed to all women's pay being raised.

Crenshaw also brought up the case of

Degraffenreid vs. General Motors to explain the necessity for intersectionality. In the case, a group of black women sued the company General Motors for counts of both racial discrimination and sex discrimination. General Motors denied this, for they did hire women, but only white women. And they did hire black people, but only black men. Here's the problem: these women, with increasingly clear evidence, lost this case.

A non-intersectional feminist would say that these women were fired because of their gender. A non-intersectional civil-rights activist would say that they were fired because of their race. In fact, General Motors did hire women, just not black women. And General Motors did hire black people, just not black women. We must look at this case through an intersectional feminist viewpoint in order to understand the layers of oppression at work. These women were discriminated against on two counts, not just one: the court failed to understand that. If they had been educated on intersectionality, they could have at least had a different viewpoint.

Intersectional feminism isn't your average, watered down feminism. To be a truly courageous feminist, we need to advocate for all women. To quote Audre Lorde, "There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle, because we do not live single-issue lives."

The Exonian

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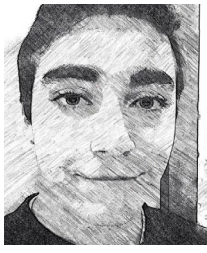
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America Kills More Civilians



OUTSIDE THE EXETER BUBBLE

Paul James
Columnist

On Mar. 17, coalition airstrikes carried out by U.S. warplanes bombed a building in the al-Jadida neighbourhood of Mosul, Iraq. Estimates of civilian casualties caused by this air raid range from 140 to 240 dead Iraqis. The first thing the United States did was deny involvement in the event, instead blaming it on the Islamic State.

In recent months, a spike in civilian casualties sparked a public uproar and provided plenty of fodder for the Islamic State's propaganda. The newest slogan reads, "This is how Trump liberates Mosul, by killing its inhabitants." The recent casualties brought to light a troubling fact; the Pentagon quietly amended the U.S. Rules of Engagement. Senior U.S. commanders described the changes as "relatively minor" but refused to elaborate on the changes that shape the way war is conducted. One of the changes in American strategy has been to give more authority over air strikes to officers on the battlefield, according to the army commander of the Mosul offensive.

The attacks are part of an offensive campaign led by the United States and Iraqi forces to reclaim the city of Mosul from Islamic State control. Since the battle began in Oct. 2016, IS has been forced back and now only controls a quarter of the city. Nonetheless, the gains made by coalition mili-

tary came at a huge cost. The United Nations human rights office puts the death count from Feb. 17 to Mar. 22 at 307 deaths. One of Mosul's inhabitants buried 13 of his relatives in the space of one month. The casualties also include the deaths of over 60 women and children.

The Iraqi government, backed by U.S. support, assured the inhabitants of Mosul that the battle would be quick and easy. They even instructed them to remain in their homes in the city. Since then, IS snipers have shot anyone who attempts to leave the city, and the battle drags on, endangering many civilian lives.

The attacks are part of an offensive campaign led by the United States and Iraqi forces to reclaim the city of Mosul from Islamic State control.

As for the events of Mar. 17, the Iraqi forces and U.S. commanders initially blamed IS for using civilians as human shields or rigging the building with explosives. The U.S. Army Chief of Staff maintains the enemy did this to slow down the coalition airstrikes and keep their foothold on the city. Later on, however, Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend said, "My initial assessment is that we probably had a role in these casualties. If we did it—and I'd say there is at least a fair chance we did—it was an unintentional accident of war." Rescue workers continue to sift through the wreckage more than two weeks later, but the United States

seems to have absolved itself of any responsibility for the massive loss of life. The Pentagon has since begun a formal investigation on the incident.

In response to criticism, the Pentagon is in the process of declassifying a video of a separate incident apparently depicting IS using civilians as human shields. It is a rare occurrence for the Pentagon to release video of ongoing combat operations, though it was forced to do so not long ago to validate that the U.S. hadn't destroyed a mosque.

In addition to the immediate impact these "unintentional accidents of war" have on the civilians in Mosul, they will also help shape public response following the battle. If IS manages to turn members of the Iraqi public against the coalition forces using the casualties airstrikes cause, it will grow increasingly difficult to stabilize the country. Worse still, the anger will not only be directed at the U.S., but also at the Iraqi forces that had a hand in the battle for Mosul, thus breeding distrust of the country's own government.

When an article concerning this event was published on the website of *The New York Times*, it was drowned out by dozens of articles focusing on President Trump and who is to blame for the failure of the Republican effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The sheer volume of political "news" is enough to overwhelm the stories that matter. It also makes it frighteningly easy to forget about the people affected by these catastrophes all across the world. It makes it easy to forget about the man who buried 13 family members killed as a result of "unintentional accidents" in his backyard.

The Future to a More Accepting Campus

Genesis Reyes '20

Guest Contributor

It is now spring, and it stands to reason that an Exonian senior thus far, in his or her last term before graduation, would become less of one out of wear and tear. Please understand that one can only be so elite, so bright, for so long, before burning out. Still, the degree to which a senior, after spending four years pulped by this institution, can sit back come green grass, tawny sun and the promise of a laurel, having nothing to say about the torment prior, has astonished many. This must be the post-adolescent conformity that we have heard so much about. Who knew adulthood began Senior Spring?

I won't digress. There is something sorry about an argumentative Exonian turned meek at the journey's end. The journey has only begun, and thank goodness that we can start it armed with four years' worth of constructive criticism. I write this probably to remind myself more than others. I am critical to a fault—one which will only be worsened if I suddenly stopped. So to my benefit and then hopefully the Academy's, what follows is a memorandum on her English Department, and a little suggestion I've formulated for it after four years.

To be clear, the department is a terrific one. The faculty is largely good—but just the curriculum less so. Here, the

reader may criticize my judgment having divorced the teacher from what he or she teaches. I would be inclined to yield, except what might be a flawed teacher, I would much rather make the faithful servant of a flawed curriculum. We are all bureaucrats.

So on the bureaucracy, the curriculum—the higher calling of the English teacher—I claim that the department would benefit from the linguistic rigor of the Classics, namely in grammar. Two years of comprehensive grammar for the lowerclassmen: exhaustive instruction in the fundamentals of their language from parts of speech to cases and constructions, is my proposition. There is a present grammatical vacuum in our early English curriculum. It sucks at our identity, our culture and our reason.

"Language is the only homeland," said Czeslaw Milosz, the Polish-Lithuanian poet. I myself spent my formative years in Taiwan, and was brought up in a mangled tradition of Mandarin, Japanese and English—only to leave Taiwan, and then to leave Japan. Now I am in America, and language, indeed, is my only homeland. Knowing a country's grammar makes its soil richer, its landscape more prominent in one's mind. Ignorance in this respect is an existential matter.

And once you have learned your prepositions and participles, your conditionals and correlatives, when you

have learned your neighbors' names and the composition of the earth, what delights is to take a step back and marvel at the world carved inside your head. The English countryside is the ever-rolling construct of the Anglo-Saxon will. Greek grammar, I have found, is a savage landscape perverted with pitfalls and cliffs. I have no authority to advertise Sapir-Whorf, but I will testify that my mind is more careful when its way of speech is littered with rough footings. No wonder it was the ancient Greeks that produced all those philosophers.

Speaking of logic, facetiousness aside, it is good exercise to understand technically how a language communicates things. What's more, the knowledge of a grammatical construction's necessity or utility is transferable. Such is the multilingual nature of grammar that has enabled me to learn more English grammar from the Latin Department than from the English. I am lucky to have been provided this opportunity, and I only wish it were provided to all. Would that future citizens know the fundamentals of language that they may then identify rhetorical figures beyond alliteration and metaphor.

Language is so often the first victim of degeneracy and despotism. In times seemingly fraught with both, grammatical instruction is less pedantry and more preservation of one's faculties and being. For this reason, I urge more of it at Exeter.

Bibi's Trojan Horse



WORLD COMPASS

Mark Blekherman
Senior Columnist

In his book "A Place Among the Nations," Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, "Bibi" for short, contends that the Palestinian Liberation Organization is a "Pan-Arab Trojan horse, a gift that the Arabs have been trying to coax the West into accepting." Denying that the Palestinians have a right for national self-determination, Bibi argues that a Palestinian state just a few miles from Tel Aviv's beaches would pose a "mortal danger to the Jewish state." More than twenty years after publishing the book, Bibi still maintains his belief that Israel must prevent the Palestinians from attaining self-government by expanding its settlements on the West Bank. At a time when 136 countries openly recognize the state of Palestine, is it justifiable and reasonable that Israel continues to reject its autonomy?

The answer is yes. Israel's best course is to sustain its iron wall strategy and assert its hegemony. Peace agreements between Israel and Palestine have

resulted in nothing but animosity and disappointment. In 1993, Israel began a seven-year-long peace process in Oslo with the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. From 1996 to 1999, Hamas attempted to disrupt the peace agreements through suicide bombings and terrorist attacks. Palestinian factions like Muslim Brotherhood and Hezbollah threw time bombs and conducted armed ambushes in the streets of Tel Aviv and synagogues of Jerusalem. During the final negotiations, Hamas perpetrated attacks against innocent Jewish civilians.

The Palestinian Liberation Organization approaches the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the perspective of an uncompromising terrorist group, rather than a trustworthy and steadfast negotiator. Although the current leader of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas has expressed his willingness to engage in a constructive peace process, the erratic behavior of Palestinian terrorists has precluded Benjamin Netanyahu from committing to a two-state solution. In a world increasingly ambivalent to Israel's struggles, Prime Minister Netanyahu cannot and should not forge deals with unreliable allies. Doing so would temporarily appease Palestinian concerns, but it would also encourage a vicious cycle of unsubstantiated concessions by the Israeli government.

It is unlikely that Israel will give up the West Bank any time soon. The territory holds more than just a religious or political significance. It is the only way by which Israel can defend itself from surrounding Arab states. Israel's control of the Jordan Valley allows it to intercept arms trafficking to terrorist organizations. The West Bank also serves as a buffer region for any potential air or ground attacks on Israel, as most of the heavily-populated cities are on the coastal plain. Surrendering the West Bank to a group of rouge and self-interested individuals would weaken Israel's ability to defend itself from foreign attacks and thereby encourage surrounding states to further challenge and dispute Israel's sovereignty.

I can only envision a viable peace deal if the Palestinian Liberal Organization rejects its ties with groups like Fatah and instead paves its own path of democracy, peace and stability. Netanyahu is right to proclaim the Palestinian Liberation Organization a Trojan horse. The Charter for the PLO claims that Zionism is an illegitimate movement "racist and fanatical in its nature." The Palestinians' calls for justice, dignity, freedom and Middle Eastern peace are shrouded by its belief that the State of Israel is "entirely illegal." Closest neighbors do not have to be closest friends, but they have to respect each other if they are to survive.

A Better Visitation Policy

Aiden Roberts '18

Guest Contributor

The visitations policy proposed by the administration last week not only fails to address the issues we face on campus, but also only goes halfway in creating an environment of gender equality. My issues with the new policy don't stem from personal inconvenience; they're articulated here because I genuinely believe that this policy is not only the wrong step forward, it's a step backward. Why is there a visitations policy at all? This proposal, along with the current policy, maintains that "the well-being of our student body is our primary concern." It also says that "sexual activity is not permitted during any dormitory visitation, including a room visitation." How do we reconcile these two statements? Are they one and the same? Is the well-being of our student body the prevention of sexual activity?

It must be, because that's the only real threat of room visitations. It's not like students can't be one-on-one in other locations. In fact, our students have a ten mile radius around campus inside of which they can roam freely. Does the administration really believe that two students together ten miles away from campus are safer than two students in each others' dorm rooms? Shouldn't the dorm room be the safest place for students to congregate? Why do we discourage this? And if students are going to have sex, which is the main concern, they have two options: break the rules or do it outside. What kind of message does that send? Now, my first point on the new policy is that it continues to prioritize heterosexual, cis-gendered students over those who defy that standard. The hallmark feature of this proposal is that gender plays no part in it. However, under the proposal, dorm visitations are restricted to limited, supervised hours.

