

Phillips Exeter Academy
Exeter, New Hampshire

The Exonian

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NEWS

Read about how anti-Asian violence has affected the Exeter community, 2.

LIFE

Read John Murillo's exclusive interview with *The Exonian*, 8.

OP-ED

Read the First Writes of *The Exonian*'s 143rd Board, 9.

Anti-Asian Racism Surges, Academy Responds

By ELLIE ANA SPERANTSAS, HANNAH PARK and CATHERINE WU

Nationwide anti-Asian racism has surged in the past few weeks, incited in part by COVID-19-related prejudice and xenophobia and the recent celebration of Lunar New Year on Feb. 11. Among the most visible incidents have been the fatal assault of 84-year old Thai elder Vicha Ratanapakdee, the slashing of 61-year-old Filipino man Noel Quintana, and the street assault of a 91-year old man in California— few among a greater trend of violent anti-Asian attacks.

Principal William Rawson addressed the increase in anti-Asian racism in an all-school email Tuesday under the subject line “Anti-Asian Violence.” On Tuesday, February 16, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Stephanie Bramlett condemned anti-Asian racism in an email reminding students of anti-racist mini-courses beginning the next morning. On Wednesday, February 24, Bramlett sent a second email to all anti-racist mini course facilitators, requesting them to acknowledge the rise of anti-Asian racism at the be-

ginning of their sessions.

On Friday, Feb. 19, Woo joined Dean of Multicultural Affairs Sherry Hernandez, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Szuhui Lee and History Instructor Hannah Lim in hosting an affinity space for Asian students during the Assembly block. Later that day, at 7 p.m., Asian Voices hosted a student-led discussion space.

Rawson's email to the Exeter community stated: “We stand by and support our Asian community members. We oppose racism and anti-race violence in all its forms, and are committed to preparing our students for the work they must do throughout their lives to that end.” Rawson committed to sending a report on Exeter's anti-racist initiatives, which was sent to all students, alumni, parents, and employees on Wednesday, Feb. 24.

When asked how the Academy would center Asian and Asian American perspectives in anti-racism work, Rawson said: “We have a shared responsibility to ensure that our anti-racism work is inclusive, just as we have a shared responsibility to ensure that our broader DEI work is fully inclusive, in line with our DEI vision

ASIAN, 2



Asian Voices co-heads JaQ Lai, Emily Kang and Sarah Huang (left to right) on the steps of Jeremiah Smith Hall.

Ethan-Judd Barthelemy/
The Exonian

Students Opt to Return Later

by ALIA BONANNO, ATHENA WANG, and CATHERINE WU

Students were given the choice of returning to campus or staying remote for the rest of the winter and spring terms. Due to reasons ranging from concerns about the pandemic to dietary limitations, a number of students opted to return later in the year, after the first set of arrivals on the weekend of February 11.

Many students chose to remain remote due to health and safety reasons. “There was an increase in cases in the US and I was concerned that, since our classmates are coming from a bunch of different places, they could be potentially coming from

places that have had a spike in cases,” prep Alexander Luna said. “My parents felt that if there was a choice, it would be better for me to choose the safer option.”

Prep Joseph Alvarez had a similar experience, “If I were to for some reason contract the virus on my way back home from my time at campus, I could pass it on to my sister without knowing. And my sister has major health issues... we want to be as safe as possible,” he said.

Senior Angela Liu agreed that safety was her primary concern. When making the decision whether to return or not, Liu “considered the number of cases around

the US and the speed of distribution for the vaccine.” “There was a large surge of COVID cases around the time [students] had to make [their] decision... [so] I ended up staying home,” Liu said.

Another factor in students' decisions to stay remote this term was athletics. “The Solo Aquatics Swim Team wasn't allowed to train on campus and I just didn't see a point in going if social interaction was kept on such a tight leash,” upper Yvonne Jia said.

Prep Audrey Zhang added, “I have a sports commitment here [at home] that I wouldn't be able to fulfill on campus.”

Students also weighed friends' decisions when considering coming back to campus or not. “I chose to stay home because only a few other people from my dorm

QUARANTINE, 5

Community Enjoys Ice Rinks



Students skate on the rinks.

Ethan-Judd Barthelemy/
The Exonian

By ANDREA NYSTEDT, REILLY PIERSIMONI, and ELINA YANG

Snow had fallen thick and heavy over campus just days before, and finally, on Sunday, February 21, the Academy opened outdoor ice skating and snowshoeing activities. After the post-arrival quarantine this past weekend, students had laughed, fell and enjoyed the opportunity to connect with each other.

Students skated on two skating rinks situated behind Goel, each with a maximum capacity of 8 people. Skating times were divided into 30 minute intervals with a first come, first served. As for most campus activities, skaters were required to wear masks and follow social distance guidelines.

“It's not often you get a chance to skate outdoors on a smooth sheet of ice, so it's something I can't wait to get started with,” prep Jack Gordon said.

Senior Leila Herman noted that skating was enjoyable even for beginners. “I fell several times, but I did feel like overall I improved my skating skills,” she said. “It was nice to see everybody be together as a community again.”

Lower Weiyi Huang agreed. “Ice skating is likely a must; there's not much ice where I'm from, Texas, so it's nice,” Huang said.

“I think the experience was really fun as a first-time skater because I got to spend time with my friends,” prep Angel Guo said.

Upper Valentina Kafati appreciated the rinks' maximum person capacity. “I loved skating with my friends and knowing that the rink was limited so we weren't as worried about bumping into others,” she said. “The ice had a lot of holes, though, and was a little rough.”

“I think it is great! Skating is fun in general, but anytime you can skate outside with the sun on your face is a huge bonus!” History Instructor Alexa Caldwell, who tried out the skating rinks, said.

Lower Sofia Morais was one of the first people to try snowshoeing, and shared her appreciation for the staff at the William Boyce Thompson Field House. “The staff in the fieldhouse were so kind and helped us select and put on our snowshoes, since it was our first time ever snowshoeing,” Morais said. “Once my friend and I were past the football field, we were able to walk off the trails with ease and explore the woods without our feet having to sink in the snow with every step.”

Upper Marina Williams found snowshoeing an surprisingly fantastic activity. “I really enjoyed hanging out with friends and trying something new,” she said.

“I've never been snowshoeing before so it was a strange activity at first but then it turned out to be really fun.”

Some students worried that availability issues would arise with the first come, first served basis for ice skating. “As someone from north side, that is very inconvenient, as walking all the way over past Goel without a guarantee of an ice skating time is not ideal and frustrating,” prep Sarah Sargent said. “I think online sign-ups, an online live count of people waiting, or other methods should be enacted to increase accessibility for students not having the same proximity to the rinks.”

Prep Vedika Amin suggested the addition of sledding to the list of activities. “I've seen people from other dorms sledding, and I think it would be a great idea to have each dorm get a few sleds so everyone can join in on the fun,” Amin said.

“It would be nice to have a bonfire!” Williams added. “Or sledding, though I don't know where we would sled. It would be nice if mini golf was added again. Or when the weather is nice again, another capture the flag.”

“I think any winter activity that gets kids outside is great,” Caldwell said. “To not just learn how to just survive New England winters, but embrace them... that could change how they feel about winter term.”

Mock Trial Sweeps States

By ATISHAY JAIN and RUPERT RAMSAY

After countless hours of preparation, work and competition, the three Phillips Exeter Mock Trial teams— A, B and C— swept the top 3 rankings at the New Hampshire Mock Trial States competition the weekend of February 11. B Team took home 3rd place after an intense trial against C Team in the semi-finals; in an Exeter-only final between C Team and A Team, C Team placed 2nd

and A Team was crowned the state champion.

At the States competition, uppers Bona Yoo and Michelle Park and lower Arhon Strauss earned the coveted Outstanding Attorney Award. Meanwhile, senior Bea Burack and upper Teja Vankireddy were recognized with the Outstanding Witness award. A Team will compete at Mock Trial nationals later this spring.

Preceding this triumph was the Bishop Guertin Invitational in the fall,

where A team placed 1st, B team placed 2nd, and C team placed 7th.

Although virtual constraints complicated preparation for this year's competition, the Mock Trial team pulled through. “I would say that it was definitely more challenging just because Mock Trial is a very communication-based club and is based on person to person interactions. You really can't gauge how well you are doing at your craft until you really are doing it in person,”

MOCK TRIAL, 4

News

» **MOCK TRIAL**

Read about the community that forgoes sleep to win, 4.

» **WEATHERSPOON**

Read about the re-election campaign of Exeter’s Democratic Club adviser who “builds bridges,” 3.

» **SUMMER PROGRAMS**

Read about how Exonians develop skills in summer, 5.

News-In-Brief

In an all-student email sent at 12:07 p.m. EST on February 24, Principal William Rawson updated the community on the Academy’s anti-racism work.

- The Academy established a trustee Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force, whose charter details plans to establish “performance metrics” and “monitor progress” on DEI initiatives.
- The General Alumni

Association’s board of directors has established an Affinity Engagement Committee. The Affinity Engagement Committee aims to develop affinity programming for alumni.

- 78% of Academy faculty members are white. Out of 219 faculty members, 15 faculty members are Asian; 11 are Hispanic or Latinx; 21 are Black or African American; and 1 faculty member’s race was not specified in the report.

- The three 2020-2021 John and Elizabeth Phillips Dissertation Year Fellows have published dissertations “relevant to our anti-racism work.”
- The Academy has created a Campus Climate Response Team to “address and respond to local, national and global events that may adversely impact the mental health and well-being of our campus community.” 23 individuals were appointed, along with five faculty-at-large members.

- Dean of Faculty Ellen Wolff met with every faculty member named in student-run Instagram accounts Black@Exeter, Asian@Exeter, and Queer@Exeter.
- The Academy has begun its search process for an institutional researcher to “collect, understand and organize our data related to diversity, equity and inclusion on campus.”
- The Academy is expanding the Office of Multicultural Affairs, a project that cannot be executed earlier than the summer of 2022.

- The Academy is also expanding the Assembly Hall and examining “other campus gathering spaces” to “better reflect and celebrate our inclusive community while also preserving our history and honoring the service of past leaders who kept Exeter moving forward.”
- A BIPOC faculty and staff affinity group is meeting monthly. The Classical Languages Department has revised their curriculum to include a more diverse representation of perspectives (female, enslaved, non-elite,

- non-Italian) and has removed stereotypical depictions of enslaved people in cited passages.
- The Academy has appointed a steering committee to its initiative to examine the Academy’s history and any connections to slavery. Currently, two seniors are undertaking an independent study project this year to examine founder John Phillips’ enslavement of people during the Academy’s founding.

Anti-Asian Racism Surges, Academy Responds Cont.

statement. I do not have specific proposals to mention here, but I will want to hear from those who are in leadership positions, including students, to understand ways that we are falling short, and how we can do better.”

Students at the Academy recounted their personal experiences with anti-Asian racism and how increased attention to anti-Asian attacks has impacted their lives.

“Even though my family resides in a small, safe town, my parents are still scared to go outside due to the racism towards Asians,” prep Daniel Hu said.

“I wouldn’t call these events recent— they have begun since the COVID pandemic affected the U.S., which has been ongoing for over a year now,” Asian Voices (AV) co-head and senior Emily Kang said. “My family has been cognizant of the violence, rhetoric and xenophobia since last March and have had conversations about our concerns.”

Many Asian students felt personal concern for their family members and friends. “I’m from San Francisco, and a lot of these acts of violence have happened in the Bay Area, so they hit particularly close,” AV co-head and senior Sarah Huang said. “I live with my grandparents, and my grandma goes on a lot of walks around the city. The rise in attacks makes me scared for her.”

Before Rawson’s email on Tuesday, students expressed concern that Asian clubs and affinity groups were the only ones addressing the anti-Asian attacks.

“While I am totally here to provide love and support in AV and for friends/classmates, the Academy is asking for emotional labor when it asks AV to explain what it should be doing for us. This is not to say that we don’t want institutional support—it’s that what we ask for rarely gets done in the first place,” Huang said.

AV co-head and senior JaQ Lai expressed a desire for the Academy to have addressed anti-Asian racism in parallel to AV’s work. “I think in a perfect world, our response would be a unified approach that includes action from administrators. It was difficult to sort of have that sense of unity when, in the meeting, it felt as if the only response that we could provide to our students was on the level of our own small sphere of the affinity space.”

“My approach going in was that we would do the best job that we can within the bounds of our job. What we realized during the meeting with the experiences that students shared was that in spheres outside of our affinity group, they felt like their experience was unseen and unheard,” Lai said.

Many students expressed their desire for the Academy to have addressed anti-Asian racism earlier than Rawson’s Wednesday email. “I wish we saw an email from Principal Rawson [earlier],” upper Siona Jain said. “I’m unhappy that the only group

that got a full formal email [prior to Wednesday] was Asian, Asian-American, and Pacific-Islander identifying students.”

English Instructor and Asian Student Program Coordinator Wei-Ling Woo heard similar requests from students. “I know some students in the Asian student community I have spoken to wished for swifter communication to the entire school, to affirm the school’s commitment to anti-racism and to highlight the issue of anti-Asian racism to the entire school.”

E. Kang agreed. “I have noticed minimal to no discussion about anti-Asian racism within non-Asian communities, which I believe is a reflection of how much work the school needs to do to create an anti-racist institution.”

“In my experience, all of my conversations around this wave of anti-Asian violence have been initiated by Asian students,” Huang said.

“In the future, I would like to promote more communication between students and faculty, as well as administrators, in dealing with these issues, not only for the benefit of students in terms of addressing their well being but also for the benefit of adults in terms of enriching their perspective to include those that they might not naturally consider,” Lai said.

Many have applauded the work of Asian faculty members and clubs in organizing spaces to discuss and process anti-Asian racism. “The Asian community has done a great job in creating conversation. For example, Asian-identifying faculty, as well as Asian Voices, created discussion space for students to process their feelings and thoughts about the rising anti-Asian (especially anti-Chinese) rhetoric, xenophobia, and violence across the U.S.,” E. Kang said.

Bramlett applauded the work of campus leaders in fostering spaces for the Asian community to gather. “Hannah Lim, Wei-Ling Woo, Szu-Hui Lee, and Sherry Hernandez have held multiple affinity processing spaces for students over the past couple of weeks,” she said. “We’ll continue to make the space and time for students to gather in the community for support throughout affinity groups.”

“I know that our Asian affinity group leaders and adult advisers to those affinity groups are carrying a tremendous load in supporting those students in the community who are seeking connection and comfort. I thank them for their leadership and generosity,” Bramlett said.

“These past few weeks I’ve drawn strength from my fellow Asian identifying colleagues, allies, and from Dr. Stephanie Bramlett,” Lee said. “I am proud of this group of adults and the students who attended the forum and our collective willingness to be vulnerable with one another. It is important that we create our own spaces and seek support from one another. Power comes in our

ability to advocate, empower, and lean on one another. We don’t need permission to do that.”

