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Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire



Seniors in a capella group Exeteras serenade the girls in Wheelwright Hall.

Diana Davidson/The Exonian

Science Department to Offer Dissection-Free Biology Alternative

By EMILY PELLICCIA, ANDREW HONG and ARIELLE LUI
Staff Writers

In response to an initiative by Exeter's Animal Rights Club (ARC), the science department has decided to offer an alternative to animal dissections in introductory biology classes. Students who have demonstrated significant, longstanding objections to dissections can now enroll in separate sections of Biology 220 and 320 that will offer alternative learning aids in place of the traditional dissections.

The curriculum of introductory biology classes places emphasis on student learning through hands-on dissections, with six weeks of the term dedicated to the dissection of a fetal pig in Biology 320. For some students, these dissections are in outright violation of their moral views on animal rights, making it difficult and disturbing to participate in them. Upper Lily Friedland, who spearheaded the initiative, particularly struggled with having to perform dissections in her prep year biology class. According to history instructor Amy Schwartz, who is affiliated with Friedland's dorm, Friedland handled the challenge "exceptionally well," but her choice not to partake in the dissections affected her coursework. "She considered leaving Exeter, and obviously it had been a very tough experience for her," Schwartz said. "I told her that I respected her for taking this principled stand and that if she wanted to do anything specific to follow up, I would support her."

Over the summer of 2015, Schwartz and Friedland laid the groundwork for an Animal Rights Club at Exeter, which began meeting regularly last year. After research-

BIOLOGY, 2

139th Executive Board to Lead *The Exonian*

By HILLARY DAVIS, SARAH RYU and RYAN XIE
Staff Writers

Uppers Emily Pelliccia, Claire Jutabha and Erica Hogan will lead the 139th Editorial Board of *The Exonian* as editor-in-chief and managing editors, respectively.

Every year over Thanksgiving break, applicants for the Upper Board prepare intensive applications comprised of short answers, long essays and example articles. Upon their return to campus, applicants for the Executive Board undergo 15-minute interviews with the current board and the faculty advisers. Last Saturday night, the 138th Executive Board and the paper's advisors met for the careful deliberation that determined the new Editorial Board.

Faculty Advisor and English Instructor Erica Plouffe Lazure explained that through the applications and interviews, the board and advisors got a good sense of the applicants' passion and commitment to the paper. "We look for someone who is going to

be 'the next face of the newspaper'—someone who is responsible, open, has good judgement, works well with peers as well as adults," she said.

Outgoing managing editor Alan Liu described the board's selection process, listing the applicant's written applications, writing skills, past work with the newspaper and leadership capabilities as critical factors in deliberations. The board also considered "an array of traits, like adaptability, approachability, diligence and perceptiveness," he said. "There was never only one deciding factor for any position; each applicant was viewed holistically and with a critical lens."

The 138th board and advisors placed considerable emphasis on selecting a board that would work well together. Outgoing Editor-in-chief Philip Kuhn said, "We tried to think through each applicant's individual strengths and how these strengths would complement one another."

Liu echoed this sentiment. "We looked for a long-standing commitment to the newspaper, diligence and

the ability to communicate well with others, strangers and acquaintances alike," he said. "I'd say those are the bare ingredients of a great editor." Thanks to the 138th board's critical and thorough discussion of each applicant's abilities, Liu expressed confidence in the selected 139th board.

A desire to provide more guidance and support to the staff writers represents a major common goal of the new board. According to Pelliccia, this will not only require certain structural changes, but also a shift in the established culture of *The Exonian*.

"The priority of the 139th Board is to build a culture centered on the success of our writers by providing them with consistent training and support," she said. "We will emphasize the importance of equipping all writers, particularly new ones, with the journalistic skills they need in order to be confident and effective as reporters for *The Exonian*. Our hope is to foster inclusivity and active collaboration between writers and editors."

139TH BOARD, 2

Students React to New Website

By MADISON KANG, GRACE CARROLL and MELISSA LU
Staff Writers

Exeter launched their new website, geared specifically towards prospective students and their families, on Nov. 28. Complete with redesigned interfaces, detailed student and faculty commentary and a revamped infrastructure, the new website aims to provide a more engaging, story-centered and informative experience for its visitors.

According to Director of Communications Robin Giampa, the update aimed to streamline the website for visiting applicants and their families. Part of that goal entailed reallocating internal community resources to more appropriate spaces that have been created since Exeter's previous site was launched in 2006. "At that time there weren't other places to put information geared to internal audiences so the website served a variety of purposes," Giampa said.

Since then, Exeter has shifted several links to its multiple portals for current students and alumni respectively, allowing the new site to be significantly more centered around prospective applicants. Upper Menat Bahnasy agreed that the previous website was in need of an update. "We had seen other school websites



Jutabha, Pelliccia and Hogan to lead *Exonian*.

Diana Davidson/The Exonian

and figured that ours could use a bit of work and a more modern aspect to it," she said. The resulting redesign aimed to increase the "compatibility and accessibility" of the site, while also aimed specifically at prospective Exeter applicants.

The new site now opens up to a series of photos depicting campus life at Exeter, accompanied by clickable links, each offering a different aspect of the student experience. With the new design, student and their stories act as the site's main proponents and sources of information

for visitors. To gather these stories, Exeter hired Windy Films last spring to follow a few Exonians throughout their day on campus, filming their classes, sports, clubs, dorm life and asking them interview questions on camera. The video footage, along with blog-style descriptions of their daily routines, were compiled and uploaded to the new website. These student profiles replaced the "what's my day like?" features of the old website to provide prospective students a more up-to-date portrait of current

NEW WEBSITE, 2

Robinson '04 Presents Climate Change Film

By HANNAH PIETTE, ZAC FENG and ELEANOR MALLETT
Staff Writers

Climate change activist and filmmaker Sophie Robinson '04 spoke at assembly last Tuesday about her documentary, *The Age of Consequences*, which explored the effects of climate change on heightened resource scarcity, conflict and migration through the lens of US national security and global stability. The film will be released in theaters this January, but Robinson allowed Exeter to view a screening of the movie during the evening following the assembly. The film will also screen at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology this winter. Many attended the screening, including The League of Conservation Voters, an organization that assists political candidates who support a pro-environment agenda.

Originally, Robinson reached out to Religion Instructor Kathy Brownback, her former advisor and varsity soccer coach at Exeter, and asked to screen *The Age of Consequences* on campus. Brownback welcomed the request, and the Assembly Committee selected Robinson to hold one of the sustainability themed assemblies for the year.

During her assembly, Robinson described her work as a grassroots organizer with 350.org, a nonprofit dedicated to building a volunteer based global climate movement as well as her transition into filmmaking. While working as an organizer, Robinson began to watch environmental documentaries herself. Stirred by the inspirational power of these films, Robinson left 350.org to create her own documentary.

Hoping to construct a film with a unique angle on climate change, she collaborated with the production company PF Pictures. In order to breach the partisan divide within climate change con-

SOPHIE ROBINSON, 2

INSIDE

NEWS

Read about the trips offered to Exonians over Thanksgiving Break. 3.

Technological glitches lead to scheduling errors. Page 3.

OPINIONS

Columnist and lower Mark Bleckherman discusses crises in Palestine and Israel. 5.

Prep Mai Hong examines the values that female leaders in Eastern Asia are expected to adhere to. 10.

LIFE

Read about Senior Aidan Wolff-King: athlete, musician and committed social activist. 6.

SPORTS

Boys' Wrestling prepares for their season. 12.

WEB



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Robinson Inspires Students

Continued from SOPHIE ROBINSON, 1

versations, Robinson and her team envisioned a film that would appeal to people normally not proactive against climate change. Working backwards from this more conservative demographic, Robinson's team decided to look at the issue through the eyes of the US military. To their surprise, they discovered that members of the military were more than willing to talk to them about climate change, as they themselves saw the deep implications of the symptoms of climate change—drought, food shortages, floods and extreme weather—as “accelerants of instability” and “catalysts for conflict.”

Brownback described Robinson as a “wonderful student” while at Exeter. “Her hat tricks on the soccer field were legendary, and her environmental interests soared when she went off to the Mountain School upper year,” Brownback said. Robinson said that while at the Mountain School, she decided she wanted to return to Exeter, teach environmental science and coach the girls' soccer team.

Robinson aimed to inspire social change with *The Age of Consequences* and to show “young folks the implications and severity of climate change.” She stressed the importance of “a deep understanding of climate change,” especially as the younger generation ages.

After attending Exeter, Robinson attended Williams College and earned degrees in psychology and sustainability. She is currently working to earn a master's degree in sustainability and environmental management from Harvard University.

Robinson was impressed by the interest and engagement of Exonians. “The questions were really thoughtful,” she said. “It seemed like students were excited about a new angle to climate change and thinking about it from a different perspective... students wanted know what they could do to affect climate change.”

Brownback commended Robinson's delivery of her assembly, saying, “She did a great job answering student questions during assembly and in the evening as well.” Other members of the community also praised Robinson's presentation skills and her

new perspective on climate change.

Sustainability Director and English instructor Jason BreMiller lauded how she blended “a deep knowledge of subject matter with an infectious energy and charisma.” He also found the chance for current students to see recent alumni doing powerful work in the field of environmentalism and sustainability powerful, explaining that the communication of her work can inspire and serve as a model for environmentally passionate students who “can more easily envision themselves doing something amazing in the field.”

As BreMiller hoped, lower Daniel Kang found the assembly motivating. “The assembly kicked off a series of really important discussions about our roles as high schoolers,” he said.

Many students found the ideas Robinson conveyed enlightening. Lower Andrew Liquigan described the film as “revolutionary,” saying, “I hadn't considered the security ramifications that could come with a decline in available resources before.”

Lower Grace Gray, who participates in many environmental clubs on campus, said that prior to Robinson's talk and film, she “hadn't heard much about climate change's relation with our national security.” Cohead of Environmental Action Committee upper Jolina Dimen echoed Gray's sentiment, saying, “I hadn't realized how much climate change affected current conflicts before.” Gray continued, saying that it was an “amazing experience” to see the “excitement of Sophie's presentation spreading through the room.”

BreMiller noted the intensity of the film. “It was basically 70 minutes of getting kicked in the stomach,” he said. “It was heavy, but this is heavy subject matter.”

He went on, explaining that, as an educator, seeing alums like Robinson do important work to help prolong the health of humans and the planet helps him “experience meaning in my work.”

Upper Auden Barbour also found the movie inspiring, and praised its unique angle. “[The movie was] especially awesome because of its targeted audience,” she said. “If anything is going to change, more people need to care, and this movie is a perfect example of how we can get people to care.”

Exeter Website Redesigned, Revamped

Continued from NEW WEBSITE, 1

Exonians and their lives at Exeter.

Upper Menat Bahnasy, a student featured on the new website, reflected on the student profiles. “I enjoyed my experience with [the filmmakers]—the filming was never a hindrance,” she said. “The profiles are not a ‘you have to be this to come to Exeter,’ but more of what ‘this is what you can do at Exeter.’”

Since its launch, students have expressed mixed opinions on the website's design. Lower Wynter Tracey praised the videos and felt that they provided a greater dimension to the online experience. “I like the cool videos that they have of individual students—they will probably give a personal view of Exeter life to prospective students.”

Lower Elizabeth Madamidola agreed with Tracey, adding that the new site offers personal insight into Exeter from academics to dorm life. “My favorite part of the new website is being able to look directly at the students' experience with the personal blogs and interactive videos on aspects of Exonian life,” she said. “For example, I saw upper Charlotte Polk's video on Harkness education and an article on roommate life with lowers Tara Weil and Isadora Kron. I feel like if I were an applicant, I'd know much more about Exeter.”

Others have admired the smoother design of the new interface. Prep Jill Cloonan said, “I like the modern design and the menu tab, which makes all the links available at once.”

Tracey, however, expressed dissatisfaction with the new website's color scheme. “I'm a little confused about the layout,” she said. “There are a bunch of colors, like orange and purple, that are not our school colors.”

Many students have expressed difficulty and frustration navigating the website, as many student and alumni resources are no longer displayed. The information and technology (IT) department explained, “Part of streamlining the public site included moving any pages that aren't relevant to our primary audi-

ence to the appropriate portals.”

With the primary audience being prospective applicants, the website is no longer focused on Exeter's internal community.

Despite difficulties navigating the new website, many students acknowledged its compatibility with Exeter applicants, concluding its utility to prospective students ultimately outweighed the minor inconveniences now faced by current Exonians. “I think people are disappointed in the website because it's a bit difficult to use, but it will be helpful to applicants and new students,” upper Matt Alburn said.

Upper Molly Canfield agreed. “I've had a hard time locating resources, like the math text, on the new website,” she said. “But I think for new students or people interested in applying to Exeter, the website is great. It's very visual and easy to explore for new families.”

Giampa noted the especially positive feedback on how “exciting and engaging” the new site was. “Users love the video and storytelling, which are both essential building blocks to the new website,” she said.

As for any future additions to the site, “the storytelling will continue, as will the addition of video and photography,” Giampa said. She emphasized the website's mission to connect with prospective students and allow them to imagine their life at Exeter.

Bahansay admitted that the website hadn't been completely satisfactory to new students. “With new things, there are always things that could go wrong,” she said. However, she believes that the update had, on a larger scale, resolved all the issues it originally set out to fix. Giampa explained the updated website provides prospective applicants with a more modern, comprehensive and accurate image of Exeter. “The new site tells stories in a different way—more people-centric so prospective students can see themselves here,” she said.

139th *Exonian* Board Announced

Continued from 139TH BOARD, 1

Jutabha's short-term goals for the paper align with Pelliccia's ideas. “I hope that we can make changes early in the year so that the 139th board can start off efficiently,” she said. “These changes will be things such as extending writers' meetings and communicating effectively with the staff writers.”

Hogan agreed, and added that the 139th board is hoping to emphasize the importance of training their staff. “During my tenure as a writer, I saw a need for more guidance in the writing process,” she said. “*The Exonian* has had somewhat of a sink-or-swim environment in the past. The 139th board hopes to change that.”

As part of the effort to meet this goal, upper Willa Canfield will serve as the Director of Writing, working closely with writers through weekly workshops, training sessions and conferences in order to improve the journalistic strength of the Lower Board.

The outgoing editors and faculty advisors for *The Exonian* expressed confidence and enthusiasm for the 139th board's future. English instructor and faculty advisor to *The Exonian* Elizabeth Dean said, “I'm excited to work with a new board that I know to

be empathetic and prepared to engage with stories and sources as deeply as they do sensitively.”

Pelliccia commended her fellow Executive Board members. “Erica and Claire both bring significant experience and knowledge to the board,” she said. “I have worked with them over the course of the past year as staff writers and seen their creativity, strong reporting skills and commitment to the paper.”

Kuhn expressed his faith in the 139th board and lauded its new members. “I am very excited to pass the torch over to a group of energetic and thoughtful editors,” he said. “Throughout the board turnover process they all demonstrated a strong understanding of our newspaper's values, a genuine passion for journalistic writing and, most importantly, many fresh ideas they were eager to start developing.”

Pelliccia too expressed excitement at the prospect of leading *The Exonian* for the next three terms, saying “I look forward to working with the talented members of the 139th Board to promote a supportive and inclusive environment for our writers, train them to become stronger journalists, and preserve the values of accuracy, quality and integrity that define *The Exonian*.”

Students Petition Science Dept.

