

Phillips Exeter Academy
Exeter, New Hampshire

The Exonian

The oldest continuously running preparatory school newspaper in America



@thexonian

NEWS

Read about the student and faculty-led winter term anti-racist mini-courses, 5.

LIFE

Read about UnSilenced, a night of music, poetry and dance performances in advocacy for social justice, 5.

OP-ED

Read about columnist Stephen McNulty's hope for the Biden administration, 9.

Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris Inaugurated; Academy Celebrates



Courtesy of L.A. Times

By **STACY CHEN, SAFIRA SCHIOWITZ, ELLIE ANA SPERANTSAS and CLARK WU**

Joseph R. Biden of Delaware and Kamala D. Harris of California assumed the offices of President and Vice President of the United States respectively on Wednesday morning. Once inaugurated, Harris became the highest-ranking woman in U.S. history and the nation's first Black and Asian-American

Vice President.

Two weeks following the violent domestic terrorist on Capitol Hill, tensions remained high as the nation prepared for the transition to Biden administration. With the possibility of impeachment and future attacks, the United States was left in a state of uncertainty and division. Students and faculty are looking forward to seeing where the Biden administration steers the future of the United States.

"Madam Vice President is

making history!" upper Tanya Das said. "She is a woman of color and daughter of immigrants. She is paving the path and opening doors for many more minorities to hold positions of power and authority in our government."

Prep Vera Aimunmondion was reassured by the change in administration. "As a Black girl it means a lot to see Kamala Harris in the Capitol Building as the Vice President. This inauguration overall symbolizes change and progression in America," she said. "There will still be

people who exist with hatred in their hearts towards others because of the color of their skin, or just ill-hearted people in general...but I hope for the best, and that this administration lives up to its promises."

Prep Ayaan Akhtar thought similarly. "The inauguration of President Biden leaves me hopeful for the next four years. Biden explicitly denounced white supremacy and its toll on our nation and posed to fight against it."

Akhtar also had thoughts on what the new administra-

INAUGURATION, 2

Roxane Gay '92 Speaks at MLK Day

By **DAVID CHEN, KAYLEE CHEN, JESSECA HUANG and ATHENA WANG**

The Academy celebrated its 31st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day with keynote speaker Dr. Roxane Gay '92. Gay is a visiting professor at Yale University and the author of the New York Times bestseller *Bad Feminist*. In line with the day's theme of "(Beyond a) Day of Service," students and faculty were invited to

engage in asynchronous activities ranging from a virtual museum tour to a civil rights songs playlist.

"We encourage you to learn about the service of civil rights leaders and take part in service opportunities in your own communities," Director of Equity and Inclusion Dr. Stephanie Bramlett wrote in a schoolwide email on behalf of the 2020-2021 MLK Day Committee.

The celebrations kicked off on January 15 with the MLK Day preview As **GAY, 3**

Preliminary Vaccination Schedule Released

By **ATISHAY JAIN, TUCKER GIBBS, ASHLEY JIANG and KRISH PATEL**

The Lamont Health and Wellness staff received the COVID-19 vaccine during the last two weeks as part of New Hampshire's Phase 1b vaccine rollout plan. Academy faculty are projected to receive the vaccine through this March, and students are projected to receive the vaccine through May.

90 percent of the Academy's staff nurses, athletic trainers and physicians have received the initial dose of the vaccine, which was administered by the National Guard. The Academy plans to continue to follow the direction of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The Health Center has applied to be a vaccine administration site at the Academy.

The distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations in New Hampshire is divided into three phases. According to New Hampshire guidelines, Phase 1, divided into 1a and 1b, addresses frontline health workers, high-risk individuals, individuals over the age of 65 and other adults in residential homes. Phase 2 will take place from March through May, where vaccinations are planned for people between the ages of 65 and 74 in Phase 2a, and people between the ages of 50 and 64 in Phase 2b.

Phase 3 will take place in the latter half of 2021. In 3a, individuals under the age of 50 who are medically vulnerable with multiple conditions will receive the vaccine. In Phase 3b, which is set to take place after May, re-

maining individuals will have the opportunity to be vaccinated. Currently, only students 16 years and older are eligible to receive the vaccine.

Director of Athletic Training Adam Hernandez received the vaccine this month. "The process to be vaccinated has been relatively smooth," Hernandez said. "Because we are on a registry of licensed health care providers in the state, the Health Center staff all received an email from the state that provided a link to an online portal to set a time to be vaccinated."

The Academy has strongly recommended that those eligible ensure they receive the vaccine, though being vaccinated is currently not required. In a combined statement, physician assistant Erin Bradley and Medical Director Katy Lilly said, "if people have questions or concerns about the vaccine, I encourage them to reach out to a trusted medical provider to discuss them. The best medical decisions we can make for ourselves and our community are the ones that are well informed."

"Prior to coming to Exeter this past fall, I worked in the emergency department full time. I saw firsthand the devastating effects this illness has on patients and their families, how it taxed the medical professionals, and challenged our resources," Bradley and Lilly added. "I am tremendously grateful to the scientific community who worked together to develop these vaccines that will help to combat this global pandemic and allow us to move towards increased normalcy."

Winter Return Plans Announced

By **MAYA COHEN, LILY HAGGE and GRACIE KEYT**

After beginning the winter term with remote instruction, the Academy will welcome boarding students back to campus on Feb. 11, 12 and 13; boarders electing to arrive later can return on either March 13 or 20. International students on F-1 visas had to share their return plans no later than Dec. 15. For other students, final decisions for the winter and spring terms must be made no later than Jan. 24.

Principal William Rawson emailed all community members return information on Jan. 12. The email covered quarantine procedures before and after arrival, in-person instruction, extra-curricular activities and the on campus spring break from March 18 to 22.

Boarders will go through a week-long quarantine at home followed by another week-long quarantine on

campus. February returners will quarantine in campus dormitories while March returners will stay in an on-campus quarantine unit or nearby hotel.

Day students are expected to go through a two-week quarantine before returning to campus.

Students living in New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts who plan to return on March 20 via private transportation can have a two-week quarantine at home if they complete a waiver and agree to daily symptom checks by the Lamont Health Center staff in the second week of their quarantine.

Students may also elect to remain remote for the winter, spring or both.

The Academy will test all community members twice a week for COVID-19. Distancing and face mask guidelines from the fall will continue.

Rawson mentioned the

Academy's plans towards in-person instruction following the February returns. "Most classrooms in Phelps Science and Phillips Hall and some classrooms in the Academy Building will be outfitted for in-person instruction by February," Rawson said.

The spring term schedule will be changed to allow more in-person classes and days without academic classes every two weeks. "As a consequence, the spring term may be less accommodating for students in some time-zones. It will not, for instance, include evening classes (U.S. time zones)," Rawson said.

Assistant Principal Karen Lassey noted the Academy's plans to help students in such time zones. "We will be working individually with those students to help find solutions that allow them to continue with their coursework," Lassey said.

In addition to academic classes, the Academy plans

to lessen restrictions on athletic competitions and increase in-person meetings for dance, theater, and music. "Our intention is that athletic competition during the winter term will be intramural, including game-like conditions with referees, and we hope for interscholastic competition during spring term," Rawson said.

The Academy also plans to increase dining and recreational areas with a focus on indoor gathering. The Grainger Auditorium in the Phelps Science Center will be a dining space. According to the email, weekend activities may include "coffee houses, games in the field house, and movie nights" and "outdoor skating and snowshoeing."

Additionally, returning students will remain on campus until June. Between the winter and spring terms, there will be no academic classes from March 18 to 22; the Academy plans to offer students various social activities throughout the short break.

News-In-Brief

Weatherspoon Appointed as Dean of Students for 2021-2022

Russell Weatherspoon, who is currently the Director of Exeter Summer, will serve as Dean of Students starting on July 1, 2021. Weatherspoon began his

time at the Academy in 1987 as an instructor in Religion, Theater and English. Afterwards, he primarily taught religion, coached Girls JV Basketball and advised clubs including Precision, Outkast, Journalists for Human Rights and the Young Brothers Society. In

addition, Weatherspoon has served as a member of the Dean of Students Office, and ran Exeter Summer from 2019-2020.

"I am a bridge to a successor who will serve for more than two years," Weatherspoon said. "I want to assist

the deans and staff members so they can do their work as effectively as they have."

Current Dean of Students Brooks Moriarty praised Weatherspoon's tenure at the Academy. "Mr. Weatherspoon has been an important mentor to me ever since

I joined the faculty here," he said. "His wisdom and dedication to our students has inspired me in all of my work." Moriarty will continue to teach English at the Academy after his term ends.

Ramesh Appointed as As-

sistant Dean of Faculty

Mathematics Instructor Dr. Gayetri Ramesh was appointed as the Assistant Dean of Faculty, a new position, on January 11. Ramesh will assume her duties at the beginning of spring term.

News

Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris Inaugurated; Academy Celebrates Cont.

tion will entail. “I definitely think we will have progress... However, there still is a lot of work to be done and the inauguration of Biden isn’t necessarily going to solve everything.”

Jacquelyne Weatherspoon, who works in the Academy library and is one of the Democratic Club advisers, also commented on Vice President Harris making history. “[It is] such a joy that she represents so many women, so many diverse parts of our culture,” she said, adding that Vice President Harris represents centuries of women striving for gender equality.

Weatherspoon has had an active involvement in politics. She served on the New Hampshire House of Representatives, and is the co-chair for the New Hampshire Democratic Party African American Caucus. Vice President Harris and President Biden personally requested Mr. and Mrs. Weatherspoon’s endorsement during their campaign, and later asked for suggestions regarding the administration’s future undertakings.

“I wrote [to Biden and Harris] about girls and tech.

I wrote [to] them about maternal healthcare. I wrote to them about girls needing to attend school and how the COVID-19 has impacted their lives,” Weatherspoon said. “These are a few things that I asked Kamala to concentrate on.” Weatherspoon is hopeful that the President and Vice President will take her thoughts into account.

The Capitol Hill riot and its complications prompted student concern about the future of American unity. “I am deeply disheartened. I’ve thought this isn’t America. This isn’t us. But I’m beginning to think it is. This is us. Although I would like to have an upbeat outlook on American politics, division has ruptured the soul of this country and I’m just not sure we have the suture to fix it,” lower Charlie Holtz said.

Upper Lila Busser contended that the Biden administration must acknowledge the disappointing current state of America. “This is the crap that has been happening for years. The country is literally founded on slavery, racism and so many ideas like that.”

Biden stated in his speech

responding to the storming of Capitol Hill that the United States has always achieved its goals when its citizens work together. Busser believed that these words of encouragement do not account for the systems of oppressions still in place in the country. “America is not perfect,” she said.

Aimunmondion noted that those who stormed Capitol Hill were treated less harshly than the Black Lives Matter protesters who gathered in the summer of 2020. “The police were literally tear gassing people, [they had] rubber bullets, mace. A lot of people got hurt, even people who were protesting peacefully,” she said.

“Now we have people storming the Capitol Building. These people, they’ve been in the shadows. They’ve always been around and they’ve always been having hate and racism. I [feel] like Donald Trump enabled that,” Aimunmondion continued.

Upper Ana Casey felt that there is little hope of change for the future. “I don’t see how all of these groups in America can unite anytime soon. These ideas aren’t going to go away,

this hatred isn’t going to go away,” she said.

Senior Maggie Wainwright held that Trump is a product of underlying divisive issues. “The Democratic Party has a shot to stop the tide of the disease of which Trump is a symptom over the next four years. If we squander it with inaction or centrism or a return to Obama-era policy, we are screwed,” she said.

Political clubs on campus had to decide how to handle the discussion of the recent unprecedented events. Senior and co-head of the Democratic Club Nahla Owens attended a Republican Club meeting along with her fellow co-heads. According to Owens, “[Republican Club] elected not to talk about what happened at the Capitol even though it was the day after it happened.” She continued, saying, “I think the reasoning behind that was they said that people are tired of talking about it.”

Senior and co-head of the Academy’s Republican Club, Phil Horrigan, stated that the Student Council had a similar reaction. “There has not been any serious conversation

tween members of the Exec board on the event.”

Horrigan anticipated hearing about unity in Biden’s inauguration speech, a prediction that was confirmed on Inauguration Day. “Biden has proven over the last couple of months that he is not going to be our progressive savior,” he said. “Instead, I foresee a continuation of the status quo. I look forward to seeing the legislation that Biden has promised to release on the first day.”

Lower Samuel Creelan contemplated how President Biden’s inauguration previewed the theme of his presidency — “national unity. Whether that be racial [or] political unity, President Biden clearly is focused on rebuilding the country after a difficult year,” Creelan said. “I liked his speech too, I thought it was direct and honest, which was reflective of his character and the character of transparency I think he’s shooting for with this new administration.”

Owens is optimistic that the recent turmoil in the United States will serve as a catalyst for change. She believes that Trump’s impeachment trials

were a step towards bettering the nation. “We’re drawing a line somewhere,” she said. “I’m glad that we’re drawing that line again. I think it’s way too late to begin trying, but the fact that we’re getting there eventually makes me a little bit hopeful.”

Owens believes that in order to heal the nation, people of all political backgrounds must initiate a civil dialogue with Trump supporters, including the perpetrators of the attack on Capitol Hill. “We need to make an effort to reach out to those 70 million people [who voted for Trump] and really hear them and say, ‘What on earth were you thinking? How can we help you? How can we fix what you saw was wrong in our country? You thought we needed a Trump, why is that? How can we do better?’” Owens continued to say that the attackers must be brought to realize that what they did was illegal, but added, “we don’t need to treat those people like a lost cause.”

“It’s a crazy time to be alive as a teenager that goes to boarding school in America,” Owens said.

StuCo Votes on Constitution Amendments

By PETRA ORLOFF, VIR SHRESTHA and MICHAEL YANG

Student Council (StuCo) voted on three new amendments to the Student Council Constitution over winter break. StuCo passed the State of Emergency and Election Reform amendments with two-thirds majority votes, and did not pass the Dorm and Day Student amendment.

The Student Council Constitution, originally drafted in February of 1989, currently contains ten amendments.

Under the first proposed amendment, the State of Emergency clause, a state of emergency grants officers the power to take action on behalf of StuCo without procedural constraints, organize elections for any position and carry out acts not bound by the Constitution.

The Election Reform amendment, driven forward by senior and Co-head of the Elections Committee Charlie Preston, changes the current voting system into online ranked-choice voting to minimize the number of “useless” votes and more accurately measure the student body opinion. StuCo plans to use ElectionBuddy’s email voting feature.

The Dorm and Day Student amendment allotted one representative per dorm and six representatives for the day student body, lowering the number of total representatives from 65 to 26.

State Of Emergency Clause

According to co-Secretary Phil Horrigan, the state of emergency clause was proposed because the inability to meet remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic “immediately sidetracked our administration.”

“It was agonizing,” Horrigan said. “We all wanted to make a change, but we couldn’t. All we had the authority to do for the whole spring and summer was

meet with our advisors and other adults on campus. We need our Student Council to be able to serve in our worst moments, not just our best.”

