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Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire

Dr. Berkowitz Examines Teen Misconceptions

By HILLARY DAVIS
and SARAH RYU
Staff Writers

Alan Berkowitz, an independent consultant focused on addressing health and social justice issues, spoke at Friday's assembly, catching the students' attention with unexpected information he shared about highschoolers.

The data he presented overwhelmingly suggested that people and communities have a tendency to focus on the negative aspects of one other, rather than the positive.

Berkowitz began his assembly, which he called "Creating a Safe and Welcoming Exeter Community for All," by describing the unfair ways in which high school and college students are stereotyped and outlining some of the common misconceptions students have about one other. Many students were particularly taken aback when Berkowitz informed them that 40% of college students are, by choice, not sexually active, contrary to what modern media might suggest.

In discussing the drastic difference between true student mentalities and legitimate statistics, Berkowitz explained that most students underestimate the positive forces of their communities and overestimate the negative ones. According

BERKOWITZ, A2



Alan Berkowitz spoke at Assembly last Friday.

Gavin Hickey/The Exonian

Exeter Math Takes First at Competition

By DON ASSAMONGKOL
and GRACE CARROLL
Staff Writers

The Phillips Exeter Academy Red Lions (PEARL), otherwise known as the varsity math team, continued its five year winning streak last Saturday at the annual Harvard-MIT Mathematics Tournament (HMMT). Veteran seniors Alec Sun, Qi Qi, Yannick Yao and Matt Hambacher competed in the event, alongside uppers James Lin and Vinjai Vale as well as lowers Adam Bertelli and Victor Luo. Although the team has historically dominated at the tournament, taking home the championship for the sixth year in a row, the HMMT turned out to be much more competitive than expected.

HMMT holds two tournaments each year: one in November and the other in February. The latter, which the Red Lions just attended, is among one of the most prestigious math competitions open to high schoolers. The competition draws some of the most distinguished participants from around the country and the globe. There are two team rounds and three individual rounds, featuring questions similar in difficulty to those seen in the International Math Olympiad (IMO). The team that placed

MATH TOURNAMENT, A2

Chuck Collins Explores Privilege and Wealth Inequality

By JOHN BECKERLE
and MADISON KANG
Staff Writers

Chuck Collins, great grandson of meatpacker Oscar Mayer and author of multiple books on economic inequality, spoke at Friday's assembly, exploring the effects of privilege and bridging the divide between America's magnates and the working class. In addition to Friday's assembly, Collins held a lunch in the Latin Study and spoke at the Exeter Congregational Church on Tuesday night.

Collins has written about wealth inequality in books such as *Born on Third Base: A One Percent Makes the Case for Tackling Inequality*, *Bringing Wealth Home*, and *Committing to the Common Good, 99 to 1 and Economic Apartheid in America*, and he co-wrote *Wealth and Our Commonwealth: Why America*

Should Tax Accumulated Fortunes with Bill Gates Sr. His writing has also appeared in *The Nation* and *The American Prospect*, among other publications.

He serves as senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., where he directs the Program on Inequality and the Common Good and also serves as an editor and columnist of *Inequality.org*, a website that regularly discusses income and wealth disparities.

Collins grew up in a wealthy household, attending the Cranbrook Schools, a private preparatory school in suburban Detroit, with classmates like 2012 presidential candidate Mitt Romney and Pulitzer-Prize-winning photojournalist Taro Yamasaki, whose father designed the World Trade Center.

Surrounded by affluent classmates, Collins did not begin to realize his own

privilege until he accepted a job at the Institute for Community Economics, where he worked to provide technical advice to community land trusts and mobile home resident cooperatives. Thinking back on his childhood in Detroit, Collins recalled an "economic and racial apartheid" that he had not noticed during his childhood. He said, "That early experience of inequality sparked me to pursue my career, spreading awareness of societal disparities."

In his assembly speech, Collins reflected on the duality of his perspectives on American economic echelons. "I had this really intimate experience because I would meet with every mobile home resident and ask about their savings, their incomes and what they could afford. I had a front-row seat into low-income people's economic circumstances and how they handled taking on debt and

working multiple jobs," he recalled. "On the other hand, I also had a front-row seat, growing up in a wealthy family, where people's wealth multiplied."

Lower Isadora Kron expressed appreciation for Collins' objectivity and distinct voice in analyzing socioeconomic disparities. "He was very knowledgeable about income inequality in America, and exposed a lot of truth that often goes unsaid about how stark the difference is between the working class and the one percent of America," she said. "It was interesting to hear the perspective of a wealthy person speak about income inequality because often we only hear the perspective the voices of lower-income citizens."

At his Latin study lunch, Collins discussed his initial inability to relate to people outside of the upper class and

COLLINS, A2

ESSO Board Announced

By JOHN BECKERLE
and ALAN XIE
Staff Writers

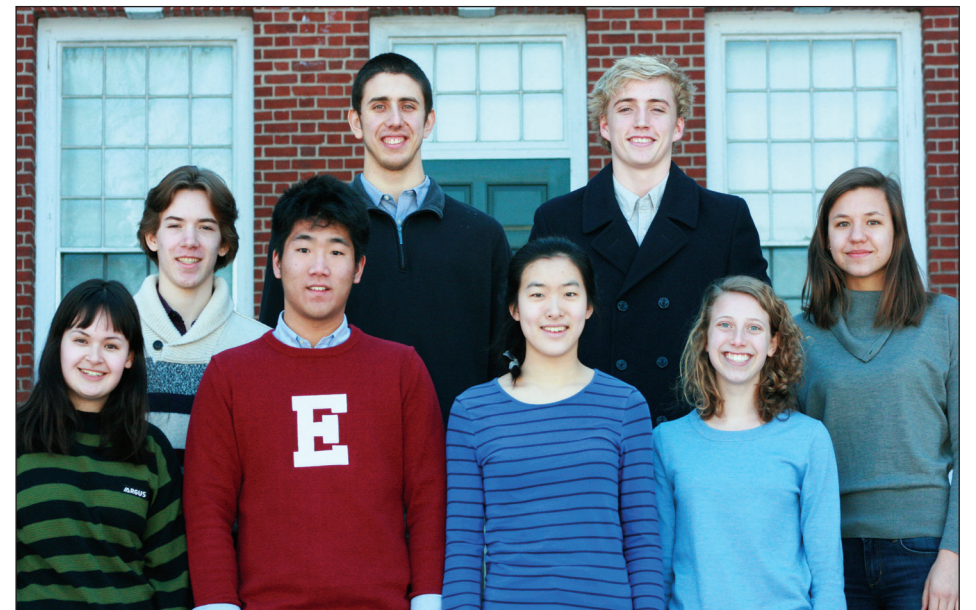
The Exeter Student Service Organization (ESSO) Board Turnover Committee announced the eight students who will lead ESSO in the coming year on Monday, Feb. 20. The committee selected uppers Jackson Parell and Emmett Shell as the board's new co-presidents. In addition, lower Jenny Yang and upper Andrew Hong will serve as the new on-campus and off-campus coordinators, respectively, and lower Grace Gray and upper Sara Kopunova will take over as the new children's club coordinators. Finally, uppers Lucas Schroeder and Maya Kim will act as the new co-directors of communication.

The ESSO Board Turnover Committee, which is comprised of three students and four faculty members, announced these results after requiring an extensive application process of each candidate. Over thirty students applied, and the ESSO Board Turnover Committee narrowed this pool of applicants

down down to fifteen people who were interviewed before making their final decisions.

Director of Service Learning, Elizabeth Reyes, who acted as one of the faculty members on the ESSO Board Turnover Committee, described the qualities the Committee looked for in prospective candidates. "We want a diverse group that is able to think outside the box and reshape the way ESSO is seen on campus," she said. "The students must have leadership experience and a demonstrated passion for ESSO programming."

According to senior Connie Cai, who served as co-president of last year's ESSO board and as one of three students on the ESSO Board Turnover Committee, the collaborative potential of the applicants was also taken into consideration. "This year, we had a pool of extremely talented and dedicated applicants, and it was tough to make the final decisions," she said. "While many people were qualified for these positions, this board is the one that we thought would work together the best and complement



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

The new ESSO board assumes their roles this Spring Term.

each other's skills."

Reyes also explained that the Committee thought about the long-term nature of ESSO as they made their decisions. "The ESSO Board Turnover Committee mapped out what we thought success for ESSO would look like next year and in five years," she said. "We took a look at the overall goals and matched the skill sets of the candidates

to help us meet those goals."

She went on, describing the need for strong leaders to fill the various ESSO positions. "They must be able to work together in a team and manage a group of students in their charge," she said. "This is a year about rebranding and remarketing, and we needed a team to help take us there."

ESSO TURNOVER, A2

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WEB



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Collins Discusses Consequences of Concentrated Wealth and Power

Continued from COLLINS, A1

his yearning for a sense of kinship. “My wealth was a barrier for building strong relationships. It was a disconnect from the vulnerability needed for me to fully belong in a close community like the neighbors in the mobile home cooperatives. I wanted to be in the same boat as the other 99 percent,” he said.

As a result, when he was twenty-six years old, Collins decided to divide his entire inheritance between four social justice organizations. “I won the lottery at birth. I was born on third base. I gave away my inheritance because I didn’t want to live in a society where a large inheritance had such an influence. I wanted to make it on my own,” he said. “I didn’t want something that happened four generations ago to dictate my future.”

Even after donating his entire inheritance, Collins began to realize that he still could not divorce himself from the privilege that followed him everywhere. “I still had all these other advantages like having four generations of financial stability, being a white male, and completing higher education debt-free,” he said.

Collins has been working to reduce

inequality and strengthen communities since 1982. He co-founded initiatives like Jamaica Plain New Economy Transition, the Jamaica Plain Forum, Divest-Invest, Wealth for the Common Good, a network of business leaders, high-income households and partners working together to promote shared prosperity and fair taxation, and United for a Fair Economy (UFE), an organization that raises the profile of the inequality issue and supports popular education and efforts addressing inequality.

Collins has also worked to defend the Estate Tax, sometimes referred to as the Death Tax or the Inheritance Tax, which applies to estates of persons worth more than \$5,495,000 or married couples worth more than \$10,990,000. He feels that such a tax promotes the circulation of wealth from the upper class to other economic classes and provides opportunities for people outside of the wealthy minority. “To abolish the inheritance tax is to assume no responsibility, no moral obligation to reimburse the society from which that wealth was built upon. The inheritance tax is an economic opportunity recycling program,” he claimed.

At his presentation at the Congrega-

tional Church on Tuesday night, Collins discussed how wealth inequality affects U.S. politics. He believes that American economic disparities will aggrandize without an Estate Tax and other progressive tax reforms to slow the concentration of wealth to upper class citizens. He proposed that wealth inequality undermines democracy and leads to populist anger—similar to the outrage that provided presidential candidates Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders a platform to speak on these issues during the 2016 presidential election. Collins also pointed out that such inequality breeds economic instability that is harmful to all, not just those at the bottom.

Senior Alejandro Arango commended the unbiased nature of Collins’s analysis of institutions that perpetuate inequality and political strife. “The assembly and the luncheon were political, but they weren’t partisan. At the heart of his issues, there are certain political parties that represent certain things that he was arguing, but as far as assembly speakers go, I don’t think conservatives or liberals could say that they represented their view and looked at the other view as alienated,” he said. “He was a good

middle-ground—not a very left-leaning or a right-leaning speaker.”

Lower Anna Clark found Collins’ idea of societal reimbursement for fortuitous privilege especially pertinent to Exonians. “It’s important that we had an assembly speaker who addressed how privileged people can give back to the communities and recognize their own advantages, especially in a community like ours, where there is so much privilege from students’ backgrounds before their time at Exeter or getting the education that we are fortunate enough to receive. We have an obligation to give back,” she said.

Similar to Clark, Kron felt that Collins relayed a particularly powerful political purport, one that provoked her to search for outlets of change. “His message is relevant to youth like us. Change will not happen unless everyone takes part. If people put their money where their mouth is, real change can happen in the government of our nation,” she pressed. “We can all make influential decisions that enact change, even if we don’t all have big trust funds. Our work and where we put our time and effort can make a difference.”

Berkowitz Sheds Light on Deep Pluralistic Ignorance

Continued from BERKOWITZ, A1

to Berkowitz, this is because problematic behavior is inherently more memorable than positive. “I guess when you perceive something to be ‘normal’ behavior, you’re more likely to do it or try it,” lower Adrian Venzon said.

Berkowitz also introduced a concept called pluralistic ignorance. When students believe that activities such as drinking or being sexually active are popular, he explained, they are influenced to do the same, even if they are wrong about the true frequency of the activity. According to Berkowitz, this is why problematic behavior has become more prominent in society today, he said: social stereotypes become expectations and this translates to children starting to behave in harmful ways early on.

Berkowitz offered the audience many statistics that indicate that high school students are idealistic, caring and willing to do the right thing, contradicting common stereotypes against them. “We all make decisions every day based on the information that we have, and it is important to have correct information,” he said. Often what we think is true for our friends and peers is based on inaccurate information due to our noticing only what is more visible to us.”

Berkowitz also shared the results of his own research and analysis of media coverage, which found that seven out of ten California news stories about violence covered youth violence rather than adult violence. Problem behavior, he said, is over-reported, and among 9,678 stories that network and local television stories covered, there were only nine instance of teens being praised for involvement in helping the community. Because so much of the media highlights problematic

behavior, many perceive is as more more prevalent in youth culture than it actually is. Berkowitz said that in actuality, high school students do the right thing more frequently than most expect.

According to Berkowitz, his career has always been driven by the desire to “make the world a better place.” After inheriting and analyzing statistics about problematic youth behavior at the beginning of his career, Berkowitz was motivated to share these facts with others. “It is inspiring to have the opportunity to share the good news about health, well-being and social justice because knowing the ‘good news’ will help us to take action to solve the problems that cause the ‘bad news,’” he said.

Berkowitz expressed hope that his assembly encouraged students to seek the truth about themselves and others. “If the beginning of self-knowledge is to ‘know that we don’t know’ then my hope is that Exeter students will begin to question their assumptions about each other and to seek out the truth about what is true for Exonians, which is that you are all more healthy and more willing to ‘do the right thing’ than you realize,” he said. He also hopes that seeking truth and straying from the social expectations will “lead to knowing one’s Self, capital S,” as he said towards the end of his assembly.

Although his message was honest and inspiring, some students felt that Berkowitz’s presentation lacked relevancy for the audience. “I felt like I was in middle school again. It was very tailored for younger people in my opinion,” Venzon said.

Berkowitz’s assembly did validate those who are true to themselves, however. He ended his speech by expressing gratitude to those who live with integrity and self-knowledge, and his last presentation slide simply stated, “Thank you for being

Eight Exonians Selected for 2017-2018 ESSO Board

Continued from ESSO TURNOVER, A1

In fact, Schroeder, who was one of the last ESSO Board’s directors of communication, has already begun planning the rebranding and remarketing of ESSO that Reyes referenced. “The dotted ESSO logo, the green shirts and our social media platforms will be totally scrapped and started from a blank slate,” he explained. “It’s important to have a brand that garners positive publicity and attention in the community.”

Cai agreed, saying, “We want ESSO to grow, to constantly get better each and every year, so we are always on the lookout for new ideas and fresh perspectives.”

Many of the new board members expressed excitement for the year ahead. Both Parell, who is the former on-campus and global coordinator for the ESSO Board, and Shell, the former Children’s Coordinator, are already planning for the future of ESSO.

For Parrell, serving as co-president entails more than just planning for the next year. “As co-president you can look beyond just the regular workings of ESSO and instead look to the future and see how ESSO can make an impact in the long run,” he said. “Both Emmett and I will be working on identifying long-term goals for ESSO and seeing how they can be accomplished in the coming year.”