Continued from BIOLOGY CLASSES, 1

ing alternative learning aids adopted by other schools, club members lower Anna Clark and upper Emmett Shell, along with Friedland and Schwartz, approached biology teachers to discuss a way to support students who opposed dissections. In a meeting last spring, ARC presented their beliefs and fielded questions from the department. Science instructor Anne Rankin, who had been Friedland's teacher prep year, said, “We were incredibly impressed with their preparation for that meeting, with the tone they took with us and the approach they took to the issue. We heard their concern and we wanted to react to it at an appropriate way.”

Faculty members expressed several concerns during the meeting, including that many students are initially squeamish about dissection but end up learning a great deal from it, and that alternative learning tools might not be as detailed and effective as dissections. In addition, scheduling and staffing alternative sections of biology could be burdensome for the department and the scheduler. Finally, some teachers worried that students who express a desire to avoid dissection might not be truly committed to animal rights—for instance, they might be meat-eaters. However, according to Schwartz, “the students had good answers in response to these various challenges.” Despite observing that some teachers appeared skeptical, Schwartz recalled that they were all listening very carefully to the students. “It was a very productive meeting,” she concluded.

ARC expected to have another meeting with the science department, but the members were excited to learn at the end of this fall that the faculty had voted to create separate sections of both Biology 220 and 320 in which students could enroll after submitting a statement explaining their ethical objections to dissections and their demonstrated dedication to animal rights. “ARC was very happily surprised by this,” upper Emmett Shell explained. He went on, saying, “I think bio teachers actually care about animal rights more than may meet the eye.” Crediting the department for being so open-minded, Shell said, “I think it's amazing, rare and special that a small group of students who really cared about a cause could bring about a huge change in the policy of an entire department.”

Schwartz echoed his amazement. “In my 16 years here, I cannot remember a department changing its curriculum in such a fundamental way solely because students asked it to do so,” she observed. Expressing her confidence that the policy change will have positive effects, making biology even more accessible and enjoyable to students, she said, “It made me proud to work here, to know them and to have been a part of it.”

Lower Anna Clark noted that while she does not think there is anything wrong with people who do choose to do dissections, she finds fault with the inhumane methods practiced at certain breeding facilities. “There are many alternatives to dissections that have been tested and shown to work just as well,” Clark said.

“There are online dissection simulations of many animals from frogs to cats to fetal pigs, and there are even some three-dimensional models.”

Similarly, senior Connie Cai recognized that while there is definite scientific merit in doing dissections, especially for learning and visualising biological systems, she is “all for being flexible with people who have legitimate moral concerns with animal dissections.” In her opinion, offering an alternative to dissections might in fact be even more convenient, and “as long as they can still learn the same amount, there's no net loss to anyone.”

As Clark pointed out, research has documented the effectiveness of using dissection alternatives in teaching anatomy, and in most cases, students who participated in the alternative performed as well or better than students who did the dissection. Shell, who shares Clark's opposition to dissections on ethical grounds, agreed that dissecting animals might not be outdated, provided that the animal is not killed solely for dissection, but failing to offer students with an alternative is “certainly outdated.”

Other schools, including Tabor Academy, have moved towards implementing dissection alternatives in their biology curriculum. According to Rankin, Tabor ran a small trial with one group of students watching videos of dissection, another performing the actual dissection and the third making models of an organ out of clay; in a common assessment at the end, the group who had worked with clay scored the highest. “That makes us curious about what we can find that could be genuinely hands on and provide the some of the same aspects as dissection without using the actual animal,” Rankin said. “We're in a bit of uncharted territory,” she continued, saying, “I'm guessing it's not going to be simply video dissection, it's not going to be pictures. We're going to be looking for a richer and more rigorous alternative than either of those, but we're excited to do that work with kids who are interested to do it with us.”

Though the biology teachers still feel that dissection is a valuable experience for the vast majority of students without moral objections, the department wanted and ultimately decided to respect those few students who do. Science teacher Townley Chisholm expressed regret that some students would not benefit from the learning opportunities offered by dissection and said, “Our course catalog makes the value we place on learning from dissections very clear, and I am sorry to see students miss out on that learning, though I certainly recognize the sincerity and admire the kindness behind the request for an alternative.”

Rankin pointed out that the biology curriculum should be accessible to all students, even those who oppose dissection. “My personal opinion is that I love biology, and I want to share that with kids in a way that does not oppose their moral position,” she said. “I think the world needs more people with strong moral positions, and as a teacher I feel like my job is to respect those moral positions that students have devoted a lot of time and energy towards.”

Dance Clubs Protest, Assembly Canceled

By JACQUELINE CHO,
DON ASSAMONGKOL
and HILLARY DAVIS

Following an administrative ban on unsupervised practice in the Davis Dance Studio, dance groups decided to not perform at dance assembly this fall. However, they still planned to speak in assembly and address the impact of these changes on their rehearsal schedules, but the assembly was unexpectedly canceled and replaced with a faculty meeting.

Two weeks before the assembly, senior Kesi Wilson sent an email to instructor in Dance and Theater Allison Duke on behalf of all the dance groups which informed her that they would not participate in the Fall Dance Assembly. Each individual club created a list describing how the changes have limited the quality of being a part of these groups on campus and planned to expand on these issues to highlight the impact of the administration's seemingly minor decisions. However, the coheads were dismayed to learn that the time they had planned to speak in assembly had been dismissed.

Even though some dance groups were ready to perform, coheads collectively determined that the decision to not dance would ultimately benefit all groups through weeks of discussion. "We chose not to [perform] because we wanted to stand in solidarity with the groups that weren't ready," senior Jada Huang said. Instead, the assembly would have served as an outlet for the students affected by the new restrictions to voice their concerns.

With the weight room renovation and the designation of various rooms in the gym as sports practice rooms, dance clubs practices were restricted to the small dance studio during Davis' open hours. However, clubs such as Lionettes and Shakti found themselves working in a squash court during the second half of fall term because of the reduced hours. The restrictions were set in order to keep unsupervised students safe from accidents during practices as well as dangers outside and around practice spaces.

Student Center Assistant Sibila Fisher, one of the paid monitors who has spent some of their time supervising dance practices, said, "You don't know if there's going to be a confrontation with somebody from outside or if you're going to hurt yourselves and things can escalate." She emphasized the importance of having an adult present in the event of emergency because students do not always have access to their phones and campus security does not respond immediately.

The decision to restrict hours was made without consultation of any of the the dance club coheads, resulting in frustration directed towards the administration. Senior Ore Solanke, a cohead of Imani, Precision and ABS, felt as though "the dance clubs were disregarded and treated as an afterthought even though we perform at many school events."

The abrupt decision forced some dance groups to cancel meetings that lead up to the fall dance assembly because there was no time to reschedule the rehearsals. Upper Alexis Lee, a cohead of the dance group InMotion, expressed her frustrations. "We had to scramble for a few weeks to find a space," Lee said. "[That] cost us a lot of time so when the time came to perform, we weren't as ready as we wanted to be."

Moreover, the new spaces where the dance groups relocated to were not ideal as there were no mirrors or speakers. "We couldn't see our reflections in the mirror which makes perfecting our technique harder," Lee commented. Some groups had to relocate to unofficial practice spaces as well. Huang, a cohead of the dance group Beat of Asia, relayed that her dance group practiced at the Assembly Hall without official permission.

Club heads felt that the Student Activities Department had not provided them with ample time to practice for performances and disregarded the effort that dancers put into each piece. There is yet to be a set schedule for practices, and there is still not enough supervised time for each dance group to practice. Currently, dance clubs practice based on the availability of adult monitors.

Duke admitted that the abrupt change had caused inconveniences for many of the dance clubs, especially for those that had planned to perform solely at the assembly. However, she also noted that the adult monitor system had greatly improved the situation and hopes that the Exeter community will be able to watch the dancers on stage this term. "Now, the administration and student activities have worked hard to provide building monitors in Davis, so dance clubs can rehearse and prepare for winter assembly and winter E/a pep rally."

Students Travel Over Thanksgiving Break

By MADISON KANG
and PHILIP KUHN
Staff Writers

While much of the community headed home to their families for Thanksgiving Break, over 20 students instead dispersed across the country to Arizona, Alabama and California to participate in three different trips hosted by the Academy. Students were given the opportunity to sea kayak across the Point Reyes peninsula in California, hike and camp around the Grand Canyon or visit the Equal Justice Initiative and other historically important landmarks in Montgomery for the chance to grapple with past and present societal injustices.

According to Director of Global Initiatives Eimer Page, the programs had open applications last spring that were distributed to both current and newly accepted students who began attending the Academy in the fall. The selections were made by each program director in collaboration with Page, the Dean of Students office and the health team. Financial aid was made available to students receiving aid during the regular session at the Academy, and priority was given to students who could not easily return home over the break.

Page said that the trips that take place over break typically have either a strong curriculum tie or "link our students to fascinating people and places outside our campus," and they are selected each year by the Off-Campus Committee. "Through these programs, I hope students will have the opportunity to broaden their perspectives," she added. These trips aim to help students make connections with new people while educating them about a place, organization or skill. Page believes that such experiences rejuvenate the mind and foster leadership skills while developing the ability to function in a team.

Ten Exonians traveled with instructors from the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) to Point Reyes in California, where they sea kayaked along the Point Reyes Peninsula, went backpacking, acquired outdoor leadership skills and encountered wildlife such as seals, tule elk, egrets and sting rays. The students were accompanied by

Community Service Coordinator Elizabeth Reyes, an outdoor enthusiast and avid sea kayaker who built her own 17-foot long kayak 13 years ago.

Harkness education was integrated with NOLS instruction so that students could participate in open dialogue throughout their outdoor leadership training, reflections on daily progress and so that they could learn how to extend and challenge themselves.

The adventurers learned and lived by a "leave-no-trace" philosophy, which urged them to minimize their environmental impact. For example, they lit their nighttime campfires near high tides so the embers would be washed away from the beach by the next morning. Reyes approved of this lifestyle. "If we continue to keep educating people on how to leave no trace, then we'll be able to have the outdoors to continue using for years to come," she said.

Upper Emma Paltrow, who journeyed to California, described her trip as a bonding experience for the Exonian travelers. "Every night after dinner, it was freezing cold, but a solid percent of the group, would huddle together," she said. "I was with a really good group of people that I wouldn't have typically spoken to prior to going on the trip."

Senior Autumn Herness, another NOLS student, appreciated having the opportunity to interact with her peers in a setting outside of the busy school routine. "We talked about stuff we don't usually have time to talk about at Exeter," she said. "I really enjoyed having time with them in an environment other than school."

Paltrow praised Exeter's management of the NOLS trip. "The school was very good about debriefing us on everything we needed to bring and even provided for us through their storage area," she said. "The travel was well-organized. I was never scared or worried about logistics."

Another eight Exonians traveled to Arizona where they got the chance to explore the local geology and ecosystems of the Grand Canyon, as well as observe the canyon's natural beauty, along with science instructors Townley Chisholm and Albert Leger. While cold weather and snow created difficult conditions for the beginning of the trip,

the group came properly equipped with tents and sleeping bags to set up camping grounds outside. They cooked their own meals throughout the trip.

Leger praised the students on the trip for their constant positivity despite the unusually cold weather. He especially enjoyed getting to know the group and giving them the opportunities to explore the extensive geology of the canyon. "As a geologist, the Grand Canyon is the most fantastic geology textbook in the world. It is all there—we have about a 2 billion year history right there in front of us, ready to be read," he said.

After hiking to the bottom of the Canyon and back up again, the group spent the last few days of the trip in the Navajo Nation: a Native American-governed US territory. The members got the chance to learn the history and lifestyle of a completely different group of Americans as they met different local guides who recited the area's history orally and told stories of the Anasazi, who settled in the area over a thousand years ago.

Upper Michael Bamah, one of the students of the trip, described visiting the Navajo Nation as a huge highlight of the trip. While he applied for the trip with only knowledge of the hiking part, getting a chance to learn about completely different culture came as a pleasant surprise.

Several students also traveled to the historical sites around Montgomery, Alabama. The trip focussed on American History as it frames current events and social injustices. It was inspired by a desire to seek action following MLK Day.

No matter which trip students want to attend, Paltrow encouraged future Exonian travelers to venture in the expedition opportunities that Exeter provides. "If people are debating whether or not to go on the trip because they are worried about going too far out of their comfort zone, I don't think that should be a major concern," she said. "I was terrified before the trip, but now I am more confident in skills that I would have never been willing to explore."

Reyes also recommended outdoor excursions. "It takes courage to be make that step and apply to go, and students weren't comfortable at the beginning,

System Glitches Cause Scheduling Errors

By BELLA ALVAREZ and
ROSE HOROWITZ

Staff Writers

The Sunday before the start of Winter term, Exeter students anxiously refreshed their internet browsers, waiting to receive their schedules. For a few Exonians, that moment never came. Other students received schedules with incorrect classes or multiple courses during the same formats. Some were saddened to learn that they had not been placed in the classes they had requested.

According to Exeter's new scheduling coordinator Julia Looi, the system underwent several glitches in the process of developing the schedule for winter term. Exeter uses CRI-MSS, an algorithm that builds the master schedule from students' registrations and department staffing each term.

After Looi compiled the master schedules in this algorithm, she downloaded each schedule into PEA's student system, Colleague. However, the download process stalled, which Looi credited to a network blip. The second time she ran the downloading process, it inexplicably skipped through 40 class registrations, causing those classes to be excluded from the affected students' schedules. Looi was forced to add these classes back manually.

Looi was unaware of a major glitch within the system. "Within MMS, the scheduling office is able to group relevant students into specific classes," she said, giving the example of sorting preps into physics classes meant for preps, and non-preps into other physics sections. However, MMS did not maintain those specific groups during the download. Instead of keeping the groups intact, MMS rearranged the scheduling without considering the student's class level. Looi explained that she didn't know about this error until it was reported to her, so she was forced to move students' classes herself after the schedule was released.

Lower Evan Vogelbaum was one of the students affected by this glitch. He was placed into the wrong physics level, but after emailing Looi, his schedule was fixed immediately. "When I brought the error to the scheduler's attention, it was promptly taken care of," Vogelbaum said. His English class was

also scheduled during the same block as his physics class, which lead to another scheduling conflict.

Looi described the errors as "relatively minor," because it only impacted around 4 or 5 students. "MMS scheduled [some] students in two classes that met in the same format," she said. "Typically, MMS would flag an error, and prevent the potential conflict from happening, but it did not perform the check this time." Looi emphasized that she has marked this as a technical bug and is waiting to hear back from the vendor of the MMS software.

Students also complained about not receiving their first choice in classes due to another scheduling error that caused certain classes to only be offered in specific formats. Senior Cory Mengden described his plight, saying, "The scheduler gave me an ultimatum in which I would have to switch my English class to a completely different course." Mengden added, "I don't think it's very just that I couldn't be in all the classes I signed up for." He had signed up for both concert choir and English. However, the two courses were both scheduled during A format, and therefore Mengden could not be in concert choir. Mengden said that this was a disappointment, explaining that he had been involved in concert choir since his prep year. He added that the concert choir director was "very saddened by this news that I couldn't be in the ensemble this term."