StuCo Co-President Charlotte Lisa elaborated on the overarching purpose of the emergency clause. “There were no directions for us as an executive board when the pandemic hit, and the policy we’ve voted in could solve a large amount of the problems we faced as a board for future boards,” she said.

Election Reform

The newly passed election system consists of one round of voting per officer election and two for Presidential election, replacing the previous procedure that called for a primary and run-off round for the Co-Secretaries, Vice President, and the President of Student Council.

Lisa described the purpose behind the election amendment’s reform. “In elections where there are many many eligible candidates, such as 25+... the election’s results aren’t truly representative,” Lisa said. “For example, in the prep rep elections this fall, a candidate could have theoretically won with only about 10% of the class’ vote given the spread of votes across so many eligible candidates.”

Preston was an active supporter of the amendments. “It’s important that our voting methods adapt with the times in order to reflect our student population as accurately as possible. Plurality voting, or ‘First past the post’ is hardly an acceptable way to choose our representatives because it does not guarantee that anywhere close to a majority of a constituency actually wants their representatives in office,” Preston said. “I am elated that we’ve finally made the right moves on this issue and can go forward with more fair elections.”

Lower Jennifer Finkelstein expressed satisfaction with the change. “I think [this amendment] reflects

STUDENT COUNCIL AMMENDMENTS

1

state of emergency clause

grants officers the power to take action on behalf of StuCo without procedural constraints, organize elections for any position and carry out acts not bound by the Constitution

2

election reform

changes the current voting system into online ranked-choice voting to minimize the number of “useless” votes and more accurately measure the student body opinion

3

dorm/day student reps

allots one representative per dorm and six representatives for the day student body, lowering the number of total representatives from 65 to 26

changes that are desperately needed in large-scale politics. To me, it doesn’t seem vital here, since the Student Council is not divided into parties the way American politics is, but it only increases fairness in elections, and it probably wouldn’t hurt to get rid of ties in StuCo elections,” Finkelstein said.

Dorm/Day Student Reps

The preserved dorm representative system decides the number of representatives by dividing the number of students in each dorm by 20. Horrigan argued in favor of a new system to promote accountability. “This current Student Council is bogged down by a massive voting population that is unwieldy and ineffective,” Horrigan said. “Our day student and dorm reps do very little.”

“I believe [a new system] is necessary to improve efficiency within Student Council while still honoring representation and including varying voices in our StuCo discussions,” Lisa added.

Preston added his support. “[It] would have made StuCo much more efficient,” he said. “I do not see how the council, as it is, bene-

fits from semi-proportional representation. Why should Cilley, hypothetically, complain about having the same representation as Dow? Our ‘representatives’ do not actually represent different interests. There is nothing about being in a different dorm that would make and Ewaldian vote differently from a Hoytian.”

“This begs the question as to whether our reps have any representative power at all,” Preston continued. “Hell, we are a school of little over a thousand students. Do we need representatives at all? If StuCo consisted only of one President it would still represent the school better by far than any single congressional district. Our small community is perfectly poised for direct democracy, wherein any and all students could represent themselves.”

Finkelstein disagreed, arguing that decreasing the number of voters would not increase the efficacy of StuCo’s decision-making process. “If the issue is there is too much time spent on discourse, it doesn’t seem like limiting the number of voting members would fix that issue, because Student Council is an open forum. To improve participation

Avery Lavine/*The Exonian*

the constitution entirely.” According to the StuCo Executive Board, the goal in the amendments is to incorporate inclusion and representation into the Constitution.

The Student Council hopes that the two amendments will work to ensure that the Student Council is fair, democratic and capable of providing for the student body during unprecedented times. “I find it great to see that the Student Council is continuing to find ways to improve the school, even in the unusual circumstances of remote learning,” Finkelstein said. “The way the Executive Board has adopted is really admirable.” According to Lisa, StuCo will continue to re-assess the Constitution in hopes of achieving a more diversified and involved student body.

“Even though I support all the policies which were proposed, I am in no way upset that the first policy [Dorm and Day Student Representative Amendment] was not passed because at the end of the day, as a member of the Executive Board, I will always support other students’ opinions over my own personal thoughts,” Lisa said.

Roxane Gay ’92 Speaks at MLK Day Cont.



Courtesy of University of Virginia

-sembly and UnSilenced, a series of performances where students engaged in social activism through music, poetry and dance.

In response to feedback from previous years, the Academy hosted MLK Day celebrations on Monday, the official holiday, rather than the preceding Friday. “This is a huge improvement because it lets us celebrate in real time with everybody else in the country,” English Instructor and MLK Day Committee co-chair Courtney Marshall said.

The only synchronous events of the day, Gay’s presentation and following Q&A session, covered anti-racism, tokenization of Black voices and what it means to be an institution dedicated to diversity, equity and inclusion.

First, Gay addressed the Academy’s invitation.

“I am invited to events like these with a vague mandate to speak on race and diversity, even though these are not really my areas of expertise. But, I’m Black, so you know, that should cover it,” she said.

“These words become another empty container that people will fill with whatever nonsense they want,” she continued. “Basically, I’m invited to talk to you and teach white people about things that are largely pretty easy to figure out. I, like many people of color, are asked for solutions to problems I had no hand in creating. I will be honest, I am so very tired of talking about diversity. I’m so tired of the assumption that as a Black woman, I somehow have access to some magical N-gro wisdom about how to make the world a better and more inclusive place.”

In her speech, Gay also mentioned Instagram account @BlackatExeter,

which features anonymously-submitted experiences of Black students, faculty, and alumni of the Academy.

“It is devastating to see that very little has changed for Black students here in the past 30 years, in the past 60 years, in the past 90 years,” Gay said. Later, when asked about the account in the Q&A, she said, “I was shocked because I could not believe that the same bullsh*t we were dealing with in 1988 is still happening. Like, that’s naive of me, I admit, but like really — and then students are even afraid to post on @BlackatExeter because they don’t want to be confronted by their white peers who get real defensive about it because they think, ‘that’s not my institution.’”

After being asked a question about actions the Academy can take in response to past and present faculty being called out for racist actions in @BlackatExeter posts, Gay said:

“Fire them. There has to be a zero tolerance policy. The good ones are incredible. The bad ones are bad, and they are dangerously bad.”

Gay recalled an experience she had as a student at the Academy. “I was sick for weeks, and she [a dorm faculty] kept asking me if I was pregnant,” she said. “I was not pregnant. One night, I actually ended up passing out in the hall in front of her door, and I was rushed to the hospital. They took me to Boston because my gallbladder exploded. When bad teachers are bad — I almost died that week because she thought I was pregnant and didn’t take me seriously; the infirmary didn’t take me seriously.”

When asked how the Academy should respond to faculty members who were repeatedly mentioned in Instagram account

Black@Exeter, Gay responded: “Fire them.”

In an interview with The Exonian, Principal William Rawson explained what responses to faculty members mentioned in Black@Exeter and peer accounts have looked like so far. “The dean of faculty met separately, sometimes several times, with every member of the faculty who is individually named in Black@Exeter (as well as Asian@Exeter and Queer@Exeter),” Rawson said. “The meetings provided opportunities to process and learn from the posts, and reflect on the posts’ potential impacts on students’ future experiences in their classes, dorms, and teams. Many factors are taken into consideration when considering disciplinary action, and the nature of administrative response varies from person to person.

“The dean of faculty office is committed to promoting faculty members’ continued professional growth and to faculty accountability. Of course, details of employment action are confidential,” Rawson continued.

Gay expressed strong support for a potential stipend policy for ALES co-heads in response to the questions on the topic. “The endowment can afford it,” Gay said. “I think that students who serve in executive positions for all student organizations should receive stipends.”

When asked whether stipends for student leaders were being considered, Rawson responded, “this proposal has not previously been brought to my attention. I would like to hear from OMA, the Dean of Students Office and others to understand their views on whether compensation would be appropriate, for what students in what student organiza-

tions, and how they recommend those decisions be made.”

Rawson also addressed the Academy’s plans for retaining faculty of color. “This is a critical issue and one reason why we recently appointed an assistant dean of faculty. One of her primary charges is to help develop recruitment, hiring, onboarding, welcoming, and mentoring processes that will make PEA a place where faculty of color will want to come and want to stay. We need to look at everything—the experience in departments, other areas of responsibility, residential life, professional development and networking opportunities, informal support mechanisms, and more—and we need to continue our work on becoming an anti-racist institution.”

Mathematics Instructor Gayatri Ramesh was appointed to the Assistant Dean of Faculty position on January 11. She will assume her duties beginning spring term.

Students and faculty appreciated Gay’s honesty. For lower Lydia Osei, “it felt as though the issues that have been brought up time and time again on those platforms were recognized with a new degree of seriousness and formality—I felt a sense of genuine expression when she addressed the posts... something raw and unfiltered that I didn’t know I was waiting to hear until that point,” Osei said.

“The Academy honoring MLK Day feels as though they actually do care about making sure students pay attention to themes of justice to people of color, especially Black people... I feel as though there is a greater sense of belonging here for me at the Academy, which can be hard to feel sometimes,” Osei continued.

English Instructor Mercy Carbonell added, “What I appreciate about Gay is that she does not mince words, she tells the truth and she does not try to please those in power.”

“She has nothing to lose, like she can speak the truth in a way that people within the community maybe cannot. Maybe she will inspire us to speak the truth the way she does,” English Instructor Christina Breen said.

Gay’s words spurred student reflect on actions the Exeter community must take to become anti-racist. “Talking doesn’t give a solution but rather our actions and the steps we take to figuring out the problem. I think that was my biggest takeaway,” upper Aaron Venzon said.

Traditionally, the Academy’s official MLK Day has opened with a keynote presentation, after which students attended workshops offered by social activists and educators. The decision to eliminate synchronous workshops in this year’s program was a “multi-layered [one],” according to Marshall.

“We already spend so much time in classes and clubs and advising and all those meetings in front of Zoom,” Marshall said. “We wanted to find a way to get people away from the computers.”

Further informing that decision was a focus on creating a fair experience. “It was really important to me to make a day that was equitable for everybody,” Marshall continued. “We didn’t want people to feel they had to get up early or stay up late or interrupt things that were happening in their own household during the day to stop and participate in things.”

“I think keeping a lot of the events asynchronous was actually a smart move

which allowed everyone to accommodate their own circumstances. I don’t know what I would’ve done differently,” Osei said.

All asynchronous events were offered to further the committee’s goal of promoting community service. “If everybody really does the things they’re supposed to do—1100 Exonians doing something good all around the world—that’s a positive difference,” MLK Day Committee member and upper Eleanor Bolker said. “My real hope would be that there will be people who come out of it more interested in doing more.”

Prep Jane Park believed the program did not represent King’s legacy enough. “I was looking forward to a more in-depth and comprehensive overview of Dr. King’s life and the legacy he left behind. I would say I was shocked to see this wasn’t the case, especially knowing that the Academy cancelled all classes for this day,” Park said.

“It’s a chance to turn inward, and to kind of check in with each other, which is really different than sitting and spending a day in workshops,” Marshall said. “Just because you’re in the room doesn’t necessarily mean that you are engaged... having [the ability to make] personal decisions about how to spend the day and how to celebrate Martin Luther King’s life, to me, is a more effective way of doing the programming. It really makes more of an invitation to delve in.”

Carbonell reflected on Gay’s call for increased antiracist efforts at Exeter. “I have no idea how the administration will respond. What I want to know is what the administration will do?” she said.

Community Reflects on Anti-Racist Work

BEYOND BLACK AND WHITE	RACIALIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC THOUGHT	SKIN DEEP	QUEER HISTORY
Felix Zou Erin Sackey Nahla Owens Celine Tan Tendo Lumala Hannah Lim Aaron Joy Atticus Ross	Betty Luther-Hillman Erica Lazure Caitlyn Chen Julie Van Wright Frances Johnson Karen Lassey Lina Huang Anna Rose Marion	Veruka Salomone Minseo Kim Isabella Mercado Evie Houston Erin Choi Zoë Chang Margaret Norsworthy-Edghill	Lydia Osei Emmett Lockwood Alex Myers Addison Brannon Erin Choi Georgie Venci Senai Robinson Janessa Vargas Joanne Lembo Seo Hyung Kwak
IMMIGRATION, RACE, AND ETHNICITY	CONSTRUCTING/CREATING COMPETITIVE CULTURES	WHERE WE LIVE	A VISION OF JUSTICE
Lila Busser Indrani Basu Juliette Ortiz Dionna Richardson Toby Chan Alexa Murat Diego Ardua Jennifer Smith Dennis Aydin Courtney Skerritt Tanya Das	Adam Hernandez Maegan Paul Grace Gantt Ron Edmiston Alicia Coble Austin Washington Clark Wu Becky Moore Kaylee Bennett Alexa Caldwell Baron Fisher Ifeoma Ajufu	Beckie Gu Charles Preston Liam Ahern Kenneth Elsmar Siona Jain Michelle Park Teja Vankireddy Trevor Piltch Katie Lee Phil Horrigan Alexander Masoudi Marnie Terhune Cheikh Fiteni	Maxine Park Marina Williams Aviva Halani Finn Tronnes Sam Chalmers Anne Chen Sabrina Kearney Kris Johnson Laura Marshall Sue Repko Pilar Pérez Serrano Daniel Zhang Mercy Carbonell Sanisha Mahendra-Rajah Priya Nwakanma Sherard Harrington Ophelia Bentley

Anti-racist workshops and their respective facilitators and designers.

By ALIA BONANNO, ELLA BRADY, ANNA KIM, EMILIA KNIESTEDT and GAMZE TOKSOZ

This winter, The Academy changed the anti-racism work format from heavily criticized webinars to community-led anti-racist mini-courses, the first set of which concluded this Wednesday.

From January 6 to 20, the students and faculty members led mini-courses every Wednesday during one of two allocated blocks: one at 8:10 a.m. EST, and another at 1:55 p.m. EST. A second

round of mini-courses are planned to be held after January 20. The curricula were created by student and faculty led design teams starting from November.

Lower Alexa Murat, who facilitated the “Immigration and Racism” mini-course, believed that “the webinars [made] it really easy for students not to attend the anti-racist blocks,” Murat said. “I think that the [discussions are] accessible and welcoming... This environment allows for us to make mistakes and to learn from them.”

Reflecting on the first

two sessions, senior and “The Racialization of Scientific Thought” facilitator Anna Rose Marion noted that time was needed to adjust to the discussion format. “It is hard to jump right in to talk on the first time... I think that it took a little bit to get going, but towards the end, there was more exchange.”

“It always takes time for people to warm up and feel comfortable speaking about sensitive subjects with each other,” design team member, “A Vision of Justice” facilitator and upper Anne Chen said.

Murat reflected on the

Avery Lavine/*The Exonian*

value of student leadership. “[Our] role is to make sure that the conversations we are having are hitting the points we need to become anti-racist [and] that everyone in our classes feels welcomed and safe to talk about these topics,” Murat said.