Hernandez agreed, expressing appreciation for her colleagues and students who gathered in affinity spaces. “One of the most powerful moments I’ve ever experienced at the Academy was standing alongside Ms. Woo, Dr. Lee and Dr. Lim when we provided a space for Asian-identifying students to process and be in community with one another to discuss the recent increase in Anti-Asian violence,” Hernandez said. “During these times of isolation as a result of the pandemic and compounded by the lack of media coverage of these attacks, it has been difficult to find a sense of community. Through the planning and hosting of this event, we were able to lean on one another as we showed up for our students.”

Despite feeling deeply affected by the incidents of anti-Asian racism, some students felt ambivalent towards calling attention to the attacks. “I can’t help but feel a sense of guilt,” senior Sarah Kang said. “Sometimes, I can’t help feeling selfish for wanting more eyes on the recent attacks against Asian Americans or feeling ashamed for wanting to take up more space in America’s dialogue. During Asian Voices, I was surprised how many of my peers felt the same way I did.”

“The members of the discussion found it interesting how this guilt was essentially based on the belief that Americans didn’t have the space or mental energy to think about more than one racial issue at a time,” S. Kang continued. “I think I’m still unsure of my opinion on that concept.”

Woo encouraged students to not see speaking out against anti-Asian racism as distracting from other social issues. “One thing that I have heard Asian-identifying students expressing is this desire not to distract from Black History Month by highlighting this issue, or how comments on social media will downplay the violence in a bid at ‘Oppression Olympics,’ and I guess I would just like to say that I hope our empathy and compassion, our politics, are wide enough to encompass multiple things at once,” Woo said.

“All racism (including anti-Asian and anti-Black racism) is ultimately grounded in white supremacy. I think this idea that we can only have the bandwidth for one racial issue at a time is itself borrowed from white supremacist thinking, and I reject it. Highlighting the oppression of one community shouldn’t take away from the oppression facing another; but, we do need to find our interconnected struggles in order to reach the solidarity that Dr. [Roxane] Gay so beautifully raised for us during her MLK Day keynote,” Woo continued. “Solidarity also means that the Asian community has to show up (or continue to show up) for others if we want others to show up for us.”

TIMELINE

Joy Chi, Avery Lavine and Daniel Zhang/*The Exonian*

5th	January	15th
	Cherry blossom trees at the entrance to San-Francisco Japantown destroyed.	>\$10,000 in cash stolen from The Crew, a Korean immigrant-owned restaurant.
	52-year old Asian woman shot in Chinatown, unprovoked.	27th
28th	84 year old Vicha Rafanapakdee is murdered, unprovoked.	Asian woman called slurs, assaulted.
		29th
		Asian man robbed at gunpoint after home invasion
31th	Elderly Asian man assaulted on the BART train by two teenagers.	February
	91-year old Asian man pushed to the ground, suffering significant injuries (caught on; 60-year old Asian man attacked by the same assailant; 55-year old Asian woman left unconscious after another assault by the same assailant.	1st
		According to the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, 20+ robberies in the last two weeks of January against Chinese business owners occurred.
3rd	70-year old Asian grandmother assaulted and robbed in Chinatown.	2nd
	61-year old Filipino man slashed across the face in the New York Subway; wounds so deep he is unable to speak.	Evidence released showing that 19-year old Christian Hall, who suffered mental health issues, had his hands raised while police authorities shot and killed him.
		4th
		Asian man shot, maimed, and robbed in front of his two-year old in Los Angeles.
		79-year old Asian man assaulted and robbed in Lone Mountain.
5th	64-year old Vietnamese grandmother forcefully robbed.	6th
		Asian father suffers carjacking; 2-year old and 4-year old children kidnapped.
7th	Asian man suffered a severed finger after waiting for his bus in Rosemead	9th
		Anti-Asian slur graffitied onto the Chinese American International School of San Francisco.
11th	Berkeley man arrested on accounts of disturbing remarks against Asian community.	Asian man robbed of 15,000 dollars; suffered head injuries while pushed to the ground.
		Asian woman followed by man and subjected to racist remarks in Astoria.
16th	52-year-old Asian woman shoved to the ground while in line at New York City bakery; requires stitches.	16th
	71-year old Asian woman hit in the face on Midtown Manhattan E train.	Rally against anti-Asian violence held in Los Angeles State Historic Park adjacent to Chinatown.

Jackie Weatherspoon Runs for Re-Election

By SELIM KIM, EMI LEVINE and CLARK WU

Public Services Assistant and advisor to the Academy's Democratic Club Jackie Weatherspoon is running for the New Hampshire Democratic Party's Rules Committee for a third term. Election will take place in mid-March, decided by the 274-member election caucus.

Democratic Club co-heads are currently managing Weatherspoon's online re-election campaign, which centers around her expertise in political advocacy. In the past weeks, seniors Maggie Wainwright, Anne Brandes, Nahla Owens, Dillon Mims, and Grace Valashinas designed promotional paperless pamphlets, organized interviews, sent emails to NHDP voting members and posted on the campaign Facebook and Instagram pages.

"I think it's important to give a student who wants to take on a task like this the opportunity. I give them the support and the direction," Weatherspoon said.

"I want to thank these students. They're very savvy themselves: they know how to appeal to representatives of all age groups, understand how to give a pitch, and they know that sometimes someone will hang up on you or ask you strange questions."

"And it's absolutely fun watching students build a campaign themselves," she added. "It'll go on their record, so if they ever wanted to run themselves or organize a campaign at any level in the future, no one can ever take this experience away from them."

Manager of Customer Support Services and fellow

Democratic Club advisor Donna Archambault agreed, sharing that NHDP had noted Weatherspoon's experience with student engagement with delight. "National campaigns reach out to her to get our students involved in events. It's a great way for the students to get experience and prepare for future opportunities," she said.

Weatherspoon's political involvement does not end with youth political participation. One centerpiece to Weatherspoon's experience is her work in the aftermath of the Bosnian War of 1995. She worked for the US State Department implementing the last phases of the Dayton Agreement. "As an American, I understood the power of registering the vote," Weatherspoon said. "In some countries they didn't allow women to vote; we would inform them of one person one vote, regardless of one's sex or orientation. I was so privileged and honored to share the American sense of democracy and our constitution."

As a trained mediator of Harvard Law School and Fellow from Harvard School of Public Health, Weatherspoon has "been in the courts, listening to people, fighting for their rights whether it's landlord-tenant or for a disability. I understand the rights of people and rights start with your voice being heard. Your vote is your voice," she said.

Weatherspoon additionally served as the New Hampshire State House Minority Whip, and in the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire. She is also involved with the project "Women's Leadership for Peace and Security in the Horn of Africa." "I'm pas-

sionate about what it means to vote and to help not only my community, not only my surrounding state, but women and children abroad, not only in Europe, but of the continent of Africa," Weatherspoon added.

If elected, Weatherspoon hopes to continue work with prison reform and voting transparency. "If people cannot trust those who make the rules, who can they trust? I will continue to grow trust and knowledge," she said.

New Hampshire State Representative Alexis Simpson shared her trust in Weatherspoon as a candidate. "The first call I made when I decided to run for office in 2014 was to Mrs. Weatherspoon. She taught me how to run a professional, ethical, and responsible campaign," Simpson said. "She is able to assess situations clearly and quickly and make accurate decisions in the midst of the high-intensity atmosphere of political campaigns. She is also fair and thoughtful as she works to elect Democrats up and down the ticket."

Many staff and students have likewise shared positive thoughts on Weatherspoon's campaign. "Hers is a campaign that builds bridges between people, a progressive campaign that's not afraid to go out of a comfort zone to propose something that she believes is right and not just right for a small group of people, but, for the entire population of New Hampshire... she's really become a leader here," said Instructor in Spanish Mark Trafton.

Mims also expressed how much Mrs. Weatherspoon has done for students. "Her contacts, connections, and abiding value of young peoples'



Jackie Weatherspoon smiles by the Class of 1949 Library. Joy Chi/The Exonian

voices has benefited so many of us who are politically active by connecting us with candidates, organizations, and campaigns," he said.

"If Mrs. Weatherspoon brings even a fraction of what she brings to the Dem Club to the NHDP Rules Committee, she'll do great! She's a great faculty advisor to Dem Club, and she has too many skills that would be helpful to the NHDP to list," Valashinas

noted.

Trafton added that Weatherspoon's kind presence on campus will surely translate to effective and warm leadership on the Committee. "I love this term in Spanish: *solidaridad*. It means political solidarity but also support," he said. "Mrs. Weatherspoon always has time to discuss things and encourages people to get involved with the community."

Like most, Trafton is excited to see Weatherspoon in office again, making change. "You don't look at Mrs. Weatherspoon and think, 'Oh what a phony, she's just in a powerful position but doesn't walk the walk. No, she does what she says. She does. She practices what she preaches. I think her coming here is one of the best things that could happen for young women of color at the Academy, at Exeter."

Lamont Poet John Murillo Encourages Vulnerability

By MAYA COHEN, JESSICA HUANG and SAFIRA SCHIOWITZ

Against a backdrop of towering bookshelves, Lamont Poet John Murillo breathed life into lyrical poems exploring racial violence, grief and trauma.

At the February 18 Lamont Poetry Reading, Murillo read from his poetry collections *Kontemporary Amerikan Poetry* (2020) and *Up Jump the Boogie* (2010), as well as presented works by other poets, all with invigorating rhythm and intonation. Afterward, Murillo answered questions on his writing process, inspiration and goals in a live Q&A session.

English Instructor and Lamont Poet Committee Member Todd Hearon cited "voice" as the determining factor in each term's Lamont Poet selection. "Is it a vital voice? Is it a necessary and urgent voice? An inspiring voice? Those are the kinds of voices we want to bring to campus to inspire the students," Hearon said. "[Murillo] is one of the preeminent voices in American poetry right now. We wanted to take advantage of that new voice coming in, and his poetry is so timely to where we are as a culture [and] as a country right now."

During the Q&A, Murillo revealed that he finds much of his inspiration in other poems. "[I] want to contribute to the conversation," Murillo said. "There's this long tradition of people who really do some amazing work and if I can add something valuable to that conversation that has been taking place over the past few years, that's inspiring."

Additionally, Murillo talked about his process for putting together his books. "I'm in the business of writing poems," Murillo said. "I want to write the best poems I can and they don't always get there. For every poem that made it into the book, there are probably three or four that did not."

At the end, Murillo hoped his honesty and vulnerability would provide lessons for the audience. "Rather than trying to present a speaker who's

washed clean of all these [flaws], I presented a speaker that is flawed," Murillo said. "The idea that I'm pushing back against is... if] any of us is ever a wholly good person or not. We're not. You guys have already done some messed up stuff and if you haven't you will."

Lower Warren Lawrence anticipated learning how Murillo designs his poetry. "All [his poems] are dark subjects if I'm being blunt. I want to see where he gets his motivation, if it's from his real life or some character," Lawrence said. "I want to hear about him personally, about why he relates to the poem on a personal level and why he can write about it so vividly [and] accurately," Lawrence added.

Following the assembly, lower Ophelia Bentley described how it felt to hear Murillo read his own poetry. "I think that his poems are amazing, but I always think there's something special about them being not just read out loud, but read out loud the way he intended them for them to be."

Upper Sophie Fernandez highlighted Murillo's thoughtful Q&A responses. "As young writers, I think it is interesting to hear how authors think through their ideas and put them on paper. That's always a common question that we ask when a poet comes to Exeter but I still think it's super important," Fernandez said. "I gained a new understanding of his language and intentions that were present within his poems."

Upper Shantelle Subkhanberdina appreciated the ideas Murillo conveyed through his poems. "I think one of the remarkable things about Murillo's poetry is how he manages to communicate themes of violence, political unrest and difficult truths through a lyrical lens. Many of his poems read like songs, and that's something I've found very inspiring."

Additionally, lower Weiyi Huang expressed that Murillo's poetry "brings out all the details and makes you feel as if you're in his fear... kind of how he feels at [that] exact moment."



Murillo shares his poetry.

Lower Lara Muyombwe agreed that moments during which Murillo discusses hopelessness in his poems are especially impactful. "It is not something that I go through or something that people I talk to go through. It didn't wake me up to it because I knew that it was there, but it tugged me back down to reality," she said.

Lower Sofia Coelho described the human quality of the experiences Murillo's poems tackle. "Murillo's poems gave me an honest vision of how difficult it is to live as a Black American, and how often pain and hurt is thrown around and is embedded in Black lives," she said.

"It showed not only Murillo's personal struggles, but it also addresses Black American systemic injustices. It shone a personal light in a very real and large problem today," Coelho said.

Upper Janessa Vargas elaborated on the personal connection. "It was empowering and inspiring. As someone who identifies as Latinx and has been witness to a lot of the cultural practices he talks about, but also some of the negative aspects of some of the trauma he talked about in his poetry, I found it extremely relatable not only on a cultural level but on a personal level. I really appreciated the fact that Exeter was able to bring a poet who doesn't necessarily fit in with who we normally read."

Teachers also had positive reactions to Murillo's poetry reading. According to English Instructor Eimer Page, teachers agreed that *Kontemporary Amerikan Poetry* would be a common text for lowers. "It worked well with the course's focus on racial identity, and provided many beautiful writing models for students to ex-

plore," she said.

Page particularly liked Murillo's use of poetic form. "His crown of sonnets is so powerful, especially when readers take the time to see how it is constructed," she said.

English Instructor Matthew Miller also expressed his admiration for Murillo's creative interpretation of traditional poetry structures. "There's loss and hurt in these poems but also fight and beauty and craftsmanship that comes [from] being a long time in the fight with no intention of going gently into that good night," Miller said. "As with his poems, his generosity of spirit, his ability to weave from multiple traditions, from rap and hip hop to the villanelle or the Petrarchan sonnet... [he has] a kind of calm in his voice that comes only from knowing the storm."

English Instructor Chris-

Courtesy of John Murillo

tina Breen appreciated that Murillo pays tribute to those he admires. "[What] I loved about his poems is that he's very much in conversation with other artists, other poets, other musicians, painters, so his pieces are almost like a call and response," Breen said.

Upon being asked what he wants his students to take away from Murillo's poems, Miller said, "Possibility. Access to find their own way to hold their own call and response with the world... Poetry, to borrow from W.H. Auden, 'can be a way of happening.'"

Murillo ended with what he wants readers to be left with after reading *Kontemporary Amerikan Poetry*. "If nothing else, I think I hope this collection allows people to allow themselves the permission... to mess up and be messed up."

Mock Trial Sweeps States Cont.

Yoo said.

Lower Anderson Lynch commented on the differences between the courtroom and the screen. “I’m speaking on behalf of the attorneys: a large part of Mock is intimidation, and it’s much harder to intimidate witnesses over Zoom. You can no longer tower over them and you can’t walk around the room, which usually helps emphasize certain points,” Lynch said.

“In normal Mock Tri-

al, you have physical evidence that you put on the board or bring to the witness to show the jury, but with Zoom, you can only use the screenshare feature to show the evidence,” lower Arhon Strauss said.

Making the most of the virtual platform, Mock Trial hosted “multiple Zoom meetings a week that often lasted sometimes between three to four hours,” senior Hojun Choi said.