Although Looi understood the frustration that many students felt, she highlighted the fact that students and faculty had unclear expectations about when schedules were displayed in different systems. These systems include LionLinks, where the scheduler releases a list of every student's

courses, Canvas, where teachers typically post assigned homework and tests and students can check which peers are in their classes; and OLS, a block-by-block schedule which maps out the entire term. "I feel that a lot of confusion could have been avoided if it was known that OLS and Canvas were not set up for real-time updates from the Colleague system," she said. When Looi was downloading the winter schedule in Colleague, students reported that they were unable to see their schedules in OLS, and faculty reported that they were unable to see their rosters in Canvas. At that time, however, Looi still had her hands full trying to ensure that LionLinks displayed the correct schedules for all students.

Looi acknowledged that her lack of experience as a scheduler was a bit of a hindrance. "I did not know that when a student changed their language, science or math course mid-way during the fall term, I should have changed their winter courses in the sequence as well," Looi said. "That oversight caused a few students to be in the wrong classes after the term started. With regards to this, I definitely learnt my lesson."

Looi also mentioned that she had not been trained to deal with any of the aforementioned situations and it was difficult to tackle this challenge for the first time. Looi hopes that in the future, students will reach out to her and let her know if any scheduling problems occur. "I also have an expectation that students would also check their schedules during add/drop and before term starts and therefore, would help me catch any corrections needed on their schedules," she said. "Fortunately, many students do check their schedules ahead of time, and that has helped me a lot so far."



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ExonianHumor



Top 10 Worst Things About the Old Humor Editors

By THE HUMOR EDITORS
All oF Them

1. They hate children.
2. They all smell bad.
3. Oh, Majestic! So good to see you!
4. We were just talking about you!
5. You want to look at my article?
6. No, don't lock us in there!!
7. No, don't drag us away from the keyboarddddghk
8. They are all very, very funny people.
9. Seriously, so funny. So attractive, too. The dankest.
10. Everyone loves Philip Kuhn memes, right?

Donald Trump's To-Do List

By BILLY O'HANDLEY
Gets to Write Bylines Now

1. Shopping: Milk, Eggs, Wife (10), Cheeto brand face cream, Lettuce.
2. Cabinet: Bridge guy (Fat), New York Mayor, Suck-up (Racist?), Breitbart guy (Racist).
3. Colors: Red, Blue, Violet (Blue? Purple?), Magenta (Purple), Green, Turquoise (Ask Bridge Guy).
4. Supreme Court: Judge Judy, Judge who doesn't like women (Gays?), Reanimated corpse of Ronald Reagan (already spinning).
5. Numbers: 100, 39, 100000 (Yuge?), 9700000000 (Yuge), 45.
6. Words: Yuge, Bigly (Big League?), Great, Sad, Bad.
7. Bucket list: Yellow bucket, Blue bucket, Beach bucket (Sandcastle!), Water bucket.
8. Build: Wall, Bench, Roof (Mexico?), Water fountain, Building.
9. Presidential things: Find ghost of Lincoln, play with the nuclear launch codes, ask Bill Clinton to recommend an intern.
10. China: Cheinna, Chiiiiina, Cheiiiiiiiiinnnnnnaaaaa.
11. Putin: Best friend spa trip, Best friend bike ride, Best friend war against Canada.

TFW You Think "Control+Z" is a Rapper

By EMILY GREEN and BILLY O'HANDLEY
He Actually Said This



Emily Green's Christmas List

By EMILY GREEN
Author of This List

All I want for Christmas is...

1. To be featured as the Athlete of the Week.
2. An investment portfolio.
3. A signed copy of Bee Movie—signed, of course, by the bees.
4. A good math grade.
5. A stockpile of non-perishables for when Trump takes over.
6. A tractor to get in touch with my Midwestern roots.
7. A D² giftcard to fuel my addiction.
8. A firm handshake (and a side of prolonged eye contact) with Principal MacFarlane.
9. World peace.
10. A small Welsh village.
11. A dinner date with young Tim Kaine.
12. The blood of a unicorn.
13. Chocolate to eat away the pain.
14. A dreidel.
15. Friends.
16. YO OOOOUUUUUUUUUU! (Baby!)

Is your life a joke?

Make lemonade out of lemons.

Email exonianhumor@gmail.com.

My Black Friday Brush with the United States of Consumerism

By EMILY GREEN
Festive

It's that time of year again, Exeter. Everything is merry, snow is on the ground and all the shops are decorated in tinsel and lights. No, I'm not talking about Christmas. I'm talking about everyone's favorite season: consumerist season.

You smell that in the air? No, it's not the smell of cookies. It's not the smell of gingerbread. It's not even the smell of fresh baked ham. It's the smell of pure, unadulterated capitalism. Yum.

We all know there's nothing more jolly than the use of a religious holiday to enhance one's company's own capitalist ventures. So to partake with caution in this classic American tradition, I, Emily Green, went Black Friday shopping. And somehow, I emerged victorious, having not been made another pawn in the cruel consumerist game of Christmas shopping.

It all started on Thanksgiving. While my mom cooked dinner, I looked through the Black Friday leaflets, circling the best deals and things I wanted with a Sharpie marker while the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade played in the background. (Some bonus capitalism). Suddenly, I came across a coupon in the Boston Store leaflet. It was a coupon for \$10 off any item \$10 or more. What an incredible deal! (So I thought). I could get a free item. (So I thought).

Once I'd eaten until I looked five months pregnant with a food baby and took a turkey-induced nap, I was

ready to roll. I got up, put on some winter clothes and jumped into the car with my family. I was a woman on a mission.

After hitting up Kohl's for an incredible deal on sweaters, we made our way to Boston Store. I clutched the coupon in my chronically sweaty hands. Upon entering the store, I read the back of the coupon to figure out the exclusions. Turns out, most of the store was an exclusion. In fact, for the first twenty minutes of my quest, I couldn't find a single item that wasn't excluded. The shoes I liked were already on sale: excluded. The blouse I liked was a name brand: excluded. The makeup I liked was makeup: excluded.

Eventually, I gave in and asked someone who worked there for help finding something—anything—that the coupon was applicable to. She pointed to a single pair of hideous old lady shoes. I asked if there was anything else, and she told me to look for any rack marked with a purple tag that said "Use your coupons here!"

With that knowledge, I continued my search, now a scavenger hunt for purple tags. There were purple tags on some overpriced Birkenstocks, but \$10 off of expensive is still expensive, so I kept looking. In the back of the store, I found some ugly scarves, hats and bags with the purple tags that were about \$20 each. But that wasn't good enough. I was determined to beat the game. I needed to find an object I could get for free.

After about an hour of searching, I found a clothing rack with nice, simple blouses. It had the purple coupon tag on in, and some of the shirts were \$9.99. Success! I would get a blouse for free! I grabbed a navy one and brought it to the cash register, then triumphantly handed the cashier my coupon. Except she didn't take the coupon. She just stared at me, a confused look on her face.

"That coupon doesn't apply."

I was shocked, "Why not?"

"The coupon applies to things that are \$10 or more. That shirt is \$9.99."

I generally think of myself as a strong person, but never in my life have I been closer to sobbing in the middle of a department store.

"Nevermind," I said. I felt completely defeated.

"Please don't cry," my mom said impassionately. But I wasn't sad. I was angry.

I turned around and walked towards the door.

On the way out, I saw a cute jacket that wasn't included but was on sale. I tried it on. It fit perfectly. But then my mom made a good point.

"You realize that if you buy the jacket, they win."

She was right. I took off the jacket, hung it back up, and stormed out of the store.

I may not have won the game of capitalism, but at least I didn't become a pawn in it.

A Prophecy

By EMILY GREEN and BILLY O'HANDLEY
The Chosen Ones



Mila DeGuere/We Stole It From Facebook

Exonian Upset That He is Spending Winter Break in Paris and Not Barbados

By MAJESTIC TERHUNE
Travel Agent

"It came out of nowhere," said a trembling Tray Kluvian. "The plan had been Barbados. The plan had always been Barbados. But then I got a call."

Kluevian, an upper from Greenwich, Connecticut, recently suffered from a FaceTime conversation with his mother. One Sunday morning, Jennifer Kleuevian explained to her son that instead of spending the two weeks of December in Barbados, they'd visit France.

"Who does that? It's winter. I want to be warm and relaxed, not French." Tray had written a strongly worded email to his mother, but

ended up deleting the draft after consulting her secretary about it.

After spending hours searching for someone who might call him or herself Tray's friend, *The Exonian* found Stacy Campbell, a student in Tray Kluevian's English class.

"You know, I can't say a lot about Tray," stated Campbell. "For a while I did not like him because he almost never shows up to class and thinks he's discreet when using his hoverboard, even though everyone knows. But at the same time, he buys us food at least once a week so I can't say anything too mean."

At the end of our interview,

Tray KLOOOOOVIAN confided in the journalists of *The Exonian*. "I think I have to run away," he concluded. "If my parents don't respect me, if they can't follow through on their word, then why should I even stick around? That's just giving them the power to walk all over me."

After walking around town for two hours, Tray sobbed and returned to his dorm room to find a voicemail left on his phone.

"As it turns out," said Tray Kluvian, "we are going to Barbados this break! France is for spring break, not winter."

Joke of the Week

"I don't always tell Dad jokes. But when I do, he laughs."

-Sam Michaels, '19

Do you think you're funny? Do you want to prove it to your friend? Send a joke or quote to @billyfromcille, @green_beans or @senorblaise on Snapchat. We'll be happy that someone finally slid into our DMs!



ExeterLife



Diana Davidson/The Exonian

Senior Kelechi Nwankwoala performs at Lamont Gallery coffeehouse last Friday

Dr. Romano Presents Archaeological Discovery

By JOONHO JO, DON
ASSAMONGKOL AND SARAH RYU
Staff Writers

Karabots Professor of Greek Archaeology Dr. David Gilman Romano delivered a lecture on and answered questions about his discoveries at Mt. Lykaion in Greece during a lecture hosted by the Classics Department last Friday. Romano, who now works at the University of Arizona, started working as a graduate student in Arcadia, Greece over forty years ago.

After describing his experiences during the excavation, Romano presented a particularly intriguing find—one which could suggest that human sacrifices were part of the ancient civilization in Greece. He showed images of the remains of an almost fully intact human skeleton, buried in a disheveled way, that he and his team discovered this past summer.

Its body faced due West, almost exactly perpendicular to the direction that the stone altar base faced. Rather

than being buried in the usual ceremonial fashion, its chest was covered in pieces of stone and it lay surrounded by plates of stone stuck into the ground facing lengthwise up. Interestingly, Romano and his team did not find the cromium when they excavated the site.

Romano expressed pleasure with the finding, especially in light of the many years that led up to his discovery. As well as spending between 8 to 10 hours on the site each day with his assistants and director, he had to submit and present a proposal to the Greek Archaeological service. "We [had] a team of forty people," he said. "Ten of them were assigned to the altar, and so we had a specific idea about what we were going to do and specific place to be dug."

Many mysteries remain unsolved, but there have been multiple hypotheses surrounding the corpse and its

enigmatic burial. The most popular theory that the body was used in a human sacrificial ritual, went viral on the internet soon after Romano's discovery, thanks to media outlets such as *The Guardian* and the *Smithsonian's Smart News*. Romano expressed concern with this coverage because of the uncertainty of the hypothesis.

In reaction to Romano's discovery, lower Michaela Phan expressed her interest in following up on the mystifying. "It was really interesting how there is so much left unsolved," she said. "I'm really interested in what they will say about the body, and how they'll explain what happened, so I'm definitely going to look out for the articles about the C14 results."

Upper Evan Saltman lauded Romano's presentation, explaining that it has inspired in him an interest in archaeology. "I learned about the process;

looking for clues and then actually going and discovering artifacts," he said. "I'm looking forward to when they find either more bodies, or come to a conclusion on the one that they found."

Not only did Romano share his firsthand experience, he also offered students the opportunity of attending the archeological dig at Mt. Lykaion next summer, explaining that three recent Exeter graduates had already worked at the site when the skeleton was discovered.

Lower Janeva Dimen commended Romano's seminar. Dimen, who spent her July at an archeological dig in Bibracte, appreciated the new perspective on archaeology Romano presented. "One important thing I learned from Dr. Romano is that the process of archaeology is perpetual," she said. "There are always more questions to ask and theories to consider."

"Elf" Movie Review



By BIANCA BECK
Staff Writer

"Elf," a Christmas movie starring Will Ferrell, is about a man, named Buddy, who was raised as one of Santa's elves. Accidentally brought back to the North Pole when he was a toddler, he feels out of place among his elf counterparts. He decides to travel to New York City as an fully grown adult in search of his biological father. Through navigating the foreign concrete jungle of New York, Buddy eventually finds his father, businessman Walter Hobbs, who is less than pleased to see his son. Once a DNA test proves that Buddy is indeed Walter's child, he hesitantly allows Buddy into his life. However, Buddy's childish behavior, a result of his having never been a normal member of society, constantly irritates Walter and gets them both into trouble. Will Walter learn to love his son, despite their differences?

One could watch this movie at any age, which is what makes it so charming, and also gets it good reviews. "Elf" has an approval rating of 84 percent on Rotten Tomatoes, and is introduced as "a movie full of Yuletide cheer." The review continues, "Elf" is a spirited, good-natured family comedy, owing greatly to Ferrell's funny and charming performance as one of Santa's biggest helpers." "Elf" was also nominated for nine awards and won two: the 2004 ASCAP award for Top Box Office Films, and the 2004 Golden Trailer for best Comedy.

Some people may think that this movie only elicits surface level laughter and cringing, but I don't think it's that simple. Although "Elf" is hilarious, its deeper meaning—a comment on tolerating people of different cultures and societies—lies under Ferrell's laugh-out-loud humor. I'm an international student, and seeing Buddy, who is a complete outcast in the metropolitan New York society, was somewhat comforting, even if the movie takes the foreign-ness to an extreme. It outlines what some people consider "normal" in a society and what's considered "normal" for a person's behavior, although there really is no such thing as "normal." The movie shows

that one must take into account other people's backgrounds, although their social norms may vary drastically from our own.

Ferrell is absolutely fantastic in this movie. He portrays Buddy as a man with a simple mind and a childish outlook. He exaggerates the character at times, but that makes the movie funnier. I love "Elf," not only because it is a great holiday classic to watch with friends and family, but also because of its lovable characters. The main character, Buddy, has such a simple personality that there are no ulterior motives to anything Buddy does. Even if there was one, there would definitely be good intentions behind them. I found comfort in his blatant happiness and painful awkwardness. To be honest, I could really relate to it myself.

In terms of comedy, this movie is hilarious, although sometimes Buddy's awkwardness makes you cringe more than it make you laugh. His happy outlook on life starkly contrasts his cynical father's point of view, which often leads to hilarious jokes. One laughs at Buddy's awkwardness, at how his attempts to "help" people just make the situation worse, and at the times when Buddy's plain cute view of things makes one smile. There's no way one won't laugh, or at least smile, throughout the movie.

"Elf" is also a great movie about family. The saying "You can't choose your family" is strongly emphasized throughout. Every time Walter tries to kick Buddy out of his life, he always manages to get back in it. This isn't necessarily because he wants to, but simply because they are a family. They are always in each other's lives whether they like it or not. Because of this, Walter eventually finds things in Buddy that he genuinely loves, and over time, he sees Buddy as his son, rather than a nuisance.

Overall, "Elf" is a great movie for you and your family or friends to watch on a cold winter night, when you need some warmth and a good laugh.

Life Advice

By BELLA EDO
Contributing Writer

Hi everyone!

As we near the end of these two weeks before winter break, I've answered some questions about winter term, Exeter and life in general!

Is winter term as bad as everyone makes it out to be?

