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Phillips Exeter Academy Exeter, New Hampshire



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

"Trump Train" Caravan Travels Through Exeter

By TUCKER GIBBS, ANYA TANG and SAFIRA SCHIOWITZ

A caravan of vehicles, self-described as the "Trump Train," passed through Exeter on Sunday, Sep. 27. The "Trump Train" began after an event hosted by the Southern New Hampshire Trump Events, where decorated their vehicles with posters, signs and paraphernalia.

As the caravan traveled along Main St., several students noted that the vehicles were not stopping for students at crosswalks. Some students reported that "Trump Train" cars only narrowly missed pedestrians.

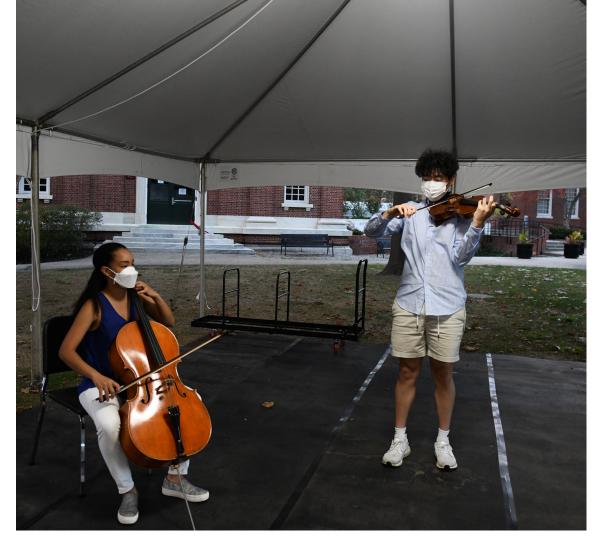
At 9:11 a.m on the day of the parade, Dean of Residential Life Carol Cahalane flagged the parade's route in an all-student email. Seacoast Online initially reported the caravan's plans three days before on Sep. 24. Cahalane also announced that members of the Dean of Students office would be offering support for students outside Jeremiah

CARAVAN, 2.

/Google Images

Pandemic Response Team Reopens Facilities





By EVAN GONZALEZ, TINA HUANG and AMY LUM

Last Tuesday, the Academy's Pandemic Response Team decided to reopen the Roger Nekton Pool for student use. In the past week, restrictions for various athletic and music groups have also loosened.

The team's members, including Principal William Rawson, Medical Director Dr. Katharina Lilly, Athletics Director Jason Basedon and other administrators, faculty and staff gather to discuss the pandemic response two to three times a week. "We look at the national situation, the situation within other local schools and then our own community," Baseden said.

In preparation for the pool reopening, the team allowed a seven-week trial period during the summer for on-campus faculty members, where only one person was allowed to swim in each lane.

For now, students who want to swim recreationally or outside of

practice can complete a form sent by Aquatics Manager Kathryn D'Ambrosio to sign up for hourlong time slots throughout the term. These times range from 6a.m. to 3p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 8a.m. to 3p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. Before entering the pool, swimmers must wear their masks and have their temperatures taken and are only allowed to swim one per lane. Because the locker room is no longer available for use, students must also enter the gym wearing their swimsuits.

To ensure safety in and around the pool, D'Ambrosio followed guidelines and recommendations from USA Swimming and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Frequently touched areas will be disinfected after each person swims. "We are maintaining a record of everyone who swims and the times they come in to enable contact tracing if necessary," D'Ambrosio said.

RESPONSE TEAM, 2.

Uppers Josephie Elting and Brian Son practice chamber music outdoors.

Teja Vankireddy/The Exonian

Privacy Concerns Ensue Implemention of Contact Tracing App

By EVAN GONZALEZ, TINA HUANG and AMY LUM

As mandated by the Student Guidebook, the Academy required students yesterday morning to download a contact tracing application known as SaferME. SaferME will be used to identify close contacts of students who tested positive for COVID-19.

The app, founded in Sweden in 2015, aids businesses and governments in worker contact tracing and hazard notification. This application was chosen to be used by the Academy due to its combined bluetooth and GPS system, in addition to its privacy features.

Contact tracing is the process of identifying close contacts of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, in the hopes of preventing the virus from being spread further.

According to the developer, SaferME uses a combination of manual and bluetooth contact logging systems to provide a full picture of a user's contacts. When a student passes within 6 feet of another student, it is shown on Administrator terminals that those two students were in contact. The app also shows distance between the contacts and the time they were in contact.

Some students feel reluctant to use the app and believe that its GPS tracking is a breach of privacy. "I don't enjoy the administration and their ability to track our location, because I feel like it's a violation of privacy," prep Juno Cowans said. "We have seen some problems with this kind of data being abused with big tech companies before. We don't know where this data is going."

To combat this concern, the Information Technology department, in conjunction with the Dean of Students office, chose SaferME due to its privacy features. "We selected SaferME because it's automated contact tracing system doesn't store or process any medical information," Director of Information Technology Scott Heffner said. "[It also] doesn't show any time of day or location data for our users which might be considered an invasion of their privacy."

Other students, however, feel the app will help prevent

COVID-19 from spreading. "I'm excited about this contact tracing app, as long as it doesn't track us too much," lower Michael Goodall said. "It will just be better than chasing [students] down with emails."

Upper Garrett Paik concluded, "It's a little weird having it running in the background 24/7, but I assume [the Academy] will use it for if someone contracts COVID," he said. "But I know it's for community health reasons so I am OK with it." News

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» NEGLEY AWARDS FROM HISTORY 430

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Caravan, Continued

11:00a.m.

The caravan began at 9a.m. in the Toyota of Portsmouth parking lot, with the consent of dealership owner Jim Boyle. The Trump supporters drove through what they believed to be "liberal enclaves," the town of Exeter included. Some members of the Exeter community witnessed the event first-hand.

The Southern New Hampshire Trump Events Facebook event page states that the caravan's goal was to "show off [their] enthusiasm, patriotism, and support for [their] favorite President Donald Trump and earn bonus points for triggering liberals along the way." The phrase "triggering liberals" was later removed at Boyle's request.

Some who participated expressed that they did not have the intent to inflame liberals. "[The event] was a way to be with people who you don't have to hide your support," attendee Erin Kelley said. "I will defend you even if I don't agree with you. I was surprised at the amount of complete outrage strangers had just because I support a different viewpoint."