One meeting even lasted eight hours. “That 9:00pm to 5:00am meeting was one of my favorite Mock experiences. We really only did work until 11:00pm, the rest of the night was spent talking, taking online quizzes and just messing around,” new Mock Trial member and lower Val Whitten said.

For Whitten, those meetings forged strong bonds between team members. “We left fall term complete strang-

ers, and somehow, over Zoom, became much closer. We returned to campus a C team family,” Whitten said.

That sense of community was a defining feature of Mock Trial. “Mock Trial is a lot about who you are as a speaker, how you present yourself. It is not just about the words you say, but about the character you have. With Mock Trial, you are a team and you work together, reaching a common goal, sharing

that sense of community, and achieving something bigger,” Park said.

Mock Trial advisers Jessica Dion and Lori DuBois reinforced these shared connections, Lynch noted. “Both [Dion and DuBois] do a bunch of behind the scenes work to make everything possible. Without them, we wouldn’t even be able to compete. They make the team feel like a family,” Lynch said.

“[Senior] Maggie [Wainwright] and I were in Langdell our prep year and we all joined in. It’s kind of fun that we’re

still doing it together... but I think the best part is that everyone just gets really into it. There’s still a lot of really good team bonding that happens,” Burack said.

“The social aspect of it is really kind of extraordinary. I really will carry with me the fun memories of ordering Chinese food or drawing all over the whiteboard in EPAC or doing silly skits with my fellow Mock Trial Lawyers. Those are some of my fondest memories from Exeter,” Wainwright said.

CCO Hosts Upper College Counseling Weekend



Avery Lavine/The Exonian

By ANVI BHATE, ANNA KIM and ELLIE ANA SPERANTSAS

The College Counseling Office hosted its annual college admissions weekend from February 19-20 for parents of the class of 2022. Parents had the opportunity to meet with their students’ college counselors and admissions directors, and participated in a two-part mock admissions exercise. The weekend also featured keynote speaker Dr. Chris Howard, a Rhodes Scholar and the current president of Robert Morris University.

Many parents found the weekend engaging despite its virtual format. “I wasn’t sure how connected I would feel to the other parents in a virtual format, but it was well-executed,” Dina John P ’22 said. “I appreciated the guidance, advice, and support offered by the counselor. This is

truly a team effort.”

“For parents, I would question the value of trying to do this any other way than virtually... I have the sense that it is designed to put the parents at ease with the process Exeter takes our children through when looking at schools,” Bill Meaney P ’22 said.

“I thought that the virtual format was brilliant, and I much prefer it to the ‘in person’ CCO parent’s weekend,” Laurie Cameron P ’22 said. “I loved the efficiency of hearing from parents and from college counselors and seeing their names when they speak!”

Cameron further mentioned the benefits of the virtual setting. “Getting Admissions officers on the phone from California might have been a little strange if we were all in the same room and they weren’t, but the Zoom format for the college admissions officers

comments on the three student cases was excellent,” Cameron said.

Alison McMahan P ’22 believed the event did not cover the pandemic enough. “I did feel that the whole process took place in a kind of bubble,” McMahan said. “Hardly anything was said about the pandemic, except to rue the fact that the students hadn’t had the same extracurricular opportunities pre-pandemic students had.”

McMahan continued, “Apart from that, everyone seemed to be assuming the world is going to go back to what it was pre-pandemic in a matter of months. It is not. All this talk about what it takes to get into an Ivy League doesn’t really consider that Ivy Leagues probably no longer offer the best preparation for the world that faces us.”

Others appreciated the opportunity to ask college admissions offi-

cers questions about the admissions process.

“I was impressed that several directors of admission participated in the program and spoke to us frankly regarding the process,” Shahrzad Sheibani P ’22 said. “They each gave an overview and steered us as a group into focusing on the positive aspects of a journey that unfortunately has become more stressful for many students and their families.”

Some parents of international students found the college admissions panel especially helpful. “Similar to many parents of students at Exeter, we are located outside of the U.S. and, as a result, much of the college application process is a new experience for us and our daughter,” Ted Hastings P ’22 said. “The ability to listen to college admissions officials dissect a common application and note the important parts was insightful for us.”

Parents also shared new admissions insights they learned over the weekend. “Going in, I knew academics were key, but I may have underestimated the importance of recommendations and the value of non-academic pursuits as part of the complete admissions package,” Rachel Seba P ’22 said.

Some discovered the subjectivity present in the admissions process. “One large takeaway for me was that admission officers seemed to choose students on a very personal level,” Jerry Talleri P ’22 said.

Many parents want to prioritize student satisfaction over college prestige in the admissions process. “When it comes to college, there are probably 100 great schools our children could land in and be very happy. For us the ‘logo’ is not terribly important when it comes to university but rather the fit,” Meaney

said.

John agreed. “The key takeaway for me was to encourage my student to apply to a college that speaks to their interests and passion, rather than for its prestige.”

Others appreciated the detail and attentiveness of the Academy’s college admissions weekend. “Although we had another student go through the college process in the past, Exeter’s was much more thorough and realistic,” Ann Tan P ’22 said. “We appreciate the valuable insights shared from the Exeter team.”

“One of the most important takeaways for me was that a student needs to self-assess to make sure they head in the best direction,” Jim Reale P ’22 said. “While parents can help the student with the process, it is the student that has to figure out what fits best.”

Students Opt to Return Later Cont.



are returning and most of the upperclassmen are returning in March,” upper Mana Vale said.

Politics was also a factor students considered. “The political climate at the time we had to decide was a big reason why I didn’t go to Exeter in the winter. The insurrection had just happened, and with everything so unstable it seemed a lot more rational to stay home,” upper Emma Liu said.

Students were also concerned about how much freedom they would have at school. Senior Natalie Karakey felt that campus would be too isolating if she came back in February. “Not being

able to leave campus was definitely a deterrent [for me],” she said. “[Campus] is beautiful, but having to be there, and nowhere else, for the rest of winter and spring feels just a little too confining,” she said.

Similarly, Luna felt that by staying remote, he would not miss much at campus. “Since a lot of the activities are reduced as a result of the pandemic, I figured the experience between being on campus and at home wouldn’t differ too much,” he said.

A big factor for many was travel restrictions, especially for international students. For

prep Akubah Ndubah, “the Saudi borders were closed to travelers from certain countries (including the US), so if someone from my family were to take me to campus, they would have to quarantine in another country on their way back home,” she said.

Not all students had the privilege of being able to choose whether to return or not. “For many international students who stayed at home, they did so because it was impossible to accommodate quarantine and travel to the US. In my case, because flights from Brazil to the US are banned, my family had to plan a 14-

day quarantine in a different South American country. Even so, despite making many plans and arrangements for quarantining in other countries, all of these closed their borders to Brazil, making flight impossible,” upper Pedro Coelho said.

The remote learning experience has differed for these students. For some new students, remote learning has been especially hard given the lack of social connections with classmates. “I don’t really have any friends [at Exeter] and being one of the only people on Zoom while everyone else is in person makes it really difficult to learn,”

Hillary Yoon/*The Exonian*

Jia said.

Staying in touch with friends has also been a challenge for remote students. “Being remote is kind of lonely, honestly.” A. Liu said. “A lot of my friends are doing things together (socially distanced, of course), but I’m just stuck in my house.”

Additionally, some students noted the difficulty of remaining disciplined at home. “Remote learning has been awful,” prep Yoeku Sam said. “I wish I went to school. Turns out it’s [at] home that I can’t focus.”

However, some students, like Alvarez, have found remote learning

to be relatively enjoyable. “Living remotely is helping me become more comfortable with my new classmates and teachers,” he said, “I also feel that I have more time to work on what I need. I don’t have to walk to get food everyday, I don’t have to walk from class to class, and I don’t have to wear masks while being around others. Everything is easier and more accessible.”

For international students like E. Liu, “time zones are definitely still a challenge, but communicating with teachers regarding certain struggles when it comes to time zones has helped immensely.”

Lower Avery Baker decided to stay home for dietary reasons. “I am a vegan,” he said, “I learned from my experience on campus in October and November that there is an exiguous amount of plant and plant-based foods on campus... being home has given me the ability to eat various foods that I enjoy, and I know that if I return to campus, the likeliness of that feeling being resurrected is not very high.”

Regardless of their remote learning experience, many students are looking forward to returning to campus. “Even while there are advantages with working remotely, campus offers many opportunities that I wouldn’t get at many other places,” Alvarez said.

Some, like Luna, anticipate experiencing campus for the first time. “I look forward to seeing campus as a student this time, since the last time I was there, I was applying and only able to see part of it,” he said.

Students hope to see things return to normal soon, if COVID-19 conditions allow. “Hopefully by next year it will be better, and I will be able to interact with everyone,” Jia said.

Students Apply to Summer Programs

By **ELLA BRADY, ASHLEY JIANG, HENRY LIU and HANNAH PARK**

Many Academy students look for summer opportunities to pursue academic, extracurricular and personal interests. Within Exeter, students have the opportunity to explore the Academy’s Global Initiatives programs, which offers opportunities for travel, service and learning domestically and abroad. Other summer options include private summer programs outside of Exeter, which often require an application.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Exeter’s in-person travel programs are likely to be pushed to next year. “It isn’t likely that the CDC and Department of State will lift their advice against non-essential international travel this summer, so the focus of the summer offerings will be virtual,” Director of Global Initiatives Eimer Page said. “Once pandem-

ic conditions permit, we will be able to return to offering in-person travel experiences during vacation periods, but that will probably be spring break of ’22.”

Meanwhile, private summer programs are grappling with the same question. Usually, students spend their summer engaging with high-level peers and professors to prepare for professional or academic careers on focused subjects.

One such program is the Research Science Institute (RSI), which allows students to conduct STEM research alongside professors. The program culminates in a paper and presentation to prominent academics. Students’ work closely mirrors that of academic scientists, and prepares them to conduct research at a college level.

RSI alum Lucy Cai explained the RSI’s structure. “RSI brings high schoolers from different states together to conduct

STEM research and take classes for six weeks. The first week consists of classes where you can choose two subjects to learn about. For the remaining five weeks, everyone is assigned a mentor to conduct a research project with,” she said. “At the end of the program you write up a paper and present your work to the other students, mentors, and alumni at the RSI Symposium.”

Cai continued to reflect on how the program impacted her. “It was great to gain more research experience and also to hear from various speakers who... had made great strides in their fields,” she said.

RSI alumni Yunseo Choi also reflected on how the program expanded her mindset. “I think this program really opened my eyes to the different fields that I can choose... it helped me think about math in a more interesting context because theoretical economics is more

applied than traditional, pure math,” she said.

Alumnae Brian Liu ’20 and Angelina Zhang ’20 attended the Program in Mathematics for Young Scientists (PROMYS). According to Zhang, “PROMYS was a self-driven math camp that allowed me to explore topics in applied mathematics not covered at Exeter.”

PROMYS helped Liu further pursue his academic interest in math. “I was obviously interested in math before the camp, but after taking the camp, I wanted to continue studying deeper topics. At Exeter, I proposed and took a 999 in real analysis, expanding off of the introductory topics we had been introduced to at PROMYS,” Liu said.

Both alumni and applicants of summer programs had similar thoughts about the importance of prestige when choosing a program. “Choosing a camp is a balance between what you want to

learn about and the level of the quality of the camp. Usually more prestigious camps are higher quality and more worthwhile, but you shouldn’t go to one simply because it is prestigious,” Liu said.

Upper and Leadership in the Business World (LBW) applicant Celine Gu agreed. “I don’t think prestige matters with summer programs. I think it’s a chance to demonstrate and grow your interests which has nothing to do with the prestige of an institution.”

Gu heard about LBW from her sister and soon became curious. “I am interested in the opportunity to take classes from current Wharton professors as well as hear presentations from business leaders. I also want this chance to learn more about the university to see if it’s somewhere I can see myself at,” she said.

While many Exonians choose to apply to such programs, Science In-

structor Alison Hobbie encouraged students to find local, accessible opportunities: “Anyone should be encouraged to explore opportunities for doing science in the summer, [and] the best experience students can have is [something] anybody can do,” she said.

Hobbie encouraged students to “look around their hometown, especially if they live in a city or near a larger college or university, and to explore the possibility of working directly with scientists.”

As for Exeter’s summer program, Page emphasizes that the team is looking for a broad variety of students: “Students with a keen interest in travel; students who have not had the opportunity to travel; students looking to deepen their academic and extracurricular interests.”

Page also explained that it’s important to “be real in your application, read the program description carefully so you understand the purpose of the program, and show ways in which you will be a flexible, communicative member of the selected group.”

Life

» EXETER CRIBS

Read about Zofia Kierner's impressive dorm room in Moulton House.

» JACOB FEIGENBERG

Read about Senior of the Week, Jacob Feigenberg, and his journey into the business world.

» MATTER MAG

Read an article from Matter Magazine explaining the physics behind face masks.



Jacob Feigenberg looks to the future.

Courtesy of Jacob Feigenberg

By ANNA KIM, JANE PARK and CLARK WU

Unlike many young entrepreneurs who go about their ventures with a detailed plan, senior Jacob Feigenberg unexpectedly stumbled upon his passion for problem solving in the business world. “A lot of the things that stuck with me through the end I didn’t start until later in my Exeter career,” Feigenberg said. “And that’s fine. We really don’t have to figure it out that early.”

Feigenberg’s story began with a simple business model. During his lower year, he started SnackLords, a snack delivery service on campus. “Every week I carried cardboard boxes up the stairs and left mysterious black bags for kids around the dorm,” Feigenberg said. “Eventually we brought black bags to Webster, Wheelwright, Abbott, and all these oth-

er dorms. It was an explosive phenomenon early spring.”

Senior Emmanuel Tran reflected on the prosperous olden days of SnackLords. “I remember how grateful I was for his business when I was craving late night snacks. It really comes to show his ability to listen and understand the needs of people in his community, and his ability to respond and help.”

Though SnackLords’ disappeared from campus, Feigenberg’s entrepreneurial spirit did not. In the next two years, he submitted his concepts to international business competitions and challenges.

For one of these competitions, he improved upon the work he did with SnackLords, adding the idea of community-curated snack vending machines. “Students would subscribe to the service and input feedback as to what they want

in those machines,” Feigenberg said. “It was received well by the Conrad Challenge judges.”

In Feigenberg’s mind, these events help young entrepreneurs structure stages of product development, financing and branding but also lead them into the trap of lofty ideas. “I found myself building businesses for the pitch, for that showmanship you found in Jobs and Bezos and Musk, where it’s all flash and hand-waving,” he said. “It leads people to shoot too high without being able to back it up.”

“An important lesson that I learned,” Feigenberg said, “was that the true venture lies beyond the pitch, that you really have to get your hands dirty to get that experience.”

In *The Exonian’s* “Most Likely To” column for seniors, Feigenberg was dubbed the “next Zuckerberg.” But Feigenberg

Senior of the Week: Jacob Feigenberg

disliked this comparison. “He’s not a great guy, and I’m not a fan of Facebook and their practices,” Feigenberg said. “He doesn’t have that non-sibi vibe that you’d expect from a successful Exonian. One idea that I’ve been thinking about, actually, challenges his ideas. It’s a social media platform that respects humanity just a little more.”