Marion believes that by facilitating conversation on underdiscussed topics, the workshops can encourage anti-racist efforts within the community. “These topics are so important and they’re not always brought into the light [to] their fullest extent... by naming the issues and naming the

problems and forcing us to discuss them, it’ll force us to not be so performative and to act,” she said.

“We hope that students can come away feeling like they’ve learned something new... about themselves. The impact is going to vary from student to student, but the gesture in of itself matters,” Chen said.

As a student in “Queer History,” prep Jay Flanagan hoped to bring attention to underrepresented narratives. “I want to look more into the history and see if we can uncover more information about these people. It’s been so lost because no one spoke up about it. No one listened to them. We should use this place to celebrate those people,” he said.

Senior Isabel Carden was eager for learning opportunities that would not disregard the prolonged history of racism and injustice. “I don’t want my knowledge and my understanding of history to be only of white people, because that’s not very representative of this entire country and the entire history of people,” senior Isabel Carden said.

Although prep Sophie Zhu cited engagement in the “A Vision of Justice: How Art Opens Eyes, Touches Hearts & Transforms Society” mini-course, Zhu believed that the timing and group size limited its ability to foster dialogue. “Firstly, it is difficult to remember discussions from an entire week before. Secondly, the time at which my current program is at, 8 a.m., causes almost all if not most of the students to still be half-asleep,” Zhu said. “Discussion based learning is much more engaging, but I don’t think it is as engaging as it could be. The groups are really big to begin with... and when placed in breakout rooms to talk, it feels as though we were foreign to

each other.”

As absences are given for missed mini-courses, upper Stella Shattuck was concerned about reception to the programming. “I’m worried that people might just treat it like a requirement that needs to be cleared,” Shattuck said.

The mini-courses were only a beginning towards promoting an anti-racist community, Zhu emphasized. “The impact of racism is not something that we can fix in a 3 week course, meeting once a week. I think providing this course is one crucial step, but it is really up to the student to apply what is taught, and to pay attention during the class,” she said. “I think we can confront racism by these courses, but creating a true anti-racist school will take much more.”

Director of Athletic Training Adam Hernandez, facilitator of “Constructing/Creating Competitive Cultures,” noted that creating an anti-racist school will require community investment. “Anti-racist work is surely the beginning of an important cultural shift here at PEA that must be done in tandem with dismantling century old racist policies and practices. Finding the balance between moving deliberately and also taking enough time to create lasting change is difficult,” he said.

“Some of us in this community are more ready than others to engage in this work and others are just beginning in their anti-racist journey,” Hernandez continued. “I am eager to see how this work will continue to develop and, importantly, how this work will continue to be baked into our classroom spaces, advisories, dorms, clubs, affinity groups, and co-curricular spaces”

Featuring poetry, dance and music, the event raised money

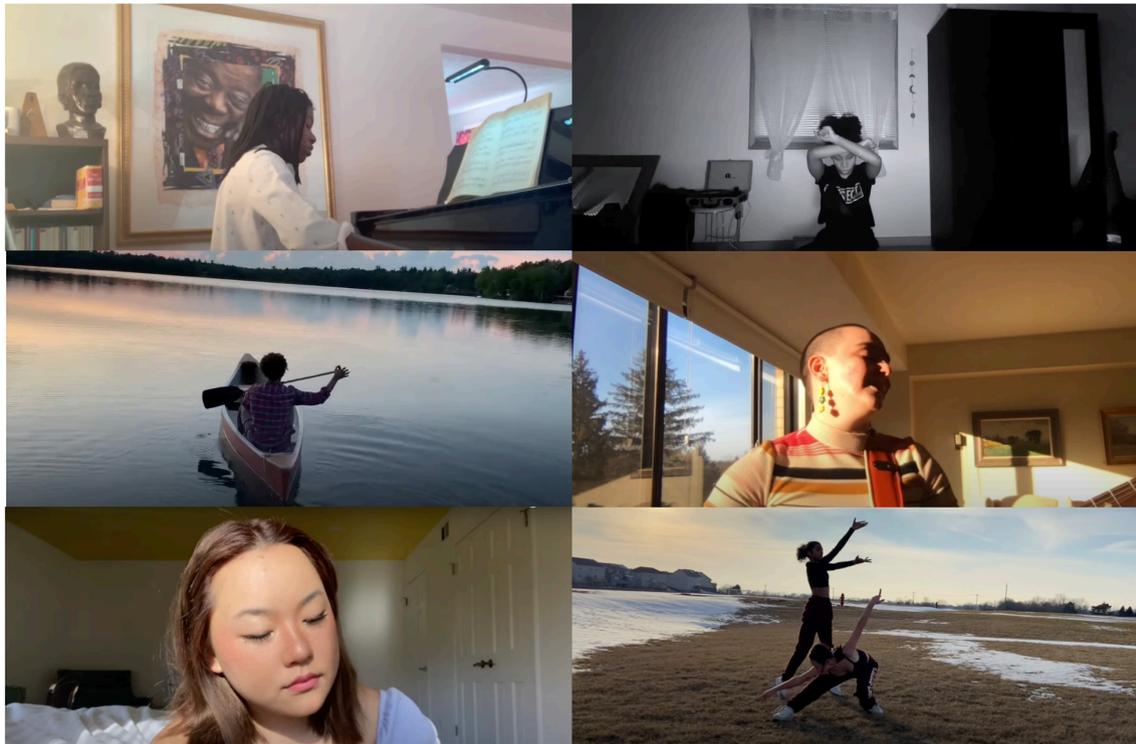
Life

» SENIOR OF THE WEEK
Read about Seth Amofa, known for many, many friends, 6

» FACULTY OF THE WEEK
Read about Choral Assistant Jerome Walker’s life of love and joy.

» ASSEMBLY
Read about Anthony Ocampo’s reflection on intersectional identity.

UnSilenced: A Night of Justice



Kiesse Nanor '22, Ki Odums '23, Osiris Russell-Delano '21, Sam Chalmers '21, Audrey Yin '21 and Siona Jain '22 and Anne Chen '22 (left to right).

Courtesy of @vocepa on Youtube

By JACQUELINE SUBKHANBERDINA, SHEALA IACOBUCCI and ANDREW YUAN

The weekend before Martin Luther King Jr. Day (MLK Day), students normally pack into the assembly hall for the Academy’s annual UnSilenced event. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the Academy community virtually gathered for performances on Friday evening.

Featuring poetry, dance and music, the event raised money

for Indigenous New Hampshire, an organization aiming to “not only highlight the contribution of the Indigenous Peoples to the Granite State but also build an enduring relationship between non-Indigenous and local Indigenous communities in NH,” according to their website.

Co-organizer and upper Siona Jain kicked off the event. “We hope you leave feeling inspired, empowered and unstoppable,” Jain said.

Although the virtual setting presented unique challenges,

it also provided new opportunities. Seniors Nahla Owens and Dillon Mims, and Jain organized this year’s programming and drew inspiration from the virtual UnSilenced in the spring term. “[Exeter alumni] Kiki, Alisha, Audrey and Erin really paved the way for us,” Owens said.

Owens hoped UnSilenced would ramp up excitement for MLK day similar to past years. “We really wanted to work hard to replicate... that feeling... when you’re seated next to your classmates, and you get to see maybe some-

one from your team or from your class or club go up on stage and absolutely kill it.”

The watch party, co-hosted by the Afro-Latinx Exonian Society (ALES) on Zoom, allowed for real-time commentary and support, according to audience member and last year’s co-organiser Kileidria Aguilar '20. “The mere fact that UnSilenced continues during the pandemic, the BLM movement, and the recent domestic terrorist attack in D.C., is a testament to the strength and will of our generation to do better and be bet-

ter,” Aguilar said. “We wanted to give our performers complete freedom and artistic license to speak on the issues that impacted them,” Owens said. “And naturally one of those issues that came up was the Black Lives Matter movement, and just being Black in America.”

Owens hoped the UnSilenced performances reminded the community of its proximity to issues of racial justice. “It’s not just some far off issue,” Owens said. “You actually have classmates and

teammates and peers that are having to deal with some of the challenging experiences.”

Upper Shantelle Subkhanberdina closed the event with her rendition of Lauren Daigle’s “You Say.” Subkhanberdina missed “the energy that comes with physically performing,” but considered the event “fantastic” nonetheless. “I was stunned... The most special part of UnSilenced was that, if just for an hour, it truly brought me back into the Exeter community.”

Owens hoped the UnSilenced performances re-

International Students Face Adversity During Remote Learning

By LAUREN KIM, JACQUELINE LUQUE, ANDREA NYSTEDT, HANNAH PARK and CLARK WU

As classes resumed remotely for the first six weeks of the winter term, domestic and international students alike have faced challenges adapting to the time differences.

The current schedule consists of three synchronous Zoom meetings and one asynchronous block during which assignments are due. In EST, class times can range from 8:10 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. before a free interval until class at 8:00 p.m. Some music modules meet from 3:05 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

However, students from different time zones have been required to attend synchronous classes early in the morning or late at night, complicating their ability to learn.

“Some days I have classes until midnight, and another class at 8 a.m. the next day,” prep Nhan Phan from Vietnam said.

“I don’t like my current

schedule,” lower Joy Chi from Taiwan said. “My current schedule is completely flipped (‘morning’ classes at night and vice versa), which has not only made it difficult to learn—with classes being late at night—but also made it difficult to sleep thereafter.”

“It is hard to fully focus late at night and it gets very tiring a lot of the time,” prep Ye-won Lee from South Korea said. “I try to get to sleep right away after my night classes so that I can be awake for the morning class, but I can’t get a deep sleep. I’m guessing it is because of the burden of having to go to sleep between fixed times to maintain a good sleep schedule.”

The effects of remote learning have extended beyond classes into clubs. “Finishing late night classes and waking up for Orchestra at 5 [a.m.] on a Saturday isn’t very pleasing as you would imagine,” prep Gunn Sukhum from Thailand said.

“I don’t really participate in clubs because of time-zones,” prep Akubah

Ndubah said. “Most clubs are at an inconvenient time for me, so I just go without them.”

Although upper Jean-Francois Manigo Gilarioni from Switzerland has routinely ended his day at around 5 a.m. to accommodate for homework and clubs, he cited teacher awareness of time zone difficulties as valuable. “During my fall term, for all asynchronous assignments, one of my teachers gave international students a 12-hour window past the original deadline to hand in their homework. Having that extra time was a big help and allowed me to be on top of all my schoolwork and not be too stressed out.”

The stress from having a difficult schedule has troubled Lee, who “sometimes feel[s] frustrated when confusing deadlines or losing track of them because of miscalculating time zones or having assignments uploaded when sleeping.”

Ndubah emphasized concerns about academic support being impaired during the time zone differ-

ence. “I don’t really have any access to help from my teachers because of time-zone differences so I’ve landed in some tricky situations where I’m confused about how to do an assignment but there’s no one to ask.”

Senior Felix Yeung from Hong Kong has attended classes in the night and sleeps throughout the day. Due to loud construction in his apartment complex, Yeung has moved into a hotel to avoid interference with his schedule and learning. “I really think that is a sign of class privilege on my part, that I am able to have the financial resources to do that. If a student from a low-income background had to deal with construction, midnight school and didn’t have the resources to move elsewhere, that would be a real disaster,” Yeung said. “I think that teachers, and the Academy at-large, should be especially attuned to the different challenges that students might be facing. I am very fortunate—others may not be.”

Upper Emily Wang

from Australia has selected three asynchronous courses to lessen her required synchronous meetings. “The only downside is that I don’t get as much interaction with classmates, which is a little disappointing but that’s the best we can do.”

“With my current schedule, I have a huge amount of work to do with nothing to break up my day and no one to work with,” Wang said. “I just need to get a little bit more used to managing the workload, and try and find ways to keep myself involved with the rest of the school.”

“Even though it’s really good to give consistency, such as a regular amount of work, to get people into patterns, I do wish there was more space in classes for people to express where they are, how they are—to be together, to have a social space where we can just talk,” Yeung said. “It can feel very isolating to have things going on, positive or negative, and lack a space to share that or take stock.”

The combination of remote learning, difficult schedules and disconnect with the Academy has impacted students’ mental health.

“Health services feel like they have been com-

pletely closed off this term, mainly because counselling services are not offered international-ly. That, combined with not being able to stay in touch with my friends or even family, has been very detrimental to my mental health,” Chi said.

“Personally, I feel like we all know there is the option of reaching out to counselors, faculty, etc., but I do not believe the administration has reached out enough to the student body, since online learning is troubling for many,” prep Amber Zou added. “I would like to see more initiatives done striving towards mental wellness.”

“I think a lot of us rely on Exeter as a place where we can solely focus on learning, without the distraction of those elements of our lives that can have a negative effect on our mental health and wellness. Exeter is where things can be temporarily pushed aside, where we have, to some extent, a common baseline,” Yeung said. “Right now, not everyone is struggling to the same degree, but we all have new things to manage. I think that, if anything, we should be there for one another during this difficult time.”

Quarantine Cooking: Community Table



By ANNA KIM, ANDREA NYSTEDT and ELLIE ANA SPERANTAS

During the pandemic, Exonians took to the kitchen and gathered virtually at Community Table, a pilot-program created by Health Instructor Brandon Thomas. Community Table focuses on cultural cuisine, cooking and food justice, and the club meets at 6:00 p.m. on Sundays.

“With more time on my hands, I was able to try out recipes that take longer time or are more experimental,” senior Emily Kang said.

Prep Luke Davis has also cooked in his spare time. “Pouring time into a task which results in a physical product, especially one that I’m proud of and can share with other people, makes me happy and is a good way to keep myself busy,” Davis said.

Upper Riley Valashinas agreed. “[It’s] an unexpected bonus to staying home all the time.”

Certain students have used Community Table as a form of reconnecting. For example, senior Erin McCann has practiced her Korean cuisine, and prep Sofia Novosad has I’m proud of and can share with other people, makes me happy and is a good way to keep myself busy,” Davis said.

Most recently, Emily Kang

took to the virtual stage. Erin McCann compared the experience to “watching a professional cooking show for free.”

Club members fondly recall an in-person meeting in October when the club met for a socially distanced cook-out under the tent behind the Goel Center. “The entire meal was farm to table and some of the dishes produced were restaurant quality,” Thomas said.

“My favorite part about

Community Table is being surrounded by people who love food as much as I do,” Kang said. “I love eating, but I also enjoy learning about food justice, cooking meals together, and sharing information about our cultures through food.”

Prep Sarah Sargent agreed and was grateful for connecting with “people [she] didn’t before.”

Thomas spoke on the power of shared meals. “Food is

such a unifier and I thought that enjoying food together while exposing others to aspects of culture that they weren’t as familiar with was a step into knowing each other better,” Thomas said.

“After everything that happened during the summer of 2020, [Community Table] was largely my nuanced response,” Thomas said. “Distance breeds fear and proximity breeds understanding.”

Senior of the Week: Seth Amofa

By ALEXA WINGATE and LILY HAGGE

Having moved from Ghana to Chicago then from Chicago to Exeter, Seth Amofa has accumulated many ideas, memories, perspectives and friends—so many friends.

