

» NEWS

StuCo collaborates with PeriodxESSO to install new biodegradable menstrual products in female and all gender bathrooms, 1.

» LIFE

Read about Director of Student Activities Joanne Lembo's contributions to the Exeter community, 6.

» OP-ED

Director of Writing Erin Choi contemplates conventional success in this week's Editor's Corner, 10.

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Phillips Exeter Academy  
Exeter, New Hampshire

# The Exonian



"The oldest continuously running preparatory school newspaper in America."

## Academy Stocks Eco-Friendly Menstrual Products



New menstrual products will be implemented in the above locations.

Otto Do and Communications/*The Exonian*

By MOKSHA AKIL, LINA HUANG and AMY LUM

In response to student interest in improved menstrual products, Student Council (StuCo) collaborated with PeriodxESSO to install more comfortable and environmentally friendly pads and tampons in bathrooms.

StuCo Policy Committee co-

head and senior Summer Hua, PeriodxESSO co-heads lower Siona Jain and upper Sarah Kang, PeriodxESSO member lower Hannah Henris and Director of the Office of the Principal Leigh Drapeau worked together to install these products in various locations across campus.

Currently, these products are available for use in women's

and all-gender bathrooms in Phillips Hall, Elizabeth Phillips Academy Center, the Phelps Science Center, the Academy Building, Elm Street Dining Hall, the Forrestal-Bowl Music Building, the Art Building, the Library, the Goel Center and Love Gym.

Though updated menstrual products are currently not offered in men's bathrooms, Jain

clarified that expansion into all bathrooms was in the agenda of PeriodxESSO. "Our resources are limited. We only have so many [menstrual products] and because we want to make sure that the majority of students will be able to use them, we decided that it would be best to prioritize the female and gender neutral bathrooms on campus," Jain said. "We want to get more

products in male restrooms and just all restrooms on campus because currently they're only in the biggest academic buildings."

The group initiated the project after StuCo's Cookies and Conversations event, where a majority of focus groups brought up a need for change in period products. "One of the most consistent comments was

MENSTRUAL, 5

## Now That We're Men Sparks Discussion

By KAYLEE CHEN and AVA YU

In three separate sessions, students and faculty gathered in the Goel Mainstage Theater to watch Katie Capiello's play *Now That We're Men*. The required production focused on issues such as toxic masculinity and rape culture. The following day, during Department Meeting, advising

groups discussed and interpreted the play.

The idea of bringing *Now That We're Men* to Phillips Exeter Academy originated as a result of a protest outside Jeremiah Smith Hall last spring. The protest, in response to the perceived mishandling of sexual assault issues, sparked much discussion on campus.

"I know that a lot of the students who started the protest collaborated with Exo-

PLAY, 2

## StuCo Candidates Offer Statements

By GIANLUCA AUDIA, OTTO DO and WILL DURAWA

Ms. Marshall announced the caFollowing the Student Council (StuCo) primary elections on Friday, uppers Charlotte Lisa and Senai Robinson advanced to the final voting round for the StuCo presidential election. Uppers Seth Amofa and Sonny Fiteni were announced as the finalists for Vice President, and lower Siona Jain and upper Phil Horrigan were appointed

Co-Secretaries.

The candidates advancing to the final rounds of StuCo elections discussed their candidacies with *The Exonian*.

### Charlotte Lisa

Lisa believed her three years of experience with StuCo demonstrated her dedication and commitment to the group. "I've been in StuCo for my entire time at Exeter, and I am confident that I will be putting in my best work every week. I'm ready for large scale and small scale ini-

tiatives, and I have faith that I will communicate effectively between the administration and students," she said.

She hoped to continue successful initiatives inaugurated under the previous Executive Board, for which she served as co-Secretary. "Last spring, there was a student sit-in in Jeremiah Smith Hall regarding sexual misconduct. Over this past summer, the administration worked really hard with Exonians Against Sexual Assault (EASA) to redo the Sexual Misconduct

STUCO, 3

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### LAPTOPS REPORTEDLY STOLEN

» Andover students reported that during an E/a match, several laptops went missing in Love Gym. Theft is suspected. While similar incidents have happened to Exonians at Andover, their belongings were found and returned. Campus Safety Director Paul Gravel urged Exonians not to "leave valuable items unsecured while in the athletic complex or on campus in general and report any suspicious behavior to Campus Safety."

### BOYS SWIMMING BREAKS RECORDS AT EASTERNS

» Senior and Boys' Varsity co-captain Andrew Benson reset his meet and school record in the 100 Butterfly at 47.65 seconds, broke his own New England Record in the 100 Breaststroke with a time of 55.17 seconds and broke another New England Record in the 50 Freestyle, finishing at 20.11 seconds.

» Senior and Boys' Varsity co-captain Charlie Venci set a school record and finished second in the 100 Backstroke.

» The Boys' Medley Relay of Venci, Benson, upper Yulian Ye and lower Georgie Venci finished 4th with an All-American time of 1:32.72.



Senior William Coogan runs a 1:54.18 800 meter split. John Nepolitan

### BOYS 4x800 METER RELAY TAKES #1 IN THE NATION

» Seniors Will Coogan, Sam Kim and Jinwoo Kang and upper Connor Chen ran the fastest time in the country this year in the 4x800 relay at Eastern States, with a time of 7:48.81.

» Uppers Evie Houston, Audrey Malila and Marymegan Wright and lower Ifeoma Ajufo together set a new school record in the 4x200 relay, with a time of 1:46.71 at Eastern States.

» **ABBOT CASINO DRESS**

Several students were denied entrance into Abbot Casino due to the event's formal dress code requirement, 4.

» **NOW THAT WE'RE MEN**

Students attended the play, "Now That We're Men", a production that explores bro culture, 1.

» **NEW TELESCOPE**

Exeter will soon finish installing a new \$600,000 CDK700 telescope in the Grainger Observatory, 5.

## Five Teenage Actors Captivate Exeter Students



The five actors in "Now That We're Men" perform in the Goel Theater.

nians Against Sexual Assault (EASA) to have...a town hall in the Elting Room where people could bring forth their concerns and ideas," upper Maegan Paul, who helped organize the production, said. "A lot of people were talking about how there's not enough going on... We have a lot of our health classes telling us to always ask for consent, and there is the affirmative consent clause in the E Book, but there's not really enough being done about culture on campus."

In response to the protest, alumni who watched Slut: The Play, written by Now That We're Men writer Katie Capiello, on campus in 2016 suggested that the school undertake a similar effort this year. Paul and a few other students looked into having Slut: The Play back on campus and dis-

covered that Capiello had been working on another play: Now That We're Men.

One concern about the play leading up to it, however, was how effective it would be. "In the past, some students and faculty have been resistant to required programming," senior and EASA co-head Janalie Cobb said. "Some find that we have these required appointments and conversations too often, others think that the way in which they're carried out are ineffective and too forced."

Organizers were also aware that the play represented toxic masculinity and tried to address the issue before students attended the performances. "I hope that, on the spectrum of maleness and masculinity... students and teachers can talk about the range of and the nuances within that spectrum,

that we don't pigeonhole...how someone who identifies as male can (or does) act," English Instructor Tyler Caldwell said.

Although the blunt nature of the characters was a concern for some, Capiello thought it necessary to write the play in a jarring and honest way. "I know that the language is shocking to people...and that can be hard because I don't really want to turn people away or off from the conversation. But I also don't think we gain much by pulling punches on the conversation either," Capiello said.

By bringing in a show different in nature from typical campus discussions, organizers hoped that students would be able to engage with the material in a new way. "Discussions like this are seen as

a punishment, and I feel like... when it's purely educational, people won't adhere to the message," senior Blane Zhu said. "I think this is an interesting, perhaps more forward way of treating this problem."

Some audience members noted that the play was much more realistic than they had expected. "I really think that it was nuanced, and I think they did a good job of like showing it through a situation that could very possibly just happen rather than something that I assumed would just be educational," Zhu said.

Many students thought the actors accurately portrayed toxically masculine students. Though they are professionals, the actors were all enrolled in high school. "As far as I can tell, they're all very dedicated and believable, although I

think there definitely is a reason for all of them and why they decided to portray a certain character in that manner," Zhu added.

On the actors' part, much effort went into portraying these characters as realistically as possible. "If you play it like you're a bad guy and you've got a hood on, then everyone's gonna be like, 'Oh that's not me, I'm good...'" So the hardest part is not purposefully being that bad guy," actor David Iacono said.

The experience of viewing Now That We're Men fostered productive introspection about appropriate and constructive behavior. "I thought it was spot-on. I thought it did a great job, seeing the conversations I've had with guys all the time," prep Ben Martin said.

Courtesy of Charlotte Arnoux



Student Council Presidential Candidate Charlotte Lisa calls for the revival of Dean's Council.

Otto Do/The Exonian

# Student Council Will Hold Final Elections Friday

policy. During the fall, the board was able to provide input and revise until it was officially transcribed in the E Book,” she said.

Lisa observed strong organization during 2019-2020 Student Council President Ayush Noori’s tenure. “One of the biggest things that I’ve seen this year done by Ayush is the delegation of tasks to committees. The presidential platform is important because as President, you organize and orchestrate the Council in the most effective and an efficient way possible,” Lisa said.

## Senai Robinson

Robinson grounded his platform in a promise to “change the Vs policy, bring EP back on Tuesdays [and to] have more community events such as fall term Homecoming and Dorm Olympics,” he said.

Robinson intends to create Mental Awareness Day, a day to educate students on mental health in a similar fashion to MLK Day. “Exonians are either affected by mental illnesses, do not know much about mental illnesses, or both,” he said.

To display his competence in enacting change, Robinson mentioned his involvement in the appointment of Director of Equity and Inclusion Stephanie Bramlett and Counselor Marco A. Thompson. “As a board member of the Afro-Latinx Exonian Society (ALES), I advocated for their arrival,” he said. “I have the experience of bringing the community together and implementing change.”

Additionally, Robinson emphasized his empathy with marginalized voices on campus. “I have experience of feeling that my opinion is being silenced—of being unheard.”

## Seth Amofa

Amofa aims to “strengthen the community between students on campus.” While he has enjoyed discussions about bold and revolutionary policies, “StuCo should shift its focus to making simple, feasible and meaningful changes on campus,” he said. Amofa’s proposals include low homework weekends every term and a school-wide dorm league.

Amofa believes that due to the “busy workload on campus, most students become stressed and experience some degree of negative mental health every term. I believe a great way to work at combating mental health is through altering the workload.”

To gain an understanding of the practicality of implementing a low homework weekend, Amofa said he has spoken to faculty members, including English Instructor Rebecca Moore, Science Instructor Jeffrey Ward and Religion Department Chair Hannah Hofheinz. According to Amofa, these teachers communicated that it would be “very easy to implement low homework weekends into their curriculums.”

If elected, Amofa promised to ensure the longevity of his policies. “I will push for my policy of low homework weekends to be officially established in the E



Student Council Presidential Candidate Senai Robinson calls for inclusion.

Otto Do/The Exonian

Book with clear guidelines for teachers to follow and ensure that they don’t misuse the policy,” he said. “This would be a strong step towards promoting student well-being as a vital part of the Exeter experience.”