See, for the past 200 years, the Academy has defined "normal" room visitations, those that are unrestricted and "aren't dangerous", as being between the same sex. Why then—if the academy really is seeking equality across all genders and sexualities—does the new policy restrict the hours of visitations? There must be a reason. In June, 2000, *The New York Times* published an article headlined, "Gay Couples Are Accepted As Role Models at Exeter." The article, praising Phillips Exeter Academy for accepting gay and lesbian couples as dorm parents, called the decision a reflection

If we really want equality of gender and sexual-orientation, we can't go halfway.

of the "increasing acceptance of gays and lesbians in mainstream culture." If the Academy acknowledged gay and lesbian couples in as early as 2000, and it has been fine with unrestricted same sex room visitations for the past 17 years, then the limitation of hours in this new policy must be a response to the prospect of heterosexual couples getting unrestricted room visitations. This clearly shows the prioritization of heterosexual students. It shows that the policy only goes halfway. Because all-the-way would be to allow unrestricted room visitations between... anyone.

My second point is the contradictions that emerge between this policy and residents of the same dorm. The policy allows for students of the same dorm to go into each others rooms unrestricted and unsupervised at any time of day. Since all dorms are currently gendered and most dorms will be next year, the non-gendered visitations policy clashes with gendered dorm life.

Furthermore, it implies that a student's well-being is more secure with a random student in the dorm than it is with a close friend outside the dorm. When the gender-neutral dorms are factored into this next year, it becomes even more complicated. Since the policy will be universal, it sets the precedent for unrestricted, all gender room visitations. So, in reality, there are three different policies: unrestricted, gendered room visitations within the same dorm (in gendered dorms); unrestricted, non-gendered room visitations within the same dorm (in gender-neutral dorms); and heavily restricted non-gendered room visitations with students outside the dorm.

My fourth point is that the policy stigmatizes and damages healthy friendships between students of all genders. We all have friends; however those friends don't always live in the same dorm as us. On an extremely regular basis, students go to their friends rooms to socialize, do homework, watch TV, etcetera... This is allowed under the current visitations policy. These activities happen at all times of day, from 7am to check-in, and limiting them would be exceedingly detrimental to students' friendships.

My final point, and an extraordinarily consequential one, is the role of day students on campus. Many day students, by integrating with boarders through classes and sports, become associated with specific dorms. In some cases they become so close that they partake in dorm activities and are included in the very identity of that dorm. Without any form of unrestricted visitations, those relationships become harder and harder to sustain. Even now, day students often find difficulty intermingling with boarding students, and since they aren't technically part of a dorm, they don't get that experience. And if we take that away from them, how is that aiding the well-being of our students?

The solution, and the only solution that adequately addresses all of these issues, is for a completely open room visitation policy. If we really want equality of gender and sexual-orientation, we can't go halfway. Room visitations must be open to all students at all times, because limiting the hours isn't the acceptance of difference, it's the ignoring of it.

Want to have your voice heard?

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

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Assembly Themes for 2016-2017 School Year Examined

Continued from [ASSEMBLY THEMES, A3](#)

dation at the Inn and media requests. The ultimate goal is to ensure that speakers engage with students as much as possible, through post-assembly events and activities. According to Brownback, funding for the program draws from school endowments, including both specified and unspecified gifts. "The total for the year is about \$80,000," she said, when asked about the approximate budget. The entire process "involves a lot of communication, [...] the threads for each speaker run to many pages."

Student contribution in the assembly-planning process is always valuable, and clubs have had much success with inviting speakers this year. All assemblies initiated by student organizations, including Active Minds' Hakeem Rahim, EASA's William Hirsch and SGAE's Saria Samakie, have been met with standing ovations and resounding praise. According to Upper Alyssa Kuwana, co-head of Active Minds, the club chose Rahim because his story "was not too distant from Exonians." The idea of contacting Rahim had first been brought up by Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Jeanne Stern, the club's advisor, who had previously watched one of Rahim's talks. Kuwana believed the assembly was successful in broadcasting the club's message: that mental health problems should not be stigmatized as a disease. Many students attended the Latin Study lunch, eager to talk about the problems they and their friends were going through. Similarly, EASA board member and upper Jacqui Byrne felt that the club's effort to reach out to parent William Hirsch paid off, as his talk and film

trailer deeply touched assembly-goers. "The majority of people have been more interested in the topic and have reached out to EASA, asking about when we meet and what they can do to join," Byrne said.

In light of the program's recent success, Brownback said that she would continue to "encourage students and clubs to suggest themes and speakers." Byrne cited the increased involvement of student organizations as the biggest improvement of this year's assembly program compared to previous ones.

The 2016-17 assembly program has also been special for students because of its heavy emphasis on sexuality and the hookup culture. According to Brownback, the Committee identified this as an important topic last spring, and its urgency was only intensified over the summer. Like many of her peers, prep Katya Davis appreciated the school's decision to use assembly to address these problems on campus, in response to "the recent *Boston Globe* publications [...] and the diversity in sexuality and gender expression on our campus." Echoing these sentiments, senior Autumn Herness said that "[healthy sexuality] is an important topic regardless of what's going on on campus." In her opinion, the most important aim of these assemblies is to generate more conversations surrounding "sex, sexual assault and hookup culture," and to affect a cultural shift on campus.

Many believe that this objective has largely been achieved through the assembly programming. "Effectiveness depends on how open individuals are to considering the message," Biology Instructor Townley Chisholm said, before going on to note that "repeated exposure should have

some effect." According to lower Katrina Schmitt, this explains the repetitiveness of recent assemblies. "In order to change everyone's perspective these ideas have to be repeated over and over," she said. Science Instructor Erik Janicki agreed that these assemblies have been effective, insofar that they create "good discussion amongst some groups of students." Not everyone, however, thinks the same way—prep Nick Schwartz, when interviewed, said that the school should have invited one speaker for this topic and "move[d] on." On the most recent talk by Peggy Orenstein, he said, "None of it applied to many students at Exeter."

In spite of this, the general reaction to this year's assembly program among students has been positive. "I am very satisfied with this year's assembly program," said upper Emilio Karakey, who appreciated the creative use of media and film by speakers like William Hirsch. Lower Isadora Kron thought that this year's assemblies had been highly interesting, with engaging and knowledgeable speakers. "Most of the speakers were able to contextualize their messages in current events in order to help us better understand them and the broader implications of their topics," she said. Herness positively compared it to the programs of previous years, saying that, though she did not agree with all of the speakers' viewpoints, she would "never forget" the speeches they made.

Favorites this year include Peggy Orenstein's assembly about "Girls and Sex," which, according to Davis, contained "powerful and relatable stories and statistics." Meanwhile, Schmitt was inspired by Ben Schaefer, the lawyer from the Equal Justice Initiative, and his talk about mass

incarceration and the death penalty. For Byrne, it was the founder of Man up and Open Up, Eric Barthold, who struck her as an impressive storyteller. "I think it was great that the speaker, as a male athlete, was willing to question how people were raised and all the assumptions regarding masculine behavior," she said.

However, moving forward to the next school year, there is certainly room for improvements in the assembly program, according to many students. Davis, Schmitt, Byrne and Kuwana all agree that more interaction between students and assembly speakers would be helpful. "I liked the panel where students were interviewing Peggy Orenstein," said Schmitt, while Davis believed that simply having more time for questions would solve the problem. For Blekherman, it is the lack of diversity that is the issue. "Most assemblies are from speakers with a liberal background [...] and address sex, rape and social injustices," he said.

Others would like to see changes not in the way assemblies themselves are held but the way students interact with these assemblies. Chisholm thinks the value of assemblies lies in them being "the only thing we regularly do as a whole community," which offer chances for a shared experience. "I believe advisees should sit with their advisors at all assemblies to check attendance and to encourage courtesy and respect," he said. DeGuere also shared that she would like to see fewer complaints about assemblies that focused on gender equality and social justice. "People try to blow it off by saying 'Oh we've already talked about this,'" she said. "But these are still issues on campus that need to be talked about."

Director of Diversity Post Added to Principal's Staff

By ZAC FENG
and ROSE HOROWITZ
Staff Writers

The Academy is currently searching for a candidate to fill the newly-created position of Director of Community, Equity and Diversity. The search is being conducted by third-party executive search firm Spelman Johnson and candidates are expected to arrive at campus in late April.

The new director will work directly underneath Principal Lisa MacFarlane on the Principal's Staff. MacFarlane explained that this position will primarily serve to "guide, reinforce, and help create a campus community that truly embodies our values of inclusion and equity, that supports the diversity of our student body, enhances the diversity of our adult community, and promotes cultural fluency for both students and adults."

Finding a candidate to achieve these goals has taken time. Exeter has wanted to establish this position since 2012, but it was not until last year that a committee of faculty and staff developed the position to suit the administration's ambitions. The creation of the committee was prompted by the school's increased focus on equity and a renewed commitment to prioritizing challenges of diversity and community, according to Chair of the English Department Ellen Wolff. "I think that we have to figure out a way to move the community beyond commitment to diversity, to a commitment to equity; to make this community an environment in which everybody has the opportunity to thrive," Wolff said. Administrative Intern at the Office of Multicultural Affairs Michelle Irukera thinks that this position is important because Exeter needs someone to report directly to the principal on issues of diversity. She says she wants this new director to "talk to her [MacFarlane] about these issues and what the school can do better to make sure that we're fulfilling the needs of all the different populations of students on campus." Irukera's sole concern regarding the position is that because the director will be on the administration, they will not get to hear feedback from students, but she thinks that the benefits of the position outweigh the possibility that the director will be removed from student opinions.

Head of the Trustees Nicie Panetta spoke in support of the decision to create a new position with the express goal of advancing diversity and inclusivity; the trustees unanimously voted in agreement. "The Trustees understand that if Exeter is to live up to its ideals we have work to do on issues of community, equity and diversity, work that will continue as long as we share these values and seek to respond to our times," Panetta said.

The school has turned to Spelman Johnson to assist in the search. According to the job description released by the firm, Spelman Johnson hopes to find an officer that "is responsible for guiding efforts and creating opportunities to define, assess and promote diversity, equity and

inclusion, educational and employment opportunity, and cultural proficiency." The Director of Community, Equity and Diversity will implement new programs, plans and activities to educate the community about issues concerning diversity.

In addition to fostering a school environment that values and strives towards diversity, the Director will be involved in hiring new staff and recruiting new students. To create a better learning atmosphere for students, the director will work with departments to "develop curricula to advance the DEI mission as well as to facilitate inclusive teaching and learning practices," according to the job description. The director will also provide advice and expertise in "addressing areas of nondiscrimination, access and equity and awareness of laws."

In considering potential candidates, Spelman Johnson looks for leadership abilities that would empower the director to address issues surrounding equity and inclusion on campus, while also working to improve student life in general. The search calls for master's or a JD degree. The review process began on Mar. 31, 2017, and will continue running until the school has found an ideal candidate.

Though the position has yet to be filled, students have already expressed support for the steps Exeter is taking to make the committee more inclusive; many students have high hopes for what the new director will offer the community and accomplish in her role. Lower and cohead of Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) Adrian Kyle Venzon said, "I would hope that they work to make sure that the LGBTQ+ community at Exeter feels comfortable here. This dean must work to create an environment where everyone's pronouns are respected and heteronormativity is reduced." Other students, including senior and Feminist Union cohead Autumn Herness, were equally excited by the prospect of the new director working with clubs that already seek to ensure equity on campus. "Fem Club will be able to host more campus-wide events, or bring in more speakers or do more outreach programs if they have a friend in the Dean's Office," she said.

Wolff also expressed support for the creation of this new position, but added that there is still more work to be done. Dean of Multicultural Affairs Rosanna Salcedo pointed out that efforts should be made to create a curriculum that reflects the diverse backgrounds of Exeter's student body. "The cultural climate of an institution can have a significant impact on the health, well-being, and ability to learn, of students and adults," Salcedo said. According to Wolff, one of the first items on the new director's agenda will be developing a more diverse teaching body. Along the same lines, Wolff suggested that developing a more diverse teaching body will be one of the first items on the new director's to-do list. "I would love to see us be able to build a diverse faculty that reflects the diversity of the student body," Wolff said.