“Every time I walk around campus with him, he says ‘hello’ enthusiastically to everyone on the path,” senior and close friend Julia Dobbins said. “It takes him forever to get from point A to point B because he strikes up at least three conversations every time he tries to go anywhere.”

Seth Amofa is a four-year senior living in Abbott Hall. He grew up in Ghana, and in his senior meditation, “Between Ghana and America: Connecting the Roots,” Amofa described life in Ghana as “simple and fun.” “I was just a kid, living a carefree and adventurous life with my friends and family in my village, Suhyen,” Amofa said.

When Amofa was ten, he and his family moved to Chicago. “[My dad] should have warned me that they would see me differently,” Amofa said. “And even those who looked like me didn’t embrace the culture that I did in [Ghana].”

According to Amofa, the transition from Ghana to America prepared him for the move to Exeter.

“Coming in as a prep... I was very shy and nervous, but that quickly died away come lower year because I decided to bust out of my bubble and meet [more] people,” Amofa said. “I think I’ve really met some and connected with some really great people.”

Senior Sarah Huang remembered meeting Amofa in a Math class their prep year. “He was friendly with a lot of other classmates yet still always made an effort to say ‘hi’ and reach out,” Huang said. “I think that’s really amazing.”

[Amofa is] someone who loves people and is hilariously funny, but he’s also developed a capacity for serious, reflective, and important conversations about race, politics, and the ‘right way to do Exeter’ in terms of his relationships,” Dobbins said.

Amofa brings a unique energy to Exeter, according to friends and classmates. “[He] really takes advantage of the Exeter community by getting to know everyone,” former roommate and senior Joshua Lum said. “He brings a lot of humor and (mostly) good cha-

os to a lot of conversation.”

Lum recalled one of the memories they share. “A senior gave us some computer speakers to use. We would play music while working or after working or randomly and get hyped over it,” Lum said. “We also just spent a lot of time talking about random stuff, and still continue to do so even though we aren’t roommates anymore.”

One of Amofa’s favorite classes from his time at Exeter is a spring English course from his lower year. Amofa’s class read *Salvage the Bones*, a story tracking a Black family living in Mississippi during Hurricane Katrina. According to Amofa, it was “a class at the end of the day—five or six when you come outside. It’s so dark. It’s snowy. You would think that’s not good, to have a class... it goes fast at the end, but that was my English class that we had the most productive conversations and I really got to know my peers.”

Amofa said that his advisor, History Instructor Michael Matsumaru, “shaped how I approached my Exeter career because I was more book-oriented, but he told me essentially, yes, Seth, there is a time for your books and times for social



Courtesy of Seth Amofa

activities and times for whatever you want to do.”

Amofa and Matsumaru first bonded over sports, when the two played pickup soccer with each other. “I could tell that he needed a mentor to help him with his game,” Matsumaru said. “He talked a lot of trash, which was maybe the strongest part of his game, but even there I felt like I could help him. He still tends to cling to my age as a crutch (pun intended) when we start going back and forth. I thought it was pretty hilarious when I found out that I

was going to be his advisor.”

Amofa shared some advice for incoming students. “Connect with [your] peers outside of class, but also reach out on the paths... just stopping someone and saying, ‘hello, how are you?’ Or, ‘yo, what’s going on?’ ... really helped me form many connections,” Amofa said.

Amofa also found friends in many different circles by participating in many activities on campus—Kirtland Society, Student Council, Latin Club and Biology

Club.

He recommended that students ask for help when they need it. “Please don’t hesitate to reach out for help... I think that’s something that helped me and shaped me into the student I am. As soon as I don’t understand anything, I’ll reach out to either my peer or shoot my teacher an email because I believe in learning for learning’s sake,” Amofa said. “So reach out for help. Whenever you are stuck, you don’t have to feel alone.”

room to work on a piece, and an incredible composer.” “I have the soundtrack to *What Comes Next* stuck in my head as we speak,” McNulty said.

To Walker, the most rewarding part of teaching is growing with his students. “When I’m in class and talking about music I’m really familiar with, there’s always someone looking at it with fresh eyes. And they bring up something I’ve never thought of before. That feels incredible. I’ve learned so much from these interactions,” Walker said.

“Even more than this, I love to be in the building when people are running around and it’s like someone’s having the most dramatic day of their life. You know, in eight months this day will be another blip on their radar,” Walker said. “I honestly enjoy being a part of the lives of students in general.”

Walker praised Exeter on its supportive environment. “We encourage people to pursue the things that they enjoy. High school is an age when you can do stuff because you enjoy it or want to try it out or because you’ve never done it before. You don’t have to get locked in. Even if you never sing again in your life, you’re still great, and you still bring great stuff to the room and have a great time.”

At Exeter, Walker certainly enjoys life to the fullest. If you can’t find him in the music building, there’s a good chance he’s feasting on candy at Grill. “We’d go to Grill and get crazy sugary candy to share,” Johnson said. “Sometimes he’d have to remind himself, ‘Oh right, I should eat other food.’”

Walker wants to keep living in the moment, and hopes to leave some of this spirit at Exeter. “I am not particularly one for plans,” Walker said. “I have always done what felt right in the moment and gone in the direction that just felt the best in the moment. It brought me to Exeter and I’m really happy here. I hope that it continues to serve me well.”

In the movie, Anthony “Tick” Belrose (Hugo Weaving), Bernadette Bassenger (Terrance Stamp) and Adam White-



Music Review: Open Sea by Kinneret

By MAEGAN PAUL

On Nov. 5, 2020, new age artist Kinneret released her second album,

“Open Sea”, which is just as fun as her debut album from 2019. As an independent artist, her songs consistently give a sound that is authenti-

cally her own, which is something unique and intriguing in the best possible way.

One defining characteristic of Kinneret’s music

is clever wordplay with a strong hint of existentialism. She asks questions like “what do colors do” and “who are you,” both of which happen to be the titles to two of my favorite songs. In addition to carefully-crafted lyrics and queries, Kinneret entrances with her mixing of each track. The presence of a strong bass builds many of her songs into chill head-boppers that create an energy which is most accurately described as “a perfect vibe,” making it nearly impossible to hate any of her work.

Kinneret’s tracks are further enhanced by a layering of keys and voice. She utilizes unexpected and exciting harmonies such as the perfect fourth to create a sound that is pleasant to listeners. She also bends the sound of her music with the use of added reverb and echo. What a pleasant thing to jam out to!

The first single on this album, “Run on the Water,” is the perfect combination of aspects that create Kinneret’s distinct sound. She starts the

track with an intro reminiscent of the score from a cartoon alien show, but she uses this as an unusual background melody which adds energy to the song.

Later, as the song seems to draw to an end, Kinneret switches the beat and introduces an unknown friend in a way that reminds me of Billie Eilish and Finneas’ opening track for their album “WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO?”

This casual and commentary-like portion of her songs is not new for Kinneret: it was something heavily prevalent on her “DMZ” album. Her friends and collaborators have fewer of those informal moments in “Open Sea,” but that has not detracted from the joy in her songs.

The only other song with fun group recording session vibes, “New Approach!” is the biggest bop in the album. The track features heavy bass and a verse from artist ANTICULTURE with more clever wordplay.

Kinneret makes a brief

appearance in the song and introduces another collaborator in a comedic moment where the collaborator breaks the fourth wall to ask when to come in. Once it is finally “Daniel’s time,” he spits a few bars with an incredibly soothing voice. His verse and tone feel a bit spooky, but the general atmosphere of openness that is created by the fun moment between Kinneret and Daniel, creates a pleasant trust and sense of happiness while listening.

Most of Gen Z is probably most familiar with “No Wind Resistance!” from her first album, and while that song is classically Kinneret, there is much more to the artist that should be explored, regardless of what genres you currently prefer. I encourage everyone to listen to “Open Sea” and watch out for any of her future projects. Kinneret is an artist truly pushing outside the norm of even bedroom pop artists, and there is certainly more to expect from this budding and talented musician.

Kinneret makes a brief

Faculty of the Week: Jerome Walker



By TANIA RANA, VIBHA UDAY and CLARK WU

If you ask anyone who knows Choral Assistant Intern Jerome Walker, they’ll tell you that his laugh, his energy and his empathy are contagious.

From a young age, Walker looked up to his educators. “Our family always regarded teachers highly and recognized the importance of education in ourselves and in our democracy,” Walker said. “I was also fortunate enough to have many teachers of my own that I really had a lot of love for.”

One of them was John Touchton, Walker’s high school chorus teacher. “I loved him so much. He made our chorus his life,” Walker said. “We had a full chorus that had about 90 people in it and everyone

in the chorus loved him. He made everyone feel like they were having a great time in the room. And I just thought that was incredible... I would love to be able to do that.” And so Walker was on his way.

Walker’s passion and talent for music stood out when he applied to be an intern at the Academy. Since their first meeting, Chair of the Department of Music and Instructor in Choral Music Kristofer Johnson was fascinated by Walker’s compositions and musical tastes.

“It’s a little rare to find someone that you have an enormous rapport with... that in some ways you speak the same language, but you also challenge each other, offer each other wildly different perspectives,

different tastes, different life experiences,” Johnson said. “And it just seemed

that I would learn as much from Mr. Walker, as I hope that he would learn from me working with the choirs at Exeter.”

Arriving at the Academy, however, presented challenges. “As someone new to the community, it’s very hard to find your place,” Walker said. “You know, everyone else has been here for 25 years and you start to question how you fit in.”

“Exeter is a really old place and it has a lot of traditions. I don’t think we, as people or as a society, are served by following a tradition for tradition’s sake,” Walker continued. “There are things that Exeter really holds onto because it feels dear to the people here. It certainly has rewarding elements, but I don’t know that it always serves us the best. I don’t know that it’s always serving our students, in the world that we live in, the

Courtesy of Jerome Walker

best.”

As Johnson expected, Walker’s insights and perspectives proved an amazing addition to the Department of Music at Exeter. “He is a young musician, but he is in some ways wise way beyond his years. He’s been a real gift, and he’s going to leave a lasting legacy for us in the music department,” Johnson said.

“Mr. Walker brings his spirit, energy and a sense of joy to Exeter. He cares. He cares about his students and he cares about his colleagues across campus,” Music Program Administrator Barbara Darby added. “And, he has a great laugh.”

Walker reciprocates the music department’s love. “I have to make this optimization problem work—the music needs to be appropriate for the ensemble but also hold some excitement and beauty,” Walker said.



Movie Review: The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert

By ELLA BRADY

In the 1980s, much of drag culture had become passe.

Post-Stonewall, the demonstrations led by members of the gay community in response to a police raid and set the scene for an international gay rights movement, a more macho attitude was favored among the gay community. It wasn’t until the 1990s that drag resurfaced, leading to its popularity in mainstream media. Movies facilitated this transition, and *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* was most prominent among them.

In the movie, Anthony “Tick” Belrose (Hugo Weaving), Bernadette Bassenger (Terrance Stamp) and Adam White-

ly (Guy Pearce) are drag queens in Sydney, Australia who ride through the Australian desert to perform in a hotel owned by Anthony’s wife. Along the way, they encounter petty inconvenience and homophobia which they were unprepared for, having grown up in the more progressive city of Sydney.

All three actors do a fine job which is surprising considering that the other roles they have played were decidedly heterosexual. Each actor manages to find a tasteful satire and avoid any mockery. The characters work together well but remain distinctive.

The movie’s comedic aspect relies on extreme camp and ironic taste. Thanks to fabulous costuming and makeup, the

funniest parts of the movie are not the “jokes” but the general glitziness and self-indulgence.

The “jokes” are funny, as well, partially due to the shared cynicism of the three protagonists which are different in style but equal in magnitude. Adam tends toward a willful obnoxiousness, Bernice towards fatigue and Tick towards poutiness.

Despite how entertaining and funny it is, Priscilla soured with time. The biggest offense is blatant racism in the vulgar and demeaning portrayal of the prostitute Cynthia who is one of the few non-white characters. The dialogue is also rife with off-color humor that sometimes manifests in sexism, none of which is excused by the pro-

LGBTQ message or the ironic delivery.

The film dates itself in a bigger way too. Camp in media has historically been used to subvert authority, indirectly supporting an issue. Priscilla is no exception. It subverts homophobic/authoritarian characters with exaggeration of their most condemnable qualities.

This approach, however, has recently gone out of style in favor of a more head-on approach to these kinds of issues. There simply isn’t time for spectacle when it comes to issues like racism or homophobia. The cultural importance of the film seems diluted by the indirectness of the core purpose, normalizing drag culture.

Even the heartwarming or serious parts of the movie are infiltrated by dryness or affect. Whenever the characters cry, their tears seem pretentious. The bond between the queens does not seem authentic. Humanity is lost in the movie’s excessiveness and kitsch.

Still, the movie is hardly bad or old fashioned. While Priscilla’s cultural commentary has aged, its shameless fun never will. The campy acting, sets, costume and dialogue still succeed in their comedy if not in their broader message: Priscilla is a cult classic for a reason. prience to “watching a professional cooking show for free.”

Club members fondly recall an in-person meeting in October when the club met for a socially distanced cookout under the tent behind the Goel Center. “The entire meal was farm to table and some of the dishes produced were restaurant quality,” Thomas said.

“My favorite part about Community Table is being surrounded by people who love food as much as I do,” Kang said. “I love eating, but I also enjoy learning about food justice, cooking meals together, and sharing information about our cultures through food.”

Prep Sarah Sargent agreed and was grateful for connecting with “people [she] didn’t before.”

Thomas spoke on the power of shared meals. “Food is such a unifier and I thought that enjoying food together while exposing others to aspects of culture that they weren’t as familiar with was a step into knowing each other better,” Thomas said.

“After everything that happened during the summer of 2020, [Community Table] was largely my nuanced response,” Thomas said. “Distance breeds fear and proximity breeds understanding.”

Anthony Ocampo Speaks on Intersectional Identity



Courtesy of Anthony Ocampo

By ANNE BRANDES, LEELA GANDHI and VALENTINA ZHANG

From his virtual stage, race, immigration and LGBTQ+ studies scholar Dr. Anthony Ocampo kicked off his assembly by ruminating on the insurrection at the Capitol. Ocampo pointed out the importance of highlighting marginalized stories. Though facts can change minds, Ocampo reflected, a storyline often holds a considerable amount of persuasive weight. This is one of the core insights behind his book: *The Latinos of Asia: How Filipino Americans Break the Rules of Race*.

A Filipino-American and the son of immigrants, Ocampo never planned to write a book, get a PhD or be a professor. However, when he arrived at Stanford University he reacted to the lack of Filipino representation by “writing things out.”

One of his professors “out of nowhere” instructed Ocampo to get a PhD. “We need folks to tell our story,” she said to him. This experience set Ocampo on his lifelong path. Ocampo grew up searching for Filipino literature and content, and through his book he had an opportunity to contribute to Filipino media.