"The route was carefully chosen with the goal to pass through as many population centers as possible in about 1.5 to 2 hours," Organizer of Southern New Hampshire

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Trump Events Alan Forbes said. "We also wanted it to be fairly easy to follow and minimize traffic jams and traffic lights." The parade traveled through Portsmouth, Kittery, Eliot, Dover, Durham, Newmarket, Exeter and Hampton.

Despite previously including in the event description their intent to pass through "liberal enclaves," Forbes later denied any intent to cause political agitation with the route, and reasserted that the event's intent was to provide a space for Trump supporters to express support.

Some Exonians were dissatisfied with Cahalane's email and considered the correspondence an inadequate response from the administration. "They shouldn't send out a last minute 'by-the-way, this is happening' type of deal because [the parade] is a big deal," upper Liza McMahan said.

Others felt that the administration's actions, while intended to be supportive, were not necessary. "I think that setting up a tent with the deans' representatives was maybe a little excessive," Republican Club co-head and senior Sarah Kennedy said. "I just kind of rolled my eyes when I saw it, but I don't think it was a bad move."

An hour later, some students witnessed the caravan of cars passing outside of their dorms. Students heard shouting from the caravan and noticed "Don't Tread on Me" and "Blue Lives Matter" paraphernalia.

Certain students were dismissive of the caravan's ability to spark meaningful discourse. "I felt like it was such a spectacle. It felt so pointless because it's not going to change anyone's mind," upper Lekha Masoudi said. "A car with a bunch of 'Don't Tread on Me' and 'Blue Lives Matter' flags does not change my mind."

McMahan noted the invasive nature of the caravan. "I felt uncomfortable. This is a school, and I don't want to be ignorant of politics, but I feel like it was just thrust on me," McMahan said. "It definitely displaced me a bit, because I completely disagree with everything that Trump has said and everything that Trump supporters have said."

Students also critiqued the supporters' excessive decoration and the commercialized nature of the event. "These people, they have Trump merchandise, Trump flags, they even have Trump songs," Masoudi said. "It's like supporting your favorite company or your favorite singer."

Response Team, Continued

Aquatic sports teams, including Girls' Water Polo, are excited to practice in the pool instead of outdoors with masks on. However, team captain and senior Ursie Wise mentioned the challenges that come with the pool's restrictions."We aren't wearing masks [in the pool], so we're not supposed to be talking to each other too closely," Wise said. "I used to love talking to people while we were kicking, and it's harder to do that now."

Sports teams practicing outside of the athletic center have also enjoyed many loosened restrictions. Members of the crew, cross country, and cycling teams are now able to practice without a mask on. "Certain sports have more flexibility and functionality through COVID-19 than others [...] For sports like crew, where everyone is in their own boat, [exercising without a mask] is less of an issue than athletes on the cross-country and cycling teams, who have to be a little more mindful."

These new freedoms have allowed teams to return to a greater sense of normalcy. "Practices now look similar to our sessions in past seasons, with the exception of location," Cross Country coach Brandon said. "We are still restricted by the property lines of the Academy, however, which means that we are unable to access some of our primary training venues." Now, Cross Country runners do not need to wear their masks after entering the woods. To provide extra caution, students are assigned "families," groups of four to six people who run together. Each group runs in a different direction to prevent unnecessary contact, and, within each group, students are still required to be six to ten feet apart.

For the first two weeks following the arrival of underclassmen on Oct. 3, team members that arrived in September and October will be separated. The October group will meet at the track, and the September group will meet at the fields. "Contact between groups will be limited," senior Meredith Thomas said. "Hopefully, we will be able to have team bonding, and we're going to do a buddy system down the line between upperclassmen and lowerclassmen." For now, the team is focusing on staying safe and maintaining distance between runners.

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Many music groups have also had an increase in flexibility. The Forrestal Bowld Music Center has opened for some orchestra students to meet in-person, but masks and social distancing is still required. Only the strings section is allowed to meet, while those playing wind instruments are still restricted to Zoom.

"Chamber Orchestra rehearsal at the beginning of the term was not too productive," upper Alana Reale said. "We can't play music simultaneously over Zoom. We met to discuss the piece we're playing, and we started to practice along with recordings, but couldn't properly play together."

Members of Concert Choir are

students may be present at the same time, and those who do not meet as a group can practice individually during their asynchronous blocks. October arrivals are not permitted to join these in-person practices until Oct. 17, exactly two weeks after they arrived.

Students in practice rooms are now allowed to take off their mask when alone.

While there are still many restrictions to in-person meetings, Wise believes that the Girls' Water Polo team can stay safe under the circumstances. "It's a lot of responsibility for everybody on the team to have the opportunity to be in the pool together without masks on... [There's] a lot of weight on our shoulders to make sure that we don't mess that up, but I think that's a growing experience," Wise said. "I know that the team, both the Water Polo team and the Swim team are full of responsible people, and I think that we can handle it."

"We're looking at sports as individual entities," says Baseden. now allowed to practice outdoors, underneath the tent near the Lamont Art Gallery. However, only ten

Student Council Conducts Elections

By MOKSHA AKIL, KRISH PA-TEL, CLARK WU and HANSI ZHU

Due to a schoolwide ban on club operations last spring, Student Council (StuCo) was unable to hold elections and appointments for committee heads, class representatives and other offices, according to club adviser Laura Marshall. As a result, all elections and appointments were delayed into the fall term of this year.

This delay in elections created a loss of voting power for the majority in StuCo. Whereas a usual voting session may include 90 to a 100 members, in the past six months, every StuCo decision was made by only five.

StuCo Co-Secretary senior Phil Horrigan found the drastic decline in voices at the table a significant detriment to both performance and productivity.

"Our performance in the spring without those representatives and

committee heads was dismal, and we got much less done than we had all hoped we would," he said.

However, Co-President senior Charlotte Lisa remained optimistic and chose to only loosely outline plans in the spring to prevent any "lasting executive decisions."

"We will ask committee heads and representatives how they think we could best adapt to COVID health regulations once they are in position and possibly reform our current plan," she said.

Co-Secretary upper Siona Jain spoke on the disadvantages to delaying elections until this fall. "I wish we could have brought more students into the conversation because, at the end of the day, it was just us five, and that's not exactly the most transparent for Student Council, which is supposed to be for students," she said. "I think that's one thing that was definitely a setback: not having committees, other people and other council members, and [not being able] to constantly update everybody."

The student government at Phillips Academy Andover did not encounter these problems. Andover held its elections and operated almost completely virtually, using spring term as a period for administrative transition.