Winter term doesn't have to be bad if you have a good attitude about it!! There's no doubt the cold, the short days and the homework can make winter term feel a little suffocating at times, but how you get through it really depends on your mindset. I've found that having things you look forward to every day or every week can really help when winter term starts to feel really dreary. It can be planning an outing to Portsmouth to get dinner and go shopping with your friends or it can be something as simple as curling up in your bed and watching a movie after check-in on a Friday night. Whatever you decide to do, I think having anything to look forward to can really help when it gets tough to get through a week.

How do you deal with people getting into college/ not getting into college?

For many seniors, these last few weeks have been pretty stressful. Most early application decisions have come out in these past couple of days, so naturally people have heard good news and bad news. If you have friends that are into college, congratulate them!! This is super exciting time and your friends will appreciate being able to share that with you! If you have friends that didn't get into where they applied early, be there to support them. It can be really tough to hear news you didn't want to hear, but letting your friends know you're there for them can be really helpful while trying to work through this process. It doesn't feel great to get bad news, but you can remind your friends that if it didn't work out, it means something better was meant to happen. Ultimately, everyone is going to end up

where they're meant to be, so I think during this time it's important to stay positive and remind other people of that, but also make sure you keep it in mind for yourself too!

Do I need a date for winter formal?

If you are new to Exeter, Winter Formal is a semi formal dance held during the first weeks back at school after Christmas break. Although it's technically a "formal," no one is under any kind of obligation to show up with a date. Having a date is totally fine too, but you shouldn't feel any pressure to find one. Most people go with their friends and once you're in the dance everybody has fun together! It's a fun event if you decide to go with just one person and it's great if you just want to hang with your group of friends. Either way, there isn't any pressure to go to Winter Formal in general or with anyone in particular.

What's the best way to protect yourself against the elements during the winter?

I would say it's definitely worth it to invest in some winter boots! Facilities does an amazing job of keeping the paths clear throughout the winter, but it can get pretty icy around campus during January and February, so it is good to have on shoes that have good traction. Boots keep your toes warm too!! I also suggest getting a cozy jacket. Sometimes having a big puffy jacket isn't always the most "fashionable" thing, but I promise you will forget all about fashion if you're freezing because you don't have on warm enough clothes! Lastly, I think having a pair of gloves or mittens is really important. It can get really windy towards the middle of the winter and I'm definitely much happier when I can feel my fingers.

Good luck to everyone with the next few days and I hope you all have a wonderful break! We're almost there!

Love,
Bella <3

SeniorSpotlight

Aidan Wolff-King

By JENNY HUNT AND ALAN XIE
Staff Writers

Many students claim that they have grown academically and socially over their time at Exeter. However, Senior Aidan Wolff-King has literally grown up on campus: as the son of English instructor Ellen Wolff, Wolff-King has been a part of Exeter for as long as he can remember. His classmates have seen his four-year transition, while many faculty members have seen him evolve from diapers to an accomplished scholar, athlete and engaged community member. Through the years, he hasn't lost any of his goofy kindness. As one of his closest friends, senior Zoe Marshall attested, "he's enthusiastic and will dance like his arms aren't attached to his body when a good song comes on."

Wolff-King embarked on a term abroad in Stratford, England in the fall of his senior year. Led by Associate Director of College Counseling Cary Einhaus, the group of twelve Exonians lived together while studying literature and theater. They had the opportunity to do a bit more than simply study theater—the group attended a whopping fifteen plays in ten weeks! Wolff-King jokes that he went because his "college counselor told [him] that if you're here for four years, you have to get away for at least one term or else you'll go crazy."

The trip was also a chance for him to deepen his love for English literature. Einhaus particularly enjoyed seeing Aidan's candid enthusiasm from the theater seats. At a performance of Macbeth at the famous Globe Theater during the first weekend in London, Einhaus "could see Aidan's reactions throughout the play—his delight, his puzzlement, and his wonder—which demonstrated how he was completely in the moment." Wolff-King also enjoyed the "practical engagement" that living



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

with other Exonians offered; cooking for the rest of the group, cleaning the house and travelling independently in a foreign country.

Wolff-King has been a member of the boys' crew team since the start of his prep year. "Ms. Moore [one of Exeter's crew coaches] had her eyes on me ever since I started growing," he joked. As a day student, Wolff-King recognizes the power of a dorm community to create connections, but credits crew with providing his so-called "in" to make great friendships. "It's been my way of investing myself in the school," Wolff-King said. While he humbly says that he continued crew because "it's the only sport I've ever been good at," Wolff-King's coaches and teammates agree that the his role in the boat surpasses simply athletic skill.

"Part of Aidan's success in crew stems from his ability to place others

ahead of his own needs," Tyler Caldwell said, who has coached Wolff-King on the boy's varsity crew team for the past three years. "Crew might be the ultimate team sport; it requires all of the athletes in the boat to feel the shell moving underneath them together. When on the water, the boat's forward motion hinges on all of the athletes rowing in sync, in perfect harmony," Caldwell continued. This all-important harmony, Caldwell said, is one which Aidan fosters selflessly.

When not on the water, Wolff-King can be seen actively contributing to many student groups on campus. While the cello he played in his charter middle school for the arts has been left to sit in the corner of his bedroom, Aidan can be seen performing the electric bass at E.A.R. (Exeter Association of Rock) concerts. "I try to perform as much as I can because I love it," Wolff-King said. Marshall is doing a musical as her senior

project in the spring called "Next to Normal" in which Wolff-King will be playing guitar in the band. Always one for a challenge, he's excited to play over thirty songs.

Rattling the clubs he attends off his hand—G.S.A., Feminist Club, A.L.E.S. and most recently E.A.S.A. after returning from Stratford—Wolff-King's involvement is widespread. While he enjoys exposing himself to diverse opinions, he recognizes that "it's hard as well; it's easy to shut down and be narrow-minded."

Even though it sometimes may be easier to be close-minded, when he visited colleges and took tours around the world, he always kept one fact in mind that helped open his eyes. "Look for the weird people," he said. "Look for the social groups that are outside of the norm, so look for the jocks, the geeks, the hippies, look for stereotypes because that means that these people can coexist and intersect." His mother always told him what a special place Exeter was, and it wasn't until he saw more of the world and went outside his bubble of protected New Hampshire that he truly realized this.

His consistent involvement in these many diverse clubs, however time-consuming they may be, have added to his growing knowledge of the world around him. "It's not that I'm particularly talented or diligent, because I certainly didn't learn studying skills at my elementary school," Wolff-King said, but the new levels of understanding that he gains from the genuine discourse at these club meetings and around the Harkness tables has kept him engaged.

Reflecting on the time he has spent with Aidan, the repetition of the phrase "I understand" bubbles to the surface of Caldwell's mind. "He might've inherited that wonderful trait from his mother; in the end, though," he said, "that's how Aidan makes one feel: understood."

ESSO IN ACTION

By JOHN RAGONE
Contributing Writer

Hello, ESSOnians!

Well, we made it through the fall, and it is the start of a new term. Soon, we will be heading back home again and spending time with family and those about whom we care most. With the winter season come holidays and, most importantly, the spirit of giving thanks. That's right. In a world such as Exeter that offers us so much, it is our moral duty as Exonians and human beings to thank those who contribute to the environment that shapes us.

You may be thinking, "Why do I need to thank those around me, who simply fulfill their duties either as students, faculty, or citizens of the planet?" The answer is quite simple: they are creating, either directly or indirectly, a world in which you can thrive. It is to our colleagues, our elementary schools, our parents, our teachers, and so many people to whom we owe thanks.

An excellent way to begin giving your thanks is by reaching out to ESSO club co-heads and faculty advisors. Write them a letter, send them an email or stop them along the path. No act of graciousness is too small. They ought to express their thanks to you as well. In fact, I would like to thank you for reading this column and supporting ESSO. Your contributions as an Exonian—raising your own awareness about ESSO and its impact—have a rippling effect. By mentioning an article you read to a fellow student, that student my share what they hear, and you

create a chain reaction of events that spreads the word of Non-Sibi.

Truly, however, all are worthy of receiving thanks. By working hard, we consequently create environments that push others to work hard. Thus, our environment generates our mindset to strive further than we had previously reached for and the world is better off for it. ESSO wishes to found such an environment for low-income families around Exeter. Clubs such as Junior Computer Programming and any HFCC club create a community within which the children of Exeter can come together and push each other to work hard, just as we Exonians do.

I suggest that you all examine the ways in which you can broaden your impact on others. Try joining a new club, acting on that one idea you have always had but have never found the "right time" to start, or most easily, reinvigorating the communities closest to you. Ask your dorm-mates how their days were. Ask a child that you may be tutoring how their classes went. The best way to show your thankfulness is to verbalize that thankfulness to the people who influence you the most. This holiday season, I will be thanking my Mom and Dad, for letting me do what I love; ESSO, for being the medium through which I can explore my fervor for environmentalism; and the world, for blessing me with every opportunity I have encountered, every door ready to be opened and every untraveled path waiting for a wanderer.

ALBUM REVIEW: METALLICA

By ALAN WU
Staff Writer

It is extremely difficult to review contemporary Metallica. Is it a comeback, or a cheap rip-off of their glory days in the 80s? Is it an artistic experiment, or just pure garbage? Is it metal enough? Are they just a bunch of sell-outs? It seems like nobody knows how to talk about the world's biggest metal band. The past 25 years haven't exactly been easy for Metallica. Following 1991's seminal "The Black Album," one of the most commercially successful albums of all time, the band cut their hair, put on eyeliner and released the blues-inspired "Load" and "Reload."

Although these albums sold well, fans of the more aggressive Metallica were mortified. Ever since then, Metallica has faced a nearly two decade losing streak: the infamous Napster controversy, the migraine-inducing mess of 2003's disastrous "St. Anger," the deafeningly poor mixing of 2008's "Death Magnetic," the pretentious tediousness of 2011's "Lulu" and the box office failure of 2013's confusing IMAX concert film "Through the Never." Any chance of Metallica recapturing the old magic they once had is now almost entirely diminished.

So how is it that people still care about a band as polarizing and frustrating as Metallica? To be frank, it is because Metallica, at one point in time, was the most brilliant, sophisticated, face-melting heavy metal band the world had ever seen. To accomplish this at such a young age, and with a drummer as musically graceless as Lars Ulrich, makes the feat even more impressive. They ignited a spark of musical vitality, chemistry and flexibility that completely restructured the DNA of heavy metal. On 2016's "Hardwired...to Self-Destruct," it feels like Metallica, for the first time in a quarter-century, have finally rediscovered that spark.

The album, a copious 77 minutes of music divided into two discs, is not so much a musical reinvention but an amalgamation and reinvigoration of ground Metallica has tread before. The more aggressive, melodic and progressive side of Metallica dominates the first disc, while the band's more mid-tempo, bluesy hard rock tendencies reminiscent of Black Sabbath fill the second disc. The album is bookended by two absolute bangers, "Hardwired" and "Spit Out the Bone," both restorations of the glorious thrash that defined the band's early days. The former is simple, fast and direct with its shredding riffs and loose double-time drumbeat. The latter is a modern heavy metal masterpiece filled with machine-gun drum rolls, fat, chugging riffs, multiple guitar solos and even a bass solo. "Stop breathing and dedicate to me / stop dreaming and terminate for me," lead singer James Hetfield roars. Both songs detail the destruction of the world and of human nature. In a tumultuous year like 2016, such sentiment is not so out of place.

"Atlas, Rise!" and "Moth Into Flame," are two other standout thrash tracks with a slightly more melodic edge. With their soaring vocals, memorable guitar leads and harmonies, both songs channel Metallica's early inspirations—

Iron Maiden and Diamond Head. Drummer Lars Ulrich, who is often derided for his mediocre drumming, snuggles comfortably within these songs by playing simple but tasteful grooves. Most notably, his lingering tom rolls in the chugging "Now That We're Dead" gives the song an infectious swing and pairs perfectly with Hetfield's rhythm guitar. Disc one ends strongly with the epic "Halo on Fire." Although not exactly a power ballad, the song is structured like a classic Metallica progressive instrumental in the vein of "The Call of Ktulu" and "Orion." The song's multiple sections range from clean verses to distorted choruses all the way to a head-banging breakdown and guitar solo.

Unfortunately, the album is still plagued by a common problem of post-1991 Metallica: it's too long. While the album's first disc is a pulsing adventure through Metallica's newfound energy, the second disc tends to meander and drags the album beyond exhaustion. "Confusion" is chock full of amazing riffs but is poorly arranged. "Am I Savage?" feels like a dead body being dragged across mud and glass. Despite its dirty guitar tones and meaningful lyrics about PTSD, it's ultimately just tedious. "Here Comes Revenge" and "Murder One" both suffer from horrendous songwriting choices that sound like seventh grade poetry. The flat guitar licks and drumming don't help either. "ManUN-kind" manages to stand out from the crowd however, mostly due to the contributions of bassist Robert Trujillo, who has a background in funk metal. The song opens with a beautiful, tranquil bass and guitar melody before blasting into funky, distorted guitar juiciness.

The most valuable player of this record is lead singer/rhythm guitarist James Hetfield. This is easily the best work he has done in years. His vocals, which struggled on "Death Magnetic," now growl with unrestrained ferocity. From the staccato fire-spitting of "Spit Out the Bone" to the swampy drone of "Dream No More," Hetfield injects a strong sense of urgency into his music. Contrasting the one-dimensional wah-caked noodling of lead guitarist Kirk Hammett, Hetfield shreds away at his timeless riffs with precision, rendering in each chord a strong sense of catchiness. He is, along with Tony Iommi, still heavy metal's holy riff master.

Without a doubt, "Hardwired...to Self-Destruct" is the year's biggest comeback, at least for a rock band. The album is focused, heavy and groovy as hell. More importantly, it is clear that Metallica has finally realized its own brilliance. Deep inside under the fame, they are still that classic metal band, sweating and screaming in the garage, feeding off of each other's energy and playing like their life depended on it. Despite the dark and doomy lyrics, it's the album's irresistible vitality that will recruit millions of fans across the world to once again bang their head and throw up the devil horns. Even those who gave up on the band decades ago will find themselves smiling.

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CampusSpotlight

Erik Wade

By ROSE HOROWITZ, ISABELLA AHMAD AND SAMANTHA WEIL
Staff Writers

Exeter students know history instructor Erik Wade as the teacher and coach who never fails to smile. However, Exeter students do not know that Wade is also a bowling enthusiast who first thought he would work in the music industry. He currently teaches United States history and Ancient Roman history, coaches club basketball and serves as the dorm head of Peabody Hall. This spring, he will be the director of the Washington Intern Program, where he will lead seniors as they travel to Washington, D.C. to learn about the inner workings of the US government.

Wade has many interests, which have spurred him to become involved in various aspects of Exeter life. His myriad hobbies include cooking, volunteering, bowling and training to become a basketball official. He also went to Comic-Con in San Diego, an experience that pushed him “to work harder on my writing projects, which span many genres.” Dr. Wade also enjoys coaching Exeter sports. He used to coach girls JV basketball, and he cheers that it is “one of the best teams on this campus!” He retired after two years of coaching and is now coaching club basketball.

As head of Peabody Hall, Wade has expressed his love for the dorm but also noted the challenges that come with living there, particularly the disconnect between his work and his personal life. “The work-life balance that all of us need is oddly sacrificed at boarding schools. I struggle with this all the time because I enjoy the relationships

I have on campus and in my dorm and also long for freedom to find an outside community,” he said.