“I read a book over the summer called *Ten Arguments to Delete Your Social Media Account* by Jaron Lanier from *The Social Dilemma*. It really exposed the ways in which these giant companies are taking data to control people online,” he said. “I’m trying to develop a platform that respects people’s data, their privacy, their humanity. Something that reduces the political polarization we’re witnessing.”

Feigenberg said that Exeter has changed his understanding of business and its role in society. “I think the core concept of entrepreneurship is finding a problem and building a solution. I think that can work in any system...Even if the economic system were to change, it wouldn’t change our inclinations to solve problems.”

Feigenberg’s leadership has extended into his dorm, Soule. Feigenberg said that he has modeled himself after the proctors who preceded him. “When I think of Soule Hall, I think of change,” he said. “There’s a big difference between how the dorm looked like four years ago and how it looks now. I hope I’m one of the role models who set the pace now, that I can give back with the same generosity and responsibility.”

Close friend and senior Hassane Fiteni noted that Feigenberg’s reputation as a proctor is well-deserved. “He goes out of his way to make sure the younger kids are adjusting to the Exeter lifestyle. In the first few weeks he’d make sure that they always have someone to go to D-hall with,” he said. “I remember back in pre-COVID, before he was even a proctor, he would always leave a seat on the

side for a younger fellow, and I always respected him for that.”

Tennis coach and Math Instructor Gayatri Ramesh attested to Feigenberg’s leadership on the team. “I knew Jacob was going to be a good leader from the way he interacted with his teammates and I,” she said. “The little things he did such as putting balls away after practice and cheering on his teammates after he had finished his match meant a lot to me as a coach.”

Lower and fellow squash teammate Eric Zhang agreed, recalling Feigenberg’s work ethic. “Something we joke about on the squash team is that Jacob is always stretching or in the trainers because he is always injured,” Zhang said. “Even though there’s always something hurting physically, he always shows up ready to work. When other people make excuses like a cough or scrape to skip a match or a practice, we can always rely on Jacob to step up.”

“I’ve struggled with anxiety coming to Exeter. I felt stressed out over work and clubs, even as a prep,” Feigenberg said. “A lot of that tension showed up on the squash and tennis courts. I was not playing to win, but playing not to lose.” He thanked his coach and mentor Freddy for making his racquet sport experience so special and fulfilling, despite his struggles, adding that “working with him helped me stay focused, in the moment, and become more mindful.”

His leadership and kindness in athleticism likewise translates into the classroom and Exeter life. “He had a kind mannerism when he asked or answered questions. If there was a problem that no one signed up for, he was willing to get up and put a few steps down to get us started so we could finish it as a group,” Ramesh recalled.

Feigenberg’s fellow Business Club co-head Joseph Chen joked, “Even though he’s going into

business, I can confidently say Jacob’s not a snake, or so I’ve been led to believe...”

“He’s down to help me. He’s always down hearing other people’s problems. He’s a very good listener,” Fiteni added. “I see him as a role model for biracial kids. He’s in touch with his identity, appreciating his Vietnamese roots and his European American roots. I was a little self-conscious and insecure when I came to Exeter. But he really was an inspiration.”

“One of my fondest memories on this campus was my bike-ride with Jacob on Principal’s Day two years ago,” Fiteni continued. “It was a quintessential thing to do for a quintessential Exonian, and I felt for the first time that I really was part of the community. It was special with him around.”

Senior Joshua Lum also appreciated Feigenberg’s company. “I’m realizing now how he has made me feel more welcome at Exeter from the beginning to the end. He’s always dependable. If you need somebody to hang out with you at all, I feel like I could always just go to his room and say, ‘yo, what’s up.’ Or if there was an event happening, I can call and be like, ‘yo, you want to go to like the comedian in the assembly hall?’ He’s always there. And it’s just nice to know.”

Feigenberg shared some advice for lowerclassmen: “If you have a passion, something that you really want to do or try, it doesn’t have to go through Exeter. Just like how entrepreneurship is just one way of problem solving, there are multiple ways to succeed. Most of all, try to learn something about yourself.”

Feigenberg also hopes to inspire Exonians by leaving readers with his favorite quote: “Piglet sidled up to Pooh from behind. ‘Pooh!’” he whispered. ‘Yes, Piglet?’ ‘Nothing,’ said Piglet, taking Pooh’s paw. ‘I just wanted to be sure of you.’” (A.A. Milne, *The House at Pooh Corner*.)

An Interview With John Murillo

By MAYA COHEN, JESSICA HUANG and SAFIRA SCHIOWITZ

Award-winning poet John Murillo gave a reading to students on February 18th as part of the 2020-2021 Lamont Poetry Series. Murillo is the author of the poetry collections, *Up Jump the Boogie*, finalist for both the *Kate Tufts Discovery Award* and the *Pen Open Book Award*, and *Kontemporary Amerikan Poetry*. He is an assistant professor of English at Wesleyan University and also teaches in the low residency MFA program at Sierra Nevada College. (Courtesy of John Murillo)

What do you hope your readers will take away from your poems?

That’s a huge question. I hope that they’re moved, I hope they’re entertained. There’s not necessarily a

message, you know, in writing these poems. In a way, it was just me reflecting on my own life and the lives of those around me.

So if readers can maybe connect and see something of their own story in there—even if it’s their own fallibility. Part of the speaker that I invent for these poems is a speaker who is flawed—who has a lot to work out. And maybe that gives the reader permission to acknowledge their own flaws and know that they can move through the world without being perfect.

The poems that deal with racial injustice, maybe, give readers an occasion to think about ways that they themselves may be complicit or have experienced racial injustices. And, maybe, they haven’t really thought about it deeply. So, maybe, the poems give rise to new questions.

Where do you find inspiration for your poems and, more specifically, in “Kontemporary Amerikan Poetry”? Obviously there are a lot of references in there. But what were the bigger things for the overall book?

My inspiration, honestly, comes from other poets, comes from the people I read and wanting to contribute to the conversation. And I think that’s different than wanting to necessarily be as famous as these people or to be as “good” as people, right? There’s this long tradition of people who really did some amazing work.

And, you know, if I can add something valuable and inspiring to that conversation that’s been taking place over the past few 100 years, that’s inspiring. So there’s that. And then there’s also, again, poetry as a way to really process some of my own living, as a way to really create something out of

the mess of our lives; that’s been an inspiration as well.

A lot of our classes noticed that you covered things such as racism, police brutality and identity. Were there any personal experiences or other events that influenced them? How did you choose your references, or historical events some of your poems are based on?

There have been actual incidents. For the most part, police officers that I’ve known personally have been cool people. I used to be a school teacher, and when some of the parents who are police will come pick up their kids, you know, we got along well.

I used to be a personal trainer, and some of the guys I worked with were cops, and we’re cool. But I knew them in a different context; I think there’s something about when the uniform goes on and you are now in

the mode of policing, controlling, something happens to the personality.

So there were incidents, you know, like the incident I mentioned in the poem where my father and I got pulled over and I saw guns drawn on my father as a teenager when I was 17. We got pulled over and guns [were] drawn and I got poked in the chest, really hard with a knife stick for not sitting down quickly enough. We weren’t doing anything wrong. But again, it’s more than just my own experience.

A friend of my sister’s was shot dead, unarmed, when he was a teenager by a police officer. There’s a guy I went to school with—Ta-Nehisi Coates writes about him in *Between the World and Me*—Prince Jones Jr., who was gunned down when I was in college. So, you know, a lot of firsthand experiences.

But beyond that, again, this is an experience that I’ve seen over and over the lives of others, and it’s

something you never get used to. It’s something that is constantly enraging. And, you know, knowing that it’s, for all we know, will be a consistent part of our story, it’s continuously infuriating. So, the poems are a place, a site for me to kind of process some of that.

Is there anything you cut from *Kontemporary Amerikan Poetry*? Why did you decide to cut it out?

Absolutely. I’m in the business of writing poems, and I want to write the best poems I can. And, like I was saying, they don’t always get there, you know. For every poem that made it into the book, there are probably three or four that did not. And these are poems—not even drafts—these are poems that were taken through all the revision processes, and after it’s all said and done, still weren’t good enough. Not to mention all the failed drafts and false starts and ideas and notes that never quite made it.

You know, there’s poet-

Staff Of The Week: Linda Sandborn



Linda Sandborn smiles at D-Hall.

Everyone who knows Dining Hall Staff Member Linda Sandborn will tell you that she is a hard worker and is quick to offer a smile to staff and students alike. “I have known Ms. Sandborn for many years. Ms. Sandborn is always will-

ing to help out and go the extra mile whenever asked,” Director of Dining Services Melinda Leonard said.

Sanborn began at the Academy 6 years ago and has been spreading her pos-

itivity across campus ever since. She has enjoyed connecting with students that come by Elm Street Dining Hall. “I can’t say I have a favorite memory because it is the day-to-day being with

everyone that I enjoy.” Sanborn said. “I really and truly enjoy talking to students and learning more about them.”

Sanborn has also enjoyed working alongside all of her colleagues. “We work and

have fun and that is important to me in any job,” Sanborn said.

Her coworkers share the same sentiment: many have fond memories of Sanborn inside and out of D-hall. Wetherall manager Heidi Dumont recalled that “many years ago [Sanborn] was helping me bring out glass Perrier waters to an outside event... I told her to be very careful ... and no sooner did I say the words, the cart went down and all the bottled waters shattered.”

Laughing, Dumont said, “I do not work with Linda every day but when I do, we remember not to cry over spilled water!”

Sanborn has taken part in many campus traditions. “I enjoy when we have karaoke and the Jazz festival,” Sanborn said. “There is quite an energy from the students. It’s nice to see them have fun.”

“[A] favorite food that the students seem to enjoy is when we have chicken nuggets or steak tips. It is also nice to see that many of you will get the vegetables as well.”

When she’s not working, Sanborn has spent her time outside. “I work many hours, so in my free time I enjoy a simple walk with my dog, Izzy. I get out late so it is dark and I really love walking on the plains when the stars are bright and it is so quiet,” she said. “[Though] I don’t get to do it very often, I love camping.”

Friend of Sanborn Rachel Perkins recalled their yearly camping trips as one of their favorite memories. “We have lots of memories, but [my favorite] is our camping trips that we do every summer,” Perkins said. “We sit by the fire and laugh all night.”

Sanborn has also valued quality time at home with her family as well. “I enjoy playing games with my family. I also like to sit outside in a camping chair on my porch with Izzy hanging out and a cup of coffee while reading a mystery book,” she said. “I love to appreciate the simple things in life.”

Sanborn encourages students to persevere through any challenges the school throws at them. “Please know you are not alone and you all are amazing students. I believe in enjoying what you do for work,” she said. “Do the best you can at whatever you do. Challenge yourself, it will be rewarding... Try new things so you have no regrets.”

Though COVID-19 has brought a few changes to how Sanborn interacts with students, she has worked to bring normalcy back to students. “I used to be able to talk more with students. Now it’s [just] a quick hello,” she said. “Just know we all would love to bring things back for you. The staff works hard in trying to create new memories. We move forward.”

Mohamed Kane/ *The Exonian*

Exeter Cribs: Zofia’s Cozy Corner

By ANGELA ZHANG and JESSICA HUNAG

An impressive shoe gallery greets those who enter senior Zofia Kierner’s room. To the viewer’s left is a mini coffee station and up ahead a minimalist desk space greets you. A gentle, blue glow from her LED strip lights illuminates the room, complimenting Kierner’s refreshing color theme: a swirl of white, gold and blue. Lower Leonor Coles-Vollmer, a fellow dorm mate, said that Zofia Kierner’s room looks like it is “straight out of [a] magazine.”

Though Kierner is originally from Poland, she currently lives in Boston. Kierner has aimed to keep her room in Moulton house practical and clean—a space where she can be both productive and have fun. “I like when things are in the same place. Shoes in one spot, clothes are color coordinated...it’s just an organization kind of thing,” she explained.

By the entrance, Kierner has used the built-in shelf that spans her entire wall

to store her collection of shoes, books and other miscellaneous items. She has a small table nearby, which functions as a grab-and-go spot supplied with perfume and face masks as well as a Keurig machine.

Her lofted bed, topped with cozy blankets and pillows, provides additional storage space underneath. This has made her room tidy and open despite its seemingly small square footage. Kierner didn’t fail to decorate her walk-in closet either. LED strip lights line her closet, extending the ambiance to her storage areas as well.

Kierner’s personality is especially emphasized by her desk space. A bright marble-print tapestry hangs above her working area, the star of her room’s color theme. The desk is completely clear of any clutter, reflecting Kierner’s cleanliness and efficient organization. Photographs, incense and house plants are her more personal touches.

Before setting up her room, Kierner kept her dorm mates in mind, striving to make it a welcoming



Zofia does homework on her lofted bed.

Courtesy of Zofia Kierner

space. “We [have] so many new kids in Moulton this year... It was important for me to create a space that other people will want to sit down and do homework together!” she said with a smile.

According to her friends,

Kierner has met her goal. “I love Zofia’s room! It’s so comfortable and fun to hang out in or study,” Coles-Vollmers said.. “It’s the perfect place to do homework after a long day of online classes and Zofia is always willing to help.”

Prep Audrey Sim added

that she frequently visits Kierner’s room as well. It does a good job at reflecting the “lively type of person” she is, Sim said.

Lower Sarah Stein who shared Sim’s love of the vibrancy in Kierner’s room added, “[She’s] a great artist...she showed our advisory group a few of her

paintings, and they were amazing!”

Kierner has made an impression on her fellow dorm mates not only through her immaculately designed room but also through her radiantly creative and kind spirit. Her door, she says, is always open.

How Has the February Quarantine Been Going for You?

“The trails have been really great. Walking them is a good way to catch up with friends in a COVID-friendly environment, get some exercise, and take a break from school. It’s also beautiful right now with all the snow.” Polly Vaillant, '23.

“I actually don’t mind the quarantine period, because it’s short, and therefore [it’ll be] over sooner. I know the rules are strict and outside it’s freezing, but I still really enjoy going on walks with my friends and do not mind eating some meals outside.” Azza Uwhubetine, '23.

“During the quarantine period, I’ve been going on a lot of long walks, listening to music and podcasts, and trying to work on my general well-being.” Annabel Ramsay, '21.

“I’m a day stud and it’s nice to see my friends again, but going outside is difficult, especially with the weather. I’ll probably just remain at home until things start opening up again.” Sophie Zhu, '24

“Recently, I’ve been going on walks with friends. It’s a great chance to breathe some fresh air and better than being cooped up in my dorm room all day. It is very exciting to see all the snow and it makes the cold a little more bearable.” Sofia Morais, '23.

“I’m in the quarantine unit so after I get out I’m excited to see my other friends again and go back to my dorm room because I just decorated it before I had to leave.” - Anvi Bhate '24

“I agree with the Academy that it was necessary to take this time to quarantine and I’m glad they did so... I’m just hoping that everyone, the students and faculty, are doing their part to keep the community safe.” Alexa Murat '23.

