



Syrian Student Moves PEA Community

Saria Samakie Shares Stories of Revolution

By ALBA CLARKE,
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and MADISON KANG
Staff Writers

Saria Samakie, a senior at King's Academy in Jordan and founder of non-profit organization Fikra 3al Mash, spoke at Friday's Assembly, reflecting on his turbulent childhood in Syria and surviving three kidnappings. His words moved the audience to an immediate standing ovation and more than one hundred Facebook shares of a video recording of his speech later that night.

Born in Canada to Syrian parents, Samakie enjoyed the privileges of living in North America. However, at the age of six, his father decided to move the family back to Aleppo, Syria in the hopes of reintegrating the family into Middle Eastern culture. Beginning to work at an early age, he developed a fierce independence that would motivate his fight to reclaim his voice as a Syrian citizen and his work for youth education and empowerment.

When Samakie was fifteen years old, news broadcasts of political demonstrators and subsequent government seizures of public freedoms in the midst of the Syrian Revolution were frequent. "I watched my country being destroyed by the people were supposed to protect us," Samakie recalled. He soon embraced his passion

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Gavin Hickey/The Exonian

Saria Samakie spoke in front of the student and faculty body last Friday.

StuCo Passes New Proposals, Dean's Council To Be Formed

By CHIM TASIE-AMADI
and ASHLEY LIN
Staff Writers

Student Council had a fruitful meeting on Tuesday, creating a "Dean's Council" made up of student leaders and deciding to contract food trucks to come to Exeter each Friday night, starting in the spring.

The Dean's Council will consist of 15 student leaders, who will meet with the deans on a weekly basis. The establishment of the Dean's Council will provide an outlet for students to express their concerns through representative student leaders and will help improve communications between deans and students. The 15 students will be appointed by the President of the Student Council and will be comprised of team captains, major club co-heads and other strong leaders. The Vice President of the Student Council will serve as the Voting Chairman of the council, calling the council to order, leading the debate and adjourning the council. During these meetings, the Secretary of the Student Council will take notes and later report these notes to the Student Council.

According to Student Council members, the formation of the council will aid in the deans' search for a more clearly defined and direct means of communication with the student body, a need that has

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Classes Canceled Due to Hazardous Weather Conditions

By ISABELLA AHMAD
and JARED ZHANG
Staff Writers

Last Wednesday, students received an email from Principal Lisa MacFarlane declaring a snow day on Thursday and cancelling all academic and athletic appointments. On Sunday, students once again received an email, this time from Assistant Principal Ronald Kim, cancelling classes for Monday due to the hazardous weather forecast. This Wednesday, a campus-wide message alerted students that classes would be delayed until 10 a.m. on Thursday morning. Prior to this past week, Exeter had only had one snow day within the last decade. The occurrence of two snow days and a two-hour delay within the span of a single week was historic for the Academy community.

The administration made the decision to

cancel all required appointments in reaction to warnings that Winter Storm Niko would bring severe snow and high winds to Exeter. Kim explained the process by which a snow day is determined. "A group of [administrators] monitor the weather closely and discuss carefully and thoroughly the decision to cancel classes," he said. "It's a responsibility that we take seriously." Instructor of Religion Russell Weatherspoon clarified that snow doesn't always constitute a snow day, but even a "threat of high winds" is a good reason to call off a day on the paths for students.

Kim elaborated that the primary factor in the decision to call a snow day is the safety of students and employees, especially those families and faculty who reside outside of campus. "While many students and faculty live on campus and may be able to get to class, there are hundreds of students and their parents, faculty and staff for whom getting to

PEA for a day of class on a bad weather day can be hazardous," Kim said.

Prep Meredyth Worden reflected on Kim's sentiments. As a day student, Worden described the danger and inconvenience her family would face having to commute to school through snow. "The commute definitely takes up more of my day than I realized," she said. The journey takes even longer when New England experiences conditions like those on Thursday and Monday.

Lower and fellow day student Ariane Avandi agreed with Worden. Avandi explained that it was a "hassle to commute to school in bad weather conditions."

While the hazardous weather would have put day students' commute in peril, boarders were able to enjoy the usual accommodations on campus during the day off, primarily thanks to the conscientious efforts of the Academy's facilities team. "The staff here

are remarkable in what they do to keep our campus operating," Principal Lisa MacFarlane said. "From preparing food, to keeping buildings like the gym and the Academy Center open, to keeping the campus navigable, to making sure that we are warm and safe, they work incredibly hard and always with smiles on their faces. We are really lucky, and very grateful."

For many students, the snow days provided a break and time to relax. Avandi recounted that her snow day was spent at home. "I usually spend snow days relaxing at home with my family, which is something I rarely get a chance to do," she said. "It's nice to be able to spend some time off campus during the week." Avandi also appreciated the chance to catch up on sleep. "I felt refreshed," she said.

Indeed, MacFarlane mentioned this boost in morale as an added benefit of the

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Exeter Thanks Donors

By DON ASSAMONGKOL
and MADISON KANG
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Exeter's donor appreciation club, Giving Thanks, organized their sixth annual Thank-a-Donor Day on Tuesday, Feb. 14. The day provided an opportunity for students to celebrate and express their gratitude for the donors' generosity, and featured alumna Aida Conroy '09 who spoke of her experience at Phillips Exeter Academy and how has it served her since.

The day began with Conroy, who teaches high school at the Noble Academy in Chicago, IL, speaking at assembly about her gratitude for the support and inspiration that she received during her years at the Academy. Conroy was a scholarship student during her time at Exeter and wrote regularly to the donors who funded her scholarship around the holidays. She expressed deep gratitude for what they had done for her. "I would have

no way of coming here at all: my parents' combined income at the time could barely pay for one year of tuition here," she said.

Conroy emphasized how privileged all Exonians are to receive a Harkness education. "I'm grateful for having had the opportunity to engage with it. You don't think of Harkness as a pedagogy when you're here, but you learn to listen and you build empathy," she said. Many of Conroy's students at the Noble Academy come from an underprivileged background: statistically, less than a quarter of students in her community will earn four year diplomas from college. "It is my hope that Harkness helps my students beats the odds," Conroy said.

Co-head of Giving Thanks and upper Rachel Moberg elaborated on the club's decision to select Conroy as this year's Thank-a-Donor assembly speaker. "We were really thoughtful of who to bring in for assembly. We wanted someone whose words would resonate well with the student body," she



Emmy Goyette/The Exonian

Students write thank-you notes to Academy donors.

said. "I want students to walk away from assembly knowing how much the donors do for us, how much of a gift Harkness is and how many ways you can take Harkness in the future."

Students wrote personal thank you notes to donors throughout the day at four writing stations around campus: the Academy Building, the Phelps Academy Center, Elm

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WEB



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Two Snow Days, Delay Announced

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snow days for students. “New Hampshire winters can be long, dark, and cold—and every once in awhile, a day to get some extra rest, get caught up, give ourselves a little R&R helps us be happier, fresher, and more productive afterwards. I hope Thursday—and Monday—provided that for everyone!” she said.

On campus, students were spotted having fun in the snow. Senior Eric Tang recalled participating in sledding, snowball fights, football in the snow and playing Settlers of Catan with his dorm mates.

Some students took advantage of the break to catch up on work. The snow day came as a pleasant surprise to Upper Michael Garcia, as it allowed him to complete his history paper. “If I didn’t have the snow day, I have no idea how I would’ve finished it,” he said. “It was also just really beneficial in the sense that it gave all of us a much needed break from class.”

Since classes were abruptly cancelled, many instructors were forced to reschedule assignments. Weatherspoon explained that despite their benefits, the snow days resulted in lost time for class and practice as well as instructors being strained to “compress the rest of the schedule.”

Science Instructor Albert Leger described the situation as “discombobulating.” He said that the snow day required adjustment in the curriculum, which was difficult, but it “wasn’t the end of the world.”

However, Weatherspoon stressed the im-

portance of prioritizing student and employee safety. Many students felt the extra pressure put upon them after returning from a snow day. Avandi described the quicker paced curriculum when class resumed. “Some of my classes did seem rushed, as a lot of my tests got pushed to one day,” she said.

In addition, the severe weather over the weekend caused disruptions in extracurricular activities outside of campus. Several students attended a Model UN Conference over the weekend in Boston. Due to the weather, the team of delegates was forced to return to campus on Saturday night instead of Sunday.

Tang expressed his disappointment in missing the committee sessions which occurred Sunday morning but explained that the early departure didn’t affect Exeter’s success at the conference. Garcia concurred with Tang. “It was a bit disappointing since the Saturday night of a competition is usually my favorite,” he said.

Ultimately, the majority of students felt grateful for the opportunity to relax during the snow days. Whether students used the days off from the hectic schedule of an Exonian to catch up on work, watch movies, sleep, have fun outside or just relax, the time was deeply appreciated across campus. Despite the weather’s inconvenience, Eric Tang expressed his gratitude for having the day off. “It’s my last term on campus, so it felt like a blessing to have more time to spend with my friends,” he said.

StuCo Implements Food Trucks

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been exacerbated by the recent uncovering of incidents of sexual misconduct at Exeter. Student Council Secretary and upper Jackson Parrell explained why the deans may have chosen to approach Student Council with their proposal. “I think that it has been a problem for a long time but now the deans realize more so that they need that root of communication so that when they make changes, like the drastic changes they made over summer, they know what’s working and what isn’t,” he said.

At the same meeting, Student Council addressed continuously expressed complaints by students about the food served at the Dining Hall and its repetitiveness. As a solution, the Executive Board of Student Council established a food truck program designed to bring alternative meals to campus on Friday evenings.

Exeter has already begun inviting food trucks from local diners and restaurants to set up in the area that leads off from Front St. towards Peabody Hall every Friday from 8 p.m.-9 p.m.. According to Parrell, these times were chosen to ensure that students still eat at Exeter’s dining halls on Friday nights, in addition to buying food from the trucks. During the allotted time period, a representative of the Student Council Recreation Committee will oversee the food trucks.

All logistic interactions with the vendors will be handled by the Office of Student Ac-

tivities and all contractual agreements will be dealt with through both the office and Director of Student Activities Joanne Lembo. According to Parrell, planning for the execution of the proposal is going smoothly and should be finished relatively soon. “Things are looking good right now,” he said. “I’ll be meeting with Ms. Lembo on Wednesday just to run over some things, and this should be in effect by spring term.”

Though some students raised concerns about the availability of vegan and vegetarian food options, Parrell emphasized that plenty of the vendors have vegan and vegetarian options to accommodate for the needs of all students. Student Council will reach out to local restaurants and diners such as Lexie’s Test Kitchen, The Happy Taco, Clyde’s Cupcakes and The Endless Slider, as well as other Exeter and Boston-based eateries.

Student Council hopes that the proposal will improve general morale on campus and foster a closer atmosphere within the student body while providing a larger variety of dining options. As of now, three vendors have signed up to participate in the program and will not demand any additional fees from the school. Exeter students can expect the first food truck evening to occur on the Friday back from spring break.

The budget committee also approved funding for two initiatives: the new Canadian Culture Club and Tuesday’s Evening Prayer, which was held by the Democracy of Sound.

Exonians Express Gratitude on Thank-a-Donor Day

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Street Dining Hall and Wetherell Dining Hall. Exonians also signed a school-wide donor appreciation banner, which hung in the Phelps Academy Center.

Every year, over 10,000 alumni, families and friends of the Academy support Exeter through their philanthropic gifts, which cover 62 percent of the Exeter experience for students. The true cost of an Exeter education is, in fact, nearly double the tuition, including room and board, that families are charged. These additional expenses are entirely paid for by philanthropy. Donations also benefit faculty housing and professional development opportunities, as well as programs such as the Exeter Social Service Organization, the Washington Intern Program, sports and clubs like PEAN and *The Exonian*. According to the Office of Institutional Advancement, the school year would only last to the end of fall term if the Academy ran on tuition alone.

According to Assistant Director of Alumni and Parent Relations Michelle Curtin, the day does a good job of acknowledging the important impact of donors. “When people first hear about the 62 percent stat, they’re shocked because nobody would really expect it to be that high,” she said. “We realized that there was a gap in knowledge of the impact donors had.”

Curtin explained that although the model of Thank-a-Donor Day had not changed much in past years, the event is nonetheless effective. “We’ve had a lot of

success in the past with the model that we’ve done over the years,” she said. “We want to keep it really simple and raise awareness and give the opportunity for people to say thank you.”

Donor contributions to Exeter range from \$10 donations to multi-million dollar benefactions to campus amenities, like the recent addition to the Forrester-Bowld Music Center, the new Field House and the Center for Theater and Dance. “This beautiful campus is the result of generosity: many of the buildings on the Exeter campus were given by donors,” Director of Institutional Advancement Morgan Dudley said. “There is a story behind the name on every building, and even some of the trees and benches throughout the Academy grounds.” Dudley referenced the Harkness tables, which were created with a donation from Edward Harkness in 1930. “This gift transformed the way students have been taught at Exeter ever since,” she said.

Dudley expressed hope that Thank-a-Donor Day will become its own tradition and set a precedent for generosity and philanthropy among Exonians. “There are generations of Exonians who came before you, [and] there will be generations who come after you as well,” she said. “It is our duty, as alumni, to carry that tradition forward and to give so that future generations of students may benefit from an Exeter education.”

Dudley also described Thank-a-Donor Day as a great event for reconnecting generations of Exonians. “It connects current stu-

dents with donors who support the school,” she said. “Those donors wish the best for you, and it means a great deal to hear from students. It is a day when all Exonians are connected by our shared commitment to non sibi.”

Director of the Exeter Fund Lynn Taylor echoed Dudley’s sentiment. Most alumni and parents make an unrestricted gift to The Exeter Fund each year, she explained, which covers nearly 10 percent of the school’s annual operating budget. “I think Thank-a-Donor Day is a great way to show our gratitude to our generous donors who help make the Exeter experience possible,” she said. The Office of Institutional Advancement regularly reaches out to donors in a variety of ways—mail and email appeals, parent “phonathons,” class agent letters and calls and personal one-on-one solicitations.

This year, the Academy helped provide students with financial aid amounting to \$20.7 million, allowing students from differing socio-economic positions to attend the Academy. “Being equally accessible to Youth From Every Quarter has been a key component of Exeter’s mission since our founding,” Director of Financial Aid John Hutchins said, “The financial aid Exeter allocates to students helps them tremendously by making the Exeter experience available to them and their family.” Hutchins commended the Thank-a-Donor event, describing it as one of the best ways to express gratitude towards the donors. “They love hearing from our students and knowing what a difference their gifts to the

Academy have made and will continue to make in the years ahead,” Hutchins said.

Members of Giving Thanks met regularly throughout the winter term to coordinate Thank-a-Donor day activities. Co-heads Rachel Moberg and lower Rose Horowitz started planning for the events at the beginning of the school year.

Moberg expressed hope that students will fully realize the magnitude of the donors’ hospitality and support. Through her work with Giving Thanks, she has interacted with alumni who have been contributing regularly to the Academy since they graduated more than 60 years ago.

“I hope that students here will recognize all of the hard work that goes on with people outside our immediate community. We have this huge alumni network of incredibly generous people who are always giving back to the school,” she said. “Without those people, there wouldn’t be anything there is at this school—the beautiful buildings, the large number of faculty members or activities. Our club’s job is to remind students to be thankful for all that we have.”

Moberg thought that Valentine’s Day motifs of love, appreciation and kindness meshed well with those of Thank-a-Donor Day. “I think it’s really sweet that Thank-a-Donor Day falls on Valentine’s Day this year,” she said. “It’s good timing because Valentine’s Day is so positive. People are generally happier and that positive energy can be harnessed to show our school’s donor appreciation.”

Samakie’s NGO To Promote Refugee Education In Jordan

Continued from ASSEMBLY, A1

for photography as a means of escaping the Syrian regime’s restriction of free expression.

The bulk of Samakie’s assembly focused on his three abductions while living as a teenager in Aleppo. At first, a government intelligence agency believed that he and his cousin were working with foreign news agencies. Military officials tortured them with water pipes and subjected them to prolonged physical violence, but released them within several hours upon discovering that they both held foreign citizenships.

Not long after, the Free Syrian Army tried to force Samakie’s father to give them his car; when he refused, they took Samakie hostage and held him captive for ten days. During this time, Samakie’s kidnappers demanded two million dollars from his family, threatened to cut off his fingers and used psychological and physical torture in an attempt to pressure him into confessing his involvement with the government (he refused, telling them over and over again that their information was wrong). All the while, his kidnappers warned him that they would behead his family and friends if he did not confess. Samakie showed neither weakness nor fear, instead choosing to act with compassion and forgiveness towards the very people who had kidnapped and tortured him. Over the course of the ten days, his actions stunned the kidnappers, leaving many in awe of his mental fortitude and commitment to peace. He was eventually released, and asked by his kidnappers to join them as one of their own.

Students and faculty were amazed by Samakie’s story, and especially by the integrity of his character under these difficult circumstances. “His philosophy of forgiveness and peace overruling violence is incredibly important to remember during this time of

political controversy,” said prep Lily Pinciario.

Lower Maddy Potter echoed Pinciario’s sentiment. “This man [Samakie] has so many reasons to hate everyone, [yet] he was so forgiving [that] he inspired his own kidnappers to let him go through being kind.”

After escaping his kidnappers, Samakie worked for a period of time for his family’s yogurt business, before he realized that only through finishing his education would he be able to effect the change he wanted to see. “I stood up in front of the mirror... [and said] I want to participate in the future of building Syria. And without an education, I won’t be able to do so,” he said. “That’s when I decided that I should go to Jordan and continue my education.”

His father would not support his education, so Samakie traveled alone to Jordan. En route, Samakie was kidnapped a third time by extremists who wanted to behead him because of his supposed foreign appearance, but released him after he began speaking in Arabic. “This one didn’t really count,” he joked to a half-crying, half-laughing audience.