ESSO Prepares for Annual Relay for Life Fundraiser

By HILLARY DAVIS
and ALAN XIE
Staff Writers

PEA's Exeter Student Service Organization (ESSO) will partner with Student Activities to host Relay for Life this Saturday, Apr. 8. The event is an annual fundraiser where student dorms and organizations man carnival-style booths to raise both money and awareness for the American Cancer Society.

The theme of this year's Relay for Life is community. This year's co-heads for the Relay for Life committee, upper Gabby Gabel and lower Gavin Cotter, explained that they chose the theme so that the event would foster a welcoming atmosphere for faculty and their families in addition to students. Gabel and Cotter also both expressed hope that people will leave the event with new knowledge about cancer and its effect on the Exeter community. "We're going to have an informational booth, and we really want a lot of people to spend time there so they can learn more about cancer," Cotter said.

Over the past few months, Relay For Life has been raising awareness using their social media platforms, Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat, and distributing various pamphlets and posters about cancer across campus. The fruit of these labors is visible in the 7000 dollars the Exeter community has already contributed to the event. According to him, Relay For Life typically only raises about 5000 dollars, but this year the committee has set the ambitious goal of raising 10,000 dollars. Senior Audrey Hahn agreed that this jump can be attributed to the power of technology, explaining that Relay For Life's new online portal allows for a smoother transaction of money than the cash donation system did.

Annual booths such as the "Amen Jail" and "Hoyt Heels" will once again take place this year, while other campus groups prepare new and improved stands. Girl's squash will host a pie-throwing booth, and boys' hockey will host "Schena's Shootout," where participants will be able to shoot on the boys' varsity hockey goalies.

At the beginning of the event, participants will have the opportunity to write the name of someone they know who has suffered from cancer on a piece of paper. At the end of the Luminaria service, these names will be read out loud, and when somebody hears the name that they wrote down, they will crack a glow stick, until the room is full of lights. "There are speeches and people share stories; there's hope and sadness," upper Meg Bolan said. "It's a mixture of excitement and fun and winter carnival-type activities, but also a moment to breathe and to reflect and

see what a lasting impact cancer has had on some people."


This year, students, faculty and families alike have gotten involved in Relay for Life in many different capacities and for a wide variety of reasons. Gabel and Cotter both wanted to get as many people from the community involved in order to celebrate and support those who have been affected by cancer. "It's a presence that is so common among so many students on campus, but nobody really knows about that," Bolan said. "I think that Relay for Life is an opportunity for students who are affected by this tragic disease to band together and find comfort that you are not alone," Gabel agreed. She went on, stressing the importance of listening to each other's stories, as almost everyone has been impacted by cancer. "For a disease that is so prevalent in our world today, it is extremely necessary for our community to come together and support one another," she said.

Personal stories regarding cancer are not always told in daily life. Thus, Relay for Life serves as an outlet for community members to share their own struggles or victories with cancer. For senior Audrey Hahn, who lost her mother to cancer, Relay for Life is a "happy and loving event that turns that loss into something that brings me closer to my community." For some, like upper Chloe Scocimara, Relay for Life is simply a way to get involved and reach out to those who have suffered.

Gabel, on the other hand, has firsthand experience with cancer, both because of her grandfather's death and because of her mother's job as an oncologist. "I would remember my mom coming home from work, so sad, telling me that she lost a patient who she thought of as a friend that day," Gabel said.

Cotter, who has suffered himself from cancer, relays with the determination to raise enough money for cancer research to someday find a cure. "It's an experience no one should have to go through, and I think that it's necessary to build awareness in a community so that they know that this isn't something one person can deal with," he said. "It affects an entire community."

In the final week leading up to the event, the Relay for Life committee has been and will continue hosting an information and donation booth in the Academy Center. They expressed hope that the event will be successful in raising money for cancer research while allowing the community to celebrate, support and educate each other. "Working together will make us a stronger support network," Director of Service Learning Elizabeth Reyes said. "We want a full house in the rink."



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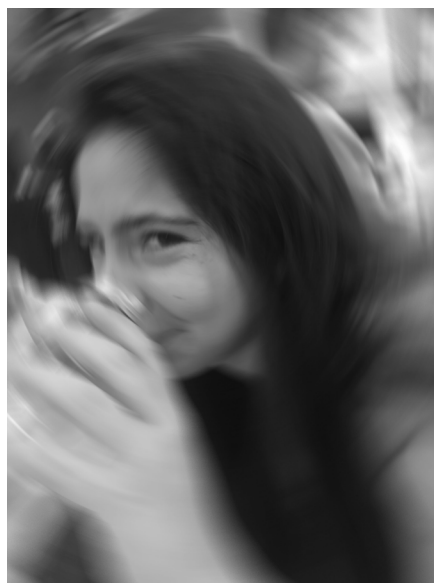
30 Lies to Tell Experience Exeter Parents

By EMILY GREEN
Head Tour Guide

1. D-hall food always tastes like this.
2. Oh, yes, I'm sure your child is the smartest.
3. The Humor Page is a respectable institution.
4. Peabody is the best dorm on campus.
5. Your child should definitely take Latin.
6. I'm not suffering.
7. "Non sibi" means "future investment bankers" in Latin. At least in practicality.
8. Preps aren't a disease.
9. I get a healthy nine hours of sleep every night.
10. American Culture Club is diverse.
11. Abbot Casino is a great event.
12. Your child definitely is tall enough to join the crew team.
13. Debate isn't a cult.
14. I try to limit my coffee intake to one cup per day.
15. Deerfield is also a great school.
16. PEAN stands for "Phillips Exeter Academy Nyearbook."
17. Abstinence is a hot trend on campus.
18. Principal MacFarlane definitely won't steal your child's bagel.
19. I have free time.
20. I'm not bitter.
21. Mr. Cosgrove's first name is Dean.
22. Andover's food is bad.
23. Everything is fine.
24. No, your Burberry handbag doesn't make you look too pretentious.
25. I don't get sick, ever. The flu doesn't exist here.
26. All the tests are 100% passable.
27. I only cry once a week.
28. *The Exonian* is well run and we always get out of the office early.
29. I experience hope.
30. Student Council listens to its constituents, especially regarding delicious Middle Eastern cuisine.
31. We have 30 items in this list.

TFW it is Spring Term, Yet it is Still Cold

By THE HUMOR EDITORS
Excellent Piano Enthusiasts



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Email exonianhumor@gmail.com.

Upper Starves to Death Waiting in Wetherell Dining Hall Line

By EMILY GREEN
RIP

Tuesday during Lunch, an upper sadly passed away from starvation while waiting in line to get food at Wetherell Dining Hall. She was forced to wait in line so long due to the increase in dining hall patrons that comes with Experience Exeter.

A core tenet of Experience Exeter is, of course, having to budget an extra twenty minutes minimum for every trip to D-Hall in order to have enough time to both get food and eat it. That

being said, this yearly tradition always takes a toll on Exonians, especially sick, sad, stressed uppers. This year, the tradition went too far.

A dear friend of the starvation victim told us, "When she said she was so hungry she was gonna die, I didn't think she meant literally. She will be missed."

The faculty expressed mild concern over the incident. "Maybe we should do something to address the insanely long lines

during Experience Exeter," the administration stated in an official response following the incident. However, the administration has not yet taken any action to fix the problem, and likely doesn't plan on doing so.

Students agree however, that while the lines are certainly too long, at least they will probably get prime rib at some point this week as the school tries to impress potential Exonian Muffy's hedge-fund-manager father.

When You Make All the Titles Really Long Because You Have Some Extra Empty Space to Fill and You're Pretty Tired Plus You Wrote an Entire Issue Last Week so You Don't Want to Spend Any More Time in the Office, and Then You Make a Meme

By EMILY GREEN
Meme Queen?



April Fools' Issue More Popular than Every Other Issue Ever Written Combined According to an Independent Study Conducted by the Humor Editors

By BILLY O'HANDLEY
Only the Facts

This past Saturday, the famed "April Fools" edition was given out to the students of Exeter through their P.O. Boxes. The paper was met with an overly favorable response from everyone except for the football team, who really shouldn't have gone 0-8 if they didn't want to be made fun of. More importantly, the articles in the April Fools' issue were actually read by people, a stark contrast to every other issue ever. "Literally no one reads *The Exonian*," said Ian Johnson, who

didn't actually say this but I needed a quote. "Normally it just ends up as cat litter or confetti after people flip to the humor section. You can't walk through Agora without stepping on one or two copies. But this time, people actually read it!"

The people of the Town of Exeter, who usually burn the unwanted copies to power their homes, said that the April Fools' issue was a hardship that they would have fought through. "I couldn't heat my house this weekend," said one de-

pendent resident. "So I just told *The Exonian* that I was interested in seeing a couple of back issues, and they bought it. I was able to get my house back to a toasty 40 degrees come Monday."

The April Fools' issue was fantastic, from an entirely objective point of view. But will the Humor Editors ever be able to top their crowning achievement? Find out next week, when I write an actual article instead of a hastily written ego boost.

Dining Hall Staff Misreads Experience Exeter Schedule, Accidentally Serves Good Food on Wednesday

By HARRY SAUNDERS
O'Handley's Understudy

Exonians streamed into Elm Street Dining Hall this Wednesday and were greeted by a mouth-watering spread of fruit salads, chicken quesadillas, grilled sausage, and strawberry shortcake. D-hall staffers, proud of the impressive spread, appeared increasingly bewildered at the familiar faces of current students.

"Where are all the overdressed little twerps with nametags and helicopter parents?" One staffer asked another.

Not until too much of the delicious food had been consumed did they begin to realize their mistake.

"I was under the impression that admitted students would be visiting all week," the dining hall manager said, shaking his head.

Surveillance microwaves installed by the Humor Editors in J. Smith Hall overheard a terse meeting on Wednesday afternoon between a group of D-hall staffers and an unnamed Dean. "I have made it very, very, clear to you all many times that it is strictly against the policy of this administration to waste quality food on students who already go here. They're NOT a market priority!" the Dean said, before slamming his desk Frank Underwood style.

Many students were overjoyed at the dining hall's complacency. "Best lunch I've had all year," upper Grant Cammock remarked. "The lack of newly admitted students gave me an important break from pretending to be happy for the past few days," the lower said with a strained smile.

As the sun went down on campus, freezers in the Elm Street D-hall kitchen eavesdropped on another secret meeting. "We need to clean up our act," the D-hall manager instructed his employees. "Another slip-up like this during alumni weekends, and we're going to be blamed for low fundraising."

Quote of the Week

"I don't care about falafel."
-Matthew Robbins '17

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

American Intervention in Venezuelan Affairs

Bella Alvarez '19
Guest Contributor

In the wake of the Cold War, America prided itself for being at the forefront of the "Free World," a group of countries associated with democratic, capitalist political landscapes. In the name of this "free" world, the U.S. government bypassed the autonomy of other nations in order to fight the good fight against communism. By painting the USSR as an evil, immoral institution, America side-stepped smaller socialist countries without blinking an eye.