To Horrigan, circumstances around the pandemic revealed a pressing issue surrounding the practicality of the StuCo Constitution. Many current StuCo policies, including the order and operation of elections, the appointment of committee heads, the composition of the Exec Board and aspects of the weekly meeting, violate what is outlined in the document. He pointed out a clause under Section E, point three of the Constitution, which mandates appointment of new committee heads "within two weeks after [the presidential] election."

Horrigan found StuCo's response—passing House Rules that superseded the Constitution—to be "sketchy, to say the least."

"According to our advisers, if we are acting 'in the spirit of Student Council' to the best of our ability, then we are not limited by the document," Horrigan added. "I find this ridiculous because I ran on a platform of repealing the Constitution [because I thought] that it mattered."

However, Jain expressed satisfaction with the Executive Board's abidance to the Constitution. "I think we've done the best we could've under the circumstances of COVID," Jain said. "For example, constitutionally, elections have to happen before committee head assignments should happen, I think it's something like a few weeks before turnovers. Naturally, that was impossible given the level of uncertainty during spring break. So we had to change that around."

Marshall explained that, although not all clauses of the constitution were rigorously followed, "the Constitution does not account for a global pandemic. The Executive Board has done their best to work within the constitution and the rules of the Academy." Given lost time, Horrigan expects "playing catch-up" in the Executive Board for their remaining terms in office. He pointed out that the board will need time to polish the structure and organization of online StuCo, work out the virtual operation of committees, plan Tuesday meetings and resolve constitutional conflicts that StuCo currently neglect.

According to Horrigan, the Constitution will likely undergo change "as a result of a newfound commitment from the whole Exec Board." Possible edits include reducing the number of total voting members, allocating more money to dorms, altering the voting structure and adding a State of Emergency clause so that StuCo "never finds itself in a constitutional bind like this ever again."

Nevertheless, Lisa looked forward to using Canvas to virtually welcome all students to participate in Zoom sessions. "We still have so many passionate and dedicated StuCo members that I am very optimistic about our club this year," she said.

CCO Send Interim Grades to Colleges

By OTTO DO, JEANNIE EOM and ANDREALUO

The College Counseling Office (CCO) notified seniors via email on September 24 that fall term teachers will be providing interim grades. These assessments will be based on completed work more than traditional midterm grades. The office plans to send these interim grades to colleges before regular end-of-term grades.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, colleges across the United States have modified their application process to ensure an equitable application experience for prospective students. One significant change from prior years is many American colleges' removal of standardized testing requirements.

A large portion of the class of 2021 are expected to apply early, just as senior classes have done in past years. Interim grades are designed to fill the dearth of standardized testing. In her email to all seniors, Dean of College Counseling Elizabeth Dolan wrote, "we hope that having some form of 'interim grades' will help Early applicants in their admission process."

Dolan added that the interim grades are expected to be released

on November 4th for all seniors who have elected to apply early for college.

Somes seniors are grateful for this opportunity to showcase their academic capabilities. "It's different and a little scary, but I think it will be really helpful because we don't have grades for last spring," senior James Manderlink said. "With no SAT scores, schools will only have our upper year winter term grades to look at."

Senior Zofia Kierner agreed. "I would argue that [interim grades] are fair . . . these won't be like regular midterm grades that usually seem to be on the lower end of the spectrum. These grades will be based on completed work and will hopefully be beneficial to all seniors," Kierner said.

Stress and high performance are a permanent part of senior falls, senior Alicia Gopal expressed. Since students already have to balance classwork and extracurricular commitment, Gopal does not believe that interim grades add a significant amount of additional worry to the average senior.

Senior Leila Herman noted that interim grades, for better or for worse, "count for a lot more than previous years' grades."

Although CCO stated that a major factor in the implementation of interim grades was the lack of requirement for standardized test scores, Senior Sam Gallagher said that it doesn't change much. "Most of us have already taken a standardized test anyways, so very few people will see this as a substitution for the SAT or ACT or an excuse not to take them," Gallagher said.

However, some international schools have not removed the requirement for test scores. As a final opportunity for seniors, the Academy hosted the SAT on September 23, and the ACT on September 12 and 19 on campus. The Academy will host another round of testing in October.

As the majority of American colleges are not requiring a standardized test score, many seniors shared that they will only submit their scores if they are satisfied with their performance. Life

MAGGIE WAINWRIGHT

Senior of the Week Maggie Wainwright mixes theater and politics, 3.

Senior Maggie Wainwright grins.

SOW: Maggie Wainwright

By JEANNIE EOM and HANSI ZHU

Maggie Wainwright stands at the intersection of politics and theater. Though she thrives particularly on the Goel stage and in the witness chair at Mock Trial, Wainwright carries her effervescent energy with her everywhere.

Wainwright claimed that her mother, who was a drama instructor, was responsible for "instilling in me a wonderful sense of absurdity and a wonderful perspective of the world in storage space" than anything else.

Looking back, Wainwright feels grateful. "I think that theater people are the most engaged, interesting, silly, creative people around and I just get a real sense of belonging in the goals of theater... because it's a place where individuality and uniqueness are not only tolerated and acknowledged, but they're also the name of the game," she said.

At Exeter, Wainwright has seized every opportunity from sical Theater Club (Dramat), Wainwright also works hard to make the stage a welcoming place for all aspiring actors. "I cannot think of anything, any goal more worthy than helping students either discover the theater for the first time or practice an existing passion," she said.

Taking her skills beyond the theater, Wainwright also participates as a witness on the Mock Trial team.

Mock Trial co-head Hojun Choi commented on Wain-

REVIEW »

Lower Blake Simpson reviews "Dance of the Clairvoyants," 3.

that you have to take risks with what kind of character you pick as a witness. It's really easy to fall into the mentality of doing whatever is safe to make sure the judges like you, but Maggie does not care about that," Choi said. "She will do whatever she wants. I don't know how she does it. She is just capable of becoming a different person."

Former Mock Trial co-head Sam Farnsworth '20 agreed, adding that her innate abilities are also capable of sparking joy within the team. "One of my favorite stories about Maggie happened at Mock Trial Nationals in 2018. There was a team mixer on the first night, where each state's team would walk around and meet everyone else. Each time we talked to a new team, Maggie reinvented herself as a new character. It's hard for me to remember exactly what the characters were, maybe, a baroness, a tax-evader or a rock star, but I do remember laughing the hardest I had in a long time. Without Maggie, that night would've been boring," he said. "With Maggie, it was a night I'm going to treasure for a very long time."