In regards to the intra-campus community, Amofa has noticed that, “There isn’t much of an identity between dorms on campus besides the North and South side. School-wide dorm leagues will foster camaraderie and bring fun back on campus.”

## Sonny Fiteni

While the defining proposal of Fiteni’s platform is the Mental

Health Day initiative, Fiteni noted that his appeal lies in his experience in “getting things done.”

“The poor approach of StuCo towards proposing policy is the number one reason that we haven’t seen any real change in years. This will not change unless we begin to understand how policy gets approved—only when it agrees with the faculty’s own agenda. We have to speak to the faculty perspective,” he said.

Fiteni noted that a Mental Health Day proposal connects with both of these points. Within this policy, a student can sign in at the Health Center on one day per term of their choosing and “do whatever you need to re-

cover.” However, he added that, along with excused absences, the initiative would be fleshed out and supported by auxiliary support systems which would grant extensions and stagger deadlines so that students could genuinely spend the day without worrying about work.

To Fiteni, Mental Health Day would substantially alleviate the stresses of the Exeter student experience. “Mental Health Days, especially ones we schedule for ourselves, are necessary to break up the monotony of Exonian life,” he said. His policy draws from the sentiments that “mental health doesn’t choose a convenient time to act up.”

When breaks are scheduled, Fiteni noted, teachers assign more work at certain points before or after these lulls, resulting in more concentrated periods of stress. “Often teachers build work around [these] scheduled long weekends, which creates these situations of high pressure commitment zones,” Fiteni said. “We need a reactionary support system to allow students to get the help they need when they need it.”

The final round of elections for the Executive Board will occur in the Phelps Commons this Friday, Feb. 21, from 10:20a.m.-6:45p.m.



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Amelia Tardy sits at Abbot Casino.

Oliver Hess/*The Exonian*

## Students Denied Entrance to Abbot Casino

By ANYA TANG and ATHENA WANG

Students crowded around mock casino tables and shouted over large sums of “money” they won and lost at Abbot Casino, an annual event hosted by Abbot Hall featuring casino games such as blackjack and poker. Several students attended the event, which originally required formal attire, in casual attire; chaperoning faculty asked some informally dressed students to leave Casino and correct their clothing.

Students should have been aware of the formal dress code prior to attending the event, noted Modern Languages Instructor and Abbot Hall dorm faculty member Ning Zhou. He added that most people who were denied entrance returned to their dorms to change and were granted access the second time. “This was the case for about 10 students. Six of them went back to the dorm to change and came

back. Two were day students: as it’s very difficult for them to change the clothes, I and the other faculty decided that we will let them enter. So I would say only two students were impacted,” Zhou said. “There might have been one or two students who snuck in because there was another door.”

Some students who attended in casual attire expressed disappointment due to the lack of clarity surrounding dress code rules. The 2020 Abbot Casino poster and Exeter Calendar details both did not mention the requirement of formal attire. “I did feel uncomfortable because I probably should have dressed up more, but I didn’t know it was supposed to be formal,” prep Anish Mudide said.

The attire discrepancy did not affect the success of the event, Zhou explained. “I don’t think so because it was really a well-attended event and students had a great time,” Zhou said. “I talked to many

Abboaters after the event, they all enjoyed the event very much. ... Only very few students were not able to enter. And if they were not able to enter, they were still able to enjoy some of the food, and chat with their friends.”

Some faculty recalled that problems surrounding attendance in proper attire have only emerged in recent years. “In the past, the dress code didn’t need to be enforced. People came dressed in their very best clothes and had a good time,” Assistant Director of Student Activities and faculty organizer of the event Kelly McGahie said. “Within the last several years, though, I would say there have been a lot of changes, not just with Abbot Casino but with other events. People were showing up in attire that clearly would not be suitable even in the classroom.”

By showing up in casual attire, McGahie explained students show a lack of respect for their peers who planned the event. “I think it’s disrespectful to Abbott and I think it’s disrespectful to everyone else,” McGahie said.

Proper attire cultivates a positive atmosphere, upper Hassane Fiteni described. “I think the dress code makes the event special because a lot of people get to wear clothes they don’t wear every single day,” Fiteni said. “It’s this formal event

with the flair of Las Vegas or anywhere in Macau. It’s a nice, pleasant distraction from the day-to-day stresses of school to know that we can pretend to dress up and be in this opulent place for a couple of hours.”

Fiteni added that students who didn’t adhere to the dress guidelines detracted from the event’s purpose. “When somebody comes to the dance wearing something they would wear to track practice, it almost looks like you don’t care about the event, because you wouldn’t wear that to class,” Fiteni said. “The purpose of [Abbot Casino] is to feel glamorous and to feel special for a night.”

However, the clarity of the dress code was a concern for some students. “I think Abbot should have done a better job of outlining if the dress code could have included polos, or if the dress code does not have to be a full-on sport coat,” Fiteni said. “Semi-formal is very vague. Nobody really knows what that means.”

McGahie clarified that Abbot Casino’s dress code should be interpreted as a “dress your best” message. “You don’t have to buy a new dress, you don’t have to rent a tuxedo. You should have clothing in your possession on campus that is not gym wear. Dress your best,” McGahie said. “We’re not on

lockdown. I’m not going to spend my night going, ‘Oh my God, like you’re a t-shirt, get out.’”

An enforced dress code seemed like a reasonable expectation, upper and Abbot resident Joshua Lum agreed. “I think that every student here can follow [the Academy’s] dress code,” Lum said. “So if they can follow [the Academy’s] dress code, they can at least show up to Abbot Casino in a sweater.”

Unfortunately, the Casino’s issues surrounding dress code may have larger implications for the future of Abbot Casino. “I think if it keeps going this way, Abbot Casino is going to get cancelled completely. We’ve tried taking steps, but [for example] we can’t enforce a dress code, which was a staple of Abbot Casino,” Lum said. “I already know the lowers next year are split on if they want to do Abbot Casino or not. And it’s sad, but I can see what’s happening.”

On the whole, Abbot Casino organizers believed they could learn from the event and make improvements. “We hadn’t anticipated that this issue would even come up,” Upper and Abbot Casino organizer Paul Rogers said. “Maybe we didn’t communicate as properly as we should have, and now that we know what’s happened, moving forward, we could avoid that by communicating better next year.”

## Community Conversations Date Remains Undetermined

By SAFIRA SCHIOWITZ

As part of Phillips Exeter Academy’s commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Principal William Rawson announced a program dedicated to fostering empathy in an all-school email on Nov. 7. However, the event, later dubbed Community Conversations and scheduled for the beginning of winter term, was pushed to an undetermined date later in the year.

Rawson’s announcement came in the aftermath of a protest by students this fall. During a Halloween contest, three Grill members walked on stage, wearing a costume of a wall with the slogan “Make America Great Again” written across the brick pattern. A protest in Grill ensued the following day, highlighting the “lack of concern for the Latinx community on the Academy’s campus,” according to a distributed statement.

Following the protest, Dean of Students Brooks Moriarty and Director of Equity and Inclusion Dr. Stephanie Bramlett wished to bring together a group of students who shared the common goal of wanting to discuss how to best educate themselves and the rest of campus about empathy. Bramlett sent out an email to the entire community in early November requesting volunteers.

The first step for the members of Community Conversations was to discuss the desired content and impact for the event. “It was made very evident by the Grill protest and other events that happened this year that there are fractures in our community,” Community Conversations member and upper Anna Rose Marion said. “So we started working on trying to define empathy and what we wanted students and adults to get out of the experience of doing workshops.”

They soon discovered that defining empathy was more difficult than they imagined. “In the first meeting, we were just trying to define the difference between sympathy and empathy... That conversation took us an hour and fifteen minutes,” Marion said.

The committee decided that they wanted more time to plan an all-school program. “We didn’t have the time to get it to be as perfect as possible by the date that we had already planned it,” Marion said.

“Poorly planned and rushed activities in the past have caused more harm than good, so we want to make sure that this turns out well,” another member of the initiative, senior Grant Goodall, said.

However, some students believed that the timeliness of the initial date was important in garnering student interest. “The idea

sounds good, but I feel like it might be hard to execute,” senior Candy Tantichirasakul said. “I feel like, since we put these events in an awkward time, sometimes the message isn’t conveyed as well because people just want to get out. Sometimes, the event isn’t as powerful as it could be because people are just not interested.”

The group is planning to use the extra time to roll out the initiative and find the best way to account for people’s varying levels of interest in initiatives such as this. Besides defining empathy and differentiating it from sympathy, Community Conversations also has the goal of sharing students’ stories. “Any story that would bring people together. You want to get as many of those out as possible so that people can start building those connections and relating to each other again,” Marion said.

Assistant Dean of Multicultural Affairs Hadley Camilus expressed that empathy is essential, especially in a community like Exeter. “I have a deep rooted desire for people to understand privilege in general and how it shapes our life experiences,” Camilus said. “My identity is layered. I’m constantly recognizing my advantages and disadvantages. Ideally, a majority of folks in this community would do the same. My belief

is if this habit was widespread, we wouldn’t be scrambling every so often to organize initiatives of this sort.”

There are those who feel that the Academy has done enough to educate campus and that Community Conversations will be reinforcing past work. “We’ve had a bunch of workshops [concerned with] community and communicating,” senior Helena Chen said. “I think it’s something that we’re aware of and maybe it could be strengthened with Community Conversations.”

Tantichirasakul hopes that Community Conversations will become the open and welcoming platform that it aspires to be. “The general consensus is we talk about white and black people. And I get

that because that’s the biggest disparity. Sometimes a speaker will say ‘black people,’ but they mean all people of color, like Asians and black people and Hispanics and Native Americans—all of the above,” Tantichirasakul said.

In their future event, Community Conversations hopes reach their goal of aiding students in recognizing differences and learning to see past them. “We are looking for a diverse group of creative students and adults to help design these programs,” Dr. Bramlett said. “Thoughtful dialogue across difference is a skill and, like any skill, we can always get better at it through practice.”

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# New Menstrual Products Arrive

of the quality of the menstruation products available. Previously, they were atrocious, they weren't sustainable and they weren't comfortable," StuCo President Ayush Noori said.

Hua explained that the project also began due to a lack of information about the current menstrual products. "We didn't know if [the menstrual products] are truly good for our body because there's almost no information on the packaging. Second of all, it was very hard to use the products because sometimes when we used them, it felt uncomfortable," Hua said. "So that's why after a lot of students' concern reached our policy committee, we decided to team up with Periodx-ESSO, which was led by Siona and Sarah, and start this whole initiative to revamp what we have currently."

To combat this problem, school decided to select new menstrual products from The Organi Project (TOP) which are "crafted with 100% organ-

ic cotton and are 100% biodegradable," Noori said. "They produce organic, produce three products and the proceeds go to fight from the school purchasing go to fight period poverty."

Jain valued TOP's investment to confronting period poverty, a state at which individuals do not have enough financial resources to afford menstrual products for sufficiently safe hygiene practice. "About one in five women and girls are in period poverty, so this is a great way to not only allow Exeter to make a little impact on the world globally, but also allow us to improve student life on campus," she said.