Shell expressed similar sentiments about how he plans to act as co-president, saying that he hopes to involve more low-income families with ESSO and help co-heads keep their clubs running well. “A big part of ESSO every year is just working with all the ESSO clubs to make sure they run smoothly, so that’s a big goal of mine for this year’s board.”

Gray also expressed strong hope for

the upcoming year. “I’m excited to work with my fellow board members this year and to put our ideas together to further integrate ESSO into our campus and into our surrounding town,” she said.

Speaking about the short-term goals of the ESSO Board, Parell explained that he hopes to see unity throughout the board. “The next step, now, is to talk to the different people on the board and see what we want to accomplish as a group because we’ll each be coming with our own ideas of what ESSO should be like, but we want to make sure our aims are together,” he said.

He continued, expanding on his hopes for ESSO in the coming year, saying, “We are in a crucial point in Exeter’s progression, in that there a lot changes that are happening, and I want to see that ESSO is a part of those changes so that it can be more a part of students’ daily lives and the Exeter fabric, both as an extracurricular and also maybe even as a class.”

Gray also shared a desire to involve more community members in ESSO. “I would love to continue ESSO’s recent goal of bringing ESSO to everyone in our greater community, regardless of economical or situational disadvantages,” she said.

According to Cai, these new ESSO board members have assumed not just a big responsibility to the Academy, but to the town of Exeter as well. “Being on the ESSO board is a major commitment, and it shows serious dedication to not just ESSO clubs, but to the community at large,” she said. “The overarching goal of ESSO is to serve and educate the community, and the coordinators [and] co-presidents are the ones working to maximize the impact that ESSO can have.”

Varsity Math Defends Harvard-MIT Tournament Title

Continued from MATH TOURNAMENT, A1

second represented the state of Texas, while the team that placed third represented the San Francisco Bay Area. Math Club Advisor and Math Instructor Zuming Feng said, “We expected a tough competition.”

The majority of schools come from big regional and top math and science magnet schools. “The prestige of the competition makes PEARL’s victory all the more exciting. Given that the HMMT is probably the biggest and best short-answer competition for high-schoolers,” said senior Alec Sun. “We’re totally thrilled that we were able to defend the first place.”

The team’s first event was the proof-based round, where it had to answer ten questions in ascending order of difficulty. Yao said the team had walked in there with a strategy. “We started practicing about two weeks before the tournament so we knew which people would solve each problem and we chose their strong suit,” he said. However, the problems turned out to be much harder than expected, leaving little wiggle room for the team. “We didn’t even have time to attempt the later problems,” Yao said. Feng added that due to a weighted scoring system, the team’s less than optimal

performance in the first round meant that, in order to finish first, the team couldn’t afford to lose any points in the following rounds.

Lin said that it faced another unexpected difficulty that kept them from applying its strategy, as Yao, one of the team’s strongest members, got stuck with a particularly hard problem and thus could not contribute on other problems like he usually does. However, the team remained optimistic. “Our captain Yannick would go around checking on us, reminding us to focus on the next round and forget the mistakes we made,” Vale said. “We could tell going out of the team round that we didn’t do too well. It really helped bring the team together and made us focus on what was coming up.”

Despite the challenges of the first round, the team was not disconcerted going into the next rounds. “Given how hard it was, we thought to ourselves that it must be hard for everyone, so we didn’t lose hope. We tried hard in the individual round and went for problems that we could solve,” Yao said. Lin was optimistic as well, saying, “Although we were 110 points behind, we knew that our best rounds were still ahead of us.”

The team did exceptionally well in the individual round which tested

the competitors on Algebra/Number Theory, Geometry and Combinatorics. Yao placed 1st, Lin placed 3rd, Sun placed 10th and senior Qi Qi placed 23rd. PEARL won this round, putting themselves in the running for first.

The final round—an intense 80-minute session where groups are presented nine sets of four problems in ascending difficulty—would follow. The scores are calculated and entered into a live display in real time. Although the scores for the previous and individual and group rounds had not been published, the team could sense that it was not the front-runner. The team looked forward to the challenge. “When there’s pressure, you just divert all your mental strength to the four problems,” Vale said. He described the intense mentality that result from the round, saying, “For each pair, there was just one problem in the whole universe at that moment in time.”

This mentality proved useful as the team that would finish as the runners-up, the Texas Horned Toads, were literally neck and neck with Exeter. “We told ourselves to not look at it because one moment we would be in first place, but then the next we would be in second after the runner-up team from Texas submitted their problem,” Vale said.

However, PEARL persevered, and

went on to beat the Horned Toads by an unprecedentedly narrow 13-point margin. “We barely beat the next team,” said Yao. “We needed every single point we could.” Lin agreed, noting that the intensely competitive nature of the tournament made the team’s victory even more rewarding. “It was pretty incredible when we found out we won,” he said, “and the lucky win certainly made the victory sweeter.” Feng described this memorable competition as his Super Bowl, while Vale described the victory as “exhilarating.” Following the competition, the team continued its annual tradition of having dinner at Kume Hibachi with its coach, celebrating the continuation of its winning streak and unwinding from the strenuous competition.

As the celebration comes to an end, PEARL is already looking to continue its winning streak at next year’s competition. The team will be graduating four out of its eight members. In their absence, Lin says he will step up to lead the team, which is determined to work hard enough to compensate for the departure of its teammates. PEARL’s upper and lower members are looking forward to leading the team back to victory and defending Exeter’s title for the seventh consecutive year.



The 2017-2018 Debate Co-Captains will assume their new positions later this spring.

Julia Goydan/The Exonian

PEA Funding For Students' Organizations Investigated

By ZACHARY FENG
and RYAN XIE
Staff Writers

Each year, the Academy administration distributes funds to clubs around campus, which allow them to run and participate in activities and competitions. The funding is determined by the Student Funding Committee that consists of Leigh Drapeau, Stephanie Girard, John Hutchins, Joanne Lembo, Dean Melissa Mischke and Dean Ethan Shapiro. The funds come from a variety of sources, including the Richard Ward Day Fund, Davis Fund, Harvard Knowles Residential Life Fund, Loewenstein Fund, and Riordan Fund, in addition to alumni and other donors.

These funds provide money for student events, club trips and team competitions. Ideally, each student group acquires funding deemed appropriate for its unique needs. While each organization's expenses differ, the committee tries to distribute the funds relatively equally.

In order to receive funding, officially recognized clubs must apply for money from the committee each year. The committee responds to applications from new clubs over student groups who have received discretionary funding within the last two years in an effort to distribute money equally.

Although there is no limit on the number of times clubs can request funds, there may not always be money available. "A new club formed mid-year may not receive funding until the following budget year," Chief Financial Officer David Hanson said. According to Hanson, "most of the discretionary or budgeted funding is already used, but we try to entertain requests as they arise."

To prevent haphazard applications, the Student Funding Committee asks each club to think ahead and plan with their advisors to request for club funds early. The committee tries to fully cover all essential costs for skill-based events such as tournaments and competitions. However, for volunteered events, the school may only cover the full costs on a limited basis ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Any expense not covered by this amount must be provided by the club members or faculty advisors.

Student Council's Budget Committee also plays an important role in overseeing the distribution of money to help clubs enhance the Exeter experience. "We [the committee] look to fund clubs that...enrich the broader campus life," committee head and senior Matthew McShea explained. The committee has funded events such as the American Culture Club to have a tailgate for sports games and gave funds for a club to travel to a vegetarian conference who then shared what they learned with the community.

The Budget Committee accepts FUNDING, A8

Debate Captains for 2017-2018 Announced

By BIANCA BECK
and JARED ZHANG
Staff Writers

The long-awaited decisions for the 2017-2018 Daniel Webster Debate Society (DWDS) Board turnover were announced late Monday night: Uppers Grace Huang and Sagar Rao will take over as the new Captains of Curriculum, upper Daniel Li and lower Mark Blekherman will serve as the Captains of DWDS tournaments and uppers Emily Green and Harrison Lian will act as Captains of Daily Operations.

After completing a rigorous and competitive application process, the new board members expressed excitement for the results and the prospect of their new responsibilities. Li recalled that he was practicing violin when he received the news. "I couldn't shout in my practice room, but I was really happy. I had worked hard and had put my ideas out there during my time in the club," he said. "I was excited by the prospect of everything I could continue to do and expand upon as a board member." Lian was in the dining hall when he got the call from former debate board member and senior Bokyoung Kim. "I just thanked [Kim] for the amazing opportunity," he said.

The application consisted of three parts: a written application, a speech given in front of the entirety of the debate club and an interview with the former debate board members. The written application asked questions regarding the level of experience that the applicants had with DWDS, what the applicants valued about DWDS, why the applicants wanted to be on the board and improvements they would enact. Applicants submitted the application to the outgoing board and DWDS advisors for review.

Then, applicants presented their three-minute speeches in front of the entire team, and each team member selected their top six choices. "This vote is not binding but helps the board in assessing candidates," former board member and senior Matthew Robbins explained. Following this, applicants were interviewed by the entire board. "Picking the new debate board is truly a very arduous process; we had to go through many hours of debate—ironically—and discussion this year to choose the new board," Kim said.

Former board member and senior

Emily Robb added, "We take a lot into account, but some of the main factors are attendance, speech vote total, interviews, application responses and commitment to the club." Finally, board members made their decisions, and the faculty advisors vetted these selections.

Kim expressed great pleasure with the results, saying, "There were only a few spots for many qualified candidates, but I am certain that this upcoming board will do an absolutely amazing job at maintaining the club and helping it grow."

The former board members explained that they were looking for applicants who had certain skills and who would work well together as a unit. According to Robb, the departing board discussed deeply how each applicant could fit into the different roles on the board. "We also consider the team dynamic," she said. "I think cohesion, communication, and a willingness to listen and be open to new opinions is what makes a truly good debate board." Robbins agreed with Robb and added that the board was looking "for members who are eclectic, dedicated, good at managerial skills and good debaters."

Many of these new board members will bring fresh and innovative ideas to the club, and have already begun planning. Lian described one of his priorities as a board member as training judges more extensively so that they will critique logic, analysis, rhetoric and organization in addition to knowledge. "With this training, judges could better teach novices all the necessary concepts in small groups," he said. In addition, Lian expressed his ambition for the team to participate in NSDA tournaments, which use a style of debate different from that of DWDS's traditional styles. He went on, explaining the benefits of practicing various debate styles. "It teaches a different set of skills," he said. "NSDA is more evidenced based, meaning to be a successful debater, one needs depth and breadth in the topic."

Li's primary goal is to foster a closer, community within DWDS, he explained. "My hope is to have all of the debaters approach debate with a friendly diligence that allows for debating to be fun and instructive," he explained. "You see,

practicing debate is not just limited to the club meetings; rather, it hones a type of critical thinking that can be applied to all conversations."

He continued, explaining that he wants novices to feel comfortable talking and debating with debaters with more experience, which would help them discover their strengths and weaknesses. He hopes to tailor his own interactions with club members to the unique strengths and weaknesses of debaters. "I want to involve myself in this development," he said. "I think that the board should know all of the novices by name."

According to old and new members of DWDS, there are many skills one can learn from being on the DWDS board, and apply to daily life. "You learn how to run a tournament, how to teach and how to interact with people in a professional way," Robbins said. "It is a very fun job, you learn a lot about yourself and other. It has been great seeing novices grow into top quality debaters."

Robb echoed this sentiment, adding that debaters also learn how to lead and execute a tournament, and that as the year went on the board learned "how to communicate and delegate more efficiently." Lian agreed and went on, saying that he has learned and improved significantly in terms of "argumentation, rhetoric and overall confidence."

Li added that the club has given him the opportunity to meet new people with common interests. "I also found myself making many new friends united by our common love of debating," Li said. "This motivated me to learn and practice in order to become better."

The former debate board expressed their final hopes for the club they are passing over. "I think a good debate board is one that educates and cares for debaters in a way which they can be global citizens who have a good grasp of the world, philosophy, and rhetoric, along with the skills of proper and civil discourse," Robbins said. Kim, who expressed great pleasure with the makeup of the new board, agreed, saying, "I am so proud of what DWDS has come to be and I am confident that this is just the beginning of another very successful year."

Students in Cuenca, Ecuador Relate Experiences of Studying Abroad

By the Seniors in Ecuador

Here we reside, at around 8,000 feet, surrounded by mountains but no snow. We recently learned that the name of our city, Cuenca, means "bow!" It makes sense. We haven't exported much information from our trip, and we are sure none of you on campus have heard of our travels, trials or tribulations. So, here is an update for those of you looking to while away another cold day, short of light and low on spirits:

Many aspects of life abroad are puzzling and amusing, but every day is filled with new lessons and experiences that are hard to imagine at Exeter. Our travels have led us from sea level to altitudes of 15,000 feet, where a band played in the snow with unimaginable lung capacity, for reasons we still don't understand. And despite the mild climate and clean tap water in Cuenca, we have all been afflicted with ailments big and small, loud and quiet, which have afforded a number of us trips to the health clinic that allow us to practice our Spanish in high pressure situations.

Speaking of accidents, we often find ourselves on the ground here. Henrietta, for one, has done the splits in a Zumba-like dance class, and has also face planted in the historic center. But Kelly holds the title for most remarkable and amusing visit to the

earth of us all. One day, when we discovered a remarkably deep hole in a park by a river, Kris hid inside of it and we called Professor Trafton over to see our funny trick. Kelly, recording our prank from the bank of the river, fell backwards in a graceful and almost acrobatic move, missing a head-splitting fall by inches. More importantly, her phone (with accompanying footage) survived to tell the tale.

It has been strange to be so disassociated from many of our compatriots during a time when it feels as though shocking national news, which few (if any) Ecuadorians follow, breaks daily. But Ecuador had its own elections this past week, and while votes are still being counted, it seems likely that the popular vote will be going to leftist and member of the incumbent party Lenin Moreno. If he reaches 40 percent (currently at 39.1 percent and possibly rising) he will be the president elect. Side note: attempting to explain the Electoral College to our fellow Ecuadorian classmates during our civics class had us scrambling for both logical skills and knowledge of U.S. government—hidden traits that we surprisingly discovered within ourselves. If anything, Ecuadorian politics have provided a diversion (and something of a respite) from the news that reaches us from the homeland.

Our school, too, has been full of

change and surprises when compared to our routines at Exeter. We all arrive by bus before eight in the morning, which has shifted our internal clocks backwards from our former schedule of sleep-ins and scurrying to classes. In addition, the *colegio* is a German-Ecuadorian exchange school, and we have now encountered three groups of Germans coming in brief exchange stays. Despite our proximity to these packs of young German teens, most of us, with a few notable exceptions, have not yet skillfully absorbed their language. Classes at our school include Spanish literature, Math, Physics, Civics and Social Studies. Important takeaways from these classes include: learning derivatives before domain and range, *sangre* is blood and blood is red and red is rich, and that inertia is most certainly not Newton's first law. The concept of tardiness doesn't seem to exist here, and a request to return five minutes early from an hour-long break in order to finish a lab (translated to Ecuadorian: on time, porfa?) was met with a look of incredulous confusion from our enthusiastic physics teacher, who had seemingly heard the word "early" for the first time in his teaching career.

Every Wednesday and Saturday, our vacant hours have been graciously filled by Professor Trafton's meticulously planned

excursions. From the breathtakingly elliptical Cajas National Park to the fresh-roasted pig in a market in Gualaceo, our eyes and stomachs have gotten quite the treat. Our bus rides on these excursions have always been always boisterous, filled with the melodious harmonization of eight Exonians singing along to 2009's greatest hits and Mr. Worldwide (Señor Worldwide), punctuated by the four others' snores, gurgles and snot-blowing – and thus, Cuenca-pella (get it?) was born. Our theme song, and a song we hope to bring to New Hampshire, goes by the name of *Despacito*. It's a brilliant, poetic tune by two of the greatest artists of our time: Daddy Yankee (see: Shakey Shakey, another intricate classic) and Luis Fonsi. It is irresistibly catchy, and has made itself an instant classic in our group and in our associations with our Ecuadorian peers.