In Jordan, Samakie first worked at tech startups in order to raise tuition money before realizing that he could use his photography skills to launch a fundraiser. He made a video telling his story, garnering the attention of many across the internet and eventually receiving enough donations to pay for the his tuition at King’s Academy, a Jordanian independent school.

However, Samakie was conflicted about whether the money from the fundraising campaign would be best spent on “one person.” He further explained, “I looked at my brother and said, ‘Isn’t this money worth more going to other people than supporting one person like myself? Why am I worth this money if it can be spent on other good things in life?’” Samakie realized that

it was up to him and other educated young people to provide education for refugee and underprivileged Jordanian children. “I hold the burden of advocating for those who are not heard and to educate the uneducated so they can speak for themselves,” he said. Thus, he decided the money must be spent on his education so that he could later give back to his community.

With that purpose in his mind, Samakie and some of his friends decided to create an NGO to assist in educating refugee children. “Shouldn’t education be given to everyone regardless of how old they are or what they are?” Samakie asked in his Friday assembly. Samakie’s NGO is called Fikra 3al Mashi, which translates to “Ideas on the Go” in Arabic. It supplies students with portable tablets and laptops to promote independence and foster a love of learning. “We introduce the idea of an argument, and how to make an argument, and how to present your perspective. Through that you show them that everything is linked to their own education, and so the students start wanting to learn more, and to ask more questions,” Samakie explained.

Fikra 3al Mashi focuses on providing a relevant education for the Syrian, Iraqi, Palestinian refugees, and Jordanian underprivileged youth. “Instead of putting our curriculum without knowing the situation of the community, we go there and we find what’s most relevant to them and we start building upon that,” said Samakie.

This year, Fikra 3al Mashi will collaborate with senior Abigail Africa’s club, Students for Global Awareness and Engagement (SGAE). Africa met Samakie last summer at the Global Citizens Youth Summit at Harvard University. SGAE now partners with Samakie’s NGO to connect refugee students with Phillips Exeter students via Skype. “We pair a member of our club with

one of his students. We call it an engagement project rather than a service project,” Africa explained, “We want to avoid what’s called the savior complex. We help teach them English, and they teach us minimal Arabic.”

SGAE and Fikra 3al Mashi will also collaborate with Project for Better Education (PfBE), an initiative headed by lowers Raj Das, Ogechi Nwankwoala, Yaseen Ahmed, Calvin Henaku, and Andrew Liquigan. The mission of PfBE is to improve education accessibility by connecting various social media messaging platforms to people in developing countries who may not have internet access, but do have access to smartphones. PfBE’s goal to create accessible education for developing countries connected with Fikra 3al Mashi’s mission to empower autonomous learning and SGAE’s objective for building bonds across borders.

“Relationships allow us to see into other people’s lives, how we’re similar, and how our lives our different,” Africa explained. “That will speak the loudest to motivate people to change the things they see wrong in the world.” Samakie agreed, elaborating on Western misconceptions of Middle Eastern peoples. “The people, they are no different from people here. It’s just the idea of a label: American, Syrian, Iraqi; in the end we’re all citizens.”

According to Samakie, the foundation of building global empathy is a commitment to educating youth. Programs that promote development of critical thinking skills empower students to express themselves, and to take charge of their educations and futures. “People will remember you for what you did for others, not for what you did for yourself,” he said. “There is a power to recognizing autonomy and independence of others at the basis of connection but also in oneself. No one can stop you, until you decide to stop yourself.”



Donald Foster, previous director of the Anthropology Museum, presents artifacts.

Courtesy of Donald Foster

Latin Scholars Compete in Tournament

By ZACHARY FENG and
CHIM TASIE-AMADI
Staff Writers

Exeter's Kirtland Society competed at the annual Boston Latin School (BLS) certamen tournament last Saturday. Certamen is a latin competition where students are asked two types of questions: toss ups and bonuses. Exeter sent three teams to the competition, including one novice, one intermediate and one advanced team. All of the teams coasted through the first rounds, especially the novice team, which achieved a near-perfect score. Both the novice and intermediate teams made it to finals, where they placed second and third respectively. The advanced team made it to the second round but could not go on to the finals. Prep Nosa Lawani, a student on the novice team, won the Novice MVP award for the tournament as well. The MVP award given to Lawani was the first of its kind ever given at the competition.

According to Lawani, "the MVP award came as a surprise," but he appreciated the "validation for (his) personal effort." Lawani attributed his win to his hard studying and aggressive competing. "I played not for the sake of winning the award, but instead so my team could succeed," he said.

He also attributed the team's success to the rest of his teammates, saying, "it was the combined effort of the team that allowed us to do as well as we did."

The novice team's hard work, however, could not best that of the hosts, BLS, who make up one of the best certamen teams in the world. They fell short by a score of 135-100, the difference of a single question.

The intermediate team also placed, taking third behind the Roxbury Latin School and Dover. Member of the intermediate team and lower Janeva Dimen expressed satisfaction with the day's results. "We were really happy with our awards," she said, noting the extensive preparation that all members of her team undertook in the weeks leading up to the competition.

The advanced team was unable to make it through to the finals round and renew their first place title, won at last year's tournament. Lower Thomas Mowen, a member of last year's victorious team, explained that the defeat was in part due to the less experienced makeup of the advanced team. "Since the majority of the normal advanced team was away in Rome, we were forced to fill in the gaps with intermediate players," he said.

Lawani also commended the team for its great improvement, saying, "At our last tournament at Yale we were able to hold our own, but weren't able to place."

He also remarked that the Exeter team is beginning to gain a reputation as a formidable team, though they have yet to win first at a competition. The Kirtland Society is now preparing for its next tournament at Harvard, a national competition. In light of this, the team is practicing more obscure topics. "We're working on deepening our understanding of more obscure myth," Lawani said. "[We're] covering the whole of Roman history, [the] most challengingly [of which is] the late empire."

Lawani and his novice teammates are also working on intermediate topics so that they will have a "smooth transition" and "even greater success [in] the upcoming year."

Phillips Exeter's Historic Artifacts Explored

By MAI HOANG
and PAUL JAMES
Staff Writer

In addition to famous paintings and antique books, Phillips Exeter Academy's artifact collection includes a broad range of historic objects, from Tarentine stone sculptures to Etruscan drinking cups that date back to a few centuries BC. Most of these artifacts reside in display cases in the Anthropology Museum and the Latin Study—both of which are located in the Academy Building—and remain unknown to most of the student body, as access is rarely permitted.

It has not always been this way. Immediately after its installation in 1976, the Anthropology Museum attracted intrigue and excitement from students and faculty alike. Former History Instructor and archaeologist Donald Foster said that he kept the museum open most days of the week so that students could freely examine its collection, even without teacher supervision.

On top of serving as a hub of activity and academic curiosity for members of the Academy, the museum also garnered attention from researchers and historians in the area. Admittedly, its collection used to be more prolific—for more than thirty years after its establishment, the Anthropology museum served as the repository of the esteemed New Hampshire Archeological Society. "Volunteers of the NH Archeology Society visited the Anthropology Museum on a weekly basis to curate the Society Collection," Foster explained. He even secured a research grant from the Bean Foundation and hired students to analyze the Society artifacts. According to Foster, the Anthropology Museum originally started as a "series of display boards to exhibit a selection of artifacts," curated by Howard Stern, an archaeologist at Franklin Pierce College, in the summer of 1955.

Over time the Academy's archives grew, with five major donations from the Phillips, Crosbie, Rogers, Kellogg and Warner families, who are all closely affiliated with the Academy. There were also numerous smaller donations, most notably the 5000 stone tools, pottery

shards and 20,000 flakes of stone that former instructor Eugene Finch amassed as an amateur archaeologist digging around New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont. Past students have also contributed to the collection through archaeological endeavors they partook in during their time at the Academy. "Students in one of my archaeology classes excavated a number of sites in residential Exeter that dated to the Colonial and Early American Period," Foster said. "At another time, students excavated sites along the Exeter River south of town dated to the prehistoric period." He further explained that "prehistoric" meant "the period of time before the Europeans arrived."

These objects were regularly incorporated into lessons, especially those taught by Foster. Rumors circulated among previous generations of Exonians about human skulls and other "mysterious" objects on display in Foster's classroom and the Anthropology Museum. According to alumnus Christina Beck '13, "Mr. Foster used to pause mid-sentence and disappear during our A format African History class, reappearing from the neighboring Anthropology Museum with a demonstrative artifact in hand—sometimes a skull." When asked about the authenticity of these skulls, Foster disclosed that some were authentic plaster cast reproductions of early human skulls and others were real skulls of modern humans. "There is also a skull cap of a native person in the Crosbie Collection," he said. "This should be located in one of the storage drawers the Museum Room."

The Latin Study also holds an impressive collection of artifacts, including oil lamps, figurines and fragments of ancient papyri. "We did have a professor come a few years ago who was able to read a little bit of the material of the papyrus and determined it was some kind of tax document, I believe," Instructor of Classical Languages Megan Campbell said, affirming the authenticity of the artifacts. She emphasized the importance of having donor-given objects, rather than those obtained through store purchases. "A lot of [the artifacts on auction] come through the black market so you lose a lot of archaeological context when these items

are taken out of their physical context by looters," she said. Campbell noted, however, that there have been few formal attempts by the school to hire researchers to examine the collection and precisely estimate its historical value. By looking at the design, she could "roughly determine the period," but "It would be nice to have someone come and examine them in order to give more information about where they come from and when," she said.

Interest in the artifacts seems to be starting to grow once again. Chair of the Classical Languages Department Nicholas Unger said that his department just tried to categorize and provide more information about the objects. "Recently, we made more effort to reorganize them, because some of them were just jumbled all over," he said. He went on, expressing his hope that this would encourage more students to appreciate their immense historical value. "Most of the students walked by barely noticing them [...] hopefully they do pause and read the captions now," he said.

Furthermore, progress has been made regarding the incorporation of Academy-owned artifacts in history and anthropology classrooms. During her Classical Rome and Ancient Greek classes, Campbell introduced students relics such as the cuneiform tablet, which came from the ancient near East, and the strigil, a crescent-shaped piece of metal used to scrape off body dirt by ancient Greeks and Romans.

However, not all students taking classical world electives have had the same experience. According to lower Dhanat Plewtianyingthawee, who took Classical Rome last winter, these artifacts were not incorporated into his lessons, although he had seen "several artifacts that the History Department owned, including pottery as well as some ancient tools," after examining the Latin Study display cases on his own time. Prep Grace Ferguson also echoed these sentiments, explaining that her class did not hold discussions about the school's artifacts, and that she would have liked to know more about their origin. "I have a particular interest in archaeology," she said. "I also do want to see what's in the Anthropology Museum very much, but it's always locked."

Speculation Unfolds Concerning Faculty Follies Assembly

By JOHN BECKERLE
and ANDREA SO
Staff Writers

Whether or not the biannual "Faculty Follies" assembly, an Academy tradition which takes place every other winter, will occur this term, has been the subject of growing speculation among students and faculty alike.

Until recently, most faculty members were under the impression that faculty follies would not be happening this year. According to English instructor Patricia Burke-Hickey, most assembly speakers are confirmed months in advance, and an abundance of bookings led to no space for the Faculty Follies assembly this winter term. English instructor Lundy Smith also said that faculty have had to attend so many other required meetings over the course of the year that little time remained to plan for something like Faculty Follies. "Coming off of last year, we have been focusing on many initiatives to improve student safety and our faculty's responsibility for protecting our students," he said.

Senior Leila Connolly expressed displeasure with the overbooking that led to the omission of the special assembly. "That was poor planning," she said.

Smith agreed, explaining that Faculty Follies is an entertaining event for both students and faculty. "Why shouldn't the faculty try to entertain the students?" he said. "I'm hoping we'll be back in full force next year, or the next."

However, on Feb. 14, Dean of Students

Melissa Mischke sent out an email concerning an urgent "Faculty Assessment Survey" for students to take during their Advising Meetings the next day. The "survey," however, turned out to be a humorous Buzzfeed personality quiz called "Which PEA Teacher Are You?" Upon completion of the survey, students were told to go to the Agora to take a selfie with their faculty member, and to pick up a cookie along the way.

English Instructor Erica Lazure, who conceived the quiz, said it was a nod to both the numerous surveys students have participated in throughout this academic school year and to the fad among students of creating Buzzfeed quizzes. "When I heard there may not be a 'traditional' Faculty Follies this year, I felt motivated to do something that would bring together students and teachers in a fun and lighthearted way," she said. "Because we've had so many surveys this year, I thought the 'Faculty Assessment Survey' would be a perfect way to trick [students]."

Past Faculty Follies assemblies have included performances from Chemistry Instructor Sasha Alcott's rock band "When Particles Collide," and a mock death-metal band called Döömgrinder, comprised of English Instructors Duncan Holcomb and Todd Hearon, Science Instructor John Blackwell and Classics Instructor Nicholas Unger.

Since 2010, English Instructor Tyler Caldwell has played the lead role in coordinating the event. History Instructor Amy Schwartz and Language Instructor

Fermin Perez-Andreu have also helped to direct the filming of each year's accompanying video.

According to Caldwell, he was inspired to help organize the Faculty Follies assembly after his twin sister, History Instructor Alexa Caldwell, showed him a video that faculty at Asheville School made, called "The Evolution of Dance," which showcased faculty dancing to music from different periods of history. With the help of faculty, including former Admissions Director Michael Gary and English Instructor Nathaniel Hawkins, Caldwell was able to put together Exeter's own "Evolution of Dance" video in 2012. Caldwell then took over the main role of coordinating the Faculty Follies video in 2013.

Many teachers expressed fondness at their memories of Faculty Follies assemblies at Exeter. Assistant Principal Ronald Kim described one of his earliest experiences. "I recall performing in a legendary dance number in 2002 with my colleagues Cosgrove and Shapiro and retired teachers Hertig and Herney," he said. "It was fun and a little terrifying." He also commented on the planning and organizing, saying, "We work hard to keep it a secret [from the student body]."

Hawkins said the Faculty Follies assembly provided faculty with opportunities to open up to the student body. "[It was] good for us all to lighten up and laugh at ourselves," he said.

Upper CJ Penn had a similar take on the assemblies. "The [Faculty] Follies videos are always just lighthearted and make the

community happier and a bit closer," he said.

Caldwell recounted one his most memorable experiences from years of filming Faculty Follies, remembering a time when much of the administration had participated in the video. "In 2013, I remember showing up to [Jeremiah Smith Hall] with a floor length fur coat, a scooter, and three slushies from 7/11 for [former Principal] Hassan, [Vice Principal] Kim and Dean Mischke," he said. He also recalled how a blizzard hit campus during filming, so half the Faculty Follies clips were of a bare campus while half showed the campus under two feet of snow.

Though many students enjoyed the Buzzfeed quiz, others lamented the apparent loss of a traditional Faculty Follies assembly. Lower Mary Provenal-Fogarty took pleasure in the virtual Faculty Follies but sympathized with others who did not feel that it compensated for the loss of the Faculty Follies assembly. "It was a nice surprise, and it made my day a bit happier," she said. "I do understand how some students would be upset to miss out on the expected Faculty Follies assembly. It definitely isn't the same thing."

However, some teachers speculated that a Faculty Follies assembly may be held after all, or in the spring, instead. Smith explained that teachers approach the Faculty Follies assembly differently each year, making for an unpredictable event. "The planning is haphazard," he said. "Some folks put in a lot of effort planning and practicing; others wing it."

Why We Need ESSO

Araish Paul '19
Guest Contributor

There are many ESSO club opportunities open for Exeter students, and a lot of us are taking advantage of these opportunities. But with such a busy schedule and so many commitments to other clubs, is being an active part of an ESSO club really worth it?

The obvious reason for being in an ESSO club is to provide services to members of the community. While we all understand the benefits that community service provides, we don't often think about the what exactly we can gain from it. By teaching basketball to little kids or playing games with senior citizens, Exonians develop the compassion and empathy that is so lacking from the competitive and self-centered environment in our regular schedules.

At Exeter, we live relatively isolated from the harsh realities of the rest of the world. ESSO clubs provide a way to escape

this "Exeter bubble" and interact with people from different backgrounds and beliefs. Not only do you get to meet people outside the Exeter community, but inside as well. Often we stick within our friend circles and don't get to know all the talented and interesting people on campus. Participating in ESSO clubs can help you meet new people.

In the end, the importance of community service comes down to building your character.

As driven individuals who want to change the world, we look for ways to have an impact and apply our skills. The problem is, however, if you sit waiting for your biggest opportunity to land on your doorstep, you will never take initiative. Instead, we should start small. Apply your learning into meaningful projects that serve the commu-

nity. Lowers Raj Das, Ogechi Nwankwoala, Yaseen Ahmed, Calvin Henaku and Andrew Liquigan founded a non-profit organization, Project for Better Education, which takes such an initiative. Their organization provides students in remote areas with limited resources access to education using pre-existing communication systems in the area such as SMS or telephone. As Exonians, we have the rare opportunity to make an impact, and the best place to start is through community service.

I suspect that one reason some of us join ESSO clubs is to improve our applications to colleges. While the benefit of having "ESSO co-head" on your application is real, I think it is a shallow and self-centered reason to involve yourself in an ESSO club. If you're part of an ESSO club solely for it to benefit your personal college admissions and career, you're not getting the point of ESSO. The desire to help others around you should come from within, and interacting with new people and teaching them some-

thing meaningful should bring fulfillment to your life, not cross off a line on your college admissions checklist.

I think requiring students to sign up for ESSO clubs takes away the value of community service. In the same way that college admission is not the right incentive to serve your community, required service also removes a genuine desire to contribute.