This initiative is part of a larger movement, PERIOD, which was started at Harvard University by student Nadia Okamoto to promote access to menstrual products, according to Kang. "[Okamoto] struggled with homelessness in her past and she didn't actually have access to the proper menstrual

products. She basically started this company called PERIOD, where there are different chapters. So Siona and I wanted to see if we could start one," Kang said.

In addition to the improvement of the products themselves, PeriodxESSO also put up posters around campus, including information on the evolution of menstrual products over time and period poverty statistics. "I also hope when people read the posters, they see how lucky we are because so many people just don't have access to these products," Henris said.

Community members lauded these changes. "We received messages saying, 'This is a game changer and is really improving the student experience,'" Noori said. "I really do think that this is a project thanks to the generosity of the Principal's Office, the compassion of Ms. Drapeau and the hard work of StuCo and Period. We've made a huge impact on

campus."

Looking forward, Kang hopes to reach out and confront period poverty outside of Exeter in the general state of New Hampshire. "Hopefully, we'll be able to do fundraising soon, and we'll be able to get products, so we can reach out to people who are actually experiencing period poverty and try to help them," she said. "We hope to not only help Exeter's environment, but also actually deal with those people who are affected by period poverty."

Henris also discussed the club's overarching intention. "Our goal is not just to focus on the Exeter community and get products to people who need them, but also the greater world," she said. "Right now, we're starting as a small club and focusing on Exeter. We just thought: what small thing can we do to actually affect the world? Why not just find products that are helpful that aren't as harmful to the environment as past products?"

Biology Instructor Kadeine Peterson supported the off-campus aspirations of Periodx-ESSO's work. "In implementing particular initiatives, we can sometimes forget that Exeter the school got its name from Exeter the town. I would love to see programming extend to the greater community," she said. "What if we can work with the public Exeter High School to get menstrual products into their bathrooms that equal the products that we have here on campus? No menstruating body wants to deal with subpar cardboard applicators and big bulky pads with toxins leaking into their body."

Hua hopes that students will continue to discuss access to menstrual products in both Exeter and the world. "It should be something that's openly discussed," she said. "We hope to even bring these products to the dorms cause we ultimately want to provide this an equitable opportunity for all."

# 0.7m Telescope Comes to Grainger Observatory



The new telescope will finish construction soon.

By **MINSEO KIM** and **SAFIRA SCHIOWITZ**

Astronomy students visit the school's observatory on Friday nights to collect astronomical data and gaze upon whatever celestial bodies they can find in the sky. Using the observatory's advanced technological equipment, they will be able to further their understanding of astrophysics.

Several months ago, the Academy released word of installing a new \$600,000 CDK700 telescope, 0.7 meters in diameter, to the Grainger Observatory. As the telescope's construction reaches finalization, students and faculty in the Science Department are looking forward to utilizing available features of the new telescope.

Funds for the school's telescope parts and installation were provided by an anonymous donor who requested their donations be used

for a new telescope. "The telescope has been tailored to the needs of the school to what we're missing," upper and Astronomy Club Co-Head William Peeler explained.

Over the span of the past few months, trucks brought the telescope's components to be assembled on site. Construction of the telescope and its main structure are currently fully completed. After the bulk of the workload was finished, contributing members including the contractor, architect, crane operator and a crew of students and videographers were all present as a crane carefully lowered the telescope onto the dome's pier.

The telescope's construction took place predominantly throughout the winter, and minor impediments and delays occurred due to the cold weather and snowfall. The only remaining tasks to accomplish are to remove the fencing and portable work-trailer in the upcoming

warmer months and backfill soil with grass seed to regenerate the surrounding grassy areas.

Astronomy Club and students taking the school's astronomy course are especially excited about the finalization of the telescope's installation process. This new state-of-the-art telescope features a wide range of available technological functions: a wide-reaching viewing range, exceptional light collection power and relatively large primary mirror. The new telescope will make it possible to observe far-away quasars, galaxies and other distant figures with much greater clarity.

Furthermore, the telescope can function automatically, allowing it to gather data without the direct supervision of students or faculty. Peeler, who has been taking astronomy courses throughout his upper year, noted that the telescope's self-controlled data collection

system would promote scientific investigation. "If you're taking an astronomy course and you want to track something, you can set it up to automatically track it for you and you can go back to your dorm and go to bed," he said.

Blackwell highlighted other features that met the schools' needs. The telescope has a large aperture and two optical points of focus that can be used interchangeably throughout observing sessions. "We looked at a bunch of different makes and models but have heard nothing but excellent commentary about the makers of our new scope," Blackwell said.

The telescope will become a wonderful addition to students' education in astronomy classes, mainly regarding precise data collection and skyward observations. "It's amazing what we'll be able to do with this. We'll be able to see more wavelengths and essen-

tially just opens opportunities and research that weren't possible before," Peeler said.

Senior Rosemary Beck, another co-head of the Astronomy Club, is also quite excited about the telescope's various applications and how it can open opportunities for research and interactive learning in the astronomical field. "In addition to being a great tool for students with prior telescope experience and a passion for astronomy, I'm hoping that its installation will inspire students who haven't ever visited the observatory to come out and see what it's all about," she said.

"In addition to being a great tool for students with prior telescope experience and a passion for astronomy, I'm hoping that its installation will inspire students who haven't ever visited the observatory to come out and see what it's all about," Beck said.

Communications

» **Winter Festival**  
Academy hosting North Side quad ice skating, games and snacks on Sunday afternoon from 12-3:00p.m.

» **Senior Meditation**  
Senior Alessia Serafini will read her senior meditation, “Knifemaking” next Wednesday, Feb. 26.

» **Next Week**  
ESSO Feminist Club Spotlight: Read about their sweatshirt fundraiser for the nonprofit Women for Women International.

## Sharkey Speaks on Queer Kids at PEA

By HANSI ZHU

Brooklyn-based photographer and filmmaker Michael Sharkey, creator of the internationally exhibited photography project *Queer Kids*, visited campus as the artist-in-residence last week.

*Queer Kids*, which began in 2006, is a series of empowering photographic portraits that aims to bring visibility to the strength and complexity of LGBTQ+ youth. “I was trying to discover what it meant to be young and queer in America in that particular moment [in time],” Sharkey said. “The moment was extraordinary because there wasn’t a time that had existed previously in which young, queer people could be seen and heard. Recognizing the uniqueness of that moment, my intention was to make a document that did service to [its] extraordinary circumstances.”

Sharkey first came to the attention of the Lamont Gallery in 2013 when Director of Student Activities Joanne Lembo, a college peer of Sharkey’s, introduced his work to Gallery Director and Curator Lauren O’Neal. “I saw Mr. Sharkey’s work on his website was captivated,” O’Neal said. Accordingly, a selection of portraits from *Queer Kids* launched in the

gallery during the fall of 2017. Following the closure of the exhibit, Sharkey took *Queer Kids*-style photographs of LGBTQ+ Exonians as a retrospective project to the original from ten years earlier.

When photographing for *Queer Kids* in 2006, Sharkey sought to capture the essence of his subjects’ identities by allowing them certain liberties in self-expression. “Typically, I ask the person to bring me to a location of some significance. It could be a domestic setting, it could be scholastic, it could be recreational, but something of some significance to the person.”

During Sharkey’s shoots at PEA, LGBTQ+ students who volunteered as subjects were also able to choose their own spots on campus. “He photographed Exonians in all of their places. We got to witness his process and how he set up the shots. It was wonderful,” O’Neal recalled.

Sharkey photographed senior Justin Li during his last visit. “I loved being a part of the project. I wanted to document my style and personality at that time, so that I could reflect on it later on,” he said.

Now, three years later, the collective efforts of the Lamont Gallery, Student Activities



Photographer Michael Sharkey’s exhibit is on display in the library.

Thomas Wang/*The Exonian*

Office, Class of 1945 Library and the Art Department have brought Sharkey back to display the portraits he took of Exonians.

O’Neal highlighted the meaningful timing of the photo reveals. “It was Ms. Lembo [who] suggested printing the

portraits and putting them on display, particularly because there are some portraits of students who are still here.”

During his residency, Sharkey attended classes from printmaking in the Art Department to *Queer Literature* in the English Department, hosted an infor-

mative luncheon on Friday Feb. 14 and conversed with viewers at the *Queer Kids* reception on Sunday Feb. 16 in the Library, where his portraits are currently on display.

“It’s been a great week,” Sharkey said. He snapped his fingers. “It went by like that.”

## Faculty of the Week: Joanne Lembo



Director of Student Activities Joanne Lembo lights up student life.

Oliver Hess/*The Exonian*

By TINA HUANG

Every student recognizes the name Joanne Lembo—perhaps from her weekly “Club News and Notes.” These consistent announcements are only a fraction of Lembo’s work; through bolstering the support network for LGBTQ+ students, managing clubs and organizing events, Lembo has made Exeter’s campus a more vibrant place.

Lembo, currently Director of Student Activities, LGBTQ+ Student Coordinator and Wentworth dorm faculty, has been an active part of Exeter’s community since 1996.

Before coming to Exeter, Lembo worked as Assistant Hall Director and intern in Student Activities at the University of New Hampshire (UNH). Though Lembo has involved herself in planning events since high school, she never intended to do so professionally; in fact, she studied art photography in college.

However, during her internship, a friend alerted her to an open position at Exeter. “The person who had my job originally ended up quitting suddenly,” she said. “That’s how I ended up here. Totally by accident.” For Exeter, this accident was surely a happy one.

Though her job was an unexpected one, Lembo’s previous experiences have informed her work. In particular, her time as a hall director showed her the challenges students face. “Everything that I do, including my newest role as the LGBTQ+ Student Coordinator, is really about the health and well-being of our students,” she said.

Lembo cited Exeter’s inclusivity as a main reason for her remaining at the Academy. “I was out at that time as a lesbian, and I wanted to make sure wherever I worked was a place that’s gonna accept me for all of me,” she said. “This was 25 years ago, and, back then, prior to marriage equality, [Exeter] had domestic partner benefits. I

didn’t have to hide who I was, and that was also important for me—to be able to work in a place where I could be me.”

Interim Director of Religious and Spiritual Life Reverend Heidi Heath commended Lembo’s immense contributions to the LGBTQ+ community, noting her role as trailblazer for queer people at Exeter. “As one of the first out LGBTQ+ adults, she has paved the way for others like me to be able to live lives in this community as our full selves,” Heath said. “She has also spent countless years advocating for our queer kids and making this community what it is today.”

Lembo’s lasting impact includes founding several affinity groups for queer students. Lembo said that upon her arrival to Exeter, she noticed that LGBTQ+ students hesitated to attend Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) meetings due to fears of outing themselves. As a possible solution, Lembo decided to organize private group

meetings in her house.

“I had a couple students come to me saying, ‘I really want support, but I am a team captain, I am a proctor, I am [a part of] Student Council or I can’t be seen going to the GSA,’” Lembo recalled. “So I started a confidential support group in my house with those students.”

Lembo said that, through these conversations, she developed a deeper understanding of LGBTQ+ students’ experiences on campus. “Through listening to those students’ experiences, I realized what the Academy [was] doing well and what the Academy needed to do differently.”

As more and more students attended these meetings, the program expanded. “In the beginning, it was all LGBTQ+ students in one group together,” Lembo said. “Now, we have a number of different support groups.” What began in Lembo’s house now encompasses six separate groups with eight advisers.