By the time this letter is published, we will be on a small cruise ship in the northwestern portion of the Galapagos Islands with Señor Matlack, checking out some of the 2,000 species that are unique to that fascinating archipelago. Can you tell we're excited? We will return just in time for the national holiday of Carnaval, during which citizens across the country somehow find and fill water balloons with which to attack one another.

The Struggle of Censorship in Asian Countries

Mai Hoang '20
Guest Contributor

If I am completely honest, I will say that I was not that surprised to read about the recent poisoning of Kim Jong Un's half-brother, Kim Jong Nam. In "Communist Asia," murder is not outrageously shocking; rather, it is an infrequently employed last resort when it comes to dealing with opposition or inconvenient family members who voice an occasional comment or two about government policies and legitimacy.

By now, the international community is well acquainted with the notion of an isolated, repressive North Korea, where bloodthirsty Kim Jong Un has his people detain, punish, torture, rape and execute "destructive insurgents" without anyone speaking up. In fact, if government-issued accounts are to be trusted, North Koreans love their leader, worshipping the ground he treads on and the photographs that his law enforcers hang in all public spaces. In order to achieve this degree of personality cult, Kim Jong Un has had to employ various means to exterminate hundreds of power contenders, including senior party elites, military officials and relatives like his uncle Jang Song Thaek. Sometimes, his party covers up these murders; on other occasions however, they are carried out in very public spaces with multiple machine guns and government officials announcing fabricated charges that range from treason to pornography and theft or even just being

related within three generations to persons guilty of such charges.

It is surprising to me that Kim Jong Nam made it this far, given the fact that as Jong Un's brother, he is directly in the line of succession. Perhaps a letter sent by him and his family while in exile temporarily moved Jong Un to spare his life for a few years. "We have nowhere to go, nowhere to hide. We are well aware that the only way to escape is suicide." They had pleaded in vain when the North Korean leader issued a "standing order" for assassination. Not much is known about Jong Nam; he received a Western education, spent much of his time in Macau and Beijing, and fell out of favor with his father for "becoming a capitalist." He was quoted in an interview with Japanese journalist Yoji Gomi as saying, "The Kim Jong Un regime will not last long. Without reforms, North Korea will collapse." No wonder the younger brother started harboring some hard feelings. On Feb. 13, Jong Nam was splashed with poison at Kuala Lumpur airport while waiting to board a flight to Macau. He was strong enough to seek medical health, yet passed away shortly afterwards in an ambulance. Four hitmen have been arrested by the Malaysian police, of Indonesian, Vietnamese, Malaysian and North Korean nationality, respectively.

Purging, inhumane as it is, remains an employed tactic not just in North Korea but other communist regimes in Asia as well, albeit with significantly less intensity. The government of Vietnam, for example, uses

a mixture of purging, torture, forced labor and detainment to deal with individuals brave enough to challenge any of its policies. According to Amnesty International, there are at least eighty-four prisoners of conscience in Vietnam detained for blogging, publishing or peacefully marching for their beliefs. Tran Huynh Duy Thuc, an engineer and entrepreneur, recently became one of the most prominent detainees, with British Foreign Office Minister Ivan Lewis and American ambassador Michael W. Michalak both crying out against his sixteen year sentence for "propagandizing against the government." Now jailed in Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Thuc frequently goes on strike to protest against his detainment.

If prominent relatives, party members and political activists are treated by the ones with supreme power in this way, it is no surprise that ordinary citizens are accorded with nearly no respect. In Vietnam, election day is a big joke. For one thing, all candidates are of the same party and promote the exact same agenda. Their promise? "We pledge allegiance to the great everlasting Communist party and the teachings of Ho Chi Minh (the Vietnamese Lenin)." None of the adults I know actually vote. Internet websites predict voting outcomes with a 100 percent accuracy, from the presidential seat to the provincial deputies.

Coming from such a background, I cannot help but marvel at how my friends here take their rights and freedoms for granted. "American hypocrisy," they say,

with a smirk. True democracy, human rights, freedom of expression—what are those but high-flown words written for the naive, for the innocent believers, for the puppets brainwashed with the illusion of an American Dream? Time and time again have I heard the cynical opinion that America should brush aside its unrealistic "propaganda" of exceptionalism; many use the recent election of a populist president to prove that this country has given up on its founding values. But to a person used to living in an oppressive state, the difference between political tolerance here and back home cannot be more pronounced. Here, at least access to unbiased information is guaranteed.

I still remember the inexpressible joy that first day in September, when I clicked onto BBC and *Human Rights Watch* articles without reading the lines "Error 451—The websites you are trying to access contain delinquent and immoral content." The simple fact that I am writing this article for a publication is one that I do not take for granted. This is an article that I would not dare to write six months ago. This is an article that I would not dare to write in my native language. This is an article that even now, despite living half the globe away from prosecution on student visa, I still feel butterflies in my stomach as I hit the send button.

But I am practising self-expression in the face of fear. Because if the next generation of Asians do not stand up to defend their rights for themselves, who will?

Bring Back Strategic Planning Days!

Shaan Bhandarkar '19
Guest Contributor

On a few Wednesdays last year, the usual CBEG or DAFH schedules did not pop up on our online schedules and we instead had a free day termed a "strategic planning day." However, strategic planning only occurs once every ten years, and the days off have been replaced by normal school days until the next strategic planning year. The lack of days off serves to reduce the amount of free time a student has in a term. Even though the schedule has returned to normal, those free Wednesdays seemed to be much more effective in enabling us to go on with our personal journeys on a day-to-day basis.

As the "middle-day" of a school-week (Monday-Friday), Wednesday is a pivotal point in all of our schedules and is consequently the most beneficial of days on which to have a break fall. Since

most teachers choose to have their tests or major assignments due during their class's weekly fat block, all tests or major assignments fall on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. A free Wednesday made the traditional "work week" feel like only two days each. Despite the fact that

come with giving students time to relax, strategic planning Wednesdays provided an academically strategic transition time. Instead of a student having to constantly switch gears between a light-workload day or a hefty-workload day, Wednesdays without classes allowed for extra study-



usual Wednesday classes end at 12:50 p.m., though, the day feels like a normal day, particularly workload-wise, for students who have to go to sports competitions or time-consuming clubs such as ESSO. The effects of a free Wednesday would be especially beneficial for these students.

In addition to the benefits that

time between the two halves of each week. Even though the current dynamic of having Wednesdays as half-days and only running classes until 12:50 p.m. is quite advantageous, students with commitments such as sports and ESSO clubs have to invest more time in those activities, on Wednesdays. However,

on free Wednesdays, plenty of hours would be freed up for students involved in athletics and time-consuming clubs. Since these Wednesdays also happened to occur once or twice a term, they did provide for a small but significant boost in free time. Strategic planning Wednesdays enabled all students to fully partake in any Wednesday activities of their choice and still have quite a lot of time to properly balance work and relaxation.

Free Wednesdays added in much more time to relax and recharge in between tests that fell on the beginning and end of the week. These strategic planning Wednesdays also provided much more time for students to study between such tests especially in the circumstances of sports and various other commitments that happen to also fall on the same days. In the ever-hectic environment of Exeter where time management is critical, strategic planning Wednesdays paved way for more quality relax-time and study-time as well as serving like an extra weekend.

Michael Flynn: Trump's Scapegoat

Bella Alvarez '19
Guest Contributor

Retired United States Army Lieutenant General and former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency Michael Flynn stepped down from his post as the National Security Advisor to President Donald Trump on Feb. 13. This came shortly after the White House was informed of Flynn's calls to the Russian Ambassador to the United States Sergey Kislyak about Obama's sanctions on Russia after its intervention in the U.S. election became known. According to his letter of resignation, Flynn gave "incompetent information" about these numerous phone conversations with the foreign diplomats. He claimed that these calls were simply to "smooth the transition" of Trump into office, although further investigation proved this to be false: he called to affirm his complete support for Russia, something that the new administration clearly stands behind.

Flynn's resignation came after only 24 days in the position, for which Trump hand-selected him despite some of Flynn's

unprofessional behavior during the election campaign. On the campaign trail, Flynn fervently reiterated presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's involvement in a child sex scandal. His harsh-worded rhetoric, including chants to incite people to "Lock Clinton up!" were seen as appalling by some of his former co-workers and close friends.

Retired Admiral Mike Mullen, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, found that Flynn's behavior to be "unusual," given Flynn's reputation as a strong-willed general. "For retired senior officers to take leading and vocal roles as clearly partisan figures is a violation of the ethos and professionalism of apolitical military service," Mullen explained. Somehow, Flynn's polarization and hateful oration got him a spot in the

White House.

However strange Flynn's resignation may seem, an even more shocking fact was made apparent that in January, Flynn informed Trump of his calls to Russia. Despite this, Flynn was still allowed to

attend security meetings, while Vice President Mike Pence was kept in the dark. In interviews, Trump lied to reporters about this, saying that he had no prior knowledge of this before Flynn formally and publicly announced his mistake.

Flynn is simply the first of the dominoes to fall. His rescindment is emblematic of the fact that the administration doesn't actually care their ties to Russia being exposed—they're able to brush these things over with a quick "letter of resignation" and forget about it. As we've seen with the

indifferent response from the White House, Trump basically doesn't care. His counselor, Kellyanne Conway, told MSNBC that Flynn had "full support" while well aware of the investigation. Trump claimed he was "in the dark" about the situation when speaking to the *Washington Post*, while later it was found that he had known all along. Further investigation into the situation revealed that Flynn had actually exchanged text messages with the ambassador, opening himself up to blackmail. Attorney Sally Yates found that Russia knew of the fact that Flynn didn't let his superior know about the correspondence, which could easily be held against him.

Flynn was a scapegoat for the rest of the Trump administration—everyone within the office has most definitely had some support from Russia. The 17 intelligence agencies all concurred on the fact that Russia had interfered with the election, and again, Trump brushed it off as though this was nothing. Flynn's only mistake in his correspondence with Kislyak was the fact that he was caught publicly—Trump's government has surely been doing the same behind closed doors.



Courtesy of Google

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Vermont Heroin Epidemic

Sebastian Bango '19

Guest Contributor

When I tell an Exonian I'm from Vermont I receive one of three responses: "Where is that?" or "Oh, I have a house there!" or "Skiing something-something Ben and Jerry's."

I am fine with this image of my state. Of course, we have more notable achievements; we were the first to legalize gay marriage, the first state to abolish slavery and we have Bernie Sanders. However, most people are unaware that underneath the magazine snapshots and the homegrown kale, an affliction is crippling our lower class. In the past decade, a heroin epidemic has emerged. Since the year 2000, the number of Vermonters treated for heroin addiction has risen by 800 percent. Vermont has become a major drug trafficking route between Canada and New York, and now, due to the overprescription of opiates, demand for heroin in Vermont has skyrocketed, allowing drug dealers to sell narcotics for sometimes five hundred percent over city rates. This expensive drug has made heroin more readily available to anybody who goes searching for it.

Many Vermont heroin users begin their addictions through legally prescribed opiates. With insurance, the drugs are nearly free. But when the prescription ends and the addiction

doesn't, a person hooked on narcotics seeks out other suppliers. The standard street value for oxycodone, an opiate and the active ingredient in Percocet and Oxycontin, is one dollar per milligram. A single pill can range from 30 milligrams to 80 milligrams, and an addict can easily consume upwards of 200 milligrams a day. That's 6,000 dollars a month, which is comparable to the cost of renting a two-bedroom brownstone in Brooklyn. Needless to say, this is an unsustainable habit; if the addict had money to pay for the drugs initially they won't in a couple of months. A gram of heroin costs only 20 dollars. No one wants to do heroin. But when you're broke, and you've run out of Percocet, it's not a matter of what your rational mind wants, it's a matter of what your psychological and physical dependency needs.

My best friend from preschool through eighth grade was a kid named Elliot.* Elliot was a scrawny, pale kid with coarse brown hair and glasses with quarter-inch thick lenses. Elliot's dad was a burly figure with a scruffy blonde beard and years of blacksmithing experience. One day when we were in eighth grade, Elliot's dad picked him up for the weekend in a dirty silver truck, his right hand on the wheel and his left arm in a plaster cast. About a month later Elliot mentioned his dad had started crushing and snorting Percocet.

I took note but didn't pry any further; at the time I was unfamiliar with the extent of the drug's effects. Later that year Elliot and his new step-dad Tom got into an argument that ended with Elliot fleeing to a friend's house. The next day all of his belongings were on his mom's front lawn. Elliot went to live with his dad full time. Elliot revealed that they were growing a crop of six marijuana plants along a hunting trail behind his barn.

Through our freshman year, Elliot would bring ounces of weed packed in multiple ziplock freezer bags to school in his day bag to sell. I didn't approve of his dealing, but one day he confessed his motivations to me. He feared that if he didn't bring the money back to his dad, he wouldn't be able to afford the Percocet and would switch to the cheaper alternative.

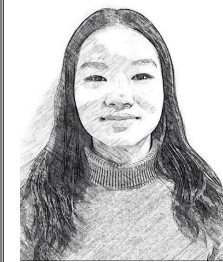
President Donald Trump has stated that he will stop our heroin problem by closing off the southern border. This is an uneducated and oversimplified position. With such a financial incentive for both pharmaceutical companies and drug dealers alike, opioid distributors will always find a way to circumvent the system. The most tangible solution is to review prescription regulations on medical narcotics and put systems in place to help those affected deal with addiction.

*name changed to protect privacy

Access to Trump Comes at a Price



Courtesy of Google



ALL ANDREA

Andrea So
Columnist

On Feb. 11, President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had dinner at Trump's private club in Florida, Mar-a-Lago. It was then when the news broke that North Korea had launched a ballistic missile in Japan's direction. Immediately, there was a flurry of activity—aides surrounded Trump and Abe as they were briefed on the situation in the restaurant. According to CNN, the response from the politicians to the situation was "on full view to fellow diners," and aides had used the flashlights on their phones to better illuminate the documents that were being handed to Trump and Abe. The reaction was captured by Richard DeAgazio, a retired investor and member of Mar-a-Lago, who posted pictures of the incident on social media.

This stirred up controversy regarding the level of access that members of Mar-a-Lago have to President Trump. It is outrageous that members reportedly pay a \$200,000 initiation fee to join the exclusive resort, on top of annual dues of \$14,000 as well as an annual food minimum of \$2,000. The club accepts no more than a measly 40 new members per year, and members include Marvel Entertainment CEO Isaac Perlmutter and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft.

The idea that you must have a certain amount of wealth to have your opinion heard is immoral.

Members of Mar-a-Lago are all wealthy, powerful people who pay exorbitant prices to enjoy a 20-acre resort and also to possibly influence the president's decisions regarding policy making that affect their businesses. Trump has already spent two of his four weekends as president at Mar-a-Lago, and his son-in-law Jared Kushner and chief strategist Steve

Bannon are also known to be members that frequent the club. There, Trump has hosted so many important people—such as presidential guests and industry executives—that Trump designated it his "Winter White House."

For people who can readily afford a Mar-a-Lago membership, there is a very real possibility that they get to witness the president discussing issues ranging from international policy to national security. According to *The New York Times*, having the president stop by at your table for a quick chat is not a rare occurrence for members of Mar-a-Lago. This also means that the people who cannot afford the membership are shut out of the conversation. This kind of exclusion is both unprecedented and dangerous, as rich members of the club can choose to prioritize their own monetary interests ahead of the greater good of the nation. To let them have the president's ear and be close enough to him to influence his policy decisions could lead to disastrous results.