In the end, the importance of community service comes down to building your character. In the recent assembly about character development, the key phrase, "If not me, then who?" was emphasized. While this phrase referred to the sense of duty within us, I think it can apply to community service as well. It emphasizes the importance in making the world a better place. If you don't seize that opportunity, then who will? Keeping this phrase in mind, I encourage you to look at your community here at Exeter or back home and ask yourself, "What can I do?" A good place to start is by joining an ESSO club.

The Mysterious Melania



WORLD COMPASS

Mark Blekherman
Senior Columnist

In many of her interviews with news organizations, First Lady Melania Trump has responded to tough questions about her husband's controversial statements with the same cliché: "He's an adult, he knows the consequences." Indeed, her statements during the campaign were ambivalent. She dismissed the released "Access Hollywood" tape as an insignificant dialogue between "two teenage boys" and appeared on the campaign trail only when it was absolutely necessary. Now, as the First Lady, her absence from the White House poses a great risk to the United States' foreign relations.

Melania's image has been sullied by her numerous mistakes. She has become a target for mockery for her inability to cope with the media and fulfill her role as the First Lady. Her naïveté was poignantly demonstrated when she plagiarized Michelle Obama's 2008 DNC speech and used it as a template for her own speech. In addition to emulating Michelle's sentiments, Melania copied some of her expressions, claiming that the "only limit

to your achievements is the strength of your dreams and your willingness to work for them."

The media has exploited Melania's gullibility. During the summer of 2016, *The New York Post* featured photos of Melania posing as a model in Paris. The date on the photo was wrong, and many journalists began to question the legality of Melania's immigration. A *Daily Mail* blogger dared to call Melania Trump an "escort" and was immediately taken to court. Newspapers are not afraid of making erroneous comments about the First Lady, carelessly publishing false articles and exploiting her naïveté.

Or is she really that naïve? Is she really so gullible? It appears that the

media has underestimated her readiness to fight back. She successfully fought against the "Daily Mail" blogger with a

150 million dollar defamation lawsuit. Melania emphasized that the slanderous claim jeopardized her "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" to profit from her fashion business, Melania being one of the most photographed woman in the world. Melania Trump is an independent woman with interests of her own.

Last Friday, Akie Abe, the wife Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, roamed Washington, D.C. by herself, without the First Lady. Melania Trump arrived at Mar-a-Lago on Saturday and accompanied Akie Abe to the Morikami Museum, where she showed her love for nature and her commitment



to sustaining Michelle Obama's White House garden. Her tour with Akie Abe was her second appearance as the First Lady. Melania's first appearance was at the Trumps' Super Bowl Party, where she appeared confused and bored.

So where was Melania on Friday? The First Lady has for a long time expressed her dedication to preserving her connection with Barron in the midst of colossal changes in the Trump family. It was for this reason that she chose to stay in the Trump Tower, the American Versailles, until the end of Barron's school year before relocating to the White House.

There is a certain refined and perhaps unintentional beauty, femininity, to Melania's actions as a First Lady. She refuses to fit the mold and acts according to her own personal needs and preferences. She does not want her responsibilities as the First Lady to suffocate her freedom and does not allow the media to influence her decisions. *The Guardian*, in an article published on Feb. 11, applauded Melania Trump's "effortless ability to confound and confuse." The First Lady is both elegant and mysterious. She stunned the American public in her exquisite Jackie Kennedy inauguration day outfit, but confused many when she quietly receded to the confines of her prestigious New York penthouse.

The Legalization of Marijuana Is More Important Than We Think

Bella Alvarez '19
Guest Contributor

The legalization of marijuana has been an ongoing and heated debate over the years, ever since the substance was banned by the United States government in 1937 when the Marijuana Tax Act was passed. The first state to push against this was Oregon—36 years later—when legislators successfully decriminalized cannabis. As of 2017, 29 states, as well as the Federal District of Columbia, have legalized the substance for medical use. Most recently, Ohio, Florida, North Dakota and Arkansas have approved of marijuana solely utilized for medical purposes.

California made history in 2012 with their legalization of marijuana for recreational use for people over 21. The states of Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Massachusetts and Maine have also followed in these footsteps.

When arguing about the legalization of cannabis, one must take into account the racist origins of the substance's ban. Harry Anslinger, the first commissioner

of the U.S. Treasury Department's Federal Bureau of Narcotics, cracked down on marijuana using racist remarks and fabricated data. According to Anslinger, most users were "Negroes, Hispanics or Latinos," which was dangerous, as the substance made "darkies" believe they were "as good as white men." Anslinger's studies and surveys, which were later proved to be counterfeit, claimed that cannabis could brainwash people into believing in communism, among other ridiculous and unsupported declarations.

While this racist and completely unscientific language has been removed from the anti-drug laws used in today's legislature, the war on drugs—and in particular, the war on marijuana—has continued to carry its racist undertones into the present day. According to research conducted by the American Civil Liberties Union, use of marijuana is equal among black and white Americans. However, African-Americans are four times as likely to be arrested for marijuana possession (in 2010) than whites. At a state level, these numbers were even more shocking. For example, in the state of Iowa, blacks were around eight times more likely to be arrested.

The cost of this "fight" against cannabis is in the billions. The same study done by the ACLU estimated that states pay 3.613 billion dollars each year on marijuana possession enforcement. An estimated 65 million dollars of taxpayer money went to housing these convicted inmates in the states of California and New York in 2010.

Without even touching upon the

Without even touching upon the racist ideals behind the ban of marijuana, it is also crucial to examine the true risks and benefits of the drug.

racist ideals behind the ban of marijuana, it is also crucial to examine the true risks and benefits of the drug. In 2015, The US National Institute of Health published a survey which determined that cannabis was around 114 times less harmful than alcohol—a legal substance. The research also found that cannabis, when compared to other recreational drugs such as nicotine, cocaine and heroin, was the lowest-risk substance on the list.

The substance's positive medical uses have also been proven scientifically. Marijuana, according to Reuter's, can ease symptoms of multiple sclerosis such as spasticity. When muscles in people with MS contract painfully, groups of chemicals found in marijuana (cannabinoids) can help regulate this. A study done by the New York University Langone Comprehensive Epilepsy Center found that marijuana decreased patients' seizures by around 54 percent. Another research study funded by the American Association for Cancer Research showed that the use of cannabidiol—a compound found in marijuana—showed "dramatic reductions in tumor volumes."

If marijuana were to be legalized, it would save billions of dollars for states, taxpayers and the entire country. Furthermore, it would help patients combat lethal diseases and ease symptoms and pain. The legalization of cannabis would also prevent minorities from filling up jails, saving money and removing a racist piece of legislature. Just as the government revoked prohibition 84 years ago, it is the time for the United States to recognize that the positives outweigh and outnumber the negatives of legalizing marijuana.

The Exonian

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Why we Need Mental Health Days at Exeter

Bianca Beck '19

Guest Contributor

Students were screaming and jumping around, hugging each other and shedding tears when we all received that special email with the subject line: “Important notice to all Exonians: SNOW DAY” from Principal Lisa MacFarlane. Snapchat stories showed people celebrating by lying in bed all day or having dance parties with friends. Students posted Instagram pictures portraying them playing in the snow or sledding down the hill outside Soule Hall. Everyone was smiling and laughing.

I think the reaction of students to having a snow day perfectly shows that Exeter needs to incorporate mental health days as another option Exonians can use when they aren’t feeling well enough to go to classes and would rather spend some time by themselves, but not have to go to the Health Center. It could be for a day, or for a few formats. The fact that people were being moved to tears for having a day off should say something about how stressed and overwhelmed students feel. Student Council (StuCo) did talk about having mental health days at one point last year, but nothing ever happened. I think we

should definitely start that conversation again.

Mental health days should be for students who aren’t emotionally prepared enough to go to class and to face the stressful, high demands of Exeter. For example, if a student’s family member passes away, they should be able to use a mental health day to be by themselves and cope with their loss if they think that they would be better off by themselves rather than with a counselor. That’s more of an extreme example, but if someone is feeling really emotionally distracted, doesn’t feel prepared enough to go to class or would feel that they can cope with their problems better if they’re by themselves, then they should be able to skip class and not get the punishment of a dickey.

The main concern that StuCo had with this was that students would find ways to abuse the mental health day and use it when they really didn’t need to. However, if you think about it, the fact that some people actually need this when they’re emotionally struggling definitely outweighs the fact that some people will abuse it; the benefits outweigh the negatives. With “fatigues,” it is not news that students use them when they want to skip a test—an abuse of the system. Like fatigues, people would need to make up the work for the classes they

miss. If anything, this would reduce the desire for students to abuse the proposed mental health day. In the end, it could help students to not crack under the pressures that Exonians face daily.

Another concern that was expressed with having a mental health day is privacy. If someone doesn’t want to give a reason as to why they aren’t feeling well enough to go to class because of a private, personal issue, would they have to tell people their reasons? I think that as long as the Health Center knows, or the student’s advisor—whoever the student trusts more—then there’s no need to tell one’s teacher the reason why one may need time to themselves. All the teacher needs to know is that the student needs a break.

The ideas that I present are all hypothetical, but if we could all come together as a community and work on creating policies to make a mental health day a part of our life here at Exeter, I strongly believe that that would be beneficial to our community’s overall mental health. It is important for us to be able to have time to ourselves, especially as Exonians; being at Exeter demands a lot from everyone, and it can be very overwhelming. I think that if we were to incorporate mental health days into our life at Exeter, then students would be a lot happier and a lot less emotionally overwhelmed.

Technology Makes Politics Possible

Shaan Bhandarkar '19

Guest Contributor

The evolution of modern technology has accompanied every variable political landscape in elections for countries across the globe. In the past few years, technology and social media platforms have proven to be instrumental in the outcome of elections. In fact, some commentators attribute former President Obama’s landmark win in 2008 to his campaign’s pervasive use of social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

Internet and technology have played a major role in spreading different parties’ messages. The first major breakthrough in the cross-talk between technology and political stance occurred with the creation of the GOP internet forum Free Republic in February 1997. Inspired by the success of this forum, the Bush campaign utilized phone bank technology as well as email lists in 2000 for a get-out-the-vote initiative. With the help of additional marketing tools, the Bush campaign was able to compile a database of 700,000 potential voters. In addition to allowing more widespread dispersal of general ideologies, technology has also served as a smoother intermediary between campaigns and the press’s portrayal of them. In the

Jeremiah Wright controversy during the 2008 election season, Obama’s campaign strategically released videos on YouTube presenting Obama’s stances on racial issues. Technology has thus given candidates opportunities to further broadcast their political stances and express their personal opinions on various issues.

Not only does novel technology allow the chance for candidates to elucidate their platforms, but it also



enables political “pundits” to disseminate their own opinion on a national level. Starting in 2002, the creation of political blogs and forums gained further momentum with the advent of websites such as InstaPundit and My DD. These blogs and other online websites were soon regarded as credible especially when Markos Moulitsas of Daily Kos became the first blogger to be given press credentials for a Democratic National Convention. The widely acclaimed strategy of establishing political blogs

or websites, called “netroots,” has now become a relatively commonplace cornerstone for a multitude of campaigns. Facebook, Twitter and YouTube all buzz with political propaganda and related content especially due to the recent election season. YouTube featured an overwhelming 110 million hours of watched content in the 2016 presidential election season by March. Now, thanks to the internet, among other technologies, anyone can easily share their political opinions and have quite a lot of options of doing so.

Although technology’s effect on elections seems to be conducive to the most rational decisions made by the public, social media platforms like Facebook are now being blamed for spreading fake news especially in the wake of the recent U.S. presidential election. However, according to a study by Stanford, only 16 percent of those surveyed replied that they used social media platforms for their news at a frequent rate. Instead of blaming technology for this merely tenuous link to the swaying of electoral results, many of us should be thankful that we have the internet and other benefits derived from the rapid evolution of technology to aid us in spreading our opinions and collaborating over the welfare of the nation. If anything, technology and politics go hand-in-hand when it comes to giving voices to the public and to those assigned to govern.

Betsy DeVos Joins Trump's Billionaire Club

Paul James '19

Columnist

Betsy DeVos was confirmed as the new Secretary of Education on Tuesday, Feb. 7. The tie-breaking vote was cast by Vice President Mike Pence—the first time in history that a vice president needed to vote in the confirmation of a cabinet member. Two Republican senators, Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, voted against her confirmation, siding with 48 Democrats. DeVos came under fire in recent weeks for her apparent lack of knowledge in the field of education, especially when questioned by Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. She revealed that neither she nor her children attended public schools, displaying a clear lack of familiarity with the department she is now tasked with overseeing.

As the confirmation process went on, further worrying factors were uncovered. DeVos was the first in Trump’s cabinet nominees to bypass the ethics review. Senator Sanders brought up her sizable contributions to the Republican party, totaling 200 million dollars, to help fund the campaigns of some sitting senators. She has also been a proponent of charter schools, diverting money from public school funds. In earlier interviews, DeVos described public schools as a dead end, helping to spur on a national

movement opposing her confirmation. Her comments concerning guns in schools to protect from potential grizzly bears also drew heaping ridicule among the online community.

DeVos’ views spell a downturn in the future of the education system. While many Democrats gained popularity on the promise of free, or at least decreased, tuition for colleges, DeVos commented, “There’s nothing in life that’s truly free,” fitting words from a woman who married into a family worth upwards of five billion dollars and who has never dealt with many of the difficulties most of the American public faces. She also avoided the subject of whether or not the new department would uphold a rule that requires colleges to take preventative action against sexual assault. She has also displayed a frightening lack of understanding regarding basic education philosophy when questioned by various senators during her confirmation hearings.

Some see hope in the limits of the Education Department’s power. For now, the school systems are mainly under state control, though the federal government has been influential in certain cases. One such incident involved legislature to allow transgender students to use public bathrooms according to the gender they identify as. Though DeVos’s stance on LGBT issues is relatively unknown, her family has contributed to groups that support gay conversion therapy in the past; it seems unlikely

that the department will continue to be as involved in protecting the rights of all students while DeVos holds the office.

Although less related to her new post, DeVos’ family ties have also cast doubt on her character. Her husband is the son of the founder of Amway and former CEO of that company. Amway has been investigated for illegal pyramid schemes in its business practices. DeVos’ brother, Erik Prince, founded the private security firm, Blackwater USA, which was widely ridiculed when company employees opened fire in an Iraqi square, killing 17 civilians.

Donald Trump’s latest cabinet confirmation continues the trend of the nation being governed by a highly exclusive billionaires club. Money is consistently picked over qualification to fit the President’s twisted ideology. In addition to being the most white and most male cabinet since Reagan, a fact that has been brought to light multiple times since the nominations, the combined estimated worth of the cabinet clocks in at around ten billion dollars. This amount of wealth in one place, tasked with acting in the best interests of a much poorer public, comes with a host of issues. Not only does it point to a vast disparity in the challenges faced by billionaires and the common people, but also problems with private business interests. The wealthy in power are most certainly inclined to have their own interests in mind when making decisions that will affect the nation.

Why are we Celebrating #OscarsLessWhite?

Mai Hoang '20

Guest Contributor

The nominees for this year’s Oscars are out, and everyone seems to be celebrating. Why? Because apparently #OscarsLessWhite just became a thing, with four out of nine Best Picture nominations primarily featuring African American characters, three black Best Supporting Actress nominees and four Best Documentaries directed by black filmmakers. Ruth Negga, half-Ethiopian and half-Irish, is representing the black community in the Best Actress category, the first thespian to do so since Halle Berry received her nod in 2002. Behind the scenes, Bradford Young is the first black man to earn a cinematographer nomination in nearly twenty years. This surprising turn was celebrated all the more because it came at an unexpected moment, when racial tension was brewing across the country with the election of a populist, supremacist president. As every American struggled to overcome isolation and embitterment, the film industry rose to new heights and fought for equality and acceptance.

This was a true leap towards diversity for the Oscars, especially considering the fact that for the past two years, white actors have been the only ones taking seats as nominees for the four most prestigious awards. It also serves to prove that Twitter activism actually works, as #OscarsSoWhite’s ubiquitousness shook the industry and prompted academy board directors, producers and directors alike to take immediate action. Many industry veterans like Jada Pinkett Smith, Lupita Nyong’o and George Clooney have publicly criticized the awards, sparking strong reaction from fans and movie enthusiasts. Immediately after the media protest storm swept Hollywood during last year’s Oscar season, academy board director Cheryl Boone Isaacs was forced to push for reforms that would “double minority representation by 2020.”

Producers and casting directors are still hesitant when it comes to thinking outside the box about casting minority thespians.

For one year, a lot of progress has been made, as we can clearly see from the increased diversity of 2017’s nominees. However, we have to be wary—it is too early to lay down the fight just yet. When there are still talented Hispanic, Asian and Native Americans out there who do not get the shot that they deserve, whether it be in producing, screenwriting, acting or anything in between, it is not the time to start celebrating over #OscarsLessWhite. We have to keep in mind that just because there is more black representation, this doesn’t mean that other minorities are not being ignored.

The statistics are very disturbing, to say the least. In the last thirty years of academy nominations, only seventeen were granted to Latino performers, American and foreign combined. Six Asians received nods in 25 years, all of them hailing from other countries besides the United States. When it comes to directing, however, the numbers are even more skewed—in the course of the Academy’s history only three black directors have been nominated for the top award, and none have actually won. And that is not to mention the gender disparity seen in this category, alongside most non-acting awards; Kathryn Bigelow became the first woman to win the Oscars for Best Director in 2009, after 81 years of female exclusion. Until now, she is still the only female director blessed with the golden statue. There is a reason Best Director has been dubbed an all-white-male league.