Looking forward, Wainwright said that she has her eyes set on a career in politics. "Politics is a practice of making your community better," she said.

Community building has been a central part of Wainwright's community impact. "Exeter has taught me that you have power over your own community, and you get what you put into it," She said. "I've gained an appreciation for the diversity of thought and experience that other people bring to the table . . . Everybody in a community matters equally, so it's important to center voices of color, younger voices and voices that we might not consider as legitimate or experienced."

As a vibrant community member, Wainwright is also loved by her dormmates in Langdell for her work as a proctor. "She lights up the common room with her theatrical monologues, and she always stops to ask us how our days are. She has set an example for me to be more outgoing and friendly, and I hope I can carry on her legacy in future years," upper Dorothy Baker recalled.

Patricia Burke-Hickey, Wainwright's advisor, commended Wainwright's strong leadership and inspiration in Langdell. "Maggie brings inspiring creativity and energy to Langdell and our advisory group," Burke-Hickey said. "Perhaps this is the Thespian within her, but I also think it's a reflection of her natural joie de vivre. Exuberant and engaged with the world."

Wainwright's identity as an actress leaves a positive impression to last in Langdell. Dorm Affiliate Devin Korman recounted, "In welcoming everyone back to campus, the proctors made short videos with practical tips and reminders on social distancing, masks, and hygiene. Maggie, ever the thespian, managed a dramatic re-enactment of Lady Macbeth's waking sleepover the sink in the Langdell bathrooms-where she is trying to rub the blood of King Duncan off her hands."

As a friend and as a leader, Wainwright never fails to create a positive space around her.

"She legitimately listens more than most people I know, and she is always willing to read over an essay or talk about a tough day," senior Oliver Hess said. "She really just goes with the flow and is kind in every way."

As Wainwright graduates and moves on beyond Exeter, she leaves one important piece of wisdom from her experience to fellow students, particularly preps. "Just as there is no predetermined path for you in life and just as there is not a better or worse way to live, there is no right or wrong way to be a student at Exeter," she said.

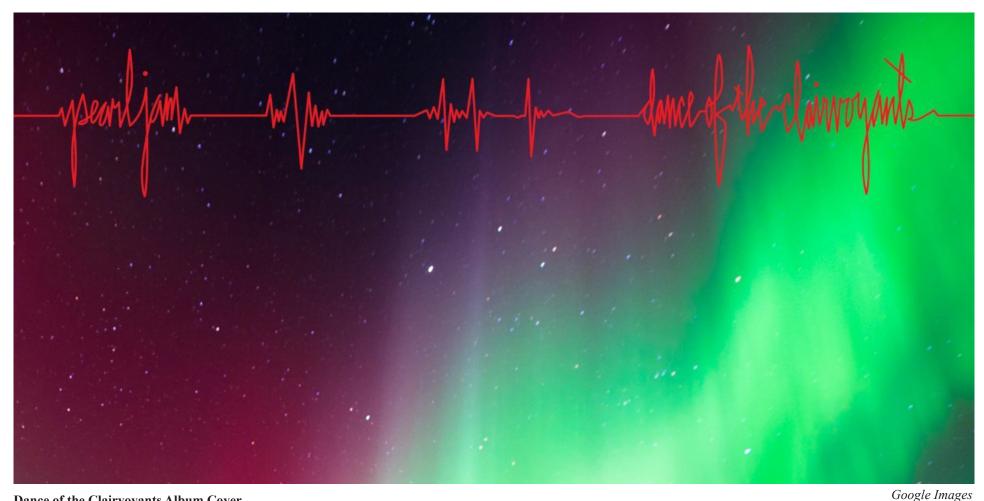
"I really appreciate having had so many brilliant, thoughtful friends on campus who don't necessarily speak the same kind of emotional language that I do. And I think that with my brilliant lawyer friends in Mock Trial and my really compassionate friends in theater games and my kind and experienced and curious friends in Dem Club, I've learned about

Will Vietor/The Exonian

a humorous way." According to Wainwright, her childhood home looked more like a "costume Mainstage performances to student-led skits to do theater. As co-head of the Drama and Mu-

wright's dexterity when playing various roles. "Watching Maggie in the courtroom, I've learned a lot of different equally valid ways to see the world and delight in the world."

Dance of the Clairvoyants Review



Dance of the Clairvoyants Album Cover

By BLAKE SIMPSON

This spring, 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 vo-

cals 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.



» AMY CONEY BARRETT

In the wake of the nomination of Amy Conet Barrett, Staff Writer Tina Huang reconsiders court practices, 4.

VACCINE »

Staff Writer Angela Zhang evaluates coronavirus vaccine ethics, 4.

» EDITORS' CORNER

Chief Digital Editor and Operations Manager Maegan Paul gives her take on abortion, 5.

A Call for Supreme Court Reform

By TINA HUANG '22

In light of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death, President Trump has nominated Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. If Barrett ends up replacing Ginsburg on the Court (and Trump wants this to happen before the November 3 presidential election), there will be a 6-3 conservative, Republican-appointed majority.

So, let's say Barrett does become the next SCOTUS justice according to Trump's timeline. Considering Barrett's connection to People of Praise, a charismatic Catholic organization whose internal structure remains mostly secretive, and her contrasting views from Ginsburg'sfrom reproductive freedom to gun rights-this isn't ideal. But let's also say that Biden wins the election. What would happen if the Democrats take power in November? The Court seems lost for a generation to come. What do we do now? Democrats are already looking ahead to this scenario in January 2021, and some have one specific plan in mind: expanding the Supreme Court.

Before we begin, let's look at the confirmation process that would make Barrett a justice before the election:

First, to get confirmed on the Su-

preme Court, a nominee has to go through a pre-hearing investigation, which includes a background check and meetings with senators (the latter is not required, per se, but it is expected of most nominees and has already begun).

Following that investigation, the nominee attends public confirmation hearings. This is probably the most familiar part of the process: in a televised hearing, the nominee answers questions posed by the Senate Judiciary Committee. That committee, controlled by Republicans, will probably send Barrett off to the Senate floor for a vote. From there, if the full Senate votes in favor of Barnett, she will replace Ginsburg.