Although wealthy donors were targeted during Trump's speeches, where he pledged to have an administration free of big money interests, actions speak louder than Trump's hypocritical words. At a recent event in Washington, D.C., people who contributed seven-figure donations were welcomed with a gift bag filled with items such as gold White House cufflinks. They also received preferential booking at the Trump International Hotel and invitations to receptions and other events where they could again gain access to powerful political figures such as Trump himself and Vice President Mike Pence. The idea that you must have a certain amount of wealth to have your opinion heard is immoral. Furthermore, Steve Mnuchin, a former hedge fund manager and Goldman Sachs executive, was also recently confirmed as treasury secretary. Goldman Sachs is known as one of the banks that played a major role in toppling the economy in the Wall Street Crash of 2008.

Whether he was ever going to fulfill them or not, Trump is neglecting all of the promises he made during his campaign to fight for the rights of the financially underprivileged. Instead, he is surrounding himself with some of the richest people in the country in the White House and at his resort. Trump must understand that a wealthy minority does not represent the diversity of America, and to think that rich donors with business interests know best when it comes to policies that benefit everyone is ridiculous. As long as he ignores the voices of the underprivileged, he also continues to ignore the demands of the American people.

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Cuba in Crisis



WORLD
COMPASS

Mark Blekherman
Senior Columnist

In his 2015 State of the Union Address, Barack Obama announced, "In Cuba, we are ending a policy that was long past its expiration date." From 1962, the United States maintained an iron fist over Cuba, isolating it from the global economy and ruthlessly punishing it for its aggressive support of communist revolutions in the Western hemisphere. Fifty years later, not much progress has been made. Refusing to liberalize under the Chinese example, Fidel and Raúl Castro formed state-owned industries and created barriers to keep foreign investors out of the domestic economy. The Cuban government continues to suppress the freedom of expression and effectively regulates all private media outlets. As President Donald Trump decides whether to promote Obama's legacy in Cuba, he must ask himself: Can sanctions move Cuba closer to democracy?

I believe they cannot. In fact, keeping sanctions will not only damage Cuba, but also deny our own American export industries access to a sizeable market. Lifting travel restrictions increases business opportunities for several American industries and creates jobs in the United

States. The past 10 years have seen a major growth in Cuba's tourism industry, and the United States has largely missed out on investing in the rapidly expanding sector, letting countries like Spain and Germany expand their tourism industries into Cuba. Given that the Cuban population often suffers from food shortages and malnutrition, trade liberalization would boost the American agricultural sector and make produce cheaper and more accessible for the Cubans.

The Center for Democracy in the Americas estimates that lifting the embargo would generate close to \$1.08 billion a year in additional U.S. output and the creation of 9,285 to 15,417 new jobs. This would greatly benefit both Cuba and America's economies. Our airline industries would benefit from the flow of people across borders and access to a lucrative market for leisure travel. In addition to potential exports, the United States could import biotechnology products from Cuba, which has made notable advances in the field of alternative medicine. Cuba's medical research centers have produced 400 biotech patents and are in the process of developing cancer and cholera vaccines. These medical products go to Canada and England, but unfortunately not to the United States.

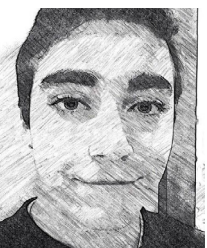
More concerning is that the embargo prevents democratization by promoting Castro's narrative that the United States is the source of Cuba's problems. External restrictions produce solidarity with the targeted regime if the government paints

the sanctions as hostile to the nation's sovereignty and well-being. This sense of misery only augments the domestic political support for an authoritarian dictator, as it allows the leader to scapegoat other governments. A few months after Obama implemented sanctions on Russia in 2014, Putin's popularity rose to new record highs. Economic coercion incentivizes governments to restrict democratic freedoms in an effort to quell domestic dissent and opposition.

Political dissidents in Cuba want engagement with the United States. Indeed, the embargo has made Cuba's transition to a free market economy more difficult. Political prisoners realize that only increased contact with the United States will spur democratic changes in Cuba. China's economic transformation started in 1978—a few years after Nixon's visit to Beijing. When foreign companies invested vigorously in the private sector, they laid the seeds for a more open society and gave rise to millions of entrepreneurs; in just a few years, abandoned coastal provinces turned into booming megacities with vibrant trade networks across the world.

The same can be done with Cuba. In recent years, the Cuban government has moved to give its enterprises more flexibility and freedom, passing reforms in 2013 that would loosen their tax burden. Now is the time for the United States government to let go of its outdated, inefficient policy and support the democratic destiny of the Cuban people.

China Suspends North Korean Coal Imports



OUTSIDE
THE EXETER
BUBBLE

Paul James
Columnist

North Korea's recent ballistic missile test has drawn immediate action from China and public ridicule from many nations. In an effort to impose United Nations sanctions on Pyongyang's actions, China has ceased coal imports as of Feb. 19. Coal is North Korea's largest export, and the country is extremely dependent on Beijing to bolster its collapsed economy. Now, it seems the Chinese are no longer willing to fulfill that role. Previously, worries about a possible power vacuum at China's border dissuaded the government from taking action against the North Korean regime. Beijing formerly kept a foot on each side of the fence by partially restricting imports but allowing those that were unconnected to Pyongyang's nuclear program.

The Chinese Ministry of Commerce plans to enforce the new restrictions for the remainder of the year. Future sanctions remain unclear, though with North Korea's current trajectory, it seems likely that more nations will join in condemnation of Pyongyang's actions and seek to hinder the country's already fragile economy. The first rejected coal shipment was valued at around 1 million dollars.

North Korea has also made headlines

recently with the assassination of Kim Jong Un's half brother in Malaysia. Kim Jong Nam had been under threat of death since his half brother took control of the regime and forced him out of political circles. As he was living mostly in China, the Chinese government likely took his assassination as a personal affront, adding to their motivations behind imposing stricter sanctions on their neighboring country.

Ever since the current dictator assumed control, China's relationship with North Korea has become strained. His defiant nuclear tests and instability throughout the region exposes a difference in the goals of the two countries, creating a rift between a secretive and isolated government and its greatest political and economic lifeline.

Trump's policy on dealing with North Korea as a nuclear threat has been to make China do the work instead. His administration urged China to take action, due to the relatively limited impact that the United States has on such an isolated nation. It seems that Beijing is stepping up to fill that role, a heartening prospect considering the inaction of other world powers. China remains hopeful of a diplomatic settlement, as a war would have a high cost in human lives and severely unbalance the region.

China isn't the only country bent on putting North Korea back in its place. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe described the latest missile launch test as "absolutely intolerable." South Korea has also vehemently attacked the North for its lack of compliance with international

rules and erratic behavior. Nevertheless, it is as powerless as most other nations when trying to coerce North Korea into observing international law.

North Korea's isolation makes it difficult for most nations to impose effective restrictions, economic or otherwise. China took the most drastic action thus far, though the consequences have yet to show themselves. The international community—western countries in particular—find their hands tied when it comes to possible courses of action. Economic sanctions do little to affect Pyongyang's leadership and public ridicule is not a strong enough motivator. The government's extreme limits on free speech or media presence restrict the public's ability to demonstrate and advocate for a regime change.

The negative consequences of military action would outweigh the benefits by a massive margin. Provoking a country with demonstrable military capability would likely end in a toll of hundreds of thousands, if not millions of lives lost. Furthermore, a hostile takeover by foreign governments would only serve to destabilize the region further and may solidify anti-western sentiment. In light of all these considerations, China's action seems to be the best form of progress so far. The Chinese have also indicated their willingness to facilitate multilateral diplomatic talks with the aim of resolving any future conflict. If these newly imposed sanctions prove to be effective, there may be hope in controlling the North Korean leadership without resorting to a show of force or turning to war.

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ExonianHumor



Common Dude-Bro™ Expression Translations

By EMILY GREEN
Fluent

If you've ever heard a DudeBro™ talking to another DudeBro™ and have had trouble understanding their DudeBro™ language, we at the Humor Page have courteously translated common DudeBro™ expressions for you.

Sah, dude: I love and cherish our friendship greatly.

You can't trust women, brah. You know what I mean?: Although Margaret Sanger did wonders for women's rights in terms of contraception, her views in terms of being adamantly in favor of eugenics makes her a morally questionable character.

Bruh: Hey.

Bruhh: Did you catch the hockey game?

Bruh: I think I just failed my math test.

You're a savage: You're a strong person and I believe in you.

It's okay that she rejected me. She's ugly anyway: My masculinity is very fragile and I am but a tool of the patriarchy.

Deep grunt: Although the Obama Administration's foreign policy was significantly less hawkish than the Bush Administration's, I still think there are flaws in terms of the number of civilian deaths caused by drone bombings, specifically in Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Our nation's strategy of often careless interventionism in other countries is but an extension of the dangerous ideologies of American Exceptionalism and Manifest Destiny.

I saw _____ today. It was awkward: Although I present a hard shell of an exterior, on the inside, I am putty, just as scared of the harsh battlefield of social life as everyone else is.

Bro: Friend, Roman, Countryman. Lend me your ear.

Dude: My good friend whom I adore, your comraderie means the world to me.

Church camp was lit bro. The turnout was very real.: As a follower of the Lord, I encourage my fellow comrades to join me in my quest to seek salvation.

Wicked: I'm from Massachusetts and I want everyone to know it.

Gettin' swole: I'm exercising to improve myself physically, as well as emotionally. Health is wealth.

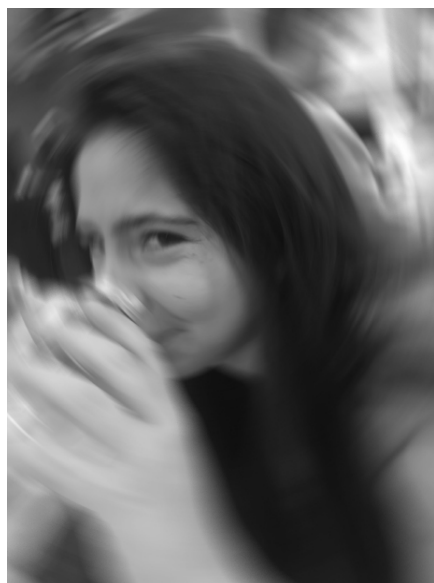
Hey, dude, how's your lettuce growing: I admire your luscious locks.

The party was lit last weekend: I have cool day student friends and I want to tell the world about it.

Yo: I crave attention.

TFW the Weather Is Nice Because of Global Warming

By THE HUMOR EDITORS
Enveloping Pocket Enthusiasts



Do you have big hands?

Submit to the Humor Page.

Email exonianhumor@gmail.com.

First Draft of My 332

By BILLY O'HANDLEY
Dean Kim: "Adequate"

Since the dawn of time, we as a species have used many characteristics to judge one another and to separate the merely good from the great. First, those with high intelligence were revered for their wisdom and were treated as kings. They were the ones whom the public would go to for help in any situation and the arbiters of any dispute. Next, those with great strength were the gods among men. They were the warriors who fought for their people and the epitome of power. Today, the world has switched to a new metric to measure greatness. This trait has opened the whole world to those with it, and has consumed every waking thought of those without. The attribute I am talking about is, of course, hand size.

In today's culture, hand size is a measure for success, likeability and everything in between. The current president of the United States talked about his size in a speech, attempting to win the people's favor by telling them that he "has no problem in that area," (Book of Donald, p. 35). This was in response to his opponent Mr. Rubio's cunning strategy of pointing out the small size of Mr. Trump's hands then saying, "If his hands are small, there may be other things that are small too." (The Election of 2016, p. 68). The other small things he was talking about were, obviously, Mr. Trump's strength and ability to govern. These comments show the importance of size in the electoral process, and, by extension, in mod-

ern times.

Hand size isn't just part of the election though. It is used as a way to judge others in all facets of society. Those with particularly expensive cars are thought of as "having small hands" and if someone does something that is particularly brave or bold, it is thought of as a "big hand move." The prevailing wisdom is that people with small hands cannot stop thinking about their hands, and as such, spend their entire life trying to make up for their small hands. This causes them to do things like running for president.

In conclusion, today's version of strength and intelligence is hand size. But the truth is, it's not really how big your hands are. It's how you use them that matters.

The Upperclassman's Torment

By CEDRIC BLAISE
Pained



Pitbull Sings at International Tea

By MAJESTIC TERHUNE
Mr. Worldwide

Last Saturday night, International Tea drew in students from a multitude of backgrounds, even the Russian ones. Attendees enjoyed various foods, dances and activities. Overall, International Tea went as planned...except for one detail that no one could have predicted: Pitbull.

Pitbull made his debut at the event a fashionable and prep-like thirty minutes early. When asked why he had come to Exeter, New Hampshire, he responded, "Mr.

Worldwide is legally and morally obligated to attend any event with the word 'International' in the title."

Pitbull, who has written many original songs such as "Fireball", "I Know You Want It", and "Don't Stop Believing" has won three Grammys and an Oscar. "It's incredible that he would even consider visiting," stated hardcore Pitbull enthusiast Megan Campbell.

While the general consensus was that Pitbull made the evening

"interesting, I guess," some students felt highly offended by his presence. "Pitbull just doesn't support my music tastes," hip senior Aidan Wolff-King said, "Where are the Arctic Monkeys? Brett Dennen? This school simply does not have standards."

Because of his legal and moral obligation, Pitbull will attend next year's International Tea, provided that he continues to rap his way into the hearts of millions of preteens. Dale!

Dull Needles? Pointless.

By BEN ABBATIello
Got Rejected from Oped

Kim Jong Nam, the half-brother of notorious North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, was killed Monday. The assassination was reportedly carried out by female agents using a poison needle as their weapon. The killing was executed as Kim was waiting in an airport in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Although Malaysian officials have yet to classify the death as a homicide—as they are currently awaiting the results of an autopsy—an anonymous intelligence official reported to South Korean newspaper JoongAng Ilbo that Kim was "stung by a poisoned needle" after being approached by "two female spies". The assassins reportedly fled the scene in a taxi immediately following the crime. Although their act of murder is abhorrent, I must commend these assassins on their choice of murder weapon. The poisoned needle is far and away the most practical assassination tool that exists.

Firstly, the slender and discrete structure of the tool lends itself to convenient concealment. It can be slipped into a pocket or bag to keep it out of sight, making approaching one's target a simple matter. Furthermore, even in the event that a would-be killer's person is searched for weapons, one could easily claim that the deadly syringe is simply an insulin needle. The poisoned needle's inherently inconspicuous nature makes it a

perfect choice for the low-key assassin.

The needle's stealthiness is the gift that keeps on giving, even following the assassination attempt. Assuming that our hypothetical assassin has chosen a fast-acting toxin, the ensuing chaos of the victim's death presents the perfect opportunity to slip away. This is no gun—people won't be staring at the assassin following the attempt on the target's life. There will be a massive amount of confusion as to what is even transpiring, and nobody will be searching for a killer right off the bat. Our assassin could simply slip their needle back into their pocket, fanny pack, or what have you, and get lost in a crowd. There's no rush to discard of the murder weapon, as there would be with more conventional means. It will be a long while before anyone even realizes that what occurred was a cold blooded murder.

Poison as a murder weapon has been given a bad reputation in popular media, notably by the recent film *The Interview*. In the film, the assassins (portrayed by James Franco and Seth Rogan) employ the use of a transdermal strip to expose their target, Kim Jong-un, to ricin during a visit to North Korea for an interview. It's important to draw a distinction between this method and the poisoned needle method I have been advocating

for. The transdermal strip, while having some stealth benefits, is ultimately a silly murder weapon. The liability of the assassin inadvertently killing himself with the poison is too high to justify its use. Additionally, the premise of the movie is somewhat absurd. The use of poison as a weapon relies greatly on confusion and chaos, as demonstrated expertly by Kim Jong Nam's assassins—the North Koreans in the film would have known without a doubt that any mysterious death would have been the fault of the visiting Americans. Do not fall for the media's persuasion—poison (especially in the form of a needle) is the optimal assassination weapon.