Furthermore, although updates to the Academy board’s quotas are all well and good, the root of the problem lies in Hollywood itself. As acclaimed African American thespian Viola Davis eloquently phrased, “You can change the Academy, but if there are no black films being produced, what is there to vote for?” Producers and casting directors are still hesitant when it comes to thinking outside the box about casting minority thespians. The stigma that surrounds films with diverse casts and their box office capabilities still exists, and unless this deep-rooted bigotry is addressed, we will likely see continued discrimination for years to come. According to USC Annenberg’s most recent industry-wide study about diversity in entertainment, 71.7 percent of all film and television characters with speaking roles are white. Over 41 of the 100 top-grossing Hollywood movies have no Asian characters whatsoever.

It is impossible to deny that the inclusion of brilliant African Americans in this year’s Oscar nominations is a step in the right direction. But to quote Daniel Mayeda, Chairman of the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition, “Now we just have to make sure that Hispanics, Asians, Muslims, LGBT+ and others also are represented in the future.”

#OscarsSoDiverse

Want to have your voice heard?

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

Contact exonian@gmail.com

Send Letters to the Editor to the same address.

Responsibilities and Resources of PEA Facilities Examined

By GRACE CARROLL and RYAN XIE
Staff Writers

Each day, over 100 members of Exeter's Facilities Management and Campus Safety managers work to make campus safe and comfortable for students and faculty. These staff members include managers, plumbers, carpenters, electricians, painters, Campus Safety officers and maintenance and grounds crew members, all of whom are led by Chief of Planning and Facilities Roger Wakeman.

According to Wakeman, the bulk of facility management duties falls under two categories: preventive maintenance and reactive maintenance. Scheduled upkeep and planned campus maintenance fall under preventive maintenance, while any unplanned, accidental issues on campus qualify as reactive maintenance. Wakeman cited the burst water pipe in the Agora several weeks ago as an example of reactive maintenance. "That was a reactive issue where we had an issue with the system and we just had to respond, fix it, clean it up," he said.

However, Wakeman explained that such problems occur fairly infrequently, especially considering the immense size of Exeter's campus. "We've been fortunate that we haven't had any major problems, but buildings and systems are always going to break," Wakeman said. "Something's going to go wrong, so we try to stay ahead of it by doing that preventive work."

Overall, Wakeman estimates that Exeter's Facilities Management and Campus Safety department require about 130 full-time personnel and an annual budget of about 25 million dollars to keep campus up and running. "There's

an operational budget, which is about 10 million dollars a year, and then there's a capital budget for projects," he said. "In round numbers, we spend around 15 million dollars a year on regular, non-fundraised project."

In addition to campus upkeep, facilities manages a work-order system that, by Wakeman's estimate, receives about 10,000 requests from Exeter faculty per year. "Any of the adults on campus can put in a work order, for electrical issues or plumbing issues," he said. "Orders come in, the managers of those specific areas get the requests, and then it gets taken care of."

Wakeman oversees many of the construction projects on campus, as well as campus facilities. "Any of the planning from the very beginning originates from us," he said. "As far as managing the design and construction process, that comes under facilities management." At the beginning of each project, Facilities contacts and works with the town, going to the planning board and zoning board and acquiring town permits. They also work with the contractors and monitor and manage the construction.

According to Wakeman, the Facilities Department maintains a good relationship with the town of Exeter. "There's a lot of interaction and a good working relationship," he said. "We work with some of the town staff like the Public Works Director, the town planner, the Code Enforcement Officer—those are probably our primary contacts." Wakeman expressed appreciation for the town's helpfulness in working with Facilities. "They've been very supportive—they've worked with us long enough to know when we build something, we like to do it well," he said.

He went on, remembering a time when he had to work with the town on the issue of ownership of a road. "One of the big things we needed to do was work out an arrangement to basically have the Academy take ownership of the road here, so that was a major town-Academy interface because it actually had to go to a town vote to do that," he said.

In the midst of each New England winter, the number one concern for campus is "safety and comfort," according to Wakeman. He and the rest of the Facilities team make it their first priority to ensure the walks are cleared and that the snow is plowed each day.

Staff who usually clean dorms, for example, shovel snow as well. The school uses a grounds crew to plow the paths and roads, and contracts an outside service to assist with plowing. This staff also consists of about 130 people, including 40 members of the custodial staff and 15 people on the Grounds Crew. According to Dunbar custodian Tobi Zinck, maintenance staff workload almost doubles during heavy weather days, like last Thursday's snow day. After completing regular dorm duties, custodians must also shovel walkways and staircases across campus.

Many members of the community expressed gratitude for the facilities team and the important work they do. "Recently, they've been shoveling the paths, which has been super helpful," upper Peter O'Keefe said. Prep Kiki Aguilar agreed, saying, "They make the dorms feel like home when they clean it. When they weren't here, I couldn't find the path."

Lower Joseph Hong expressed his appreciation for Facilities and added that he feels students should assist, as

well. "Their role is really important," he said. "They do a pretty great job in snow removal, but I think that the students can help out too."

In case of an emergency power outage, facilities is prepared with 15 code-required generators throughout campus. These generators can power essential areas of campus, such as Elm Street Dining Hall, for a short period of time, but according to Wakeman, "we're not prepared to run the campus for four or five days if we had a catastrophic power outage."

Wakeman added that Facilities has always been nervous about the possibility of a power outage on campus, which led them to bring an electrician into campus Sunday night to ensure that generators were functioning well. This caution has paid off: Other than a short power outage in December, Facilities has not had to deal with any other losses of electricity.

In the wake of Monday's storm, the facilities team removed snow from building roofs to protect passing students. The carpentry workers even used a lift to take icicles off of roofs and clear the paths of ice and snow. This process requires as many people as possible, so on snow days, 40 to 50 facility workers are classified as essential personnel who still come in to work.

Even with so many people working to clear the snow, facility workers usually have to work overtime. "When we have a storm, the grounds crew will work straight through," Wakeman said. "They'll come in early and work late to cover it."

Sometimes, workers end up logging over 40 hours in a winter week. In such cases, Wakeman explained that there is an overtime budget.

Academy Searches For Five New Administrators

By ZACHARY FENG and SARAH RYU
Staff Writers

The Academy is currently looking to hire new administrators to replace Dean of Faculty Ethan Shapiro and Assistant Principal Ronald Kim, and to fill the newly created positions of Director of Student Well-Being, Director of Community, Equity and Diversity and Director of Human Resources.

The search for a new Dean of Faculty will be conducted by current faculty through an internal search process, with Chair of History Department Bill Jordan heading the committee.

Currently, there are seven candidates applying for the job with a committee of five interviewing and reporting to Principal Lisa MacFarlane. The search began when MacFarlane sent out an email in December to the faculty asking for nominations. Of the nominees, seven agreed to be considered for the job, submitting a letter of interest and a resume.

After thorough interviews with the candidates, the committee provided feedback to MacFarlane, who will have the final say in the selection. According to MacFarlane, the committee not only looks at the candidate's administrative experience, but also "their vision for the job, what kind of leadership style they have and their values and ability to work with other people."

Additionally, the search calls for someone who is "well organized, [has] good people skills and deals with conflict in a way that tends to defuse rather than exacerbate."

There is no date set for the announcement of the hirings. The committee will be meeting with Principal MacFarlane in the near future to give her notes and reports on each candidate before she makes her final.

Searches for other positions will involve both an external and an internal process. In fact, the search for a Director of Community, Equity and Diversity will be nationwide.

The new position was first approved by the Trustees in May of 2016 at the Academy and was included in the 2017 budget. After drafting and finalizing a job description, the committee will then lead a national search for qualified applicants, where the top five to eight applicants will be invited to the campus for interviews.

The next set of finalists will return

to campus and undergo an even more intensive interview process to ensure that their character and experience suits the job.

Chief Financial Officer David Hanson expressed strong support for the search for the Director of Community, Equity and Diversity, noting that it is part of the "school's mission to combine goodness and knowledge."

He went on, saying, "It is beneficial to have someone who is fully devoted to these principles on our campus. We of course need to think broadly about how to include people from all walks of life and who are sometimes very different from ourselves."

While the ongoing searches are in the purview of MacFarlane, the trustees have also worked diligently alongside MacFarlane and the faculty to develop priorities for the school, which will culminate in a strategic plan in 2017.

"I believe we have a consensus that Exeter needs to do more to make sure that we are truly a welcoming community, that we promote equity across campus and that we do a better job recruiting and retaining a diverse faculty and staff," President of the Trustees Eunice Panetta said. "These are meaningful and vital challenges and the trustees believe Principal MacFarlane is right to be looking for a strong leader to help us all make this change together."

According to Jordan, diversity is a crucial component to keep in mind during the hiring process. "The other thing that we considered a lot was diversity and inclusion," he said. "What kind of record does the person have of trying to address issues of diversity and inclusion and what vision do they have for our school and our faculty becoming better in those areas."

The searches are expected to conclude within the next few weeks to three months, with all the new hires coming to Exeter no later than the fall. MacFarlane explained that the school is looking for people who are sensible, cooperative and dedicated to both their job and the community.

"In all cases, we are looking for people of wisdom and judgment, who love and have an genuine appreciation for what we do at a residential school, and who will collaborate in building a community that is inclusive, equitable, diverse and committed to educational excellence," she said.

Parents of Uppers Travel to Campus for CCO Weekend

By MADISON KANG and SARAH RYU
Staff Writers

This weekend, Exeter's College Counseling Office (CCO) invited parents and guardians of the class of 2018 to learn about the college process at Exeter, the changing admissions landscape and the nuances of selective college admissions.

CCO offered parents a variety of different workshops during the two-day program, such as a financial aid presentation by University of New Hampshire Associate Director of Financial Aid Jennifer Smith, a panel for international parents and a gap year and summer programs fair with over 30 organizations presenting gap year, summer and service-learning opportunities.

For the majority of parents, College Admissions Weekend began on Friday night at 7:00 p.m. with a keynote address delivered by clinical psychologist, consultant and *New York Times* bestselling author Dr. Michael Thompson. In his address, Thompson discussed appropriate parental involvement during the college application process.

Alix M. Freedman '75, mother of upper Emma Paltrow, felt that Thompson's speech was a call for parents not to lose sight of the more important parts of their role. More specifically, Thompson hoped that all parents of members of the class of 2018 would resolve to focus on guiding their child's development of strong character, rather than the prestige of the college their child ultimately attends.

"I thought that Dr. Thompson's remarks were really important to remind us that the goal of parenting is trying to raise children who are loving, moral, independent and productive, and that the name of a particular college or university isn't necessarily going to produce those characteristics," Freedman said. As a parent, she felt that she must not lose sight of the big picture, even as her child may be focused on one or two dream schools. "The fundamental question to ask is whether my child is 'well-prepared for life' versus 'Is my child going to a name brand college?'" she said.

Freedman commended Exeter's college counseling program for its hands-on nature, as well as its consideration of each student's individual needs throughout the college application process. "I think that Exeter's College Counseling Office handles the college admissions [process] in a rigorous and thoughtful way, giving guidance and also considering the input of students' advisors and other teachers to help students find the college that best meets their interests," she said. At the same time, she does not think that Exeter's counselors are micromanaging students into places that they're not interested in. "The counselors strike a good balance between giving constructive input and not being heavy-handed with it"

On Saturday morning, deans and directors of admissions from several highly-selective colleges and universities held a workshop detailing the admissions process. During the workshop, parents were invited to read profiles of three imaginary candidates and discuss which they felt were the most likely to be admitted. At the conclusion of the session, the experts in the field examined the profiles in front of the entire group, and revealed which of the three students would most likely be admitted.

Upper Jaynee Anaya's parents familiarized

themselves with how they could help their daughter along in the process to avoid missing opportunities.

Anaya appreciated the meetings throughout the weekend. Her parents expressed their satisfaction with having the chance to talk to faculty and other parents. "My parents definitely feel more prepared, and they're glad they had the chance to talk personally, ask questions directly and have conversations with other parents that have experiences that are different from theirs," she said.

In addition to the keynote address, parents of international students attended an additional conference on Saturday morning in the Latin Study where Associate Director of College Counseling Michelle Thompson-Taylor outlined the differences in selectivity and financial aid that international applicants face.

Guest speaker and International Student Coordinator Jennifer Smith also helped mediate the discussion. "We discussed financial aid, testing like the SAT I & II and TOEFL, as well as creating a college list and visiting colleges. We kept it informal enough to allow for questions as we went," she said.

Upper and international student JP Kim found the weekend helpful for both him and his parents, as they were able to grapple with the challenges of the college process together. "The weekend was really nice, especially since now we all seem to be more aware of the process. I'm glad that the College Counseling Office held a panel for international parents who could view the process from a different perspective," he said.

The weekend concluded with parents meeting in small groups with their child's respective college counselor. These meetings allowed parents to get to know the counselor who will forge a close partnership with their child in the coming months.

Director of College Counseling Elizabeth Dolan emphasized the objectives of the counselor-parent partnership. "We [college counselors] talk to parents about our curriculum, our role in their student's process, as well as our role in helping students transition from adolescence to young adulthood," she said. "The goal of parenthood is to produce a loving, moral, productive and independent child. No university can produce this."

Upper Molly Canfield described the weekend as "eye-opening." She was surprised to learn of the selectivity and unpredictability of college admissions. "Seeing how completely random the admissions process is was frightening," she admitted. "At the same time, some people might have been comforted by knowing that even if they are worthy of going to a certain university, the outcome doesn't really matter or reflect on them if they aren't admitted."

Despite some anxiety about time management and standardized testing, Canfield looks forward to the opportunities for self-discovery that the next year will provide. "Yes, the college admissions process is stressful, but it's also a super exciting time," she said. "There are so many schools out there and we uppers are getting to know ourselves and all the opportunities we have once we leave Exeter. I'm glad to know that parents are here to support that."

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ExonianHumor



Fun Things to Do During a Snow Day

By EMILY GREEN
Fun

1. Go sledding on D-Hall trays.
2. Form a group of armed snowball fight bandits. Have no mercy on the innocents.
3. Talk about how much you needed the snow day.
4. Immediately after, complain that the school is going soft for giving you the much-needed snow day. After all, if we aren't suffering, we aren't keeping with the puritan values of suffering for the greater good that this institution was founded upon. John Phillips would be ashamed. Weak.
5. Make a snow angel AND a snow devil. The human psyche is complex, and we can't all be saints.
6. Order Penang since nobody else is delivering and dumplings are nice.
7. Write your 332.
8. Knit a sweater.
9. Make last minute Valentine's Day cards for your various lovers.
10. Read a damn book.
11. Get some sleep.
12. Create a secret society. Don't let anyone join but yourself. It's ultra secret. Take that, *Dead Poets Society*.
13. Venture into town only to realize that everything is closed, you're tired and now your entire body is damp.
14. Build a wall-of snow!
15. Order Penang again.
16. Try to order Pad Thai, then end up becoming sad because they're closed and you really wanted Thai bubble tea and mangoes.

Phelps Academy Center Pipe Burst: an Inside Job

By EMILY GREEN
Economist

Late last week, *The Exonian* received some shocking intel about the recent burst pipe and resulting indoor waterfall on the second floor of the Phelps Academy Center. What was initially thought to be something caused by cold weather mixed with wear-and-tear piping, in reality, was an INSIDE JOB.

Our sources tell us that the pipe was burst not by the weather, but by Emily Pelliccia, Editor-in-Chief of *The Exonian*, herself. This may be shocking to our faithful readers, but if you follow the money trail, it all makes sense.

In an exclusive Humor Page interview, Pelliccia told us that, "Why would I burst the pipes? Just look at the funds! It was a slow news week, and the paper wasn't going to sell for peanuts. All of a sudden, BOOM! Last minute indoor waterfall! Now forget the politics, forget the scandals, THAT

is a story that will sell across partisan lines."

Shocked at her words, we pushed for more information.

"I'll tell you," she said, a bubble-blowing smoking pipe in her mouth, "It's all about the economy. The ebb and flow. The boom and bust. In our capitalist society, you can be a cat, or you can be a mouse. I chose to be a cat. I don't think there's anything wrong with that. I just gotta look out for my people."

The 139th *Exonian* board was rocked by this greed-fueled, pipe-watergate scandal. Managing Editor Erica Hogan told us, "I can't believe this happened. I never expected this kind of nefarious behavior from our fearless leader, our captain, our chief. Woe is me. Woe is *The Exonian*."

Other Managing Editor and Pelliccia-backer Claire Jutabha confessed that, "I know this looks

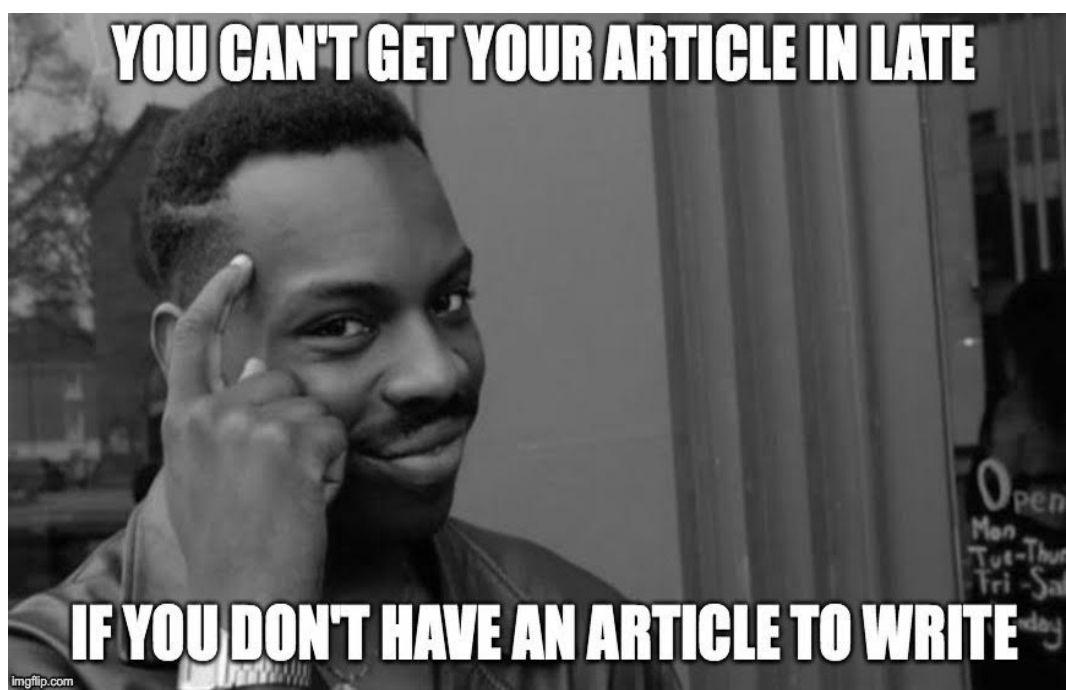
ugly. Heck, I feel sleazy just being a part of this operation. But you know what, at the end of the day, business is business... No, Emily did not bribe me with Grill cookies to stay quiet. I refuse to answer anymore questions. Ca-caw."