Wade began his college career with no plan to become a history teacher. “I kind of fell into teaching history,” he recalled. As an undergraduate at the University of Southern Florida, he studied chemistry and calculus. He was also enrolled in the university’s pre-veterinary program. But then, he realized that he wanted to work with people, not numbers, and teaching seemed to fit. “I knew I needed to make a change,” he said, “I loved working as a vet tech, but I didn’t care for science and math as much as I cared for my patients.” After switching to a history major, Wade started taking sociology and anthropology classes. Later in college, Wade obtained a summer internship in New York City at Arista Records which had Usher, Outkast and Whitney Houston under their label at various points. After this internship, he worked for a radio station in Tampa, Florida, and planned to get a job in the music business. However, in order to enter the industry, he was required to have a degree related to business, which led him to take a course on American Studies. “American Studies allowed me to explore my interest in popular culture, cultural theory, critical race theory, masculinity and social history,” said Wade. “It satiated my need for the music industry.” It was then that Wade realized that history appealed to him as much as music did. In fact, he enjoyed the “American studies” aspect



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

of history so much that he decided to pursue history further.

Wade’s favorite aspect of teaching history is the opportunity to show students that “there’s something personally at stake in learning history.” In order to offer the most fulfilling experience in the classroom, he strives to be engaged in every class. “Each day, I seek to share my expertise and interests, and hope it’s infectious in some way.” Wade said that something he loves about teaching is seeing his past students coming back to campus to visit him. “It’s always cool hearing from students at universities who found my classes speak to their new classes and future careers,” added Wade.

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR ★★★★★

By EUGENE HU
Staff Writer

Action movies are more than just a combination of car chases, sword fights and epic one-liners. Often times the audience find themselves focusing too much on a clash of fists between martial artists or a fast-paced, intense firefight and ignoring the story as well as the characters’ state of mind. Only with a concoction of elements can an action movie truly be enjoyable to all who watches it. Perhaps no action movie ever emphasized the balance between action, story, themes and depiction of characters better than Marvel Studio’s “Captain America: Civil War.”

For fanatics of Marvel comics, seeing “Captain America: Civil War” on the big screen was a dream come to fruition. At the same time, it was also enjoyable for those who are just casual fans of action movies. We’ve all seen superheroes banding together to save the world, but just like the old saying goes, “Good friends make the worst enemies.” As the name suggests, the Avengers broke up into two factions and an all-out war started. The war began when the government decided that it could no longer tolerate the Avengers’ independence. As a result of their recklessness in combating the likes of the Norse god Loki and the rogue cyborg Ultron, immeasurable amounts of collateral damage and civilian casualties occurred. With that came the Superhero Registration Act, which demanded that the superheroes work under government supervision. Iron Man was a proponent for the proposition that the superheroes register, as he himself was tormented with guilt after hearing the words of a mother who lost her son when the Avengers were fighting Ultron. Captain America, on the other hand, feared for the lives of the superheroes themselves as all their important information was handed to the government. He believed that this demand violated the core value of freedom and liberty the United States stands for and that the government was not to be completely trusted. The superheroes took their respective sides depending on who they agreed with, and the war began.

In terms of the fight scenes, the fight that the two teams had at the airport was arguably the finest action scene in the history of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The balance between quippy as well as emotionally intense dialogue was perfect. For example, the conversation that Iron Man and Captain America had before the actual fight began was a spectacular display of the characters’ anger. Iron Man was nearly yelling at the Captain when he said he was trying to keep the Avengers from falling apart, and the Captain responded calmly but powerfully with the memorable line: “You tore the Avengers apart when you signed the Registration Act.” During the fight, we were also able to witness multiple moments that were incredibly humorous. Whether it was Spider-Man mentioning the movie Empire Strikes Back during the climax of the battle or Ant-Man asking for orange slices while groaning in pain after the fight, it was impossible not to laugh at least once when watching the airport scene.

In addition, the fight was amazingly

choreographed. The powers and abilities of each superhero were displayed in a stylish fashion. Spider-Man was wall-crawling and shooting webs all over the place and Black Panther’s proficiency with his claws and martial arts gave even Captain America a run for his money. However, the most impressive aspect of all was that this battle did not seem chaotic. People may think that with 12 superheroes fighting each other, the fight would end up being nothing more than a flurry of madness, but the film handled this scene extremely well. The battle was fast-paced, but the transition between different superheroes fighting was not too slow, nor too fast. This is without mentioning how well the heroes cooperated with each other. One example is how Spider-Man trapped Ant-Man in his webs while Iron Man and War Machine delivered punches to Ant-man’s jaw simultaneously. The cooperation aspect was difficult to incorporate because one needs to see which superpowers complement the others as well as which powers are best used against which opponents. Surprisingly, this movie did a good job with all these aspects.

While the action scenes were nearly impeccable, the story seemed to have moved towards a different direction near the end. While Iron Man decided that he no longer wished to fight Captain America and Winter Soldier due to their previous disagreement, he found out the truth of his parents’ death when he was a child as well as how the Winter Soldier was involved. In reality, Winter Soldier was brainwashed at that time, so he shouldn’t have taken responsibility for the death of Iron Man’s parents. Despite that, Iron Man proceeded to start a fight with Winter Soldier out of sheer anger. During the final fight, Captain America stood up to defend his friend, and so began the final clash of superheroes. This was where the story was jumping around a bit, for the final fight had almost nothing to do with the previous argument of liberty vs. responsibility. There were many other different things to focus on during the overall story such as the death of Black Panther’s father, the burgeoning love between the cyborg Vision and Scarlet Witch and of course, the truth of how Iron man lost his parents. These things are not unrelated to the main plot, but for some people, especially casual Marvel fans, having too many things to pay attention to may seem a bit overwhelming. However, we need to take into consideration that this movie is about Marvel superheroes fighting each other, and the movie wouldn’t be fun to watch if the roster of heroes was a bit too small. With numerous characters, it is important to have the spotlight on the main characters while at the same time make sure the supporting characters also have a bit of light shed on them.

These different parts of the complicated story may be overwhelming, but they also bring about the best aspect of this movie, which lie in the themes of the story and characters. Comic book superheroes may be what teenagers dream of becoming, but the most popular superheroes aren’t always the strongest. The most popular superheroes are often the ones we find the most relatable. Of all the superheroes movies that I have seen throughout many years, none

of them captured this better than Captain America: Civil War. The anger that Iron Man felt when learning the truth about his parent’s deaths clouded his mind and interfered with his judgement. Not many people can honestly say that that has never happened to them before. Captain America, on the other hand, displayed his conviction to win and his desire to defend his friend with some of the most intense facial expressions I’ve ever seen in my life. The way actor Chris Evans portrayed it truly breathed life into the character. Lots of us have been through a time in our lives when we wished to defend something or someone we love, and the looks of Captain America’s face reminded me that often times, the reason for our strength is because we have something we wish to protect. The acting was amazing not only in the sense that it was realistic and believable, but also in the sense that it reminded us that these superheroes are more than just ordinary characters. They are more than just figures sketched on pieces of paper, they represent ideals. The reason people felt so enthusiastic about this matchup isn’t because they get to see titans of power face off against each other, but because they have to move beyond the characters themselves and ponder upon the ideals they represent.

The Captain stood for freedom, but is that really being responsible considering how the powers of the superheroes can be used to protect people but also bring about destruction? Iron Man chose to accept limitations because he knew how he had to be responsible with his power, but was that really upholding the virtues of justice? What is true responsibility? How does one define justice? These are all questions for us to contemplate on. With these blurred lines, it’s hard to decide which side to support. In the end, I decided that it was improper to pick a side at all. Neither ideal necessarily outweigh the other, but regardless, whenever conflict occurs, there will be people who end up getting hurt, and sometimes even die. It’s like the old saying goes. “There are no winners in war.” Standing up for one’s ideals is not a wrong thing to do, but as conflict rises from disagreement, the strife to defend one’s beliefs becomes a negative thing. The heroes were driven by their beliefs and ideals when they were fighting, but in the end, no one walks away unscathed. Their beliefs were the source of their strength, but their strength was ultimately the source of their suffering.

The characters delivered to us in “Captain America: Civil War” were not only powerful and stylish, but they were also capable of reminding us of ourselves. The numerous aspects of the story may have been a bit too much at times, rendering it as somewhat of a flaw, but overall, the story was one of the best I’ve seen in action movies. The story moved beyond the question of “Who would win in a fight?” and focused almost entirely on “Who is doing the right thing?” This breaks the mold of the majority of action film plots, and that’s what makes it so memorable. Overall, this film has a little bit of everything: lots of fighting, a pinch of romance, great displays of brotherhood and friendship, and it allows you to contemplate philosophical questions. Truly, it was a marvel of a film.

GREEN CORNER

By HENRIETTA REILY
Staff Writer

Hello from slightly-warmer-than-New-Hampshire Kentucky, where I’ve been absorbing the news of Trump’s win with sadness. I recommend spending some time outside, preferably with pets or family, looking at all the nice things we still have left of this planet.

Here in Louisville, Louisville Gas & Electric (LG&E), which provides power to most of the city’s residents, has provided free energy audits and encouraged efficiency by cutting costs. However, right now, they’re proposing a hike in the rate for all customers in a way that is not tied to energy consumption and will discourage efficiency. As we know, when energy efficiency is also more efficient for the wallet, people are far more likely to participate than when it makes less of a difference. The negative effects which resulted from the change of the company’s strategy has already been seen in the overall energy use in the city.

The eastern part of Louisville, Kentucky, having long been a part of the hilly coal country, is now graced with flat mountains, high unemployment rates and low economic activity. These are unfortunate facts that are unlikely to change in the region for the time being, but the president-elect Donald Trump has promised to combat the “war on coal” and restore the very mining jobs that polluted Kentucky waterways and gave workers black lung. Eager for economic revitalization, 62.5% of the state voted for Trump, while Hillary won only two (the most populous) of the 120 counties in the state.

Trump spells disaster for the climate in too many ways to detail. However, on the side of citizenship, we have the power to make a change by educating ourselves and getting involved in resistance against policies that might aggravate global warming. In Japan, more than 90 percent of adults know what climate change is, and it has spurred the nation to change its habits and work to meet energy reduction goals. However, globally, only 40 percent of adults have knowledge on global warming.

No matter what profession you go into, a basic education on climate change and the effects it will have on every life and industry ought to be a prerequisite because awareness across multiple fields will help put concern into action in all of them. Try to donate and protest whenever and wherever you can. I know you’re all on campus in the frenzy of hell weeks and college decisions and GPA anxiety, but at the very least try to use the platform you have to be a casual slacktivist, and talk about the environment. Also, get to know the issues in your local areas (that are often severely underfunded) and volunteer over the winter break because ‘tis the season! Once you’ve done all that, I will consider giving you a hug and then will direct you to EarthJustice, the NRDC and the Union of Concerned Scientists to hand over all your money and hopefully help our poor and ravaged planet. Catch you all in the spring with more sad news!

UPCOMING

LECTURE

DR. R. SCOTT SMITH

Friday, Latin Study

HOLIDAY ASSEMBLY

ERIC SINCLAIR

Friday, Assembly Hall

PERFORMANCE

HOLIDAY CONCERT

Friday, Exeter High School

EVENT

GINGERBREAD
HOUSE MAKING

Saturday, Grainger Auditorium

The Last Writes of the 138th Board

Executive Board

We started our tenure having already realized—and having been partly inspired by—the general truth that *The Exonian* is the definitive historical record of the Academy. But ours was a board where this truth held more steadfast and more consequentially than for most others. It seems the nature of history to progress in a subtle manner, noticed only in retrospect. And yet, we feel we can claim that in the course of our board's stint, *history*—the dynamic kind that fills the pages of our textbooks—really occurred before our very eyes.

In particular, a former real estate magnate acceded to our country's highest-ranking office, the candidates for which passed through the town's very streets and worked their way into the pages of our publication. That's just one example; on a level narrower in scope but one certainly of no less importance, our school community reeled in response to its own kind of phenomena. Louis N. Browning '50, objecting to the composition of the Academy's student body, requested that his family's name be stripped from Browning House. A senior seminar led by Fred Grandy '66 was canceled after students protested his alleged Islamophobic sentiments. Stories of sexual misconduct on the part of former faculty members came to light. With all these occurrences came perceptible changes in campus-wide culture and discussion, and those shifts pushed our journalistic skills beyond belief.

Replete with heightened cortisol levels and harried nights, the experience of servicing the newspaper has held true to our inceptive maxim; we came, we saw, we reported, sensibly and thoroughly, notwithstanding administrative pushback, logistical difficulties, emotions ran rampant. We documented history at a level more intimate than others could manage. And while doing so, we acted as an organ for students, faculty and alumni alike.

So we end our tenure calling upon our successors to keep on seeking those stories of consequence; to continue putting them into print; to

carry on, not without humility, the storied legacy of the oldest continuously running preparatory school newspaper in the country. We wish the 139th board well.

-Hannah, Philip and Alan

News

Hello to readers, writers, friends, family and new editors!

We came into our editorship just over a year ago and the time since has been one of the greatest, most interesting and most challenging journeys of our Exeter careers. While we were just pawns to the almighty masters above, we quickly developed a method and rapport that we're proud to say has been unmatched by any other sections. We have discussed life, bylines, layout and article angles for hours on weekends, Tuesdays, Facebook Messenger and so many Wednesdays. So many Wednesdays. We are so grateful to have grown with each other, to have learned how to better speak up and problem solve, especially interpersonally and to help young journalists understand the passion that we three feel so strongly.

Our community has faced several challenging issues. Throughout the year, *The Boston Globe* reported on a series of alleged sexual misconduct cases that occurred in the 70s and 80s and later, revealed an allegedly-mishandled sexual misconduct case between students. As we struggled to make sense of these events, we found ourselves in *The Exonian* office, working in our News section, the place where we first found our voices. Each week, we provided unbiased investigation and reporting to our community. We pursued an all-school sexual misconduct survey to provide volume to all student voices and strike at the root of our issues. As editors of the paper, this is our commitment to our community, and it is one in which we have taken great pride and will continue to uphold in our lives beyond our roles as editors as they now come to a close. We are confident that the 139th board will continue this important role, this legacy of service. We are

so proud of the work they have done already as writers and are excited to see the work they do and the challenges they meet as they grow as editors. We hand off the baton with trust, excitement and a great sense of nostalgia.

-Joonho, Melissa and Henrietta

Opinions

So ends our tenure as Opinions editors: having overseen both the most cataclysmic political victory in the history of the Republic, and on the home front, the turbulent wake of sexual misconduct. A year ago, we three acceded to this office by pledging our section to an *intellectual* activism. Future readers be willing, the fruits of our labor—not to mention that of our contributors—will be remembered as such. Though swells and tides may have rocked our fickle hearts, Opinions remained an altar to reason and rhetoric, and her writers their devotees. As goes the maxim, it is one thing to feel, another to argue.

And we have indeed argued. Our writers argued in their columns, contributors in their letters and the board in its editorials. We three even argued amongst each other in the office—though always in the service of Opinions. It is comforting to think, and perhaps it can be granted by our current readers, that all our arguing produced a section that provided a valuable digest of all the happenings that our sister sections reported on this year.

Should our reader not be so generous as to agree, they must still concede our more tangible accomplishments. We found Opinions as it was then, and have left it a section with letters-to-the-editor, columnists, board editorials and a new overall layout. Such is the spread that we bequeath to Année, Eleanor and Jack. We are proud of it, but even more so of these next Opinions editors.