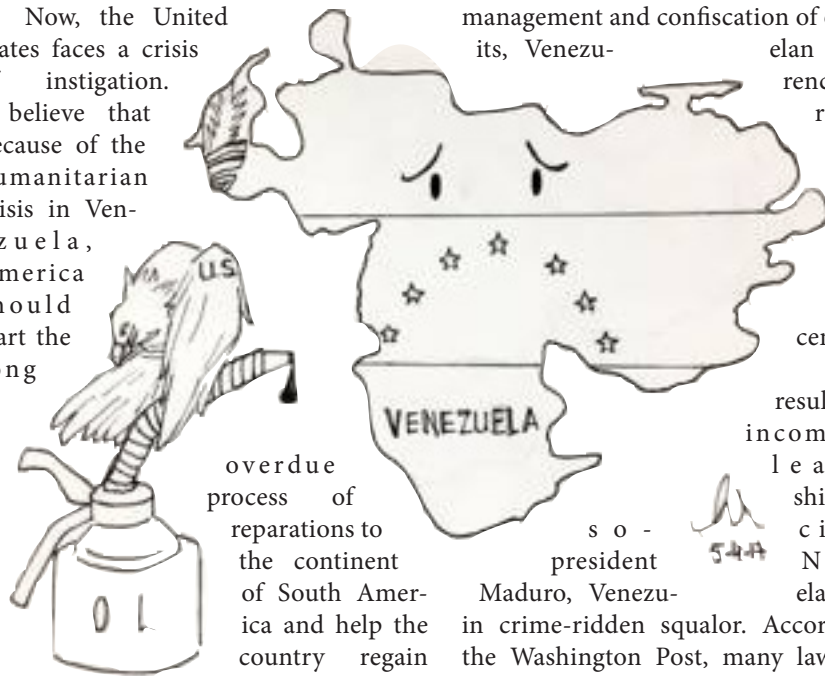
Even today, America attempts to reconcile the problems of other countries, and more often than not, our hands do not always come out clean. Desert Storm is an example of this.

I believe that because of our past actions and protrusions, America, as a rich and autonomous nation, should help the countries we once bullied and bulldozed. Although there are many countries that deserve our help and charity, Venezuela is certainly in need of urgent relief.

During the 1970s, Americans' deep and visceral fear of communism led to the planning of Operation Condor—a campaign which destroyed many South American countries through America's

promotion of brutal dictators. In order to destroy any Soviet influence on South American nations, the CIA and other intelligence agencies backed dictators and any leaders who promised to employ strict, authoritarian regimes.

Now, the United States faces a crisis of instigation. I believe that because of the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, America should start the long



overdue process of reparations to the continent of South America and help the country regain strength.

Although Venezuela was not immediately affected by Operation Condor, I believe that the country is only now feeling the effects of this clandestine mission. Because of America's capitalist intentions to secure profit from

any resource-rich country, Venezuela now suffers greatly from the exploitation of what was once their most valuable source of income: oil. Around 11 billion dollars in oil revenue "disappeared" from the state-run oil fund, and due to the mismanagement and confiscation of oil profits, Venezu-

elan currency has reached an inflation rate of 800 percent.

As a result of an incompetent leadership from socialist Nicolas Maduro, Venezuelans live in crime-ridden squalor. According to the Washington Post, many lawmakers and congressmen in Venezuela believe Maduro to be a dictator in the making. Before much outcry and protest from global news networks and leaders, Maduro stripped Venezuela's highest supreme court of any ability to pass legislation. As a result of the country's declining quality

of leadership and its increasing debt and poverty, thousands of citizens have been forced to rob stores in order to get basic convenience items such as toilet paper, and thousands more cross into neighboring countries each day to eat a meal. Gangs and violence threaten the streets. Infant mortality and homicide rates are steadily increasing.

In a particularly profound NPR news segment, reporters interviewed a Venezuelan woman who had turned to sex work in order to sustain her family. They talked about the desperate measures that some Venezuelans must take, sometimes walking for hours to beg for food in Colombia and Brazil.

Starting around 2011, United States-Venezuelan relations have been rocky. Then-Vice President Maduro ejected two American military attachés from Venezuela, and as a response, many Venezuelan diplomats and ambassadors were expelled from the United States. Before then, there were plenty of problems with the inter-country relationship: drug trafficking, accusation of working with the Soviets and the Iranians, among many other scandals.

Venezuela is facing the consequences of our materialism. It is time for the government to lend a helping hand to a country in need, once our greatest supplier of oil, now forgotten with the brush of a presidential hand.

Global Refugee Crises: What are People Fleeing From?

Mai Hoang '20
Columnist

It is 2017. The Syrian Refugee crisis has dragged on for six years, and nearly five million people have fled to other countries. Some are lucky enough to be granted asylum in Germany or Canada. Most languish in crowded camps in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Stories of boats of people drowned at sea can be found on most news channels and publications, yet in spite of all this, or perhaps because of it, the public has grown apathetic to the plight of refugees. We accept that it is normal for displaced peoples to wander from country to country, knowing they belong nowhere. We accept that it is normal for them to lose their humanity. Sadly, "refugee," "crisis" and "Syria" have almost become buzzwords, upon the utterance of which we throw our hands up in exasperation, shouting, "Not my fault. What can I do?"

Because of this attitude, casual news readers oftentimes do not bother to research deeper into what is actually happening. One of the many serious flaws in the media's portrayal of the refugee crisis is simplifying it to the experience of individuals fleeing the Syrian civil war. There is actually no single Refugee Crisis, but a series of refugee situations originating from numerous unstable, violent and oppressive regimes. Syrian nationals make up only one third of the world's refugees. Though people fleeing from Afghanistan, Eritrea, South Sudan and other countries face just as much danger, their stories receive very little coverage. As the talk focuses on one country, partly because of its implications for global powers, airstrikes in Taliban-threatened Afghanistan, ethnic slaughtering in South Sudan and religious persecution in Myanmar suddenly fade into the background.

The manifold nature of these crises makes it vain for any coalition to come up with a "master plan" to solve the outflux of emigrés. Even during World War

II, when masses fled from devastated Europe their numbers did not come close to the 65.3 million United Nations-documented refugees in 2016. More importantly, whatever dangers emigrants then faced subsided once the war ended and stability was once again established in the region. The conflict in Syria has dragged on for six years, matching the duration of World War II, with no signs of concluding. Even if it were to end soon, there would still be all the other isolated dangers that rob rightful citizens worldwide of their freedom. Though identifying the nature of these is no easy task, one could arrange the threats faced by refugees in their home countries into three main categories: military violence, government oppression and targeted persecution.

In Afghanistan, in Somalia, on the Gaza strip, children do not know the definition of peace. Students go to school to see their friends torn to pieces by falling bombs, siblings watch as their brothers and sisters bleed to death from stray bullets. Families desperate enough risk detection, imprisonment and piracy to cross deserts or board rickety boats in search, not of more opportunities, but just a fleeting glimpse of life with-

One of the many serious flaws in the media's portrayal of the refugee crisis is simplifying it to the experience of individuals fleeing the Syrian civil war.

out constant fear. Though the Vietnamese in 1975 were the first specimens of "boat people," many have since followed in their footsteps and metamorphosed into the same stinking, wriggling beings crammed onto floating vessels without life jackets. "We have nothing else to lose," they say. In 2015, news readers gasped upon seeing images of a three-year-old corpse of a boy washed onto the shores of Turkey; what these sheltered

Europeans did not realize was that the chance of surviving at sea had always been unpredictable. And good for them, too, because if the ocean had not come to their aid, their turbulent borders would have been plagued by five thousand more refugees every year.

War, terrible as it is, is not the only thing from which refugees flee. When

When individuals rear in the culture of the global North muse about oppressive regimes, they most likely will think of disenfranchisement, one-party systems and silencing of the press.

individuals rear in the culture of the global North muse about oppressive regimes, they most likely will think of disenfranchisement, one-party systems and silencing of the press. Yet in Eritrea, a small country on the Horn of Africa, the legitimate power of ruling elites includes indefinite conscription (most boys drafted in their teens serve till their fifties), forced labor and extrajudicial execution.

This is what Eritrea asylum-seekers leave and what they will be doomed to face once nations like the UK and Israel deem their country "safe to return." Modern Eritrea won independence only twenty-five years ago, after a long and bloody guerrilla struggle with Ethiopia. The guerrilla leader, namely Isaias Afewerki, gained enough support to enter office as Eritrea's first "democratic" president, only to betray his people's trust. His party, the only one in the country, is composed of ex-military men, and they reign with an iron fist, to say the least. Human Rights Watch, the UN and Amnesty all condemn the regime, estimating a number of 10,000 political prisoners who are tortured daily in isolated cells. Though Afewerki's government has tried to deny all allegations and shows no sign of improvement, the international community is unwilling to take on stronger

measures due to political and security concerns. The least thing developed countries can do for Eritreans fleeing from oppression is to grant them asylum. Some refuse.

A few thousand miles East of Eritrea, Myanmar refugees escape from Rakhine State due to another reason—religious persecution. Although this small Southeast Asian nation has garnered plenty of media attention recently thanks to Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's political triumph over the ruling military regime, the plight of the Rohingya ethnic group remains largely unknown.

Many anticipated the end of targeted atrocities when Suu Kyi gained power, but not much has changed, and the state press is as reticent as ever about sharing information. But simply witnessing the conditions of Rohingyas who made it to Bangladesh and examining satellite images of destroyed villages leave no room for doubt. The government has alluded to this ethnic minority as "detestable human fleas" and "a thorn to be removed"—typical rhetoric of those perpetrating large scale massacre. Buddhist extremists have pushed for military offensives against unarmed civilians because of their ethnicity and religion (Rohingyas are, unlike the Bamars, Muslim.) The UN still has yet to push for a formal inquiry and ensure safe passage for persecuted Rohingyas into Thailand and Bangladesh. If these do not happen quickly, we might be on the verge of watching another genocide unfold.

There still exists a stigma surrounding refugees and immigrants, a common unspoken belief that these peoples are opportunists clinging onto the generosity of the developed world, usurpers trying to snatch jobs from "the natives." This narrative is an unacceptable insult to the horrors these survivors underwent, horrors concrete and tangible. With the spread of social media, plain proofs of violence, oppression and massacre are more readily seen than ever. Are these all alternative facts? What more needs to happen for the bystanders' attitude to change?

The Rise of Fringe Sciences

Shaan Bhandarkar '19
Guest Contributor

In an era where we're constantly thinking forward and working towards the "next big thing" we've even coined a name for such scientific thinking: "fringe science." Fringe science is a broad term for a variety of theoretical fields including cybernetics, portals and teleportation. Fringe science may sound like trivial, childish conjectures compared to the comparatively urgent theories in the more applicable, mainstream sciences such as medicine or engineering, but there is a serious debate arising regarding the financial investments that are pursuing these fringe sciences. People immediately deem fringe scientists to be mere charlatans wasting their grants away, but is that really true?

The common perception that comes with the mention of "fringe science" is some type of unethical experiment in-

volving the creation of a Darth Vader or an Iron Man-like suit by a group of mad scientists. "Fringe science" has even received the nicknames of "junk science" or "voodoo science" for such reasons. Though fringe science includes the extreme of experiments, the term is quite relative especially with respect to time. Just a few decades ago, the theory of evolution and the Big Bang Theory were both considered studies belonging to this very maligned group of fringe science. Some of the most convoluted of concepts we, including professional scientists, deem as fringe science today may eventually become common knowledge for ordinary citizens in the future. Fringe science cannot be simply dismissed due to the more ambitious goals as so many of the concepts previously classified as "fringe science" have moved up into the more mainstream sciences.

Fringe science, just by its name, may imply a sole influence on the mainstream scientific concepts, but it has had a great deal of influence on other aspects of our

lives as well. One major component of the collective influence of fringe science includes novels inspired by fringe science concepts. Some of the most renowned writers of science fiction such as Jules Verne and Isaac Asimov have taken

inspiration from fringe science and have spread this into their speculative fiction through their works. Even television shows have had a considerable impact on our minds. According to Forbes, Martin Cooper, the director of Motorola and credited inventor of the first cell phone, credits the notion of communication devices in Star Trek to have inspired his quest to develop the first cell phone. The



introduction and inclusion of unknown devices with useful abilities on the big screen or in writing inspires aspiring inventors to at least the question of the feasibility of their creation.

Despite popular conception of the meaning of "fringe science," fringe science is a legitimate field, not a "junk science." Fringe science is more of a movement towards the advancement of discovery of novel technologies. If anything, fringe science provides real inspiration, not unrealistic hopes. They should no longer be dismissed simply because of the most extremist of aspirations in the entire world of fringe science. Long ago, the idea of heliocentrism was a tabooed, heretic theory, but now we treat it as common knowledge. We can't say for sure, but we can never count out even those goals that "fringe science" coerces us to believe in. Realistic or not, if we are to make the next medicinal advancements or the next technological devices, we'll need the creative force evident in pursuers of "fringe science" to achieve them.