Former Justices Ginsburg and Sandra Day O'Connor were confirmed to the court in 42 and 33 days, respectively, so the length of Barrett's confirmation process wouldn't be unheard of. However, according to *The Guardian*, "The difference between Barrett's likely confirmation and those of Ginsburg and O'Connor is that the latter two were not appointed a matter of days before a presidential election." It's bound to be a unique confirmation cycle, for sure.

Alright, so Barett receives a majority vote in the Senate (by power grab or not from the Republicans) and lands a seat on the Supreme Court right before the election. Then, let's speculate, Biden becomes President. What do Biden and his presumably Democratic Congress do?

If Congress does decide to change the size of the courts, this wouldn't be the first time. In 1866, Congress was at a war with President Andrew Johnson and passed the Judicial Circuits Act, which lowered the size of the court from nine to seven and barred Johnson from appointing new justices. That measure remained in place until Ulysess Grant was elected in 1868, when the number went back to nine.

However, Jeff Greenfield from Politico noted that "there are and have been 'institutional' concerns that have trumped the simple exercise of political power." When President Franklin Roosevelt wanted to add justices to the court in 1937 (the Court at the time was not too partial to his New Deal legislation), even his own party rejected the idea. Despite winning the 1936 election in a landslide and having a Democratic majority in Congress, FDR couldn't get his proposal past. Then-Chief Justice Charles Evan Hughes even wrote a (somewhat snarky) public letter against FDR's idea: "The court was not overworked at all, thank you very much."

So, if FDR at his peak popularity couldn't do it, could Biden? Is it possible to restructure the courts on a partisan vote during such a dire time? Should we actually pack the courts in the first place?

It's important to note that while FDR's idea didn't pass, he had supporters—most notably, Progressive Senator Robert La Follette.

La Follette pointed out that the Constitution never said anything about the Supreme Court's size. He believed this to be a "check" on the Supreme Court "which the constitutional fathers with almost prophetic foresight provided to prevent the arbitrary obstruction of the popular will by a judiciary which has lost touch with the needs and aspirations of the people."

"The court has been 'packed' for years," La Follette said. "Packed' in the interests of Economic Royalists, 'packed' for the benefit of the Liberty Leaguers, 'packed' in the cause of reaction and laissez-faire." Look at the Courts today. Look at Citizens United. He's right.

Let's also note that reforming the courts doesn't only mean adding justices. There could also be term limits. A new justice could be added to the court every two years, so that each President gets to appoint two justices. And all of this could happen without amending the Constitution.

Article III states that judges and justices "hold their offices during good behavior," which historically has been understood to mean that they will hold office until death. However, as Gabe Roth from USA Today pointed out, "There's no particular reason the 'office' referred to could not be interpreted as the office of federal judge." This interpretation argues that after serving on the nation's most powerful court, justices can still work in other parts of the judiciary system. They don't have to serve on the Supreme Court for life, though.

It's been stated time and time again, but serving for life is outdated. Why did we put so much faith in Ruth Bader Ginsburg, one woman, to protect our democracy? By expanding the courts and adding term limits, there would be less predictability in court decisions, yes, but we would have a more diverse set of justices. We don't need to anxiously watch by as our current President nominates someone just a month before election day. And we don't need nine people. There's nothing special about that number.

Another Icarus: Wechat, Tiktok, and the U.S. Government

ByCLARKWU'23

"I can't access YouTube. My VPN doesn't work."

The number of times that little phrase has been tossed around boggles me. Beyond that, it makes me wonder—until fall term, I hadn't realized how much COVID-19 and our new digital normal have changed public perception of China and Chinese-American students. To quite a few people, we are merely oppressed under the trying weight of a uniquely authoritarian government, longing to can't emphasize enough how transformational a moment this is in Sino-American relations.

Now, I must say that, particularly for its importance, this ban was very poorly executed, almost juvenile.

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I believe this will become the trend for the approximately 20 million American users on WeChat who hope to continue using the application for communication with Chinese families, friends and business partners. Either that, or they'll have to use their own CEO's daughter in legal trouble for 22 months.

Sino-U.S. relations have to move beyond countermeasure after countermeasure. Unfortunately, neither China nor America may be prepared to catalyze this shift.

If this is a race to the bottom line, America has a long way to go. But, if this turns out to be a real "war," I'm afraid China's bound to lose. Honestly, Chinese trade boycotts against American allies cannot compare to the possible devastation America can bring about: a chip ban, for instance, could entirely pop the bubble that is "China's 5G future." Until last month, China didn't even have its own complete satellite navigation system, and a few commands from America could have rendered the already inadequate Chinese Navy incapacitated. Hell, closing off Github access to a few fundamental lines of code could set dozens of Chinese industries back at least a decade.

blatantly stole Japanese patents on the technology. Fujistu, Toshiba and Hitachi have failed to reclaim their positions since.

And, if I may point out, most of the students in my prep fall "The World in the 20th Century" class walked out thinking, "Wow, the Japanese managed to Westernize and adapt to a Euro-centric world!" Why, they did adapt. They rose to second place. Then, their protective older brother America kicked them off the podium.

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live like the Americans. The irony is rich, and we need only look at Trump's proposed WeChat and TikTok bans to see why.

News of the ban of these social media apps arrived quite abruptly to the Chinese public. We were surprised, despite the Trump administration's long history of anti-Chinese policies, rhetoric and its recent shift to technological warfare. More than a decade after Chinese bans on Facebook, YouTube, Google and various other American domains under the "Great Firewall of China," America had finally "retaliated" on the grounds of "national security," ending an era of pro-China cyber and fiscal openness from the United States. Even though these bans haven't gone through, I

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But I don't see how uprooting WeChat, quite possibly the most vital hub of Chinese public opinion, doesn't prompt at least some conversation in the supposed land of free speech.

Plus, the ban isn't even effective. To my knowledge, two hours after the news of the WeChat ban, the VPN. It's laughable, honestly.

In all seriousness, though, this ban would essentially cut off any remaining "formal" ties between the two countries on the internet. And the slippery slope downward is clearer than ever. The Chinese Foreign Ministry has proposed an embargo on Apple products, which would result in a potential 30% drop in sales and would likely pit the "nationalist" Huawei against Apple. Huawei, however, has stood on weak ground since the US ceased its sales of semiconductors, the heart of Huawei's technological advances. It will survive right now because of its prepared stockpile, but it may not be able to replicate American technology for years. America's not afraid to play dirty with Huawei; in case you don't know, they've already embroiled the Huawei

What's scary is that America is not above doing this. No, America did the exact same thing to Japan thirty years ago. The booming Japanese semiconductor industry threatened the markets of Intel, which neared bankruptcy. As such, America began "negotiations" on the grounds of, you guessed it, national security.