Senior and GSA co-head Maureen Murphy expressed her gratitude for Lembo’s leadership and empathy. “At our core group dinners, she doesn’t just offer her advice, but she also offers us stories of who she is, how her day has been, and she invites us to do the same,” said Murphy. “There’s a deeper sense of compassion to Ms. Lembo that characterizes all her work, one that would be easy to lose given how incredibly busy she always is.”

During her tenure in student activities, Lembo has also made weekend offerings more accessible. “When I first started at the Academy, the weekend activities were all fundraisers for different student clubs. That meant that if you wanted to go to an event on a Saturday night, you had to pay to go to that event,” she said. “I’m like, ‘This is ridiculous.’ I realized that, by charging for events, we were excluding many of our students who couldn’t afford to go to those events. So I worked to change that policy so that all of the events one attends on weekends are free.”

Beyond her official roles, Lembo’s presence has strengthened this community. “In trying times, she has found different

ways to uplift community members,” Assistant to the Director of Student Activities Shannon Goldknopf said. “Whether it’s baking cookies, stopping by with Angus the dog or just listening.”

Upper Eli Lembo noted how J. Lembo, their mom, dedicates herself to listening to students. “A lot of students think the adults don’t listen, but they do. If people hate an event, they’ll figure out a different way. They’ll try to figure out something else where they can make things [the students will love].”

As a dorm faculty member in Wentworth Hall, Lembo also promotes a welcoming environment for both her advisees and residents of the dorm. “Since she’s been at the Academy for such a long time, she knows everything about Exeter,” senior and Wentworth resident David Kim said. “Her wisdom has definitely guided me throughout my four years at Exeter.”

Lower and Wentworth resident Shalom Heady attested to Lembo’s vital role as a champion for LGBTQ+ youth. “She bought me a gay flag, and it was really nice to have that support,” Heady said. “I wouldn’t have gotten that at my old school.”

Lembo’s close connections extend to adults on campus as well. “I’m just so grateful for those [friendships]—to have dinners with them or breakfast or even the funny text chains that I have with certain individuals who just keep my sanity going,” Lembo said.

Still, Lembo’s primary commitment is to fostering inclusive student experience. “I have learned that she is passionate and committed and fierce and is in the fight for social justice for the long haul,” English Instructor Alex Myers said. “I respect that so much.”

Ultimately, this fight for change is her vocation. “I’ve been called pushy on those issues sometimes,” Lembo said. “The reason I push is because I want to make sure our students know that they are safe at the Academy, and I want to make sure that they can bring full selves to the table without fear of a bad grade or being ridiculed. I will continue to push that so our students and adults on this campus and feel safe.”

# Senior of the Week: Serene De Sisso

By TINA LI and ANYA TANG

Walking to South Side one evening, senior Serene De Sisso and upper Senai Robinson just started dancing. They danced because they didn't really have a reason to, and they danced because there was every reason to. Though they got strange looks from passers-by, neither De Sisso nor Robinson paid them any mind.

That evening, spending time with De Sisso, Robinson felt comfortable and confident. De Sisso has had this same effect on countless other students.

De Sisso, a Bronx native who first heard about Phillips Exeter Academy through the leadership development program Prep for Prep, initially had her doubts about being able to attend.

"I remember thinking I could never get into [Exeter] because I just didn't have the resources to get into a school like that," De Sisso said. "When I first got accepted, [the first thought that came to mind] was, 'Serene, you thought you couldn't do it, but here you are.'"

From prep to lower year, De Sisso grew more confident of her place at Exeter. De Sisso's former adviser Allison Duke

recalled that initially, De Sisso was a more reserved student. "Serene was fairly shy at first and kept to herself quite a bit as she adjusted to Exeter," Duke said. "By lower year, she had found many connections on campus and was more confident in herself."

As a senior, De Sisso has helped others take up space, becoming a role model underclassmen look to for support. In striving to better the lives of those around her, whether that be lending a shoulder to friends or trying to spread positivity, she has become an embodiment of what it means to be an Exonian.

As with her personal relationships, De Sisso has given herself to her extracurricular pursuits. De Sisso's current adviser Panama Geer attested to the passion and commitment that De Sisso has devoted to all of her work. "It's not the quantity of things she's done ... I think she's come at a lot of the things she does outside the standard academic life here in an almost academic way," Geer said. "She's treated them the same level as some of her core courses and put that amount of time and energy into them."

De Sisso leads Precision, the Academy's all-female step team. Having first encountered

step in fourth grade, De Sisso choreographs for Precision to connect with her culture and proudly showcase it to others.

Robinson, who is a co-head of all-male step team Outkast, spoke to De Sisso's creativity and talent. "We create steps for our step groups together. Every time I have an idea, she takes it another step further or two steps further, and, every time she has an idea, I can take it further. We constantly build off of each other with the work of the other co-heads [of Precision and Outkast] as well."

De Sisso also founded the Academy's first black affinity group, Black Students of Excellence.

Through these organizations, she hopes to support her community and other girls who share experiences of marginalization. "I think my clubs are ways to give back to those that I believe have helped me and also those who can help other people," De Sisso said.

De Sisso recalled that, in Dunbar, as the only black girl in her grade or on her floor, she often felt isolated; De Sisso now strives to minimize this experience for other black students. "I remember feeling very alienated. So, through my mentorship [in the dorm and in clubs], I try and improve the

situation for black girls here."

De Sisso further shines in her ability to speak on the impact of her experiences. "She's able to take the issues that are important to her, articulate them and share them with people who are not proximate to these issues," senior and former roommate Suan Lee said. "I learned so much from Serene, and I'm so grateful Serene was my introduction to having really difficult but very candid conversations."

Through her outspokenness, De Sisso has educated the campus on pertinent issues. "Being able to meet her and being good friends with her has allowed me to understand and learn about a lot of things that otherwise I would have never known about in my life," senior Jasper Ludington said, "going with her and a couple of other people to ALES and also being more cognizant of African-American students on campus."

Through her Exeter career, De Sisso has learned to take a stand and proudly own her space. "I think just finding her voice on certain issues is probably the biggest way that she's grown," Geer said. "She has a strong voice on campus about a lot of issues that are important, and she's garnered a lot of

respect from the community around those."

No matter the setting, De Sisso puts forward a positive mentality. "[Serene] was outgoing, for sure," Ludington said. "[She was] easy to open up to, but also bubbly in a way."

De Sisso's positivity withstands stresses and challenges. "One of the hallmarks of Serene in my mind is the way she's always able to put on a brave face, even when I know she's absolutely miserable too. She always found the bright side," Geer said. "I think it brings out good things in other people."

For De Sisso, "What can I do?" is a regular question, and as the end of her senior year approaches, she finds herself meditating on the question more often. "I've always believed that the measure of a good Exonian isn't our grades but our actions and our impact on other people."

Asked how she stays positive, De Sisso just shrugged. "I think it doesn't hurt to be positive. If I'm a positive person and I'm next to you, you will be. And so will the next person; it keeps spreading and spreading. I think, for me, it's something that everyone can do."

## Exeter Celebrates the Classics at Inaugural Quidquid Event

By OTTO DO

Shouts filled Thompson Gym as students lined up to challenge Classics Instructor Nicholas Unger, dressed in a traditional Roman chiton and wielding a mock sword, in gladiatorial combat.

Upper and Kirtland Society (Latin Club) co-head Charlie Preston, in conjunction with Unger, hosted Exeter's first ever "Quidquid," an inter-scholastic Classics celebration, on Sunday.

"Quidquid is the friendship within our school and the companionship between other schools, but it is especially the vision of Charlie," Unger said.

"I did not believe that Quidquid would come about, but he did not despair—he worked for the longest time and without ruin. Therefore we ought to applaud again."

Preston explained the name of the event. "Quidquid is literally Latin for 'whatever.' We chose this name because when we were conceiving the idea, we really didn't know what path we were going to take. It started as a joke, but it turned out

to be a great collection of events," he said.

Latin students from Bedford High School, Exeter High School, Phillips Exeter Academy, Pinkerton Academy and St. Paul's School gathered in Thompson Gym this past Sunday to host a number of booths.

Activities at the event included gladiatorial combat, Roman board games, Classical trivia contest, ancient amulet-making, mythological face-painting, Latin tweets and the Graeco-Roman photo booth.

An especially popular activity was Gladiatorial Combat; Unger manned the booth, warding all who challenged him. Lower Kiese Nanor described the action. "It's fun to see the little kids frolicking about trying to fight Mr. Unger," Nanor said.

In addition to fun events, Quidquid also hosted a bake sale where Kirtland partnered with ESSO Ending 68 Hours of Hunger to create positive change in nearby neighborhoods. Ending 68 Hours of Hunger is a student led group that aims to provide food for under-resourced students in

the Exeter area who do not have a reliable source of food.

To conclude the day, Exeter students performed "Miles Gloriosus," a comedic play where supporting characters overthrow their hero. "Miles Gloriosus" roughly translates to "The Swaggering Soldier" and is the archetype of the arrogant soldier trope, whose ego becomes his downfall.

Lower Ben Ehrman, who was an actor in the play, reflected on the preparation process. "It was a lot of work getting everyone coordinated to play their roles, but it was a lot of fun and the end result was a blast," he said.

After seeing his great plans come to fruition, Preston reflected upon the success of the event, as well as how Classics has enhanced his Exeter experience. "Despite it being only my third year, Quidquid is my crowning achievement," Preston noted. "They say that Latin is dead, but I say we still hold the torch for it. We're upholding classical civilization and spreading the culture here today."

## Album Review: Dance of The Clairvoyants

By BLAKE SIMPSON

Last month, Pearl Jam released "Dance Of The Clairvoyants," their first single since 2018's "Can't Deny Me." What's that? Synth? In a Pearl Jam song? Yes, indeed it is. If you're like me and have put yourself in a constant loop of listening only to Ten, Vs and Vitalogy, or even if "Can't Deny Me" is the most recent PJ track you've heard, then this song may be a bit of a shock. While "Can't Deny Me" follows what sounds like a logical progression from their previous work, it is difficult to draw parallels between "Dance" and any of their other work.

The song is four minutes and 25 seconds long and is accompanied by two music videos, aptly titled "Dance Of The Clairvoyants Mach I" and "Dance Of The Clairvoyants Mach II," directed by Joel Edwards and Ryan Cory, respectively.

The song opens up on a tight drum and bass groove, followed shortly thereafter by a synth line. Eddie Vedder's vocals on this track are reminiscent of those of David Byrne, with a breathy openness punctuated by jittery sudden stops and staccatos. However, this vocal quality is swept away by Vedder's familiar gruffness during the choruses.

Certainly, Pearl Jam has tremendously evolved their sound since 1991's Ten. "Dance Of The Clairvoyants" teases a new side of Pearl Jam that we have not seen before, which will likely rear its head on this upcoming album.

Although "Dance Of The Clairvoyants" subverts many of the aspects of Pearl Jam that I fell in love with, I found it to be an enjoyable and creative track. It did not seem tired or wanting, but rather a truly curious vehicle for exploration. The track's electronic influence does not mask the raw attitude and musicianship that has always shone through in Pearl Jam's music.