His book primarily revolves around the question: ‘Is race only about the color of your skin?’ Ocampo answers this question by exploring social context. According to Ocampo, “Filipino Americans trace their roots to a society in Asia, but share many cultural characteristics with Latinos, such as religion and last names. This book addresses this puzzle: Are Filipinos in

the United States becoming Asian American or Latino?”

The book highlights how Filipino-American identities can change depending on the communities they grow up in, the schools they attend and the people they befriend. *The Latinos of Asia: How Filipino Americans Break the Rules of Race* has recently been featured on NPR Morning Edition.

Ocampo currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Cal Poly Pomona and is a Ford Foundation Fellow. He is currently working on *To Be Brown and Gay in LA* which will document the experiences of gay men of color from immigrant families.

Reflecting on his experience speaking at Exeter in an interview with *The Exonian*, Ocampo shared what it was like to grow up as a queer person of color. “On the one hand, I didn’t really know where I sat in terms of my own identity. On the other hand, I already knew it was wrong,” Ocampo said. “The problem is, when you’re a kid of color growing up, you don’t see a lot of people in your family, schools or television who are going through the same thing. And so you just feel so alone.”

He hoped to give an opportunity to air Filipino experiences. “It’s okay to take up space,” Ocampo said. “It’s okay to have the experiences that you’re so used to...and have those be front and center.”

Upper Aaron Venzon, who co-hosted the Assembly Q & A session with upper Elijah Porras, appreciated the centering of Filipino experiences at Assembly. “I think Dr. Ocampo did an amazing job answering my own ques-

tions about my self-identity. Growing up in America, it was extremely difficult for me to really connect with other kids I met who weren’t Filipino,” Venzon said. “I think I can say that for kids who identify as Filipino-American, we share a common struggle of trying to fit in with certain groups as we’re usually assumed to either be East Asian or Latino, which makes it extremely difficult to really embrace our Filipino identity. However, Dr. Ocampo’s speech definitely reassured me and made me realize the importance of embracing my Filipino identity.”

Lower Grace Nivera, who identifies as Filipino, expresses gratitude for the assembly. “I thought Dr. Ocampo’s assembly was long overdue. Filipinos have had so little representation in the media (a side character in a movie here and there, one sentence in a history textbook), and most of the time, we become overlooked, forgotten,” she said. “Being Filipino myself, I felt proud that our culture was finally in the spotlight. I needed to hear this talk.”

Additionally, Upper Aaron Venzon explained how Ocampo helped him accept his identity. “I think I can say that for kids who identify as Filipino-American, we share a common struggle of trying to fit in with certain groups as we’re usually assumed to either be East Asian or Latino, which makes it extremely difficult to really embrace our Filipino identity,” he explained. “However, Dr. Ocampo’s speech definitely reassured me and made me realize the importance of embracing my Filipino identity.”

Ocampo held a Q&A session for Exeter Pinoy

Society and Asian Voices after the assembly. Senior and co-head of Asian Voices (AV) Emily Kang shared aspects of Ocampo’s speech that stood out to her. “Ocampo spoke about how Filipino writing is only accepted when it’s about trauma or triumph. He also spoke about how he hopes to write about the mundane and he doesn’t have to tokenize his racial trauma,” Kang recalled.

During the Q&A session, Ocampo elaborated on his mission—and the responsibility it comes with. “He was talking about how the burden of representation and this need to create more narratives about being a Filipino American,” Kang remembered. “And he was super inspiring especially because Asian writers are pretty rare. His writing was really hopeful to me.”

Senior and co-head of Asian Voices Sarah Huang spoke about the importance of Asian representation. “I think representation is something that’s pretty easy to take for granted, especially when you’re like in the dominant group,” Huang said. “And so I think he offered just an amazing introductory and nuanced portrait of Filipino American presence in the United States. I really appreciated it.”

Huang concluded by recalling the beginning of Ocampo’s assembly. “In the beginning, he spoke about the power of storytelling, and how we need to continuously hear many different stories in order to dispel certain stereotypes or myths that exist about different populations,” Huang said. “I think challenging ourselves to discover new stories constantly is something that I hope the Exeter community will take away.”

NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS

By ANNA TRAN ’22 and COLIN JUNG ’24

“My New Year’s resolution is to be more assertive. I have never really been good at saying no or communicating my feelings when I am mad or annoyed so it’s something I want to work on in 2021.”

-Hayley Ren ’22

“This year, I am trying to focus on using my time effectively and being more conscious about which relationships I am investing. I think this will allow me to make the most of my free time and be able to learn and grow as much as possible this year.”

-Kira Ferdyn ’22

“I dislike New Year Resolutions [because] I don’t like ‘designing’ or planning things out at a particular time of the year. Everyone should be able to just do whatever they want whenever they want.”

-Andrew Yuan ’24

“A New Year’s resolution of mine is to keep journaling throughout the years. I started last year, but I stopped after the quarantine hit, so I wanted to do it this year.”

-William Park ’22

“My New Year’s resolution is to inspire myself and others to appreciate themselves and believe in one’s potential!”

-Senal Robinson ’21

“I just want to meditate more, and because I turn 18 this year I’ll be able to join a Sangha! So I’m pretty excited about that, and about reconnecting with Buddhism.”

-William “Bean” Ahern ’22

“The events leading into 2021 have disrupted our constants. It seems more and more that everything we hold dear is in flux, and that our lives can be changed in an instant by forces beyond us. My goal is to exist in spite of that.”

-Alec Tracey ’21

“[To find] more balance in life. I want to do what I like to do more and keep up with school, but also make some more time to relax.”

-Griffin Li ’24

“My resolution for this new year is to further my understanding of other perspectives. I tend to have a one-track mind and I would like to better educate myself to comprehend other points of view.”

-Amelia Scott ’22

“My New Year’s resolution is to listen to an episode of a podcast every day and be more vigilant about keeping a written diary. I also want to learn how to juggle.”

-Sava Thurber ’22

OpEd

» TRUMP & SOCIAL MEDIA

Read Andy Horrigan’s ’23 argument that the censoring of Donald Trump’s Twitter saved lives, 12.

» IMPEACHMENT

Read Anna Kim’s ’24 case for the impeachment of Donald Trump, regardless of success, 11.

To Biden

By STEPHEN MCNULTY ’21

It has been said that, for better or worse, most people on this campus hear me before they see me. In some way or another, most Exonians have had to endure my blaring, off-key gregorian chant on the pathways. That, most undoubtedly, is a part of who I am. If you’ve had me in class (my condolences on this front) or have had the fatal ill-luck to debate me on the paths, you’d get to see someone too argumentative for his own good. That is also, for better or worse, a part of who I am. Let’s dive a bit deeper, though. If you live in Knight House and have ever tried to come downstairs for a glass of water late at night, you’d probably find that I’ve been down here for a couple hours by now (procrastination does that, friends), and

that I’m currently taking a homework break by rocking out to the Dear Evan Hansen soundtrack. That’s probably a part of me, too.

There are also parts of me that most people don’t get to see; I’m thinking of one in particular. A good amount of you probably are vaguely aware that I’m one of the co-heads of Fight Club, Exeter’s peer-based grief support group. But very few of you probably understand what happens there. The answer is simple: We talk. Really, that’s it. (Okay, there’s pizza too, but that’s neither here nor there.) And for a club that’s just about talking, it seems really weird that I would feel such an intense connection to what happens in that space, in the Stuckey Room on Wednesday evenings. But I think that’s the power of Fight Club. For me, at least, the most liberating, refreshing feeling on this entire planet is

to find people who get it. People who don’t just say that they’re “sorry for your loss.” People who can sit in silence and just hold a sacred space.

Our entire nation is grieving right now. By conservative estimates, some 400,000 Americans have died from this pandemic that never seems to end or slow down. And in all likelihood, at least 100,000 more Americans will have joined their ranks by the time this is all through with. So the reality of America, in 2021, is this -- that half a million families in this country will have an empty seat at the dinner table and an empty bed at night. We cannot escape, diminish, or hide that fact. If there was ever a moment of national grief, it would be right now -- as more Americans die of COVID every day than died in the Twin Towers on 9/11. And that’s only one of the very many national griefs that these last four years have wrought.

I’m of the firm conviction that, like individu-

als, nations need time and space to grieve. I do not believe we will just be able to collectively “move on” from the events of this annus horribilis. I say this from personal experience, because I know what it is like to be told to “get over it” and “move on.” It’s quite literally impossible. So yes, we are going to have to grapple with the devastating effects of 2020 and of coronavirus on an emotional level, and not just a temporal one.

Just as importantly, in my view, we need leaders who understand the moment, who can bring people together in the face of tragedy, and who, above all, get it. It is for this reason that I have become earnestly convinced that Joe Biden is the man for this moment. I would have no other person as my President right now.

I should clarify. I did not support Biden in the primaries, and I find myself at odds with many of his policy positions. I am, for instance, an enthusiastic supporter of Medi-

care for All. And I am also acutely aware that he has a checkered political past, to say the least. I will likely continue to find myself frustrated at the incoming Administration’s comparatively moderate ideology. But in spite of all of that, I still find myself realizing that this isn’t about “settling for Biden.” He may not be the President I wanted, but damn is he the President we need right now.

If you haven’t yet gotten the chance to watch the new President’s remarks in Delaware before flying down to the Capitol, I would urge you to put down the paper right now and go watch Joe Biden talks about his son, Beau. Go watch the tears run down his eyes in a public speech -- because “[he only has] one regret; that [Beau]’s not here. Because we should be introducing him as President.” Go look Joe Biden in the eyes and tell me that he doesn’t get it.

I’d also urge you to go back and watch the Presidential debates. Watch

how Biden defended both his sons from vile attacks, with the most genuine, honest anger I have ever seen from an American politician. And watch how he spoke directly to families who lost someone from COVID. Watch the tape, because words don’t capture what Biden showed on that stage. He gets it.

Friends, by the time you read my words, Joe Biden will have been inaugurated President. It reminds me of Biden’s inauguration to the Senate in 1972, when the 29-year-old took the Oath of Office from the hospital bed of his two sons, who had just lost their mother and baby sister in a fatal car accident. This is our new President.

Our new President is the man who took the Amtrak four hours every day from Wilmington to Washington, D.C. and back, just so he could be there to drop his kids off at the bus stop in the morning and tuck them in at night. This is our Joe Biden, and I could not be more grateful to call him my President.

In The Pursuit Of Truth: Preserving the Facts of American History

By ANNE BRANDES ’21

Historical interpretations shift over time. Primary sources reflect past writers and readers; secondary and tertiary sources reflect contemporary writers and readers. Accurately understanding the past, however, is not a moving target. Historians can interpret the past more accurately by considering varied sources, reading scholarship which discusses those sources in different moments and including diverse voices in historical analysis. Some call these steps “revisionism.” I call these steps fact-checking.

There are parts of history that aren’t up for debate—they’re called facts. For instance, enslaved people arrived in America in 1619. America was founded in 1776. Joe Biden won the 2020 presidential election. Any reader of history shudders when facts are contest-

ed.

On November 2nd, President Donald Trump issued an executive order establishing the President’s Advisory 1776 Commission. The official report of the commission was published this past Monday. In a response to *The New York Times’* 1619 Project and other progressive historians’ approaches to United States history, Trump instructed the commission to ensure American children receive a “patriotic education.”

According to this order, attempts to correct the historical record are “a series of polemics grounded in poor scholarship” which have “vilified our Founders and our founding.” “Despite the virtues and accomplishments of this Nation,” the order reads, “many students are now taught in school to hate their own country, and to believe that the men and women who built it were not

heroes, but rather villains.” Which “virtues” of America are we talking about? The legacy of slavery? The My Lai massacre? Emmett Till’s murder? The Wilmington Coup? The Comstock Act? The Sand Creek massacre? The Santa Barbara Oil Spill? The Chinese Confession Program? Virginia’s Act XII? Historians hailing from across the political spectrum moan in chorus: “Come on.”

Doesn’t it give you chills when the government takes a racially-charged side on the nationwide instructional history? For all of our sakes, and our collective fear of “big brother,” the federal government should steer clear. For the record, the sentiment I’m expressing—a fear of big government—is rather conservative. This is a terrific moment to take a bipartisan sign of relief that Trump, as of yesterday, is no longer in

office.

The Wall Street Journal covered the 1776 commission in a recent editorial. In this piece, the writers claim the commission believes that “instilling understanding, rather than hatred, of one’s country is a core purpose of education.” Most evenly-keeled historians would advocate for nuance over extremism but that’s not really what this executive order is saying. This executive order discourages the tenets of nationwide progress. The order discourages examining American history in full, picking apart the past in its context and condemning white supremacy and exclusion in all forms to imagine a more perfect union.

A patriotic education is exactly what Americans need. Patriotism means a devotion to our country rather than a leader, an administration, a political party or even a history. American

democracy remains revolutionary, and the only thing harder than founding a democracy is keeping one. As President Barack Obama wrote to Donald Trump during a peaceable turnover of Executive power, “It’s up to us to leave those instruments of our democracy at least as strong as we found them.”

This hard work, this relentless devotion to setting the record straight, is what we call “tough love.” Tough love is far-sighted; tough love is the harder road. Committing to your country enough to tell the truth is patriotism.

Even Joe Biden—who has, to be fair, given some excellent addresses to the American people over the past few weeks—has shied away from America as it is. “The scenes of chaos in the Capitol do not reflect true America, do not represent who we are,” Biden said in

his address from Wilmington, Delaware. Well, actually, they do. But they don’t have to reflect or represent who we will be.

This argument is easily applied to Exeter. At our best, the Academy strives to remember its past in full, understand its present and look forward to a more inclusive future. Since 1878 2000-2020 was published this past Monday, and—after working with journalists from the 142nd and 143rd Board—I can confidently say that the contributors were fueled by a collective commitment to the Academy, not a hatred. Even better, it seems like many members of the Exeter community share this devotion based on interaction with the issues so far.

Understanding history is not a moving target because there is such a thing as “truth.” In a sobering national moment characterized by misinformation, Americans should think of the United States’ history less as a string of “virtues” and more as a set of lessons. Exeter, we have the opportunity to do this work at the Academy, as a community.

The Trump Administration’s Only Legacy

By ANDREW YUAN ’24

Call them what they are: domestic terrorists.

To Donald Trump, Rudy Giuliani, Ted Cruz, Josh Hawley, Kevin McCarthy, Rick Scott, Steve Scalise, Matt Gaetz and the 141 other Republican lawmakers, who objected to the certification of a lawful election: history will remember you for enabling domestic terrorists to attack the sacred dome of democracy, attack America and attack our world. Your silence sanctioned their actions. Your votes invigorated them. Your words propelled them to violence.

Your denial will be for no avail because we will remember. We will remember your violence and compliance in these riots. We will remember your advocacy for a “trial by combat.” We will remember your silent approval of supporters who then deliberately attempted to obstruct American democracy. We will remember

your inaction towards rioters shouting “Hang Mike Pence” and attempting to assassinate lawmakers.

President Donald Trump is compelled to create chaos, and this chaos is his legacy. He promised a wall, but it was halted in construction. He promised to “drain the swamp” when he was the one who created the swamp.