America imposed heightened tariffs, compartmentalized markets and TikTok and Huawei could soon become two new case studies in Pierucci's book The American Trap; two more Icaruses doomed by their success.

It's clear: the Nixonian era of Sino-U.S. relations has passed. Many Chinese Americanophiles, disillusioned by Xi, finally woke up when America betrayed its own ideals to challenge China. Maybe it's time for Americans to wake up, too.

Ethics of a Coronavirus Vaccine

By ANGELA ZHANG '23

You finally hear some good news: there is a coronavirus vaccine! Things can go back to normal! Everyone can be protected, and there is no need for social distancing or any of the newly implemented guidelines and protocols.

But we all know it's not that simple. Even when a vaccine is ready, everyone still needs to be cautious and not gamble with their health. Sanitization is still key to preventing outbreaks, though a vaccine will certainly be of immense help. But how safe and effective is it? Will some need it more than others? Which administration practices are ethical and which are not? The list of questions goes on...

In the event that a vaccine (with a high efficacy rate) is readily available for administering, the Academy should undoubtedly require all of its faculty and staff to receive the vaccine. The coronavirus is no joke, as we all know. To exempt certain students or faculty from the vaccine and not take all the precautions and measures necessary to prevent the contraction and spread of this virus would be beyond foolish.

The argument from religious freedom-wherein certain religions forbid or avoid receiving vaccinesis an important one, but one I argue should not be honored in this situation. Most religions don't prohibit the use of vaccinations anyway, and most understand the purpose of this vaccination is a necessary measure for protecting other humans, especially because the coronavirus has such a high transmission rate. We all know that no vaccine has 100% efficacy, after all, so it's vital to get as close to full coverage as we can. Even the best vaccines will not guarantee total safety from the virus, and it would be incredibly unfair and selfish to place other people in danger because one person did not receive the vaccination, for religious or other reasons.

However, the Academy should not push for and mandate a vaccine until it is deemed absolutely safe by trustworthy organizations such as the World Health Organization or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It would be irresponsible to administer a vaccine with possible adverse effects, and it would be safer to just stick to the precautionary guidelines and protocols implemented right now-at least until we have some measure of certainty that a vaccine is the real deal. There is no guarantee of our safety, and we cannot simply just listen to the first news source available regarding the safety of the vaccines. After all, if we did that, Exeter students might have rushed to get the dangerous and disproven hydroxychloroquine treatment. It is absolutely necessary to be patient and wait for a reliable source to inform us

But what if the supply of vaccines is limited? Should it be administered only to a certain group? Administered at all? In that scenario, vaccines should be administered to the people who are at the most risk for contracting it. This would include but is not limited to people of greater age, people with comorbidities or people with weak lungs. Those who need it most, in and beyond our community, should be prioritized. After all, we need to re-



Sabrina Kearney / The Exonian

member that not everyone is affected equally, and we should all wait our turn if it means protecting the lives of the old and immunocompromised.

Currently, the whole world is anxiously waiting for the arrival of a safe and effective vaccine. When that time comes, even more ethical questions will rise, and there will unfortunately have to be difficult decisions if there are not enough vaccines for everyone. It may feel like a vaccine is the solution to all our pandemic problems, but we must understand that no vaccine is a magical solution. We will still face transmission risks, deaths and other issues, quite similar to how our society now handles the flu. With that being said, it is our duty, not only as students at the Academy, but as global citizens, to respect and perform all necessary measures and take care of one another's health. We can get through it together, no matter how much longer we need to wait for the vaccine.

Editor's Corner: Christianity is a Religion of Love

By MAEGAN PAUL '21

Often, Christianity and the term "pro-choice" are not affirmatively connected. Some of the most prominent Christians in the media are anti-choice or, as they are more commonly known, pro-life. There is a widespread perception that being pro-life and pro-choice are mutually exclusive ideologies, but that is simply a divisive understanding of the two terms and of the Christian faith.

Throughout the Bible, Jesus expressed a desire for his followers to be compassionate and show love towards others whose experiences were unfamiliar to their own. One prominent example of Jesus showing compassion to an unexpected individual exists in Mark 5:25-34. In this story, a ceremonially unclean woman who had been living in isolation for twelve years approached Jesus in a crowd, with the hope that he would help her shed her ailment and return to society. Knowing that she likely would not have permission to approach, she touched Jesus with faith that he would heal her. Her faith was affirmed, but Jesus looked back to find the unknown individual who reached for him in the crowd. The woman told him the truth about her religiously unclean condition, but Jesus chose to bless her instead of bringing on a harsh judgement for breaking the religious and social customs of the time.

Most Christians will read the infamous story from Mark's fifth chapter as a tale of faith and perseverance. Nearly all sermons about this unknown woman are about her desperation for salvation and her complete belief that Jesus would save her with a simple touch. Perhaps that is one lesson to be gleaned from the story, but nothing in the Bible is ever one-dimensional.

Mark 5:25-34 allows readers to see Jesus' compassion firsthand—for a so-called unclean woman suffering from what modern scholars have determined to be an extended menstruation ailment. Jesus, a man, could have never experienced such a disease, but still chose to bless the woman with the issue of blood, despite an inability to relate and fully understand her predicament.

Like the unclean woman prior to Jesus' blessing, people who have abortions and support those who do are often made pariahs in their own religious communities. Self-proclaimed pro-life activists physically attack people recieving abortions, expel them from religious institutions and fire them from their jobs for the simple crime of saving their own lives. What can be left is a person living in social and religious isolation, too unclean for their church families to acknowledge.

The faults in those Christians who may have missed some important lessons in the Bible extend beyond the surface of pro-life and pro-choice arguments. Often, Cristians struggle with the belief that their interpretation of the religion is the only correct form and that others must conform to their beliefs. This handicap is noticeably present in the ever unnerving overinvolvement of religious conservatives who question the ethics of allowing the marriage of same-sex couples.

Obergefell v. Hodges, the reknowned Supreme Court Case legalising gay marriage, was decided by a narrow 5-4 vote in favor of allowing same-sex couples to wed in all 50 states. Decades of injustice and a future of compassion teetered in the balance of nine people and relied on the impartiality of one conservative judge.