ExeterLife



Upper Harry Fitzgerald and senior Charis Edwards perform an emotional scene in the musical.

Julia Goydan/The Exonian

Next to Normal: A Rock Musical

By NIKITA THUMMALA and
RACHEL WON
Contributing Writers

On April Fools' weekend, dozens of people filed into seats in Powell Hall and eagerly awaited the first show of spring term: *Next to Normal*. For weeks, the show had been advertised on campus through posters and a school-wide email. In no time, seats were filled to maximum capacity. Students, faculty and other members of the community eagerly watched as the director and pianist, senior Zoe Marshall, gave a short introduction before the lights were dimmed to let the performers walk onstage. When the lights came back on, the audience was greeted by a single actress, senior Charis Edwards.

Next to Normal presents an authentic look at a family struggling with the effects of mental illness and drug abuse. The six main characters consist of the mother, Diana Goodman (senior Charis Edwards); Dan Goodman (upper Ian Johnson), Diana's husband; their daughter, Natalie (upper Daisy Tichenor); their son, Gabe (lower Jacob Hunter); Natalie's boyfriend, Henry (upper Isabella Abate); and Diana's therapist, Doctor Madden (upper Harry Fitzgerald). Each and every family member is affected by the mother's battle with bipolar disorder and her attempts to overcome her illness. However, the play also addresses several other important issues in

modern society. Senior and director Zoe Marshall explained, "It not only speaks to mental illness and grief, but also stress and high school relationships." Each of these issues receives its fair share of attention throughout the musical, as each character attempts to solve their unique problems. Thus, each character displays depth and complexity, which revealed itself as moral ambiguity. "The characters are three-dimensional and often the cast would get into debates about the moral compass of one of them," Marshall said. Regardless of how righteous they are, all six characters are stunningly real, allowing the audience to sympathize with the cast effortlessly—whether it be with Natalie, who is caught in the middle of the conflict between her parents, or Doctor Madden, who debates the ethics of certain treatments. The plot's intricacy creates an entertaining story arc as the actors artfully lead the audience through a series of astounding highs and lows. With *Next to Normal*, one could never be sure of what was going to happen.

In preparation for the musical, actors participated in daily rehearsals all throughout winter term. To every person involved, the production was a huge time commitment, but one that ultimately paid off in the end. The cast faced several obstacles in the creation of this production. Finding time to prepare

for the musical was a major problem. "We had nine or ten different schedules to work around, two cast members on stricts the two weeks prior to opening night and a restriction of space," said Tichenor. However, she would not have had it any other way. The end result erased any lingering negativity she had towards the musical. Tichenor explained, "It was hard and time consuming, but it was worth every late night and every early morning."

The songs also required an incredible amount of practice, due to their exceptional degree of musicality. "Every song has insane harmonies that took even the best of us weeks to learn," said Tichenor. The melodies even ended up injuring a cast member. "The part of Dan is well beyond my natural vocal range, so I wound up damaging my vocal cords and having to go silent for three straight days," said upper Ian Johnson. Moreover, the actors were forced to practice and perform in the small, cramped space of Powell Hall, which audience members viewed as a disservice to the high quality of the musical. As prep Emma Cerrato put it, "*Next to Normal* deserved more than its 'stage' in Powell Hall." However, even with these hindrances, the group persevered and gave a beautiful performance.

The musical was met with overwhelming appreciation and respect.

The performance addressed drugs and their effects in an uncommonly candid way, surprising many audience members. "The show displayed a powerful message about the real life struggles and impacts of mental illness and visibly provoked emotions in every audience member. I was blown away by the incredible performance by the cast and left feeling sad but thoroughly satisfied," said Cerrato. Similarly, many praised the musical's ability to touch the audience. "I cried three times during the show and had to put my hair down so other people couldn't see me bawling," joked lower Heidi Lichtl. By using an unconventional storyline to present one of today's most pressing issues in a relatable and down-to-earth manner, *Next to Normal* definitely succeeded in touching the hearts of the audience.

The musical was an amazing accomplishment. Entirely student-run, this performance was certainly distinct from previous theatre projects. All aspects of the production—from the directing to the musical performances to the acting—reflected an immense amount of effort and preparation. As *Next to Normal* ended, the audience cheered from their seats, hearts warmed by the emotional screenplay brought to life by an astounding cast and crew.

One Billion Rising Dance Concert

By HILLARY DAVIS
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Apr. 2, the Winter Exeter Dance Company performed two powerful pieces at the One Billion Rising Gala—a campaign that seeks to raise awareness about the exploitation of women—at the Music Hall in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The dances were choreographed by dance instructors Allison Duke and Amberlee Darling. Focused on expressing the power of women through movement, the gala served as an opportunity for the dance company to get off campus and meet other local dance groups. The gala was originally scheduled for Feb. 12, but was postponed to this past weekend, due to a blizzard.

The concert was part of an international movement dedicated to combatting gender inequality and eliminating violence against women and girls. One Billion Rising's goal for 2017 is to foster solidarity against the exploitation of women. In honor of this theme, Darling choreographed a piece inspired by the American suffragette movement while Duke created a dance that explored the different aspects of a relationship. Duke's dance was inspired by the song "On the Nature of Daylight" by Max Richter. Duke fell in love with the tensions and contradictions in the song, which she sought to emulate in her choreography. She explained, "Out of that grew this piece that juxtaposed what a relationship looks like to everyone else—friends, family and colleagues—and what it feels like for the person in the relationship who lacks a voice, control or power."



Courtesy of Google

Upper Carolyn Girard felt that both pieces successfully used movement to celebrate the strength of women. Describing the process of learning Darling's choreography, she said, "We focused a lot on the power that women can have by themselves but also on when they come together to support each other." Girard also appreciated the solidarity among the groups performing how each dance group participating used their unique, individual performances to promote a common goal of female empowerment.

The dancers decided to participate in the One Billion Rising campaign because former dance instructor Sarah Duclos produced and directed the second annual gala at the Music Hall in Portsmouth. The dancers enjoyed getting the chance to perform in an

unfamiliar setting. Upper Elly Lee, one of the dancers, said, "I feel incredible appreciation for the opportunity to perform in an off-campus show that allowed us to leave the 'Exeter bubble' and interact with dancers in the local area." Lower Sarah Liberatore was proud to dance in the One Billion Rising gala because it was for a good cause. The gala raised money for a local organization called Haven, which supports victims of sexual and domestic violence. Liberatore described the sense of fulfillment she received from the performance: "We helped raise a lot of money, we got to meet some amazing people and amazing dancers and it was really special to be able to perform at the Portsmouth Music Hall."

This past winter, dancers attended rehearsals for One Billion Rising twice

a week, on top of their rehearsals for the Winter Dance Concert. Aside from the sheer amount of rehearsals, the addition of the One Billion Rising gala to the dance schedule did not have any drastic effects. Liberatore noted the lack of breaks during rehearsals but said the rehearsals were "pretty comparable to normal dance company rehearsals but with a little bit more time commitment." According to Girard, it was important to hold frequent rehearsals at the beginning of winter term so that the movements would commit to muscle memory. Having these rehearsals at the beginning of the term also allowed the dancers to focus more on learning the choreography and executing it well. Liberatore said, "For me, it was actually better to have it at the beginning of this term instead of at the end of winter term when I was more stressed about school work and lots of other things."

During the rehearsals and performance, Duke admired the dancers' enthusiasm and ability to connect with dancers from outside the Exeter community. She believes in the power of art as "an agent for social activism." The dancers—a combination of those from Exeter's Winter Dance Company and those who stepped in from Exeter's Spring Dance Company—executed a moving performance, leaving their impact on the social issue of gender inequality. Duke, bursting with pride, said, "Dance is a lot more than technique and steps, and it can be a powerful and expressive medium to affect change in society."

Senior Spotlight

Stellar Sam

By MAI HOANG, ALAN XIE
and RYAN XIE
Staff Writers

Whether he's running an MIT Launch meeting or playing theater games with kids, senior Sam Noyes pursues a wide variety of interests on campus.

Noyes's advisor, Science Instructor Richard Aaronian, admires how Noyes's commitment to academics has grown over his four years at the Academy. "He can write papers very quickly, and he's also very good in math and science," Aaronian said. "He's matured. His desire to improve in all aspects of his life was always there, and through time he figured how to do that more efficiently."

Noyes's excellent academic performance allows him to help others. Upper Jamie Demopoulos attributes some of his academic achievements to Noyes. "He's very supportive and energetic: whenever I need homework help, I would just text him, and he would help me with it," Demopoulos said. "Last year, I was struggling a lot with physics, and he helped me for a couple of hours per week." The two also have fun outside the academic setting; Demopoulos and Noyes surf together. Demopoulos recounted with admiration how Noyes battled against inclement December wind and freezing water for an hour at a time. "Last time, it was very cold, but he [Noyes] tried for an hour, which was very admirable," said Demopoulos.

One of Noyes's main interests is coding. He fell in love with coding in seventh grade, and he has continued that passion at Exeter. "I started programming in seventh grade at summer camp, and I



Chiara Perotti Corea/The Exonian

ended up enjoying it because I like the logic behind it," he said. Noyes's friend and fellow senior, Lucas Webb, remarked on Noyes's coding talent. "He is very good at computer science and has been a very good partner to work with on projects," said Webb. "He creates really cool stuff in computer science and has even made a couple of iOS apps."

While Noyes's main priority is academics, he also plays multiple sports and has been a member of Exeter's junior varsity baseball team since his lower year. Aaronian, who used to be Noyes's baseball coach, emphasized his coachability and attentiveness. "In baseball, he worked as hard as anyone on the team to get better, and he really improved in all parts of his game," Aaronian said. "He was seen as a leader on the team." In addition, Noyes

currently heads the skiing club alongside Webb, with whom he also enjoys hiking.

Noyes's non-sibi attitude shines through during his time spent with children. As a co-head of ESSO Theatre Games with Kids, he teaches drama and improvisation to young children. "I've always loved comedy, that type of thing. I have a bunch of Robin Williams and Jerry Seinfeld CDs in my house," he said. "Also, working with the kids is great because there are a lot of kids who come back. I feel like they come a long way."

Most recently, Noyes founded the MIT Launch Club. With teaching materials obtained directly from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Noyes and other club heads explain to members the concept of entrepreneurship and help them polish business plans. "I've always

wanted to start my own business," said Noyes, a loyal fan of the entrepreneurship-centered TV show "Shark Tank." Although MIT Launch Club was just established at the start of this school year, it boasts an email list with more than one hundred members. Last November, five teams from the club submitted their business pitches to MIT Launch and received counsel from personal mentors. Members of the club have complemented Noyes's caring and organized leadership. According to prep John Han, a member of the club, Noyes always "goes the extra mile to make sure that everybody in the club is taken care of."

Not only does Noyes have a caring side, but his fearlessness is something that inspires others, like Webb. "One thing that strikes me about Sam's character is his ability to put himself out there. He is never afraid to ask questions," Webb said. Webb also describes Noyes as a close and reliable friend. "I know a lot of friends come and go, but Sam has always been there."

Many who know Noyes also respect his well-developed sense of humor. Aaronian complemented Noyes as having a good balance of work-ethic and wit. "He's got that strong inner drive, and he's serious about his work but can also laugh about things," Aaronian said. However, Noyes never lets his desire to do well get in the way of his inquisitive nature and love of learning. "I think Exeter has helped me put everything in perspective," Noyes said. "At first I would kind of beat up myself if I didn't do as well as I wanted, but now I focus more on the learning aspect of it and being interested in what I'm doing, rather than just the grade."