The poisoned needle makes assassination simple enough for anyone. Fill your syringe with your toxin of choice, conceal it on your person, approach your target in a bustling area, stab them with your weapon, depress the plunger, slip the needle back into your pocket and fade away into the crowd or grab a taxi. It's as easy as that. Now, I'm not advocating for murder. That would be unethical. In fact, I explicitly recommend that you do not murder people. But if you're set on doing it, the poisoned needle has got your back. Inconspicuous, reliable, effective—what more can you ask for from your murder weapon?

Quote of the Week

"I would pee my pants if I found out I was related to Ben Franklin."
-Emily Green '18

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 ;)

Lamont Poet Afaa Michael Weaver Shares Work With Exeter

By **BELLA ALVAREZ**
and **MADISON KANG**
Staff Writers

Afaa Michael Weaver, this year's winter 2017 Lamont Poet, shared his works with the Exeter community at a reading, question-and-answer session and book-signing last Wednesday night.

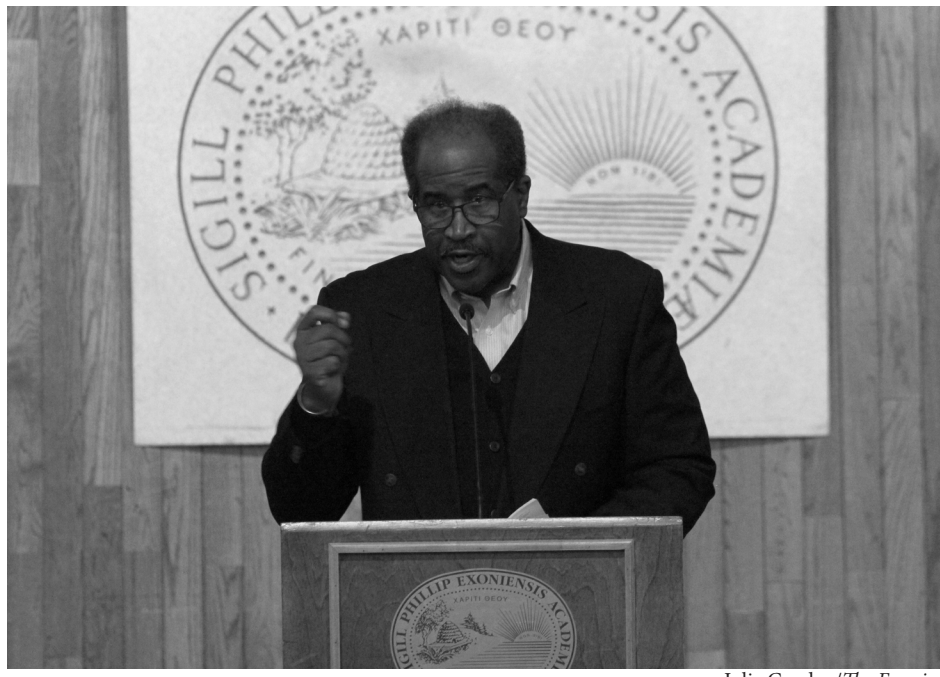
Weaver has published twelve books of poetry including *Water Song*, *The Plum Flower Dance: Poems 1985 to 2005*, *Multitudes*, *The Ten Lights of God*, *City of Eternal Spring* and *The Government of Nature*. His full-length play *Rosa* was produced in 1993 at Venture Theater in Philadelphia, PA, and his short fiction has appeared in multiple anthologies. Weaver also founded a publishing company and has worked as a freelance writer for Baltimore's primary newspaper, *The Baltimore Sun*. He has received prestigious awards such as the Pew Fellowship in Poetry, the 2015 Phillis Wheatley Book Award for Poetry and the 2014 Kingsley Tufts Award.

Recognizing Weaver as a well-established voice in American poetry, the Lamont Poet Committee wanted to invite him to Exeter before he retired. Instructor in English Eimer Page, who serves on the committee, found Weaver's work captivating, calling it "a poetic parallel to the personal narrative."

Page was equally impressed by the universal resonance of Weaver's writing. "He leans on his lived experience for his work, but his poetry has a universality to it as well," she explained. She also commended Weaver for his ability to read his own work well, a sentiment many students agreed with.

Weaver began his presentation by reminding Exonians of the privilege afforded them by the Academy and the potential that higher education offers. He reflected on his upbringing in an impoverished East Baltimore neighborhood, where he lived with his steelworker father and part-time beautician mother. After military service and during his fifteen years of factory labor, Weaver began to write poetry, a process he called "intuitive."

While employed as a warehouseman for PG&E, Weaver's first collection of poetry, *Water Song*, was picked up by a publishing company, which would later qualify him for a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) fellowship in 1985.



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

Lamont Poet Afaa Michael Weaver reads his poetry for students and faculty.

That spring, Weaver was accepted into the writing program at Brown University on a full scholarship. The "poetry renaissance" of Baltimore had just begun during the 1980s, and Weaver soon became a well-known figure.

"Poetry was my liberation from the factories, my gateway to higher education. To some degree, my story is a story of overcoming odds," he reflected. "If you had looked at me fifty or forty five years ago, you would have never thought I would accomplish what I have accomplished."

Weaver went on, explaining that his background and childhood have heavily impacted his writing. His proximity to America's workforce resulted in literary themes of working-class citizens, racial tensions, poverty and mistreatment. However, the breadth of Weaver's inspiration is endless. "What inspires my writing? Everything," he explained. "I've written about Marx, mysticism, memories, my family, history..."

Many in attendance were lowers who were reading Weaver's work in their English classes. Lower Ingrid Bergill, a student in English Instructor Courtney Marshall's class, was fascinated by Weaver's range of topics. "The poems cover so many important moments in history," Bergill said, commenting on her experience of reading Weaver's anthology, *A Hard Summation*.

"The poems condense such a long history into so few words without

losing the importance of what has happened," she said. For Bergill, Marshall's unique way of teaching these poems made it much easier to contextualize the events that pertained to each poem. "We were responsible for looking up any unknown historical events or figures and explaining them to the class," she explained. "[The poems] went in chronological order, from the beginning of slavery to 2012."

At the reading, Weaver read his poem "The Kidnapper" from *A Hard Summation*, a tribute to enslaved children and how their forced integration into a white America resulted in a dispossession of their native African culture. He asked his audience to consider historical events like slavery, lynchings and segregation in an objective manner. "I encourage you all to have an open and comprehensive mind when thinking about history. It is our responsibility to write and communicate and deliberate sincerely and honestly," he said. "At the same time, we must forgive and understand if we are to continue as a human species."

Lower Isadora Kron found Weaver's message of amnesty and tolerance relevant to ongoing racial, economic and social breaches. "His message of history and forgiveness still rings today because history repeats itself," she said. "There's a current tension in this country and around the world in regards to economics and social issues, so I think it's really important now,

more than ever, to hear voices of people from all sides of a situation." Kron continued, commending Weaver's art form. "Poetry is a good way to hear the stories of different sides that you might not be experiencing, which might help resolve those issues," she explained.

Weaver also read excerpts from *The City of Eternal Spring*, reflecting on his embrace of Chinese culture and his travels to China, where, as a 27 year-old, he discovered the art of Tai Chi. Weaver, now a dedicated Daoist, explained that both Chinese meditation and his Southern Baptist background to be spiritual remedies for childhood traumas.

Upper Wendi Yan appreciated Weaver's exploration of Chinese culture in his works. "Reading [the] poems has also made me wonder a lot about how a poem with a similar theme could look like in Chinese," she explained. "He really made me hope that there could be a more nourishing and vibrant environment for contemporary poetry in China." Yan went on, saying that despite the obvious gaps between Weaver's and her own culture, he connected his experiences with Chinese ethnology to his own life and upbringing. "It was just fascinating to see a Westerner's poem with Chinese cultural elements that we often assume we would see from Chinese poets alone," she said.

Students were not the only audience members inspired by Weaver's poetry. His fiancée, alumna Kristen Skedgell '74, enjoyed hearing him perform at Exeter, which she described as "a place of inspiration and fond memory." "It's great to see him share his work with current Exonians. Afaa and I are both in our sixties, we've lived full lives," she said. "And now I try to imagine being a teenager, young again, hearing him and wondering if I would have gotten what he was saying."

Page expressed hope that in the future, more students will take advantage of the Lamont Poetry Series. "I was sorry to see a smaller number of students there than normal, but I can understand that with recent snow days it was harder for teachers to give release time to require attendance," Page said. "I hope students understand the incredible opportunity they have to hear from living writers on such a regular basis."

Student Council Allocation for Club Funding Examined

Continued from FUNDING, A3

proposals from campus groups that detail how received funding will be allocated. Every Tuesday, the 20 committee members discuss the merits of incoming applications and then votes on whether to approve the spending. According to McShea, "most of the time, we approve and get the club on the way to making Exeter better."

While funds allocated by the Budget Committee are vital to the operations of many of the more well-known clubs on campus, the process sometimes fails to promote the growth of new,

smaller clubs that are eager to grow. Upper Jackson Parell, co-head of Exeter Entrepreneurship Club described the "major difficulties" he faces in trying to secure club funding. "As co-head of a start-up club like EEC, I find myself in a difficult situation," he said. "I would like to grow my club, but I can't do so without proper funding, which often goes to larger organizations."

Parell lamented the fact that such a large number of new clubs fail because of inadequate funding. He also stressed the potential benefits that redistributing funds to smaller clubs could have on student life. "I think that

if we reconsidered the allocation of funds, there will be a richer diversity of extracurriculars on campus."

While many of the large student organizations on campus rely on funding from Student Council, some clubs, like *The Exonian*, have endowments that have accumulated over the years from continuous donor support. These clubs do not have to go through the process of requesting funding. If a donor earmarks their donation for a certain club, the school must put this donation into that club's endowment.

The total amount of money that

the Academy has varies depending on donor support. "Donors may provide additional support throughout the year or may add to endowed support," Hanson said. Nevertheless, the committee distributes the money wisely to meet a variety of student needs.

Regardless of the potential complications involved in club funding, Hanson strongly supports student groups. "Clubs are a vital part of the educational experience in high school," Hanson said. "They enriched my experience significantly, and some of my best friends to this day are people I met through clubs in high school."

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Lower students William Kalikman, Raymond Alvarez-Adorno, Chim Tasie-Amadi, Justin Psaris and Henry Tan pose for a photo at International Tea.

Rachel Luo/The Exonian

International Tea

By **DON ASSAMONGKOL**
and **PAUL JAMES**
Staff Writers

This year's annual International Tea, which was held last Saturday, featured a ballroom dancing class taught by an instructor, a live jazz band, snacks and, as the name suggested, tea from around the world. Many students arrived dressed in cultural attire, and others wore semi-formal clothing appropriate to the event.

Grainger Auditorium was packed with students swaying back and forth on the dance floor while others sat at tables listening to their peers perform onstage. Others lined up for photos with friends. "Menus" printed with facts about the countries that Exonians hail from were subtly placed on each table. The night also featured board games and henna stations.

The International Student Association (ISA) has been hosting the Tea for the past several years with the aim of educating fellow Exonians on the multitude of cultures and nationalities represented on campus. "It takes a lot of time and effort to host this event, but it's worth it because it's an opportunity for us as international students to share our different cultures through food and music to the whole Exonian community," upper Chiara Perotti Correa, one of the co-heads

of ISA, said. "We want to show the student body how diverse the school is and for them to bond with us [international students] and learn about us through this event."

Jennifer Smith, who serves as both International Student Coordinator and ISA's club advisor, echoed Perotti Correa's sentiment. "It's a subtle way to teach the community about culture from around the world with teas, desserts and some of the fun facts we placed on the table almost in a menu format," she said. "I think students were able to absorb culture in a fun, interactive way."

ISA began planning the event several months ago. This organization entailed reserving the space and equipment needed, hanging flyers around campus and ordering teas and decorations. "Everyone in ISA contributed in some way with their own strengths," Smith said. She went on, attributing the success of the event to ISA's great investment in planning it. "ISA is very passionate about this event and as a tightly bonded group, come together to get it all done," she said.

According to lower Simone Harris, an ISA member who helped organize and put up decorations for the event, the setup was carried out well and accomplished the goal of making the plain Grainger Auditorium feel more lively. "One of our biggest concerns was making sure

that everything looked attractive," she said. "The decoration committee wanted to have a colorful theme, and a lot of organizing went into purchasing materials that were both colorful and consistent but without looking tacky."

She continued, saying, "In the end I think it's safe to say that we were all content with the outcome. The Tea had a welcoming atmosphere with a lot of opportunities to socialize."

Senior Nicole Shi, who was in charge of preparing decorations for the event, explained that many students labor under the misconception that International Tea is reserved only for international students. "However, this is not the case," she said. "We wanted to make it clearer that it was open to all students, and I think this was reflected in the good turnout we had."

Many students expressed hope that the number of people who attended the event and their enthusiasm will help to make International Tea a long-lived tradition and spoke about the importance of their preparation for future ISA events. "We focused on having higher quality decorations that could be used in our events to come, such as the fabric world map used as our photo backdrop," Shi said. "Hopefully, this will establish even more continuity in the International Teas to come!"

ISA also invited a student band, Big Red

Blues, to perform live jazz at International Tea. Lower Dylan Yin, who performed with Big Red Blues and is a member of ISA, expressed excitement about the performance. "I received nonstop positive energy and warmth from both my fellow performers' music and the listening crowd's applause," he said. "The ability to play for and with your friends on a stage with dramatic lighting and official audio setup is truly one that is rare and amazing."

ISA reported that fewer people attended the event this year than last year but that those who did go were enthusiastic. "The general atmosphere of International Tea this year made it surpass my expectations," Yin said.

Senior Geyang Qin agreed with Yin. "Although there were less people this time around, I think that the event overall was still great," he said. "I mean, who doesn't like dressing up to take photos while having snacks dipped from a chocolate fountain?"

According to lower Amelia Lee, who is also a member of ISA, this year's Tea was unique in many respects. "What sets International Tea apart from many other events is that there are activities that appeal to many different people," she said. "Colouring, henna, a photo booth, ballroom dancing, board games, the food and tea, to name a few, give people the opportunity to wind down at moments or be dancing wildly."

Mainstage Production: Two Gentlemen of Verona

By **BELLA ALVAREZ** and
MÁKINROLA ORAFIDIYA
Staff Writers

The Exeter Theater Department put on the musical "Two Gentlemen of Verona," a twist on Shakespeare's classic tale on Friday, Feb. 18, Saturday, Feb. 19 and Sunday, Feb. 20. While the original play was set in Italy in the late 1500s, the version that Exeter students performed took place during the 1970s. The music—a steady flow of quirky, upbeat rock—and the tie-dye floor and decorations contrasted with the formal, Shakespearean language of the play. This adaptation, written by John Guare, Mel Shapiro and Galt MacDermot, won a Tony Award for "Best Musical" and "Best Book of a Musical" in 1972.

Many actors expressed their love for the show and said that they enjoyed the performance a lot. Senior Maya Pierce, one of the lead actors in the show, considered the musical very different from all the musicals she had been in before. "The new style took a bit of getting used to, but once I spent some time with the music and the characters, I really learned to love it," Pierce said. Lower Jacob Hunter, double-cast as Thurio and the male Angel of Love, found the experience as one of the main characters to be enthralling and unforgettable. "This is the first time I've starred in a production here," Hunter explained. "It's been really fun to become this character." Hunter was in a unique position, as he played the part of two characters. However, he found that Thurio seemed to be an "extension" of his first character. "In practice, it's not that weird at all," Hunter

explained, calling the transition between the two similar to "flipping a switch."