I would give this track an 8/10. "Dance Of The Clairvoyants" shows us a new Pearl Jam, which I believe is a good thing. Pearl Jam has never tried to desperately grip onto what made each previous album great; they have always strived to make something new. That has given them the longevity and support which many bands from their era have not been able to retain.

Pearl Jam is headed in a new direction. The success of this move can't be fully judged by one track—however, if this single is any indicator of what's to come, then I can safely say that Pearl Jam has still got it.

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## » EMOTION

Director of Writing Erin Choi calls for embracing emotion in daily life.

## » INTERSECTIONALITY

Lower Charles Falivena argues for intersectional unity in on-campus activism.

## » MEDIA BIAS

Upper Jonathan Meng critiques bias in *The Exonian's* AMC investigative.



Avery Lavine/*The Exonian*

## The Dangers of Media Bias

By JONATHAN MENG '21

By now, most have heard of fake news and its associated dangers. It's an epidemic that has spread across the internet, changing the course of public opinion, swaying elections and generally misleading the populace. While many have raised justified concerns about imaginary stories hatched up for personal profit, a problem which is just as important—and possibly even more sinister—is selective reporting and the many other forms of media bias that surround us on a daily basis.

Though it is unreasonable to expect media organizations to report extensively on every story that pops up, the main danger from media bias arises when the selection process is corrupted.

In larger, profit-driven companies, this often happens when the news source depends on ad revenue or “clicks” to make money. When trying to “clickbait,” it often makes sense for the news organizations to pursue stories with greater pomp

and surrounding drama, regardless of their real importance.

Given a perfectly fair selection process, bias also permeates into the actual content of each article. Although news should, in theory, be completely objective, the personal views of each organization's owners, investors, writers and editors will all nudge reporting in one direction or the other. Biases can also appear in the different ways information is arranged, or through subtle suggestions hidden beneath phrasing and word choice.

As our consumption of news becomes more and more rushed, many simply scroll through a news digest or even worse, a social media feed, skimming through eye-catching titles or reading through the first few paragraphs. This turn towards simplicity leads to less nuance, but it also gives news organizations a chance to hide important details near the middle or end of articles.

This problem only worsens when considering confirmation bias: our tendency to cherry pick information

that fits nicely into our own worldview. Readers with certain opinions in mind often, whether actively or subconsciously, choose news sources that cater to our preconceptions, only serving to strengthen our ideas.

These factors can come together to cause a lack of diversity in news sources and reporting, beginning even when a story is first picked up.

One excellent example was The Exonian's recent coverage of the American Math Competition (AMC). To quote the original prompt assigned by the editors, this article intended to “emphasize HISTORICAL success and trends (possibly data)” while looking “into gender/race disparity/age distribution.”

However, what appears in the article shows all the symptoms of a biased writing process, with both mischaracterization and blatant falsehoods. Take for example, the first paragraph of the story. The first sentence reads: “For years, the American Mathematics Competition (AMC) exam has faced criticism for failing to achieve equal gender participation.” This is a stretch—Google searches for “American math competition AMC criticism” and “American math competition AMC news” turned up zero gender participation related pieces. The study re-

ferred to as the justification for this article is more than a decade old, undermining the idea that this piece was written “in light of [the study's] finding[s].”

The piece then continues its analysis of disparities primarily through statistics and first person accounts. Even after chalking up the confusing ratios to human error, it is interesting to note that many quotes are completely without context, allowing room for gross misinterpretation.

Bias also plays into the quotes. Of the twelve questions that appear to have been asked by Exonian reporters, seven refer to disparities in test-taking demographics, with a statistic noting the differences in gender participation. Because of the article's focus on gender differences, nearly every quotation lifted from interviews came from those seven questions.

This single minded focus on the topic gives a very strong impression to readers that gender disparity is the most important demographic issue surrounding the AMC, even though race, particularly the keywords of “Asian” and “Chinese,” seemed to show up nearly as often, despite the gender-focused questions.

What follows from this type of

reporting is two main issues. This first is about a general perception surrounding The Exonian and the second is the misleading of readers. There is no issue with this type of investigative reporting; to pass off such pieces as news, however, is at best a very extreme form of mislabeling.

Many Exonians deeply involved in the competition math community felt that the article was an inaccurate portrayal, likely causing them to disengage with the school newspaper. Others without as much first-hand knowledge will read this article and take away that Exeter's Math Club is an unwelcoming place for females, worsening whatever issues may exist.

Though not always possible for Exeter-focused news, the message that usually follows after these types of articles is to search for more sources with greater amounts of nuance. It even helps to consider each article from the view of a possible critic, considering what biases may have gone into the forming of each piece. It's easy to read and nod in agreement with the statements that we already believe ourselves, but it takes another level of critical thinking to try and recognize the biases that go into almost every single piece of writing that you will ever see.

## For Full, Free Speech in Harkness

By SAMUEL CALLAGHER '21

It's 10:45a.m. on a calm Tuesday morning. The initial grogginess you felt after giving into your alarm clock at 7:30 has finally passed; Assembly was interesting, and you've had a cup of coffee or tea or a bagel or maybe nothing at all. Regardless, you feel fine—maybe even good.

You walk into your humanities class after having done just enough of the homework to get by. You participate just enough in a discussion on race, love and mental health to get by. As you leave, you take about five seconds to think back on the conversation: what you said and what you didn't, what others said, what that one guy said three times in three different ways.

You feel content.

Everyone got along just fine, talked just fine and walked out feeling just fine, if not thinking about the hour

remaining until lunch. No one got into a debate. Maybe, you spotted a subtle eye roll, but you move on and forget, only remembering the fact that your voice cracked while telling your friend the bare minimum about your morning during the lunch that came and went just fine too.

What you don't realize is that you failed.

In that half-second of thought, you may, or may not, have noticed that no one disagreed because no one bothered to. When you looked at that complex passage and decided to sum it up as “I think he was reflecting on his identity” without any other thought, you just killed free speech.

It's not your fault; no one is going to disagree with you, and there's a good chance that you were right. Now, the class can acknowledge that broad idea, move on and feel good about themselves for having tackled the issue of “identity.” Yet, you've failed,

because there might've been someone in that class who thought that the passage had nothing to do with identity or that the character's identity affected him in a negative way or that, perhaps, identity factored into the passage in an unconventional way. All you had to do was press the matter a little, put in the effort, say something unique.

The fact is, people at the table have different thoughts and opinions and viewpoints—some are insightful and some may sting, but they all still offer something. The ease with which we kill dissent to make life easier for ourselves in the classroom, or simply reserve that dissent for the hallways afterward, destroys the whole point of Harkness.

We walk in every day with a preconception of what is right. We have a picture, typically, of what something means or could mean or has meant, and we dream about how our idea will get that nice nod from the teacher

which tells us that we're on the right track. But we're not—we're on the same track that everyone else is on, and we're all too lazy to get off. All we do is sit patiently for about ten minutes while the class circles around one idea like fruit flies buzzing around a fresh apple, pretty but superficial, until someone swats us out of the sky by saying the obvious. Then, we move on.

We praise the swatter, vanquisher of evil, but if they had the means to take out the flies, then they should have done it while they were larvae. They should not have let nothingness fester until it became a noticeable bother. Knives sharpen knives, and if we don't bring fresh, imaginative, or even debatable ideas to the table, then what are we doing if not endlessly circling?

The books we read and the poems we delve into have depths of meaning just waiting for us to reach them.

This is the potential of Harkness: growth through dissent and meaningful conversation, coupled with mutual respect that allows us to explore the world more than we could on our own.

So how do we get there? To start, when you sit down at 10:46, keep your mind open and your ears perked. Don't accept the status quo. Listen earnestly and bolster yourself and others, or challenge those points that should be looked at in greater detail. You must take the first step, and through that, others will forge their own paths as well.

Harkness is a forest with many trails and no set destination. It allows us the freedom to wander crossways and make our own map to discern meaning. Work, think and create new things to bring to the table, and don't be afraid to interact with others as well. If we end our sheep-like acceptance of only one, basic explanation for a complicated issue, we can reach new heights and maybe get a little closer to the open-ended, liberating dream of Harkness.



# Assembly: Quality Over Quantity

By ARYAPALLA '23

Sometimes assemblies are worth the 30 minutes they take up, and sometimes, they're not. Obviously, the likeability of an assembly is subjective to its audience. However, you can never truly know whether you'll enjoy an assembly if you don't attend it.

Of course, there are times when you can't sit still and listen to a speech that drones on and makes those 30 minutes feel like an hour. This doesn't necessarily have to do with the content of the assembly. The timing and length of assemblies, combined with lack of sleep, hunger and sheer boredom, can make these events intolerable. Rather than withstand these tribulations, students skip assembly.

Exeter has tried to combat the epidemic of missing students by working with different systems of atten-

dance, the most recent being the infamous Sched system. Faculty are also on the watch for students running back to their dorms, but some still slip through. These students' absences are apparent when you see the large patches of unfilled seats in the Assembly Hall—a testament to the failing attendance systems. Like I said before: this doesn't necessarily have to do with the actual assemblies, but with the boredom and fatigue that accompany some of them.

Nonetheless, assemblies can be enlightening. They can engage the audience and put forth novel ideas that students might be willing to discuss further. They can bring joy through performative displays of music and dance, offering recognition to some of our peers in the Exeter community. They can demonstrate the hidden (as well as well-known) talents of our students and bring us to a closer apprecia-

tion for each other. They can even foster discussion in our community and some intellectual development, particularly when we invite an eloquent speaker with a controversial opinion. Ultimately, these are the assemblies that we ought to strive for.

Assembly can work sometimes, but it's hard to ensure that it's always the case. Since the Academy has to find a speaker or event for assembly two times every single week for every month of school, the quality of assemblies and assembly speakers can vary. This need to constantly pump out talking points every Tuesday and Friday diminishes their quality and influence over the student body, which in turn causes more to skip.

It isn't surprising that the Assembly Hall can't comfortably hold the entire student body. Packing together a thousand students early in the morning for thirty minutes can

irritate anyone. Especially when listening to an assembly you aren't interested in.

This can be a terrible start to the day. The lack of comfort and the unrest can distract the audiences from the message of the assembly and further encourage students to skip it. This skipping, of course, destroys the whole point of assembly in the first place—to bring our community together.

In order to improve the quality of assemblies, we should target frequency and quality. Attempts to take the attendance of every student at every assembly are not sustainable or effective—they tremendously slow down the days.

Instead, we should look to reduce the frequency of assemblies and focus on quality, not quantity. Like Andover, we should only hold assembly once a week and use the opportunity to strengthen our As-

sembly program by bringing in quality speakers likely to impact our community.

Exeter should also advertise our assemblies more publicly—perhaps, marketing will draw up student enthusiasm for our most exciting speakers and convince students to attend.

We could also consider changes to the structure of Assembly Hall itself an open environment with room to sit makes the overall assembly experience easier and more pleasurable.

While assemblies can be useful and interesting, due to inefficient implementation, they fail to enlighten and entertain as much as they could. I think it is important to attend assemblies because you never know how you will react to certain speakers and events. However, I still understand why people skip them. If we reduce the frequency of assemblies, and couple this with careful planning, clarity amongst the students, and a more comfortable listening environment, the Exeter community will be better off for it.