Through their submissions, all three have demonstrated their talent and commitment to the 138th board's ideals. Now comes their chance to pursue theirs. And there is no reason to doubt that they may well succeed our watch not only

literally, but in terms of literary merit. Further progress, whatever the direction, shall be made.

Of course, this all paints quite the halcyon picture. To our new editors, therefore, we tell that nothing in this world worth doing is easy—and let us simply state that this work is *extremely* worth doing. And that is all we three will say so that one day, there may come a time when Année, Eleanor and Jack may look back on *their* fair share of hardships, and know in the end that those too were the good times.

-Ellena, Ahmad and Eugene

Life

The Exeter Life section has had an eventful year! While keeping the classics such as movie reviews and senior spotlights, the Life section has had some updates. We have added a weekly Green Corner article to give insight into the activities of the environmental clubs on campus, as well as ESSO in Action to keep Exeter up to date with the happenings of our school's very own community service organization. With Jenny away in the fall, upper Sophia Zu stepped up to fill an interim editor position. We are really grateful for her help and look forward to seeing her work as a News editor. We wish the new board a wonderful year and can't wait to see how they will make the Life section their own.

-Jenny Hunt and Bella Edo

Humor

"KACHOW" -RC
"Salami?" -Majestic
"Ctrl+Z" -Elizabeth

Sports

The 138th board was proud to cover Exeter's teams for the duration of our tenure. Through the winter, spring and fall, we were there to experience Big Red's highs and lows with the help of our wonderful writers. We wish the 139th board great success, along with all of the winter team sports! Go Big Red!

-Nolan, CJ and Christine

The Real Effects of Fake News



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

Jack Stewart
Columnist

Did you hear? Donald Trump was endorsed by Pope Francis! Hillary Clinton's cronies assassinated those who had proof of her wide-spread and selfish corruption! Hillary sold weapons to ISIS! Headlines such as these and many others plagued Facebook and other social media sites before the election, and many sources are saying that this spread of "fake news" may have changed the minds of voters around the country. Fake news has been around for ages (commonly found in tabloids around the world), yet it has never before been more prevalent than it is on the Internet. Millions of politically moderate Facebook users were exposed to these fanatical and reactionary headlines, and apparently for many, it encouraged them

to change their minds when voting.

Aside from providing general misinformation, fake news is intended to make people nervous and uncomfortable; it's meant to unsettle, scare and elicit knee-jerk reactions. Many studies are showing that it was used during the election to draw people away from the egregious behavior of Donald Trump and to make them focus more on the smaller mistakes of Hillary Clinton. Why did it have such a platform, though? Why were so many exposed to it? One could say that the social media sites that perpetrated the articles were to blame; many were chock full with fake political news. Others suggest that the American populace is to blame, and that every time someone shared some supposedly-true article they were helping Donald Trump more than they could have ever thought.

The problem with fake news isn't necessarily that it's blatantly fake. In this specific case with Hillary Clinton and

the election, it created a subconscious seed of an idea that in the end swayed citizens to vote differently than they normally would have. It only makes sense; once someone has an idea firmly planted in their head, it's pretty tough to forget, and therefore, even after the news was determined fake, people still had a tinted image of Hillary Clinton. These little ideas bunching up were likely a contributing factor to Clinton's loss.

Yet fake news wasn't the only kind of news that was against Hillary Clinton. I myself noticed much general attention brought to the campaign of Donald Trump and not nearly enough to Hillary Clinton's. So much, in fact, that the New York Times issued a formal apology to its readers for focusing too much on Trump's campaign goofs and not enough on Hillary's campaign successes. Unfortunately, this is a harsh reminder that the only goal of newspapers is not to impartially educate the public; the

goal is to sell as many papers as they can. Trump's antics obviously sold papers.

A new burden has been placed upon news agencies. They need to focus more on reporting genuine and impartial news instead of publishing sensationalist reports of events that are half-true. In an ideal world, they wouldn't even be tempted to report more on rabble-rousing issues as opposed to less entertaining but more relevant ones, yet unfortunately, that is not the world we live in.

On top of this, Americans need to understand any newspaper's singular goal: to make money. Yet there has to be a balance between too much skepticism and too much blind following; it is up to every individual American to discern the truth among the lies and exaggerations. When in doubt, check with other sources! I believe that if we can do this in the future, people like Donald Trump will never be put on a pedestal nor be given more attention to than necessary.

What to Do With Palestine and Israel



WORLD COMPASS

Mark Blekherman
Columnist

During a meeting with *New York Times* journalists, Donald Trump emphasized his desire to seek a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and suggested that his son-in-law Jared Kushner could assist in brokering a deal. That same week, Trump appointed Stephen Bannon—a supporter for the alt-right movement with a history of anti-Semitism—as the senior counselor of his Presidency. His stance on Israel has swayed between firm declarations of "neutrality" and moments of "pro-Israel" sympathy. Though the comical image of "Trump: The Negotiator" reassures a number of American Jews, a closer look at the current tensions in the Middle East reveals a much less cheerful picture—one that requires a gradual solution.

Extremist groups on both the Israeli and Palestinian side have hampered the two governments from creating credible and lasting agreements. In 1993, Shimon Peres of

Israel and Yasser Arafat of Palestine cheerfully masqueraded from Norway with Nobel Peace Prizes after finally constructing and signing the Oslo Peace Accords. Leaders around the world, including then President Bill Clinton, applauded the peace treaty, which called for the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from the Gaza strip and the establishment of an interim Palestinian government.

These lofty goals quickly disintegrated. Just a few weeks after the summit, Yasser Arafat ordered his Palestinians to declare jihad and reclaim Jerusalem. In 1995, a Jewish zealot murdered prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, and the following year, a suicide bombing left thirteen people dead in a Tel Aviv Purim celebration. Only then did the Israeli government realize that Arafat wore two faces: a flirtatious one that he used to receive concessions from world leaders, and an aggressive one that he used to spark terror and satisfy his hatred towards Jews.

Bill Clinton's smile and firm handshakes appeared promising on camera, but they concealed his reactive, rather than proactive, approach to Middle Eastern peace. Lacking any concrete long-term goals or plausible

enforcement mechanisms, the Oslo Accords caused frustration and propagated a sense of mistrust on both sides. By the end of his administration, the prospect of a settlement was more distant than ever.

I would be naïve, however, to suggest that harsher legal frameworks alone would have bettered the implementation of the Oslo Accords. Both governments depend on an intense narrative of suffering and persecution to further their own political legitimacy. Yasser Arafat himself admitted that, "It's always convenient for certain people to heap accusations on Israel," and, to make matters worse, confessed that his vision of peace involves the destruction of the Jewish state. Even before an al-Qaeda linked terrorist group professed to starting fires in Haifa, Israeli newspapers proclaimed the Palestinian government as the perpetrator in the arson. This paranoia prevents productive dialogue and gives both sides reason to question the other's intentions.

Trump should not follow in the footsteps of Obama, who never hesitated to endanger Israel's security in an effort to flatter hawkish Middle Eastern states like Iran. He must, unlike Obama, give Israel the benefit of doubt and

recognize its vulnerability in the face of hostile Muslim neighbors and terrorists. Benjamin Netanyahu once said that, "The Palestinians want a state, but they have to give peace in return." Believe it or not, most Israelis want to let go of the incessantly irritated Palestinians, but they can't help but imagine a worst-case scenario: a combative Palestinian state governed by a terrorist group with ties to Iran's nuclear program.

Nor should Trump—as Reagan did in 1987—ask the Israeli and Palestinian governments to "tear down this wall" and call for an easing of tensions. The Jews and Arabs will never be friends and would prefer an equitable divorce to a catastrophic marriage. Trump must pressure Palestine into developing a government free of corruption and unaffiliated with rogue terrorist groups like Hamas and Fatah and emphasize demilitarization as a prerequisite to the evacuation of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The Oslo Accords admonished the international community from seeking agreements not grounded on respect. Now is the time for Trump to abandon his rash personality and begin a thoughtful campaign for Middle Eastern peace.

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The Asian Legacy of Female Leaders

Mai Hong '20

Guest Contributor

In late summer, with a huge majority of 234 votes from South Korean lawmakers in the country's National Assembly, an impeachment motion was successfully filed against current President Park Geun-hye, and is currently pending in Korea's Constitutional Court. This is hardly surprising, considering how the people of the Republic had poured onto the streets en masse demanding her resignation following the scandal that involved Choi Soon-sil, a long-time friend and religious adviser. President Park was convicted of passing on sensitive documents to Choi for approval and letting her religious mentor influence her decisions on national policies. Because of this relationship, Park Geun Hye was characterized as a puppet president lacking any real will-power. Some had even gone so far as to compare Choi Tae-Min, Choi Soon-Sil's father and leader of the aforementioned religious cult, as the Korean Rasputin. Forbe's most powerful woman in East Asia is, in fact, not so powerful at all.

It is painful to remember how, as Korea's first female president, Park Geun Hye had once been heralded as an instigator of change in a notoriously patriarchal and conservative society. Sixty years old, highly educated and single, she was in many ways the model of a self-assured female politician. To quote an article published by CNN, "When she was elected last December, Park broke barriers in the patriarchal East Asian nation". However, even without taking into account her uniquely submissive relationship with the Choi family,

President Park also happened to be the orphaned daughter of Park Chung-hee, the military dictator who forty years ago changed his authoritarian state into a democracy and thus literally founded modern Korea, before being shot in 1979. In the 2012 elections, many older, conservative voters actually favored her over her opponents because of their loyalty to the ill-fated Park Chung-hee. "South Korea was her country, built by her father; the Blue House was her home; and the presidency was her family job", wrote Jeon Yeou-ok, a former aide. During her time in office, President Park surrounded herself with many male aides and advisors like Mr. Jeon, who had much say in policy-making. Her political agenda in no way encompassed gender equality. Thus, with a female as head of the government, Korea's National Assembly was still comprised of 83 percent male, and the country ranked 108th globally on the Gender Gap Index.

This example should serve as a wake-up call for those of us who believe that just because a traditionally patriarchal country chooses a woman for its head of government, gender issues are miraculously being resolved. Across Asia, examples of female leaders abound; President Park is part of a clique of daughters, wives and widows elected in the name of their deceased male predecessors, a clique which includes Sirimavo Bandaranaike and Chandrika Kumaranatunga of Sri Lanka, Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, Corazon Aquino and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines, Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh and Indira Gandhi of India, just to name a few. Only last year in

Myanmar, Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi, the youngest daughter of General Aung San, garnered 80% of the contested seats for her party, the National League of Democracy, after running a campaign that emphasized her feminine qualities of patience and morality, according to Southeast Asian gender expectations. Of course, this is not to put Ms. Suu Kyi, a Nobel laureate and staunch opponent of conservative militarism, on the same platform as President Park—however, their stories are, in many ways, eerily similar. Her father, the nationalist hero Aung San, is also regarded as the Father of Modern Myanmar, after winning the country's independence from Great Britain. He was martyred in 1947 by a coup. When Suu Kyi first gave a public speech in 1989 at the Schwedagon Pagoda amidst political upheaval in Rangoon, it was under the portrait of general Aung San. One of her key rallying mottos? "I could not, as my father's daughter, remain indifferent to all that was going on."

To be clear, the bottom line is not that all dynastic female leaders are incapable, powerless puppets acting in the interest of their male advisors. Indeed, many gradually proved to be driving forces for political and social change beneath their veneer of conformity. Yet the very fact that a woman in Asia cannot get along in the world of policy-making unless she is closely related to a prominent politician is a sad truth. If Asian advocates want to fight for a gender-equal future, more opportunities need to be created for talented, assertive women through a system of meritocracy. Only in that way will the deeply ingrained culture of misogyny be gradually reversed.



The Crisis of GMO Monopolization

Eleanor Mallett '18

Columnist

The year of 2016 has been packed with political surprises, national and global turmoil, great achievements and great tragedies. The battle for GMO (genetically modified organism) illegalization has been fought for decades prior to my lifetime, but this year has been arguably the most paramount to the global agriculture industry. This year, Monsanto merged with Bayer, Dow merged with DuPont and Syngenta merged with ChemChina. These are six companies who lead world sales in all chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, insecticides and other pesti-toxins. These companies have long ruled the global agriculture market with their chemical products, creating dangerous and toxic food sources. These companies have now done the only thing that could worsen the problem—monopolize.

In the Vietnam War, Monsanto and Bayer teamed up to produce the chemical called Agent Orange. When sprayed over forests, it killed leaf canopies and exposed soldiers hiding underneath. Because of the toxic nature of Agent Orange, 400,000 people were killed. In the Vietnam War, way more lives were lost that needed to be because Monsanto and Bayer introduced chemical warfare, creating a terrible genocide with casualties on both sides.

This tragedy went unrealized for many years because of Monsanto's close ties with the Federal Food and Drug Administration. One of the greatest feats of some of these world chemical titans has been their ability to cover up any dubious affairs. All of their products must be approved by the FDA before they hit the market, but the niche that they don't go through a sound testing system before products are approved. Researchers and skeptics of the agrizib call it the "revolving door phenomenon" where high-ranking executives of the FDA often switch or share jobs at these large chemical companies. The likeliness of existing bias and inconsistency with quality checks helps products like the very harmful Agent Orange, DDT and Round-Up be approved when they instead pose potential dangers to health.

The effects of these enormous chemical companies are already detrimental to the global agriculture market, our health as people, and our trust in the government. Once these billion dollar mergers go through, six ruling GMO companies will turn to three condensed and more powerful ones. The dangers of a merge are astronomical. What these wealthy companies will do with their absoluteness is unknown, but when looking at what has happened historically when large chemical companies join together, we should be hopeful that history will not repeat itself. Their power to manipulate chemicals, foods and pesti-toxins should be used to benefit farmers and to help tackle world hunger, not to be used as a weapon.

I see 2017 as a year that will determine many things for our future as a planet. With large chemical corporations teaming up, and a person like Donald Trump in charge who believes that power should be in the hands of the wealthy, I fear many things. I fear that we are becoming a more plutocratic world every day, I fear companies like Monsanto, Bayer, Dow and Synergy each obtaining 25 percent of the global seed production, and I fear that movements like Slow Food, Renewing America's Food Traditions and the Good Food Revolution will be stifled by the corporate eye, and will quickly fade away. Our food system has been falling apart since the industrial revolution, but this is the last step to its breakage. We turn to you—chemical companies. How will you play next?

Trump's Trivial Choice

Paul James '19

Columnist

President-elect Donald Trump has announced his appointment for Secretary of State, and, as most expected, he chose Rex Tillerson, CEO of ExxonMobil. This choice is drawing criticism from both sides of the aisle, on the grounds of Mr. Tillerson's close ties to Russia and Vladimir Putin as well as his background in negotiating on behalf of his oil empire. In light of a recent investigation into Russian involvement in the presidential election, a possible cabinet member with close ties to a dangerous nation would be risky. Trump's pick is under the scrutiny of Arizona Senator John McCain and others. Senator McCain called Putin a "thug and murderer" in a recent interview, making his opinion on the Russian leader explicitly clear. In addition, Tillerson's selection increases the lack of political experience exhibited by those in Trump's cabinet, especially in the crucial area of foreign policy. Compounded with the president-elect's war-hungry picks for major military positions, the newest addition to his cabinet looks set to provide a turbulent future.