Many people of faith, from priests to bakers, claimed that their acceptance of a homosexual relationship through a business exchange or anything more would make them sinners by association. However, this prejudice against same-sex couples is primarily based on an improper view of Christian lessons from the Bible.

There is, notably, a great dispute about modern Bible translations of Leviticus 20:13, which is a scripture often used as justification of homophobic sentiments. Because the text has been translated from Ancient Hebrew to Greek and further into hundreds of ever-changing modern languages, it has been challenging to definitively determine the original implications of key words.

One possible translation of Leviticus 20:13 states, "If a man practices [pedophilia], having sex with [a boy] as with a woman, both... have committed a detestable act." Yet, another translation reads, "if a man practices [homosexuality], having sex with [another man] as with a woman, both men have committed a detestable act." As a result of these translation issues, scholars and religious officials have been unable to discern the meaning of this text, and the verse's true meaning has consequently been made unclear.

Furthermore, there is an unfortunate deficit in understanding about what one's role as a Christian should be in the lives of others. God chose not to control the actions of humanity, opting instead to allow them to have free will and learn from their mistakes. The essence of humanity is in fact its autonomous nature. According to different interpretations, one may find themselves damned after death for a variety of reasons or sins, but even God chose not to place premature punishments and judgements on people.

With this observation in mind, I ask, what gives a politician or any citizen who claims to be a devout follower of the Christian faith the prerogative to do what God himself chose not to? It is not the responsibility or place of a Christian to govern what another person is capable of doing on the mere basis of belief, as the Bible states that God created humans in his own image and with the ability to make their own choices.

Instead of weaponizing the Bible and its stories to alienate, isolate and hate people who do not relate to what is socially accepted, Christians should follow Jesus in his expression of Christianity as a religion of love. Jesus was not an all-knowing being without faults; he was a human who found ways to care even for the most unclean woman in a crowd of his supporters. Anyone can show this simple level of compassion, and Christianity implores its followers to listen to others without jumping towards any judgements in favor of loving them first.

When Trends Aren't Enough

ByARHONSTRAUSS'23

"I can't access YouTube. My VPN doesn't work."

The number of times that little phrase has been tossed around boggles me. Beyond that, it makes me wonder—until fall term, I hadn't realized how much COVID-19 and our new digital normal have changed public perception of China and Chinese-American students. To quite a few people, we are merely

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It's clear: the Nixonian era of Sino-U.S. relations has passed. Many Chinese Americanophiles, disillusioned by Xi, finally woke up when America betrayed its own ideals to challenge China. Maybe it's time for Americans to wake up, too.

The Exonian

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"Pluralization is a social construct anyways."

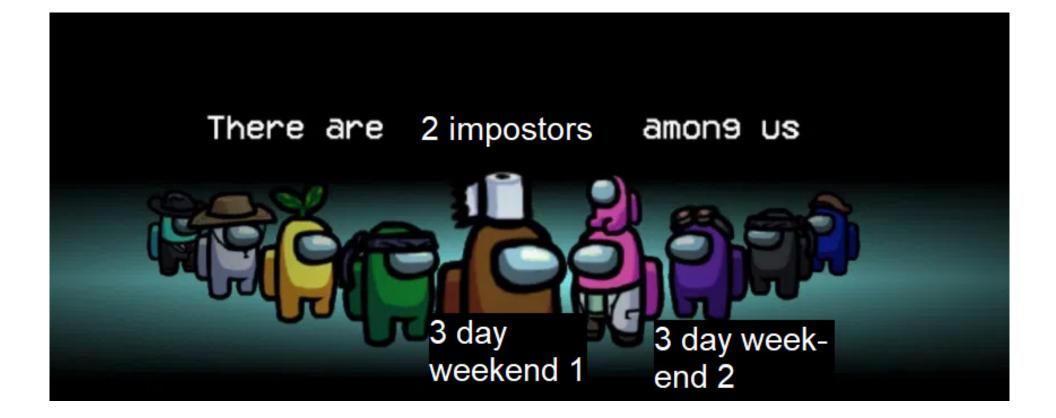
—Emma Reach '21

"Why am I not getting paid for this?"

"They tested my DNA and it wasn't DNA. It was USA."