Music was indeed a highlight of the show. Pierce thought the rock music in the show was unique and said that the song "Eglamore" was her favorite to sing. Lower Kate Denny, part of the ensemble, described the energy of the entire musical as upbeat and fun. "Even when someone had a solo, we would all be belting it out backstage and dancing to it in the wings," she said. Denny spoke highly of the plot, calling it "hilarious, yet subtly sexy." She named "Callalily Lady" and "Night Letter" as two of her favorite songs.

The actors also found that preparing for the show helped them to connect with friends and make new ones. Upper Mila DeGuerre, who played the role of Proteus' mother, said she was lucky because she had a few friends already in the cast, but she was also able to make some new ones too. "You really get to bond with people when you spend so much time creating something together," she said.

Besides the performers, the technical crews also put hard work in putting the show together. "It felt great to play a lead, but without the ensemble and people who worked behind the scenes, this show wouldn't have been what it was," actor and senior Tarek Khartabil said.

The actors and actresses of "Two Gentlemen of Verona" worked for four months to put together the show, and immensely appreciated performing it for family, friends, and faculty, as well as other members of the community. With a sold-out Friday and Saturday show, the musical enjoyed great success.



Senior Tarek Khartabil plays the role of the Duke of Milan.

Rachel Luo/The Exonian

Piano Recital by Chris Vazan

By **HILLARY DAVIS** and
SARAH RYU
Staff Writers

Exeter alumnus from the class of 2016, Christopher Vazan, has been playing the piano since he was just four years old and his parents taught him the basics. At age seven, he began taking private lessons, and his love for music grew until it became his greatest passion as he entered high school. Missing the chance to perform in the new, open space that had been completed after his graduation, Vazan had talked about the possibility to perform during his planned visit with the music department in November. This past Sunday, Feb. 19, Vazan was thrilled to have a chance to play in the newly constructed Bowld concert hall.

During his time here, peers commended Vazan's extraordinary dedication to music. Senior Andre Chan explained that Vazan's love for music truly exceeded all else and was his number one priority. "He sought to read so much about music, since he truly developed this passion after arriving to Exeter, and he was always voracious for more knowledge, that he grew quickly into an intelligent musician, with a mind filled with interpretive ideas," Chan said.

His performance program included two portions, with a five minute intermission. In the first half, he performed Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Piano Sonata in D," which was the last sonata Mozart ever wrote, and Nikolai Medtner's "Piano Sonata in A minor." The second half of the performance featured Robert Schumann's "Carnaval" from which Vazan played all 22 movements.

Vazan carefully selected each piece of the program for his showcase. Since the last time he performed a piece by Mozart was over eight years ago, when Vazan was in the fifth grade, he felt like it was time to try something new. "A Mozart sonata had been long overdue," Vazan said. "The one I played was the last one he wrote, and there is always

something fascinating and appealing about works written near the end of a composer's life."

He chose to play Medtner's ninth sonata because the style of composition appealed to him and Medtner's work tends to be neglected. The main theme of the sonata is a variation of a traditional Russian "spring song," and it has much in common with Tchaikovsky's "1st Piano Concerto," but as written in the concert program, the first four notes of the theme are the most important: "Medtner uses them to make a sort of ringing bell motif at the beginning of the piece as well as to mark the climax leading to the recapitulation," Vazan said.

Over the past six years, Vazan has played bits and pieces of Schumann's "Carnaval," so he jumped at the opportunity to finally perform them all together. He referred to it as the "centerpiece" of his recital at Exeter.

Students and faculty thought Vazan had played spectacularly. Chan described the recital itself as a "sparkling performance." Knowing that Schumann was the centre of the program, Chan complimented on the beautiful contrast of the numerous movements. "Chris' thorough motivic analysis of this complex piece was evident through his exquisite and clear playing, in which he highlighted different melodies from the often dense fabric of contrapuntal texture," he said.

Currently, Vazan is pursuing his conducting degree in the city of Vienna, which is equivalent to a five-year Bachelor of Music and Master of Management degree combined. Vazan expressed his excitement at the possibility of continuing his music career in Vienna after obtaining his degree. "I really love it there, so I might continue living in the city after I graduate, maybe for a long time. It's a musical Mecca, there's no other place like it," he said. However, he still made the time to come back to Exeter to pay tribute to the school where his interest in music took flight.

FacultySpotlight

Kwasi Boadi

By ROSE HOROWITZ and
CHIM TASIE-AMADI
Staff Writers

At Exeter, seasoned History Instructor Kwasi Boadi brings his afrocentric expertise to the classroom, serves as Kirtland House's dorm head and works hard to instill in students the values so central to the Harkness Method. Few know that Boadi counts Bob Marley and Miles Davis as two of his favorite musicians, or that he originally majored in biology.

At Exeter, Boadi teaches a number of history classes, including Precolonial Africa, Why Are Poor Nations Poor, and the U.S. History sequence. Outside of the classroom, he coaches club soccer and club basketball and serves on the Discipline Committee. When he's not participating in these activities, Boadi can be found reading a book or listening to reggae, jazz, folk, Adowa or South African music. Without a doubt, Boadi brings a wide variety of interests to the PEA community.

Boadi never planned to teach history. As a child, he constantly questioned his teacher about African history, but the teacher refused to answer, telling Boadi to stick to the curriculum instead. "This dampened my spirit, but not forever," he said. Boadi grew so frustrated at having his questions ignored that he reluctantly majored in Biology and Education when he attended the University of Cape Coast for his undergraduate degrees. He then taught high school in Ghana and Nigeria before being admitted to Laurentian University for a graduate program in microbiology. He finally decided to study history when he became a member of the International Student's Association at Laurentian, a club that paid close attention to the anti-apartheid campaign, which reignited Boadi's passion for world history, especially Africa's history and its development. Boadi's curiosity brought him to Howard University, where he was introduced to the philosophy of Pan-Africanism and The Nile Valley School of Afrocentrism.



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

Later on, Boadi taught at the Maya Angelou Public Charter School in Washington D.C., and developed the school's African-American history curriculum there. After, he sought out a job at an independent school in the Boston area in order to be closer to Wellesley College, where he taught a seminar in African political thought. It was his tenure there that lead him to Exeter.

At first, Boadi was hesitant about teaching at Exeter. "I didn't give it any serious thought. For one thing, living in New Hampshire was not a very appealing proposition for me, given the Washington, D.C. area 'city guy' I had become for more than two decades," he said. However, moments before his interview, he saw a Harkness table in the courses of instruction booklet. "That was it!" he said. Boadi fell in love with the school. The following summer, in 2006, he moved to Exeter.

Many students expressed gratitude that Boadi decided to teach at Exeter in the end. Lower Behaylu Barrow, for example, explained that always looks forward to class discussions about Chinua Achebe's seminal novel *Things Fall Apart*. "His [Boadi's] teaching style was special because it was unbiased," she said. "He allowed us to create our own opinions from our readings."

According to many of his students, Boadi truly understands the difficulty and stress of being a student at the Academy. Upper Charlotte Polk, who is currently taking U.S. History with Boadi, remembered an occasion when he displayed particular empathy. "Once, we were talking to him and asked why there were three readings on low-homework weekend," she said. "He looked at us and said 'But they're all just half a page long'... He's just a good guy, who is on the student's side and generally just wants you to succeed."

In the same way, Boadi feels that the Academy has blessed him. "Exeter has been the climax of my career as a history instructor," he said. He went on, praising the Harkness method in particular. "It [Harkness] prepares them for life—not just college—by making them more humanistic, confident, and humble at the same time, and more appreciative of nuance in the study of history."

He also expressed his belief that regardless of how intelligent students are, they should always listen and accept knowledge from others. He cited a quote by Achebe, as the guiding principle by which he evaluates his students at the Harkness table. In his novel, *Anthills of the Savannah*,

Achebe warned, "Whatever you are is never enough; you must find a way to accept something, however small, from the other to make you whole and save you from the mortal sin of righteousness and extremism." Boadi believes that at its best, Harkness is an exchange between equals.

Boadi also values collaboration in general, and described 2012 as an especially rewarding year following in that vein. In addition to being appointed to the Michael Ridder '58 Distinguished Professorship, that year, he joined the Exeter Humanities Institute Leadership Team. He also spearheaded the Academy's initiative to offer a study-abroad program in Ghana and helped the school create an exchange program with SOS-Hermann Gmeiner International College (SOS-HGIC) in Tema, Ghana. Since 2013, Exeter seniors have spent fall term at SOS-HGIC. In exchange, SOS-HGIC sends students to Exeter's summer school.

In addition to teaching, Boadi has served as the dorm head of Kirtland House since 2008, and before that, he was affiliated with Main Street Hall for two years. He commended his wife, Mercy Boadi, for aiding him with his duties as a dorm head. "Her motherly care and instincts, combined with her culinary expertise, have gone a long way in creating a homely and welcoming environment for my Kirtland girls over the years," he said. He went on, emphasizing his gratitude for his spouse. "I am indebted to her," he said.

According to upper Alexa Harris, advisee to Boadi and boarder in Kirtland house, Boadi completes the dorm. "He's very calm, and in the way he handles things, he holds us accountable for our actions," she said. "He treats all of us as equals and adults."

She continued, describing his commitment to his responsibilities as an advisor to the majority of the dorm. "As my advisor, he honestly just cares," she said. "He comes around the dorm at night asking how we are, how the week is going and how life is. He is just always there when I need him."

MOVIE REVIEW: "SPARE PARTS" LIFE ADVICE

By JOHANNA MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

"Spare Parts," a movie directed by Sean McNamara, is a true story that follows a group of Hispanic students from Phoenix, Arizona, who form a robotics club. Its primary focus is to educate viewers on the problems that undocumented students face, and the film does so with humor and good old-fashioned romance. It is humbling to watch teens work tirelessly to fight for their version of the American Dream, despite the impending possibility that they could be deported.

In the movie, four students seek to compete in a competition against prominent schools across the country, including the defending champion, MIT. A student at Carl Hayden High School, Oscar Vasquez (Carlos PenaVega), initiates this endeavor, after finding out that his dream of joining the U.S. Army is unattainable due to his status as an undocumented immigrant from Mexico. Oscar collaborates with the new substitute teacher, Fredi Cameron (George Lopez), who is an engineer. Actor George Lopez adds humor to the film and plays the key role of inspirational teacher, much like Sidney Poitier in "To Sir, With Love."

"Spare Parts" is the triumphant story of a forgotten minority: teenagers that came to the United States as children. Oscar and Mr. Cameron are able to recruit three other students for the

competition. The first person they reach out to is Lorenzo Santillan (Jose Julian). Lorenzo is a genius when it comes to mechanics and makes a living out of fixing cars. They also enlist the school nerd, Cristian Arcega (David Del Rio), who loves to code. Sadly, his peculiar inclination for computers makes him the victim of bullying at the high school. Lastly, they find someone to provide the muscles of the operation, a sensitive giant named Luis Aranda (Oscar Gutierrez). Together, they look through thrift shops, hardware stores, and classrooms at school for spare parts that can be used to build a robot. Unlike the prestigious colleges which they compete against, the team of four has no experience and barely any funding. Through their work, Mr. Cameron grows closer to the team of Mexican students and becomes a father figure to Lorenzo.

The film is eye-opening to the reality of numerous people living in America today. It shines a light on the economic and legal struggles, as well as the chronic fear that immigrants live with every day. Despite the presence of a serious issue, the film can, at times, be light-hearted given the severity of their obstacles. There was an especially hilarious and light scene where the young men go into a supermarket because they need to buy tampons to help the engine resist some water that may leak in. Lorenzo picks the short straw and awkwardly asks a lady in the store which is best and buys it before anyone could tease him about it. Despite

this taking away from the serious overall message, it was hard not to laugh. This humor helped viewers understand that, though they had much to worry about, the teens were still young and childish. There were also a few cliché scenes: the romance between two teachers, a judgmental father finally accepting his son for who he is, and the underdogs' big win. They could all be easily anticipated from the beginning, but still one cannot help but to melt at the sight of Lorenzo's dad flying to the competition and congratulating his son for building a robot which is something the father doesn't understand.

Thanks to "Spare Parts," the viewers are exposed to a new viewpoint—the fact that it is crucial for the world to become aware of who immigrants really are. Finally, a film truly shows a group of minority students in a successful and challenging environment. However foreseeable, what eventually happened to these four brilliant men conveys the sad reality that, despite their incredible achievements and overcoming so many hardships, one of the boys' families was deported. Yet, the others had better fortunes, with Arcega gaining admittance into MIT later that year. The film, though predictable at times, is a must-see. It effectively portrays the struggles of immigrants and lets the viewer empathize with the lives of four young undocumented immigrants, whose defiance of the perceived norm leads them to the big win that we hoped for all along.

By MAKINROLA ORAFIDIYA
Contributing Writer

What do I do on a Friday/Saturday night at school?

Friday and Saturday nights are, for the most part, the only free time you'll have during the week. Sometimes, there are events held in Agora, Assembly Hall or Grainger for students to attend. Some events I love to go to are Open Mic nights, dances and EAR performances. If these events don't sound too exciting, having chill nights in your dorm or a friend's dorm is always fun, too. If you prefer to keep to yourself on weekends, getting ahead on work is not a bad idea. I love the feeling of completing homework early on in the weekend so my Sunday night is spent talking to my family or on Netflix.

What are some ways in which I can improve my time management skills?

I think it's normal for people to have problems with time management skills. It gets bad when you can't find a balance between work and play. During study hours, put your phone on Do Not Disturb mode to avoid hearing beeps and buzzes and getting distracted. Something that helps me is setting aside five to ten minutes after I complete each subject to check social media. After the time is up, I put my phone back down and continue to the next subject. During the school week, use your free blocks for homework and studying so that when you have your next test, you'll feel prepared and during the night, your homework load isn't overflowing.

How do I improve my GPA?

Tip one, meet with your teacher! Your teachers want you to succeed. Talk to them after classes and schedule times to meet with them to go over your participation, test/quizzes and homework. Tip two, peer-tutoring! Last year, I took physics and it was a really hard subject for me. One of my friends suggested I go to peer-tutoring and it was really helpful advice. The tutors there are all so nice and they make the material for your subject of interest easier to understand. Tip three, study effectively! If you get consecutive grades on assignments that you are not pleased with, chances are that you aren't studying effectively. Make flashcards, use Quizlet, meet in study groups with classmates. Ms. Parris is also a great person to talk to if you need help with your study skills.