"In reflection," News editor Arielle Lui told us, "One must wonder—if *The Exonian*, the peak of modern journalism, is fueled by lies and scandal, can we really trust anyone?"

This event clearly shows that journalism, at its heart, is a zero-sum-game, and that we all are just merely surviving in this corrupt world, trapped inside a downward spiral, caught in the cruel animal of an invisible-hand-controlled capitalist marketplace without enough checks and balances at its core. We are stuck on a roller coaster that we never bought tickets for. Enjoy the ride, readers, consumers, and news-venture-capitalists alike.

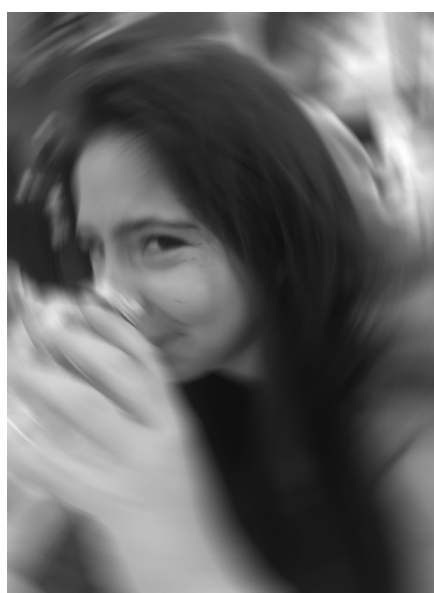
The Exonian Writer's Burden

By RYAN XIE
Thinker



TFW You've Been Apprehended for an Inside Job

By THE HUMOR EDITORS
Episcopalian Priest Enthusiasts



Prediction: Future Headlines

By SEBASTIAN BANGO and HARRY SAUNDERS
Future William Randolph Hearsts

HEARTWARMING:

Seeing a need for a little R&R, Nike installs giant hammocks outside their factory windows. Hammocks look like the Nike swoosh.

RED FLAG:

Dream boy's only Facebook comments are from his mom.

BREAKING NEWS:

Pedro Sanson, '18, tells friend he's "just kidding." He's not kidding.

WOW!:

We kidnapped a real scientist and asked what he really thinks about dolphins.

BEAUTIFUL!:

Phone buzz provides teen with daily dose of adrenaline.

Do you enjoy boom and bust capitalism?

Submit to the Humor Page.

Email exonianhumor@gmail.com.

A Preview of Donald Trump's Cabinet Picks

By BILLY O'HANDLEY
Senior Political Correspondent

Here are a list of real and fake members of the new Trump Cabinet. Can you tell which are real?

1. Rex Tillerson: Secretary of State. The former CEO of ExxonMobil, he is now charged with dealing with foreign relations. This is perfect, since he has plenty of experience dealing with foreign affairs, especially when he was asked not to. He opposed sanctions on Russia, and he has close business ties with Vladimir Putin.

2. Rick Perry: Secretary of Energy. In a cruel twist of fate, Rick Perry is now in charge of the department that he forgot he wanted to eliminate during the 2012 Republican primaries, ensuring that he will relive that moment for the rest of his life. He is quoted as saying, "There's something wrong in this country when gays can serve openly in the military, but our kids

can't openly celebrate Christmas or pray in school." This was part of a campaign ad for the 2012 Election.

3. Ann Romney: Secretary of Labor. Ann Romney is the wife of 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney, who lost to Barack Obama in the election. She has been in politics along with her husband for most of her professional career. She was the former First Lady of Massachusetts, and she was an "obvious choice" for Secretary of Labor. "She's had five children, so she's been in labor a bunch of times," President Trump said. "She's also probably had experience as a secretary."

4. Steven Mnuchin: Secretary of the Treasury. The former CIO of Goldman Sachs, Mr. Mnuchin (pronounced min-u-chin) is Trump's nomination for Secretary of the Treasury despite having a

clear conflict of interest and 500 million dollars that Mr. Mnuchin (pronounced mew-hin) could turn into much more if he played his cards right. Munchin (pronounced munch-in) was criticized for his bank OneWest's aggressive foreclosure policies that appeared to disproportionately target minorities. So there's that.

5. The Grinch: Secretary of Transportation. This bitter resident of Whoville, Alabama used an ingenious Santa Claus costume to break into lawless Whoville residents' houses and take all of their presents. He then had a change of heart, as he saw that his evil-doing had no effect on the residents of Whoville. He also has superhuman strength and a sleigh, which will allow him to help transport people places.

(1, 2, and 4 are real.)

Who Wore it Best: Literally a Plastic Bag



Pictured from left to right: Erica Hogan in a bag vest, Arielle Lui in a bag bodysuit, Emily Pelliccia in a bag shirt.

Quote of the Week

"I'm so tired of snow days."
-Erica Hogan, '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 ;)

Trump's Irrational Ban on Immigration

Andrea So '20

Columnist

President Trump recently signed into effect a series of executive orders. The most controversial order targeted immigration from Muslim-majority countries. The order bars the entry of any refugee in America for 120 days and further forbids the entry of all refugees from Syria indefinitely. It also prohibits the citizens of seven countries from entering America—Iraq, Iran, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Libya and Yemen—no matter what their visa status is. Green card holders were detained at airports across the country, but an official of the Trump administration stated that their applications would be handled on a “case-by-case basis.”

The effects of this executive order have been immediate and grave, with immigrants, refugees and green card holders being taken into custody at airports right after the announcement of the executive order. One of the people detained at JFK Airport included an Iraqi man who had risked his life to be a translator for the U.S. Army in his country. Another included a refugee's daughter, who, after a long and arduous vetting process, had finally been granted a

visa for entry into America. Her family in Maine had expected her to arrive any day, but due to Trump's executive order, she now remains unsafe in Iraq. There are already countless stories of college students being denied access to their education, people unable to return to their jobs because they went to visit parents abroad and families being ripped apart by this irrational order.

First, according to numerous sources, this ban will not have any benefits in the fight against terrorism. The Sept. 11 terrorists originated from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates, and yet none of these Muslim-majority countries are on the banned list. According to CNN, the Trump Organization has coincidentally conducted business in these countries. In the past 15 years, no perpetrators of large-scale terrorist attacks in the name of Is-

lam have come from countries on the banned list either. In fact, the amount of fatal terror attacks carried out by refugees in America comes to a grand total of zero. Most of the people who execute terrorist attacks on U.S. soil are actually U.S.-born citizens, not refugees, and the travel ban would not have affected any previous perpetrators of terrorist attacks done in the name of Islam. Let's not even get started on how mass shootings are an even larger problem domestically, of which, according to data from *Mother Jones*, white men are the most likely perpetrators.

In addition, this ban will only serve to further the rhetoric of terrorists. Terrorist organizations such as ISIS base a lot of their propaganda on the “fight against the West” and say that America is at war with Islam. If we continue to explicitly target people from Muslim-

majority countries, it will only fuel the flames of hatred in these groups and galvanize citizens from those countries into taking action against America. By banning refugees and immigrants from several Muslim countries and prioritizing Christian refugees, the Trump administration is telling the world that the plight of Christian refugees takes precedence over the oppression of Muslim ones.

America has long been called a melting pot, a nation of immigrants. If this is true, the acceptance of immigrants cannot only be extended to white, Christian ones. We cannot ever forget that the land our feet stand on originally belonged to Native Americans, not to European immigrants. Immigrants throughout history and Muslims now are risking their lives and leaving behind everything they have for a chance at a new beginning and to flee persecution in their home country. While doing so, they deserve dignity, not humiliation and further obstacles to overcome.

During World War II, Anne Frank and her family were denied entry to America as refugees. As we look upon that time with sadness, we also see history repeating itself. We have to do better. Now, we have to lend our voices to the voiceless and become an ally in the fight for fundamental human rights.



Courtesy of Google

Social Media: an Integral Part of Politics

Paul James '19

Columnist

A presidential campaign based on frenzied sound bites and rapid-fire tweets thrust a debate on social media and technology into the spotlight. Facebook was accused of influencing the election results by their lack of vigilance concerning fake news stories, prompting an internal investigation. Anyone with a domain name could make thousands of dollars by writing up a fake article that looked legitimate enough, providing it went viral and catered to the drama-driven will of the people. In spite of all the evils technology has brought to the political world, its benefits should not be dismissed out of hand. The use of social media has invigorated democracy by engaging many in worldwide movements. Live streams of senate votes help to increase government transparency and hold the elected representatives of the people accountable for their decisions.

Many companies faced backlash over their support of Donald Trump. One notable example is the ride-sharing company Uber. After being perceived as supporting Trump's executive order restricting travel from seven muslim majority nations, more than 200,000 people deleted the company's app and began an online campaign to shut down

the business. The public outcry led to Uber's CEO, Travis Kalanick, stepping down from Trump's circle of advisors.

Technology and the ability to share photos has also helped spread awareness for hot-button issues like the Dakota Access Pipeline and various marches in Washington, D.C. The #noDAPL hashtag made the pipeline that would have otherwise torn through sacred Native American ground a na-

As politics grapples to find the balance between the dangers and benefits of technology, time will prove whether it overwhelms democracy or strengthens it.

tional movement. Thousands of people from around the world joined the Native Americans in protest at various stages along the planned route, including people of other tribes, veterans and a large amount of elders and young children. There were similar results in the women's marches around the world following Inauguration Day and the planned events to come.

Many of the recent senate confirmation hearings and votes for Trump's nominated cabinet members were live streamed on C-SPAN and posted on Facebook. One of the hearings in par-

ticular, the one of Betsy DeVos, exposed her shocking lack of knowledge about the department she now leads. Publicized discussions in the government such as these help the public to understand the officials that will come to represent them and hold their representatives accountable for their votes. Increased government transparency of this sort inevitably leads to a truer democracy that is bound to the will of the people it serves, for better or worse.

Not all of technology's involvement in the political sphere is positive. In fact, it may leave Democratic ideals worse off than ever before. One of the harshest examples of the damage it causes is in the President's own tweets. He is known to type things out that are seen by millions without thought or fact-checking. The harm of these rushed statements, often unbased in fact or reason, increases exponentially on a social media platform like Twitter, that easily allows reposts that draw attention to misinformation. Social media has become a fast-moving business that significantly lowers the barrier for users to put something out into the world. In contrast to writing a letter or poster, which requires a higher degree of capability, reasoning and planned thoughts, most social media platforms make it easy to spread falsities and rash statements.

Although the effect of fake news sources and articles on the election re-

sults is unproven as of yet, it has the ability to cement inherent biases and spread false information that is often believable. The added harm is that some writers of fake news articles that go viral profit of this scheme that deceives readers and endangers the journalistic profession. It has also been used to denounce credible sources—purely because their views differ—by the White House administration. Debasing conflicting opinions in this fashion, or even real facts, is a dangerous practice that models intolerance and obstructs progress.

As politics grapples to find the balance between the dangers and benefits of technology, time will prove whether it overwhelms democracy or strengthens it. Since the outset of people vying for power, there has always been a struggle between external factors and their degree of influence on the future of a nation. The United States is not the only country faced with challenges of money, technology and rising extremism pervading its political arena. The trend spans the globe, in French elections, Brexit, the coming dissolution of the European Union and militant extremism in the Middle East, and they are all affected or encouraged in part by the power in technology. If we learn to use it, the bonds between nations, between people, could become stronger than ever in history. At the same time, we run the risk of absolute apocalypse.

Quebec Mosque Shooting Perpetuates "Trump's America"

Eugene Hu

Guest Contributor

On Jan. 29, a mosque in the Sainte-Foy neighborhood in Quebec, Canada experienced an attack by a masked gunman. Six people in the mosque were killed and about 19 others were wounded. 14 of the wounded individuals received treatment and were released from the hospital, while the other five are currently hospitalized. According to multiple witnesses, the gunman was wearing a ski mask, and upon walking into the mosque, he started firing at “everything that was moving.” The suspect, who was 27-year-old Alexandre Bissonette, was charged with six counts of first-degree murder and five counts of attempted murder. Two men were arrested on the night of the shooting, but only Bissonette was identified as the perpetrator. While the police stated that they discovered no possible motives, Canadian government officials immediately came to the conclusion that this was a terrorist attack.

After further investigation, it had been discovered that Bissonette had shown support for Donald Trump and the anti-Islamic views on his Facebook page. According to many activists in Quebec, Bissonette had taken nationalist and anti-feminism positions at Laval University where he conducted his studies. The Canadian Prime minister, Justin Trudeau, spoke to over a million Muslim residents in Canada, “Thirty-

six million hearts are breaking with yours. Know that we value you.”

You may be wondering exactly what our president was doing during this time. Donald Trump called Prime Minister Trudeau personally to express his sympathy, but he is yet to issue any public statement regarding this event through speech or through social media. It would appear that President Trump was much more infuriated by a knife attack that happened in Paris near the Louvre recently. The attack involved a man shouting “Allahu Akbar” assaulting the security personnel outside the Louvre with a machete. This was described as a “terrorist attack” as well and has succeeded a lot more in capturing President Trump's attention.

The indisputable truth of the Quebec mosque shooting is that it was a horrific loss of human life that deserves our attention and reflection, especially when we consider it alongside Trump's recent ban of immigrants from multiple Muslim countries. Donald Trump has always expressed his anti-Islam views, and it would seem that these views have not only influenced the people of the United States but other countries like Canada as well. Ever since Donald Trump has been in the center of the media spotlight during his running for the presidency, he has earned an incredible amount of followers on social media. Bissonette makes a perfect example of someone who was negatively affected by Trump's anti-Islamic views.

Of course, President Trump is not the only reason for the increase in recent Islamophobic sentiments. In the

city of Quebec, hints of anti-Muslim speech existed long before Donald Trump rose to power. The mayor of Quebec described mosques as “a hotbed of radicalization” and heated debate regarding religious freedom and religious accommodations. This was sparked in 2007 when an 11-year-old girl tried to wear her veil during a soccer game in her neighborhood.

What does this say about President Trump? Judging from his surprisingly

Judging from his surprisingly nonchalant reaction to the shooting, it is not unreasonable to assume that he was more concerned about his own PR than anything else.

nonchalant reaction to the shooting, it is not unreasonable to assume that he was more concerned about his own PR than anything else. He was stuck between a rock and a hard place when word first got out about the terrorist attack in the Quebec mosque. Trump would've been viewed as demonic and heartless if he stayed completely silent about the event or came to Bissonette's defense, a completely plausible scenario, but if he addressed his “condolences” publicly, it would contradict his orders to ban immigration from multiple Islamic countries. In fact, we don't have to focus on what Trump has done recently to see

this connection. He has been expressing anti-Islamic sentiments ever since the world knew him as a businessman and presidential candidate.

I think that Trump is not fully aware of how much influence he has. The people of Quebec have been forming “rings of peace” around their local mosques in solidarity. Organizers of this event claim these rings as “protective barriers” shielding the residents of Canada and encouraging them to continue practicing religion freely without concern and fear for their lives.

My heart trembled reading the stories of the six victims. They were not just Muslims, they were professors, businessmen, fathers, brothers and parents. They were ordinary people who did not deserve the treatment they received.

As much as we strive to combat injustice, it is undeniable that discord, chaos and tragedy exist everywhere. Did Trump go out of his way and seek out the stories of people like the victims of the shooting? Did Bissonette understand the misery that he caused all the victims' family members? It is heartwarming to see people offering help to the less fortunate, the ones trying to bring justice and balance to the world. However, at the same time, it saddens me to think that it is the existence of calamities like the mosque shooting in Quebec that calls for everyday heroes like these. Perhaps if more people like President Trump were to speak out against the crimes in this chaotic world, we wouldn't see so many people struggling to combat injustice.



ThinkFast Game Show announcer Robert Pedini asks the audience a trivia question.

Meghana Chalasani/The Exonian

ThinkFast Game Show

By **DON ASSAMONGKOL, JARED ZHANG and ALAN XIE**
Staff Writers

Students lined up in front of Grainger Auditorium on Saturday night for Exeter's annual ThinkFast Interactive Game Show, a trivia competition which challenged participants to answer obscure questions on a range of topics from retro pop culture to US History. Teams of students competed to earn the most points, which would guarantee them a spot in the final show-down. Participants whose teams did not earn the most points could vie for spots in the finals by showcasing talents like singing, dancing and showmanship. Competition was tough, because the winner of the finals earned a two-hundred dollar cash prize.

The ThinkFast Interactive Game Show is part of a larger tour by TjohnE Productions. Since its conception in 1995, the game show has toured the nation and won multiple prizes for its innovative interactive technology. The show has been enjoyed at corporate parties, hospitality events, black-tie fundraisers, the Armed Forces Entertainment and some of the country's most renowned college campuses, including Columbia, MIT

and Princeton.