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-Proctor
```

—American Proverb



The Five Preps You Will (or Won't) See in the Hallway

By ADAM TUCHLER

1. *The Prep Posse:* This prep arrives on campus already affiliated with 15-20 extroverted preps. They have a 6th sense that alerts them when another posse member is nearby.

2. *The Hockey-Laxer:* About 1 in every 4-5 preps plays both hockey and lacrosse. If you pay close enough attention, you can easily distinguish them. If they are holding a hockey stick, you know you've spotted one.

3. *The Shy Prep:* You probably heard their name once at the start of the year. They can rarely be seen at certain hours of the night walking to and from the bathroom. After that brief interaction, they won't be spotted again for another 20 hours.

4. *The Gamer:* Much like the shy prep, the gamer, too, hardly leaves their room. Instead they prefer the cool, led-lit environment of their 130 square foot emergency double (just kidding, it's a single this year).

Fill in the Blank Poetry

By JACK ARCHER

Directions:

- 1. Fill in the blank.
- 2. Publish in poetry anthology with a title which you can interpret in at least six different ways.

.....

- 3. ???
- 4. Profit.
- 5. Return to Exeter and watch lowers struggle to understand your genius.

Roses are red, You smell like fart, On campus please stay, Six feet ____

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveler, so long I stood, To perform _____, as fast as I could.

Whose woods these are I think I know. His house is in the village though; He will not see me stopping here, To steal his wood and bring it ____. Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

Answers 1. іледе

5. *The Lower:* Much to your disappointment, this prep is in fact not a prep at all. These lowers use their prep disguise as a survival tactic to gain sympathy from their teachers.

Fall Term Leaf Checklist

By JACK ARCHER

Over fall term, no matter where you are, you will probably see a tree. Here is a straightforward, extremely unscientific, all-around unreliable checklist for you to identify the five types of fall term leaves.

1. Green leaves: Booooring. Check back later when they die. Leaves are only interesting when they are dying and/ or dead.

2. Autumnal leaves: These leaves are the one photographers melt over. Apparently trees are only photogenic when they are dying, which is interesting because, for humans, it's the complete opposite.

3. Millennial leaves: These are the kind that dangle from their respective tree, refusing to fall. It is a behavior very similar to millennials who refuse to move out from their parents' house. Damn millennials. What, is housing too expensive now or something?

4. Brown leaves: These appear en masse between midterms and finals week. Their main purpose is to mirror your soul during this time. Other than that, they are boring until they fall, which results in ground leaves.

5. Ground leaves: Leaves on the ground. Divided into two types:

Crunchy: The best leaf type, hands down. Crunchy leaves are little bubbles of auditory joy for your feet to pop. You can crunch the crispest of leaves with a scowl on your face and death in your stare, yet overflow with satisfaction and happiness inside. Perfect for uppers. Nothing brings more fulfillment to life than stepping on a leaf that looks crunchy and finding that it is, indeed, crunchy.

Non-Crunchy: Satan-spawn. Nightmare fuel. The antithesis of crunchy leaves. Designed to rip everything that is good out of our world, like tiny black holes of sadness. The worst of this bunch are the leaves that look crunchy, but are actually as silent as an 8:15a.m. Zoom class. It hurts, to say the least. It hurts to step on a leaf that appears crisp and flatten it with no sound other than your foot hitting the cold hard ground. On behalf of the Humor page, may your fall be full of crunchy leaves and devoid of the imposters among them.

Thou art more lovely and more temperate. Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May, If only we could flee your mother's ____, I wish that thy could make an ____ way.

2. sisołiш
3. әшоң
4. әłең
5. а́sеә

College Anns

Send Help

Midterms

editations

Sports

» GIRLS' XC

Girls' Cross Country makes the best of the fall term by hosting a mock race, 7.

» QUOTE BOX

Find out which member of the PEA adult community students would like on their dodgeball teams, 7.

Girls' Cross Country Hosts Mock Race



Girls' Cross Country prepares to run.

By COOPER WALSHE '21 AND GINNY VAZQUEZ-AZPIRI '22

Last Friday, the on-campus upperclassmen on the Girls' Cross Country team ran the home course in an intra-squad mock meet. As all races have been cancelled this fall season, the athletes staged an intra-squad mock meet.

Coach Dale Braile noted that the meet had an unconventional format. "They were timed on two parts of it—the second mile, and the last half mile," she said. "This gave them a chance to get reacquainted with the course and to think about it in pieces rather than as a whole."

This run helped runners—new and returning—familiarize themselves

tus from students being on campus.

In order to follow the strict COVID-19 guidelines on campus, the team came up with families for runners to train and race in. The families are similar to dorm units, a system splitting students within a larger dorm structure. Runners have trained in their respective families for several weeks now. During the meet, families were sent off the line one by one, staggering the release by twenty seconds to give some room between different families.

Although the circumstances are not ideal, the team has maintained a positive attitude to make the best of their situation. "We've tried to recreate the feeling of meet by wearing uniforms, playing music on our post-meet the day student parents and, of course, cheering as everyone finishes," senior Helen Lieberman said. "Even though our circumstances are different, the team still has the same encouraging, supportive feeling that makes it so special."

"We cannot judge our success by comparing times with our competitors. Instead, we will judge our success by a combination of the bonds made between teammates and individual improvements," Braile added.

Lieberman highlighted a specific bonding exercise done by the team. "We have a lot of great traditions that we can still do, even socially distanced. For example, returning students read letters that we wrote to students receive letters written by last year's seniors," she said. "We also have dress-up days every Friday, which are always fun."

Even without the duel meets against other schools in their league, Girls' Cross Country has also been able to keep healthy competition. "I think it was quite nice to have a mock meet just to get a general estimate of where we are in our training. I took this as more of a workout than a meet because of the set-up of the 5k," senior Leila Herman said. "For me personally, I felt like this was a lot less stressful than normal meets because there wasn't an aspect of needing to compete against other schools."

The team is optimistic that re-

loosened. "Many of our workouts, from long runs on a local rail trail to interval training on a nearby road, require going off-campus," Lieberman said. "We've adjusted by doing more speed-based workouts on the fields, but it doesn't quite replace our normal training."

Even without typical resources, however, the team remains optimistic. "I think that during the rest of the season we'll all improve a lot, and coach [Gwynneth] Coogan has some pretty hard workouts lined up for us, so this meet was a nice baseline," Herman said. "I am definitely looking forward to meeting the lower classmen on the team soon!" As the Girl's Cross Country season progresses, the team looks

Margo Angelopoulos/The Exonian

WHICH TEACHER WOULD YOU WANT ON YOUR DODGEBALL TEAM AND WHY?

- » "Mr. Stribling. Purely because I would not want that cannon to be on the other team. And I think he's in the C.I.A." Ursula Wise '21
- » "Mr. Caldwell because he is speedy and can duck, dip, dive and dodge in a coordinated manner."

Dorothy Baker '22

- » "Mr. Thomas. He just seems very competitive and wouldn't care about who he's knocking out on the other team." Ifeoma Ajufo '22
- » "Coach Mills. He seems to be able to avoid all the emails I send him, maybe he can do that with dodgeballs too." Henry Liu '23
- » "I would choose Mr. Cosgrove because he would go all out: do or die."

Georgie Venci '22

» "Coach Mit, hard to hit and hits hard."

Emilio Abelmann '21

» "Mr. Caldwell because he has got to be one of the best dancers I've seen, and I think dancing skills can transfer to dodging balls."

Zander Galli '22

Gia Pisano runs.

Margo Angelopoulos/The Exonian

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The Exonian is comprised of three boards, an Executive Board, an Upper Board and a Lower Board. These three boards exist for all three branches of The Exonian. The Executive Board of The Exonian includes students from Editorial Board, Business Board and Web Board and is directed by the Editor-in-Chief.

The Editorial Board's Upper Board is

charged with producing all of the paper's content. The Editorial Board assigns and edits articles, designs the paper and controls visuals, including photography and graphics. The Lower Board, comprised of Staff Writers, writes all of the content in the paper. Typically, staff writers are underclassmen, while the Upper Board is comprised of upperclassmen.

The Business Board's Upper Board conducts all advertising, operations subscriptions, accounting and outreach. The Business Board's Lower Board, comprised of associates, works within the aforementioned branches. Similarly to the Editorial Board, upperclassmen typically make up the Upper Board, whereas underclassmen typically make up the Lower Board. \times

The Web Board's Upper Board controls all aspects of The Exonian's web presence. They are in charge of all longterm projects and appearance of the website.

To join The Exonian, all you need to do is reach out! We can always use more help, and we are so excited to share what we know. If you are interested, please contact anyone on the Upper Board, including Editor-in-Chief, Anne Brandes, at abrandes@exeter.edu.

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