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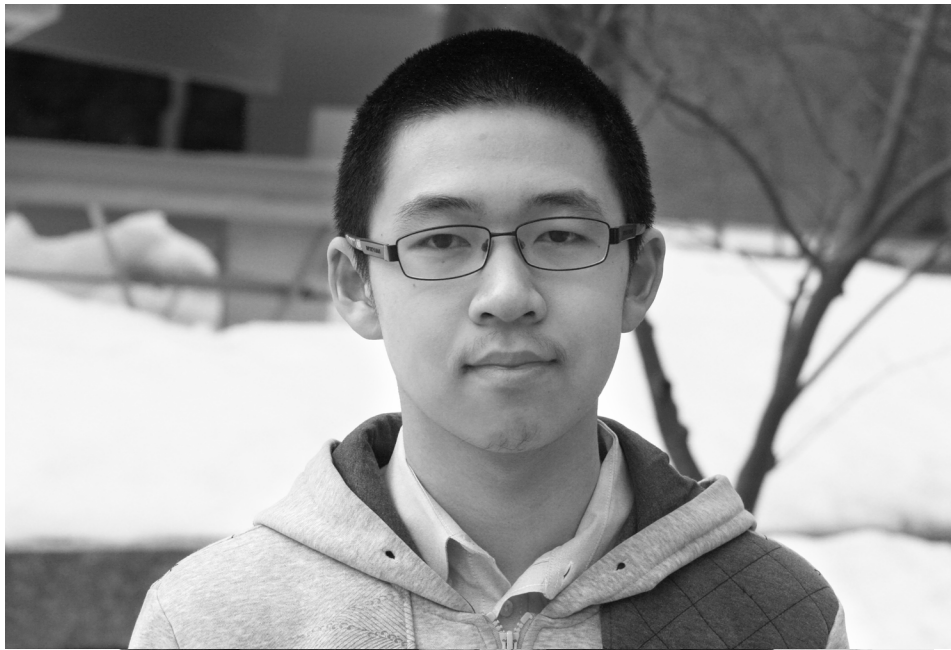
By JACQUELINE CHO and RYAN XIE
Staff Writers

Around the room, pencils clatter on the table as the International Math Olympiad comes to a close. In the days to come, mathletes all around the globe anxiously await the results from the competition. Senior Yannick Yao receives a perfect score, tying for first place in the hardest math contest in the world.

Math is one of Yao's favorite subjects. In fact, he was first introduced to Phillips Exeter Academy at an Exeter Math Club competition. "I really liked the math problems that they wrote, so I figured that there was a good math community here, and I wanted to join," Yao said. His love of math began at a young age. "I think [it started] in elementary school. I guess it just challenges me to learn a lot of new ideas and problem-solving skills." As a co-head of Math Club, Yao enjoys that the club allows him to partake in a community that goes to competitions and solves problems together.

Senior and Math Club co-head Qi Qi said that she enjoys working with Yao because of his diligence as a leader. "I enjoy working with him on competition math problems, and I can generally count on him when I run into something that I can't solve," she said. According to Qi, Yao uses his own time for "finding and preparing materials" for the club to practice with.

Echoing Qi's sentiments, senior Vinjai Vale complemented Yao's intellect. Since prep year, Vale has admired Yao's "mathematical and analytical prowess" in Math Club. "He has proven himself, through victories at the Harvard-MIT Math Tournament and the International Math Olympiad, to be one of the best high-school mathematicians in the world," Vale said. He praised Yao's involvement with Math Club and his commitment to working with his fellow



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

members. "It would be easy for someone of Yannick's caliber to work alone instead of allowing himself to be slowed down by others, but he takes great initiative in training the entire team, from the up-and-coming preps to the lowers and uppers who are already fairly mature mathematicians," Vale said.

Senior Geyang Qin, a fellow mathlete, also admired Yao's teaching in math club, emphasizing Yao's dedication to the club members' learning. Qin said, "[Yao] tutors students really well and clarify their confusions, thus helping the club members improve math and guiding us through a clear path." According to Qin, Yao has had a positive influence on other students. Yao's immense talent and enthusiasm for math encourages other gifted mathematicians, but it is his sparkling personality that continues to impress those closest to him. In addition to de-

scribing Yao as "one of the best co-heads [Math Club] has ever had," Math Instructor Zuming Feng also said that Yao has "a great heart."

Despite his advanced mathematical skill, Yao remains humble. "Yannick is literally among the top five high school mathematicians in the world—maybe even the best—but he is simultaneously one of the most down-to-earth people I know," Vale said. Prep Ben Wright agreed, saying, "He's not the type of person to brag, and he has a good sense of humor. He's very approachable." As a co-head of ESSO MathCounts and a head peer tutor, Yao shares his love of math with the greater Exeter community. "Instead of keeping his knowledge and experience to himself, he loves giving back, teaching and sharing his knowledge with others," Vale said.

In addition to math, Yao is also passionate about physics and puzzles. As a co-head of

Physics Club, he teaches Exonians about physics concepts on a weekly basis. In particular, Yao is in charge of preparing students for the contests such as $F=ma$ and the USA Physics Olympiad. To prepare competitors, Yao teaches the entire AP Physics curriculum in a few short weeks. In Puzzle Club, Yao led his team in the annual MIT mystery hunt, a huge puzzle hunt event. "Solving puzzles are a really exciting experience," Yao said. Yao also organizes puzzle hunts at PEA. Fellow Puzzle Club co-head Vinjai Vale recalled Yao's mastery of developing difficult puzzles, remarking that preparing for the event had taken four months of meticulous planning and puzzle writing. "Last year he and I were among the organizers of the PEA Puzzle Hunt, and Yannick's puzzles were praised by many for their devilish ingenuity," Vale said.

However modest and clever he may be, Yao does not compromise on his principles. Vale recalled Yao's peaceful demonstration against Abbot Casino. Both student and faculty organizers barred Yao from entering the event due to his non-formal attire. "He is not afraid to stand up for what he thinks is right," Vale said. Senior Alec Sun agreed with Vale's characterization of Yao, noting the essay that Yao posted on Facebook after his protest. According to Sun, the post was well-received. Sun agreed with the sentiment behind Yao's demonstration: "You should not have to wear formal clothes to Abbot Casino, and you are not more intelligent if you wear formal clothes." Despite his serious position on social issues, Yao is a remarkably joyful person. Feng remembered the unique way that Yao celebrated a math contest: "When he was a prep, he placed 2nd in the individual round at American Regions Math League. He was so happy. We competed in a big gym at Penn State. He ran to podium from our seating place with his arms open like [he was] an airplane."

A Capella Spotlight

By ISABELLA AHMAD and
SAMANTHA WEIL
Staff Writers

Exeter has many different a capella groups: all-female groups, like Sans Hommes, In Essence and Fermatas, all-male groups like the Exeteras and all-gender groups, such as the PEADs. The groups sing a range of music, from classical to pop, and perform for the Exeter community.

A cappella auditions are held at the start of every year, and all are welcome to try out. Co-head of Sans Hommes and upper Alexis Gorfine explained that she and other coheads try to encourage students to audition, even if they lack experience. "It allows a couple people who have never sung in public before, and just [sung] in the shower to come out and try out for a cappella," she said, "and it's been really interesting for them to have that experience that they wouldn't have had otherwise."

Gorfine explained that students with no prior musical training could still participate in a capella on campus because the prerequisite was not the same as that of the choral groups on campus. "It's a different type of singing. So that gives people the opportunity to sing and have that performance experience, no matter what level they are."

Senior Peter Chinberg, co-head of PEADs and Exeteras, echoed Gorfine's sentiment, explaining that a cappella clubs draw in Exonians because they are student run and not managed by a teacher. "It's more enjoyable I think, and students seem to think so too. I think it's a different kind of community," he said.

Many a capella groups from close communities that share traditions passed down from member to member. Lower Kate Denny, a member of PEADs and the Fermatas, explained that in PEADs, "We have this tradition before we perform where we quack as a group and progressively get louder." For her, this warm-up makes PEADs feel like a close community.

According to Senior Audrey Hahn, co-head of Fermatas, traditions are also a big part

of her a capella club's meetings. At each meeting, members of the Fermatas will discuss the most exciting parts of their days.

The all-male Exeteras traditionally sing in a circle, which co-head and senior Marichi Gupta said leads to a feeling of connection within his group. "We'll gather in a circle and sing our song in a circle. We're really close to each other's sound, and you kind of get chills from being in the circle."

Not only do the a cappella groups enjoy practices, but they also love to perform. Sarah Brown, co-head of In Essence, said that one of her favorite memories is performing in the Christmas Evening Prayer with her fellow singers. She enjoyed putting the show together, stating, "We come together, we have an hour to practice beforehand and everyone is super goofy."

Lower Hanna Pak, member of Sans Hommes, also finds performing for her fellow students fulfilling. One experience that she found memorable was when Sans Hommes serenaded different dorms for Valentine's Day. "I loved bouncing around to the different dorms and performing for all kinds of audiences," she said.

There are many reasons that make a cappella groups such tight-knit communities. Prep Sam Chang, member of PEADs and Exeteras, stated that it's a "different community" that he feels he can always go to, expanding his friend group. Brown explained why she believes the a cappella scene on campus is so close, saying that a capella is "definitely about coming together to work towards a common goal, and it just becomes this community where people enjoy coming every day." Alexis Gorfine, co-head of Sans Hommes, echoed Brown's sentiment. She says her group has "bonded through singing, and trying to make our voices click."

For the singers, there is a true bond within the group itself. Brown feels this connection, saying that in her all-female group, "everyone feels what all the other people feel. I think it creates a really strong community where it's all women. It's all people who are building each other up."

ESSO IN ACTION

By JOHN RAGONE
Contributing Writer

Hello, ESSOnians! My apologies that there has not been an ESSO in Action article for a while, but a lot has been going on with co-head turnovers and whatnot. First, I would like to congratulate the new ESSO Board on their positions! ESSO is a very special organization whose branches extend across more than seventy clubs. ESSO imbues and builds in both students and local children the value of non sibi, which is a lesson not easily forgotten. Now, the new board will work to continue this legacy and hopefully gain new appreciations in the process.

I'm unsure whether this column will continue, but nonetheless, I would like to update you on the new happenings in ESSO and close with a note for the future. One new noteworthy club is EVEE. EVEE stands for Exeter Vietnam English Education. Every meeting, an Exonian is paired with a student in a Vietnamese school. Your job, should you attend this club (which you should), is to simply have a conversation. The Vietnamese students understand English, but they do not understand how to have a conversation. It's a lot like learning a new language and looking at a starter book, reading a sentence, and thinking, "I know what those words mean, but I have no idea what they say." Likewise, these Vietnamese students need to practice using English in a colloquial setting. Such practice will prepare them for adult life and offer much higher paying jobs. If you would like to help change the lives of a Vietnamese student, e-mail Thomas Lê '19 at tle@exeter.edu.

As for other news, this is the last week of ESSO clubs for the term. Clubs are winding down, many co-heads are preparing for their long-awaited senior spring, and the weather is showing signs of the coming vernal season. After club-head turnovers, Issay Matsumoto '17 and I will be passing the baton to new Beach Cleanup co-heads. I can't say that I'm not happy someone else will be able to experience the joy that leading Beach Cleanup has brought me, but there is a certain surreal feeling to it. It's like waking up the day before school starts. If I could give one piece of advice to new co-heads, it would be to live in the present. Senior spring may seem a long way away, but it will be here faster than you would believe.

Finally, a note to the future: keep moving forward. You may find that you did not receive your wanted co-head position or that you don't know where to bring your club. Don't worry. It's important to fight and be grateful for the little victories because that's the only way to win the long-term goals. Even if you aren't co-head, you've demonstrated an interest in the club, and that is not forgotten. If you ever find yourself at a loss for what to do, try something new. You will miss every shot you don't take. And sometimes, a little bit of discouragement can lead you to discover a better path. Most importantly, focus on self-improvement in your own eyes, not others'. Strive to beat your former self, compete with yourself alone, and you will find that non sibi comes naturally. I wish the best of luck to the new ESSO Board, co-heads, and to you in your quest to become a model member not only of ESSO, but also of Exeter and the world.



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Boys' Swimming Loses To Fast Andover Team

Team Ready to Race at Interschols This March



Senior Joel Lotzkar surfaces for air during his 100 yard breaststroke race.

Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian

By **ASHLEY LIN**
Staff Writer

Last Saturday, the Exeter boys' varsity swim team drove down to Andover for its last dual meet of the season, a showdown against Big Red's most significant rival school. The boys swam hard, but ultimately came home with a 68-113 score. Looking on the bright side of the outcome, the team will use it as fuel to better its result at the Interscholastic championships, which take place at the Hotchkiss School in two weeks.

"Because of some missed opportunities in races, Andover won by quite a large margin," senior and co-captain Joel Lotzkar said. "But we are motivated to improve on our swims and end the season on a high note."

Along with the loss came some notable swims by the lowerclassmen on the team. Lower Jared Zhang placed first in the 500 free, finishing with more than a second to spare before the next person touched the board. In the same event, lower Peter Tuchler finished third with an impressive time of 5:04.99 seconds, securing a much needed three points for the team. Soon afterwards, Prep Charlie "Chaz" Venci swam the 100 back in a time of 54.79, grasping the top spot with ease. This success among the underclassman shows that the team has gained talent this year. These boys will be here for at least two more seasons, and will only be getting better.

Big Red has been preparing hard for the championships and this meet against Andover has been nothing more than a

part of its training. Exeter did not taper for this meet, while Andover did. This gave Andover a big advantage over Exeter, as the boys were not at their maximum strength and speed last weekend.

"That [decision to not taper] was a huge factor determining the outcome of the meet," upper Joaquin Riojas said. Exeter considered Interschols a higher priority, which suggests that this meet result was an inaccurate reflection of the team's capability.

"We lost because we know what we have to sacrifice to come out victorious in the end," Venci admitted.

Echoing Venci's optimism, prep Andrew Sun said, "This is basically as fast as Andover can go. Whereas we can still go a lot faster."

Since dual meets require different

strategies and depth within the team, the boys will have a good chance at placing in their final meet.

"Apart from individual goals, I know our squad is talented this year and I have high hopes we can finish top three in the team rankings," Lotzkar said.

After the meet, the captains gave the team a pep talk to sustain the motivation in practice for the last couple of weeks of their season. They will work on improving their technique, endurance, diet and sleep schedule in these crucial fourteen days.

Lotzkar was enthusiastic about the team's final meets of the season. "We pumped up the guys for two more weeks of hard training. We're psyched for one more chance to race fast in Interschols at Hotchkiss."

Boys' Squash Team Preforms Well at Nationals

By **SARAH RYU**
Staff Writer

On Friday, Feb. 10, the boys' varsity squash team left campus to participate in the U.S. High School Nationals, where it finished with a tied record. The team won two of its games against Horace Mann School and Milton Academy with a score of 6-1, but it suffered close defeats against Loomis Chaffee and Blair Academy, 2-5 and 3-4, respectively.

During the matches at Nationals, players worked hard on the courts and made sure that they were supporting each other. Senior and co-captain Darius Kahan believed that the team was able to bond more while at Nationals, which he said was important to the success of the team. "The team put valiant effort into the matches at Nationals, showing a true sense of camaraderie and commitment to the game. Not only did we experience squash in different conditions, but also, as a team, we bonded, which is a necessary component to success in a team sport," he said.

Prep Hojun Lew agreed that the boys had done well as a team. "We were all more motivated to do well in nationals. We all had a different mindset while we played our matches and everyone was very focused," he added.

Last Wednesday, after returning to campus, the team crushed Middlesex School, winning all of its matches with a final score of 7-0. Lew attributed the team's success to all of its focus and

determination towards producing satisfying results. "When we all focus and play seriously, that is when we get satisfying results. When we are confident and serious we can play well, and do the right things at the right times during the games," Lew said.

The team then suffered a tough loss, last Saturday, against Deerfield Academy with a score of 1-6. Although Deerfield was a strong team, the boys were also missing some of their players due to sickness. If they hadn't lost some of their players, Lew believed that they could have ended up with better results.

"I knew that Deerfield was a strong team, and we didn't seem confident during our matches. No matter how good a team is, if we are confident and we play our game, then that is all we can do," he said.

Kahan was still optimistic about their results, despite Big Red struggling against Deerfield's team. "It proved to us that we as a team can always strive to practice harder, focus with more intent, and execute our skills into action," he said.

The team will play against Andover on Feb. 22 and it hopes to dedicate hard work into their matches, as it previously faced a close defeat against their team. "We performed quite poorly against Andover earlier this season, and I hope and know that the boys will dedicate ample energy into bettering their games so that they can outperform Andover," Kahan said.