The bulk of the Think Fast Interactive Game Show featured trivia questions in pop culture where announcer Rob Pedini added his own touch of comedy for the audience. With a wireless remote, participants answered the questions from their seats, and faster answers yielded higher scores. At the end of each question, a board displayed team scores so groups knew how they stacked up.

A variety of challenges accompanied the trivia. The show featured an Extra Sensory Perception Question (ESP), where the host asked a survey question, and afterwards, each team guessed how many people voted for a specific answer; ThinkFast-ER questions, where groups had to answer five questions in less than twenty seconds; and talent contests, where contestants volunteered to compete in various "talents" such as singing, dancing, salesmanship and acting. The winners of each of the four talents competed on-stage in a semi-final round to determine the wild card in the finals who would go up against representatives from the top three groups in trivia.

Upper John Woodward found the show interesting despite having anticipated the questions to be more based on general knowledge. "Though I didn't expect for there

to be as many questions on pop culture, it was a nice event to both hang out with friends and test our trivia skills," Woodward said.

Senior Majestic Terhune said that the most memorable part of her night was winning the dance talent contest. During this contest, the DJ played popular dance songs such as "Gangnam Style" and "Watch Me." "I knew that I wouldn't win just by trying to dance the best, so my strategy involved a lot of flailing," she said. "I accidentally hit myself in the face a few times and quickly became lightheaded. After we stopped dancing, I looked to the back of Grainger and saw Mr. Vorkink shaking with laughter." However, Terhune said she cared more for the trivia part of the game show than the talent contest and was surprised she had won one of the talent contests. "I will admit that I'm proud to be featured on a few Snapchat stories, however," she said.

Upper Sagar Rao won the singing contest after he went up against lower Gabby Brown. They were each given 30 seconds to sing a song of their choice. After being given 20 seconds to think, Rao decided to sing a song in a foreign language that surprised everyone in the crowd. His opponent, Brown, sang "Nice Guys," an original soundtrack by

Youtuber NigaHiga. Rao's song won over the audience, and so they voted Rao's performance as better than Brown's. "I thought it was really fun," Rao said. "I didn't really care about the cash prize—I just wanted to win."

Brown described the singing experience as frightening but entertaining. "It was so scary singing in front of people," she said. "To be honest, I have no idea why I volunteered, but I'm glad I did it because it was a silly and fun experience."

Upper Nick Song was a part of the team that won the entire competition. As a co-head of Quiz Bowl, Song was drawn to the competition because of its trivia aspect. He expressed his excitement at receiving the prize upon winning. "I think getting handed the \$200 in cash was probably the most memorable part. That doesn't happen nearly enough to me," he said. Song also expressed his appreciation for his team, consisting of uppers Keyu Cao and Traxler Scott, as well as lower Dylan Yin. They split the \$200 evenly among the four of them. Song joked about using his team's win to prove his parents wrong. "My parents have always told me doing Quiz Bowl wouldn't take me anywhere in life, but here I am \$50 richer. Life's funny like that," Song said.

Life Advice

By **MAKINROLA ORAFIDIYA**
Contributing Writer

Hi, everyone! It's Mak here with my first Life Advice article. If you have any specific questions you'd like me to give my advice on, you can always email, text or Facebook message me! Enjoy!

Is it better to have a job or travel in the summer?

To be quite honest, I'd say get a summer job. Not only does having a job during the summer help develop your time management skills, you also earn your own money. Instead of taking a bunch of small trips, you can put the money you earn from a summer job towards saving for one big event that you can look forward to, like a senior trip with your friends. However, make sure that you enjoy the summer job you choose! You don't want to get back to Exeter in the fall feeling overworked already. Plus, if you want a more academic summer experience, you can always apply for an internship. That way, you can gain some experience in a field that you might work in someday.

What are some ways to make winter term more enjoyable?

For starters, I'd say have a group of friends you can always rely on for a good time. During winter term, it may be tempting to stay in your room for hours on end. However, studies have shown that most people are more productive when they're happy and working with friends who encourage them to be efficient. Also, make sure to take the time to treat yourself during this term. Instead of doing homework all night long on Fridays and Saturdays, I like to watch movies, eat out or chat with my friends. As you'd expect, it's usually pretty cold outside, so staying inside with your squad is always fun. In my opinion, winter term can be pretty

enjoyable if you want it to be. You just have to find that special group of people who make it a little less dreary.

How do I stay healthy on campus during the winter?

First and foremost, dress well! Wearing shorts and t-shirts in the winter is only going to increase your susceptibility to illness. If it's raining or snowing outside, it's crucial that you wear a winter coat, long pants and at least one or two layers of clothing underneath that. Furthermore, get as much sleep as you can! Being groggy and exhausted during the winter is not beneficial to you, so make sure you rest up in order to fight any infections brewing in your body. Finally, make sure to wash your hands and take showers regularly! Not only does good hygiene make you smell good, it also rids you of the dirt and bacteria that accumulate on your body throughout the day. Be mindful of what you touch. Putting unclean hands near your face can have disastrous consequences.

How do I deal with my friends when they are being annoying?

Too much of anything (or anyone) isn't good for you. I've found that sometimes you need a break from people, even your closest friends. You might want to try hanging out with other people for a few days and sitting at D-Hall with friends you haven't seen in a while. Also, don't be afraid to tell your friend about what is annoying you. I like to think that having conversations about problems in a friendship is like having a METIC. The conversation shouldn't hurt anyone because its sole purpose is to make things better. If all else fails, I wouldn't try to push for a friendship that isn't working.

ClubSpotlight

Phillips Church Stewards

By **BELLA ALVAREZ**
Staff Writer

Every Sunday at 12:30 pm, a group of dedicated Exonians join Reverend Heidi Heath, the school's interim religious minister, for brunch in the Phillips Church basement. Touching on their reactions to current events and assemblies, they discuss the events of the past week over eggs and French toast. Then, the students assist Heath in planning the church service for that day. The church stewards are a small club that consists of six students who help Heath with everything from preparing Phillips Church's hymn sheets to reading scriptures during services. While the group rotates from year to year, the current members are uppers Sarah Shepley and Oluwadara Okeremi and seniors Jada Huang, Kelvin Green, Mel Duenas and Elizabeth Cleveland.

Shepley, who's been a church steward since the spring of her lower year, is in charge of writing the church's weekly newsletter, *The Wooden Door*. "During our brunch meetings, I will ask if any of the stewards want to write a personal reflection or devotion for the newsletter," Shepley explained. She, along with the rest of the stewards, also prepares daily bulletins, lights the candles during ceremonies and helps to turn on the sound system during the weekly church service at 1:30 p.m. every Sunday.

While the group generally works exclusively with Phillips Church, they've also hosted events open to the entire school. On Feb. 3, the church stewards hosted a study break in conjunction with the Christian Fellowship, a club which discusses Bible passages and issues relevant to the Christian faith every Friday. Together they planned a study break in the church basement, complete with snacks, coloring books, puzzles and games. "It was a big hit," Shepley said. "We had about 30 to 40 people show up, which was good for a Friday night."

Okeremi has also served a church steward since her lower winter. Although there is no official application process, the

current church stewards are usually chosen by their predecessors. "You just have to attend the service regularly," Okeremi said, explaining the qualifications. "The people who come regularly are Christians or are discovering their religion."

Heath emphasized that all are welcome to join, regardless of religious background. "While our church stewards are generally folks who identify in some way as Christian, we'd welcome anyone who wanted to be part of us," she said. As Shepley explained, Phillips Church itself is a non-denominational place of worship, and is open to anyone and everyone.

Duenas, who has been a church steward for almost two years, has found being a member of the group to be a unique way to form lasting friendships. "Throughout the years, I have gotten to form relationships with people I probably wouldn't have otherwise met," she explained, citing the chance to meet Reverend Thompson and Heath as another great opportunity she received thanks to her membership in the club.

Similarly, Okeremi finds a sense of community within the small group. "Being a church steward has been comforting," she said. She elaborated on the companionship between the club members. "I know that I have a solid group of people to talk to and relate with." Like Duenas, Okeremi also commented on the joy of getting to know Heath through the time that they've spent together eating meals and preparing for the week ahead.

Huang shared the same sentiments. "Being a church steward has been a very rewarding experience," she said. "The community dynamic between the stewards just at Phillips Church as a whole is so warm and comfortable." Huang also cited the weekly brunches as a space to relax and unwind. "I always feel myself letting go of a lot of stress and tension because that's just the sort of environment the other stewards and the church create."

SeniorSpotlight

Lively Leena

By ISABELLA AHMAD and
SAMMATHA WEIL
Staff Writers

Driven by a love for learning and a passion for problem-solving, senior Leena Hamad's vibrant personality has catapulted her to success in science, music and activism on campus. Hamad credits some of the development of her dynamic personality to her Islamic elementary and middle schools, which she said "were really good in shaping [her] own identity." However, for her high school years, Hamad wanted an environment with rigorous academic standards and a community with new, diverse perspectives for her to encounter. Her persistence and curiosity drove her to Exeter.

Hamad grew up in a STEM-centered environment; her father is a computer scientist, and her mother is a dentist. However, it wasn't until coming to Exeter that Hamad discovered science, particularly biology, to be her primary interest. "Taking prep bio was transformative for me—it really kickstarted this fascination," she said. Hamad's passion for science has continued to develop over her years at Exeter, as she thrives in the most challenging biology courses the school has to offer. She even partook in a molecular biology research program to study DNA engineering and transformation at Boston University over the summer between her upper and senior year. Her brother, prep Mahdi Hamad, has seen his sister's passion for biology blossom over the past few years. "I know that [biology] is one thing she's very passionate about and going to go for in her career." Senior Athena Gerasoulis, a close friend of Hamad's, also expressed her admiration for her friend's interest in biology; in fact, their friendship formed in biology class. "She was in my prep year biology class, where she understood everything, and I was completely lost," Gerasoulis said.

True to her values, Hamad generously allows other students to utilize her talent in



Diana Davidson/The Exonian

the sciences by participating in Peer Tutoring, where she helps other Exonians with biology, chemistry and mathematics. "She likes to help people," Mahdi Hamad said. In agreement with Gerasoulis' sentiment, he explained that his sister only felt content when spreading knowledge to others, as opposed to only doing her own work.

In addition to Peer Tutoring, Hamad shows her passion for helping others in the clubs that she leads. She is co-head of Exeter's Muslim Student Association, leads the Middle Eastern and North African Society and serves as a day student representative in the Student Council. Participating in an affinity group is very important to Hamad, because she felt as though she "could share my identity and experiences with others and have them share theirs with me." As the daughter of immigrants, Hamad expressed that she has "always been kind of in two places at once" in regards to her identity. "I've been on that mission, where I've discovered and found parts of myself and Islam that made me really happy. Going to an Islamic

school really helped me solidify my identity in a country where it is hard to do that," she said. Hamad brings speakers to the Muslim Student Association and plans events for the club as well. "I believe really strongly in expanding perspectives and expanding world views," she said. Her goal is to "bring awareness to the community about the issues we face."

Her activism for minorities on campus has helped her make many friends. Senior Elizabeth Yang has known Leena since prep year, when they bonded over being day students of color together. Teachers know Hamad as a student who possesses the ability to speak and be a figure of strength in representation of her experiences. "She is the quintessential multicultural student, without any fanfare—a female Muslim student in America grounded in her Sudanese-African heritage," history instructor Kwasi Boadi said.

Throughout her time at Exeter, Hamad has evolved into a frequent assembly speaker and zealous participant at the Harkness table. Mahdi Hamad reflected that his sister used to

be "a lot shyer, but soon enough she was able to publicly speak." Boadi also spoke highly of her speaking skills, particularly in Harkness, saying that Hamad is "the ideal Harkness student—the one who first listens to several inputs from her classmates... offering her own interpretations and conclusions in a nuanced and most collegial way." Gerasoulis attributes Hamad's speaking skill to her friend's inherent ability to "take the time to learn, evaluate and view from all perspectives before making any judgements."

Another avid interest of Hamad's is her music. Hamad manages Women's Chorus and plays piano in her free time. She says that music is one of the activities that doesn't cause her any stress; she does it solely for her own enjoyment and the freedom she gains from the pieces. "Music is so expressive and so amazing; it is a great avenue to let yourself go and let yourself out," she said. Besides music, Hamad also enjoys reflecting on her experiences through writing. "I'll write in my free time, just about things that I'm thinking or feeling."

In the future, Hamad plans on continuing to explore activism through extracurricular activities, particularly in Sudan. She occasionally thinks about going back to her parents' homeland to try to bring about positive change in the country. "With the travel ban and everything, it's just throwing a fork into everything," she said, referring to President Donald Trump's recent executive order. "It's frustrating for me, but it is heartbreaking for people that just don't have any options," she said. These altruistic aspirations are clear examples of why her advisor, Modern Languages Instructor Ming Fontaine, describes her as "a mature, thoughtful and kind person." Hamad's genuinely altruistic nature, combined with her soaring ambition, will help her accomplish her goals beyond Exeter. As her close friend and senior Zea Eanet said, "I simply can't wait to watch her carve her blazing trail through the world."

FacultySpotlight

Allison Hobbie

By ISABELLA AHMAD
Staff Writers

Instructor of Chemistry and Chair of the Science Department Alison Hobbie knew that she wanted to pursue a career in education when she became an undergraduate student at Wellesley College. Even though she majored in chemistry at Wellesley, it was her lifelong love of the outdoors that led her to discover her passion for teaching. As a child growing up in Connecticut, Hobbie would often come to New Hampshire to vacation by the lakes. She continued this tradition in college by teaching kids how to sail at a sleepaway camp in the area. "I learned that I loved teaching somebody else how to do something," she said. "I was lucky because I feel like I sort of discovered that, and I loved it. I never really looked for any other profession."

Hobbie's interest in chemistry developed earlier while in high school. She explained that her teachers influenced her decision to become a chemist. "I did not grow up with any scientists anywhere in the family. They were like, 'Science? What's that?'" Hobbie said. One high school physics teacher in particular pushed Hobbie to go into science. "He was

really strict, [but] he was a funny guy," Hobbie recollected. "He really inspired me to go on in science." As she entered adulthood, she had to think about her future and narrow down her path. "What can I teach? Maybe I'll teach science. Maybe I'll teach chemistry," she said, outlining her thought process at the time.

After teaching for some years at The Taft School in Connecticut, Hobbie decided to attend the University of Virginia to obtain a graduate degree. Again, her choice was motivated by the students she taught. "I went to graduate school for environmental science because of my students," Hobbie said. As a graduate student, Hobbie took part in several projects that allowed her to immerse herself in nature, including some work in the Shenandoah National Park with water chemistry and research on groundwater in Florida. She described how much she loved the long afternoons she spent studying science, something that really surprised her non-scientist friends. "I just really loved lab. It was fun for me," she said.

In addition to teaching the core chemistry courses, like "Principles of Chemistry" and "Accelerated Chemistry," Hobbie also teaches "Chemistry of the Environment," an elective she

introduced to Exeter. Environmental science first caught her attention when she taught at Taft. "There were students there who were just really passionate about the environment," Hobbie said. The students' earnest devotion to the cause encouraged Hobbie to link together environmental activism with academics. When Exeter's Science Department announced that they were looking for someone to teach an environmental science course, Hobbie took on the job. What started off as a one-term project proved to be so successful that it became a year-long course.

It is her passion for all of her pursuits that Exonians appreciate about Hobbie so much. Indeed, she has a love for athletics, which has been one of her defining characteristics since she taught at a sailing camp in her college days. "I loved to sail, and then the campers would love to sail," she said. As a member of the PEA community, Hobbie's infectious energy continues to inspire the people she teaches. Upper Alexis Gorfine affirmed the effect of Hobbie's enthusiasm. "I absolutely loved her as a crew coach. She made me really love the sport," she said.

Hobbie's positive spirit impacts all the Exonians in Merrill Hall, where Hobbie is a

dorm affiliate. She uplifts the people in Merrill any time that she is on duty. After taking attendance for the night, Hobbie asks residents about their day and plays a game of Heads Up (charades) with each of them. Kesi Wilson, one of Hobbie's advisees, described her as "easy to talk to" because Hobbie makes a point to reach out to students first. This trait is also what makes her so approachable to new students at the Academy. "She cares about everything I have to say," said prep Fiona Madrid, echoing Wilson's opinion. Hobbie continuously validates the people she interacts with, while also pushing them to be their best selves. According to History Instructor Hannah Lim, another faculty member who is affiliated with Merrill Hall, Hobbie "encourages those around her to challenge themselves to be well-rounded, thoughtful and kind members of the community." Dr. Lim elaborated on Hobbie's important role in the community. "She has a wealth of pragmatic and caring advice on how to provide support for our students." Hobbie combines a passion for intellectual pursuits such as chemistry and environmental science with a talent for connecting with people on an emotional level. For that, the entire PEA community is truly grateful.



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MEET A LIBRARIAN: MELINDA DOLAN

By JOHN BECKERLE and AVA HARRINGTON

Anyone who has ever visited the Class of 1945 Library can tell you about the grand, white staircase that leads to the first floor. They can describe the art that adorns the walls, the hushed conversations that echo throughout the building and the stately wooden desks where the librarians sit, ready with a friendly smile for anyone who asks them a question. Melinda Dolan, who is now in her seventh year at PEA, is one of these librarians. As the systems coordinator and reference librarian, she maintains the library's web pages, which include the e-resources, databases and online systems that are used to manage circulation, cataloging and course reserves for students.

Dolan's job requires her to stay updated about advancements in technology. Reference and acquisition librarian, Christopher Roy, who has known Dolan for five years, described Dolan's efforts to manage the library's online resources. "She does a lot of behind-the-scenes work that keeps the online resources teachers and students rely on up and running, and [she] loves learning about new technologies," he said. Dolan's curiosity and her commitment to learning about technological advancements reflect her dedication to the entire Phillips Exeter Academy community, students and teachers alike. Without informed librarians like Dolan, the process of conducting research would certainly be much more difficult.

In addition to managing the library's online catalog, Biblion, much of Dolan's job consists of negotiating with vendors to make sure students have free access to online resources such as e-books and e-journals. According to Dolan, "[Getting online resources] is actually very expensive, but it looks free to students." It takes quite a bit of time and energy to obtain the databases that students use regularly, but

Dolan focuses on the logistics of getting access to scholarly journals and old periodicals so that the rest of us don't have to.

Dolan's love of libraries dates back to her childhood. She grew up in Vernon, Connecticut, and her hometown's public library was a kind of sanctuary for her. Dolan said, "The public library was my go-to spot. It was sort of my safety—a fun spot for dreaming." To this day, Dolan remembers the sense of liberation she felt in the library, and she strives to share that feeling with others.



Diana Davidson/The Exonian

Her daughter, upper Katherine Dolan, believes that she became a librarian to help people learn. "She finds joy in helping people, especially with research, and she's very interested in learning. She pays attention to close details and it makes her very insightful," said Katherine Dolan. Dolan has shared her love of books with her children especially. Her daughter recalled the "incredible value [Dolan] placed on books," and how that affected her development. Katherine said, "She'd read to [my sister and me] every night. Then, I started reading pretty early on, and so, many books and book characters define my childhood."

Dolan received her undergraduate degree from Boston University. Later on, she received her M.A. in art history from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and her M.S. in information science from Simmons College. Dolan then worked at Northern Essex Community College as a reference librarian and at University of New Hampshire as an electronic resource librarian. During her time at University of Massachusetts Amherst, as she researched for her master's degree in art history, Dolan "discovered the joys of research, how

pleasure reading," she said. Dolan loves when students really take advantage of the library and all that it has to offer.

However, sometimes the presence of students in the library can be disastrous. Dolan relayed one of her most memorable experiences here at Exeter. "During Exeter/Andover, somebody, it was assumed to be Andover students, let loose a few boxes of hundreds of crickets in the upper floors of the library," she said. According to Dolan, it took a while to get rid of the crickets. "Many were gathered up by facilities; however, some lived for a long time in the air ducts. You couldn't see them, but you could hear them in the bathrooms and certain offices." Still, interacting with students is one of Dolan's favorite things about her job.

Dolan also takes pleasure in spreading her love of books and research to places outside of Exeter. According to reference and outreach librarian Virginia Rohloff, Dolan helped the library participate in the Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust (EAST) project recently. A group of college and research libraries created the EAST project in 2011 to ensure that students and faculty in the eastern United States were able to access scholarly works. This past summer, Dolan took inventory of the library's entire print collection. Because of librarians like Dolan, the EAST project currently holds over six million scholarly works.

much information research libraries hold and how powerful that [information] could be."

She has carried that spirit with her to Exeter. As a reference librarian, Dolan can help students with their research papers throughout the school year. "Obviously, history [students] are our busiest 'customers,' but we have a number [of students] you wouldn't think [use the library]," she said. She explained that the library offers more than just a place to research for an essay. "We have a lot of kids coming in to take out CDs, our calculators occasionally, iPhone chargers, things like that, for fun. When break nears, kids will start taking out more

Rohloff explained that Dolan has a true devotion to learning. "Dolan is a kind and knowledgeable colleague and a great member of our library team," Rohloff said. She added that Dolan helps keep the librarians up to speed on the constantly changing technologies. PEA is lucky to have such a dynamic, hardworking woman in our community. The next time you head over to the Class of 1945 Library, make sure to pause for a moment and appreciate all the people who make the Exeter experience worth having.

Movie Review: "Doctor Strange"

By RYAN XIE
Staff Writer

"Doctor Strange" is the fourteenth installment of movies in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), an alternate universe where superheroes and magicians coexist with normal humans. While many of the Marvel movies are science or technology based, "Doctor Strange" brings viewers to the realm of magic. The movie, which is directed by Scott Derrickson and produced by Kevin Feige, features fast-paced scenes and convincing actors that truly make the movie a memorable film.

The movie begins with an evil sorcerer, Kaecilius, (Mads Mikkelsen) who steals part of a powerful book which belongs to the Ancient One (Tilda Swinton). Then, the plot turns to New York City, where Steven Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch,) an arrogant neurosurgeon, loses the use of his hands in a car crash. Desperate to be able to use his hands again, he tries everything possible to heal himself. Eventually, he goes to Kamar-Taj, a compound in Kathmandu, Nepal, where sorcerers, including the Ancient One, train in magic and learn to defeat evil powers. Strange learns how to use magic, and, in the process, learns about the secrets of the Eye of Agamotto, an object that allows the bending of time. Kaecilius, the evil sorcerer, begins to summon an evil entity, called Dormammu, who can create the "Dark Dimension," a dimension where time does not exist and people can live forever. Strange and other sorcerers fight Kaecilius, but the Ancient One is wounded in the process. Strange uses the Eye of Agamotto to undo much of the damage in the city and trap Dormammu in an endless time loop. Dormammu eventually agrees to leave earth and takes Kaecilius with him. Like any Marvel movie, "Doctor Strange" came with two extra "sneak peek" scenes for the next movie in

the Marvel universe, which included a cameo from Thor.

The plot of the movie is pretty good, going neither too fast nor too slow and always keeping viewers on the edge of their seats with action. Like all other Marvel movies, building up to the "Avengers: Infinity War," the film does well introducing the fifth infinity gem, the time gem, also known as the Eye of Agamotto. Mordo, a good sorcerer and a hero initially, has an interesting and quick change of character; in the mid-credit scene, he strips another sorcerer of his magic, saying that there are too many sorcerers. This lays the seeds for a possible future installment of a "Doctor Strange" movie, with Mordo as a villain. The end-credit scene with Thor was a great advertisement for Thor's third film, Ragnarok, in which he is trying to find Odin.

Also, the actors portray their characters brilliantly. Cumberbatch, especially, manages to get a laugh from the audience in multiple scenes. Chiwetel Ejiofor, who plays Mordo, exudes the brooding mood of the character perfectly, and Rachel McAdams plays a genuinely caring and strong Dr. Palmer.

However, "Doctor Strange" is not perfect. The plot—an arrogant man becoming more humble and going through an experience which changes him—has been seen countless times before. "Iron Man" for one, was almost exactly the same, with an ego that could rival Strange. Both experience a tragedy—a car crash for the doctor and a kidnapping for Iron Man—and both become heroes at the end.

Overall, though, the movie is a good one. "Doctor Strange" introduces a new character and a new infinity gem to the Marvel universe and the movie shows an entire new component for Marvel to explore. Marvel fans now eagerly await the next installment, "Guardians of the Galaxy: Volume 2."

ALBUM REVIEW: LONDON CALLING

★★★★★

By ALAN WU
Contributing Writer

By the end of the 1970s, punk rock had started to dig its own grave. Punk was a cultural movement filled with boundless vigor and vitality. It turned the everyman into a spokesperson of justice, freedom and life. Legions of youths chanted along its anthems, celebrating the prospect of a better world. Unfortunately, the bars of its three-chord song structure became more eminent with every Ramones rip off boy band looking to turn rebellion into money. Punk became too busy fighting over what is "punk" and what isn't, forgetting the essence of what made it such a potent movement—the idea that you can do whatever the hell you want. After the Sex Pistols imploded in 1978 and the Ramones' sales started to tank, punk rock seemed to be stuck in limbo.

Out of this mess came The Clash and their 1979 rock 'n' roll tour de force, *London Calling*. From the very first chords of its title track to the final beat of its closer "Train in Vain," *London Calling* is an ingeniously rich and brave sonic experiment that combines reggae, new wave, punk, power pop, jazz and folk in a seamlessly organic and utterly confident way.

Lyrical, the record is very dense in content. Unlike the party pop songs of the Ramones or the incoherent tirades of the Sex Pistols, lead singer, songwriter and rhythm guitarist Joe Strummer instilled his lyrics with intelligence and sincerity. Every line he wrote was a battle cry for change or an introspective dissection of deep personal troubles. "The ice age is coming / the sun zooming in / engine's stop running / the wheat is growing thin," Strummer proclaims on the album's title track. The song's marching beat, gloomy bassline and piercing guitar riffs make for a powerful, booming anthem for the collapse of Western civilization. Strummer's delivery has never been better. He sifts through images of Britain's social decline with the unrestrained growl of Johnny Rotten and the wizened prophesying of Bob Dylan.

Despite all of this lyrical and musical density, the record is still light on its feet, moving at a pace more exhilarating than most other records. This is all thanks to Strummer's partner-in-crime, Mick Jones, the band's lead guitarist, backing vocalist and co-songwriting genius. Jones, with his keen sense of music composition and tasteful guitar playing, decorates Strummer's words so that they become buoyant and radiant songs that lift the spirits while still being grounded in reality.

The brilliance of Jones and Strum-

mer's collaboration is most evident on the album's two standout tracks, "Spanish Bombs" and "Lost in the Supermarket." The former is a hook-laden power pop song about the Spanish Civil War. The rich storytelling and profound humanity of Strummer's lyrics, elevated by Jones' soaring guitar lines and melodic sensibilities, turn the song into a beautiful celebration of the Spanish freedom fighters forgotten by time. The latter is a ballad-esque meditation on suburban alienation with Jones on lead vocals. The song is anchored by a deliciously groovy hi-hat and floor tom combo and is carried by Jones' twinkling guitar lines. Suburban alienation is by no means new ground for rock music. However, the simplicity in Strummer's songwriting and the nuance in Jones' singing, whose voice is a combination of Paul Simon's sweetness and David Bowie's evocative yelping, prevent the song from becoming sappy. It's worth noting that the band's rhythm section, consisting of bassist Paul Simonon and drummer Topper Headon, does an amazing job of giving every song a strong core as well as being versatile enough to sit comfortably within the band's genre experimentation. Headon, who is trained in jazz and funk, shines especially with his inventive yet danceable drum beats and his precise drum fills.

Time has proven to be remarkably kind to The Clash. Their best-known songs have become classic rock staples without becoming clichés. In hindsight, their experimentation has proven to be immensely visionary and predated various musical movements that would become widely influential, such as post-punk and hip-hop. Ultimately, what makes The Clash such a formidable force to this day is the extraordinary humanity and compassion in their music. Over the decades, various bands have tried to identify with the underdogs, but very few so routinely gave such an articulate and powerful voice to such a large group of society's outcasts. From the embattled union worker, to the disenfranchised suburban child, to the orphaned mixed-race children in the Vietnam war, all the way to the outmanned Spanish freedom fighters, The Clash possessed an exceptional ability in telling stories with humor, vigor, thoughtfulness and an uncynical romanticism that somehow, almost magically, never veers into cheap sentimentality or sadness. Even after all these years, they are still "The Only Band That Matters."

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Girls' Basketball Struggles Against Worcester

By JOHN BECKERLE
Staff Writer

The varsity girls' basketball team traveled to Worcester last Saturday to take on the Hilltoppers. Unfortunately the girls were defeated by Worcester, 39-73. Worcester had impressive 15-2 record heading into Saturday's game. Big Red has struggled to win games this season, with a record of 2-14 so the matchup made Exeter the heavy underdogs.

The game against Worcester served as a big test for the Exeter team's play. Upper and co-captain Ella Johnson noted that the team's offense was effectively shut down by Worcester's starting lineup, which included a basketball recruit to the University of Connecticut.

Regardless of the score, upper Samantha Weaver was impressed by the team's mental toughness throughout the game. Heading into the game, the team knew that Worcester would be a tough team to beat. "Even when we were down by thirty points, we kept playing our hardest. We didn't give up, which I am extremely proud of," said Weaver.

Upper Michaela McCarthy agreed with Weaver saying that the team played tenaciously for the entire game. "Worcester is a very talented team, offensively and defensively. Although we gave it our best effort, we fell short on the defensive end of the court," she said. "We were unable to prevent their dribble penetration, and when we did, they were able to hit long range jump shots."

Despite suffering tough losses during the season similar to the Worcester game, Exeter players have improvement significantly compared

to the beginning of the season, especially on offense.

Johnson complemented Weaver on her play during the game, saying, "Sammie Weaver really stepped up making some shots from the outside."

McCarthy attributed the team's offensive improvements to their rigorous practices. "A lot of players got in off the bench, and they were able to put a lot of points on the board for us, something I credit to the frequent shooting drills we've begun to [do in] practice."

Weaver further explained the team's improvements, saying, "Over the season, our shots and rebounds have improved greatly. We have also been playing more cohesively lately."

Much of this improvement has led players to be excited about their eight-team tournament at home this weekend. McCarthy said, "We can improve upon our transition game and the pace of play. We're a fast team, and if we exploit our speed we'll be able to rack up a lot of quick points, and hopefully, gain an easy lead." After the eight-team tournament, the team only has two remaining games against Proctor and Andover.

Both McCarthy and Johnson believe that the tournament provides the team with an opportunity to get its revenge on some of the teams that it lost to earlier in the season, and demonstrate how much the team has improved in every aspect of their play. Weaver has high hopes for the team's performance in the coming this weekend.

"We will keep fighting through every game no matter the score. We don't have anything to lose, so I am hoping this tournament is going to have a classic 'underdog takes all' ending."



Senior Maya Blake goes up for a lay up.

Chiara Perrotti Correa/The Exonian

Wrestling Wins Class A Championships

Looking for Revenge Against Belmont Hill in Final Tournament

By JARED ZHANG
Staff Writer

On Saturday, the varsity wrestling team traveled to Williston Northampton School in Easthampton, Mass. to compete in the Class A Championships. Big Red dominated the 12 other teams in the division. In the end, Exeter finished first with 232.5 points, 23.5 points ahead of its closest opponent.

Exeter's team of 12 had multiple top three finishes in individual weight classes. First place finishes came from lower Hayden Brown, senior Aidan Whitis, senior and co-captain Quinn Abrams and senior and co-captain AJ Pedro in the 113, 152, 170 and 182 weight class, respectively. Runner-up performances came from senior Abhijay Bhatnagar, senior Josh Hemintakoon and upper Kevin Lyskawa in the 120, 132 and 145 weight class, respectively. Senior Kelechi Nwankwoala delivered a third place finish in the 220 weight class.

Senior and co-captain Joey Rossetti highlighted Nwankwoala and lower John Beckerle's performance as standout performances. Abrams also praised Hemintakoon and Lyskawa for wrestling "exceptionally" especially when they faced stiff competition in their final bracket.

According to Rossetti, the team performed well as a whole. "We did what we needed to do to win the title," he said. Abrams expressed that the team had some hiccups throughout the tournament, but considering the tough competition the team faced, it performed well.

Both Rossetti and Abrams agreed that the team can improve on getting the pin when it needs to. Rossetti stressed



Upper Kevin Lyskawa grapples with his opponent.

Diana Davidson/The Exonian

the importance for his teammates to score points. "Guys on the team can improve on getting the pins when it is expected to get them in order to gain team points," he said. Despite the win, Abrams expressed that the margin of victory wasn't as comfortable as he'd hoped. "The margin of error was a little closer this time, and honestly it unsettled me slightly that we were not able to widen the gap in front of the

other schools," Abrams said.

Abrams elaborated that he wants the team to be more of a "cohesive unit of comradery, to keep good spirits and to cheer and support everyone on the team when they wrestle." Big Red's next competition will be this coming Saturday when it will travel to Hyde School to compete in the New England Championships, the climax of the wrestling season for many wrestlers. Many of the

schools from the Class A Championships will be present again. Both Abrams and Rossetti emphasized the importance of the meet. "We need to focus on what we truly want in this offseason and the goals we want to achieve," Rossetti said. The team will be looking for redemption and to reclaim the championship after losing to Belmont Hill School by a tiny margin last year.



WEDNESDAY SCORE REPORT

Girls' Basketball	23	Boys' Hockey	4
Tilton	73	NMH	2
Girls' Squash	7	Boys' Squash	7
Middlesex	0	Middlesex	0
Girls' JV Hockey	7	Girls' Hockey	1
Governor's Academy	5	Tabor Academy	5

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: BOYS' SQUASH CAPTAIN DARIUS KAHAN

By SARAH RYU and
JARED ZHANG
Staff Writers

Senior Darius Kahan bounds from side to side with agility as he expertly deflects the squash ball back to his opponent. The back and forth goes on until Kahan lunges forward and parries the ball to his opponent's blind spot, securing the winning point. As co-captain of the boys varsity squash team, Kahan leads the team of 25 together with senior Myles Haigney, his co-captain.

Kahan began playing squash in seventh grade, but it was only after he came to Exeter that he realized how transformative squash could be and became heavily invested in the sport.

Kahan is honored to play this role as the current captain of the boys' squash team and always tries to lead the team in the most efficient way possible. Witnessing firsthand, how "Exonians are inspired to challenge themselves on the court physically, as well as mentally," Kahan likes to guide and lead his team in his own way. "It has been my objective from the beginning of the season to lead from behind rather than in front, and I mean this in so far as guiding with influence rather than dominance," Kahan said.

Prep Hojun Lew believed that Kahan sets an example to his fellow teammates for how to act on the court and genuinely cares about the team. In addition to boosting team morale and making sure that players were properly warmed-up for their matches, Kahan's advice greatly inspired Lew. "He didn't really cheer me up from my defeat, but he explained how no matter win or lose, the fact that you tried the best you can is all that matters," Lew said.

Outside of the team, Kahan's peers admire Darius's leadership and willingness to always help others. Senior and



Numi Oyeboide/The Exonian

fellow resident of Cilley Hall, Charlie Dubiel described Kahan as a "loyal and strong leader."

Senior Philip Kuhn credited Kahan's success in the sport to his perseverance. "While I'm sure a large part of that is due to just pure talent, I know from experiences with him in the dorm that when he cares about something, he is able to dedicate lots of time to it," Kuhn said. "That is a skill I really admire in him."

Senior Timur Luke described how

Kahan would "consistently place respect and encouragement of others at the core of all his interactions." He would take full responsibility in contributing his share to the community, a quality seen in Kahan's role as the captain of the boys' squash team.

"I'd say the most admirable trait of Darius's and perhaps the one that most qualifies him to lead the Squash team is that he never prematurely judges others, and gives everyone he meets a fair chance to show their intentions and

potential" Luke said.

Lower and teammate Sam Michaels agreed with Luke, noting Kahan's "excellent leadership, unwavering dedication, and love for squash." Michaels also described Kahan as an approachable captain, especially to lowerclassmen. "Darius has taken the role of the 'father' of the Exeter squash team; new preps seek him out for guidance and Darius never fails to help them," he said.

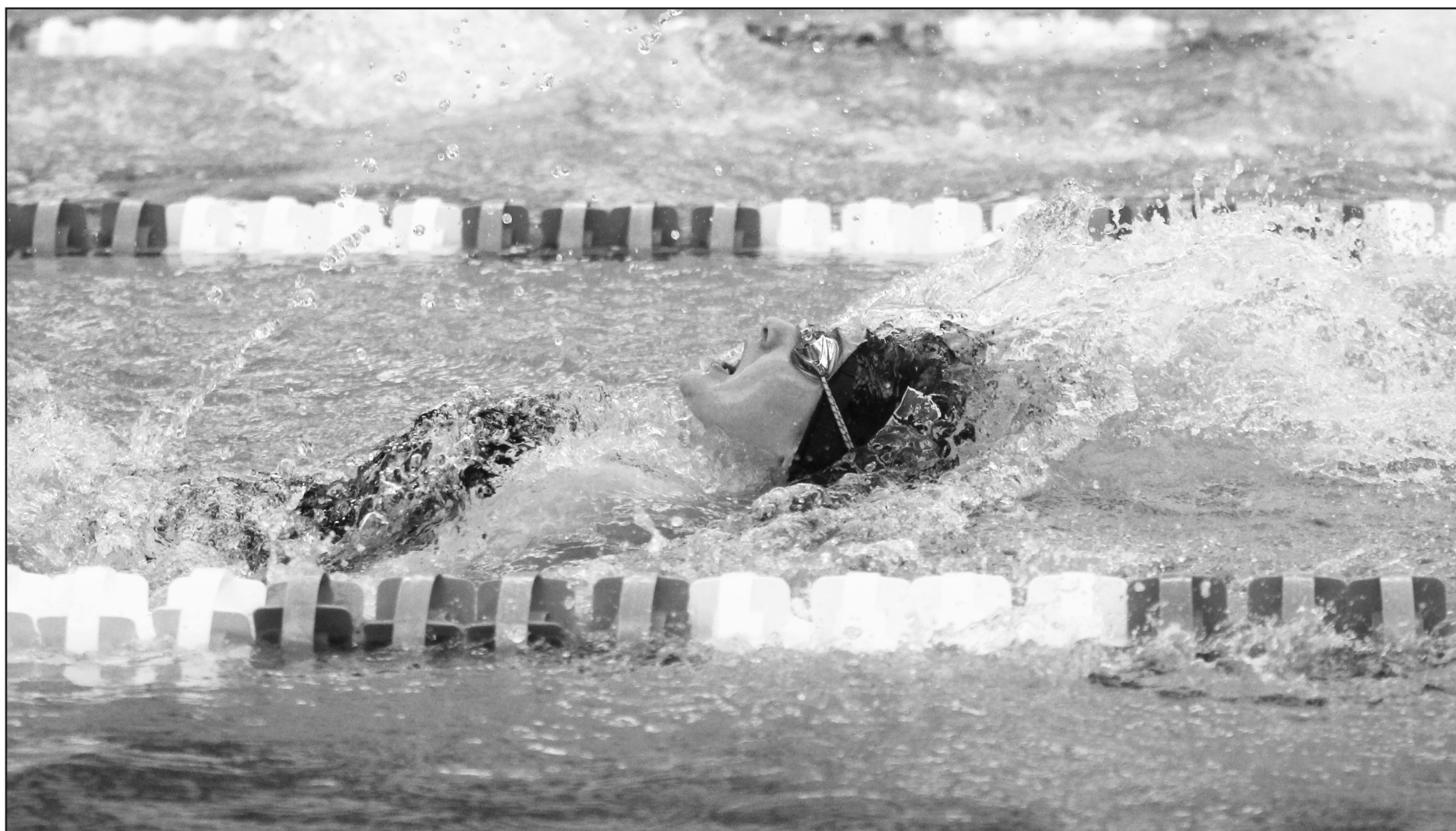
As part of the this year's graduating class, Kahan expresses his sentiments in leaving the team and moving onto a new step in his life. Recognizing the drastic change college could be, Kahan hopes to continue to channel his passion for the game.

One thing he knows for sure is that not only will he miss the echoes of the Fisher Squash Center but, most importantly, his coach and teammates. "The true spirit of high school squash is in teamwork, and I am forever grateful for all four generations of Exeter squash players," he said.

Coach Frederick Brussel described Kahan's performance to have improved throughout the season and noted that he led by example both on and off the court. "I feel Darius has been asset to the squash team and will be missed when he graduates," Brussel said.

From the great experience of playing on the squash team for four years, Kahan knows that these memories will always stick to him. "As we students venture through our careers at Exeter, our visions for the future change and our perceptions of our own values often evolve—but there are some things that we know will stay with us for life, and one, for me, is the fond, warm memories of playing and serving on our team," Kahan said. The squash team will also miss Kahan's presence next year and have some big shoes to fill.

Girls' Swim Team Torches Loomis



Upper Maddie Shapiro races her final leg in the 100 backstroke.

Chiara Perroti Correa/The Exonian

By CHIM TASIE-AMADI
Staff Writer

For their last home meet of the year, the girls' swim team hosted Loomis Chaffee School this past Saturday on Feb. 12. Having won their last three meets, which were all home as well, the girls went into the event with a great deal of determination and confidence. Ultimately, Exeter came out with a 107-77 point victory of Loomis, setting their current record at 5-2.

The girls began the day with a competitive attitude and mindset, expecting stiff competition from their opponents. The day was foreseen as a hard one. In ad-

dition to not tapering the day before due to a missed practice on Thursday's snow day, the practices in the previous week had been particularly difficult. "They were tough practices the week before. We all felt sore and tight," lower Samantha Gove said.

While some of the team shared similar sentiments, others felt that the longer, more arduous practices prepared them for the day. The team also pointed out how it expected a challenge from Loomis. In previous years, meets with them have always been especially close, sometimes with Exeter losing. While pushing through the day and getting through each event was difficult for the girls, they surpassed

their own expectations and beat Loomis by a good margin.


The season has been chocked full of meets with standout performances and swimmers beating their personal records over and over again. Many of the same girls kept up to the standards they had set in weeks before. Lower Liz Williams won herself another 100 yard free, out touching every other swimmer by more than two seconds. Lower Heddy Parker came first in another 200 yard free, although it was a fairly close race against her opponents. In the 50 yard free, Exeter came first with lower Tina Wang, first in the 100 yard back with prep Wynter Sands and first in

the 100 yard breast with lower Ashleigh Lackey.

In addition to these victories, Exeter came first in all three relays. Lower Ariane Avandi commented on the team's success with the majority of these relays this season. "This season, as an overall, all our relays have been getting so much better," she said.

As the season draws closer to its end, practices get tougher mentally but the team has both the Exeter/Andover meet as well as Interschols to prepare for. "We're really excited for E/a. We need to win this year, and keeping that in mind will help us get through the next week," Gove said.

JV ATHLETES OF THE WEEK:
JEFFERY "JEB" HOLLAND
TROY "MILKMAN" MARRERO
MILO "TAYLOR'S LITTLE BRO" WALSH



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Boys' Hockey Demolishes Choate

7-1 Win Brings Exeter Closer to Clinching A Playoff Spot

By ROSE HOROWITZ
Staff Writer

The boys' varsity hockey team won all three of its games this past week. On Wednesday Feb. 8, it played Proctor Academy in an away game, and on Saturday and Sunday it played Hebron Academy and then Choate Rosemary Hall at home. The team triumphed over Proctor 7-5, its closest game of the week. Big Red dominated in the other two games, beating Hebron Academy with a score of 4-1, and Choate Rosemary Hall 7-1.

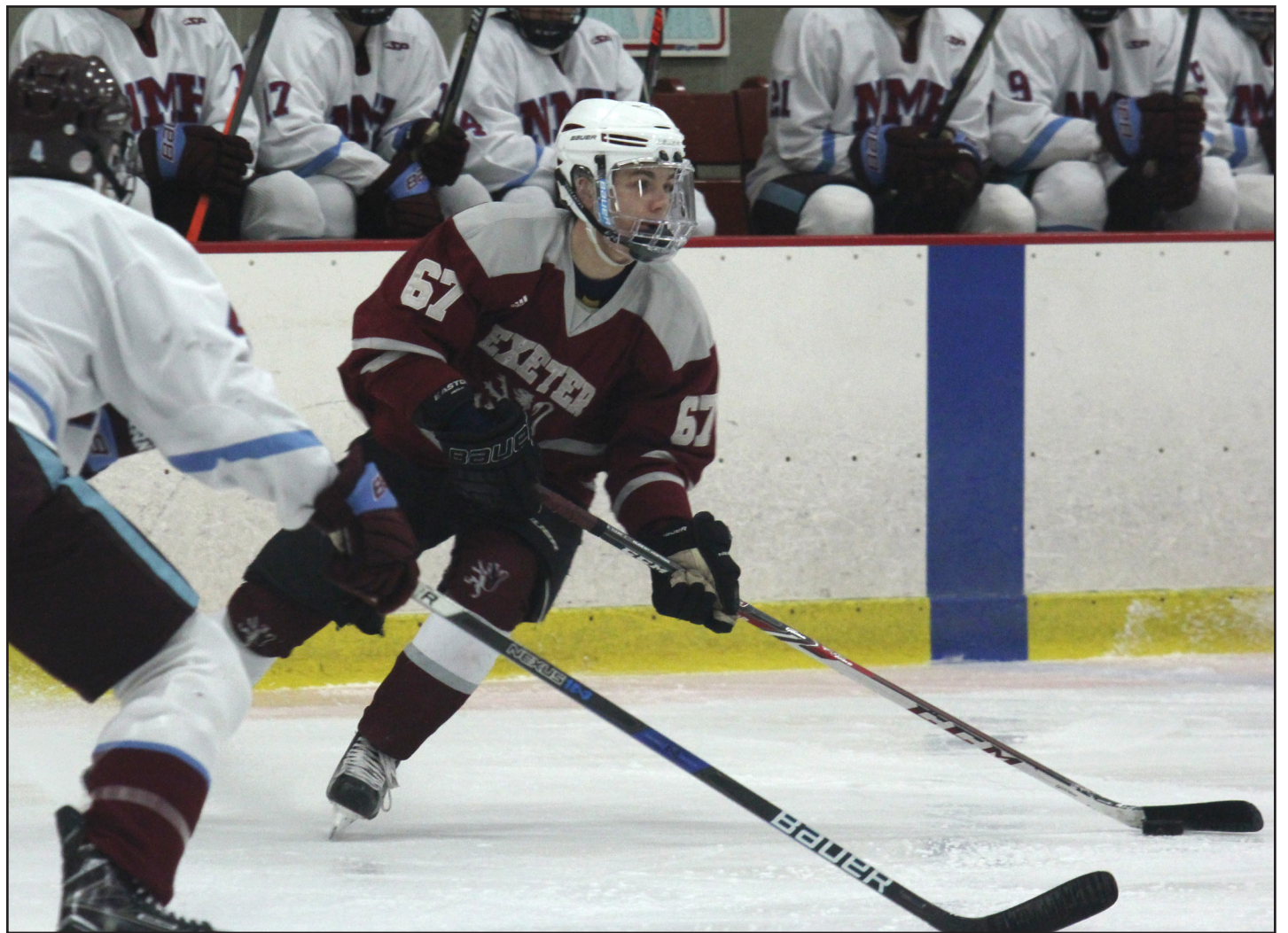
Senior and co-captain Graham Rutledge said that the game against Proctor Academy was a successful win. "They were a strong team and I'm very proud of our boys being able to battle back from a 4-2 deficit," he said.

Part of this win was attributed to senior and co-captain Bradley Ingersoll, who scored two goals in the game on Wednesday. Senior Paul MacDonald and uppers Sam Stone, Bobby Murray and Kyle Jadatz also scored against Hebron.

Rutledge reflected on the Choate game, saying, "Choate wasn't actually a very strong team so we went into that game very confidently." Rutledge praised Murray for a "great game with 4 goals." Other team members echoed this sentiment. Lower Michael Pitts said, "Bobby stole the show."

Senior co-captain Matthew McShea also celebrated upper Cam Speck, saying, "He had an amazing weekend, leading the team with the game-winning goal against Choate." The other two goals in the game were scored by Stone and lower Paddy Bogart, who scored on a quick-release shot.

Murray said the he knew the game against Choate was going to be tough without postgraduate Tim Kalinowski, who injured his back and Sam Stone,



Senior Ryan Moore skates into the offensive zone.

Julia Goydan/The Exonian

who got a shoulder injury in the first period. However, according to Murray, senior Ryan Moore "really came to play." Murray said, "From the bench, Moore was a real vocal leader for the forwards and helped carry us to victory against a solid Choate team. When he did finally get on the ice, his play was definitely noticeable."

Another player who Murray said helped the team was postgraduate Pat Schena, who Murray describes as "a quiet leader on the ice." Murray said

that although Schena did not score a goal, "his presence was definitely felt by Choate, who seemed to be intimidated by his size and strength."

McShea thought the best play of the week was "a great back-checking effort by [senior] Greg Shapiro. It's the little things like that that win games." Reflecting on the team's week, McShea said, "These games taught us to work together!"

This week the team is looking to increase their record to 22 wins and 5

losses with a home game against Northfield Mount Hermon School and an away game against Deerfield Academy.

Lower Garrett Foster said that it is, "a big week," as the team cannot lose any more games if they want to make it to the Elite Eight. "Our backs are up against the wall, but I think that the boys are up for the challenge." If the team is able to win the rest of its four games, it will clinch a spot in the playoffs. After dismal playoff performances in the past years, the boys have their hearts set on winning it all.

Weekend Scoreboard

Boys' Hockey	7	Girls' Basketball	39	Girls' Swimming	107
Choate	1	Worcester	73	Loomis	77
Girls' Hockey	0	Boys' Basketball	63	Boys' Swimming	94
New Hampton	3	Deerfield	37	Loomis	92

Boys' B-Ball Triumphs

By BELLA ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

Ranked number one in the state of New Hampshire, the boys' varsity basketball team has continued to win key games against some of the toughest competition in their league. On Saturday, Feb. 11, boys' varsity basketball crushed Deerfield Academy with a staggering defeat of 63-37.

Senior and co-captain Mitchell Kirsch found that although the opposing players were "tough" and "competitive," Exeter managed to undermine Deerfield's skillset by pushing themselves offensively. He also cited the practices beforehand, which prepared the team to finish through with contact in the game, as a key tool for their win. Kirsch found that their persistence paired with practice wore out the opponents easily. "In the first half, we progressed through our offense," Kirsch explained. "I think the result of that was a tired Deerfield in the second half, because they struggled guarding the same plays we ran in the first half."

Kirsch highlighted lower Alex Swett's contributions as critical to the game. "Alex took a big charge in the second half that showed great commitment to the values of Exeter basketball," Kirsch said. "That play really sparked us." Upper Brian Zhao also praised Swett's role during the second half. "[He] changed the mo-

mentum for the rest of the game." Upper Emmett Shell recognized Swett as well, saying he executed "one of our biggest plays of the year."

Post-graduate Jacob Grandison noted that many bench players got a chance to play during the game. He also commented on the general improvement of the team towards the end of the first half. "We just needed to find our rhythm," Grandison said.

Shell also found that with the second half, Exeter began to return to the basics of the game. "We cut hard, spaced the floor, and played some great defense," he said. "We just got back to playing basketball the way we need to play it."

Most members of the team felt that while the defeat came easily during the last two quarters, Deerfield put up a fight. "They're scrappy and they play very hard," Shell explained. "It was nice to get a win against a sneaky team." Zhao echoed these sentiments, describing Deerfield as pragmatic and determined.

Big Red will face Cushing Academy on Feb. 18, followed by a match against Thayer Academy on Feb. 22. Kirsch commented on his hopes for the future, emphasizing that Exeter has to keep up its rigid determination to win while focusing on the details. "We are at the point in the season where the little things will make the biggest differences," he said. "We just need to continue to tie loose ends and we will be in good shape."



Postgraduate Kyle Copeland dribbles around the arc. Chiara Perroti Correa/The Exonian

InsideSports

Girls' Basketball



Big Red's varsity squad suffered a tough loss to Worcester. Read more on B4.

Chiara Perroti Correa/The Exonian

Athlete of the Week



Senior Darius Kahan is one of the co-captains of the squash team this year. Read more on B5.

Numi Oyebo/The Exonian

Girls' Swimming



Girls' Swimming crushed Loomis 107-77 with many fast swims. Find out more on B5.

Chiara Perroti Correa/The Exonian

SATURDAY GAMES:

G. Hockey	Away	1:30 pm
B. Swimming	Away	2:00 pm
G. Swimming	Away	2:00 pm
B. Squash	Home	3:00 pm
G. Squash	Home	3:00 pm
B. Basketball	Away	3:30 pm
B. Hockey	Away	4:00 pm