“I really feel for the students during this week of intense quarantine! There are even fewer ways to have meaningful person-to-person connection[s] than normal, and that is genuinely tough. So far, the students in my classes seem to be keeping their spirits up, and it makes me happy to see. If we can tough it out now, hopefully we will be able to have some real fun down the road. Gotta hang in there and pay it forward.” - Eric Schultz, Music Instructor

“You know, I thought that having all this extra time would give me too much time to sit in my thoughts, but it’s actually been really nice. It’s given me a chance to make more sense of my own mind, which also helps me destress. Being quarantined at home, I’ve also been able to cook and bake for myself and my family, basically enjoying the slow pace of life and embracing my inner grandma.” -Claire Fu '22

“The quarantine period does not seem as strict as the school made it out to be. Yes, we do not have access to a lot of facilities, but I’m not sure how kids from different dorms being together during meal times or otherwise helps with the quarantine.” -Advay Nomula '24

Matter Magazine: The Physics Of Face Masks

By THORA JORDT

COVID-19 has been an ongoing threat to public health and safety this past year, prompting many government health agencies to recommend that citizens wear face coverings. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), face coverings may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others. Face masks are most effective when used in public settings where social distancing is more difficult to maintain.

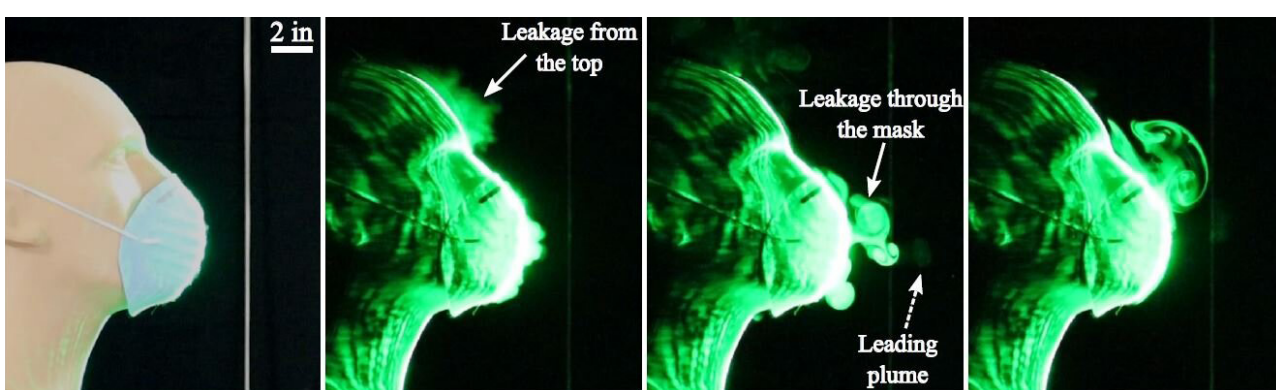
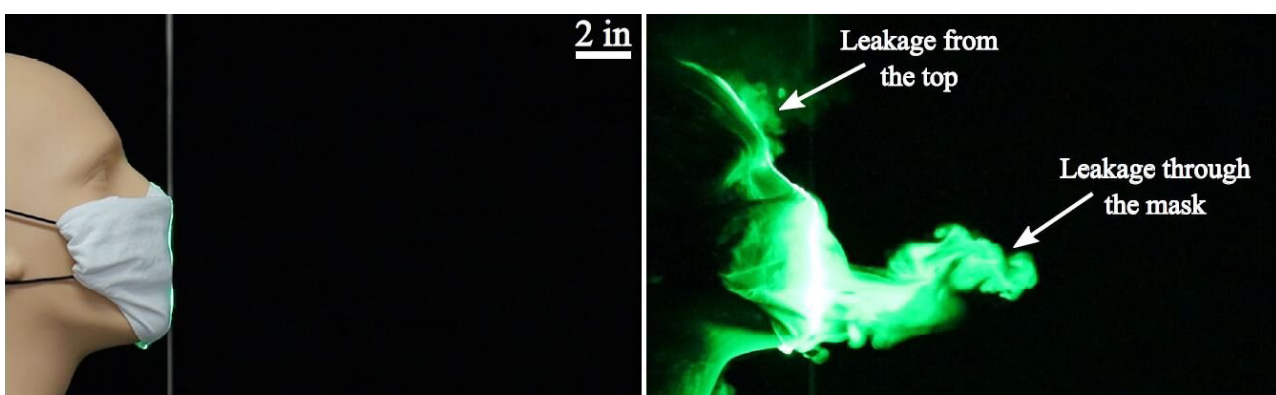
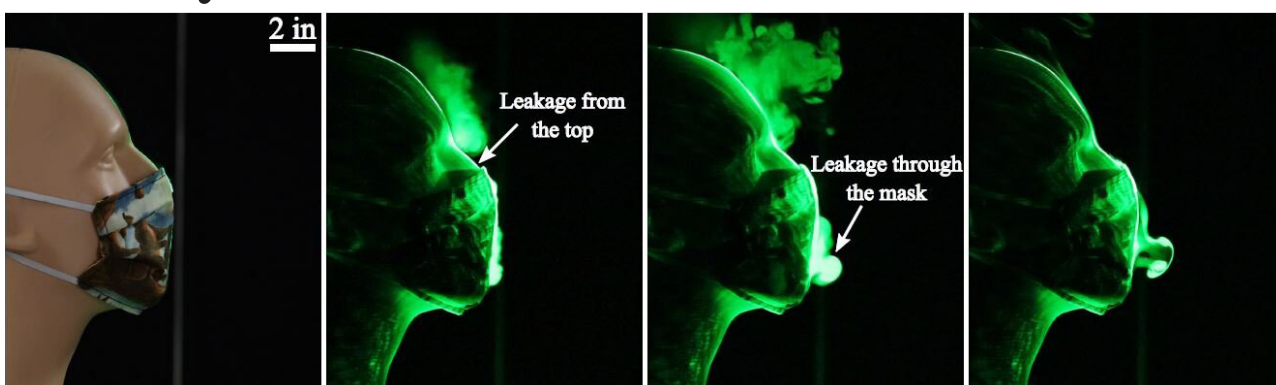
Recent studies have proven the effectiveness of the N95 and surgical masks, but there has been very little research in regards to cloth masks. How effective are these masks, and how exactly do they work to prevent the spread of the virus? Researchers from the Florida Atlantic University's College of Engineering and Computer Science answered this question in *Physics of Fluids*. The researchers simulated human cough projectiles using a mannequin, a laser light sheet, and a mixture of distilled water and glycerin to mimic airborne droplets.

The researchers first tackled a cough without a mask. The droplets traveled 12 feet within 50 seconds, which was surprising given that the CDC directs people to maintain only 6 feet of distance. In addition, the droplets were able to stay suspended in the air for up to three minutes. If this were a real-life situation with an infected individual, it would be very likely that others would be infected even if everyone had a mask on and stayed six feet apart.

The first mask tested

was a single layer bandana covering. After the cough left the mannequin's 'mouth,' the cough droplets leaked straight through the fabric and traveled 3 feet and 7 inches. The second mask tested was a loosely folded cloth covering, which reduced the distance to 1 foot and 3 inches. This data indicates that bandanas and single-layered cloth masks still allow the COVID-19 virus to be transferred to other nearby individuals, who mistakenly assume they are protected. Cloth masks and bandanas weave the illusion that the virus is contained, but the data proves that they are ineffective at protecting the health of others. The third mask tested was a quilted double-layered cloth mask, which has been very popular among young adults and teens due to the patterns and styles available. The simulated cough only traveled 2.5 inches. This is a major improvement from the previous 1 foot and 3 inches distance, confirming that the quilted cloth mask sold by many fashion retailers is effective.

Furthermore, researchers tested a cone-style mask, which is available at many pharmacies and online. The droplets from the simulated cough traveled up to 8 inches. This is important because many consumers believe that these cone-style masks are the best on the market due to their apparent similarity to the N95 masks used in hospitals, although they are not made of the same filtering materials. However, the 8-inch distance is certainly a great reduction from the 12-foot distance recorded earlier in the study.



Quilted double-layered mask. 2.5 in.

Courtesy of Florida Atlantic University

This research shows that there are certain masks that do significantly reduce the risk of infection, while others may create an illusion of safety when it is not necessarily present. Most important-

ly, it recognizes significant flaws in current public health guidelines, and urges government health agencies to enforce stricter, safer guidelines, as well as provide more specific information about

the best types of masks to wear. The scientists were able to use materials widely available to the public in order to make important discoveries that have the potential to vastly improve public health.

For latest news and information on how to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, please visit the Centers for Disease Control at <https://www.cdc.gov>.

An Interview With John Murillo Cont.

ry as expression, and then there's poem as a main thing, and part of being a poet is being your own harshest critic and being able to say, you know, so there were poems that maybe the idea behind them was good, but I just didn't have the juice that time. For instance, there's a poem in the book. (They're poems with the titles on positive on negative capability on professionalism, so on so forth.)

I had a poem called "On Rhyme" which, again, had a good idea. It was my father and I playing basketball, and it was about the first time when I beat my father in bas-

ketball. And in, you know, in our little hoop that he set up on our house. And what that meant, you know, being, you know, of a certain size and and you know, defeating your hero, and what that was like, the whole bloody effort not to get an elbow to the teeth and I was bleeding and all these great details in a poem it was rhyming. But I couldn't find a way to in the poem that was satisfying. So it just didn't make the cut and, you know, and I push it and push and push it never got there.

So you know, you have to consider your reader, it's not about me what I want to, you

know, it's about you guys so if the poem isn't going to be entertaining to you, or good enough, then you will make the cut. So those decisions are hard but they're necessary.

What perspectives, or beliefs, have you challenged with Kontemporary American Poetry?

I guess I would say the main one, you know, before any of the poems started, I have an epigraph. One is: "I know this isn't much. // But I wanted to explain this life to you, even if // I had to become, over the years, someone else to do it."

The first one is by Larry and the second one is by Henry, "'You're lying,' said Memory. 'You're asleep,' said Forgetfulness" and part of this is kind of in conversation with his fictionalized version of myself that I've made up over the years to mythologize. It's the self that I've created in order to face the self. So, I'm really pushing against this idea of what it means to be a good person, you know.

In the first moment of the book the speaker, I, or not I, is sticking a gun in someone else's mouth because he says something he shouldn't have said that cost the speaker his

girlfriend. The speaker in his poems is often violent, maybe still has some vestiges of toxic masculinity that he's dealing with. Rather than trying to present a speaker who is washed clean of all these I present a speaker that is flawed, like I was saying earlier.

So the idea that I'm pushing back against is that we ever get there, that, you know, [if] any of us ever is a wholly good person. We're not. You guys have already done some messed up stuff and if you haven't you will, it's just part of living right? If you haven't broken somebody's heart you're gonna break somebody else's heart just because [you're] on your way to becoming who you're going to be, right?

And you're going to disappoint yourself.

And, you know, recently there's been a lot of them. We haven't really allowed ourselves that generosity, you know, to each other. When somebody says or does something wrong, we don't allow them that room to evolve and grow as people, right; we want to cut them off. You know that. And the speakers of my poems, you know, they're not that. In essence, it goes back to [the] question [of what readers should take away from my poems].

If nothing else, I think I hope this collection allows people to allow themselves the permission to mess up and be messed up.

Movie Review Column: Palm Springs

By TUCKER GIBBS

I only had to say two words to convince my dorm mates to watch *Palm Springs* over the weekend: Andy Samberg.

In the movie, the Brooklyn-99 co-star played his Nyles, a thirty-something man trying to find his place in the world to perfection. Almost effortlessly, he makes witty jokes about his predicaments while tenderly falling in love with his co-star Cristin Milioti, who plays Sarah.

Much of the film is

devoted to their blossoming friendship and romance, as well as Sarah's struggle to find her place in her family.

The movie begins with a wedding ceremony, one of many that appear throughout the movie. Sarah, a reluctant maid of honor, is dramatically saved from an embarrassing forced speech by none other than Nyles, dressed in a trademark Hawaiian shirt that keeps its presence on screen for the rest of the film.

While they hadn't met before, things

quickly get "spicy," so to speak, between them until Nyles finds a red glowing cave that remains shrouded in mystery throughout the movie. Shouting at Sarah, "don't come in here," he goes inside, seemingly disappearing. Sarah, worried about her newfound friend/lover, follows Nyles into the cave anyways. Though she didn't know it at the time, she had joined Nyles in an "infinite time loop," à la *Groundhog Day*.

When the day resets and Sarah wakes up again in the same

place as the previous day, she is understandably confused and outraged at Nyles, who brought her into this situation. In what Nyles describes as "the phases," Sarah attempts to get out of the time loop through various means, all of which fail until she begins to accept her fate: being stuck with Nyles in a never ending day.

The screenwriting, when combined with Samberg and Milioti's masterful performances, effectively tells a story of pain, friendship and love; two people re-living

the same day with charm, humor, and both ups and downs.

The characters each have their own arc in which they discover a new way forward—if they ever get out of the loop. We don't see much of Nyles' past life, but Sarah had been the outcast of her family, someone generally alone in the world. That all changes when she realizes she's stuck in time, and decides to live her best, carefree life with Nyles.

The cinematography in *Palm Springs* supports this theme of letting go and living it up: we get excellent montages, cos-

tuming, and settings that range from a biker bar to a swanky resort.

Close-up shots in confined spaces and dramatic cuts all further the story and keep watchers engaged. In an age where I'm usually tempted to pull out my phone during a movie, *Palm Springs* never had a dull moment in its 90-minute journey.

I would highly recommend *Palm Springs* to anyone looking for a good, quick comedy—as long as you don't mind unrealistic physics in the name of entertainment.

» **SEXUAL ASSAULT**

Ellie Ana Sperantsas '24 calls for more acknowledgement and transparency in handling sexual assault, 10.

» **RACE**

Safira Schiowitz '23 interrogates the recent establishment of parent affinity groups, 10.

» **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Hassane Fiteni '21 argues you shouldn't vote in the upcoming StuCo election.

First Writes

The Executive Board

The Exonian's existence is contingent on privilege. The generous endowment that sustains our operations, the rich history which informs our work and the institution of the Academy itself—a 1.3 billion dollar high school—form the foundation which makes *The Exonian* possible. To attain any hope of becoming a truly anti-racist organization, we must first acknowledge this truth.

As Since 1878 revealed, the history of *The Exonian* is as troubling as it is deep. The legacy we inherit is rife with racism, prejudice and exclusion. We have witnessed how *The Exonian* has historically weaponized journalism to create harmful narratives against marginalized groups—particularly Black community members who have passed through the Academy. As the 143rd Board worked to uncover the past twenty years in Since 1878: 2000-2020, our Martin Luther King Jr. Day special issue, we saw how our past informs our present.

We acknowledge this racist present we step into, and deem this acknowledgement necessary to pursuing anti-racism. We also choose to hold hope. It is easy to be cynical and claim that our deeply entrenched history of prejudice renders *The Exonian* unable to make substantive anti-racist change, but shying away from pursuing anti-racist work under the guise of cynicism has never been an option for the people who have suffered and continue to suffer under a racist present.