AUDRIE & DAISY

By ROSE HOROWITZ
Staff Writer



"Audrie & Daisy" is a documentary about two sexual assault cases and their outcomes, directed by Bonni Cohen and Jon Shenk. It is a powerful movie with a focus on the way the victims were treated by the people in their towns and local law enforcement. The two assaults occurred five months apart, in two towns separated by thousands of miles. Both victims, Audrie Pott and Daisy Coleman, were assaulted by boys they knew. Audrie and Daisy were both ordinary kids before being thrust into national news in the wake of such devastating incidents. The film uses social media posts and interviews with the perpetrators, to give the viewer a comprehensive account of what occurred. However, the real genius of the film lies in its portrayal of how the girls' towns—Saratoga, California, and Maryville, Missouri—failed to protect them, while punishing their attackers far too leniently. In "Audrie & Daisy," lawmakers and police blame the victims for the crimes perpetrated against them before denouncing the media's attention to the sexual assaults.

In the first part of the movie, fifteen-year-old Audrie gets intoxicated at a party, where a boy sexually assaults her in the presence of several others, who take photographs that eventually circulate on social media. The movie depicts Audrie's heart-wrenching quest to find out what happened to her, displaying some of her frantic messages on screen. Tragically, after finding out the truth and suffering the abuse of cruel bullies, Audrie commits suicide. Later, the movie covers the story of Daisy, who is only fourteen when she is sexually assaulted by a seventeen-year-old while his friend records a video of the event. Afterwards, the boys dump her on her house's front lawn in freezing cold weather. The boys get a slap on the wrist from the town as Daisy endures hurtful

cyber-bullying. Despite these hardships, or perhaps because of them, Daisy teams up with other sexual assault survivors and shares her story, in the hopes that no future victim will feel as alone as she did. It is from this place of strength and resilience that Daisy calls upon the audience to speak out when a loved one is suffering.

The movie expertly deploys testimonies, interviews and old family videos from the girls' childhoods to weave together these two stories. Even though the cases' aftermath unfolded on national news for a lengthy period of time, William Hirsch, one of the producers, and his team were able to provide a concise, poignant summary in under two hours. The viewers even get to watch the police interview the criminals, which amplifies the film's emotional impact. In one of the most powerful scenes in the movie, a Maryville sheriff repeatedly mentions how quickly he was able to apprehend the perpetrators and find their cell phones. Yet, at the end of the film, the viewer watches Daisy's attackers receive a light punishment. Along with the older boys who assaulted her, the sheriff holds Daisy responsible for her assault. He goes on to criticize the public for refusing to move on, and questions whether the boys who perpetrated the assault were truly at fault. In this way, the viewer is able to witness Maryville's polarization after the case, and having that perspective juxtaposed with Daisy's reaction allows the viewer to develop a uniquely personal connection to the film, and to all survivors of sexual assault.

"Audrie & Daisy" is a must-see because even though it can be upsetting and hard-to-watch, it provides an intimate look at the psychological impact of sexual violence on communities in the age of social media.



Teenager Daisy Coleman is spotlighted in the movie.

Courtesy of Google

TWO HAPPY HIP-HOP SONGS

By SEBASTIAN BANGO
Contributing Writer

Hip Hop music should inspire feelings in a listener: sorrow, introspection, anger and excitement. However, the average hip hop fan's library tends to be rather one-sided, filled with rap that incites anger or excitement but not happiness. Therefore, this week, I have a few suggestions to spice up your selection of "happy music." It might even distract you from the depressing weather.

Restoration of An American Idol (2017)
Artist: Taylor Bennett

Chance the Rapper has a little brother—Taylor Bennett! I believe this album solidifies the fact that Taylor is the better Bennett. Taylor Bennett is what Chance the Rapper would've been if he didn't go all Jesus on us. If you loved Acid Rap and hated Coloring Book, check this album out. The first half of the project starts with a calming euphoric tone and builds to a more fun upbeat vibe. This arc is also reflected in the lyrical content. The first half is introspective and reflective, discussing the trials and tribulations of his youth. Interesting enough, you don't get a sense of regret from his music; instead, you can feel that he is trying to make peace with the chaos of his past. The second half of

the album is Taylor flexing on everyone. He boasts about his authenticity, sex life and success in the songs. The instrumentals on most of the songs are upbeat percussion built around simple piano chords or smooth synths.

You Are Forgiveness (2016)
Artist: MadeinTYO

The power team MadeinTYO and producer K Swisha broke into the rap scene with the smash hit "Uber Everywhere" a little over a year ago. MadeinTYO's debut EP, You Are Forgiveness, expands on the synths we tasted in "Uber Everywhere." K Swisha incorporates fun synth arpeggios and leads over claps and heavy kicks to create an upbeat headbanging vibe. While MadeinTYO may not be a lyrical genius, he crafts catchy hooks and lyrics that you can't help singing along to (i.e. "Kelly Rowland"). His adlib is also one of the strongest in the game. His attitude throughout the project reflects his optimistic stances towards his rising rap career. He goes into detail about the shenanigans that come along with his fame. While Taylor Bennett can gently elevate your mood, MadeinTYO keeps the hype rolling.



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FacultySpotlight

Christina Breen

By ISABELLA AHMAD,
PAUL JAMES and ALAN XIE
Staff Writers

English Instructor Christina Breen has become an invaluable resource for students over the seven years that she has taught at the Academy. Before teaching at Exeter, Breen taught at Saint Mark's School in Southborough, Massachusetts, and also spent five years helping to establish Heronfield Academy, an independent middle school in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire. Since arriving at Exeter, she has become a girls varsity lacrosse coach, dormitory head of Williams House and an advisor to Fight Club, a support group for students who have lost a parent.

In the classroom, Breen works to ensure that all her students feel comfortable contributing to the class. "I try to do a lot of work in the first week and then throughout the term where students have to rely on each other and have to get to know each other as people before knowing each other as students. That tends to break down any competitiveness at the table and instead it becomes more cooperative," she said. She also tries to cover a range of authors, genres and time periods in the books her classes read. In her classes, Breen focuses on cultivating "growth within a trimester as opposed to trying to come up with some kind of final product."

When describing her teaching experience at the Academy, Breen discussed the commitment to learning that she feels within the Exeter student body. "It is an absolute pleasure to walk into my classroom and teach the students here everyday, and I never felt otherwise. Exeter students are extremely earnest and prepared, and they want to do well for each other and for themselves."

For the majority of her time at Exeter, Breen has been the dormitory head of Williams House, and she feels a connection to the dorm. "The only hard thing I think in all of the houses is that there's only one adult living there, so you're on duty all the time. But, I also really like how well I know these kids," she said. The boys living in Williams House are appreciative of her efforts. Upper Aiden Roberts said, "Ms. Breen's abundant love for anyone and everyone she knows is heartwarming. She is a mother, a mentor, a role model and most of all, a friend. And that is what makes Williams House such a great dorm." Another member of Williams House, senior Jake Malasek, agreed. "She's a great dorm fac, always on call if any of us needs



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

anything. She acts kind of like the mom for all 12 of us," Malasek said.

Breen also serves as the head coach of the girls' varsity lacrosse team. "Going out to lacrosse every afternoon is really fun," Breen said. "They work very hard, and they've really helped to build a good culture on that team." Team members love the culture that Breen has created. "She has us follow these traditions, one of which is to line our bags and sticks in a perfect line each practice and game," said lower Tori Simon, the team's goalie. Breen also has a tradition that helps to get rid of hierarchy and create a better team atmosphere. "One of the ways we do that is to have team buddies. You get assigned someone who is not in your grade, whom you might not know too well. They're your buddy through the season, and you warm up everyday at practice with them."

Other team members also acknowledged Breen's strong team leadership. Lower Bella Hillman agreed that Breen truly cares for their team. "She emphasizes the importance of playing as a team and makes sure everyone plays a role in our success," Hillman said. Upper Alexa Harris said that she creates an environment where everyone feels like they are an important part of the team. "Coaches who genuinely care are the best coaches," said Harris, referring to Breen.

Hillman is grateful for the time Breen spends with her players. "Off the field, she always takes time to catch up with you and really cares for her students and players," said Hillman. "Breen is all about helping her players

develop to be the best they can be." Simon agreed, saying, "Coach Breen cares so much about us. She goes to many of our alum's games just to see them again."

Breen's role as an advisor of Fight Club also bears testament to her caring nature. Upper Meg Bolan spoke of the genuine concern that Breen has for her students. Bolan is both a member of Fight Club and a lacrosse player, so Bolan and Breen are close. Bolan expressed her appreciation for Breen as an "an ideal discussion facilitator." According to Bolan, Breen always brings people into the Fight Club discussions, never hesitant to inquire about classes and family life. Like Roberts and Malesak, Bolan also views Breen as a "second mom" at Exeter. "She is so in-tune with how the group is feeling, and that is a tough skill to come across, so it is truly a blessing that she is part of fight club," Bolan said.

The immense amount of empathy that Breen possesses is also present in her off-campus interests. She has completed the Pan-Mass Challenge, a 192 mile bike ride from Sturbridge, Massachusetts, to the tip of Cape Cod. The Challenge raises money for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute for research. Bolan emphasized Breen's habit of setting goals for herself and for her students. "If you have a goal in mind and you don't have the means to reach it, she will do anything to help you. She does it for so many people," said Bolan. "She gives students options on different ways to express themselves."

D-HALL CREATIONS

By JEREMY XU
Columnist

Hi! Jeremy here. Every once in awhile, D-Hall food seems to stop tasting good, and you've already spent fifty bucks during the past week, so you can't order out again. That's why I want to make recipes for dishes that can be made in D-Hall for the Exonian community! My goal is to give you new recipes each week that are simple and delicious. Occasionally, I will collaborate with the instagram page @dhallcreations. (Follow them if you haven't already!)

Chinese Milk Tea:

This first recipe is the classic, refreshing Chinese Milk Tea (nay cha). This Chinatown staple can be reproduced super quickly at D-Hall with nothing more than a handful of ingredients.

AVG. RATING: 4.7 OUT OF 5

INGREDIENTS:

1. 1 bag of Lipton Black Tea (0 Calories)
2. 1 teaspoon of Honey (or adjust to personal taste) (21 Calories)
3. ¼ cup 2% Milk (30 Calories), or alternatively: Vanilla Soy Milk (6 Calories)
4. About ¾ to 1 cup of ice

DIRECTIONS:

1. Place the tea bag inside a paper cup and fill the cup ¾ full with hot water.
 2. Put the teaspoon of honey into the cup and stir until the water turns dark brown.
 3. Fill a plastic cup all the way up with ice and pour the black tea into the plastic cup.
 4. Add milk to the black tea and stir until all the tea and the milk are mixed well.
- Gan bei!

REVIEWS:

"It's good actually. It's cool and refreshing, yet sweet at the same time."

—Jared Zhang '19

"It's flavorful!"

—Anna Reaman '18

"Oh, I really like it!" *claps*

—Katie Yang '19

"Whoa! It's really good!"

—Sophia Yoon '18

"Subtle, sweet tea taste, that is as genuine as D-Hall milk tea gets."

—Elizabeth Yang '19

"I thought they were trying to scam me, but it was really good."

—Matt Wabunoha '20

"It's so authentic."

—Jenny Yang '19

"This is actually really good."

—Charissa Chen '17

ALLERGIES AND DIETARY RESTRICTIONS:

Vegetarian, or vegan if opting for soymilk
Nut-Free, Dairy-Free (with soymilk)
Kosher and Halal



Courtesy of Google

Club Spotlight: Exonian Encounters

By BIANCA BECK and
SARAH RYU
Staff Writers

Exeter is home to students from a broad variety of socioeconomic, racial and religious backgrounds. As such a diverse campus, Exeter relies on certain organizations to help facilitate discussions about the acceptance of all types of students. One such group is the Exonian Encounters Committee (ExEn), which works to organize events embracing differences, challenging misconceptions and fostering connections with others in a respectful environment. Throughout the year, ExEn hosts movie screenings and panel discussions, and on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, ExEn organizes events that help students to recognize and examine their personal privilege.

ExEn consists of about 10-15 students led by coach Olutoyin Augustus-Ikwuakor, known to students as "Coach Toyin." Instead of drawing huge numbers, the club tends to be a more selective group. "We act as a committee where everyone is expected to pull equal weight, as opposed to clubs with heads and members. For us it means we are closer to Harkness and collaborative work," Augustus-Ikwuakor said.

Throughout the year, the club organizes events on campus that deal with students' understandings and biases regarding topics

such as race, mental health, gender issues and sexuality. One of the events last year was "Streaming Stereotypes," in which the committee presented a compilation of clips from various media outlets and drew attention to stereotypes represented in the clips. The event was followed by a movie with a forum, where several faculty members and students presented ways to combat harmful stereotypes.

Members of the committee believe that, while they create events centered on the experiences of Exonians, they also become more aware of the differences in the community. Upper Gabby Meeks, a member of the committee, noted that being a part of ExEn has helped her recognize the unique qualities in every Exonian, and she tries to bring those qualities to light through the club's events. "At Exeter, it's very easy for us to get lost in the academics, and forget to acknowledge and appreciate our differences," she said.

Lower Adrian Venzon agreed that by working to bring awareness to some of the hardships that people encounter, he has become a better listener, leader and speaker. "With ExEn's events, we are able to make people vulnerable and more receptive to each other's personal experiences. Working with this committee has opened my eyes up to so many different perspectives I've never heard before," he said.

ExEn has taught some members how

to lead discussions with an open mind. Upper Sarah Shepley mentioned that, before joining the club, she had trouble talking to friends about social justice, because she thought that "they wouldn't listen or care." However, she learned that this was not the case at all. "What I've learned from the student reactions to our events," Shepley said, "is that, most of the time, people want to listen and often do care, but just need to be educated about the topic; they won't bring it up because they are either unaware of the issue or aren't comfortable enough to bring it up in conversation." Now, she's at ease and "bolder" when having conversations about pressing issues.

ExEn's main goal, however, is to eradicate biases from all corners of campus. Upper Grace Khaner, a member of the committee, said that the club does this and more. "Biases are learned, not chosen," Khaner said. "Everyone has the capability to unlearn their biases." Although Exeter's community comes from all parts of the globe, and every student comes to Exeter with a different perspective—and sometimes, bias—on certain issues. In the Exonian Encounters Committee, students have the opportunity to learn from one another's outlooks on life. As lower and committee member Lizzie Madamidola said, "Even though we are all different we can all work together to benefit each other."

UPCOMING

SHOW

A CAPPELLA SHOWCASE

Friday, Assembly Hall

EVENT

RELAY FOR LIFE

Saturday, Love Gym

EVENT

SLOW ART DAY

Saturday, Lamont Gallery

MEDITATION

JENNY HUNT

Friday, Church

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Baseball Hopeful for Another Winning Season

Confident That Strong Team Will Find Success Against Opponents



Senior Collin Shapiro swings at a fastball.

Rachel Luo/The Exonian

By MADISON KANG
Staff Writer

After last spring's winning season in which the boys' varsity baseball team ended with a 16-6 record, Exeter anticipates another strong season out on the fields, as well as a unique team dynamic with a balanced mix of new, younger faces and returning varsity players.

This season, the team is scheduled to play 19 games against other New England prep schools—two of them against Andover—and the New England Tournament on May 20. Its first game was on Apr. 5 against Tabor Academy.

Leading the team this spring are seniors and co-captains Colin Shapiro and Harrison Money, both four-year varsity baseball players. Money expressed his op-

timism and hopes for his last season playing for Big Red. "Everybody is working hard and we're excited to start the season and get outside," he said. "Last year, we had a really good season, making playoff for the first time since I've been here. We're trying to do as well in the regular season and have a good post-season."

In addition to the captains' firm leadership, postgraduate Nick Hall appreciated the duality of the coaches' training styles, describing Coach Dana Barbin as an "old-school" mentor whose "see it, hit it" training philosophy focuses on progressing the boys' strength and endurance. Alternatively, Coach Tim Mitropolous, known to players as "Coach Mit," targets the advancement of the boys' fundamental technique and form.

Although the team's top two pitchers,

senior Connor Singh and postgraduate Henri Pratt, are currently taking leave from the sport to tend to their arm injuries, Barbin expressed his faith in the skill and determination of the team's other pitchers, Hall and seniors Nick and Ryan Moore.

"The team has been dealt a tough blow as our top two pitchers are out with season ending injuries," Barbin said. "The other pitchers are going to have to step up and do their job on the mound."

Money is confident that team's vigor will not be hindered by their absence. In fact, he believes that it will provide younger pitchers the fortuity of developing game strategy. "I don't think the injuries are affecting how we go about the season. We're still working hard and we're not going to use the injured pitchers as a crutch,"

he remarked. "We're going to need other guys to step up and fill those positions. At the same time, it's a great opportunity for the younger pitchers to show their talent."

The team has been preparing for the season even before the start of the academic term. During their spring break, Exeter's varsity and junior varsity players traveled to Orlando, Florida, where they participated in intensive training sessions and contended four Florida regional teams.

Since then, the team has been practicing on the turf and at a batting cage set up in the hockey rinks due to unfavorable weather conditions, and the players look forward to warmer days on the field. "We are on a good track for our first games. Our starting lineup is strong and the pitchers are getting better every day," upper Kyle Jadatz said.

Cycling Team Optimistic for a Successful Season

By GRACE CARROLL
Staff Writer

Following a strong 2016 season, Big Red Cycling is training hard and looking forward to reclaiming its New England Championship title.

While Exeter cycling is a relatively new team, this year an unusually high number of cyclists have returned in addition to new riders joining for their first year. Upper Sarah Shepley, returning to the team after her first season as a cyclist, was excited about the team's growing numbers. "The girls' team, which is usually pretty small, is a lot bigger this year," she said. "We have five returners and four new girls. Everyone is looking really strong so far."

Senior and co-captain Josh Hemintakoon agreed with Shepley's sentiments, saying, "We have a lot of returners and the new additions have been looking quite strong in practice already," he said. Coach Don Mills agreed, noting the higher amount of cyclists returning to the team as compared to previous years. "We have a well rounded squad overall," he said. "We have a little more depth compared to previous seasons."

Despite the divide between experienced cyclists and relative newcomers, Shepley described the team dynamic as close. "Last year, as a new rider, the cycling team was so supportive and welcoming to me and all the other new riders," she said. While Shepley credited much of the open and encouraging atmosphere to the previous team

captains, she has no doubt that the new team leaders will continue it. "Audrey Hahn, who is the only senior girl this year, has really stepped up as an unofficial captain for the girls' team," said Shepley, "She's always so bubbly and motivating; she really embodies the cycling team spirit." Shepley believed that much of the harmonious team dynamic stems from the inclusion of both boys and girls on the same team. "I think an aspect that makes the team so unique is that we are one of the few co-ed teams on campus," she said, "Being co-ed really blocks the negative energy and inter-competitiveness that some single gender sports teams can have."

Lower Meredith Goyette mentioned that she was most excited about being reunited with her team from last season. "I'm really looking forward just to the races and team bonding this year," she said. "Last year, the team was pretty close and had a great time together, so I'm hoping this year will be the same." Coach Mills felt it was too early in the season to really understand the team dynamic, especially in relation to previous years. "Every team is different from year to year," he said. "The personality of this squad has yet to be established."

Hemintakoon noted his concerns about the dangerous nature of the sport. "For our team to perform well, we all need to stay healthy and out of crashes, which is easier said than done," he said.

After falling to the Profile School in the New England Championships and placing second overall, Big Red cy-



Lower Ariane Avandi pedals fast during her race.

Diana Davidson/The Exonian

cling has every intention of reclaiming its title as champs. "I think our biggest challenge this year is going to be beating out Profile," said Shepley.

"We all were kind of bummed that we didn't defend our New England Champions title last year, but we are working hard and determined to race for first place this year." Hemintakoon agreed. "With the right amount of

training and heart," he said, "we could improve upon last year's second place team finish and bring home the title."

The team's first race will be at Andover for the Proctor Circuit against many different teams. Last year, Exeter placed two cyclists in the boys A race and two more people in the girls A race. The team hopes to repeat its success from last season.

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: MARGARET COOGAN & GWEN WALLACE

By PAUL JAMES
& JARED ZHANG
Staff Writers

As the captains to the more than 40 members of the girls' track and field team, seniors Margaret Coogan and Gwen Wallace serve as leaders for a large subset of campus. Their dedicated, supportive and outgoing personalities make them successful leaders, athletes and friends to their teammates.

Wallace and Coogan have both been running for their entire time at Exeter and are role models for the rest of their teammates. Although they compete in different events, Wallace in sprints and jumping and Coogan in distance races, they both enjoy the tight knit and intimate environment of the track team. "I'm glad that I'm on a team that's so big because then I get the opportunity to meet so many people. It's nice to be put in a room and interact with people I wouldn't normally interact with, had I not run track," Coogan says.

Coogan has many fond memories of running on the Exeter trails with the close-knit group of distance runners. "Getting to go out and run for an hour with a group of girls that are so awesome is really amazing. We have a really close and caring group of girls who know a ton about each other and will hang out outside of track, check in with each other and, even on Sundays when we don't have practice, we'll meet up to run together." She said the continuous struggle together brings everyone on the team close.

Coogan remembers one time in particular, saying, "We had spent the whole day basically running through the Exeter river because it had rained for the four days prior. We found a bridge and and put it in the water and swam it downstream to a place where there needed to be a bridge."

One of Coogan's teammates, senior Nicole Shi, says, "[Margaret] is a super fun, supportive, kind, and hilarious person that anyone would be lucky to know!" She also remarked on Coogan's determination at competitions, saying, "She began [the 4X400m] at a faster pace than anyone believed she could hold and kept it up to secure a win for her team. I could see from her expression how hard she was pushing herself and how deter-



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

mined she was to help the team win."

Another of Coogan's teammates, lower Grace Gray, reminisced on a similar experience, saying, "Margaret showed us some new trails to run on. Before we knew it, we were covered in the mud made from the melting snow and laughing throughout the entire run. Margaret has always put a smile on my face, and I'm so lucky to have been able to learn from her and have fun with her during my time at Exeter." She also recalls the impact Coogan had on her as a new runner and new student at the Academy. "She has always been a caring and inclusive leader on and off the track. She not only inspires us to work hard in our runs and meets but also to let our personalities shine through into our lives in general," Gray said of her captain. Lower Ogechi Nwankwoala spoke of Coogan's ability to motivate people across all event groups, saying, "She's the type of person to just talk to you and make you laugh whether you're a sprinter or on distance."

Wallace began participating in track and field after she came to Exeter, partici-

pating in only winter term track and field during her prep year and both winter and spring track and field during her lower year. The senior accredited coach Olutoyin Augustus-Ikwuakor for encouraged her to join the team after watching Wallace excel at track during prep spaz.

After joining the team, the seniors and captains at the time took Wallace under their wing. "[They] taught me how to behave at track meets, how to run properly, and how to talk to the trainer," the co-captain said. Inspired by these "amazing seniors," Wallace explained that she approaches her role as captain of the team by trying to foster the same supportive and fun environment she experienced as an underclassmen. As captain, Wallace explained that she acts as the liaison between the coaches and her teammates. In addition, Wallace plans events to bring the team together.

Lower and teammate Nkemjika Emenike praised Wallace for being patient and helpful toward newcomers on the team. "Whether it's learning how to long jump or doing homework,

Gwen has always been someone who has helped everyone on the team in one way or another," Emenike said.

Emenike also expressed her admiration for Wallace's performances in competition, "[Wallace] constantly gives her all at every meet and her results reflect that," Augustus-Ikwuakor echoed Emenike's sentiments, praising the senior for her skill and determination in the sport. "Gwen is a talented athlete with a desire to improve," she said. Wallace expressed that track and field appeals to her as a sport because of the variety and different challenges the sport offers. "In a meet, I go from running 100 meters, to passing a baton to jumping through the air," she explained. "There's a lot of encouragement for everyone to try a lot of different events."