Trump promised to give Americans jobs, but under his presidency, the nation experienced the highest unemployment rate since the Great Depression. Rather than deliver on his promises, he faces one billion in company debt, hundreds of civil and criminal lawsuits and years of unpopularity. Under the public scrutiny for these actions, he returned to do what he does best: incite anger at rallies to distort the truth.

The only legacy that this unhinged person sitting in the White House will have is his incitement of insurrection and violence. The only legacy that this “historical” president will have is his claim

that he “made America great again” through his relentless social media sabotage of certified election results. The only legacy that he will have is his vow to go to the Capitol alongside his fellow terrorist supporters. This act of brutality we saw last week is an orchestrated product of this administration. We have still not heard an apology, condolence or genuine public statement from the president. Instead, he has continued his conspiracy theories, declared his love for rioters and ultimately encouraged further violence.

Looking back at his presidency, this is not an anomaly. This has always been his intention: to encourage the public to revolt and overthrow any system, any party and anything else that stands in his way to power. From the statement on Charlottesville to his Bible photo op, and from his derogatory comments about women to his public disrespect for progressive congresswomen, we all knew who he was and what

he wanted to do. This riot united every injustice the administration committed in the past four years. We all knew that violence was going to occur. We all knew that he was going to divide the country. And we all knew that, in the last days of his presidency, he would sit in the Oval Office and rally his supporters to overturn the election without the slightest concern about the soaring coronavirus cases or the economic depression. We all knew, but there was nothing we could do to stop it. Violence is the representation of this administration.

The Republican Senators and House Representatives who have voiced their support for this president knew that this was going to happen, just as this has always happened during the past four years, but none of them cared to stop him anyway. They tolerated his actions, words and influences. And again, on Jan. 6, these Republicans, driven by their own political ambitions, relentlessly staged a coup inside the Congress

to overthrow the election in coordination with the rioters outside. Not only did they approve the president, but they were equally complicit.

The real question that remains to be answered is how President-Elect Biden will proceed to unite the country within his first 100 days in office. In Congress, many lawmakers demand impeachment, others desire the \$2,000 stimulus checks and some seek police reforms. Regardless of what plan he will take, this sitting president has caused America to be in a deadlock of partisan division and endless violence.

We must demand justice. We must pursue justice, not by simply mobilizing the National Guard or by invoking the twenty-fifth amendment, but through impeachment, convictions and removals of power. We must use the fourteenth amendment to remove these Congressmen and women because they violated their oaths of office and sided with terrorists. Impeach this

president because he must be stripped of power for his sins and crimes in his four years of presidency. Arrest the rioters because they defiled our honorable system of legitimate elections and democracy itself.

Many Republicans—Lindsey Graham, Tom Cole—said that removal of the president and the other elected members would only divide the nation further. This isn’t about division. It’s about justice. We cannot sacrifice justice for the sake of avoiding possible division. When lawmakers publicly attempt to overthrow American democracy, the issue reaches beyond division. These Republicans tolerated the president’s power to grow silently, and yet they want to accuse us for the division?

The lawmakers’ actions are endangering our democracy and only the demand of justice can protect us against tyranny.

If not us, then who?
If not now, then when?



Otto Do/The Exonian

The Capitol Hill Storming Affects Everyone — Not Just The U.S.

By NHAN PHAN '24

“Breaking News: Pro-Trump Mob Breaching Capitol Hill, Disrupting Congressional Confirmation for President-elect Joe Biden.” On that morning in Vietnam, I woke up to a New York Times article detailing what was happening in the United States and saw images of people stampeding over one another, shattered Capitol windows, trashed offices and crowded hallways. It was beyond what I could’ve ever imagined.

As an international student from a country across

the world, I had always thought of the United States as the land of the free and the land of opportunities. I regarded America as the leader of the free world.

After Wednesday’s events, the nation I once regarded as the land of the free was no longer as free as I thought.

What would you think if you awoke to images of congressmen hiding behind desks in fear for their lives? For me, those images are haunting. The person who sat in House Speaker Pelosi’s office with his foot on the table and the chant

to “Hang Mike Pence” made me think: “This is not the America I know. This could not be the America I know and admire.”

My image of America has changed. I once regarded America as a beacon of diplomacy, democracy, freedom and liberty throughout the world. The United States was the epitome of what it meant to be human, because of the way it treated every single citizen with decency and respect. However, throughout the Trump administration, I saw the United States become a divided nation, one which rejected the idea of global-

ism and kindness. I saw the President ignore the voice of the people and make goodwill a partisan matter.

As an international prep from a country across the world, who’s going to move to campus this upcoming February, I couldn’t help but worry: “Will this happen again?” For those six hours, I felt connected to the United States in grief and in disbelief. I live far away, yet the coverage I saw on TV feels personal and directed. Many might say, this has nothing to do with us, but this event shook the world to its core — and it scares us.

I also despise the fact that people cannot look at one another as humans instead of as Republicans and Democrats. Our differences in beliefs have caused us to forget what it means to be friends to each other and to be kind no matter the difference of opinion. Those who stormed the Capitol have forgotten what it means to be American. To me, being American means being the neighbor who voluntarily

delivers groceries to near-by quarantined households during the pandemic. Being American means speaking up and making your voices heard to fight for racial justice during the Black Lives Matter peaceful protests. Being American means having empathy. What happened last Wednesday was not American.

It is the culmination of misinformation. Truth should not be political. We have turned our backs to science and to facts and we have devalued the very people who are fighting a pandemic for us. When can we put aside politics and extend an olive branch to one another? When can we become united again?

As of now, however, America remains divided. This effect is not just limited to the United State. It affects every single person in the world, including me. Kids who aspire to a future in America are scared. Events like the attack on Capitol Hill are causing us to doubt whether or not this could happen to us. This isn’t just an “American” fear — it’s much more global than one might expect.

The United Fortress of America

By MAXINE PARK '22

We have been building the wrong wall.

Amidst the cacophony of news and national outcry, one image has become seared onto my mind: the scene scaling the walls surrounding the Capitol Building, clinging to the grey stone with their arms outstretched as fellow rioters pull them up from above. A crowd swarms at the foot of the wall, brandishing flags of “Keep America Great.” In the background, the Capitol Dome emanates a dystopian orange hue, the Statue of Freedom obscured by the smoke of police grenades.

For the first time in two centuries, the Capitol stood defenseless, laid siege by the very people our nation’s founders entrusted with its protection.

Ever since he promised to build a wall, President Trump has gone to painful lengths to procure funding for the barrier he claims will ensure national security. But his negotiations for such funding led to an impasse with Congress, declaration of national emergency, and the longest government shutdown in history. And now, while his fifty-foot concrete wall extends just 450 of our 2000 miles bordering Mexico, we have managed to breach the security of our nation from within. We have realized too late that the true threat lies not externally,

but within ourselves.

The enthusiasm with which citizens attacked their own democracy last Wednesday defied reason. But why are we surprised? Indeed, it was simply a natural culmination of an era defined by division and hypocrisy. Over the past four years, we have gradually dismantled America’s ideological ramparts and allowed deception and injustice to slip effortlessly into our country’s core. How can we expect to secure our physical borders when we have failed to fortify our ideology?

We possess the building blocks to erect a fortress of American ideals, but polarized and divided, we fail to formulate the mortar that will hold our nation together. With the privilege of democracy comes moral responsibility. Today, we lack the cohesion of this responsibility, and misled citizens have attacked the very privilege that empowered them to endanger it.

In his viral email account of the Twin Towers’ collapse, 9/11 survivor Adam Mayblum describes how America overcame the deadliest terrorist attack in history:

“Today the images that people around the world equate with power and democracy are gone but ‘America’ is not an image; it is a concept. That concept is only strengthened by our pulling together as a team.

... This is the ultimate failure of terrorism against The United States and the ultimate price we pay to be free.”

As violence from within our country threatens this concept of America, we must recall the responsibility we all share to protect the character and integrity of our nation. September 11th brought down our physical buildings, but it strengthened the concept of America. The Capitol riots may not have brought down our physical buildings, but it weakened the concept of America. If 9/11 unified us against foreign terrorists who attacked our way of life, the Capitol riots should unify us against domestic terrorists who attacked our way of government.

The breach of the Capitol’s physical walls offers opportunity for reconstruction and fortification—not of Trump’s wall that attempts to protect our physical borders, but the conceptual walls of Truth, Humility, Equality, and Justice that preserve the ideological fortress of America.

We must build a wall of Truth. In the era of “alternative facts,” truth has suffered. The invasion of our Capitol was a direct consequence of deception—the president deceived his supporters and they therefore were driven to violence for the sake of “truth.” The prevalence of misinformation on the internet and

news and disinformation from politicians enables leaders to manipulate reality at their convenience. We must educate ourselves with the skills to assess information accurately and leverage it responsibly. We must have leaders who communicate clearly with the people they are entrusted to represent. We must have leaders who defend the truth rather than distort it.

Only leaders who are humble will uphold the truth over their own opinions. Therefore, we must build a wall of humility. Democracy is, as President Lincoln said, “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” President Trump has consistently proven himself to be a leader of one party, by himself, and for himself. As he lacks humility, he is unable to accept defeat. As he lacks humility, he is willing to mislead his supporters for personal gain. As he lacks humility, he bullies his opponents and ridicules their perspectives. We must elevate leaders who do not believe they are above the people they lead. We must elevate leaders who recognize their shortcomings and surround themselves with capable advisors.

Only leaders who value equality will be humble. Therefore, we must build a wall of equality. American democracy is based fundamentally on equal representation and opportunity.

America prides itself on diversity, but it is unable to harness its diversity for constructive change. We must realize that polarization and progress are not mutually exclusive—in the article “The Wisdom of Polarized Crowds” (2019) from Nature Human Behavior, psychologists demonstrate how groups consisting of polarized individuals engage in more constructive and diverse conversations than groups where people are ideologically similar. The concept of America cannot be defined by one political party, one race, or one individual alone. President Trump has proven himself unable to further a unified American vision. The American people have grown more comfortable placing blame on other leaders, countries, and parties than considering their own responsibility to progress the nation. But we must search for solutions, not scapegoats. We must learn to hold mutual respect for one another and raise leaders who will represent and hold all American people as equals.

To countries around the world that do not enjoy the privileges of democracy, the concept of America remains a beacon of hope. The very moment the first rioter crossed the wall, we were left with a choice: will we allow our constitutional values to remain vulnerable, or unite once again to restore the fortress of American democracy? Swiftly, and together, we must choose.

As Adam Mayblum concluded his email, he recognized the ultimate power of American democracy: “If you want to make us stronger, attack and we unite. ... The very moment the first plane was hijacked, democracy won.”

Only leaders who are just will value equality. Therefore, we must build a wall of justice. Unless we establish a system that will hold all people equally accountable, we will never achieve equality. How can we claim to be a nation “with liberty and justice for all” when President Trump refers to the Black Lives Matter Movement as a “symbol of hate” and tells Capitol rioters that “we love you”? How can we claim to be a

just nation when our government refuses to hold our historical “heroes” accountable for genocide and oppression? We must raise leaders who will not hold anyone above the law. We must raise leaders who are willing to sacrifice comfort and confront the painful truth for the sake of what is right. Only leaders who uphold the truth will value justice.

The preservation of American democracy is bound inextricably to the fortification of the walls of Truth, Humility, Equality, and Justice. To be sure, these walls should not prevent others from enjoying the privileges of American democracy. Unlike President Trump’s border wall, which seeks to protect America through exclusion, these walls preserve America through inclusion.

As Adam Mayblum concluded his email, he recognized the ultimate power of American democracy: “If you want to make us stronger, attack and we unite. ... The very moment the first plane was hijacked, democracy won.”

Only leaders who are just will value equality. Therefore, we must build a wall of justice. Unless we establish a system that will hold all people equally accountable, we will never achieve equality. How can we claim to be a nation “with liberty and justice for all” when President Trump refers to the Black Lives Matter Movement as a “symbol of hate” and tells Capitol rioters that “we love you”? How can we claim to be a

Congress Needs to Impeach Trump — Even If It Fails

By ANNA KIM '24

A supposedly peaceful first-country. A democracy that’s revered globally. What could go wrong?

For the United States, Wednesday, January 6th, 2021 brought forth havoc, wreckage and anger. A centuries-old democracy suddenly presented itself as unsteady. For many, the insurrection that happened was not a surprise. Some had been warning the country of its greatest domestic threat — but most simply continued with

their lives.

It takes one Jenga block to topple the whole tower. Congress has a responsibility to impeach President Trump, who played a direct role in the violence that occurred last week. Even if the impeachment fails (which, realistically, is probable given the lack of support from 17 Republican senators), the act of attempting to impeach and remove Trump will be significant.

So what’s the point if, technically, nothing is going to happen? The impeachment sets a

precedent. Congress must show Trump and future administrations that backing insurrection attempts will not be tolerated and have no ground within the United States. At this critical juncture in our nation’s history, we must show that this is not acceptable by anyone, least of all our nation’s leader.

Is it ideal to embark on a new President’s term while focusing on the previous one’s crimes? The simple answer: no, of course not. Some say we should focus on the incoming Biden administration’s message

of unity. But what happened last week when we relaxed a little bit on President Trump? Have we forgotten that this is the same person who told a white supremacist group to “stand back and stand by?”

President-elect Biden’s message of unity is great — it’s a satisfactory ideal. However, we will never achieve it until we position ourselves for what we stand for. How can anyone, let alone the President-elect, preach unity after what we saw last week? And when Biden said “America is better than this,”

we should instead be saying “America needs to be more accountable than this.”

We, as a society, are writing the history books of the future. What we do now - what actions representatives take - will be remembered and taught all over the country and world. If Congress doesn’t take concrete actions towards impeachment - what message will we have sent generations from now? It’s our responsibility to make perfectly clear what we stand for, so that no future American will wonder why crimes went unpunished.

How do we want people to think of this insurrection half-a-century later? How are we going to make sure that history is written so that this won’t happen again? The study of history is learning from your mistakes - Congress has the power

and responsibility to make sure that this is not to be repeated again. If this impeachment is not even attempted - what will history think of us?

A failed impeachment will not make Democrats look weak. Sure, the far-right will mock and harass House and Senate Democrats. But in the years to come, our elected officials who decided to follow the Constitution will know that they made the right decision.

Congress’s attempt to remove President Trump — regardless of whether it is successful or not — will set a precedent. We must show future generations that promoting insurrection is never acceptable. Accountability must be achieved before unity. The United States has the power to make the right decisions, and should do so.

The Risk of Trump’s Twitter Ban

By ARYA PALLA '23

The recent uprising at the Capitol was horrifying and largely unexpected. Naturally, much of the public and media went in search of a cause for the riots. The common target was obvious: Donald Trump.

Ever since the election results have come about, Trump has been continuously spewing unsupported and heavily biased rhetoric, including claims of large-scale election fraud and that the democratic system (used since the founding of America) had been corrupted. Many of his followers were motivated by these words and used them as a catalyst for their violent actions. The rioters’ goal of correcting the “stained” democratic process was carried

out by attacking the symbolic center of democracy itself.