Despite *The Exonian's* flaws, we, the 143rd Executive Board, proudly lead our newspaper because we fundamentally believe *The Exonian* has the capacity to do good. Each of us believes that journalism at its best is an agent of empathy. By

writing the narratives of students and staff who tirelessly serve our community, we believe we can promote a greater understanding of one another. From the custodians in our dormitories to the health workers who work tirelessly to keep us safe to the student activists who foster safe communities amidst national crises—there are so many stories of hope, solidarity and community which exist at Exeter. These stories are the reason why we write every week. The 143rd Board believes that when we tell each other our stories, when we listen with undivided attention, when we empathize with all our heart, we chart a course of progress.

Over the next year, we hope to sow the seeds of a new *The Exonian*. We will relentlessly pursue the truth and hold systems of power on campus accountable. We will conscientiously inform and equip those seeking to effect progress with diverse perspectives and information. We will listen with undivided attention to every story and amplify the voices which need to be heard. We will tell stories, listen, fail, learn, and grow. We will make this newspaper the best that it can be.

With great hope,
Daniel Zhang, Lina Huang, Moksha Akil, Anya Tang and Otto Do

News

As a student-centered newspaper, *The Exonian* serves as both a historical archive and source of information for the Academy. We, the 143rd News Board, dedicate ourselves to journalism that upholds values of integrity and objectivity, facilitating an educational experience for all our writers and acting as a platform for positive change on campus.

Integrity defines

the News section. We promise to uphold unbiased, accurate and holistic reporting that presents news about the Academy in its most truthful form. We also recognize that true integrity cannot exist without active anti-racism; in order to keep our promises, we must bring the stories of minority groups, whose voices are frequently overlooked, into the limelight. We will think critically about our community, write for *The Exonian's* extensive audience and contribute to the Academy's efforts to promote diversity, equity and inclusion.

Throughout our tenure, we will educate our writers, encourage fearless reporting and help writers develop confidence and familiarity with the journalistic process. Additionally, we commit ourselves to accessibility and support for all aspiring writers. In doing so, we hope to prepare the 144th Board for the challenges of reporting on a new era of the Academy.

Finally, the News section will serve as a platform for progress. Our goal is to initiate important conversations about improvements to the community through our reporting. Using our voice, we will hold the Academy, the community and ourselves accountable for all our actions.

Signed,
Tina Huang, Amy Lum, Andrea Luo and Hansi Zhu

Life

Life at Exeter this year could not have been more different. From long lines at the pizza truck, to the plexiglass that invades our classrooms and bathrooms, life at Exeter continues to be unique, challenging and constantly changing. We, Indrani, Taraz and Jeannie, the Life section of the 143rd Board, are committed to creating a space that reflects the

ebbs and flows of our community.

We will encompass Exeter's vibrant culture and community, and we want to do this through the people themselves. We will focus more on the clubs and students that advance our board's vision for diversity, equity, and inclusion, which we hope will give voice to the passionate Exonians who give so much to our school. To create more inclusive and unique features, we commit to making our community outreach more diverse as well.

In addition, we hope to assess and change our current system for choosing weekly spotlights to better represent who and what this community is all about. This means that we commit to spending our days here with keen eyes, looking for the sparks that keep campus truly alive. We want to know each and every one of you, and we want this paper to be both accurate and relevant for the Academy's community across every inch of campus (yes, we suppose that means we'll have to leave our rooms every once in a while).

We ask you to help us highlight what parts of the Exeter experience mean the most. At the end of the day, the Life section is about you, our readers, and we hope that you can see yourself and Exeter's spirit in each article printed on our pages.

Signed,
Indrani Basu, Jeannie Eom and Taraz Lincoln

Opinions

Exeter is not simply an institution; it is a community driven by conversation. We argue, we connect, we grow. To be an Exonian is to adopt a unique, high standard of thinking and the societal responsibility that follows.

As such, Exeter must be defined by its diversity of thought

and opinion. Our mission is to bring together that community of scholars from vastly different countries, religions and cultures.

We, the 143rd Board Opinion Editors, pride ourselves in engaging readers each and every week with articles that drive change and challenge conventionality. In contrast to the other sections, the Opinion section offers a necessary pillar of subjectivity and individual perspective to form the foundation of Exonian dialogue. In our section, you will disagree, empathize and discover. You will gain a true, unfiltered glimpse into the microcosm of Exonian thought.

Most importantly, we strive to provide Exonians from all backgrounds with the means and platform to share their stories and engage in meaningful dialogue. We wish to confront the historical neutrality of Exeter and *The Exonian* in the face of discrimination and injustice. We seek to harness the unique powers of perspective, analysis and conversation that emerge from our curious, critical and ambitious Exeter community.

Signed,
Evan Gonzalez, Manan Mendiratta and Maxine Park

Sports

What do you get when you combine three fish and some random land animal? Nope, not the 142nd Sports Section editors, but the 143rd Sports Section editors: Toby Chan, Georgie Venci, Sydney Kang, and Ginny Vazquez! As sports editors, we firmly believe in saving the best for last, which is why you will find the sports articles on the last page of *The Exonian*. Check in every Thursday for news about your favorite school sports teams, coaches, and friends in Athlete of the Week, beats, and Quippy Quote Boxes! We know you've

missed Chazz's Quippy Quote boxes, but no worries, we are happy to introduce the best Venci, and will be continuing Georgie's Quippy Quote Boxes. Although we have not had any interscholastic sports competitions this past year, we will make sure to provide you with top notch articles on Big Red sports. We know the team Zoom meetings have been keeping you on the edge of your seat!

Signed,
Toby Chan, Sydney Kang, Ginny Vazquez-Azpiri and Georgie Venci

Humor

Do you like DaBaby? Now that we have the attention of our target audience, allow us to introduce ourselves. We are the Humor section of *The Exonian*, the best section of them all. Here, we create memes (sometimes of DaBaby), listicles (often of DaBaby) , and articles (always of DaBaby). From Daniel Zhang roasts to campus commentary, we do it all. We are the one-stop-shop for 99% of Exonians too lazy to read the news section. Trust me, we know more about the state of the Academy than the news editors thanks to a four-way network of military-grade walkie talkies we bought with our copious club money. DaBaby. We at Humor promise to rise to the occasion and make every single member of the Exeter community (on and off campus) chuckle heartily. The humor section's dedicated, godly editors (and primary writers): Jack, Charles (Blake?), Chieko, and Dorothy, strive for consistent, entertaining content (just like our role model DaBaby). We hope that we can make him proud.

Signed,
Dorothy, Chieko, Blake (Charles?), Jack

The Exonian

We would like to acknowledge the Squamscott/Penacook peoples who were the first peoples of this land. We would like to honor their ancestors, descendants and future generations for caring for this area and allowing us to be here today.

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

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

Silence in the Face of Allegations

By ELLIE ANA SPERANTSAS '24

Over the course of five days, Principal Rawson has sent two emails regarding sexual assault at the Academy, one on visiting scholar and Princeton professor Joshua Katz and the second on the Academy's own English Instructor David Weber.

As a new student, I was unfamiliar with the desensitization the Academy's community has leaned into that I now realize is apparent. I am disgusted.

Since these two emails, I have heard little more than silence from the community. Two emails detailing

such egregious behavior in the span of less than a week is not normal. This, however, was not enough to pull our community out of silence.

There is yet to be a discussion by both the Academy and students. Likewise, classes have not paused to discuss. Sadder still, informal social conversations, often the most transparent lens into student opinion, only mentioned it in passing.

Two instances of sexual assault should be enough to spark a close examination of our culture as a school. We cannot allow this to be just another "Letter to the Community."

Principal Rawson acknowledged in his email on February 15 that he regrets "the secondary harm this may cause for some of our community members" and offered the services of multiple on-campus resources including Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). This response is unacceptable and for multiple reasons.

It addresses the issue but provides no plan for meaningful change moving forward. As a community, we have lacked in how we handle the aftermath of sexual assault. Our community culture—our silence—allows for it.

Yes, nobody seriously af-

ected by discussion of sexual assault should be forced to confront something so traumatic for them, but the rest of the community has no excuses.

The frequency of these allegations should not foster a norm of silence around the issue; it should be an opportunity to sit down and seriously contemplate what leads to so many allegations all over.

These emails should be an opportunity for us to hold the groups of people who are most likely to commit sexual misconduct accountable. We need preventative training for students and faculty. And this training must be consistent.

It is unacceptable to discuss sexual assault only once or twice a year when that inevitable email enters our inboxes.

The knowledge that sexual misconduct is prevalent on campus should serve as an opportunity for us to create stronger support systems for everyone affected. It should be an opportunity for discussion.

We need to understand that it is not the victim's fault for getting assaulted, nor should it be their responsibility to speak up. We must create a stronger structure for those who have fallen victim to the sexual predators in our community. CAPS might not be enough.

We need stronger, swifter responses in the face of accusations. The Acad-

emy's desire to keep allegations under the rug is not reason enough to prevent them from informing the community about allegations as serious as the ones we say. It should be the first thing that comes up when you search their name and the last thing they hear before they are asked to step down from their position.

We need rapid change against our culture of sexual assault. Normalizing discussion around sexual assault, and the insitutional flaws that lead to it, needs to become a cultural change, starting at a macro level and continuing, until the children 20 years from now no longer receive Letters to Our Community bi-weekly.

On Race and Affinity Groups

By SAFIRA SCHIOWITZ '23

It is necessary to begin this article with some personal and familial history. Family history is often reduced to sparse bullet points to spare survey-readers the tedious and ostensibly redundant details that make us who we are, so that is what I will list for you now. I will do so with as little literary adornment as the creative part of my brain will allow.

I am multiracial. My maternal grandmother and her family are Mexican. My maternal grandfather and his family are Haitian (with Afro-Caribbean, French and English descendants). My paternal grandmother is English and non-secularly Jewish. My paternal grandfather was a first generation American of Romanian and Jewish descent.

My mother has the phenotypic characteristics of a light-skinned Black woman. My father has the characteristics of a white man.

The Academy recently sent an email announcing the creation of affinity groups for Exeter families. I realize that these affinity groups have been organized with all the best intentions in the world. But my parents found themselves wondering which affinity group they would fit into as a mixed-race couple with a multiracial daughter. At the bottom of the

email, in italics, it stated:

Affinity groups provide opportunities for learning, fellowship, and support among members who share cultural experiences. You know you are in the right affinity group if you can say unequivocally, "I am _____" and speak to that group's collective identity and experience from the "I" and "we" perspective.

My parents want the opportunity to bond with their fellow Exeter parents and families. The existence of affinity groups is contrary to their desires. Could my father go to the "Families of Latinx Students Gathering" as a white man who technically does not himself "share cultural experiences" with Latinx families? Can my mother go to the "Families of African-American/Black Students Gathering" if her identity consists of more than an Afro-Caribbean lineage?

I do not identify as one part of my identity or the other, since solely acknowledging one facet of myself means ignoring the others. This would not be a complete representation of what makes me who I am.

Identity is strange. Humans have been trying to find it for some time. We have come to understand that gender and sexuality are fluid and changeable identities. So then why

is race largely considered an identity set in stone?

The definition of the word "race" is quite interesting. As Exonians strive to be anti-racist, I think this definition is important to mull over.

Google provides us with different contexts in which the word "race" can be used. The following is the most relevant definition for the sake of this article: It states that race is "each of the major groupings into which humankind is considered (in various theories or contexts) to be divided on the basis of physical characteristics or shared ancestry."

What fascinatingly open-ended wording. It makes a powerful clarification, however—races are the major groupings of humanity considered in various theories or contexts. What does this mean? That the definition of race is subjective. That it is based on opinion. That it is based on the situation in which it is being used, is relative, and therefore is very much changeable and just as fluid as any other human classification.

The Exeter community has already been exposed to this concept. During this past week's assembly, Dr. Anthony Ocampo discussed the correlation between perception and cultural identity. One person may consider someone from the Philippines to be a person whose racial identity is Asian,

whereas others feel that a person of Chinese or Japanese descent is 'more Asian' because of their appearance. This example highlights something crucial: race is in the eye of the beholder.

In a different Assembly, Denise and Paul Pouliot discussed their activism and the history of their Native American tribe, the Abenaki. A question which arose during the Q & A asked "As white-passing indigenous people, what has been your experience with race?" The couple explained that there are many indigenous people—in the United States and in other parts of the world—who, when walking down the street, may look like any other group of white people. As I wrote before, race is in the eye of the beholder.

It has also been scientifically and sociologically proven that race is a social and political construct, and that its biological veracity extends only to its being related to evolution—how our ancestors developed certain features to survive in certain environments. It has nothing to do with differences in DNA structure since we are all part of the same species. It has nothing to do with a genetic reason for how a person behaves, their intelligence level, athletic prowess, et cetera.

The fact is, every single person in this world is different, and that is the most important

and beautiful similarity between us. Forming a connection with someone based on race does not make sense to me for the reasons described above, but forming a connection based on shared interests, personalities, and a desire to get to know one's peers as people does.

Thus arises another question: Why do racial affinity groups exist if there really is no such thing as race? People of color experience racism in similar forms, and people from similar backgrounds may want to connect over this fact, but a Black student and an Asian student can bond for the same reasons and may end up learning more from each other than if they remained in separated circles of people.

Exonians come to Exeter for the academic rigor, for the wonderful resources, for the fantastic teachers. But most of all, we come to intermingle with people from different backgrounds. If this is the case, why self-separate into affinity groups? It is my belief that Exeter is one large affinity group. An affinity group for people who are caring, empathetic, intelligent individuals who are willing to learn from their mistakes and who, when united, can make extraordinary things happen.

Dr. Roxane Gay suggested that all affinity groups come together on a regular basis to discuss similar problems that need solving. I cannot express how strong a proponent of this I am. The conversation must be broadened. I believe that by fo-

cussing on all our similarities, positive and negative, we will have far more success in being truly anti-racist.

There are so many possible subdivisions and sub-categorizations that can be made within racial groups that at some point it must become arbitrary to make them. People who are racist and who have such hate in their hearts will end up getting their way if we continue to voluntarily divide ourselves. Such an approach to affinity groups is not creating communities. It is dividing one that is already so welcoming and inclusive.

Any discussion around identity comes down to one thing: all lives matter. Though the white supremacists say it out of spite, hatred and ignorance, I mean it literally. All lives matter. Every race, color and creed under the sun matters. We must focus on this fact.

Members of the Exeter community must think long and hard about how they define race and how others around them define race. We must consider for what purpose do affinity groups exist and whether or not they achieve that goal. Our current approach, I argue, does not do so. Dividing ourselves into affinity groups is counterproductive to creating community because when you do not fit exactly into one group, you don't belong. We must recognize the challenge affinity groups present toward creating a campus culture which celebrates difference and act accordingly.

I'm Not Voting in the StuCo Election, and You Shouldn't Either

By HASSANE FITENI '21

It's become a universal running joke told in Grill and dorm rooms around campus, and a sentiment some members of the Executive Board even acknowledged. Student Council (StuCo) accomplishes nothing. Its problems have persisted throughout my time at Exeter and for many years prior, but have never been formally addressed. The fact is, StuCo leaders have generally transitioned from their role as ineffective policy makers to freshman at Ivy League institutions.