Rex Tillerson joined ExxonMobil in 1975, working his way up to the top in

the following decades. He has never held a public sector or federal job. Though his travels to places like Yemen and Russia negotiating oil deals required a certain understanding of the political environments of the world, Tillerson has spent his life dealing for an oil company, not a world-superpower with different needs and nuanced relationships. Furthermore, we know little about his stances on most issues, and no one is able predict what he might do or say as head of the State Department. Even his stance on climate change is shaky at best. ExxonMobil backed the Paris Climate Agreement but was sued for covering up their research on climate change, accused of misleading the public. His share ownership in ExxonMobil also raises questions about a conflict of interest, specifically regarding political versus personal gain. When Russia annexed Crimea, strict sanctions stalled a deal between Russia and Tillerson's company. If he puts his own interests first, he will project the image that the United States will not stand up to Russian attacks on regions outside its control, perhaps even attacks on NATO allies.

Donald Trump seems to be struggling to adjust his mode of leadership from that of a company to that of a country. The president-elect is a real estate mogul, prominent cabinet members are fellow

billionaires, and the forerunner for the face of American foreign relations is an oil tycoon. He surrounds himself with "outsiders" as part of a pledge to shake up the traditional government, without thought to their effectiveness as vital decision makers representing one of the most powerful nations in the world. Instead of looking for some shred of experience, he believes their business expertise will translate into political success. The best we can hope for is that they find their newest position not too unlike from their previous one.

The Senate will hold a hearing to determine their support for Rex Tillerson. He will likely be asked to clarify his views on a number of different issues, and may even be required to relinquish some of his assets to assume the role of Secretary of State. Moving forward, his ties to foreign governments may prove helpful, if for no other reason than prior familiarity with the leaders and their practices. If he continues to back the Paris Climate Agreement, his views may serve to counteract the unfounded denial of Donald Trump. Nevertheless, those same strengths could easily flip the other way and leave America vulnerable to crisis and predatory foreign leaders that will prey on the lack of experience defining the president-elect's current cabinet.

Russia's Trump

Andrea So '20

Columnist

It is indisputable that President-elect Trump has been handling presidential affairs in an extremely unconventional manner. As the first president who will enter the White House without any prior political experience, he recently angered the Chinese government by accepting a call from Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen on Dec. 2. It was perceived to be a threat to the 'One China' standpoint that former presidents and the US government have accepted for decades.

However, one of the things most concerning and unconventional about Trump are his ties with Russia. He has always denied any connection to Russia and the Russian government, tweeting, "I have ZERO investments in Russia." During a presidential debate, Trump claimed that he "didn't know" Putin, and claimed ignorance of the inner workings of Russia.

Even if Trump denies his ties to Russia, many of his cabinet selections say otherwise. According to Max Boot, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, many of Trump's former and current advisors are tied to Russian financiers. His former campaign manager, Paul Manafort, has completed millions of dollars' worth of deals with Russian oligarchs. His former foreign policy advisor, Carter Page, has "business ties to state-controlled Russian oil giant Gazprom." Michael Flynn, a retired general and Trump's pick as national security adviser,

travelled to Moscow last year to attend a banquet celebrating the Russian government's propaganda channel Russia Today. Rex Tillerson, chief executive of ExxonMobil and Trump's choice as secretary of state, earned a "friendship award" from the Russian government. According to the New York Times, ExxonMobil stands to gain deals worth billions of dollars if the US government lifts sanctions against Russia.

Trump may not want to admit his connections to Russia, but Russia has been particularly vocal about their support of him and their hatred of Hillary Clinton. Prior to the presidential election, Putin praised Trump as a "talented person" and "the absolute leader of the presidential race." In October, the US Government stated that it was confident Russia had played a prominent role in hacking the Democratic National Committee, resulting in thousands of leaked emails that proved to be damaging to Hillary Clinton. However, in early December, the CIA declared definitively to a group of senators that the goal of the Russian hacking had been, in fact, to boost Trump.

Two teams of independent researchers also found that the flood of fake news online during this election season was bolstered by Russia to achieve the very same goal. According to the Washington Post, Russia's network of "botnets, paid human 'trolls,' websites and social-media accounts" perpetuated the image of Clinton as a corrupt establishment politician with health issues through spreading false

news with titles such as "FBI agent suspected in Hillary email leaks found dead in apartment in murder-suicide."

Although many have treated it as such, this important issue regarding national interest and security is not a partisan issue. Officials from all over the political spectrum have announced their concerns about how Trump's cabinet picks are bound to Russia as well as how his election was influenced by the Russian government. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) said that "Being a 'friend of Vladimir' is not an attribute I am hoping for from a Secretary of State." On Dec. 13, Minority leader Harry Reid (D-NV) referred to Russian influence in the election as a scandal "as big a deal as Watergate, as 9/11," and agreed with Mitt Romney on how Russia is a major threat to America.

In a statement regarding the recent CIA discovery of Russian influence in the presidential election, Trump's transition team announced that "These are the same people that said Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction." Trump and his transition team's blatant refusal to listen to conclusions gathered by top intelligence agencies is extremely troubling as well as dangerous. It is unclear if this is a calculated move on Trump's part, or if he is genuinely ignorant of the threat Russia poses to America. Either way, having a president with such close ties to a country America has long regarded as the enemy is unprecedented, and his actions in the years to come will definitely be unsettling.

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Were the Polls a Lie?



QUIPS

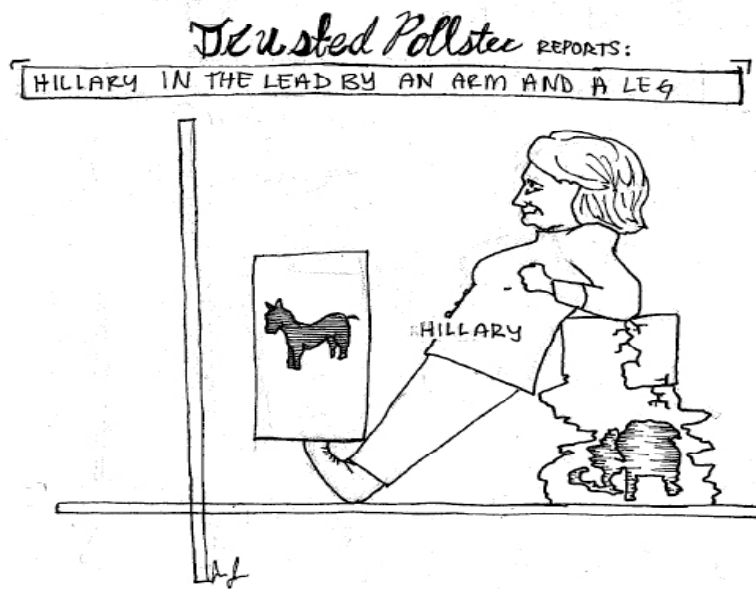
Année Reach
Columnist

It has been a month since President-elect Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton in a surprising win. The news cycle has perhaps moved on from the shock of his win, but people all across America still cope with the confusion that has arisen with his victory. Clinton should have won, they might say. Everyone I know said they were going to vote for her! Even Republicans thought she was going to win! Trump had too many gaffes and too few positive news pieces on him, and the polls had him behind Clinton nearly the entire race! Perhaps, though, it is the polls' fault that Trump won.

The surveys, which organizations such as Real Clear Politics, Pew Research Center and many news sites offer viewers, rely very heavily on statistics. The data they present is always going to be false. This perspective is not a conspiracy, nor is it pessimistic. The science of getting information from people and putting it into graphs, you see, is tricky business. Mathematically speaking, the perfect sample group is the one untouched by researchers. Even if the sample group is randomly chosen, even if the survey is conducted numerous times with different people, the statistics will always be wrong because the researchers went searching for it in the first place. It is the way statistics

work in an imperfect world. The difference is so negligible, though, that it hardly affects the results of a study. Unfortunately, news media pollsters do not always work under perfect conditions. Professional research polls can afford to randomize enormous test

supporters" voted for Trump, which could have given Clinton a slight lead in the polls. Polls from different news sites do come up with different results, though. A poll conducted by ABC News in early September, for example, showed Clinton with a modest lead of two per-



groups, but the surveys large media sites produce are a little bit biased. With a random sample, people may not answer the questions a surveyor gives them the way they are meant to be answered. A pollster, then, assigns those "neutral" people to one candidate or another, based on inferences from the conversation. A few of these people were given to Hillary. There are also people who publicly sided with a candidate but secretly voted for another. Most of these "stealth

percentage points. An internet poll by the *Los Angeles Times* gave the Democratic candidate a lead of four percentage points. Polls even closer to the election had Trump up by two or three points. The polls conducted by the media, and not by research centers, are meant to only roughly reflect public opinion.

There is a rising concern among a growing number of people that the polls were never meant to even crudely reflect public opinion. Mainstream news sites

were in collusion with certain candidates to get people to vote a certain way, they maintain. Their suspicions seemed to be confirmed with the Wikileaks release of several documents from the Clinton campaign. It seemed that Trump was indeed ahead in the polls in certain swing states, and that Hillary's team had done its best to suppress public opinion by tweaking the polls to always be in her favor. It's a wild story, and very likely to be fabricated, but if it is true, the statistics on American voters were never meant to reflect opinion at all. They were meant to shape it.

This is a sad problem in the United States. If the polls really are trying to get you to think a certain way, and even if they are not, it has dire consequences for the neutrality of the press and the confidence that Americans have in it. This is not so much a reflection on the accuracy of mainstream media, but a glimpse at the understandable wariness Americans have for their news. Less than one-third of Americans trust their news sources, including news studies. Distrust in the statistics, which, if done well, are nearly perfect reflections of public opinion, signifying a new era in America. The danger of not being able to trust news sources could become a real threat to national security and stability. Whether the news really is less reliable, or if it has become even more trustworthy, Americans are not willing to find out. If two in three Americans don't believe what's on their screens, this could affect the future of our country quite badly.

Embracing Doping in Professional Sports

Tim Han '18
Guest Contributor

Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs) have been a subject of major concern in pro sports leagues around the world. With the exposure of the Russian doping program at the Olympics, accusations of doping against high profile NFL athletes such as Peyton Manning, and the revelations about Lance Armstrong, doping has caused controversy in recent years. But these conversations assume that doping is naturally a bad thing by "tainting" the sportsmanship and gamesmanship around pro sports. I still believe that high school, collegiate, and amateur sports should be "clean" from PED use. However, PED use in professional sports actually equalizes the playing field while bettering the progress of professional sports.

Sports are not the meritocracy we believe them to be. While the average American adult male is 5'9" (*National Center for Health*), the average NBA player is 6'7" (*Seat Smart*). Hard work still counts—especially at the high school level—where there is a greater disparity in ability, coordination, and work ethic - but there is no denying that genetic advantages inherently color professional sports. Authors like David Epstein and Malcolm Gladwell have penned volumes exploring the subject of genetic advantages in sports. We have been conditioned to believe that sports ought to be meritocracies, where skill outweighs genetics, socioeconomic circumstances, and a host of other factors. We stigmatize PEDs because we believe that they give certain athletes access to something that others don't have access to, thereby creating an artificial advantage. This ignores the fact that professional sports are already littered with artificial advantages. In addition to genetic advantages, many professional

athletes use other controversial methods of getting ahead. Despite the health risks, and the varying levels of access to it, the NFL has no policy against using painkillers. In his memoir *Slow Getting Up*, former NFL tight end Nate Jackson described a disturbing image in the Broncos locker room of trainers passing out needles for Toradol injections like candy. He becomes hooked and addicted to the drug, just as many of his teammates do. Compared to athletes who were unable to obtain access to Toradol

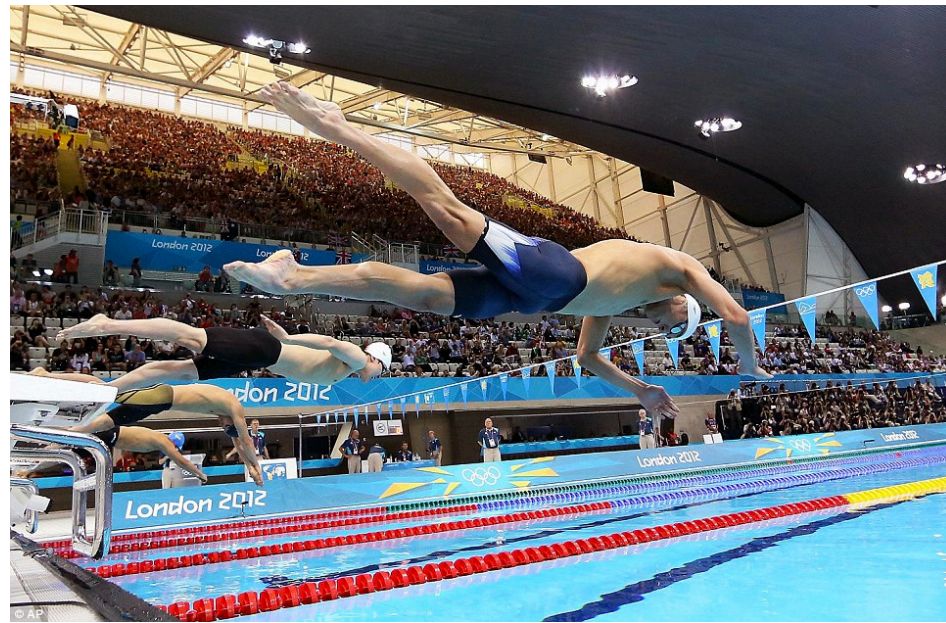
predecessors or successors, and many of their peers were unable to get. The care and treatment that a multi-millionaire athlete can afford to provide for him or herself is much different than that of a minimum-salary player who could be cut on any given day. In a world of professional sports so muddied by unfair advantages and disadvantages, there often seems to be only one solution. Bleacher Report found in interviews with anonymous NFL athletes that they estimate anywhere between 10 and 40

to overcome many of the disadvantages they would otherwise face.

Of course doping is not healthy; professional sports by nature are not healthy. Former professional athletes of all sports complain of chronic pain, depression, and many other real and serious problems. 40 percent of NFL athletes suffer from the brain injury chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) (*Washington Post*). A Department of Veterans Affairs and Boston University study found 96 percent of NFL athletes studied had CTE (*Frontline*). Professional sports—especially the violent ones in which PED use is most rampant—are by nature harmful, and the decision to enter them comes with the understanding that one's body is being put at risk to serious injury. With the understanding that professional sports are unfair and dangerous, PED use comes as a tool that is no more dangerous than the nature of intense, professional sports, and that helps to balance the literal and metaphorical playing field.

Pro sports teams and leagues are listed as entertainment businesses for a reason. When people watch Sunday Night Football or Christmas NBA games, they want to be entertained. By legalizing PED usage in professional sports, athletes would be better equipped to entertain consumers. I for one, want to see swimming records broken. I want to see David Ortiz hit 100 home runs. I want to watch Richard Sherman break 4 seconds in the 40. I want to see Stephen Gostkowski nail a 105 yard field goal. That would be so much more entertaining than what is in pro sports now, and the primary purpose of professional sports is entertainment.