The speech Trump gave early during the invasion was heavily criticized, and for good reason. During his call to his supporters, the very ones committing criminal acts, Trump dictating the same message he had since his recent election; that the electoral process was skewed and an injustice had happened. He consistently praised the crowd for their devotion and did not make any statements heavily condoning the rioters until after the event had happened. This type of speech has been repeated again and again in the minds of the Trump supporters who had raided Capitol Hill, and thus is viewed by some as incitement for violence.

I understand where some of this backlash is coming from. Social media giants have a massive following, influencing billions of people with their actions. Banning Trump on these platforms indicates that they have their own political biases. The argument can be made that Trump did not explicitly tell his followers to raid the Capitol, and thus the President did not directly incite the riot

Many social media platforms, such as Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, had already initiated temporary bans for the President, as they believed his speech could be harmful and boil tensions further. Now, however, bans have been changed to permanent, and thus critical outcry has arisen against these actions.

I understand where some of this backlash is coming from. Social media giants have a massive following, influencing billions of people with their actions. Banning Trump on these platforms indicates that they have their own political biases. The argument can be made that Trump did not explicitly tell his followers to raid the Capitol, and thus the President did not directly incite the riot

This does not justify the events that occurred while simultaneously criticizing the media’s response under protecting the First Amendment.

The bans are viewed by many as an attack on freedom of speech. Since companies such as Twitter and Facebook are private organizations, they have the complete right to execute such actions on their respective platforms as they please. Yet, their influence is at times larger than the U.S. government itself. Many consider the moral obligation of these companies is to foster an equal platform which sets aside personal and political views, since they have the ability to influence billions of people based on the company’s personal values. The term “hate speech” is

Parallel Worlds: Internet Censorship is Fracturing America

By COLIN JUNG '24

The First Amendment of the Constitution states: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Twitter, unlike the government, does not need to respect anyone’s right to free speech. When President Donald Trump was banned from posting on Twitter, his First Amendment rights were not breached.

Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 protects online platforms from responsibility for the content posted on their sites. It additionally affirms that online platforms are allowed to do house-

keeping in “good faith,” removing harmful or objectionable content as they see fit. Under this law, Twitter is allowed to delete posts and users. Nevertheless, we should be worried about the implications of this censorship.

After initially suspending him for 12 months, Twitter announced that they would be permanently suspending Mr. Trump’s account. As their rationale, they cited the risk of “further incitement of violence.” Specifically, his description of protestors and rioters at the Capitol as “American Patriots” was viewed as support of their violence.

But Trump was far from the first to post Tweets glorifying those committing acts of violence. This past summer, hundreds of businesses were destroyed by looters in cities across the United States, including my

hometown of Chicago. Chicago police believe these attacks were coordinated through social media. The Washington Post wrote in September, “One post from a left-wing group cited by the report called for the use of laser pointers to obstruct surveillance and the lighting of fires at police barricades. Another post urged people to use 3-D printers to make guns that can’t be traced by authorities.” These organizations, among which the Post identifies as the “Red-neck Revolt” and “The Socialist Rifle Association,” have never been suspended from Twitter. It is quite clear that the standard of “possibly inciting violence” is not applied universally. Groups on the left are not held to the same standards as groups on the right.

Twitter, along with other social media companies, is a private company

with the right to regulate its platforms. However, we must take two things into consideration. First, social media companies receive the protection of Section 230, which holds that they are merely a platform for ideas. Should they lose this protection, Twitter would be responsible for all content posted on their site, as if they had posted it themselves. Secondly, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube and Instagram, all of which have banned Trump, consist of over 85% of the social media market share worldwide. There is an immediate danger when a handful of companies decide the information and sources Americans can view.

Parler, a platform designed by John Matze, was designed as an alternative platform with less restrictions than Twitter. On January 7, it was removed entire-

ly from the internet. Amazon Web Services (AWS) refused to host the site, claiming Capitol attacks were coordinated through the platform. However, new reports show the attacks were actually planned and coordinated on Facebook and Twitter. These sites, however, have yet to be de-platformed. It is one thing to delete dissenting viewpoints from your own website; it is another thing entirely to shut down another website for political gain. To exacerbate the problem, Amazon Web Services is almost half of the entire world’s web hosting market.

Why do we have a First Amendment? It is because we value free speech. On any other issue, the left is the side that claims non-governmental organizations are a threat to our rights. How can a liberal sit idly when several multinational cor-

The Perception Gap

By WILL BERNAU '24

When you think of the political party to which you don’t align, you likely think of a strawman. It is nothing more than a ridiculous version of the opposing argument that is so flawed, it needs not even be argued against. We use this as a device to avoid having real conversations. Strawman arguments devalue opinions solely because they differ from our own. It devalues us as citizens.

Shutting down our friends and neighbors for

their views prevents us from understanding our similarities. We highlight our differences and in doing so, we are missing an opportunity to grow. Studies demonstrate that members of the opposite party are more central than we give them credit for.

The Perception Gap, a study exploring political understanding, shows how we overestimate differences. When asked, Democrats estimated only 50% of Republicans believed properly-controlled immigration would benefit the country. In reality, the

number came in closer to 90%. Conversely, Republicans guessed that one in two Democrats would agree with this statement, “I am proud to be American, though I acknowledge our country’s flaws.” In fact, closer to four in five Democrats agreed with the statement.

This phenomenon translates to much more than misunderstanding during everyday political discourse. The Perception Gap found that nearly 85% of both parties thought members of the other were hateful. A 2019 inquiry by Pew

Research Center showed that 47% of Democrats said that Republicans were more immoral, and 63% of Republicans thought that Democrats were lazier.

Though it’s certainly ridiculous to ascribe such terms to the opposite political party, it is happening. It reveals that we must improve the current state of American political conversation. While there is an element of psychology and upbringing that play a role in political affiliation, communication is not out of our control.

In light of recent events, we need to understand that these divides can be furthered by media, including social media, which profit from our entertainment

and participation. The Perception Gap confirms this finding. It shows education and media are two institutions responsible for worsening the perceived divide in this country.

To be clear, this is not a criticism of academia. We must find ways to challenge our own ideas while seeking to understand those with opposing views. People who hold different beliefs are not our enemies. They are people from whom we can learn. This is not to say all ideas have merit; there are absolutely those which are too radical to be considered.

However, as we watch these episodes of insurrection, we must remind ourselves that, often, the

participants do not represent the majority. The data tells us these extremists are much fewer and farther between than we may imagine.

At Exeter, to do Harkness is to acknowledge that we learn best when we talk to each other. We know that the exchange of ideas sparks mental, social, and emotional growth. To move forward peacefully on issues where there seem to be only positions of for and against, we must learn the proper arguments for each side and allow space for those positions to be heard. If we close our minds off from the words of others, there is no one to blame but ourselves. We can do better.

How The U.S. Should Address COVID-19

By ARHON STRAUSS '23

The research, approval and production of the COVID-19 vaccine in such a short time frame is a feat that has given the world, and myself, hope. Yet, despite the lives which the vaccine has and most certainly will save, the distribution has been less than ideal. In America, vaccinations have been slowed by production deficits, anti-vaxxers and the very workings of our capitalist society.

The U.S. government has invested 9 billion dollars among 7 companies for the research and production of the COVID-19 vaccine. 9 billion dollars sounds like a lot, but in reality, it is not. Our military has had a budget of 934 billion dollars over

the course of this year, from October 1st, 2020 to September 1st, 2021. Less than two percent of that sum is still double the amount of funding the COVID-19 vaccine is receiving.

It is ridiculous. Our country is embroiled in a global pandemic, where we are one of major hotspots of infection, yet our military budget remains untouched. In fact, it has increased from 2019's 713 million dollar budget. The most effective way to distribute vaccines and hopefully end the menace of COVID-19 would be to use our national budget for saving the lives of our citizens, not investing 221 billion more dollars into an already overfunded, large military.

Anti-vaxxers have created a

stigma around vaccines, a stigma which has only been amplified by the COVID-19 vaccine. This stigma regarding vaccines persists despite the fact that it has passed every stage of testing performed by almost every country's health agency. While there is no denying that there are some dangers to the vaccine, these dangers have only manifested themselves in isolated incidents of allergic reactions. Even so, people within the United States continue to believe ludicrous claims of vaccines causing autism or other critical health issues. These claims have been proven time and time again to have no basis. Additionally, we are in the middle of an international crisis. Innocent people are dying in the thousands

every day and it's preventable. We have the solution. To refuse to take the vaccine is not only putting individuals in immediate danger, it is putting society and the wellbeing of those who have real health concerns in danger. But what's far worse than refusing the vaccine is actively destroying it. Take for example the man in Wisconsin who purposely destroyed over 500 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. These vaccines most likely would have been used for the healthcare workers at the hospital the man worked at. We as a society must work to dispute lies about the vaccine and ensure that it reaches everyone.

The rich and powerful always have an advantage in a capitalist society. Whether it be

owning more property, being able to travel more luxuriously or, in the current situation, having first access to the vaccine. Essential workers and officials were intended to be the first people to receive the vaccines, but the members of high society, as always, have managed to sneak their way into the roster of people first in line. This is unacceptable, not just on a basis of resources, but on principle. It is important to get the vaccine to everyone, but right now there simply is not enough. As such, prioritisation is key. Healthcare workers who are on the front lines should always be the first to receive vaccination. Urban areas should be prioritized before rural areas. Public officials should be the next, because they

uphold our society. Only after these two groups have been vaccinated should we even begin to think about distributing the vaccine to those who are not in immediate danger.

The United States' current handling of the situation has been atrocious in every aspect, from wearing masks to the funding and distribution of the vaccine. The only way I believe that the U.S. will truly be able to solve this problem quickly and effectively is by devoting all available resources towards the vaccine's production and distribution, stamping out false information regarding the virus and ensuring that the vaccine reaches the people who need it most.

Black people missed out on homeownership opportunities, they had no assets to bequeath to future generations, explaining the wealth gap we see between Black and white people today. As houses owned by white people appreciated in value, the wealth gap continued to grow because we, the American citizens and the American government, allowed it to persist for so long. We must understand that our parents' economic status is generally inherited, making wealth a multigenerational trait that requires aggressive governmental intervention to correct and reverse.

This wealth gap was further enforced by other governmental policies that kept Black incomes low throughout most of the twentieth century. The government denied Black people access to free labor

markets and wages. The government perpetuated slavery through sharecropping, indentured servitude, and labor in mass incarceration. These are all unconstitutional practices the Supreme Court and Congress were intended to recognize and correct. It is simply our duty as American citizens to bring justice regarding our country's past and current wrongdoings. And we can do that through practicing anti-racism.

So why is it important for us to recognize that segregation and racism in America was indeed facilitated by the government, that it was de jure? Because spreading the myth that it was created by accident leads us to believing that it can only be reversed by accident as well. But, if we admit that segregation and racism wasn't an accident, that American policy and

law was intentionally racist and was responsible for segregating our country, we have hope that this can be remediated through active anti-racism.

The greatest lesson of this past year is that "not being racist" is simply not enough. Clearly, institutional and systemic racism are so pervasive and deeply embedded within our culture and communities, our schools and hospitals, our government and justice system, that we may even be unconscious of how it disproportionately favors some while disadvantaging others. Therefore, it is crucial for us to be actively anti-racist, to acknowledge our own prejudices, to identify racist policies and behaviors and ideas of both the past and the present, and ultimately, to challenge and dismantle them.

apps, another attack planned by right wing extremists could endanger the lives of more innocent civilians.

I doubt much will change regarding the future of online censorship in general: the only voices restricted by these apps are the ones spreading misinformation and hate speech. A study by Harvard University found the type of content that is most shared on Facebook comes from conservative voices—one of the most popular being that of Dan Bongino. After Bongino made a post over the summer that said that Black Lives Matter protests were looking to kill cops in the streets, his conspiracy theory spread like wildfire, even causing the alt-right to gear up and help protect police in a counter protest. Armed counter protesters at peaceful protests put everyone present in danger. It is up to big tech companies to make sure lies like that aren't able to spread in the first place.

Combatting the Myth of De Facto Racism

By ANGELA ZHANG '23

Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned a world in which his children would not be judged by the color of their skin, but rather, by the content of their character. Every year, on the third Monday of January, we celebrate Dr. King's life and his accomplishments. MLK Day serves as a time to reflect on how we honor his legacy and contribute to a world in which the color of our skin does not warrant judgment. As we move forward, it is important to acknowledge the valuable lessons of this past year as we strive to achieve equality and become anti-racist.

We know segregation and discrimination were outlawed decades ago. Yet, if we look around us, we still very clearly live in segregated neighborhoods and face prejudice. If these phenomena persist today even after being outlawed, it must be a natural and unavoidable result. In other words, this means the racism and segregation we see in today's society is de facto, or not officially sanctioned.

But what if I told you the segregation and racism we see today was indeed officially sanctioned? That it was fully supported and facilitated by the government? Because it was. This

is called de jure segregation and racism, and understanding this is imperative if we want to make Dr. King's vision a reality. (For more information on de jure segregation, please read *The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein.)

Segregation and the perpetuation of racism today is not by chance. It is a direct result of unconstitutional governmental policies, whose detrimental effects are perpetuated today. For example, the Federal Housing Administration implemented explicitly discriminatory rules that served the purpose of preventing Black homeownership. As

Social Media Censorship Saves Lives

By ANDY HORRIGAN '23

President Donald Trump has been revered by many as a man who can commit no wrongs over the course of his four-year presidency. Extremist Trump supporters wouldn't dream of criticizing or even disagreeing with him; they believe everything he says. The ultimate result of this trust was the violent storming of the capitol on Jan. 6th, which led to the deaths of capitol police Officers Brian Sicknick and Howard Liebengood. Fearing further violence, Twitter suspended and later permanently banned Trump's account. Since then, most popular social media platforms, such as Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook, have come together to do the same.

Trump's censorship has sparked much outrage from conservative voices, who say these

companies are censoring the voices of the Republican Party. In actuality, many social media outlets have been quite lenient with the president. In September, Twitter pledged to crack down on election misinformation, of which Trump frequently posted. For many, this act of insurrection was the last straw. Tech giants have realized that keeping Trump on their apps would result in immediate harm to not only the app's reputation, but also the nation as a whole.

Not hearing from the President has become a new normal. It's scary not hearing his unfiltered thoughts on presidential issues, but it's hard to say that I'll miss them. In the days since the ban, there has been nothing but radio silence from the president. Our window into the White House has been cut. We can only speculate on how this ban affect-

ed Trump. It may have fueled his anger regarding election results. Perhaps it will lead to irrational behavior, serving as evidence for his imminent second impeachment. Regardless of his internal response, Trump's desperation to spew his rhetoric has become increasingly evident. Hours after his account was deleted, he usurped the POTUS twitter account to continue to spread misinformation — those posts have since been deleted. His boldest of the accusation: "Twitter employees have coordinated with the democrats and the radical left to silence me."