I'm all for democracy, but frankly, Exeter doesn't have a democratic student government. The StuCo president, vice president and co-secretaries should be representing the interests of the people, legislating and advocating for improved student well-being. Yet this seldom occurs.

I cannot name any positive change the prior

boards of StuCo have enacted over the past three years, but I do remember flashy proposals that have won candidates their elections—the OneCard system, a proposed "pass-fail fall" for new lowers and a campus greenhouse. Where are these projects now? Why are we entrusting the job to students with no intention of carrying out their promises? Why do we stand by while our elected officials disregard us?

I am calling for significant revision in the Executive Board. The current positions have proven themselves unsatisfactory and ineffective. I attended StuCo meetings for the majority of my lower year and saw how individual committees enacted their own change largely independent from the Executive Board. Executives convince us that they are too busy managing a club to enact any real change, but they are oftentimes unnecessary to the function of a largely self-reliant council.

The Executive Board is not here to support us. They're here to get into Stanford.

Where was the StuCo Executive Board when Evening Prayer was changed multiple times? Or when the visitations policy (pre-COVID) became more restrictive and less conducive to organic friendships? Or when Spring Fling was canceled? Where was the transparency, the communication to the student body, the fighting for our wishes? The reason the StuCo board fails to fight for the people is not only the flaw of the individual candidate, but also a fault of the system. StuCo does not care about promoting change; in fact, it continuously upholds the status quo. Our election process is the enabler of this system.

Candidates often propose flashy events and policy to capture our attention. But once elected, they become complacent. They promise us kayaks and barbecues, but instead we

receive excuses and apologies. Exeter is victim to a cycle of candidates running on a framework that they have no intention or power to accomplish.

Instead of asking yourself what these candidates will spend \$30,000 on, ask yourself why StuCo still has \$30,000, money which could've fundamentally shaped some part of campus life over the past years. The OneCard system never came to fruition because of a lack of initiative—not a "lack of funds."

The cycle repeats itself. A prep runs for lower representative one year, secretary the next and becomes the president last. Each election, they propose flashy ideas that garner your attention and make you think they care about you. But after four years, your problems are still there. Why are we electing people a second and third time when they haven't fulfilled their promises from the first time they

were elected?

I recognize I am heavily criticizing my colleagues, but I call out these issues because I care about our school. I care about having an actual system of government that will ensure there's more Black and African food representation in the dining hall, that there are more equitable social events even in COVID times, that international students aren't being discriminated against during move-in, that fire drills don't cut into our sleep time and that Assembly has enough space for us to all sit comfortably. None of these things will happen until this position becomes more about the school than the individual.

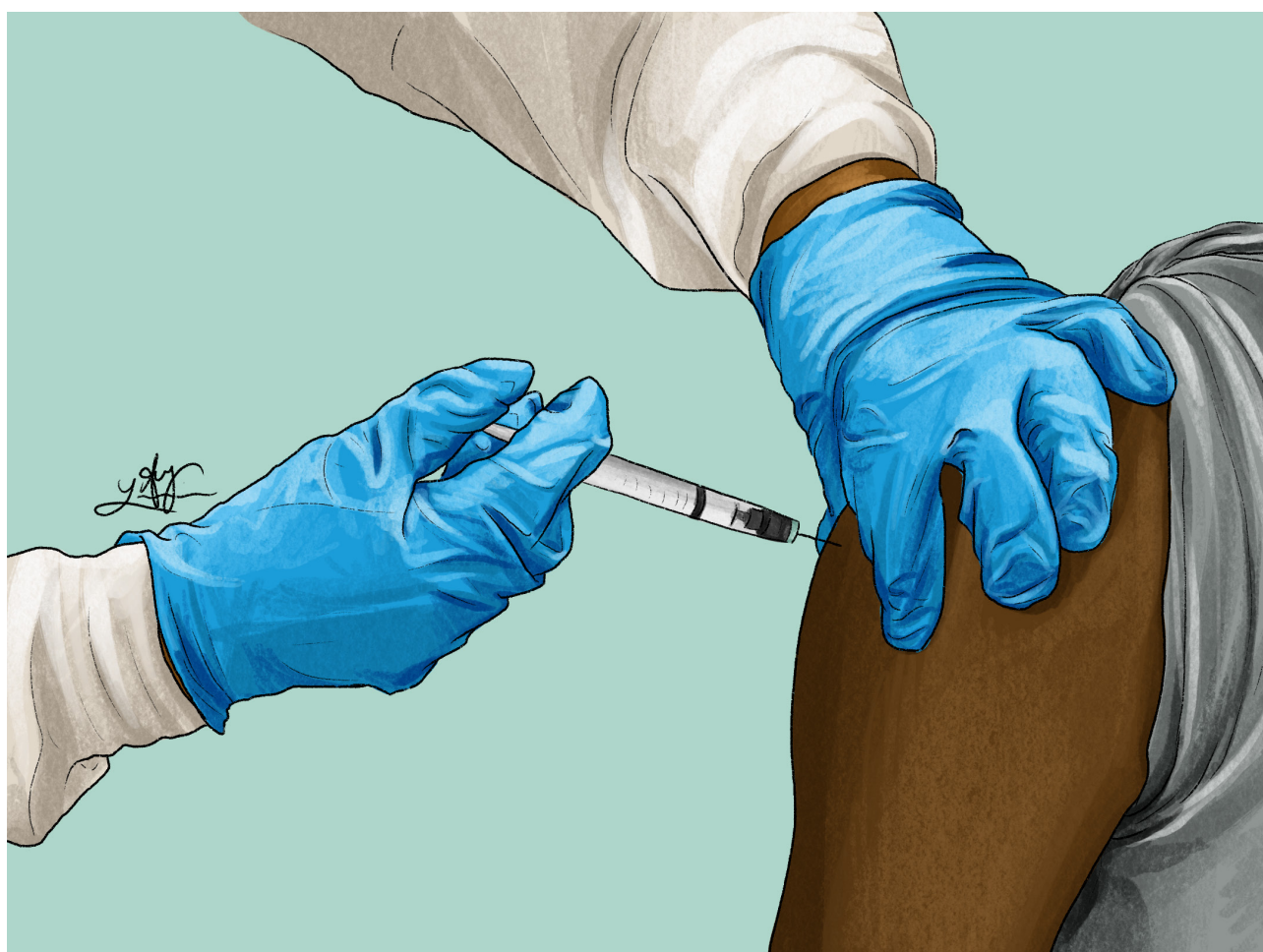
Don't vote in this upcoming StuCo election. The most powerful tool we have is our ballot, and passively casting it into a broken system actively supports the status quo. A vote for any candidate is a vote in support of a broken government. If we vote into it, we are part of the problem. Our votes enable complacency; our consistent voting is the reason nothing has changed thus far. If we want to enact change, we need to stand out and ab-

stain from the election.

Don't work for your StuCo officials to get into their dream school. Make them work for you. Convince the faculty to cancel this upcoming election, instead holding an investigation into the dealings and efficacy of the Council. Urge your peers to begin conversations with club advisers, the administration and others to enforce a government that cares for the people. Mandate checks, balances and real accountability to ensure candidates follow through on their proposals. Encourage a complete review of the student government to determine the source of lacking initiative and promise. Call out those who are looking to pad their resume and add to their college education. Encourage a satisfaction survey sent to all voting members of StuCo each term.

If the executive leaders aren't carrying out their duties and following through with their campus promises, they must be removed promptly. It is our government, after all. Do anything but stay complacent in the face of mediocrity. We deserve better.

Transparency During Vaccinations



By **ANDY HORRIGAN '23**

Although the United States vaccinates millions daily, Exeter students are a part of the last group in New Hampshire's vaccination plan, group 3B. With New Hampshire hoping to transition into phase 3B of vaccination distribution by late May, it is realistic to expect our community to have access to

vaccines by the fall. However, where does the responsibility for individual vaccination fall? We have no tangible plans for what the coming year is going to look like. Must students procure vaccinations for themselves, or is it the responsibility of the academy?

As part of their promise to be an equitable community, it is the Academy's responsibility,

both on and off campus, to protect those of us hailing from different countries, creeds and socio-economic backgrounds. Vaccination is crucial to the return of a safe campus. Exeter, as an institution, has the funds, resources and connections necessary to acquire vaccines, and thus must help students acquire them. Some international students may not have the ability

Avery Lavine/*Exonian*

to receive the vaccination due to the lack of accessibility in their home country. Similarly, low-income students may not have the resources in their local community or household for that same luxury. In the name of equity, the Academy must determine which students are unable to acquire vaccines of their own accord and work

with them to acquire one. This work must begin now.

It is in the Academy's best interest in terms of health and safety to work towards a completely vaccinated community. Complete vaccination is only viable if funded and managed by the administration. If the Academy solely places their trust in students to get vaccinated, it is not only inequitable, but we may face the same frustration and dangers that our current situation holds. In a partially-vaccinated community, the Academy would need to maintain quarantine centers, weekly testing procedures and other requirements that have made it nearly impossible to form a true sense of camaraderie this year. Beyond unnecessarily consuming the Academy's resources, partial vaccination would prove dangerous in establishing a false sense of safety on campus.

The key to a smooth return in the fall is communication and transparency between the administration and the student body. Throughout the summer, the Academy needs to work with students to figure out who has access to the vaccine and who will need to be vaccinated when they arrive. This can reasonably be facilitated through a series of surveys asking about vaccination accessibility, as well as other factors, such as medical history and religious reasons that may prevent students from receiving the vaccine. The administration also needs to communicate with the state of New Hampshire to

ensure that we can secure vaccines for those who are arriving on campus unvaccinated. If the vaccination schedule goes as planned in New Hampshire, it is a reasonable goal to attain enough vaccines by September.

Most importantly, the academy must be proactive. We should not receive a last minute email that is sent one month before we return in the fall, as seems to be the case with current Coronavirus restriction updates. Instead, the Academy must continuously inform the student body of the availability of vaccines and the process for attaining them. This process must begin by the end of this school year in order to ensure students who will not have access to the vaccine have a tangible plan to acquire one.

As we look to the fall with hope for normalcy the responsibility to deliver that solely depends on the actions of the administration throughout the coming months. The Academy must immediately begin transparent, comprehensible plans regarding vaccination for the following year. It is in the best interest of the academy to ensure each and every one of us are vaccinated; the administration cannot expect us to all be vaccinated without their aid. It is imperative the Academy utilizes their assets in order to ensure every student is vaccinated by the beginning of the following year, in order to ensure the safest and most equitable return to campus.

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Humor

“If the humor section learns how to ride a unicycle we will buy them walkie talkies.”

—Daniel Zhang '22

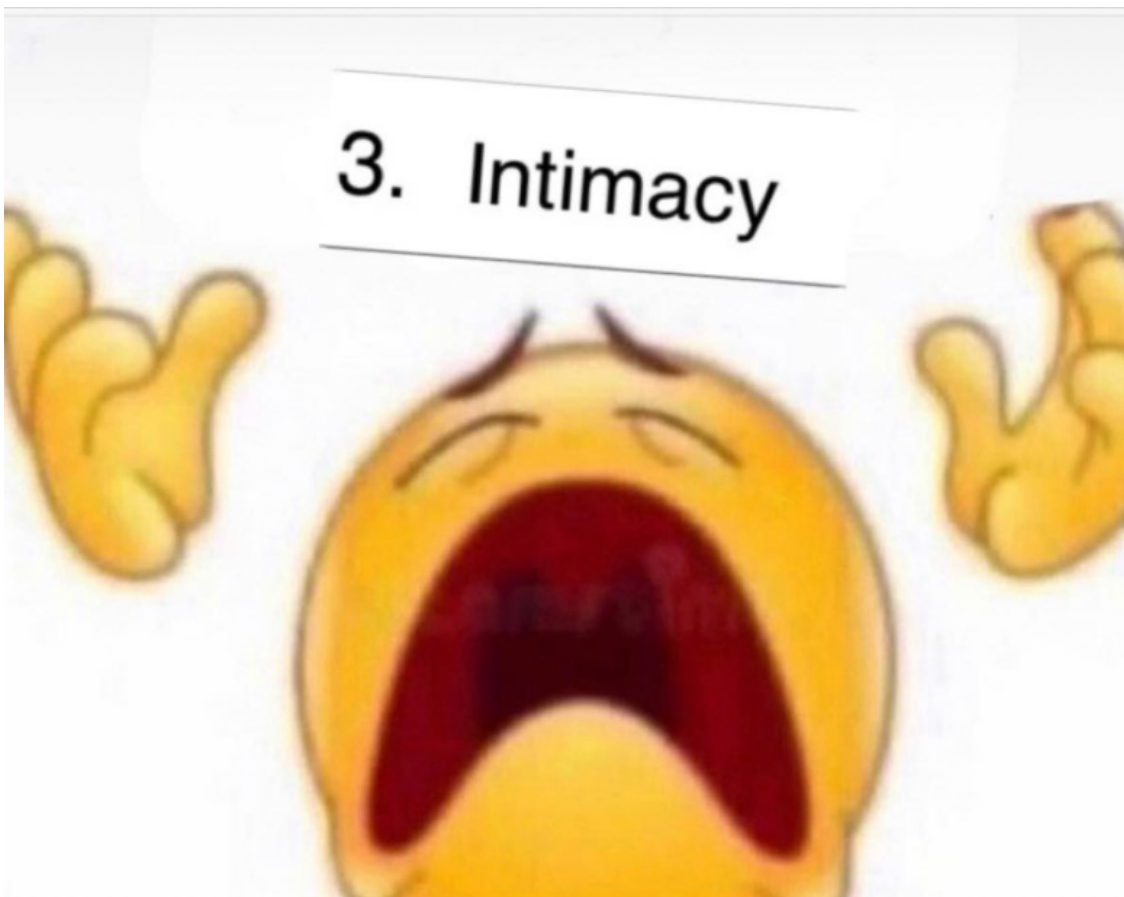
“You’ve heard of bigfoot, now get ready for deep foot.”

—Emma Reach '21

“Say quote from moksha TBD I don’t know what I’m going to say but I’ll say something funny.”

—Moksha Akil '22

Covid has forced me to make an extreme shift in lifestyle as you would expect from someone of my caliber



TFW ideas that daniel probably won't give me pictures for Pt. 1

By JACK ARCHER

1. TFW you go back to elm for fourths and they recognize you
2. TFW hoard protein tent cheeseburgers so you can start your own wendy's when you graduate
3. TFW you're about to sneeze so you instinctively lower your mask
4. TFW you're yelling at staff writers and realize you're unmuted
5. TFW you floss before taking the spit test and the vial fills up red
6. TFW no one signs up for an op-ed
7. TFW ice go crunch crunch
8. TFW someone asks you what your interests are “outside of *The Exonian*”
9. TFW DaBaby
10. TFW you write a to-do list and run out of space on your whiteboard
11. TFW when you get high off almond milk and take shirtless pictures
12. TFW your college counsellor asks what you want to major in and you don't even know what classes you have tomorrow
13. TFW you realize upperclassmen used to be able to check in after 8 and they used to actually do that
14. TFW someone calls you “Dan the man”
15. TFW you get a potato from Dhall but then lose it in your room and find it a week later and its sprouting lil baby potatoes.

My Best Driving Mistakes (Told in the Second Person for Full Immersion)

By CHARLES SIMPSON

The title speaks for itself. If you've never laughed with a Humor editor, now you can laugh at one.

Picture this: you're on 101 and a Volkswagen Westfalia full of guys who clearly play acoustic (and ONLY acoustic) guitar (and only in front of girls) passes you, joins your lane just before the exit, then refuses to use a turn signal. You're furious. You shout, “LEARN HOW TO [e x p l e t i v e] DRIVE!” This language is not unusual for an enra-

ged New England driver such as yourself, but when you then proceed to stall out on the exit ramp almost immediately after, you find yourself embarrassed.

Picture this: your car makes a hideous screeching noise if you open the door with your headlights on, even if the car is off. Because of this you turn them off every time you leave the car, so sometimes you forget to turn them back on... sometimes at night. So you're approaching a gas station and you get pulled over—oops. You let your foot off the clutch in first gear. KACHUNK! You stalled out! No big

deal; you'd've turned the car off anyway. Oops—you can't roll down the window if the car is off, so you have to turn the car back on. Oops—your Rush CD is still playing (and loudly). Second worst trip to a gas station ever.

Picture this: It's snowing and oh man do you want to go to Dunkin' Donuts (for iced coffee; who drinks hot coffee in the winter?) The roadways are covered in snow, slush, and even ice. Should you go out in this weather? Yes. Should you really? Absolutely not! Did you? Yes, yes you did. You're approaching a stoplight

and it turns yellow. You panic. Stop! You hit the brake pedal and it pulses against your foot. You're now sideways in the middle of the intersection. Collect yourself, you incompetent fool.

Did you laugh? Huh? Did you chuckle? Did you take pleasure in my misery? Well it's the least you could do considering I'VE LITERALLY NEARLY DIED TO MAKE YOU LAUGH! All in a day's work, I suppose.

*Disclaimer: His Royal Highness Charles “the Blake” Simpson does not condone driving that is dangerous, illegal, or does not look cool.

The 7 Stages of Taking A COVID Spit Test

By JACK ARCHER

Cleansing: You set a timer for half an hour, set aside the stash of Dhall bananas and cup noodles you bought from your dorm's black market, crack open your english book, and wait. Twenty minutes go by as you read the same sentence over and over again. Five minutes before the timer goes off, you realize you've been subconsciously drinking water and now you have to restart.

Construction: You carefully piece together the elaborate two part contraption designed to siphon your spit in the slowest way possible. Once it's complete, you put the straw to your lips and engage in whatever task you like to do while spitting into a bottle. Some try to do their math homework one-handed. Others check the Exeter Covid dashboard and stress out a little, wondering if they will be the reason the numbers rise in the coming days. Some kick back and watch iCarly on Netflix. Here at the humor section, Dorothy rides her unicycle, Blake finger taps his guitar, Chieko plans out her next halloween costume, and I, like many others, stare at the wall and think about life.

Corruption: Maybe you get caught up in homework. Maybe you're staring at the wall so hard you forget you're spitting into a tube. Maybe you're just forgetful. No matter the cause, you inevitably overflow the tube, and saliva spills into your palms. Gross. Although the spit running all over your hands is an issue, the 2 milliliters of spit sloshing

around in a capless bottle is a much larger one. You try to remove the straw to cap the bottle, but the strange ridges on the edge of the tube are adept at trapping spit bubbles, and dump another pile of mouth juice onto your lap.

Consternation: Once you finally wipe your hands on enough surfaces (six feet away from others, of course) and decide the stain on your shirt doesn't look like you peed yourself, you turn your attention back to your Covid test and realize that half of the spit inside of it spilled out, and now it's only half full.

Contemplation: You wonder if there's a way to collect spit in your mouth while you sleep so you never spend two hours taking a Covid test again.

Completion: At last, the little bottle of potential is capped, cleaned and crammed into the baggie from whence it came. If you have Covid, you have successfully spread it onto pretty much every surface in your room. If you don't your room is just gross. However there is no mistaking that your territory is clearly marked to any fly passing through.

Concern: As you sign your name with pride on the testing sheet (this is, after all, the only test that you can pass without studying), you realize you can't smell the odor of Dhall takeaway boxes that usually emanates from the trash can beside you. As this thought crosses your mind, you let out a single involuntary cough. Suddenly you aren't very happy to be handing in your test.

Ranking Campus Ground Rules Based on How Confusing They'd Be a Year Ago (least to greatest)

By ANONYMOUS

Requirement to attend in person classes

Although all Exonians can agree that fatiguing/dicking classes is a rejuvenating experience (especially if you're missing math), this rule makes sense because attendance is vital for education. Ranking it at #1 though because I'm confused why it had to be put in writing.

Masks and 6ft distance must be kept between members of the community at all times

My favorite books when I was younger were: The Hunger Games, Divergent, The Giver, and Maze Runner. I figured I would live through at least one variant of dystopia. Didn't envision it to come so soon though.

No visitations

Throughout my years at Exeter, the Vs policy has gotten stricter and stricter — it does not surprise me that Exeter would take away Vs all together. Moment of silence.

Ranking at #3 because it's hard to consider entering my roommate's room as a visitation.

Students must walk along the edge of the path if joined by a friend

Everyone needs personal space. Strange mandate though — wouldn't expect the school to care so much.

Students may not leave campus

My first week of prep year, a non-Exonian Exeter resident ran by me wearing a neon blue morph suit paired with an octopus hat. If I saw this boundary rule last year, I would just assume we were being shielded.

Boarders not allowed above floor 2 of the library

I've seen some pretty rowdy games of manhunt go on in that building. If the librarians thought boarders were suspect to harming Louis Khan's legacy, I'd understand the expulsion. #6 because I wouldn't expect a virus to be the reason Intimacy?

When There's a Wheel Theres a Way: The Start of Humor's Unicycle Crusade

By CHIEKO IMAMURA and DOROTHY BAKER

Our grandparents (allegedly) walked through storms, up great hills, and across roaring rivers all for the promise of an education. It has now come the time for us youth to endure our own trek towards knowledge. For 16 weeks, us Exonians will be confined in a campus-wide bubble where outside lies danger (COVID and electric eels, and who knows what lives in the Exeter

river). Morale gets low when you live inside a dystopia. So of course, one of our editors (Dorothy) purchased a unicycle. When asked about why she chose a unicycle to keep herself sane, she replied, “how could I leave upper year without knowing how to unicycle?”

Inspiration runs rampant within the humor community. We are a different breed. To become more like our idol, DaBaby, the humor editors must be multifaceted in their talents. As part

of our plan for Exonian domination, the editors have all committed to learning how to unicycle (well, mostly just Dorothy and Chieko, but you get the gist). Take this new series as a primary account of Covid's affect on mental health. We sat down with Dorothy Baker and Chieko Imamura to answer the student body's most pressing questions.

What are your expectations for the coming weeks?

Chieko: I envision myself reading a book and

turning the pages while getting my cardio. With all the multitasking, who knows? My 332 could be written while getting my summer bod.

Dorothy: I expect to turn a few heads on the path. Our observers will break their necks in jealousy.

Have you had any prior circus training in your life?

Dorothy: We as editors believe that the unicycle is a form of self expression and should not be reduced just a “circus

skill.”

Chieko: In early adolescence, I had a career in plate spinning for three years. My gym teacher, John Doe, also educated me on the art of juggling. However, unicycling was unheard of (the school would be liable for any damage to children's psyche or physique).

Dorothy: I can mime.

Do you have any fears for this unprecedented expedition?

Chieko: Concussion

Dorothy: Concussion

How will this impact

the cycling community?

Chieko: During my time at Exeter, the cycling community has been dominated by bicycles. We think we can be the catalyst to forge a wheel-inclusive campus.

Dorothy: Eventually, we hope to integrate tandem bikes to our transportation repertoire.

Any final remarks?

Chieko: Submit to Exonian humor

Dorothy: exonianhumor@gmail.com

Sports

Athelete Of The Week: Ursie Wise



Ursie Wise '21 poses in front of the Robert Nekton Championship Pool.

Courtesy of Wynter Sands

By HENRY LIU and
JONATHAN JEUN

Despite being remote for the majority of winter term, the Girls' Varsity swim team, led by senior and captain Ursie Wise, has been training in preparation for the dual meets scheduled towards the end of the winter term. Taking into account the various COVID-19 regulations, Wise has continued to support the team as a leader, and looks forward to competing again.

Wise started her swimming career at only five years old. When asked about how she started swimming, Wise recounted, "I started swimming as soon as my mom thought

she could let go of me in the pool without letting me drown."

She credits her love for swimming to her mother, who swam as a teenager and encouraged her to take on the sport. Wise said, "I believe I joined my first swim team when I was five (it was the 'baby team'), and my first real, competitive swim team when I was seven."

Wise continued her passion for the sport all the way to Exeter. Even as a prep, Wise was already on girls' Varsity swim, water polo, and field hockey.

Swimming was a large part of Wise's seamless transition to Exeter. "I already had a sibling at Exeter (my sister, Issy '19),

who was on both the varsity swim and water polo teams," Wise said. "I always had someone to eat with in Elm for dinner and always had people I knew I could call my friends."

"The swim team in particular becomes super close over the course of our season," Wise said. "We have a lot of fun in the pool, and even on the more strenuous days, we bond over the difficult sets. Because of the swim team, I knew I always had supportive teammates and friends in my life at Exeter. My favorite moments on the swim team are likely moments of bonding on the bus rides, or in the locker room."

Wise credits her coach-

es for her improvement in swimming. "When I first started swimming under Coach Lundy Smith, I was significantly slower than I am now. By the end of my second year training with him during my upper year, I was a finalist in the 500 freestyle at Interschols," Wise said.

Wise has been an integral part of the swim and dive team since the beginning, as lower Sofia Morais described. "Ursie was one of the upperclassmen that really made an effort to welcome the rest of the preps and me to the swim team. She told us about the traditions and funny stories from past seasons, and whenever she played her music during practices, it

never failed to get our team excited and pumped up."

Upper Lindsay Machado agreed with Morais. "It didn't matter if we had a long day or a bad class; Ursie would always manage to end practice with a smile on everyone's face. She pushes us through tough sets by working the hardest and setting an example, but she also knows when to have fun and bring the team together for a joke. Despite not being on campus, she has kept the team motivated to compete."

Wise's outgoing personality and compassion are well known on the swim team. "She really understood that it's been hard for us, not being able to have the same experience and she's done so much to recreate the same feeling of community and support," upper Yvonne Jia said.

When asked about why they thought Wise was such a great captain, the team had nothing but praise.

"Ursie is committed, determined, strong willed, and an all around positive person. I would say she is the type of person you would want to have with you wherever you go. She has kept close contact with the swimmers and made sure to check in on us often, slipping in some good advice here and there," Jia said.

Morais added to that, recalling that during practice, "Ursie would be in a separate group with the other distance swimmers, and you could see how hard she was working so that whenever it was time for the meet she could score

us some valuable points. She has always been a hard worker, always putting the team first."

Lower Nat Kpodonu commented on Wise's unmatched work ethic, stating, "she's always working really hard and I think she leads by example. I know she's really good at swimming, and in the pool, she always gives her all. At meets, she was always cheering for people. She's an understanding and a great leader."

Jia looks up to Wise as a mentor. "Her work ethic inspires me to be the best student and swimmer I can be. Once Ursie puts her mind to something she never backs away from it and she exceeds expectations every time. No matter how stressed or busy she is, she always makes time for the team and I really admire her for that."

Morais summed it all up, recalling that "when Coach Lundy announced that Ursie was going to be our captain for the 2020-21 swim season, I was so excited to see how she would do, and it's a bummer that we weren't able to have a regular season where she could lead our team for her last year at Exeter."

Wise agreed. "Among the countless activities this pandemic has changed, the pre-COVID swim team at Exeter is easily one of the things I miss the most."

Even though Ursie Wise did not get the season she envisioned for her senior year, she hopes to carry the traditions of Exeter's swim team to her next chapter.

Boys Varsity Squash Reflects on their 2019-2020 Season

By ELLA BRADY,
ANNA KIM, ELLIE
ANA SPERANTSAS and
ANDREW YUAN

While this current winter athletics season has been unlike any other, Exeter Boys Squash has still been able to connect as a team.

Like all athletes, the Squash team was disheartened when they learned they would not be able to practice and compete. Old memories, however, have provided comfort.

Shared fond memories among the team were the trip to games at different schools. "My favorite memories are the bus rides we took to travel to other schools for games. The long one- or two-hour long drives have really allowed me to bond with my teammates and get to know them better," upper Jean-François Manigo Gilardoni said.

Upper Owen Pallatroni valued bonding over difficult exercises. "My favorite memory is suffering through ab workouts at the end of long practice. It's fun to muscle through the pain while surrounded by my teammates," Pallatroni said.

The squash team consistently practiced ghosting,



Boys Varsity Squash huddles before a match.

Courtesy of Instagram/ @peamenssquash

a series of squash movements without a ball, to keep themselves active over the remote period. Constant running also helped the team according to upper Ben Erhman. The team was "just doing whatever is possible to stay in shape" for the upcoming spring season, Erhman said.

One hardship the team members faced was connecting with other teammates. "I haven't stayed very [connected] to the team besides our week-

ly zoom meetings. I have stayed in contact with some closer friends on the team, but a lot of the team connection I usually experience when we have a full season is lacking," Pallatroni explained.

However, coaches and captains utilized social media and Zoom calls to maintain bonds. "We have a group chat which we use to stay in touch, and we also had meetings with the team once a week," senior Alex Alexandrovskiy said. Everyone maintains

hope and excitement for a normal season of sports. "I just hope I can play against other schools again. I look forward to my senior season, and hopefully some sense of normalcy in sports," Pallatroni said.

Upper Ben Ehrmen agreed. "[I] just want to get back to some sense of normalcy on the court and hopefully be able to compete at Interschols and Nationals," he said.

However, members all have goals beyond a return to the past, and look

forward to competing at a new level. "I'm hoping that the boys can take down Andover in the next normal season," senior Cole Breen said.

Lower Eric Zhang added, "My hope for the next normal season is that we can build a strong team with a good work ethic. My hope is that we have some incoming talent coming in to help the team, but if not, what we can do is to train hard and make sure we are the stronger and fitter team on the court. I would like

to see us make Division I at high school nationals and beat Andover."

The pandemic has affected the vibrant Boys' Squash culture, but the team is confident that it will prevail in future seasons. In a testament to the team's excitement for the future, Pallatroni said, "I just hope I can play against other schools again. I look forward to my senior season, and hopefully some sense of normalcy in sports."

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07 PM SUNDAYS

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.

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, Daniel Zhang, at dzhang@exeter.edu.

The leadership of *The Exonian* transitions every year to the grade below the current board, typically in the winter term.

The Exonian