Save the sanctimony of sport and the playing for the love of the game for amateur sports. Professional sports are an entertainment business, and PEDs are the best way to create a true meritocracy in sports while maximizing entertainment.



or similar drugs, Jackson has an artificial advantage. Yet, there is no rule against that unfair aid. In 2008, Speedo created a full-body LZR swimsuit for swimmers at the Beijing Games. 98 percent of medalists in that year's Games wore the suit. In fact, the suit was so successful that an unprecedented number of records fell in that games (*Scientific American*). Immediately after the swimsuit was banned, race times fell back to their normal ranges. Nevertheless, the lucky athletes who were able to obtain the suit in 2008 reaped mind-boggling benefits and advantages that none of their

percent of current NFL athletes use Human Growth Hormone (HGH), just one type of PED. Quarterback Brady Quinn put the number closer to 50 percent.

But instead of thinking of PEDs as a method of cheating, we should instead view them as tools of a professional's trade. PEDs do not simply give an athlete more muscle mass. An athlete has to work to develop that mass, albeit at an easier rate than non-users. But if athletes doped universally, then they no longer would have the restrictions of genetic disadvantages. Doping allows athletes

Happiness in Trump's America



THE LIBERAL AGENDA

Jordan Davidson
Columnist

In the wake of the election, the country has been in shambles. This is a reality that I have written about many times before. It is the reality that a lot of has been fearing. Yet, in this new, uncharted land that we are calling the Trump Age, I have come to realize that there is a difference between how America will survive, and how the individual will survive. America is the representation of a large society's communal values, but the individual truly is different. The individual shapes America, not the other way around. Yet, especially in our community here in Exeter, we seem to have this idea that the having Donald Trump as President will affect our happiness in our individual lives. This is not to say that many will suffer socially and economically, but I know that if we try to get

rid of blame and stick to the basic principles of life and happiness that have been instilled within us ever since we entered this world, everything will be ok.

I do not claim to have the experience and wisdom that adults have, but I can say that I have already thought a lot in my limited years. I have spent countless nights lying in my bed, not sleeping, but just thinking. One other thing I can say is that the experiences I have had have inspired thoughts about happiness. The issue with happiness is that we never follow its rules. Money, for example, isn't supposed to be the end-all-be-all of happiness. Obstacles we face should not kill our happiness. Hardships we go through are not supposed to make us unhappy in the long term. These are just some of the rules we have set around happiness. I think I can speak for most people saying that these are logical parameters. If this is so, this

election should not ruin happiness. Yes, we have been faced with a great hardship that will, for better or worse, shape lives. There will be people who will see economic difficulty, roadblocks in social revolution that pertain directly to their lives, racism, and sexism. This country may suffer. Individuals may suffer. But should these obstacles obliterate our long term

Obstacles we face should not kill our happiness. Hardships we go through are not supposed to make us unhappy in the long term.

happiness? Should the man in the oval office destroy positivity and hope? If there is one aspect to life I am confident I am right about, it is that those who build you up and support you have more strength than those who try and bring you down.

One last aspect to this dilemma of connecting internal happiness to the external force of the election is blame. There is no doubt that the country is still in this day split in two regarding who should run our nation. This combined with the ex-

treme, intensified loyalty and protectiveness toward the respective candidates has made it so that intense blame is placed everywhere. No matter which side one was on in this election, blame was passed around. Trump supporters blame Hillary supporters for standing for someone who they believe to be inadequate and vice versa. The feeling of blame in this situation, however, is connected to overall negative emotions such as anger and sadness. If we do not try and bridge the ever so large gap between who supports who (the reasons for which neither side will ever truly understand as many have their opinions set in stone) and eliminate the blame factor, animosity will forever place a roadblock in front of personal happiness.

So, let's try and make an effort to not let the President of the United States and the nasty aftermath of this election control our inner happiness. We need to put that in the control of those who care about us everyday. New laws can change lives, but they cannot change one's outlook on life.

Boys' Basketball Triumphs Over The Hill School

By **BELLA ALVAREZ**
Staff Writer

Exeter boys' basketball defeated the Hill School in a close game at Babson College, ending with a score of 59 to 55. This marks their first win of the season, following another close match against Kimball Union Academy.

The Hill School was a particularly impressive rival, with a record of four victories out of the six games they had played before competing with Exeter. However, post-graduate Jacob Grandison described the win as expected, as the team had practiced extensively in the days leading up to the game. "I think we prepared for the game really well," Grandison explained. "We had a really good practice the day before." Upper Brian Zhao concurred with Grandison, emphasizing the energy that the team created from the moment they stepped onto the court.

The players had to work hard to defeat the Hill School, particularly because of their disadvantage in height. Grandison elaborated on the difficulty of overcoming two of the taller players, whom he estimated to be around 6'8" and 7'0". However, Exeter was able to "hold their own," despite being of shorter stature. Zhao also highlighted the height difference, citing it as an impressive feat to overcome. "Being an undersized team in the ultra-competitive NEPSAC, we fought their size down low," he said.

Zhao commented on the team's ability to come back and score during the last five minutes of the game. "We were down by 11," he

said. "We showed the perseverance and the will to win on this team." Grandison was especially proud of Exeter's competitive drive towards the end of the fourth period. He cited their capacity to make baskets as crucial to turning the game around. "We made our shots," he said. "We got stopped later in the game."

With regards to the future, Grandison hopes that the team will be able to improve their transition points. He explained that the players are more than capable of putting the ball on the floor, but need to work on uninterrupted scoring. "If we can become a team that executes in the half court and on fast breaks, we will be unstoppable," he said.

Zhao aspires for the team to be more consistent with their performance, especially after a one-point loss against Kimball Union Academy prior to the game at Babson. "I think our physicality is a big focus," he said. "We gave up some key offensive rebounds." He continued to stress the importance of working on becoming an elite defensive team in order to bring home the NEPSAC Class A championship.

With a strong start to the season, the team hopes to continue with their winning ways. This weekend they will face tough competition in the Class A Winter Classic. Exeter is one of the event venues so the team will be playing at home. Their first game will be against Suffield Academy at 6:00pm. On the next day, the boys have a doubleheader verse Brunswick and Williston. The team hopes to have a solid week of practice and go undefeated in the tournament.



Senior Mitchell Kirsch surveys the court for his teammates.

Rachel Luo/Exonian

Boys' Swimming Looks To Improve



Upper Jamie Cassidy races to the finish.

Jena Yun/The Exonian

By **ASHLEY LIN**
Staff Writer

Exeter boys' varsity swimming, a team that spends hours practicing in a 25-yard pool during the winter, swims innumerable laps down the same black line every day of the week. The team's presence is strong on campus. The distinguishable chlorine scent follows its members wherever they go. The swimming team spends most of its time together in the pool, at daily meals and on long bus rides to various meets across New England.

Because many of the swimmers also play water polo in the fall, the swim team is a very tight-knit group. "We're really close because that's two seasons with the same guys," upper Jackson Parell said. "There's a really friendly atmosphere among the guys. It's very supportive, so even when you don't have

the best of races, you can still lean back on the team."

Suffield is one of the fastest teams in the league and are the favorites to win this year. The fact that Exeter was able to finish within ten points off their tough opponents demonstrates the team's potential.

After three months of two hour practices and back-to-back races last year, the team finished their 2015-16 season with a record of four wins and six losses. Many of these dual meets were very close, coming down to one event, with a difference of just a couple of points.

The team credited its marginal losses to a shortage of key swimmers on those days. Exeter's performance at Interschols, where they placed in fourth out of eleven schools and defeated tough opponents that they had lost to earlier in the season, is a clear testament to

their progress.

"We managed to squeak by Chocate [who they had lost to earlier in the season] for fourth overall at the New England Championships," senior and co-captain Joel Lotzkar said, praising Exeter's comeback at Interschols.

The team is working hard to further its success this season and is continuing to put in the many hours of practice while finding new ways to improve from last year. "I think our main goal is to just kick ourselves back into shape," Parell said. "So we're just going to train right through the meets."

Big Red will keep training through the Christmas break to maintain their progress from these two weeks back for the start of the term. "We are planning to ramp up practice intensity and have a more focused mindset for practices and dual meets," Lotzkar added.

Although the team has lost several

of its critical swimmers from last year, it has acquired new and fresh talent. In their first meet of the year against Suffield, one of the newcomers, prep Charlie Venci, placed first in the 100-meter butterfly with a time of 54.87 seconds.

Another notable race from a young member of the team was prep Andrew Sun's 50- and 100-meter free, swimming his 50 in a quick 23.35 seconds. He secured third and second place respectively in those events. With the addition of these young and talented swimmers, the team's future looks promising.

When the boys return from break, they will swim against Brunswick, a team that has proved to be a formidable rival to boys' water polo in the fall and to boys' swimming in the winter. This meet is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 7. "We're looking forward to swimming fast for the rest of our season. Go Big Red," Lotzkar said.

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Fantasy Football Start/Sit Advice

By **TAYLOR WALSH**
Staff Writer

QB - START: T. Taylor, R. Wilson, C. Palmer SIT: E. Manning, B. Rothlisberger

RB - START: D. Johnson, J. Ajayi, L. Miller SIT: C. Hyde, L. Blount, F. Gore

WR: START: T. Williams, B. Cooks, D. Bryant SIT: A.J. Green, A. Cooper, J. Maclin

TE: START: K. Rudolph, A. Gates, T. Eifert SIT: D. Walker, J. Witten, C. Brate

DST: START: Falcons, Steelers, Cowboys SIT: Jets, Raiders, Eagles

K: START: Anyone but Blair Walsh

*Please keep in mind that this is all speculation



ExonianSports



WRESTLING PREPARES FOR SEASON

By CHIM TASIE-AMADI
Staff Writer

This past season, the Exeter wrestling team surpassed its own expectations as well as their of the coaches. Big Red finished with a great deal of wins as well as notable performances in the postseason tournaments.

The team finished off the season with a record of eight wins and three losses, including placing 1st at the Northern New England Invationals, 1st at the Class As, 2nd out of 51 at New Englands and 17th out of 137 teams at Nationals. Three members of the team, lower Hayden Brown and seniors Joey Rossetti and Quinn Abrams, had particularly outstanding seasons and became All-Americans after placing at Nationals.

Along with other current seniors and Class of 2016 graduates, the three served as powerhouses for the team. "I was definitely happy with our finish at the New England tournament, placing first and being New England Champ. I was hoping to do well at Nationals, and I did that. I became an All-American, but looking ahead I obviously want to move higher up on the podium," Brown said. "As a team, going into this season, our goal is to do better than last year," he added, hoping to place in the top ten overall at Nationals and win another New England Championship.

In recent years, the wrestling team has been taking on many kids who are newer to the sport with reasonable potential to help the team grow and cultivate talent. The team boasts wrestlers who are nationally acclaimed and are in the best position to help groom upcoming talent. "I was new to the sport last year, and being around guys of this level gives you a weird sense of how good people are. It can be hard to gauge yourself when compared to wrestlers



Upper Kevin Lyskawa grapples with his opponent.

Rachel Luo/The Exonian

of their caliber, but it motivates you," lower Cade Napier said.

Senior A.J. Pedro commented on the fact that a good portion of the wrestling team, comprised of the seniors, will be graduating this year. "It's the last year in Red for a lot of us on the team and this is probably going to be one of the best teams the school will have. I just think we should all just enjoy this season and all the guys newer to the sport should take time to learn and enjoy it too," he said. Looking to the future beyond the season, the team will be affected by the loss of its senior class, but they are

looking to make the most out of this year.

Dave Hudson, the head wrestling coach said that the team has "a very strong senior class," and while they might be graduating next year, he has full confidence in the potential of the team. "We have high expectations for this year and the goal is for everyone to stay healthy and ready so we can compete at our best."

For the team, wrestling is a sport where team members share a bond like no other. Going through intense practices and preparations for a grueling six minutes where each person lays down everything on the

mats creates a camaraderie like no other. "I don't think I'm better than anyone here. We all show up, work everyday and give our all. We're all in it together and that's what matters," prep Tyler Morris said.

Big Red wrestling is definitely looking forward to an eventful season, the curtain call for the senior class and an unveiling of hidden talents from the younger wrestlers. With the Battle at the Bay Tournament coming up and the Beast of the East this weekend, the team has a lot to look forward to. This season, all members of the team hope to once again, "Regain the Swamp."

Weekend Scoreboard

Boys' Hockey	3	Girls' Hockey	1	Boys' Swimming	88
Cushing Academy	1	Cushing Academy	3	Suffield Academy	98
Girls' Basketball	20	Boys' Basketball	59	Girls' Squash	5
Tabor Academy	73	The Hill School	55	St. Paul's School	2

Girls' Hockey Edged By Cushing In Close Game

TEAM REMAINS HOPEFUL FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON

By JO DE LA BRUYERE
Contributing Writer



Diana Davison/The Exonian

Upper Johna Vandergraaf skates with the puck.

Last Saturday, girls' hockey traveled to Cushing Academy. There, a strong Cushing squad edged out Big Red 3-1. It was a memorable game for nearly everyone involved. When asked who the opponent was, lower and goalie Michaela O'Brien replied, "um...Brooks?"

Having graduated a strong core of seniors last spring, girls' hockey is an exceptionally young team this year. Rather than seeing this as a setback, senior and co-captain Bonnie LaBonté believes that the youth of the team has sparked a dramatic increase in team spirit this year. O'Brien and upper Kaleigh Conte echoed this sentiment, describing the team's positivity and chemistry. O'Brien said, "In the end, we're all about pack mentality."

The girls carried that mentality onto the ice. Prep Cam McCrystal shone in her first start in net, but the beginning of the first period proved to be a rough patch for Exeter. They started off slowly, playing down to a lethargic Cushing team. Both teams rallied towards the end, with Exeter setting Prep Emma Watson up for a beautiful goal. With just a minute left in the period, Cushing responded. They tied the score heading into intermission.

Exeter found its footing in the second period. Conte, LaBonté and O'Brien agreed that the second period was "some of the best playing the team has done all season." They started off with a clean and quick first play

that set the tone for the rest of the period. Big Red played neatly and aggressively. They had 17 shots on goal, compared with just 10 in the first period. LaBonté and Sydnée Goyer both had notable scoring attempts. Despite this success, LaBonté remarked that "a few times, we just didn't finish to get the goal."

According to O'Brien, given their stellar performance in the second period, Exeter "went into the third period thinking we had it in the bag." This confidence led to the team losing some of the aggression that had proven so valuable just a period earlier. Cushing capitalized on this shift of playing style, scoring a goal in the third shift. Exeter continued to battle, but faced with a few controversial calls and an increasingly energetic Cushing team, the girls fell short. Cushing hammered home a 3-1 victory.

Looking back on the game, LaBonté said that the team "rarely played in our zone and just didn't generate strong enough offensive plays." This is an issue that girls' hockey will be focusing on in the practices to come; LaBonté hopes that coming off a loss, the team can "bring better intensity to practice." She continued, stating that "we played a good game. I think we could've won, the pucks just didn't bounce our way."

O'Brien reports that the team will certainly "channel their frustration into a killer game against Lawrence Academy this Wednesday." The girls will play at home against the Brooks School next Saturday.

InsideSports

Boys' Swimming



Jena Yun/The Exonian

The boys' swim team swam fast in their season opener, but fell to Suffield. More on 11.

Fantasy Football Start/Sit



Google Images

Need help winning your Fantasy Football league? Read more on 11.

Boys' Basketball



Jena Yun/The Exonian

Big Red suffered a disappointing loss to Tabor on Saturday. Read more on 11.

SATURDAY GAMES:

G. Hockey	Home	2:00pm
B. Hockey	Home	4:00pm
Track	Away	1:00pm
B. Basketball	Home	TBD
Wrestling	Away	TBD