# Dorm Service and the Spirit of Non Sibi

By ANDREA LUO '22

We here at Exeter strive to embody non sibi in our daily lives. Non sibi means not for self, and that means helping others, from small acts of kindness to elaborately planned projects. These actions come with the intention to make a difference in the community and the world beyond.

In the past few months, we have begun seeing different dorms helping to clean up after dinner as the dining hall begins to clear. This is a mandatory dorm service, so whether or not people enjoy it doesn't make a difference in their participation. So is having mandatory dorm service a good idea or not?

Though it takes up our precious free time, engaging in service like this has a positive impact on us as individuals and on the community. It helps us build character by influencing a change in our attitude and also builds a tighter dorm community.

It is important to recognize the hard work that members of our community put into making our campus the way it is, clean and neat at all times during the day, allowing things to run smoothly. In the midst of our busy schedule, we don't often have time to stop and appreciate the work that makes our lives so easy and convenient.

Mandatory dorm service allows us to designate a time during

the day to acknowledge the hard work that others put in for us and helps us to display an appreciation of their efforts.

Furthermore, it helps bring the dorm community closer together. It isn't very often when all grades of a dorm are required to work together with a common goal in their mind. Doing this allows the collaboration of dorms and the common ground of appreciating the often unrecognized members of the community.

On the contrary, people may see this initiative as useless or unnecessary because these services may be done by other people. For example, there are those whose job it is to look after the dining hall. Going into service with this

mindset shows us the negative impact of being at a prestigious institution like Exeter. Being in this academic environment, it is sometimes hard for us to realize that our responsibilities extend beyond the intellectual. We take tasks like cleaning for granted.

In the end, the community's response to dorm service is a reflection of something greater.

Furthermore, cleaning up after people will inevitably be something that people don't really want to do. Yet, mandatory service changes our perspective on things: it orients us to be considerate of our actions and be mindful of who deals with the consequences.

Dining hall norms and traditions at Exeter are often disrespectful. One major thing is the tradition of clapping when someone breaks a piece of dishware. Not only does this embarrass the individual who dropped it, but people also overlook the fact that someone has to come around and clean up the mess afterward.

On a smaller but more com-

monly-seen degree, the mess we leave when we get up from the table, or the unfinished food left over on our plate, is something that we don't realize. It is easy to look past our ignorance when it comes to leaving things out and food waste.

By taking part in mandatory dorm service, we see what's being left behind. We are put in the position of dealing with other people's mess afterward, as other people do for us. Mandatory dorm service helps us to become more mindful of the effect of our compounding actions due to thinking about convenience rather than our impact on others and the world.

Mandatory dorm service is a simple form of non sibi. Dorm service makes us conscious of our ignorance.

Above all, it is important to see this task as an experience to learn and reflect on our actions, as well as an opportunity to show our gratitude toward members of the community who work to make our Exeter experience so ideal.

#iamExeter

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# In Defense of Living For the Feeling

## Editors' Corner: Erin Choi

By ERIN CHOI '21

I've been acting on all of my whims. The Google definition for a whim is as follows: "A sudden desire or change of mind, especially one that is unusual or unexplained." Our whims are us telling ourselves what is going to fulfill us. And they're always true.

Throughout high school, but especially as an upper, I've been made to feel by a lot of people that I've been doing Exeter the wrong way; I'm not doing as "well" as people think I could be doing here. I don't have the best GPA or the most competitive list of extracurriculars. I somehow end up going to sleep between 2:00 and 4:00 am every night. Because I'm not a disciplined, high-achieving, organized student, I'm told so often that I need to change my approach and do "better."

But honestly, I like where I'm at right now—because "success" is not what I've been pursuing. I've always been searching for what feels right.

In Latin this term, we've been reading Horace—he's the guy who coined *carpe diem*. While he uses this phrase in I.11, where he tells us life is short and we don't have time to worry about long-term hopes, I want to talk about I.9.

In this ode, Horace says that in cold winter, we should bring out lots of firewood and wine. In harsh circumstances, we should focus on fostering our own warmth and festivity. He then implores us: *permitte divis cetera*—leave all else to the gods. Nothing beyond our immediate

self-care is really in our control. Therefore, it's not worth it for us to be concerned about anything else.

Some people seem to interpret my lack of a concrete, long-term plan as me not taking myself seriously, not thinking I'm worth that much thought or effort. But that couldn't be less true. It's actually a sign of confidence: I trust myself and love myself enough to know that because I want to be happy, I'm going to be happy.

In Latin class and in quite a few spontaneous Grill conversations, I've been discussing the idea of fate a lot. Many people seem to find comfort in the idea of a predetermined path—in times of hardship, they remind themselves that God has a plan.

I don't think there's a God who has already carved out my future, nor do I believe in three sisters who will spin out the thread of my life, waiting to cut it. But I still have that same sense of security I'm going to be okay. I've come to a sense of deep peace that, no matter where I go from here or what I end up doing, I'm going to be happy. I don't need a specific set of circumstances to be happy—faith in my instincts is all I really need.

I've filmed TikTok dances with people in the common room, only to realize that people can see us from the quad. One night, I spent two hours poring over Mrs. Dalloway, neglecting sleep and my other subjects. Over Winter Thaw, I lost track of time staring at Monet water lilies while listening to Ravel and consequently missed my train back to Exeter. I randomly called up my crush because my instincts said I would do better after hearing an

official rejection. Oftentimes, I don't leave the piano for hours, even though I haven't started my homework. I even wrote this op-ed instead of working on my chem lab.

I make these decisions purely because, in the moment, they feel right. And I don't have any regrets. All these choices have brought me raw, intense emotions: fun, embarrassment, elation, vulnerability. My whims, it seems, always push me to feel more and learn more.

"Trust your gut" is something people say a lot. I suppose my current philosophy is that my instincts are what's most true to me and that a raw, honest existence is the most fulfilling one.

We're really goal-oriented here at Exeter. It seems that most of us live for the next step: college, grad school, work. I've felt so immature, like I'm not doing or thinking enough, to not have a specific future school or career that I'm working towards. Meanwhile, I've been thinking a lot about manifestation: taking your goals and somehow turning them into reality.

I've been warned by @sighswoon that I shouldn't strive for anything that depends on others changing because that attitude is grounded in a false sense of entitlement—the feeling that I deserve to control anything outside of myself. It would be entitled of me to live my life chasing acceptance from my crush, success as defined by the Harvard Admissions Office or a letter from a McKinsey recruiter years down the line. I can't go forward trying to manifest a reality that depends upon other people's specific decisions.

That leaves me with only one pursuit to chase in full faith and without shame: a life that feels right.

A lot of people see me as childish, reckless and naive for my in-the-moment approach to life. If they think I'm not making the smartest decisions all the time, that my decisions won't always keep me the safest, I'll admit that they're completely right.

I don't think about protecting myself or running from the incoming tides to the highest ground I can find. Instead, I'll watch them come into shore, I'll admire the way the waves glisten and dance, I'll feel the saltwater rush over me, I'll trust that it's going to recede and I'll have experienced more for it. Maybe it's a reckless approach, one that doesn't make sense. But I don't understand why never running towards the wave is any better than drowning in it.

Particular careers or moral convictions are thought to be more respectable pursuits than pure feelings. Emotion is seen as fickle and unreliable, a hindrance to these nobler, larger purposes of our lives.

We even see that people undermine or gaslight those speaking about the sheer emotional force of their oppression; the experiences of people of color, women and women of color are all too often discounted because their tones and stories are too "emotional." We ignore or devalue perspectives for being tainted by feelings. The underlying assumption here is that feelings tell us nothing, but instead, they undermine a superior, perfect, objective truth.

If there's one thing I've learned writing for *The Exonian*, it's that combining each one of our perspectives is the only way to form a complete story. And ultimately, individual objectivity is such a construct—our views and understandings are inextricably tied to our own feelings. How can we say there is anything more important or truer than emotion when that's the lens through which we experience our entire lives?

Living for the feeling isn't an ignorant way to live—it's the fullest, most grounded way to live. Feeling isn't just an inevitable byproduct that detracts from experience; it's not even just an important part of the human experience. Feeling is the entire human experience.

I've decided to stop feeling bad about wanting nothing more than to embrace all my emotions, because nothing teaches me more about myself, about the people around me and about the world I live in. I hope that pleasure is the dominant feeling, but I also beg that it isn't the only one. I'm going to keep living in pursuit of whatever brings me the rawest, visceral, genuine feelings.

Here's a shoutout to everyone whose resume isn't looking too padded right now, everyone who shot a risky shot that didn't work, everyone who doesn't know what office they want to work in 20 years down the line. If you're angry, if you're in love, if you don't know how you feel right now. We're not behind, and we're not doing something wrong. Our feelings and whims will always be right, and they will lead us through our truest, most fulfilling lives.

"Permitte divis cetera."



WE EXIST.

## Intersectionality: The Most Powerful Weapon We Have

By CHARLES FALIVENA '22

Too often in my two years at Exeter, I have found myself on the side of my non-white and non-male comrades, my queer brethren and differently-abled brethren. We all scream the same words into the void: "We exist!"

When Kirstin Valdez Quade confessed to us at assembly that she'd always felt that her position at the Academy was provisional, I realized that, as an autistic, bisexual, genderqueer person with ADHD, I felt the same way. Not exactly the same way—but similar enough to it that I could em

Avery Lavine/*The Exonian*

pathize.

The issue, then: why is it that all of us are fighting the same battle under different banners? Why is it that some of us feel obligated to fight under their own banners? Why do some of us feel obligated not to help out the others?

As much as I am sick and tired of America and its plethora of atrocities, the phrase "United we stand, divided we fall" is fundamentally accurate and can be readily applied to this situation. I fail to see the utility of drawing lines in the sand when we're all storming the same beach.

I don't say any of this to minimize the efforts that clubs on

campus have made to connect with each other and their efforts to discuss the intersections between their various causes. I write this piece to invite and encourage more of that kind of thinking (shoutout to Fem Club for making the intersectional merch, by the way. That's 100% a step in the right direction).

None of this is simple. None of these causes deserve to be sidelined, but the unfortunate reality is that, too often, we give preference to the relatively less marginalized on campus. If the Halloween costume incident last fall had been homophobic instead of anti-immigrant and racist, would members of the student body—would faculty members—have been as vicious to the protesters?

Before you put this article down and accuse me of painting the entire student body as racist, I would like to point out that broad-stroke characterizations are hardly a new thing on this campus, and that's not what I'm doing. I am merely saying that the liberal attitudes and tendencies prevalent on this campus have the unfortunate mechanism of contradicting themselves when it comes to different social causes (to clarify, I'm not a conservative; I'm a democratic socialist).

In addition to that can of worms this campus can't seem to open, some disadvantaged groups on campus are still struggling to find their voices as they throw even more elements onto the playing field. The fact that there was a Disability Advocacy Group (run, of course, by non-disabled people) before there was an actual disability affinity group on this campus (shameless self-promotion here, but Exonians with Disabilities and Different Abilities, or EDDA, meets on Wednesdays from 6:30–8:00 p.m.) really says something profound to me.

The feasibility of gender-neu-

tral bathrooms, name-change ability across school platforms and a gender-inclusive visitations policy on campus is certainly a good thing. But why can't we achieve universal testing accommodations, sensory rooms in the health center and a bit more than a paragraph in the E Book about proving disability status in order to receive needed accommodations?

This disparity in the resources afforded to different groups on this campus also says something profound to me about how far we have to go.

To quote Queen Latifah, the key to all this lies in a single word: u-n-i-t-y. And I do not mean a "sit around a campfire singing Kumbayah and hope for a better tomorrow" kind of unity. The kind of unity I refer to is not something that the school will reserve days to go over.

We need a coalition of sorts between all groups, in solidarity with each other. When we unite, organization will ultimately give our issues the most airtime, and we will create the most change.

With the Student Council (StuCo) election fast approaching, and both presidential candidates making promises of diversity, equity and inclusion, I have a suggestion for the eventual winner: make and keep a commitment to uniting and bringing to the forefront all marginalized identities on this campus.

Currently, I regard StuCo as yet another layer of bureaucracy to slog through in order to enact actual change, but I am open-minded, and materializing the proposals I noted above would greatly benefit my perception of it.

Still, the bottom line to all of this is that, when multiple groups on this campus are left out in the cold, sticking together preserves body heat. And who knows? Maybe we'll get let in sometime in the next five years.

Have an idea for a humor article? Scan our code to submit your suggestion, or email the page at [exonianhumor@gmail.com](mailto:exonianhumor@gmail.com) with your full article.



## Top 5 Places to Cry on Campus

By ADAM TUCHLER  
*Blery-eyed*

If you have ever failed a Geer math test, gotten rejected from EP, or dropped a plate in the middle of Dhall, then you have definitely burst into tears on campus. You may have been left wondering, where is the nearest comfortable place to cry? We have answers. Here are the top must-try-places to cry on campus.

**5th Place:** The Elm Street Bathroom. You may have walked into Dhall, stepped into the omelette line, and then noticed that Chef Derrick was not cooking. You may have also watched as the new chef said “you’re the last one,” and pointed to the guy in front of you. These scarring events might force your eyes to pool, but don’t fret! The warm Elm bathroom, tighty stalls, and sweet citrus aroma will put your mind at ease while fostering a cozy crying environment.

**4th Place:** The kosher kitchen in the Phillips Church basement. Have you ever gone to EP, but your date was nowhere to be seen? Of course you have. The kosher kitchen is conveniently close in proximity to the EP room. If your date doesn’t show up, you have a quick escape to the small dark room in the basement where you can cry during EP instead. Disclaimer: It may get awkward when you’re not the only one there.

**3rd Place:** Capital Thai Kitchen and Bar. This is arguably one of the best places to cry near campus. Unlike at the other locations, these tears will be tears of joy. The savory tang of a four star beef Pad See Ew, mixed with the sugary succulence of a Thai bubble tea, will force your eyes to water. I guarantee you won’t regret crying in Capital Thai.

**2nd Place:** The athletic trainers. If you’re, perhaps, “injured” while playing a sport, stretching for yoga or being a bench warmer for prep spaz, then you may have taken a trip to the athletic trainers. While your teammates run, sweat and cry, you enjoyed the dual luxury, relaxation tubs, the muscle massagers and the hot towels. After a few weeks, your trainer informs you that you are healthy and ready to return to prep spaz. Nothing will crush your heart as much as that moment. As the tears flow, at least you will have some hot towels to wipe them with as you leave.

**1st Place:** The College Counseling Office bathrooms. If being an upper is not enough to cry over, try being told that West Dakota Community College is your far reach school. Shock will hold back your tears while you reach for the door and sprint all the way to the bathroom. The CCO bathroom doesn’t have drains, so make sure to bring a bucket with you. The sturdy blue stall walls will comfort you, while juxtaposing the chunky orange chunder that will fill your bucket.

### Honorable Mentions:

Under your bed.

The staircase in the Academy Building that doesn’t actually go anywhere.

Under your roommate’s bed.

Ms. Waterman’s laboratory.

Day student lounge all-gender bathroom.

Tunnel between Webster and Bancroft.

Fatigue room on the second floor of the Health Center during a Death Chem test.

4th floor Phelps study lounge by the whale skeleton as a reminder of how insignificant you are.

In Ms. Waterman’s dungeon.

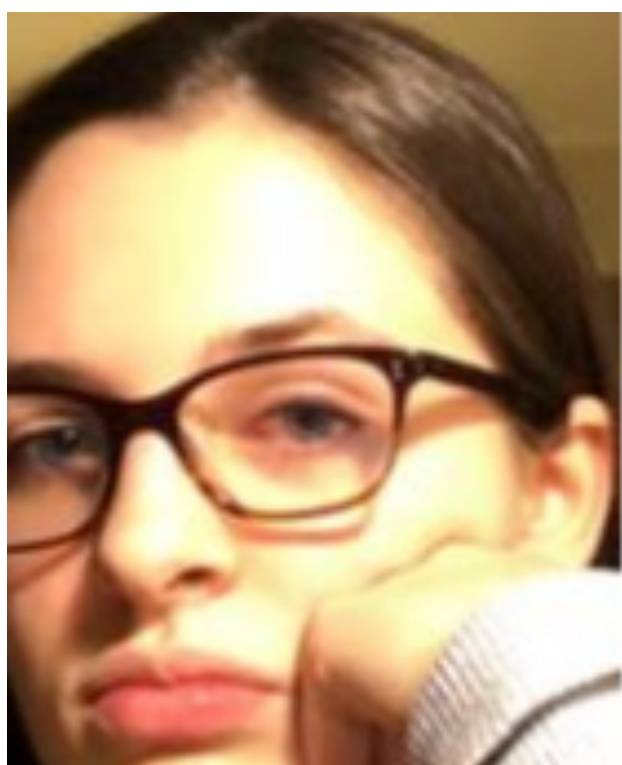
The warm air vent near the entrance to Elm.

Literally any practice room in the music building (because they’re definitely 100% soundproof).

In the arms of Dean Cahalane.

The common room as preps watch in fear that this may become their future.

## TFW Anne Doesn’t Let You Use Bad Photos of Her in the TFW



## Yelix Feung Fan-Fic

By ANONYMOUS  
*Seek Help. Please.*

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! Chaniel Den blinked multiple times to see what the source of that excruciating noise was. Oh! It was Chaniel Den’s alarm clock. Chaniel Den flung his arm, causing the alarm clock to fall to the floor with a CRASH. The sunlight came in through the window, causing Chaniel Den’s room to be saturated in a sunflower yellow haze, so Chaniel Den couldn’t go back to sleep. Slowly creeping out of bed and standing straight in front of a floor length mirror, Chaniel Den stared into his sky-blue orbs. His long, luscious dirty-blond hair was in a messy bun that was just the perfect ratio of messy and supermodel. He wore a faded white tee with large pink letters displaying “Sonny is my sugar daddy” just across his chest [insert photo below] and changed into bleached jeans that had rips at the knees and scattered around the thighs [insert photo below] that hugged his curves. Perfect! Paired with a pair of baby pink socks with Melanie Martinez’s name on the

top and checkered vans hi-tops, Chaniel Den felt confident to go outside and head to school.

Just so you know, Chaniel Den isn’t like anyone else. He’s quirky and weird. Many people didn’t like Chaniel Den, but that’s okay because Chaniel Den liked who he was, and that is good enough! Just as Chaniel Den snuck past his parents, who were slumped on the couch, dodging a few glass bottles as they tiptoed through, and walked into the warm and beautiful day, he heard his name being called by a deep and sexy voice. Shrugging it off and thinking it was a joke, Chaniel Den continued to walk through the park that was conveniently in front of his house, until he heard another call.

“Chaniel Den!” yelled the perfect and sexy voice.

Huh. That’s weird. Chaniel Den whipped his head to look for the source of such a sexy voice and it was—Yelix Feung?

Walking towards Chaniel Den, putting a hand through his hair, Yelix Feung approached Chaniel Den with a sexy smile. Chaniel Den’s cheeks burned, and Parry Hotter and the Goblet of Fire

magically appeared in his hands. Chaniel Den wasn’t like others, and Yelix Feung needed to see that.

“Chaniel Den,” he started to say in his yummy voice, and Chaniel Den was forced to look up, “is that you?”

Chaniel Den looked at his mint checkered vans like they were the most interesting thing in the world, cheeks burning. What would Yelix Feung want with me? thought Chaniel Den.

“Y-y-y-y-es,” Chaniel Den forced out, cringing at how gravelly his voice came out. Yelix Feung chuckled, and it almost made Chaniel Den’s knees buckle.

“That’s great,” he said in his beautiful English accent, “Your parents sold you to me.”

Chaniel Den’s head snapped to look Yelix Feung in the eye. Was this reality? Why would Yelix Feung want to buy Chaniel Den instead of the other cute, blue-eyed and blonde-haired basic popular boys? Chaniel Den couldn’t contain his excitement! Today was the best day EVER!

To be continued...

## Big Red Goes Green: A Comprehensive List of Ways to Reuse Unaccepted Valentine’s Gifts

By JACK ARCHER  
*Spent Valentines Day in His Room, Playing Minecraft*

### 1. Chocolates

a. Eat them yourself. If you’re lucky, the bitterest of cocoa beans might mask the taste of your defeat. At least for a little while.

b. Feed them to your dog.  
c. Melt them all down to cast a sculpture of your would-have-been Valentine and keep it in a dusty corner of your room as an eternal reminder. You know, if you happen to have some free time this weekend.

### 2. Stuffed Teddy Bears

a. Give ‘em to Felix.  
b. Rip the stuffing out and use it as an extra layer of bedding during these cold winter nights. Or at least the cold winter nights the weather forecasts claimed we would face.

c. Use the remaining exteriors as a rug to make your room feel softer. This way, you will also be insulated from the hard edges of reality and anything gross you

spilled last term and forgot about.

d. Make a puppet. And use it to relive that fateful conversation that you went into with an armful of presents and exited with an armful of presents and an extra helping of pity. Maybe then you’ll figure out where you went wrong.

### 3. Miscellaneous Heart Shaped Objects

a. DO NOT—I REPEAT DO NOT—use them as anatomy models for Biology. THEY ARE NOT ANATOMICALLY ACCURATE. Take it from a kid who passed Prep Bio. You’d think they’d be accurate, right? But noo. Of course not. This is definitely a helpful tip and not just me trying to justify past mistakes.

b. If you cut the heart in half down the middle and rotate each piece 90 degrees outward, they kinda look like the wings on Hermes’ helmet. Hey! Maybe you could cosplay as him! Wouldn’t that be fun? Also, I bet having the messenger god on your side would be a big help when you have to break it to your parents

that they probably aren’t getting grandkids.

c. Give ‘em to Felix.

### 4. Assorted Flowers

a. Hey, cheer up. At least you can spice up your desk with that bouquet that turned out to be unwanted. Slap them in a vase roughly a third-full of water, shake in a few pebbles of granular fertilizer, prune twice daily, and watch them wither and die anyway, just like the hope inside your soul.

b. Keep the petals, though. Peel those off and save them to use as confetti at your friends’ weddings where you’ll bribe your friend who’s allergic to dairy to be your plus one so that you can have two slices of cake. Heck yeah.

c. Roses are more useful than you may think. You needn’t let them die in a sad heap on the curb. Save them. Nurture them. Raise them, and when the time is right, slice off the thorns and make blow darts out of them. Then go out into the world and exact your vengeance on the one who got away—for a little while.

## This Week in A Crossword

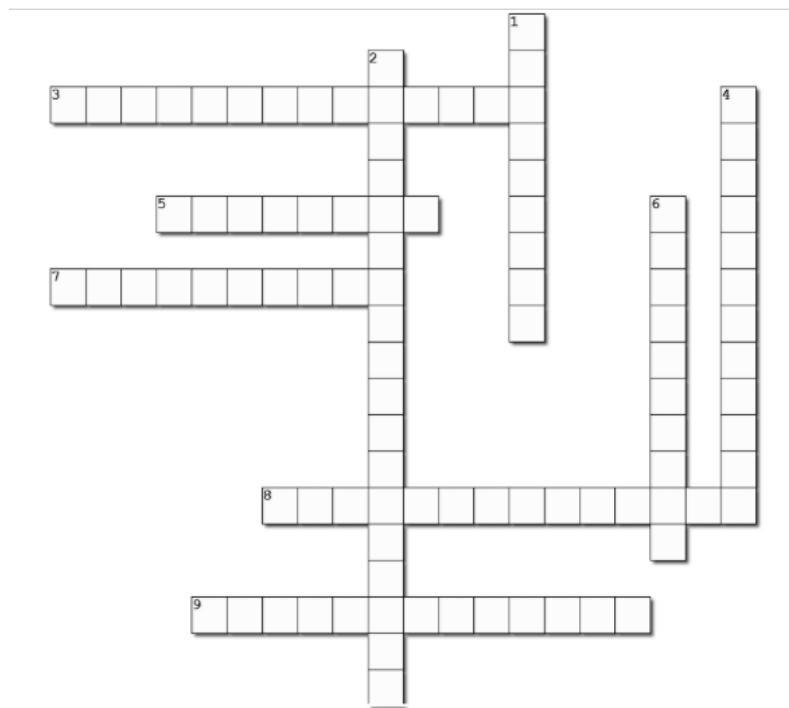
By JACK ARCHER AND DANIEL CHEN

### Down:

- StuCo election candidates posting their platforms on \_\_\_\_.
- Campus filled with Up-pers’ parents here for \_\_\_\_.
- Weren’t \_\_\_\_ optional last year?
- Getting interrupted at DHall by candidates begging for \_\_\_\_.

### Across:

- Every club spamming you with emails about \_\_\_\_.
- The Humor Editors’ articles getting \_\_\_\_.
- Your science teacher announcing that the final will be \_\_\_\_.
- The library filled with history students pretending to work on \_\_\_\_.
- That one psycho kid trying to be co-head of two out of three \_\_\_\_.



## Quotes of the Week

Let’s make a fAnnebase.

– Bona Hong ’21

Writing articles for a sandbox that no one reads takes a special kind of person.

— Jack Zhang ’20

# Sports

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

 01 New Hampton  
 02 Worcester

**SCORE**

 48-40  
 43-63

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

 01 Worcester  
 02 Deerfield

**SCORE**

 63-65  
 60-48

**GIRLS HOCKEY**

 01 Kimball Union  
 02 Worcester

**SCORE**

 1-1  
 3-5

**GIRLS SQUASH**

01 St. Mark's

**SCORE**

2-5

**BOYS SQUASH**

01 Tabor

**SCORE**

5-2

**BOYS HOCKEY**

 01 Proctor  
 02 Albany

**SCORE**

 2-4  
 6-3

**BOYS WINTER TRACK**

01 Andover

**SCORE**

75-34

**GIRLS WINTER TRACK**

01 Andover

**SCORE**

44-65

## Athletes of the Week: Girls' Varsity Track



Ahern, Okeremi and Li, left to right, lead Girls' Track this term.

Erin McCann/The Exonian

 By **SOFIA MORAIS** and **CLAIRE FU**

Senior Emy Li awaits the start, determined and ready to explode off the starting blocks. Hearing the signal, she leaps forward, one foot in front of the other, racing towards the first hurdle. With perfect timing and accuracy, she launches over the hurdle, having practiced this motion 100 times over at practices. Her loyal teammates cheer at top volume on the sides of the track, urging her on.

Finding her rhythm, she leaps over each hurdle effortlessly, before flying past the finish line. She is greeted by her teammates, celebrating a new best time in the 55 meter hurdles.

Li and seniors Erin Ahern and Tise Okeremi serve as this year's Girls' Varsity Winter Track and Field captains. The three of them, each specializing in different events in the sport, have helped bring the whole team together for another successful winter track season. Li is a seasoned sprinter, Ahern endures 10-mile runs as

a long- and mid-distance runner and Okeremi leads the throwers. Through good leadership and valuable experiences, they have worked together to bring the team closer together and create a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

Li began her track career early, finding her love for running during elementary school. "I honestly think my favorite part of elementary school was racing my friends during recess," she said. "I started running track in spring of sixth grade when I joined my middle school's track team, and I've been doing it ever since!"

Ahern had similar beginnings in the sport, starting in middle school as well. "I started running cross country and track at my old school and joined Exeter track my prep winter and spring," she said.

However, the team's attraction has always been the kinship. "I loved being a part of a 'year-long' sport so I could stay with my teammates, my friends."

Okeremi, on the other hand,

was exposed to competitive track and field at an even younger age. "I started running track in Malaysia when I was in third grade. I did 100m, 200m, shot put and the 4 x 100 meter relay race. I had to stop track when I left Malaysia in fifth grade," she recalled. Even with this break from track, Okeremi noted that she was excited to take up the sport again when she arrived at Exeter.

All three captains were drawn to the sport because of its sense of community, and love being part of a team composed of different people with various talents. Okeremi described how she enjoys watching her teammates race at meets. "I love watching track meets. Competing is fun, but I like watching other people compete."

"Even if you don't know someone else, it's really easy to introduce yourself or cheer someone on," Ahern added.

The captains' eagerness to support their peers has contributed to team spirit. "After every meet, [Li] always congratulates

me on my race," prep Ophelia Bentley said.

The girls emphasized that being part of a team comes with traditions and inside jokes. "I love doing 'bars' at the beginning of track meets. I do a little rap to get everyone hyped up and then we cheer," Okeremi said.

In addition to this, Ahern talked about how certain subgroups of the team, such as the distance team, have their own traditions they enjoy. "I love blizzard runs with the distance team and Coach [Brandon] Newbould," she said.

These traditions are just some of the ways the captains look out for the team. "Erin always has a funny story to tell on a long run or a queue of catchy songs for our recoveries," upper Helen Lieberman said. "Erin has also really helped the girls' distance team prioritize health. She has made girls more aware of getting enough nutrients and taking care of ourselves when sick."

Additionally, Li emphasized the importance of determination and grit, and how she, Ahern and Okeremi try to incorporate that into practices. "I love the process of training—I've learned about the importance of patience, perseverance, and hard work," she said. The captains make sure to provide a close, friendly environment for the team to help those around them to persevere.

"I'd definitely consider the track team to be my second family—no matter how stressed I am, running (and usually a lot of laughing and dancing) with my teammates, who are also some of my closest friends, always makes me feel at home," Li said.

Bentley agreed. "At practice, [Li] has an awesome attitude, always encouraging her teammates and, during hard workouts, cheering us on. Her team spirit is contagious and the team wouldn't be the same without her," she said.

Prep Shaella Iacobucci shared a similar admiration for Okeremi. "Tise is super reliable, she's really great about helping people out whenever they need it."

The captains find no trouble

looking for things to be proud of this season. "I'm really proud of all the growth we've seen from the team this year," she said. "People are always stepping up when they are needed and do an amazing job of encouraging each other on."

Okeremi noted that "everyone always brings energy."

The girls explained how they saw the team come together, no matter the experience and skill level of its members. "I think we've created a close team culture (which has always been difficult with over 100 people on the team)," Li said. "I'm also really happy with the maturity and enthusiasm the people who are just starting out with track bring to the team already—it makes me all the more confident and excited about the direction the team is going in."

"We all run because we love the sport and our teammates, which comes through in caring ways rather than competitive ones," Ahern added.

The trio also expressed their appreciation of and gratitude for their fellow captains. Okeremi, in particular, stressed Ahern and Li's reliability. "Emy and Erin were always on top of everything. It has been great working with them. I can tell that they prioritize track, which I appreciate. I know I could always rely on Erin and Emy," she said. "They really helped take care of the team."

Ahern also praised her co-captains. "I admire Emy's devotion and work ethic towards Track. She loves this team more than anything else, and you can see that through her leadership," she said. "I love Tise's enthusiasm for the team and her ability to engage everyone. She's the best at making 'bars.'"

"I definitely don't think the team would be the same without her!" Li added.

From a supportive and motivational atmosphere to relentless positive energy, Okeremi, Li and Ahern have assisted the team in making this year's track season one to remember.

## Wrestling Dominates New Englands

 By **AMELIA BYERLY** and **GRACE PUCHALSKI**

Big Red wrestling competed in another exciting New Englands this weekend, earning a seventh-place ranking among the New England prep schools. Individual wrestlers will head to Prep Nationals after taking home a bid at New Englands.

Senior and co-captain Tyler Morris secured first place in the 132-pound weight class, senior George Harrington placed second in the 285-pound division and upper Christian Petry earned third in the 106-pound weight class. Senior Grant Goodall and prep Chris MacArthur are also headed to Prep Nationals in the 185 and 220 weight classes, respectively. These wins bumped up the Exeter Wrestling record to 8 wins and 3 losses, a fantastic record for the season.

Senior George Harrington smashed during New Englands. According to Morris, "George Harrington had a stand out first match. In that match, George was able to escape three times and win a gritty one in the fourth

overtime." Morris himself was an obvious standout wrestler this past weekend as well. He is the current New England champion after this recent match, a title that Morris has earned with hard work throughout the season.

Despite Big Red's fantastic performance during New Englands, they still have an even bigger event and a lot of preparation ahead. "We just need to pace ourselves a bit better. Sometimes we rush moves and sometimes we put ourselves in tough situations. Going into nationals, we just need to focus on the little details which will win us big matches," Morris said. This strategy will hopefully help Big Red surge throughout the entire match and dominate their opponents at Prep Nationals.

The team was well prepared and determined heading into this big match. Morris said, "The team has been focused all season on taking one match at a time. We take one match at a time and plan on winning all those matches. Living in the



Lower Zander Galli grips his opponent.

Oliver Hess/The Exonian

moment, especially in wrestling, is huge; every match starts 0-0 and both wrestlers get to the line ready to give their all out on the mat."

This mentality has pushed Big Red to success all season and certainly showed at New Englands. Hopefully, Big Red

can keep the same mentality going into this weekend's Prep Nationals, so they once again can have an outstanding performance.

As the team looks forward to Prep Nationals, held at Lehigh University, the five wrestlers will be working extremely hard.

The rest of the team is ready to back them up and cheer on their teammates. After a season filled with high placements, they are fueling up and getting ready to dominate yet another time.

Morris, too, is ready for a fight. "Burn the ships, because we're coming for them all."