Emenike reflected fondly on the leadership of Wallace and Coogan, saying, "I think they are good captains because they are both always positive and they both understand that being a captain isn't about controlling the team, it's about leading it."

Tight-Knit Softball Team Excited for Season



Senior Lauren Fidelak connects with a pitch.

By BELLA ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

Girls' varsity softball, a team consisting of only 12 players, looks forward to a successful season. Following last year's record of 9 wins and 11 losses, upper Jaynee Ronquillo-Anaya hopes to have a winning season. "Staying positive in and out of the game is really important to our overall experience," she said. "I'm building confidence."

Due to the cohesive team chemistry that girls' varsity softball has created, Ronquillo-Anaya is sure to do just that. Teammate upper Menat Bahnasy shared the same hopeful outlook. Although the team is small, she believes that the closeness of the team will lead to a better cohesive strategy. "In the game, you need to know your teammates," Bahnasy explained. "You need to know

where they want the ball thrown to them; you need to know which catches and pitches are their strengths or weaknesses. A small team makes that much more exciting!"

Bahnasy also expects the co-captains and seniors Brittani Chapman, Daria Moody and Lauren Fidelak to foster a strong and enthusiastic team environment. "They are all very different leaders in their own great ways," Bahnasy said. Ronquillo-Anaya shared the same sentiment. "I'm looking forward to the game and being with my girls," she said, continuing to say that she hopes to apply everything she learns in practice—and from the co-captains—on the field.

Chapman weighed in on the close proximity of girls' varsity softball. With only two newcomers—prep Jill Cloonan and new lower Hannah Grace Johnson—to fill the graduated seniors' spots, Chapman hopes to hone in on details. Four players

graduated last year, but the majority of last year's team still playing. "Team chemistry is already present, so I think we're ahead of the game, and we can just work fine tuning techniques," Chapman explained.

However, senior Sydnee Goyer sees the sparsity of players as a disadvantage. Because of the smaller team size, the players will "have to be sure to adjust to playing in new positions that we aren't used to." Despite this setback, Goyer looks forward to seeing how the team "functions as a unit." Goyer also wants to better herself individually and improve cohesively this season.

Chapman, Bahnasy, Ronquillo-Anaya and Goyer all cited Andover as a major source of competition this season. Set to face the opponents on May 5 and May 27, girls' varsity softball is determined to settle the score after losing 1-11 and 1-4 last year. "As always, we definitely look forward to playing

Andover," Goyer said. Bahnasy reiterated Goyer's point, saying, "I feel confident that [the co-captains] can lead us to a victory versus Andover, who might be our greatest competition this season!"

In the meantime, Big Red must prepare and train to face their rivals. With the first two games against Tilton Academy and the Noble & Greenough School postponed, Chapman is disappointed that it may be a while before they are able to practice on the fields. Goyer knows that with the help of Chapman, Fidelak and Moody, Exeter will achieve. "Our co-captains are all very knowledgeable and helpful on the field," she said. "They were leaders on the team last year, and I know they will hold themselves and the rest of the team to high standards."

The team is set to compete against the New Hampton School on Apr. 12 on home ground at 3:00 pm.

Alison Dowski/The Exonian



ExonianSports



GIRLS' LAX EDGES OUT CHOATE 9-7

Hopes to Repeat its Dominant 2016 Season



Senior Emily Ryan runs around a defender.

Gavin Hickey/The Exonian

By CHIM TASIE-AMADI
Staff Writer

Last Saturday, the girls' varsity lacrosse team played away against Choate Rosemary Hall. Big Red might have started the game off slow, but later on they played better and smarter, controlling the tide of the game, and they left Wallingford, Connecticut with a 9-7 victory. This win kicks off the season with a 1-0 record.

Following a three hour bus ride in a snow storm, the majority of the team started the day rough and had a hard time building its momentum. As a result, Exeter left room for Choate to set the pace of the game. Senior Kat Cucullo commented

on the team's mood prior to the game. "Choate's really, really far away. It was also super, super cold so we all weren't into it. Going into the game, we were a bit nervous as well because it was our first game." Choate scored the first goal of the game within minutes which didn't do much to help the situation, but in spite of this, Exeter's mental fortitude held. "The first few minutes were rocky. We didn't come out like we wanted too but after they scored we got into our groove," lower Chandler Jean-Jacques said.

As the game drew on through the second half, Exeter had some minor setbacks here and there. The team's defense had a number of unnecessary fouls that came as a result of uncontrolled checks or "being

lazy." On the offensive side of things, the only real issues were a few turnovers after the defense had done a good job. "I think we just have to calm down because we're really fit and work really hard but run and forget about our stick skills sometimes." Cucullo said.

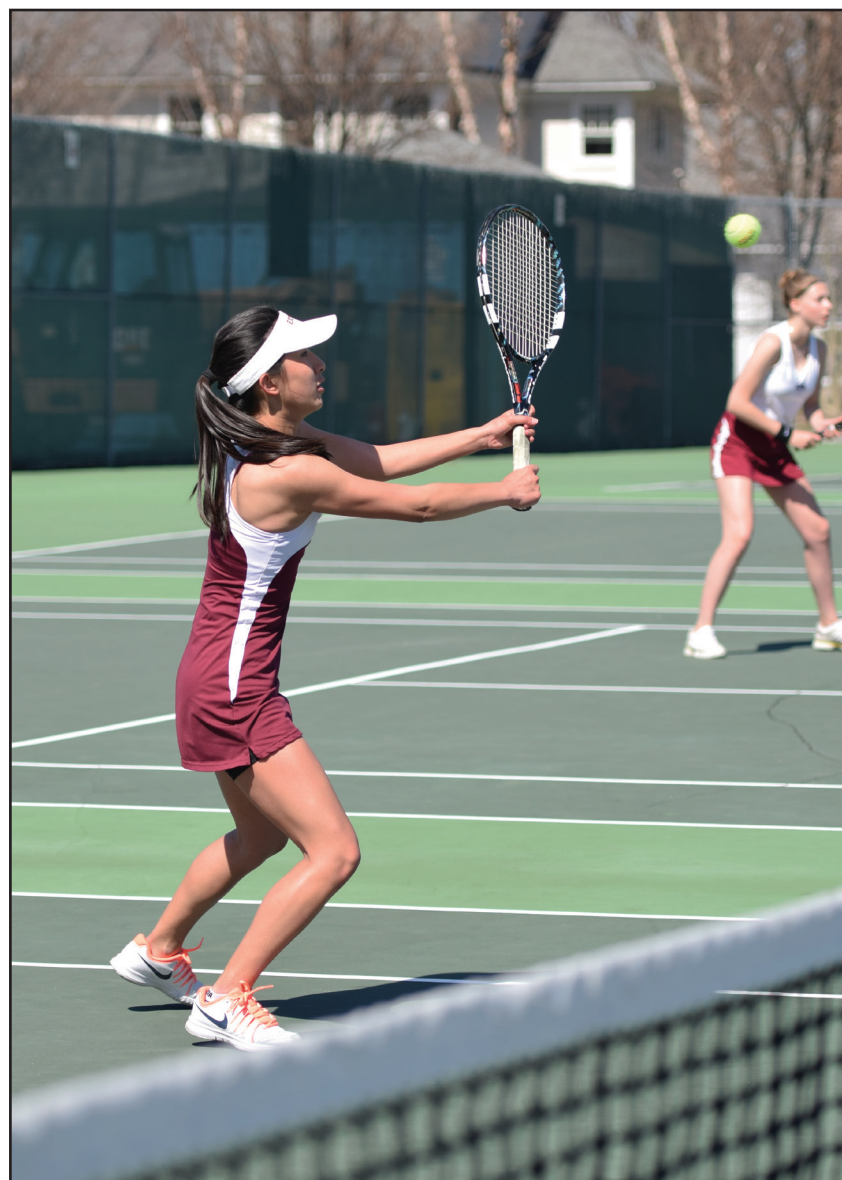
Just like every year, the team boasts a large number of new recruits and players mixed in with returners; one challenge that stems from that is finding their rhythm and teamwork together. Senior Bella Edo voiced her thought on where the girls currently stand in doing this. "It was definitely an adjustment learning to play with everyone for the first 'official' time."

During the game, two players in particular stood out. Co-captain Senior

Kelsey Detels returned to the field, coming off a torn ACL injury. Edo praised Detels' performance on Saturday in light of the injury. "It's been so great seeing her, she hasn't missed a beat and I think that's great. I also think that that really inspires the team seeing someone who had gone through that." In addition to Detels, Edo pointed out Jean-Jacques as another deserving player who has "grown so much in just one year."

Edo went on to explain how the team might not be at its strongest point right now but still performed well, and so, it can only go up from here. The team hopes to continue the pace it set at Choate in its next game against Governors and then Thayer Academy on Saturday, Apr. 8.

GIRLS' TENNIS TEAM EAGER TO PLAY MATCHES



Lower Katie Yang volleys the ball.

Diana Davidson/The Exonian

By SARAH RYU
Staff Writer

Finishing off last season with a 4-4 record, the girls' tennis team looks ahead to another strong and successful season for this year. The team faced several close matches and two home losses against Groton School and Andover last year. Despite its tied record, the team scored more wins in its record compared to the previous years.

This year, the team has lost its first and fifth seed, Taylor Jean Jacques '16 and Audrey DeGuererra '16, respectively. Although this may pose a challenge for this year's team, seniors Michaela Corvi and Melissa Lu remain on the team with lowers Katie Yang and Elizabeth Yang. Many new players joined both of the varsity teams, each bringing their own talents and determination to carry out a successful season.

Lower Katie Yang expects the varsity team to perform very well this season. "We [the players] have grown close, and I'm looking forward to how we perform competitively. We have many strong players, and I am excited to see how we compare to the Andover girls this year," she said.

Co-captain Lu agreed that the team is full of talented and young players across the board, pushing the team to reach new heights during practices. "What's really strong about this year's team is the vitality and passion these girls have, not to mention, at the most fundamental, how talented they are. With such talent and competitiveness, practices will be intense and challenging each day, a great training ground for the team," she said.

As co-captain with senior Divya Bade, Lu hopes to lead the team by working hard and

instilling this same drive in her teammates. "My biggest hope is to help the girls reach their greatest potential on and off the courts," she said. As well as pushing her teammates to the maximum, Lu hopes that the team forms a stronger bond. "I also hope that our team will get really close as the season progresses because while tennis can be an individual sport, our team is a team in all senses of the word. I want to be its shoulder, and I want to be its hype man," Lu said.

Over break, players took the opportunity to prepare for the season. Players trained individually, and lower Isobel Anderson, new to the team, went to Florida to train and compete in matches. As the term started off with bad weather, the team has been conditioning a lot and players have taken this as a chance to put in their best efforts, even staying after to work out more. The Varsity A team has already postponed two matches, one against Middlesex School and one against Governor's Academy.

Even though the weather has not been in their favor, Lu is glad that the team is putting in everything in preparation for the approaching matches and the overall season. "This is a team I see bouncing back even stronger and fierce after a loss. This is a team I see thriving this season. If we keep bringing this attitude to practices and games, we're going to go far," she said.

With all its training, the girls' tennis team is fired up to translate its hard work into match success. The girls will hopefully takedown Middlesex in its first match and then will prepare to face off against Northfield Mount Hermon on Apr. 15. The Exeter girls were able to beat both of these teams pretty easily last season so these first games will serve as a good warm-up.

Inside Sports

Softball



Alison Dowski/The Exonian

The girls' softball team has trained hard in preparation for an excellent season. Find out more on page B5.

Athletes of the Week



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

Seniors Margaret Coogan and Gwen Wallace lead the girls' track team this spring term. Read more on page B5.

Baseball



Rachel Luo/The Exonian

The boys' baseball team is getting back into the swing of things. Read more on page 11.

SATURDAY GAMES:

B. Baseball	Home	12:00pm
Track	Home	2:45pm
G. Lacrosse	Away	3:00pm
B. Lacrosse	Home	3:30pm
Water Polo	Home	4:00pm
B. Tennis	Home	4:00pm
B. Volleyball	Away	4:30pm