On the POTUS account, Trump floated the idea of a privately owned and developed app, where "patriots wouldn't have to worry about their first amendment rights being stripped from them." Trump wasn't the first to have this idea: social

media app Parler was once a centralized point for alt-right conspiracy theories, right wing extremism, casual racism and open anti-semitism. Apps like Parler were imperative to the planning of many alt-right demonstrations, counter protests and gatherings ultimately leading to the most recent riots. The Capitol Hill riots have caused web developers Amazon, Google and Apple to ultimately remove the app from their platforms. Legally these companies have every right to remove whatever they want. A common point made by those who are being censored by twitter is the protection of the first amendment's freedom of speech. An important distinction to make is that in the first amendment the Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech...." However, this ap-

plies to Congress. In the case of Trump's censorship, there exists instead an interaction between two private entities. The riots have provoked a question which should've never had to be asked: should blatant spread of misinformation and racism be tolerated by privately owned companies?

The answer is simply: of course not. Companies should be free to regulate and restrict content on their services as they wish. After witnessing the disastrous effects of leaving speech unregulated, it is the duty of companies to ensure more people like Officers Sicknick and Liebengood, who died as a result of the Jan. 6th attacks, never again fall victim to baseless conspiracies that radicalize the gullible. In the future, if Twitter and other media companies do not regulate the content on their

Humor

Inaugural Roasts

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Daniel Zhang: Lost to Anne Brandes in chess

MANAGING EDITOR

Lina Huang: Convinced if given just the right circumstances, will be able to take over the world

DIRECTORS OF WRITING

Moksha Akil: By the way, have you heard she's Director of Writing? And that she's on Mock Trial? Has she shown you her dance choreo in Grill yet?

Anya Tang: "Habermas was wrong about Adomo being wrong about Lukacs being wrong about Marx and I can prove it."

DIRECTOR OF DESIGN

Otto Do: Posts thirst traps on TikTok

NEWS EDITORS

Andrea Luo: B* rds

Amy Lum: Her name is deceptively hard to say five times fast

Tina Huang: Either a K-pop stan [OR] wrote for wattpad before the Exonian

Hansi Zhu: We could have had Hanyu...

OPINIONS EDITORS

Evan Gonzalez: The mustache needs to go

Manan Mendiratta: New Upper, lives ten minutes off campus, and has never had a COVID - free Exeter experience. Yes I would love to hear your edits on my opinions.

Max Park: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcdRXbpv9j8>

LIFE EDITORS

Indrani Basu: Has never known EP

Jeannie Eom: Forgot to check out for EP prep year and snuck out of Dunbar to listen to candle-lit poetry

Taraz Lincoln: New upper jokes keep flowing

HUMOR EDITORS

Jack Archer: Who?

Dorothy Baker: Lost to Chieko in the Halloween costume contest

Chieko Imamura: Only takes Ws in Halloween costume contests

Charles Simpson: has two main personality traits—beanie and guitar. Also a lower.

HEAD PHOTO EDITOR

Teja Vankireddy: how's waiting for your glutenfreedairyfreefunfree pizza going for you?

HEAD ART EDITOR

Sabrina Kearney: I had to check to make sure she was on the board last year before I could roast her about being on the board last year.

SPORTS EDITORS

Toby Chan: wakes up with a new hairstyle every day

Sydney Kang: can probably be classified as semi-aquatic

Ginny Vazquez-Azpiri: combats her anime addiction by making memes

George Venci: Currently hiding from Tony Cai and the lowers

Trump leaving office, circa Jan. 2021



BREAKING NEWS: Alex the Geologist Poser EXPOSED

By CHIEKO IMAMURA

Perhaps the most famous character of world renown, 'Alex the Geologist,' has wormed his way into the hearts of Exonians for years. However, whom Exonians were willing to do back-breaking, mind warping, time bending loads of work for, may not be the Pepsi loving, charming geologist we all trusted.

Introduced in problem 869 of the Math - 1 textbook, "Alex" made his presence known early on, exposing students to his facade at a young age. He continues to keep Exonians company throughout his steady presence in the Math - 2 book appearing in problem 122, 172,

357, 397 and 588, each time asking for the same taxing labor of getting him back to his research center - Point P - in his Jeep that can only go 50kph on desert sand. He leaves students with his last appearance in Math 4-5 in problem 460.

This is where it gets hairy. Students quickly noticed that the Alex that 'Alex the Geologist' is claiming to be is Alexander Rose who died in 1860. Notice the date. 1860. Sources tell us that the first jeep was not invented until 1940. HMMMM! Not only that, Pepsi, his supposed beverage of choice did not hit gas station shelves until the mid 1960s.

SUSPICIOUS! Moreover, Alexander Rose

spent his time TEACH-

ING in a CLASSROOM and was a very smart man who would surely know how to calculate the shortest path way better than some high school math students. What was he even doing in the desert then huh? I'll tell you what, certainly not driving his invisible jeep sipping on his nonexistent Pepsi not knowing that he is always 7.5km away from "Point-P."

The reactions to this phenomenon have been varied. "This is unbelievable. How could the Academy let such an imposter influence students like that. I am utterly heartbroken," anonymous doer of math said. "I don't think I will be able to trust anyone

again."

As with any reliable news, there are still sceptics. "I refuse to believe that Alex the Geologist is not real" writer, mathematician and student Chieko Imamura said. "A time traveler, maybe, but definitely not a character drawn up by the math department's imagination." Imamura's denial is echoed throughout campus. Students and alumni alike have been trying to come up with explanations, many who settle on time travel as being the likely cause of this miscommunication. Until we get confirmation for sure, all we are left with are 'Alex the Geologist' problems, 7.5, and broken hearts.

Things teachers do that make you realize how old wise they are

By CHIEKO IMAMURA

Some of these are true and some of them aren't but the fact that it's hard to tell means I'm right

1. They refer to the 80's as "a few years before you guys were born" and when they finally realize they're rambling to a bunch of zoomers born in the early 2000's they go into shock for like a minute and talk a lot about how old wise they are.
2. They mention various ancient relics you've never heard of: "VCR", "landline telephone", "Tuesday night EP," and other things that you're pretty sure you've read about in ancient egyptian textbooks or seen in videos about the fertile valleys of mesopotamia.
3. After mentioning said relic and realizing

you've never heard of it, they look off into the distance and think about times long past, years long gone.

4. They get offended and try to deny it when you ask if they ever had a pet dinosaur.
5. The concept of a mechanical pencil astounds them.
6. They mention a species of bird that is extinct nowadays.
7. When you call them old wise they make excuses like "I'm literally thirty-five"
8. They espouse the irreplaceable virtues of using good-old fashioned chalkboards in between coughing spouts brought on by the early onset of lung cancer caused by the chalk dust sitting in their lungs.
9. They know a lot and teach really well. But come on, if you were in your thirties (god forbid) you would also have several centuries worth of wisdom to draw from.

10 Reasons You Might Have Skipped Class

By DOROTHY BAKER

1. You couldn't make it to the 8am because you remembered you only had two dickets
2. You couldn't take the embarrassment of your childhood bedroom's Zoom background, so you decided, instead of turning your camera off, to skip class all together
3. You recently started watching Queen's Gambit and needed to figure out if you too were a prodigy
4. You forgot we didn't have pass fail anymore
5. You listened to Drivers License and were too emotional for a Harkness discussion
6. You decided that 8:00pm math simply wasn't your calling
7. You "forgot" the password to your Zoom account
8. You heard there might be breakout rooms didn't want to take the risk
9. You were taking a personal snow day
10. You forgot about the humor deadline and were writing an Exonian list

The Exonian

DANIEL ZHANG

Editor-in-Chief

LINA HUANG

Managing Editor

OTTO DO

Director of Design

MOKSHA AKIL

ANYA TANG

Directors of Writing

NEWS EDITORS

Andrea Luo
Amy Lum
Tina Huang
Hansi Zhu

LIFE EDITORS

Indrani Basu
Jeannie Eom
Taraz Lincoln

OPINIONS EDITORS

Evan Gonzalez
Manan Mendiratta
Max Park

SPORTS EDITORS

Toby Chan
Sydney Kang
Ginny Vazquez-Azpiri
George Venci

HEAD DESIGNER

William Lu

LAYOUT EDITORS

Joy Chi
Max Chuang
Daniel Cui
Avery Lavine

HUMOR EDITORS

Jack Archer
Dorothy Baker
Chieko Imamura
Blake Simpson

HEAD PHOTO EDITOR

Teja Vankireddy

PHOTO EDITORS

Ethan-Judd Barthelemy
Joy Chi

HEAD ART EDITOR

Sabrina Kearney

SENIOR COLUMNISTS

Anne Brandes
Cheikh Fiteni
Noah James
Stephen McNulty
Alexis Ramon
Emmanuel Tran
Felix Young

FACULTY ADVISORS

Ellee Dean
Erica Lazure
Avery Reavill
Chelsea Woodard

BUSINESS CO-CHAIRS

James Urquhart
Emily Wang

ACCOUNTING

David Kim

ADVERTISING

Anderson Lynch

OPERATIONS

James Broderick

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Claire Fu

OUTREACH

Alysha Lai

CHIEF DIGITAL EDITOR

Sabrina Kearney

The Web Board staff members are listed on *The Exonian's* website: www.theexonian.com.

To subscribe to or advertise on *The Exonian*, contact exonian@gmail.com or call 603-777-4100. A subscription to the paper costs \$90 off campus and \$150 overseas.

The Exonian welcomes Letters to the Editor sent to the care of dzhang@exeter.edu.

The Exonian reserves the right to print Letters to the Editor in a timely fashion and to edit them for content and clarity.

Sports

Atheletes of the Week: Emily Baxter and Catherine Fortin

By HENRY LIU

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Varsity Girls Squash captains, Seniors Emily Baxter and Catherine Fortin, have been ensuring that the team maintains their team unity and fitness in preparation for when Big Red steps onto the squash courts in February.

Fortin got her start to the sport her prep year, although she had experience playing tennis before arriving. “I had played tennis prior to arriving at Exeter, however I had never played squash until my prep year when I decided to try out. The team was extremely welcoming, and squash has been one of the highlights of my Exeter experience,” she said.

Baxter also started playing squash her prep year. “I grew up in Los Angeles and had never even heard about the sport before. Honestly, I began to train a couple weeks before tryouts my first year to avoid winter prep spaz that consisted of fencing, skating, diving, and wrestling (none of which I can do). I continued to play because of the people and coaches on this team.”

With the similarities between the sports of tennis and squash, it served as no surprise that experienced tennis players like Fortin and Baxter would quickly pick up squash and move up the ranks.

Upper teammate Dorothy Baker praised Fortin. “Catherine is very good at helping people with technical issues such as form or drill work, and she is good at communicating with teammates and linking them to coaches,” she said.

Baker also praised Baxter’s leadership skill: “Emily is very good at commanding the room, creating connections between teammates, and being a positive influence on us all.”

Baxter and Fortin are both caring individuals who not only contribute their talents for squash, but also foster a spirited atmosphere at practices. “Emily and Catherine bring a contagious enthusiasm and excitement for squash to

every single practice, both in person and virtually over Zoom,” lower Isabella Vesely said. “They consistently develop positive relationships in our team and, even on the most challenging days, help us persevere and put in our best efforts by leading by example.”

One way Baxter and Fortin have maintained the team’s close relationships this term is through giving the team opportunities to keep in touch virtually. Lower Elizabeth Lavin mentioned, “We connect over Zoom 1-2 times a week, and have a team snapchat story where we post daily updates. We’re also working on updating the @exeter_girls_squash instagram account. Emily and Catherine are very active on all of those forums.”

Baker added to Lavin’s compliments. “They’ve done a good job with checking in on us individually to see how we’re doing and also connecting us together via Zooms with the coaches.”

Despite all of these methods of staying connected, there are certainly difficulties the team faces in the remote situation. “It is difficult to stay connected as a team as we are all remote and living in different time zones. However, our wonderful coaches, Coach Lovey and Coach Carbonell have helped to organize weekly zoom meetings with the team. Here, we are able to connect with each other,” Fortin noted.

Being a leader during these unique times poses several challenges, but despite the challenges, the two captains have continued to thrive in their leadership roles, keeping in mind what their teammates need and constantly providing support. “Emily and Catherine have heavily impacted our team both in our concrete results by helping us improve on the court as well as the mental aspect of the game. They encourage the team to think more positively and constructively and always push us to become both better squash players and, in general, better team players.” Vesely said.

Baker added, “They lead by example how to have healthy and positive relationships between teammates/competitors, and they show us their work ethic on and off the court.”

Despite the individual nature of squash, Fortin believes that it is very much a team sport: “During matches, we cheer each other on and everyone is very supportive. Our ladder consists of about twenty-one players, so there are a variety of skill levels. Though sometimes we play different schools, we all practice together. This creates a unified team, and we all learn from each other.”

Both captains also consistently bring positive attitudes during practices and share their mindsets of healthy competition. Vesely said, “Regardless of the day, Catherine always manages to bring a smile to our faces during practice. She communicates well with the team members and makes us feel welcome.”

She continued on to describe Baxter. “Having faced Emily on the court in practice more times than anyone else on the team, I can always count on the challenge and the intense focus she brings to the court. Emily is also able to analyze players’ games well and can recognize key areas for improvement.”

But outside the competitive scene, the captains foster a positive and inclusive environment for the team both on and off the court. Lavin pointed out, “My favorite thing about Emily and Catherine is their attitude. They are so much fun at practice, games, and team dinners.”

Baker agreed. “I love how friendly and inclusive Emily and Catherine are. They are always doing drills with other players regardless of skill, and making each practice an enjoyable experience for all. They’re awesome. They create a really nice environment that makes everyone on the team enjoy going on Zoom and they make the team proud to be members of PEA Squash.”

When asked about how squash had impacted her time



Courtesy of Emily Baxter and Catherine Fortin

at Exeter, Baxter responded, “I would say that this team has really shown me true teamwork: how to foster a community that is open to collaboration and competition. Since day one, the team and coaches have always created such an amazing and supportive atmosphere that al-

lows for everyone on the team to rapidly improve.”

These feelings were reciprocated by Fortin, who said, “The squash team at Exeter has been a very impactful experience for me, which I will miss dearly next year. One of my fondest memories is

from last season when Coach Lovey invited the team to her house for dinner.”

Overall, the leadership and compassion that Baxter and Fortin exhibit make them the best captains for PEA Squash. In the words of Baker, “Best captains ever!”

What was the average time you spent being physically active over winter break?

“0 hours total. I was supposed to ski but my sister got exposed and had to quarantine, so I did literally nothing but watch movies in bed.”

-Anonymous

“5 hours a week in school, 7 hours a week in break.”

-Rosemary McIlroy '21

“Haha that’s funny.”

-Adam Tuchler '21

“I probably spent 2-3 hours each week exercising.”

-Anonymous

“What does ‘being physically active’ mean?”

-Caleb Yu '23

“I wasn’t too physically active but sometimes whipping the brownie batter made my arms tired.”

-Anonymous '24

“However long it took me to get to the kitchen.”

-Anonymous '22