Senior Darius Kahan winds up for a forehand shot. Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: BEN SWETT AND MITCHELL KIRSCH

By CHIM TASIE-AMADI
& JARED ZHANG
Staff Writers

Senior and basketball co-captain Ben Swett stares down his opponent. As the cheers from the sideline grow louder, Swett walks up to guard a Hill School player. He digs in and steals the ball, throwing it up the court to senior and co-captain Mitchell Kirsch, who is running the floor ahead for an easy lay in. Exeter's bench erupts as the opposing coach calls a timeout in the hopes of stopping Big Red's 14-2 run.

Big Red's basketball captains are a dynamic duo both on and off the court, and have led their team to a 10-5 season so far.

Basketball is in Kirsch blood. For him, the sport came quite naturally and, to an extent, one could even say he was destined to play. Kirsch's father, an alum of Babson College, where he was a captain of the basketball team, has been an integral part of the senior's career.

"My dad decided who to marry based on basketball potential of offspring," Kirsch explains. "So I've been working on my game my whole life plus nine months."

Kirsch's commitment to basketball, passed down from his father, can now be seen on and off the court, noticed by classmates, teammates and coaches alike. Kirsch came to Exeter as a prep and has been on the varsity team as a starting player ever since. Reflecting on his entrance to the program, Coach Jay Tilton said, "He was a leader right from the start."

As for Swett, similarly to Kirsch, basketball has always been a part of his life. It was not until his fifth year in elementary school, however, that he began to take the sport seriously. Two years later, he met Kirsch and the two day students started playing together as teammates on the Exeter High School team. In fact, it was knowing Kirsch that brought Swett to the Academy where they would once again play together and eventually become co-captains.

Playing basketball together for the past six years led to a strong friendship between Swett and Kirsch. Their bond has aided them in leading the team together this year. "Knowing him for



Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian

so long has made it easy to work with him," Swett said, talking about Kirsch "We get along really well which helps us lead the team." Over the course of their time together, the duo has been able to pick out their strengths and weaknesses to work at its best.

"We have pushed each other to get better for over six years. Over that time we have developed a friendship that will last forever. Our success has been dependent on each other kinda like Kanye and Kim," Kirsch remarked humorously. Lower and teammate Matt Hawke agreed, saying, "The dynamic between them is great. They not only bring out the best in each other but make the whole team work hard."

That is not to say that the two seniors are without their differences. As a matter of fact, it is these key differences that make their partnership better the team. As a captain, Kirsch is the more vocal of the two, leading the team with his words while standing at the forefront of things. When asked about their teamwork, Tilton explained, "Mitchell

is a more vocal kid, taking the reigns from day one."

Swett, on the other hand, is a quieter captain, displaying leadership through actions rather than words. The senior describes himself as being there to "make sure [Mitch] does a good job."

Tilton also explained that Swett has had to deal with times when he could not always play due to injury and, as a captain, had to adjust to filling different shoes.

"Ben is more of a consistent kid, wearing many hats in his time here, who even, due to an injury, had to take on playing the role of a supporter off the court," Tilton said.

Prep and teammate Kerick Walker shared similar sentiments as the coach. "Ben is really steady and never loses his composure."

Joining the basketball program at Exeter has had a significant impact on both Kirsch and Swett. Their time here has amplified their abilities as leaders and role models, embedding in them traits that they take off-court as well.

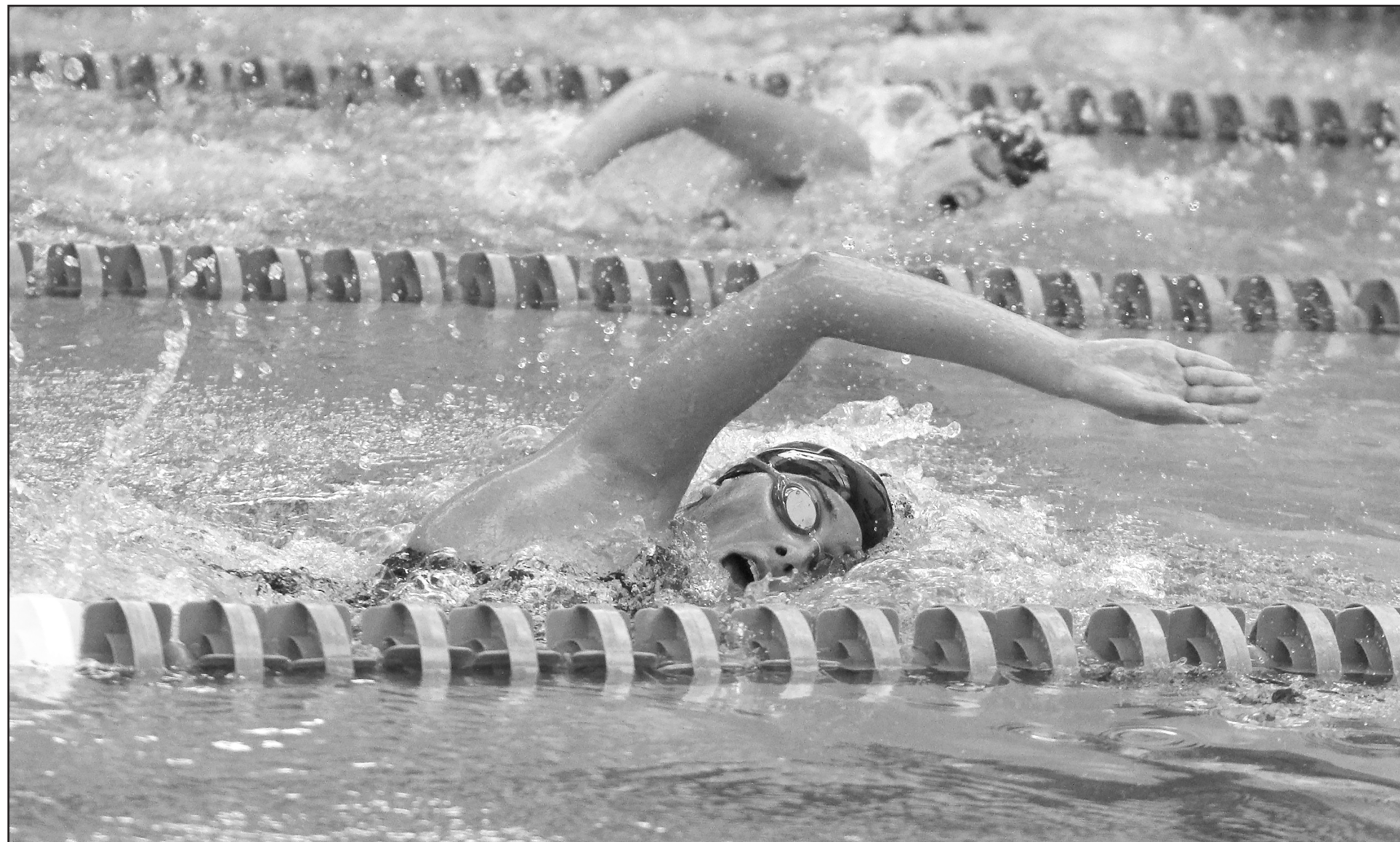
For both of them, basketball has been, is and will always be more than just a sport. It is their life.

"I enjoy basketball because it is a constant test to see how much adversity a person can get through. I enjoy the process of dealing with different challenges and ultimately overcoming them," Kirsch said, explaining his love for the sport.

For Swett, his feelings about basketball were just as strong. "I love basketball because it's a grueling season that creates friendships that last forever. Exeter basketball has taught me a lot about basketball and about being a better person," he said.

The only two senior carryovers from a team that graduated a majority of its members, Kirsch and Swett have had been faced with the task of leading a team with new and old students alike, a challenge that they have more than lived up to. As the pair end their high school careers together, they are looking to get the very best out of their season and the years to come.

Girls' Swimming Falls Short Against Andover



Lower Ariane Avandi races down her lane in the final leg of the race.

Jena Yun/The Exonian

By CHIM TASIE-AMADI
Staff Writer

Last Saturday, the Exeter girls' varsity swim team competed against Phillips Andover. The team fell by a large margin of 78-108. The meet was truly disappointing for Big Red.

Having only beaten Andover once in the last six years, the girls set out for Andover with a pessimistic mindset. Lower Issy Wise commented on the team's attitude prior to and during the meet. "We knew it might be a little rough, and it was."

Despite the difficulties it faced, the team realized that its morale could make a difference, even if only slightly. "We still tried to encourage each other throughout

the meet though. Things could always be worse," Wise said.

Exeter did manage to win some events. Lower Tina Wang won the 100 yard freestyle and Lower Hedy Parker came in second in the same event out-matching several Andover swimmers. Exeter won the 100 yard breaststroke with a fast swim from lower Ashleigh Lackey. In addition, Wang and Parker again both placed second in the 50 yard free and the 200 yard free, respectively.

Wise commended some of her teammates who swam outstandingly during the day, particularly Lackey, Wang and Parker who each managed to place above Andover swimmers in at least one event. While a majority of the events did not go

as the team would have liked, Exeter did clinch some well-deserved wins in the relays. Big Red won both the 400 yard freestyle relay and the 200 yard freestyle relay. Over the course of this year, the girls' relay teams have been particularly strong, something lower Sam Gove attributes to "each person in the relay working their hardest." Gove also expressed the morale boost that came with winning those relays. "The end of the meet was better than the beginning; it was rough. But, we did win those two relays so that was pretty good," she said.

Although the girls were disappointed with the loss, the team plans to convert its frustration as motivation to work harder during practice. "I know we can't be mak-

ing excuses but a lot of the team was sick and not in their best condition," Gove said. As of now, the team has Interschols to look forward to competing at, hopefully redeeming their season.

Lower Ariane Avandi echoed Gove. "We've been working really hard—too hard to end on this note. We just hope that it reflects at Interschols," she said.

The team now has two weeks to train for Interschols. Every team in the league will be racing at the big meet, so the competition will be fierce. The girls hope to place in the top three after finishing sixth place last year. Although the team's overall result is important, each individual swimmer has her own goals and hopes to set personal records with fast swims.



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Boys' Hockey Battles For A Tie

1-1 Score Against Deerfield Keeps Team's Playoff Hopes Alive



Senior Graham Rutledge skates into the offensive zone.

By ROSE HOROWITZ
Staff Writer

In the second-to-last week of the winter season, the boys' varsity hockey team won its game on Wednesday Feb. 15 and tied its game on Saturday Feb. 18. On Wednesday, it played against the Northfield Mount Hermon School (NMH) at home. It won with four goals, compared to NMH's two. The scorers were lower Gray Betts, senior and co-captain Graham Rutledge, lower Paddy Bogart and upper Kyle Jadatz. NMH scored twice in the third period, with only thirteen minutes left in the game.

Going into the Deerfield game, the team knew that if it wanted to make it to

the Elite Eight, losing was not an option. Senior Matthew McShea said, "While we wanted to win, a tie was fine by us." The team tied Deerfield Academy with a one to one score.

Lower Garrett Foster commented that Deerfield was a much stronger team than Big Red had anticipated. For the majority of the game, Deerfield was winning by one goal, and Exeter had to maintain its determination to score.

Foster credited Exeter's head coach, Dana Barbin, with keeping the team's spirits up. According to Foster, Barbin told the team, "Keep them [Deerfield] at one goal, and we will win." The team continued working to do just that, until senior and co-captain Collin Shapiro scored a goal for Exeter.

Rutledge explained, "It was a beautiful goal late in the third [period] to tie it." He added that Shapiro had "a great game."

"We played great team defense by blocking a lot of shots," Shapiro said. He said that the game was "a solid team effort."

In addition, some of the credit for the tie can be attributed to the goalies, prep Ryan Welch and postgraduate Pat Schena. "Welch played great in net," Shapiro said.

Senior Matthew McShea described highlights from the Deerfield game. "The best play of the game was an early break-away save by Schena." McShea also praised the team's determination, saying, "we demonstrated a lot of heart with players like Greg Shapiro diving to block shots."

Big Red has just played the first

game in the final week of the season. On Wednesday it will play a long-awaited match against Phillips Academy Andover. Although Big Red will be playing against its biggest rival, Rutledge said, "I have full confidence in our team that we will finish strong."

McShea agreed with Rutledge, saying, "We're just getting ready for each game as it comes, and playoffs will take care of itself. Now we're focused on Andover."

The team currently has a record of 21 wins, 5 losses and 1 tie. Some of the credit for this stellar record can be attributed to the team captains, who Foster said, "have brought a lot of leadership and motivation. They [Shapiro, Rutledge, Bradley Ingersoll] have led the team well." McShea added, "The captains make us feel loved."

Gavin Hickey/The Exonian

Girls' Hockey Suffers Tough Loss to NMH

By JO DE LA BRUYERE
Contributing Writer

On Saturday, Exeter girls' hockey faced off against Northfield Mount Hermon School (NMH) away. Though Big Red fought hard, it proved no match for the dominant NMH team; the game ended with a 0-5 loss.

Exeter went into the game having lost to four of its past five opponents. Though those consistent losses were frustrating, they motivated the team. According to lower Kath-

ryn Kester, the losses also made it very clear to members of the team what exactly they needed to work on. For the past few weeks, Exeter has been practicing a quicker start to their game, clearing opponents from around the net, and tightening up their neutral and defensive zones. However, despite that concentrated effort, Exeter fell short.

Northfield Mount Hermon is not a particularly strong team. Upper Layne Erickson noted that, as has seemingly become its habit, Exeter stooped down to its weaker

opponent's level of play. That tendency, said Erickson, is not uncommon, especially with a team as young as Exeter's. That said, it is still a hindrance and one which Exeter cannot seem to avoid this season.

Lower and goalie Michaela O'Brien lamented that despite its efforts to ensure the contrary, Exeter got off to quite a slow start. Northfield Mount Hermon scored twice early in the first period. That served as a wakeup call for Big Red. The team found its energy and girls held NMH off for the rest of the

period.

The second period carried far more opportunities for Exeter to score. The team had far more shots on goal than it had in the first period, but missed crucial opportunities to score. "We were never drowning," insisted senior and co-captain Bonnie LaBonté. "There were times when we competed well." Those times, however, were too few and far between. The team ended the second period with NMH up 0-3.

If Exeter found its groove in the second period, it lost it in the beginning of the third. Despite Big Red's long term efforts to improve, Northfield Mount Hermon took advantage of its weak neutral and defensive zones, scoring twice. After those two goals, however, NMH's play grew sloppy. It got three penalties in the last half of the third period. Despite Exeter's many opportunities for power plays, it failed to score.

It ended the game with a 0-5 loss, bumping its season record down to 8-13-1. Members of the team insisted that the score was not an accurate reflection of the team's playing ability.

Exeter has two exciting games lined up for next week, the scores of which will hopefully reflect its ability. On Wednesday, Exeter will play Winchendon. The game promises to be close; though Winchendon consistently beats the teams Exeter loses to, they only do so by a few points. On Saturday, the girls will face Phillips Academy Andover. Earlier in the season, the smurfs defeated Big Red 0-6. That said, members of the team look to this week's game for redemption. Andover can only earn a playoff spot if it beats Exeter. LaBonté thought that the perfect way to end her Exeter career would be to "knock Andover out of the playoffs."



Lower Kathryn Kester flies down the ice.

Diana Davidson/The Exonian

Inside This Week's Sports Section

Girls' Swimming



The girls' swim team fell short against Andover despite great swims. Read more on B5.

Jena Yun/The Exonian

Athletes of the Week



Seniors Mitchell Kirsch and Ben Swett have led the Boys' Basketball team in a successful season. Read more on B5.

Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian

Boys' Swimming



The boys' swim team lost to Andover, but remain optimistic for Interschols. Find out more on B4.

Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian

Boys' Squash



The boys' hockey team played well in highly competitive matches at Nationals. Read more on B4.

Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian