Phillips Exeter Academy
Exeter, New Hampshire

The Exonian

The oldest continuously running preparatory school newspaper in America

@theexonian

FROM THE ARCHIVES
Read about Exeter's forgotten clubs and societies, 2.

SOTW: BEN WILKINSON
Read about senior Ben Wilkinson's four years of finding connection and giving back, 7.

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY:
Read Mr. Aykut Kilinc's musings on relations, 12.

Lockdown: Phone Threat Prompts Campus Shelter-in-Place

By TIAGO BILYK, SEAN RICARD, and LEVI STOLL

On Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 3:56 p.m., Campus Safety alerted the Academy Community to commence shelter-in-place protocol. A phone threat was called into campus, prompting local, state, and federal law enforcement to investigate. The shelter in place lasted until 5:03 p.m., when the authorities determined the emergency had passed.

According to Assistant Principal Eimer Page, when a threat was recognized at 3:48 p.m., some members of the Academy's Incident Response Team were already in Jeremiah Smith Hall. "The shelter in place was announced almost immediately," she said. The administration then met within a couple minutes. "The immediate priority [was] to get that full group connected on a call," Page detailed.

At 4:27 p.m., Dean of Faculty Meg Foley sent out the following email to employees. "Colleagues," she wrote, "Please note that we are in SHELTER IN PLACE because of a phone threat… If you are with students, you may share this information to help them stay calm

SHELTER-IN-PLACE, 4.

In-Depth: A History of Exeter Freemasonry

By SEAN RICARD '28

" ... Scattered about the temple are multiple allusions to masonic ritual, including carved stones, stone-crafting tools such as chisels, compasses, and squares, a gavel and top hat — to be used by the master of the lodge — as well as four religious texts that sit on the central altar. Other ritualistic items from previous lodges housed in the Exeter Historical Society include an ark of the covenant and tapestries with religious themes.

The relationship between Freemasonry and religion has always been uncertain. Membership requires belief in a supreme being, but does not require adherence to a particular religion ... "

Read more on page 5.

Geng Ngarmboonanant '11 on the Future of the American Economy: Are We Doomed?



Sam Knevitt & Sean Ricard / *The Exonian*

Ngarmboonanant discusses jobs, housing, and the national debt.

By SAM KNEVITT, SEAN RICARD, and NICOLE SUBKHANBERDINA

Are we doomed? On Friday, Oct. 2, 2026, students heard Geng Ngarboonanant's honest assessment of the current landscape of the country — the good, the bad, the ugly, and what can be done for the future.

Ngarmboonanant, class of 2011 and proud former resident of Ewald Dormitory, returned to speak at assembly after a fruitful career spanning many fields. After studying Ethics, Politics, and Economics at Yale and later becoming

ECONOMY, 3.

In-Depth: Behind Campus Safety Room Inspections

By GARY GUO, DIYA SANDEEP, and LEVI STOLL

" ... A search of a student's room may be warranted if a member of the faculty has good reason to believe that a disciplinary infraction or the existence of physical or other potential harm to the student or others will be discovered. The faculty member should present this request for a room search and the basis for the request to the office of the Dean of Students, which will decide whether a search should be made. When a search is undertaken, a representative of the Dean's of Student's Office, the student whose room is being searched, the faculty resident of the dormitory, and a student proctor from the building shall be present. In the discretion of the Dean of Students ..."

Read more on page 6.

Editorial: Sexual Violence Is Not Your Gossip

By The 148th Executive Board

Content Warning: The following editorial contains references to sexual misconduct, underage drinking, and drug use.

This past Friday, Oct. 2, Principal Jennifer Karlen Elliott addressed the Exeter community at assembly in reference to a "horrific act of sexual violence that occurred on a college campus in the fall of 2024." Elliott acknowledged the heightened news coverage and social media presence surrounding the alleged incident of sexual violence that occurred at Cornell University in Oct., 2024, spurring reflection within the Academy on the event and the systems in place to support students in its aftermath. To further develop these conversations, we, as *The Exonian*, now set out to promote a sensitive, respectful, and above all, victim-centric approach to sexual misconduct, a responsibility shared between both students and academic institutions.

Before a more thorough discussion of the incident itself and how academic institutions should handle sexual misconduct and transparency, the myriad of resources available to all Exonians should be listed. As Elliott made clear, "It is a lot. It is hard and heavy, and I imagine that many of you feel impacted … Take extra care. Check in with each other. Reach out. Ask sincerely, how are you? Attend to how you are feeling. Talk to the adults around you."

Academy Resources

If the Cornell incident is eliciting a difficult emotional response from either you or someone you know, we hope to help you see that you are *not alone*. The Academy's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) consists of seven counselors and two psychiatric providers, all of whom are licensed mental health professionals. CAPS offers "free individual therapy, scheduled appointments, as well as group workshops, dorm consultations, and support groups of various kinds," available to all students by emailing askacounselor@exeter.edu or phoning (603)-777-3420, both of which will direct them to CAPS, whose foremost priority is to support student safety and mental health.

The Academy partners annually with third-party organizations to educate the student body and further develop the support infrastructure. As of this year, all preps and lowers were required to attend a series of consent workshops organized by HAVEN (the largest violence-prevention and support services agency in New Hampshire) and SafeBAE (the only student-led organization working to prevent sexual violence among teens in the nation). Meanwhile, uppers and seniors attended the Academy's first Consent Fest on Sept. 5, where they participated in interactive activities facilitated by SafeBAE. Furthermore, the Academy appointed its first director of student well-being in 2017, Dr. Christina Palmer. According to exeter.edu, Palmer's "role is focused on prevention, reporting, supporting students and others harmed by sexual misconduct." Throughout her tenure, Palmer has done critical work and spearheaded initiatives to develop Exeter's policies and protocols surrounding sexual misconduct.

Student Engagement with Sexual Misconduct

As stories rapidly circulate across the internet about the Cornell incident, our community is inundated by a stream of coverage from various outlets. As consumers, our main concern is how we engage with the media. "My first thoughts on hearing about the incident at Cornell went to all those who would find the media maelstrom triggering because of harms they have endured …" Assistant Principal Eimer Page reflected.

The internet makes strong, opinionated stances readily accessible. As the incident gains more traction, misinformation and extremist opinions have the potential to create uncertainty. When engaging with coverage of sensitive topics, it is important to evaluate the information presented to us rationally. We have an active responsibility to reflect on how our digital activity may affect others in our community: whether we're encouraging hate speech, enabling blackmail, or spreading false narratives, we should remember that our actions directly impact the people involved in the incident and our broader community. Sexual violence is a serious and horrific crime that should never be normalized or minimized, and the importance of consent remains mandatory in every interaction.

When we let our most impulsive emotions drive our digital engagement, the victims are reduced to vessels for political agendas, and they lose the dignity and humanity

EDITORIAL, 3.

News

» **GENG NGARMBOONANANT**
Read about Ngarmboonanant's honest assessment of America's ecomonic future, 1.

» **SA IS NOT YOUR GOSSIP**
SA IS NOT YOUR GOSSIP: The 148th Board's statement on the Cornell incident, 1.

» **EXONIANS ON WAR**
Read about how Exonians have responded to war across generations, 2.

History Students Visit Select Board Meeting

By SEAN RICARD '28

On the evening of Monday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m., dozens of people packed into the normally empty Town Offices to attend the Select Board's biweekly meeting. Among the selectmembers, uniformed police officers, and Exeter locals were about two dozen PEA students who represented two sections of HIS550: American Politics and Public Policy.

The class was previously taught exclusively by Instructor in History Emeritus Bill Jordan before his retirement last year, and he made visits to the local town government a yearly occasion. Now led by Instructor in History Alexa Caldwell, the class continued the tradition by attending last Monday's meeting.

The meeting featured the swearing-in of lieutenant police officer Joseph Byron, a proclamation of the town's observance of Children's Environmental Health Day, two public hearings pertaining to parking regulation, as well as typical agenda items such as finance reports, tax abatements, and the town manager's report.

Caldwell shared that when she was planning the course syllabus in tandem with Jordan over the summer, "he said hands down it was one of the best experiences the students had in the course." Caldwell reflected on this assessment, "I was honestly a little skeptical, but he was right! The students got to see local politics in action. I think it was very eye-opening for them."

The public hearing about parking proved the most interesting and memorable for the visiting students. This was the first of three public hearings meant to gather public opinion — but not debate — a new pilot program that the town is considering. The program, meant to increase turnover for local businesses, will implement paid parking in certain areas of downtown Exeter.

Many residents, as well as business owners and their employees, came to the hearing with mixed feelings about the plan. Many stressed the need for safeguards that would ensure employees wouldn't have to pay to park all day to work at their jobs. Others were wholly against the program, positing that it would be a deterrent, driving residents and interested out-of-towners away from spending time downtown.

"It was a really great way to see politics in action," se-

BOARD MEETING, 3.

From the Archives: Exeter's Esoteric Extracurriculars

By JOHANNA HILLMAN, VEOLA JIANG, STELLA MCCUE, AMELIA MUETENER, DIYA SANDEEP, OLIVIA WANG, and LUCY XIAO

Are you a member of a niche club attended by a tight cohort of fellow aficionados? Have you ever dreamed of starting a club to celebrate quirk and idiosyncrasy? Are you excited by the exploration of the arcane?

Congratulations — that'd make you the latest heir to a long tradition of esoteric extracurriculars enjoyed by students in the hallowed halls of Phillips Exeter Academy.

Muggles In Denial

Some clubs that have now faded into obscurity once formed non-negligible parts of student life. On Dec. 15, 2011, The Exonian reported on the Yule Ball hosted by Muggles In Denial, a winter dance inspired by a dance of the same name featured in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." In fact, by 2011, the dance had become an annual affair. However, as the "Harry Potter" mania of the early 2010s faded away, so too did Muggles In Denial.

Whisker Union

One hardly remembered club that was seemingly popular on Exeter's campus was Whisker Union, which existed in 1892 and accepted students with facial hair. The club consisted of 25 members and was composed of several groups, including the "Full Beards," the "Moustaches," the "Faint Suspicions," the "Siders," the "Could if they woulds," the "Would if they coulds," and the "Stray Hairs," which seem to be titles referring to how much facial hair members actually had. There was only one member possessing a full beard, who was automatically made president and apparently gained the respect of the whole school. The club's motto was: "Methinks I am wondrous hairy about the face."

Pirate Club

Pirate Club was officially founded in 2002 by a group of seniors who, according to the Feb. 28, 2003 issue of The Exonian, "wanted some fun." Pirate Club was huge on campus, apparently gathering over 160 sign-ups at the Club Fair in 2001, and had almost 300 members in 2003. They held large events on campus and met at random, holding a large banquet in the dining hall, in which utensils were not used as pirates do not use utensils. One humor article poked fun at Pirate Club, writing about a 'Rich Merchants' Club' that would stand in opposition to the silliness of the pirates.

Whist Club

Similar to today's Chess or Board Game Club, commonly referenced between 1896 to 1898, was a Whist Club on campus. Whist is a card game that consists of trick-taking, which is still often played today. The Exeter Whist Club met on Wednesday evenings, in the reception room of Soule Hall, playing until 10:30pm on at least one occasion. They offered refreshments to varying numbers of attendees and had dues of 25¢ per week. In the March 27, 1897 issue of The Exonian, Whist was described as "one of the few games which, like checkers and chess, are purely intellectual. They are as effectual in developing the mind as any single course of study, and ability to play a skillful game of chess or whist counts for quite as much in the world to-day as knowledge of Greek or French." One hope for the club was for it to take part in an interscholastic competition at some point.

Model Railroad Club

Founded in Feb. 1942, the Model Railroad Club, a seemingly antique and rather arcane associate on campus, was surprisingly long-lived. Club members occupied one of the attics of Phillips Hall and transformed the space into a scaled

EXTRACURRICULARS, 3.

From the Archives: Campus Engagement With War Through The Decades

By VALMIK DANGAYACH, PEARL HARA YAMAZAKI, and LYDIA KUHNERT

The Past: Campus Engagement with Vietnam, Iraq, and the Second World War

"Every member of the Exeter community has some feeling concerning the Vietnam War," declared an advertisement for an anti-Vietnam protest in the Oct. 11, 1969 issue of The Exonian. "Every student, every housewife, every businessman, and every future draftee has formulated some opinion concerning the presence of American troops in South Vietnam."

This eloquently worded advert was a plea from PEA senior William Forbath and EHS senior Anne Murphy to get students to join their town-wide moratorium against the Vietnam War. Their program of events was simple: they had coordinated with churches around town to ring their bells for ten minutes beginning at 6 a.m. There would be a second ten-minute tolling at 7 a.m., and then another at 9 a.m. From there, protesters would cease to participate in any of their normal activities. Students would not go to class, and adults would not go to work.

"The Moratorium will not be a political rally," the seniors explained. "It will consist of prayers for peace and for the nations, a day of fasting, a silent march, and signing of a prepared statement." The Academy hosted a special assembly in Phillips Church four days before the Moratorium, to provide information and to give space for students to discuss it.

Forbath was by no means the only Academy student to participate in the discussion about the Vietnam War. Between 1963 and 1975, Vietnam was mentioned in The Exonian 227 times. A large portion of these references is contained in op-ed pieces: "I cannot believe that the President believes that we are not losing more prestige and national vitality every extra day that we remain in Vietnam," wrote Bob Bauer, class of '70.

Exonians spoke out both in support of and against the war. "We must abandon for the moment the appealing but intangible concept of a 'free' Vietnam," reflected an anonymous pro-war student in 1966, "—for freedom is an abstract that is largely meaningless to a nation like Vietnam and ask instead whether a dictatorship backed by the West, interested in eventual democracy, is better than one frenzied by totalitarianism."

It would be a mistake to say the editors of The Exonian remained apolitical in the matter: in the Oct. 11, 1969 issue, they made a statement of support for the Moratorium, writing "We urge everyone in the community, the Faculty and the student body, to seriously consider whether his feelings about the Vietnam War demand that he participate in this national expression of impatience and discontent with our government's position in Vietnam."

Students were even willing to accept punishment for their failure to attend class that Wednesday. "It seems almost impossible to seriously weigh three unexcused absences against any honest moral conviction," wrote an anonymous student, initialed "wef."

Decades after Vietnam, the prospects of war in Iraq in 2003 again brought questions of patriotism, dissent annd American responsibility into Exeter's classrooms.

On Feb. 14, the Debate Club and Junior Statesmen of America co-organized a political forum that packed the Elting Room. Students gathered to consider whether the United States should invade Iraq without United Nations support and how intervention might affect the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A panel discussion followed, and The Exonian reported that conversations continued after students left and into the following days.

Organizers sought participation across political and religious affiliations, inviting groups including the Democratic and Republican clubs, the Islamic Society, and the Exeter Jewish Community. One of the Debate Club co-heads, Xuan Qin, encouraged students to speak openly: "I really hope they will dare to speak their minds regardless of what they believe others might think of them."

Students also carried their convictions beyond Exeter. The Academy sponsored a bus trip to an anti-war rally in Boston, while others prepared to protest in New York. Their participation extended campus debates into public action.

As the Iraq war unfolded, students made their convictions visible across campus. Senior Kate Galassi distributed black armbands to express opposition to the conflict and yellow ribbons to support American troops. "While I'm opposed to war, I still support the troops," she explained. Approximately 150 ribbons circulated on campus. For lower Stephen Lukas, whose sister served in the Navy and cousin served in the Army, wearing a ribbon was "a simple way to support the troops without necessarily condoning what is happening in Iraq."

A campus poll published in The Exonian reflected this distinction between support for the troops and support for the war. Fifty-four percent of respondents supported the troops but not the war, while 26 percent supported the war and 20 percent selected "Do Not Support War." Seventy-four percent believed America had not exhausted diplomatic options. For many, the conflict also had a personal dimension: 30 percent knew someone directly involved.

Other students openly supported intervention. Senior Darius Ameri covered his dormitory doorway and part of the hallway with pro-war pictures, flags, articles and a list of the "Coalition of the Willing." "I wanted to create a provocative display of my opinion," he said. Ameri also challenged the distinction between supporting soldiers and opposing their mission: "How can they support the armed forces and not believe in the cause the troops are fighting and dying for?"

Alongside these events, The Exonian's opinion pages became another forum for debate over Iraq. One student defended military intervention, citing Saddam Hussein's resistance to United Nations weapons inspections, while another questioned the justification for invasion and the prospects for establishing democracy afterward. In the February 14 op-ed "The Case Against War," the latter challenged a central premise of intervention:"And bear in mind that all this talk is based on the assumption that Saddam Hussein has weapons of mass destruction. What if he doesn't?" Through competing op-eds and letters to the editors, students continued to scrutinize the war and challenge one another's con-

WAR, 4.

Editorial Cont.

they deserved from the very start. Remember, sexual violence happens to *people* first, and only then do politics and policies come into question. To disseminate information online is to directly impact and influence the victims' lives, so we must do so responsibly. Furthermore, sexual violence does not discriminate; anyone, regardless of creed, color, or, importantly, gender, can be violated. SafeBAE reminds students that, "Our hope is that the conversation about it does not further divide along gender lines. Sexual violence is a public health crisis that affects everyone, whether or not they realize it, and everyone should be invited to help prevent it."

Administrative Responses to Sexual Misconduct

In tight-knit communities like Exeter—and by extension, other educational institutions—the best administrative response ought to be sensitive to the varying effects an incident like this may elicit. As Director of CAPS Dr. Szu-Hui Lee remarked, "It is important to recognize that students can be impacted by this even without a personal connection to the incident itself. Hearing about such an event can trigger other memories or experiences of harm that have impacted you or someone you know. Frankly, one can be impacted by all of this simply knowing that such harm can and does happen in our world."

After a reported incident of sexual misconduct, a campus can become an echo chamber of messages—whether they are driven by activism, emotion, or support for either the victim or alleged perpetrator. While the impetus and intentions behind these conversations vary, it is ultimately an administrative prerogative to prioritize the victim's safety and well-being. Page asserted that "Students who come forward…to reveal that harm has occurred should be able to rely on being treated with respect, dignity and compassion."

As a school that has *in loco parentis* oversight of its students, Exeter's primary institutional priority ought to be prioritizing a victim-centric approach to the handling of a sexual assault case. All universities and boarding schools should consult the victim, rather than pre-emptively assuming how the student would like to disclose information about the case. Instead of framing the victim as a liability to be dealt with, the institution and the school community must acknowledge the humanity of the victim. Institutions should prioritize supporting the victim's needs and empathize with their trauma and processing of that trauma, however it manifests. Students ultimately wish to see and feel firm support and protection from their institution. The victim is a person above all else, and their lived experience and pain are unconditionally real.

Fostering a culture of consent is necessary and ongoing work. Principal Elliott remarked that she wanted "[your peers] not to feel safe from you. I want them to feel safe because of you." Instilling a culture of respect for each other and acknowledging boundaries is a joint effort on the part of the administration and the student body. As Principal Elliott reminded our whole community, Exeter "seeks to build, sustain, and celebrate a culture of consent." In gathering the voices of the Exeter administration and third-party organizations, it seems that the Academy is taking steps to refine its approach to sexual violence. As a student body, we can only hope that if a case of sexual violence at PEA were to become publicized, the Academy would uphold its victim-centric commitments.

Extracurriculars Cont.

train and landscape model of the town of Exeter using wires and plastic materials. Despite a lack of continuity and actual student commitment, as The Exonian reported on Feb. 3, 2006, that "the model was never finished, and the railroad track remains defunct and unfinished," railroad craft enthusiasts persisted in meeting on and off over the span of 50 years, most recently being active during the 2000-2001 school year. Signs of its existence — dried paint on the wooden tracks, plastic tubes spread on the floor, sketches and pencils — are now nowhere to be found after a renovation of Phillips Hall in 2012.

Fraternities (Secret Societies)

Like colleges today, Exeter also once had fraternities on campus that operated as secret societies for Exonians to socialize and build brotherhood. The earliest fraternities at the Academy were founded in the 1870s, and at that time, they were officially regarded as "objectionable." Noted by The Exonian in the Oct. 28, 1967 issue, "The Faculty was very much opposed to their mysterious initiation rites which often took place late at night, and occasionally "maltreated the neophytes." In 1891, Principal Emeritus Charles E. Fish abolished these secret fraternities, objecting to their "exclusiveness, open planning of mischief, and mysterious initiations." However, students resisted this decision made by the administration, continuing to found and participate in secret societies. They continued to form social cliques and live luxuriously until fraternities were permanently abolished in 1942 due to their undemocratic nature and high cost of maintenance during wartime.

La Societa Esoterica

Some clubs were even formed solely for the point of peculiarity; one such club included La Societa Esoterica, a club founded in the fall of 1961 by a group of seniors. The club hosted speakers who may or may not have existed and met at odd times. It had, according to club member Peter Zuromskis as he was quoted in the Nov. 4, 1961 issue of The Exonian, "no members, no officers, no dues, no purpose, and no organization." It seems the point of this club was simply its eccentricity; in the same issue, club member Richard Doble asserted, "No one can understand us; we are too esoteric."

These clubs are remnants of the idiosyncratic intellectualism that has thrived on Exeter's campus. As their members have graduated and headed off into the real world, many of them faded into obscurity, long since forgotten by the generations of Exonians that followed. Many clubs that exist today will similarly fade into obscurity. And yet, as today's clubs are fixtures of our community, so too were

Ngarmboonanant Cont.



a Doctor of Law. He then went on to become the Deputy Chief of Staff for the United States Treasury under the Biden administration. He now works as a macro-investor for JP Morgan.

Ngarmboonanant began his talk with an appropriate metaphor for Exonians: Alex the Geologist. Alex the Geologist is a character who appears in Exeter's math curriculum, tasking students to find his most efficient path through the desert to reach a desired location, such as a gas station or lemonade stand. He then drew a comparison between today's economy and Alex's efforts; only in this economy is it harder and harder for Alex to reach his goal, thus prompting the question, "Are we doomed?"

In examining this question, the rest of Ngarboonanant's speech centered around three main economic issues currently facing the country: jobs, housing, and the national debt.

He began with the job market, perhaps the most pertinent to students our age. He described how the link between effort and outcome is eroding, as the discrepancies between the wealth of laborers and asset owners worsen. Ngarmboonanant also focused on the rise of AI and the dangers it poses to the job market, pushing back on the narrative of superabundance that many AI pioneers promise and instead shifting the focus on human dignity.

He continued his discussion of dignity in his next point, which examined the housing market. Ngarmboonanant explained that for generations, housing was how ordinary Americans built wealth and pride. However, he explained, over the past 30 years, younger generations have had to rent, building another's wealth instead of their own.

On his last point about the national debt, Ngarboonanant described a long-lasting, steady increase in national spending that has always been concerning, but without a dramatic crisis, no solutions to the issue have been drafted. A statistic he referenced was that last month, the gross national debt passed $40 trillion. He pointed out that "hard choices" are required to tame what he described as irresponsible spending and that "none of it is easy, but all of it is possible."

That sentiment of possibility within pessimism was a recurring theme throughout the entire assembly. When asked why he chose to present such a topic to Exeter's community, Ngarboonanant cited his trust in the abilities of the young: "I feel deep down in my bones that young people are the ones who are going to lead us forward — they are less encumbered about how things are; more idealistic about the world as it should be; and more creative about how we can get there."

However, he also emphasised how the hopelessness that often plagues our generation should not be ignored, nor exaggerated, but approached objectively; as a path for both progress and caution.

Exeter prides itself on success as a facilitator of progress. Yet, with an increasingly uncertain future, Ngarmboonanant suggests that we must reconsider traditional ideas of success in favor of a more modern definition. "We have an obligation to ourselves and to each other to do things, particularly the small things, day in and day out, that add up to making this world a better place." He reframes success from world-changing actions of singular men to ripples made through courage and community.

With Ngarmboonanant's eloquence and skill at explaining large economic issues, reactions to the assembly were overwhelmingly positive.

Instructor in History and Economics Bryan Boucher was impressed, noting his "structure, approachability, and connection to the Exeter community that took a challenging topic and made it accessible for all."

Senior Osbert Chang called it "the best assembly I've ever been to in my entire time in Exeter," and said that it was "a shame that we didn't give a standing ovation." Chang described Ngarmboonanant's assembly as an "honest assessment" of the economy, and appreciated the data he used to back up his claims.

Lower Pearl Hara Yamazaki echoed this: "It was honestly one of my favorite assemblies so far. I think that [Ngarmboonanant] made the assembly very relatable by tying it to Alex the geologist and other components of Exeter." Another thing she appreciated was the candor with which he expressed himself, saying that it "pulled me out of this nihilistic trance that a lot of people might fall into when it comes to politics."

Boucher agreed with Chang, appreciating Ngarmboonanant's use of data, and gave some insight into how it could relate to his economics students. "Two of the things I am always trying to do in my economics classroom is to have students that ask good questions and make thoughtful, informed predictions based on existing data, and Mr. Ngarmboonanant's presentation did both of these."

Boucher had the unique opportunity to meet with Ngarmboonanant over dinner the night before, and found him captivating both on and off the stage. At the dinner, Boucher recalled, Ngarmboonanant "shared some great stories of his time at Exeter which delighted all of us who were present."

Chang resonated with Ngarmboonanant's closing message of courage, empathy, and collaboration. The issues that Ngarmboonanant covered in his talk have no simple solution, but in answering his opening question, "are we doomed," he remains hopeful.

"In fact, I believe that no one is extraordinary. Everyone is ordinary, but the beautiful thing is that ordinary people together can do extraordinary things. The next few years will be filled with a lot of uncertainty, but this is our world to share, and with courage, I will look forward to seeing all of you doing extraordinary things."

Board Meeting Cont.

nior Eliyas Koch-Manzur reflected on the experience. He continued, "It was cool to see something that you normally wouldn't think of as important or newsworthy, and how when it impacts you directly, everyone cares about it."

"Students were impressed by how a seemingly insignificant topic — parking — could actually have a pretty dramatic and significant effect on all the people who live in Exeter, [the] student body included," Caldwell said. She also noticed that many of her students the following day were surprised by the number of residents who went out of their way to speak at the hearing.

Each select board meeting is available to join online via a Zoom link, recorded and uploaded to YouTube, and also available on Exeter TV. Koch-Manzur appreciated the board's commitment to outreach, both to the town of Exeter as well as Phillips Exeter students. "I'm always surprised by how much effort they put into making sure it's accessible to the public… I appreciated that [the board] was very nice to the students and they welcomed us."

Attending the select board meeting proved to be a useful, real-world application of these History students' class materials. The meeting matched up with their study of the decline of local newspapers and involvement in local politics. By seeing the more exciting aspects of local government last Monday, students walked away impressed by an apt example of a healthy local government with citizen involvement, accessibility, and real results.

Shelter-in-Place Cont.

and patient." Screenshots of this email were quickly circulated among students and their advisories.

Shortly after Foley's email, at 4:34 p.m., Dean of Students Ashley Taylor sent an email to the entire student body that clarified that "[students] may move around inside buildings, but you should not leave."

The shelter-in-place command was lifted only after the administration was confident in the safety of campus. "In deciding to announce an all-clear, our Campus Safety team collaborates closely with law enforcement and won't do so unless all parties have agreed that it is safe to lift the threat," described Page.

An all-clear announcement was communicated via texts and the school's loudspeakers at 5:03 p.m.. Following this, Taylor in an email confirmed the shelter-in-place had ended and that she would "be in touch soon with information about next steps and the rest of the day." A similar email was sent to families at the same time.

Taylor sent a longer email at 5:57 p.m. that followed up and clarified the situation. A similar email was also sent to families.

Due to upsets in students' normal schedules, Elm Street Dining hall remained open until 7:30 p.m., 30 minutes later than scheduled.

During the shelter-in-place procedure, both students and faculty were scattered across campus. A population of a few dozen students found themselves in the Class of 1945 Library, where they quickly packed study rooms and carrels after staff instructed students to stay away from the ground floor.

Many also found themselves inside EPAC. Sitting in Grill at the time of the incident, senior Bellen Anastas recalled the experience of her and about ten other students. "I was with my friends, doing my Arabic homework. A mail room officer, Ms.iss Emily, comes out and she makes us all go into the mail room." There, studentsStudents in the mail room busied themselves with activities including filming videos for social media and completing homework.

Reactions varied in response to the shelter-in-place procedure. "I was in Club Room B with a few of my friends," shared lower Don Shreffler III. "[At the time] we were unsure of what to do. We hesitated for a second and then we started closing the blinds and we moved a bookshelf in front of the door." Once students learned that they were free to move around the building, some played ping-pong in the downstairs game room.

Faculty around campus aided in informing students and keeping them calm during the shelter-in-place. Instructor in Mathematics Gayatri Ramesh, who was in the field house with her daughter playing tennis at the time of the incident, explained that "[The administration] provided timely updates and we, in turn, updated the students in the dorm and advisory."

"We tried to provide updates for you and your families in real time," noted Taylor in her second email. "We are relieved that law enforcement informed us that the concern had passed."

Some students, however, were disappointed by the speed of communication. "If we do have a lockdown," reflected Shreffler III, "tell us what is going on earlier. We were confused and there were rumors going around. That's scary stuff when you're in the moment."

During a similar incident on April 1, 2025, campus was placed on lockdown due to police activity on Swasey Parkway. On Wednesday, the administration was able to provide the student body with an explanation roughly 30 minutes earlier than the prior incident.

Both Campus Safety and the Exeter Police Department were unable to provide comment.

The Police Department did, however, verify a report made by the independent news agency Merrimack Valley Stringer. This report contained timestamps of events heard through public police radio transmissions.

Troop A, the division of the State Police that serves Exeter, did not respond at a request for comment.

Campus Safety confirmed that the issue was being treated as a normal swatting call. They were not able to provide additional information and said that they were waiting on further details from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and New Hampshire State Police. "We don't have the authority to release anything before tomorrow," said Director of Campus Safety Services Paul Gravel.

Following the incident, Taylor shared some helpful advice with the campus. "As you move forward with the evening," she wrote, "please take good care of

TIMELINE

Timeline provided from Merrimack Valley Stringer, verified by Exeter P.D.

3:48 p.m.
Report of an individual threatening to cause harm to the campus.

3:56 p.m.
Exeter Police are on the scene and report the school is on lockdown.

4:03 p.m.
Shelter in place on campus.

4:16 p.m.
Phillip Exeter Academy requested the NH State Police to the scene and the FBI has been notified.

5:05 p.m.
Shelter-in-place lifted and nothing found.

er. Please seek out the supportive adults in your life, both at home and on campus, including your advisor, dorm faculty, club advisers, CAPS counselors and others who support you," she concluded.

War Cont.

victions in print.

Reports on war in the 20th century, specifically the Second World War, were drastically different in comparison. The Exonian contained regular columns for foreign affairs, and habitually mentioned action taken by the Senate. This neutrality didn't mean that mentions of the war were scarce, though. In every issue, charts and boxes encouraging the purchase of war bonds flooded the advertisements sections. Even an advertisement for a cigarette asserted their popularity among men in military service to appeal to Exonians occupying the Butt Rooms.

Assembly speakers also made sure to share their wisdom on the war. Author Max Lerner, for instance, urged Exonians to fight for America before they met the fate that "the Low Countries … had to face" in 1941. In 1943, Exeter alum and President of Princeton University Dr. Dodds visited the school to say that "no radical changes will be necessary after the war" when addressing the effects of war on higher education.

Though most news of WWII was objective and matter-of-fact, there was (as there always is) the occasional argumentative Op-Ed. In an issue from 1943, a student mentioned their distaste towards Portugal's position in the war, calling the nation "little hangers-on" to the United States. He continues: "Many of the lesser states have involved themselves in the war and I see no reason why they should not suffer as will Germany."

Conflicts also seeped through ordinary crannies that wouldn't typically be associated with warfare. Medical Group, the equivalent to today's Medical Club, spent their first meeting in 1944 talking about war-time measures: common illnesses, epidemics, and injuries being a few things they mentioned. Social life at the Academy was also impacted, such as the shortage of films affecting Saturday movie nights in 1942.

However, one theme persists throughout the papers: teachers and speakers constantly emphasized the ownership Exonians had in their influence in the war. Principal Lewis Perry, whose tenure lasted from 1923 to 1945, said in his 1944 Opening Assembly that "responsibility as teachers and as students at Exeter is very great, never as great, it seems to me, as it is this year."

From 2020 onward: Engagement with the Russo-Ukraine, Israel-Palestine, and US-Iran Wars

Within the past five years, the world, and therefore the Academy, has been no stranger to conflict. Between the US-Iran War, Israel-Palestine, and the Russo-Ukrainian War, conflict has touched the lives of most students on campus. Community engagement with these three wars has been slightly more limited than in years past, primarily taking shape on the assembly stage and in The Exonian's op-ed section.

For the Russo-Ukrainian War, much of the engagement documented in The Exonian has been driven by individual voices rather than organized institutional efforts, as students debate American responsibility and bring personal experiences of the conflict into campus conversation. Although the United States supported Ukraine through aid rather then direct combat, students debated how far American involvement should extend. In February 2022, a student warned of consequences for international alliances and called for current-events education: "Students need to be aware of how something happening not necessarily near them could still affect them and the world at large."

One student argued against intervention, writing, "America's sons and daughters have no business fighting and dying to protect the sovereignty of a nation in which we have no strategic interest."

Other writing moved beyond geopolitical arguments, rather focusing on the human lives shaped by the war. In an October 2025 op-ed, a Ukrainian student recounted her experiences in Ukraine and interviewed humanitarian workers evacuating civilians. Reflecting on her return to campus, she wrote, "Yet I am grateful it was the safety of Exeter that the trains brought me to, where 'summer' meant coming back alive — a chance taken from millions."

Some individual initiative also helped create an institutional opportunity for reflection. A recent Exeter graduate suggested that the Academy invite Harvard historian Serhii Plokhii to speak. He delivered the Paul Klebnikov Memorial Lecture on October 10, 2025, examining the historical narratives surrounding the war and the dangers of misinformation. A new Exonian from Ukraine said that the assembly signaled recognition of a conflict that earlier students had felt was overlooked. "As I heard from students from Ukraine who studied here before, there [had been] no assembly about the Ukraine war," she said.

Another Ukrainian student urged students to carry the attention beyond the gathering. It's easier to be ignorant and to set aside this issue," she said. "But it's our responsibility to be more active on things going on outside of the U.S."

Israel-Palestine has likewise entered campus life through student perspectives, with discussion spanning decades. Coverage of the conflict has severely decreased in The Exonian over the course of the 21st century. References of Israel in The Exonian spiked at 131 in the 2000s, then dwindled to almost half in the 2010s (65), which reduced even further to 25 in the current decade.

Even prior to the beginning of the Gaza war in 2023, Exonians debated the Israel-Palestine conflict. Alum Augustus Gilchrist mentioned in a 2014 article that "Exonians took to social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter to express their beliefs," implying that political discourse was still present. He also states that, by and large, "Exonians seemed open to having their views challenged and ready to engage in a constructive debate about the conflict."

Overt expressions of opinions have also been present: "One of the biggest foreign policy failures has been the support of tyrannical dictators," wrote one student. "The Jews and Arabs will never be friends and would prefer an equitable divorce to a catastrophic marriage." Israel and Palestine need to see the other as a "partner and not an enemy." These are some takes that past Exonians have had on the complex matter.

One op-ed article in 2018 called "Palestine and Israel: the Taboo Topic" speaks on personal ties to the war. The only 2 students from the Middle East at the time, Jordanian siblings Safa and Haya Firas, express their heartbreak when they "hear all the tragic news from our family back home but hear nothing from the Exeter Community."

The institution itself has also tried to offer their hand in educating students. On March 24, 2024, Exeter invited Frank Tipton to hold a workshop on the Israel-Palestine conflict. An anonymous student who attended the event stated that they were "curious on how the community would respond because of how quiet [they've] seen campus about [the conflict]."

However, discourse broke out after the Academy's abrupt cancellation of a 2024 MLK day Black-Palestinian solidarity workshop. After outcry from members of the student body, the 17th Principal of the Academy, William Rawson, released a statement in the paper explaining, "we know that many students and teachers were disappointed, and that many students want to have opportunities to learn and discuss important topics related to the war in Gaza." The workshop was later rescheduled.

Most recently, the ongoing US-Iran war has created debate amongst students, once again around the role of US intervention in the Middle East. On Feb. 27, 2026, the Academy hosted journalist Dexter Filkins to discuss US-Iran relations — the morning before the war began. His warnings of war proved incredibly prescient, but his remarks on the country and culture of Iran fueled immediate campus discourse. Some students delivered clear rebukes to his comments in The Exonian, while others defended his speech. His assembly prompted hundreds of conversations around campus about the nature of the war, and how we talk about the people of both countries.

Exonians have always been hungry to talk and learn more about what is important to them — this was true in the 1970s, when the US was in Vietnam, and it is true today, as war touches the lives of many of our peers. Exonians have been willing to stand up for what they believe in, and do so in a peaceful, non-violent, and discussion-based manner. In a time of increasing polarization and heightened international tension, one can only hope that we shall carry on this tradition. R.F. Bauer summed it up nicely in a 1969 op-ed: "Yes, we are here at Exeter to get an education. We are not here to keep our eyes closed to the tragedies around us."

In-Depth: Freemasonry in Exeter

By SEAN RICARD

If one were to take a stroll down Front Street toward the Exeter Area YMCA and visit the cemetery across the road, one would notice a peculiar symbol on many of the graves. Not a religious one, like a cross or the Star of David, but a compass and square surrounding a capital letter G. A student sitting outside of Me & Ollie's bakery downtown may also look around to see the same symbol displayed atop 63 Front Street along with the words "Masonic Temple" painted in blue and white.

Exeter is home to the Star in the East Lodge #59, one of dozens Masonic lodges in New Hampshire and thousands around the world. About 160 members belong to Exeter's chapter of the fraternal organization, including current and former Phillips Exeter Academy faculty.

The history of Freemasonry in Exeter and the world goes beyond the mysticism and secrecy often associated with it. Freemasonry represents a simple goal: to make good men better. In Exeter and around the world, Accepted Masons are committed to public service, charity, and good works. But these commitments have not absolved the group of its fair share of criticism, which didn't fail to reach Exeter's lodges.

The story of Freemasonry begins far away from Exeter in medieval Europe, where in the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries guilds of masons (skilled stone workers) would often congregate around shared secrets of their craft. Eventually, these stonemasons' clients, oftentimes nobles, kings, or religious leaders, would enter these circles of secrecy to seal the deal. Thus borne the terms "Free" and "Accepted" Masons – Free Masons referred to the craftsmen themselves, and Accepted Masons described their clients.

The first modern Freemason lodge began in London, England, in 1717, and the first in New Hampshire in 1736. This Grand Lodge, located in Portsmouth, regulates the charters of all other lodges in New Hampshire, including those in Exeter.

Richard Cole, treasurer of Star in the East #59, distinguished between the fraternity's ritual tradition and its documented history. "Ritualistically," he said, "we say the group has been in essence 'since the building of the pyramids,' but practically, Freemasonry as we know it today began in 1717."

Freemasonry, the fraternal organization, was borne out of the craft, but the first lodge's founding, Cole explained, represented a shift in focus from the original stone masonry to the modern goal of "making good men better."

During the early years of Freemasonry in colonial America and the early United States, members often met in bars, taverns, and meeting houses rather than their own buildings. For example, the current grand lodge in Portsmouth is official named the William Pitt Tavern Lodge #1789, and as the name suggests, is located in a historic tavern.

Exeter's first Masonic lodge and temple opened in 1801, but this is not the same lodge we see atop the antique bookstore today. This lodge was called Washington Lodge #13. In 1825, however, the lodge's charter was revoked by the Grand Lodge, and in a dramatic turn of events, the subsequent lodge was chartered 45 minutes later.

But the new lodge didn't last for long. Phoenix Lodge #13 existed during what would be called the Anti-Masonic period of the United States, which saw widespread criticism and moral panic around the group that drove nearly 70% of lodges to close.

Cole described the dramatic events that led up to this period. A New York man named William Morgan wrote an expose of the group and its rituals. Cole described this book as "somewhat true, somewhat untrue, but overall defamatory."

Morgan later disappeared and was presumed murdered by Masons, sparking a great moral panic, even a third political party, the Anti-Masonic Party. Morgan's fate is still unclear, but the great discourse surrounding his death is indicative of the fear associated with the mysticism and secrecy of the fraternity.

Exeter's second lodge closed in 1838, and a new chapter of the group did not appear until the late 1850s. By 1854, there was interest in chartering a new lodge, but the group lacked the required nine people to petition the grand lodge to form it. By 1857, they had reached this threshold, and the current Star in the East Lodge #59 was born.

Throughout the next half of the 19th century, the group steadily grew despite having to move buildings due to fire. Their current lodge and Masonic Temple on 63 Front Street has been occupied by the group since 1897. Currently, the lodge owns the entire building, with the Picture's Worth a Thousand Words bookstore and Exeter Fine Crafts as tenants.

The lodge, which takes up the entire second floor and attic of the building, features impressive furnishings, and all of the original furniture and upholstery — except for the carpets, which were recently replaced — is original from 1897.

The lodge's focal point is the Masonic Temple, the large room where meetings and rituals take place. The expansive chamber features a small organ, an altar in the center, and green upholstered benches along the side walls that face the back wall.

Scattered about the temple are multiple allusions to masonic ritual, including carved stones, stone-crafting tools such as chisels, compasses, and squares, a gavel and top hat — to be used by the master of the lodge — as well as four religious texts that sit on the central altar. Other ritualistic items from previous lodges housed in the Exeter Historical Society include an ark of the covenant and tapestries with religious themes.



Sean Ricard / *The Exonian*

Tapestry damaged in a fire in the 1990s. Fire was part of a string of random arson attacks not specifically targeting Freemasonry

The relationship between Freemasonry and religion has always been uncertain. Membership requires belief in a supreme being, but does not require adherence to a particular religion. It is not particular to faith or denomination, only requiring members to profess belief in one supreme being. Cole candidly added, "If you could convince us wholeheartedly that you worshipped a banana tree and that was your one true supreme being, we will allow that." Therefore, the lodge has Christian, Muslim, as well as Jewish texts on the altar.

Cole went on to explain how religious disagreements about Freemasonry have contributed to its many "detractors." "There are some who condemn us because we don't follow their belief system, others condemn us as ungodly atheists," he said.

The rest of the lodge includes many smaller meeting rooms, a kitchenette, a small library, and records kept in the attic. In one of the side rooms hangs a painting of George Washington, who, beyond his claims to fame in the American Revolutionary War and the presidency, was also a Freemason.

Freemasons come from all walks of life. Cole himself worked as head of private security for a nuclear power plant. His father, who was also a Mason, worked as a police officer.

Multiple faculty members of PEA, past and present, have also been active in the group. From a search of the archives' faculty bios, three faculty emeriti were identified as Masons in either their bios or obituaries: Lawrence Murray Crosbie, Norman Shaw McKendrick, and Frederick Raymond Whitman, instructors in English, History, and History, respectively, all of whom retired in the 1940s.

Associate Director of College Counseling and Instructor in English Cary Einhaus is currently a member of the lodge, as is Instructor in Mathematics Dr. John Mosley.

Cole described how Masons have "many motivations to join, but recently, many members join out of curiosity. Such was the case with Einhaus, who described how he and his husband attended an open house hosted by the lodge in 2014. "We wanted to tour the lodge building because we're both fascinated by history, architecture, and historical old buildings. However," he explained, "after speaking with several members of the lodge, we realized there was more here than we'd initially expected, and we both petitioned to join."

Einhaus went on to describe the fulfillment of being an active member of the group. Along with citing the group's commitment to charity and character development, Freemasonry has also allowed Einhaus to connect with the broader community outside of the Exeter bubble, which also affects faculty members. "Through membership with Star in the East," he said, "I've been able to meet multiple like-minded men from age 22 to over 80 years old from all walks of life, with whom I wouldn't typically have the opportunity to interact on a day-to-day basis. That's been very rewarding"

When asked how often the temple is used, Cole responded with a solemn "not often enough." In the 1980s and 1990s, membership of Exeter's lodge peaked at nearly 300 people, a number which has been cut almost in half since, partly due to the closing of a nearby air force base.

But the group is still committed to their charitable acts and good deeds. Cole said the lodge supports charitable causes in Exeter, but declined to identify specific recipients or amounts. Even though general secrecy around the group has declined since even the 1980s when Cole himself was master of the lodge, he clarified that "we don't do things for recognition, we do them because they're the right things to do."

One aspect of the group's charity that both Cole and Einhaus mentioned was Shriners Children's Hospital, a national network of hospitals which provide specialized pediatric care to families regardless of ability to pay or insurance status.

Cole summed up the history of Freemasonry in Exeter as "long, with good and bad times." From Washington Lodge #13's founding in 1801 to the present day, Freemasonry in Exeter over generations has seen dissolution, effects of a national moral crisis, and arson. The fraternity's rituals, however secret they may be, represent not conspiracy, but a commitment to community outreach, charity, and good deeds—for more than two centuries, "making good men better."

In-Depth: Campus Safety Room Inspections

By GARY GUO, DIYA SANDEEP, and LEVI STOLL

The first night students arrive on campus, their dorm faculty informs them that at some point their room will be inspected to meet fire safety standards. Yet, much about the inspections is unclear, and students do not have a strong understanding of what they are like and how they are put together.

The current E-Book's policy on room inspections is as follows:

Academy employees, including dormitory faculty and Campus Safety staff members, may enter student rooms for inspection, for health and safety purposes, and for concerns about possible rule violations. Such entry does not in and of itself constitute a room search. Investigation of a room's contents beyond simple entry and observation is considered a room search, for which the approval of a dean is required.

Room inspections take place at least twice a year and are conducted by two Campus Safety officials. They are mandated by the Fire Safety Department and ensure that there are minimal fire safety risks in student rooms. The Campus Safety officials look for any item in violation of the E-Book's section "STUDENT ROOMS AND REGULATIONS," which can be found on page 14 of the 2026-2027 E-Book, or NFPA's fire code.

During the interview for *The Exonian*, Director of Campus Safety Services & Risk Management Paul Gravel and Environmental Health and Safety Specialist Brian Downing described the process of a standard room inspection. "We pick a time when the students either are there or not there. The policy says there have to be two people from Campus Safety," they said. "We always have two people. We're looking for violations of safety, which are defined in the E-Book." According to Downing, officers look for safety hazards such as lights or other items hanging from sprinkler systems.

They continued, "There's a building monitor or another campus safety officer that will be in the hallway usually, and they are taking down the notes for the things that I observe. They're also there to make sure that I'm not doing anything I'm not supposed to." If the room is occupied, Campus Safety will wait for confirmation from its resident. If no one is in the room, he will wait before unlocking the door.

The Campus Safety officer in the room will not touch or move anything unless there's something directly against the fire code that must be taken down immediately. If the student is in the room, they'll prompt the student to take it down—otherwise they'll write a note for the student, letting them know it's been taken down per room inspection guidelines. If the officer sees something against the law, they'll reach out to the Dean's Office and see if a room search is required.

Reports of these room inspections with details such as confiscated items are processed by Campus Safety. "It's documented with date, time, and location," said Downing. "Then we send it over to the dean." Neither Downing nor Gravel knew whether the Dean's Office permanently stored these records.

There has been one recent case of misconduct during inspections: two years ago, during Exeter Summer, a custodian repeatedly took items from student rooms. "A student reported, and [the administration] terminated her," said Gravel. "There's checks and balances… We have two officers on at midnight, when there's nobody else around. If we don't trust that those people are honest, they shouldn't be working here."

Room inspections have occurred on campus since at least the 1967-1968 school year. That year's E-Book stated, "To eliminate fire and casualty hazards, the Academy Insurance Inspector makes regular inspection of all dormitory rooms…" Later in 1969, the Academy Fire Inspector assumed responsibility for inspections. It was in 1990 that the E-Book introduced a short section on room inspections and explicitly distinguished inspections from searches, using language that remained largely consistent in later editions. For many years, the policy on room searches read:

A search of a student's room may be warranted if a member of the faculty has good reason to believe that a disciplinary infraction or the existence of physical or other potential harm to the student or others will be discovered. The faculty member should present this request for a room search and the basis for the request to the office of the Dean of Students, which will decide whether a search should be made. When a search is undertaken, a representative of the Dean's of Student's Office, the student whose room is being searched, the faculty resident of the dormitory, and a student proctor from the building shall be present. In the discretion of the Dean of Students, a room search may be undertaken without following the above procedure."

The passage comes from the 1990-1991 E-book. By 2012, student proctors were no longer required to attend a room search. By 2014, the policy had changed again, stating, "When a search is undertaken, at least one dean and a member of Campus Safety must be present. An effort is also made to include the student whose room or possessions are being searched, as well as a faculty resident of the dorm." The student and a faculty representative of the dorm were no longer required to be present at the search, although it was preferable that they be in attendance.

Room searches are done by the Dean's Office and typically are prompted by some information that they received as to an E-Book violation or illegal item. Gravel explained, "[The Dean's Office] determines which room's going to be searched. They call us, we go with them, and we search a room together. Anything that's taken is documented, reported, and if it's illegal, it's turned over to the police department. Then the police follow up with us."

Still, Dean of Students Ashley Taylor assures, "It is always hard at boarding schools navigating the balance in our dorms of those being school buildings that students are able to occupy; we have to be able to access them, particularly for safety reasons, but we also want to do everything we can for those spaces to feel comfortable, safe and private for our students."

A firm standard of both policies' schedules has shaped over the years. Room inspections occur three times per calendar year for each room, "but on the 3rd time, students are off campus, and the rooms are inspected for damage," noted Gravel. The two school-year inspections can occur at nearly any time during the school year.

Students' lives are considered when scheduling inspections. Campus Safety contacts Dean of Academy Life Tyler Caldwell to coordinate inspection dates. "Typically, we give students a few weeks to unpack and to move in fully before we complete those checks. By the end of September, the expectation is that the storage bins, cardboard boxes, and Amazon packages are all removed from the common spaces," Caldwell said. After holding off for a month, Caldwell communicates the schedule for inspections to dorm heads. Inspections are typically organized before fire drills and include checking for any objects blocking student movement.

Due to their urgent nature, room searches often occur within the day that the deans are notified of an issue. "We do [room searches] as soon as we can, after we are presented with a compelling reason to do a search," said Matthew Hartnett, Dean of Residential Life.

The pertinence of an issue is decided by the deans. "

We try to have a pretty high bar when it comes to searching rooms," said Hartnett. "If we believe a student has anything that would be potentially harmful, we're going to most likely, after having a conversation with more than one dean, decide that a room search is in order."

Interviews with students suggested that many were unclear about when inspections occur and what officers are permitted to do inside their rooms. Lower Ricky Lan mentioned that while he's never received any notices or communication about the timing of these inspections, he has heard rumors that "they happen once a month, usually during class hours. So when a student is not there, or it could happen during the vacations, they check all the requirements out of the E-Book."

Upper Yeonwoo Cho had a similar basis of knowledge, saying, "Campus Safety officers will sometimes come into your room, oftentimes during assembly, and search for unauthorized items."

Other students, especially those new or younger, didn't know these room inspections even took place. Two-year upper Changyu Jeong was shocked to learn about them, but remarked, "I heard there is an increasing number of cases involving people owning items they are not supposed to have in their room, including items that might be harmful to themselves and even other people," Jeong said.

Prep Idris Chen was also not aware of these inspections and asked, "What are the limitations to them and what are they allowed to actually inspect?"

Lower Daniel Lee, who lives in Main Street Dormitory, also wanted more information about when inspections happen, how often they happen, and what the inspection process is. "I think giving us information on who comes into our room and what they do in our rooms is important," Lee said. Lee understood that inspections happen about once per semester, although he was unsure of the timing.

Despite those questions, Lee supported the inspections. "I have no problem with the inspection," Lee said, "it makes sure our room is clean, and there is no potential danger hiding in the dorm."

Lan agreed, adding, "I feel like the safety of a person is oftentimes a lot more important than this little bit of privacy that they've given up. So I feel like these are necessary sometimes."

On the other hand, several students expressed concerns about privacy and trust. Cho commented, "Since we're at boarding school, there is also a degree of trust that this school should have in us to be smart enough to not light our rooms on fire or something like that."

Prep Rukmini Majumder provided another perspective, adding, "I'm a pretty messy person, so I sometimes keep my clothes around the room. I don't know how I feel about some random dude seeing my underwear on the floor because I forgot to pick it up in the morning."

Majumder continued, "There's already a bunch of things that aren't good with the dorms that don't have to do with safety like that—there was this kid, and he got his hair burnt off while he was sleeping by the boiler because it was heating up so much…A senior at my dorm mentioned that our beds aren't supposed to be near the boilers, because they get so hot that they can literally set things on fire."

Still, Jeong expressed concern about the idea of notifying students of inspection dates in advance. "First, people would do preparation and maybe hide stuff that's not allowed in the ebook so they won't be discovered. And as the inspection notification starts to come in more often, people can also develop more sneaky methods to hide illegal things," Jeong said.

For Jeong, understanding the inspection process matters more than knowing the schedule. "They don't have to tell us when, but they should let us know it's happening, and what's the process," he said.

Campus safety room inspections point to a problem in boarding school life: dorm rooms are both school spaces and students' homes. While the rules of the Academy's dormitories have changed over the years, their main purpose is to protect students' safety while giving them as much privacy as can be afforded. Administrators described inspections as necessary for maintaining safety, while several students said they knew little about when inspections occur, who enters their rooms, or what officers are permitted to inspect.

That gap between written policy and student understanding remains even as the Academy distinguishes routine inspections from room searches conducted in response to specific concerns.

Life

» **BACK IN BLACK**
Read about Dunbar's proctors bringing back a historical tradition, 8.

» **DOWN TO BE IN DOW**
Read all about Dow House and their warm community, 8.

» **MEDITATION**
Read about Jeannie Nadeau's meditation and her reflections on grace, 8.

Senior Wilkinson Has "Ben" There for Everyone

By GARY GUO, JUNE KOH, CAROL LEE, EMMA LEE, BLAIR LI, and LUCY MA



Wilkinson poses by a tree in front of the Phelps Science Center. *Blair Li / The Exonian*

As the TikTok audio started, seniors Ben Wilkinson and his friend Lena Kook fill the screen. The two dance along to the sound, laughing and moving effortlessly in front of the camera. For anyone who knows Wilkinson, this scene is familiar; their "For You" pages are filled with energetic and enthusiastic dancing. However, behind the TikToks, jokes, and constant energy is a senior who has spent his four years at Phillips Exeter Academy, building unforgettable connections. From diving to OMA clubs to ESSO, Wilkinson has become someone others turn to for encouragement, advice, and a sense of belonging.

Wilkinson was born and raised in Bolton, MA, a small farm town about an hour from Boston. Wilkinson reflects that growing up in rural Bolton both made him more outgoing and helped him become more introspective and thoughtful. As a talkative person, he recalls that he used to hate quiet, but "Bolton made me get used to quiet and appreciate it more."

"I've basically not been doing something," he recalls about his childhood. He attributes much of this habit to his parents, especially his mom, who was "also a hustler, always doing something." Wilkinson would watch and help his mother work, helping her with intake and chores around the house. He learned that being busy, doing a lot, and staying involved was good.

Wilkinson's mother had gone to boarding school in Uganda and had wanted to send her children to schools like Exeter since learning about them. His mother told them to "shoot for the highest;" after all, in Bolton, Wilkinson and his younger brother were "big fish in a small pond."

Wilkinson took up diving in his lower year, after he got injured doing cross country. He had been a swimmer, but never thought he would go back to the pool again. Wilkinson hadn't planned to dive and was looking for a winter sport when alumna Ellie Coleman, class of 2024, who was in his dorm, recommended diving. "I was freaking out because when I had seen diving before, it was all these crazy clips. I thought, 'I can't do that. I haven't done gymnastics. I should not be doing any of this,'" he recalled. "But she told me, 'If you don't try, how are you going to know?'" This led Wilkinson to try out, eventually make the team, and become a captain.

Diving pushed Wilkinson to do things he never imagined doing. "Diving opened my eyes. It made me put myself out there more," he said. Learning to attempt dives that once intimidated him changed the way he approached challenges. "If I can flop into the water or do a double flip into the water, I can do other scary things too," Wilkinson said. "The world isn't going to end." Looking back, he said diving "helped me find myself."

His positivity is apparent in his teammates as well. "It's easy for most people to focus on the negative sides in life in general. But Ben inspires everyone to think positively," Upper Penelope Ghisleni said. "His optimism is contagious." Over the two years he has been part of the team, Wilkinson has become a "reference point for everyone," someone teammates can turn to for advice or encouragement during difficult practices.

WILKINSON, 10.

Brandon Thomas: The Meaning of Living In Community



Mr. Thomas, donning a stylish non-sibi hat, smiles at the camera. Sean Ricard / *The Exonian*

By TIAGO BILYK, LILY BOURKE, SEBASTIAN BRIGGS, IZZY CABRAL, DEVON CHANG, MAYA DEHGHAN, YUZU EMOTO, MARKUS FRIEDBERG, AZALEA KRASOV, SANIA RANADIVE, DON SCHREFFLER III, ARISA YOSHINO, ISABELLE ZHAO, and ANNIE ZHU

On a cold and snowy winter night, while most Exonians kept themselves locked within the comfort and warmth of their dorms, Instructor in Health and Human Development Brandon Thomas undertook a different mission. Out on the McConnell Quad, with shovels in hand, he and a group of a dozen or so shivering students set out into the blizzard to aid our brave maintenance crew, moving door to door, walkway to walkway, paving the paths for two entire hours. The sheer selflessness this act took exemplifies Thomas's presence in the Exeter community.

Thomas arrived at the Academy nine years ago after working and coaching at a variety of colleges and universities, and has since become a prolific figure on campus. As faculty adviser for Black Students of Excellence (BSE), and dormitory resident in Webster hall, (not to mention his role as the first friendly face often seen by new students as they shuffle into their health class), Thomas is known for his upbeat personality, smile, and charm.

Before arriving at the Academy in the fall of 2017, Thomas served as one of the youngest assistant athletic directors in the country while working at the University of New Hampshire. "It was awesome," he recalled. "I worked mainly with athletes. I learned a lot working with those college students." Prior to UNH, Thomas also worked at Winthrop University in South Carolina, the University of North Dakota, and Belmont Abbey College, also in North Carolina.

Reflecting on his journey to the Academy, he noted that "It was more so just happenstance for me." It was while working at UNH that, through a mutual friend of Instructor in Health and Human Development Michelle Soucy, Thomas came to learn about the job opening at PEA. "I thought I would only do it for a year," he said, "but nine years later, here we are."

Thomas is now nearing a decade at the Academy. Teaching the Harkness method for the better part of a decade, Thomas is keenly aware of the challenges that new students face at the Academy. "The challenge is, you've got people who start from different places," he shared. "You have students who come to Exeter having already practiced some level

THOMAS, 9.

Community Gathers for Annual Fall Fest



Plearn Devakula Na Ayudhya / *The Exonian*

By JOHANNA HILLMAN, AUDREY KIM, ELA KORO, STELLA MCCUE, AMELIA MUENTENER, ANGIE YUAN, and TONY ZHU

On Friday, Oct. 2, an array of red-and-white striped tents sprang up on the McConnell Quad, and the sweet scent of pumpkin spice filled the air for the annual Fall Festival.

The Fall Festival was held from five to seven in the evening. An annual tradition, the festival began in 2019 and has been mainly held by the Dining Services since 2022. Popular, repeating activities at the festival included pumpkin rides, palm readings, and a photo booth for students and staff to remember the night.

The success of the Fall Festival depended on the collaboration of many staff members on campus: dining staff curated delectable menus, astonishing performers were invited, and festive stands complete with their respective equipment were set up in the light rain.

According to the Director, Office of the Principal Leigh Drapeau, the festival began during Principal Emeritus William Rawson's tenure to offer a space or time "where [the school] could welcome all demographics of [the] community to enjoy and celebrate together."

Director of Dining Services Melinda Leonard and her team

FALL FEST, 9.

Return to Tradition: Dunbar Back in Black Rocks Campus



Courtesy of Naomi Moskovich

Dunbar proctors pose with a flag of "Back in Black" in front of the Dunbar common room.

By AVA CHUNG, JUEUN HONG, ARIANA METZGER, SAMIYA JULY, and ANNA YANG

On Saturday night, Sept. 26, the first dance of the year came to life in Thompson Gym. Back in Black is a Dunbar-affiliated event that was revived for the first time in seven years this term. Traditionally, Dunbar students show up in black clothing while other attendees show up in any other colors of their choosing. This dance brought students from all grade levels together and was the first dance for many new students. The amiable atmosphere allowed them to meet others and form meaningful connections.

In the past, many larger dorms held events like dances and casino nights. Since COVID-19 hit, the traditions died down. Dunbar was the first dorm to bring back its signature night. Back in Black was well promoted on social media, and some Dunbar alums came forward on social media to cheer on the girls for restoring this beloved tradition.

Despite a Nor'easter bringing in heavy rain that evening, students made their way to Thompson Gym and enjoyed a candlelit pathway on their way in. The dance featured a photo booth with an assortment of accessories, a DJ, disco lighting, and snacks such as brownies and lemon bars. The photo booth in particular was a popular spot. "I really loved the photo booth," commented Jessica Fan, a lower in Dunbar. "It gives me a way to keep lasting memories of the night with a physical memento."

The ambience that Dunbar strived to create was a mixture of community and fun. "No matter if you were a prep, lower, upper, senior, or if you were a girl or a boy, [Back in Black] kind of brought us all together," said prep Isabelle Zhao, an attendee. Dorm Faculty and Chaperone Erica Lazure added, "I really enjoyed just seeing all the kids show up and especially admired all of the efforts of our proctors to create a really fun space for everybody."

The idea of reviving Back in Black started when Student Council's Recreational Committee and Student Activities Committee pitched the idea to Dunbar dorm head Samantha Fahey and Assistant Director of Student Activities Kelly McGahie. Unfortunately, the planners were given short notice. While most events for the coming fall are planned in May, Dunbar only started planning in September. Still, Dunbar and Student Activities made it happen.

Dunbar proctors were key planners involved in setting up Back in Black. Proctors only had four or five times to meet over the course of the month beforehand to make it happen. Nevertheless, the proctors found time to "make posters, plan the food, pick songs for the DJ, and make a logo for the photo booth," senior and Dunbar proctor Amani Shetty explained. Factors like the DJ, the refreshments and decorations, the location, and how everything would be brought and arranged all had to be carefully considered. With major help from Ms. McGahie and Ms. Fahey, they pulled it off.

Spreading the word about the dance was also essential. "We were thinking about how we wanted to do it on social media. We got help from Owen Lee for a lot of the photography, and he did a great job," Dunbar proctor and senior Alexa Morel said. Upper Owen Lee made an official trailer for the event, and the proctors also made Instagram posts to increase visibility.

Shetty described the process of setting everything up on the night of Back in Black: "For the setup, the Dunbar proctors and our dorm faculty, Ms. Lazure, alongside Dr. Pomar, who kindly volunteered to help, handled it all. We set up the tables, put up decorations, and put candles and balloons all over Thompson."

Back in Black is a tradition that Dunbar hopes to continue, so students had suggestions for improvement in future years. Regarding the refreshments, upper Lily Bourke suggested that more variety be offered, calling the snacks "uninspired," while Morel reflected that more soda would be needed for next time because "it ran out pretty fast, and people are always looking for drinks at dances when sweaty."

Others hoped for clearer communication about event details and changes, such as the decision not to do the snake line. Fan said, "I would make the logistics of the event a little clearer as a lot of my friends came to me with questions about what Dunbar Back In Black actually was." She added, "I would also send out a form for song suggestions that lets everyone in the school feel like their songs are being included," a common sentiment among the attendees.

More planning time for next year could address many of these challenges. Despite the short preparation time, students viewed the revival positively and expressed interest in seeing both Back in Black and other dorm-affiliated traditions continue.

Back in Black's return offered a glimpse into the past. Through its revival, the dorm has become a closer-knit community. Dunbar and Student Activities not only succeeded at bringing back their event, but possibly opened doors for old traditions in other dorms to emerge into the present.

Jeannie Nadeau Delivers Meditation and Reflects on Grace

By SELASIE AMEMASOR, MARI CIASCHINI, CHANGYU JEONG, SOPHIA KIM, and MAGGIE KOTKOWSKI

It was September 30th, Mrs. Nadeau invited Exonians sitting in Phillips Church to take a collective breath. As students and teachers alike pause their busy Wednesday mornings to breathe in unity, Ms. Nadeau offers us her wisdom. "Breath is a form of grace," she says, her voice calm and steady. "It connects us."

Ms. Nadeau is a euphonium and tuba teacher in the Academy's Music Department. She's also one of the instruments you'll hear during almost every play we produce on campus. While she may not be one of the faces you see everyday on campus, she is a major part of the musical life on campus, and by extension, student life in general.

Grace is the main theme of Mrs Nadeau's meditation. She exhibits it from the first note let out from the ivory keys of the piano to the moment the last valve button rises back up on the euphonium. Traditionally, music will play through the speakers lining the walls. Instead Mrs. Nadeau's meditation was opened by live music, played by two of her own students, senior Celia Ephrem on euphonium and senior Han Yan on piano. As the notes of Amazing Grace filled the room, unbeknownst to the listeners, Ms. Nadeau had already presented the topic of her meditation.

As the final note reverberated through the hall she began with an anecdote, "I wanted to acknowledge the kind of stress that the students here face and give them some tools with which they can cope with it," she said. "But also, I made sure to tie in a few anecdotes along the way so that people didn't get bored."

Nadeau told many stories, but they all revolved around the same theme. She recalled the story of Stone Soup, a childhood tale that is about bringing communities together, and a more personal

MEDITATION, 11.

Down to be in Dow!

By JAI GABA, ELINE GADEGBEKU, KAYLEE GONG, BEN KIM, LUCY MA, and NICOLE SUBKHSNBERDINA

It's Friday evening and the campus has finally started to slow after yet another busy week. The clock nears ten, and students begin to trickle out of the trance of the school day; slipping into the weekend's tempo. In a far flung part of the campus' North side, Dow House glows from within.

As one approaches the building, glimpses of their community can be seen through the windows — nine girls all gathered into Instructor in Science Summer Morrill's apartment. They are sprawled out across the living room – some on the couch engaged in deep conversation, some sat at a table nearby – finishing off the week's tasks. Eventually, a deck of Uno cards are pulled out, and the room lights up with excitement. That cycle of warmth repeats for hours, until each girl's eyelids are heavy with sleep.

One thing in particular that stands out about Dow, especially with it being a house instead of a dorm, is the tight knit community. As upper Zara Odocha emphasized, "every boarder that comes to Exeter has made the leap of faith to move away from home at an early age. It's a decision that often comes with many fears and anxieties, but it also comes with hope and excitement for finding…a home at Exeter. With a small but strong community, Dow House has fostered exactly that."

"It is pretty cliche," laughed Odocha, "but my favorite thing about Dow is the community. Because it's such a small dorm — it's practically one floor — you just get to know all the people very well." Especially when she came to Exeter as a new lower from Nigeria, Odocha found community in Dow House with two other new lowers at the time, Blair Li and Fiyin Filani.

Odocha emphasized what the space means to her. "Dow is somewhere I can literally just call home. If I'm having a rough day, it's a space where it's okay to just be myself and fully express how I feel." Prep Angie Yuan concurred that, "It has been pretty fun to hear everybody being able to speak so freely, even about random topics."

Similarly, proctor Erika Rome shared her favorites: "Honestly, I love everything about Dow. It does genuinely feel like a home, and our dorm takes very good care of her. Also, shoutout to our custodian Pam; she is the best!! The plants are my favorite part for sure, though"

As a new upper, Rome found the small size comforting rather than alienating: "I found integrating into a relatively small dorm very easy! Personally, I believe I can thrive anywhere, but being immersed in such a small, intimate group really did make a difference in my upper year. Almost immediately, I was surrounded by such welcoming girls, and I never felt like I couldn't be myself."

With a small size, Dow House frequently organized activities to promote that connection. Filani highlighted that, "Last year, we had a celebration for everyone's birthday where they got to pick what they wanted to eat on their birthday." Odocha and Yuan highlighted other traditions like slime making and s'mores nights.

Morrill and Assistant Director of Admissions, Alex Braile, Dow's dorm heads, have lived in the dorm for the past two years, and each came to the role with an Exeter history of their own. Morrill, who also graduated from the Academy in 2011, spent three years as the head of Soule Hall, a boys' dorm of 44, before moving to Dow.

For Morrill, the move changed the nature of the job. "When you're working in a big dorm as a dorm head, it's a lot of people management and a lot of organization and coordination," she said. "The shift was towards much more personal relationships, one-on-one, getting to know people. All of my spreadsheets were no longer necessary." The residents differed as well. "Boys eat a lot more food," Morrill remarked. "They're a lot slower to get comfortable and to trust the adults in the dorm, but it does happen."

Morrill attended Exeter as a day student and had never lived in a dorm prior. "I actually was pretty nervous about working in the dorm because I didn't quite know what it was like," she recalled. "But I was really curious about it. So many people felt really close to faculty members who they never had as teachers, and I just didn't know what that was like." Five years later, her view has settled. "Dorm life has become my favourite part of being at Exeter. I loved my time here as a day student, but I feel like I missed out on some of those relationships that people got to build in the dorm."

Braile's path was the opposite. He grew up on campus as the son of emerita Instructor in Math, Dale Braile, and lived in the dorms as a day student and faculty child. "A lot of the dorm things just felt like normal life to me," he recalled. "Students would just come and show up and be in our home." For Braile, a house full of students is the default, and the quiet life outside a dorm is the exception. "The brief periods of my life when I haven't lived in a dorm, it's been very quiet. It's never quiet here, which is good."

The dorm's size, both agreed, makes its traditions even more important. "Because there are so few people here, the turnover each year feels pretty drastic," Braile noted. "Four, five new people can really change the vibe. So your approach and your traditions almost become more important, because that's a lot of the community that happens." For Morrill, the defining tradition is the Friday night check-in. "Whether we're playing Uno or watching a movie, it's a chance for everyone to be together in the same space."

Not every Dow tradition, however, is as old as the

DOW, 11.

Thomas Cont.

of Harkness. Then you also have students who come from places where they don't even speak the same language."

As all new students are required to take a term of Health in the fall, he has become acquainted with the process of integration at Exeter. "I would say the hard part is making sure that folks don't lose some level of confidence coming here," he said. Contrary to what some might think, Thomas also noted that "preps probably have the integration part the easiest, because they come in with a class of new people. But if you're a new upper, you're like 'wait a second, I just went to class and everyone just started talking.'"

As a teacher, he focuses on ensuring everyone has a say, and has a place. "Exeter, New Hampshire isn't the beacon of diversity in a couple different ways," he said. "I think it's a beautiful place, almost like a Hallmark Christmas card, but it can be a bit of a culture shock."

In his classroom, "he is very good at adding context for the things we're learning," senior Oluj Okeremi said. Mr Thomas focuses on helping students understand the "why" behind the topic rather than just presenting facts, effectively placing concepts into real world context.

Thomas is also a reliable and imaginative advisor for BSE. "He's always down for ideas and is dedicated to bringing them to life," upper and BSE Co-Head Trinity Donkor said. "He's also just a really great person; he's invested in the club and our individual successes, and it shows through everything he does."

Recently, Thomas treated BSE co-heads to dinner at Lexie's. "We had such good conversations, and while the intention was to solidify club plans, we also got to talk about our lives and how we were doing," Donkor said. Thomas truly cares about getting to know students on a deeper level.

Thomas' work doesn't end in the classroom or in clubs. He also serves as a dorm faculty to Webster Hall. "I think the dorm piece is one of my favorite parts of the job," he stated. "I'm lucky in that we have a very large dorm, so it's just so many personalities, and then we can talk about a little bit of everything."

A similar notion was shared by lower Trip Spurlock: "He will talk for a good long while. We'll go over what the assembly was like, ten subjects in the news, what movies we like to watch, and each of those conversations enriches you as a human being."

Okeremi has been in Thomas's advisory since his prep year. He first met Thomas in OMA, where Thomas immediately made Okeremi feel welcome as they shared croissants and other snacks together. "Mr. Thomas is one of the most transparent people on campus," Okeremi said. "I don't really see different traits depending on who he's around, because he's basically the same with virtually everyone."

Okeremi appreciated Thomas's captivating ability to describe — a skill that added to Thomas's already-intriguing travelling experiences in a variety of countries, including China and Chile. "He's a very big story guy," Okeremi described. "He loves his own stories, and he tells a lot of them."

Instructor in Health and Human Development, Courtney Shaw, has a close relationship with Thomas, stating "I look at him like the brother that I never had — and probably never wanted either. But I am so grateful that I have the opportunity to not only know him, but that I get to work with him in a place like Exeter." She recalled when Thomas accompanied her to her wedding, and even helped set up and decorate. "I would say he is the most interesting man in the world … there really are so many different levels and layers to him."

Almost a year on, many remember last year's famous blizzard which awarded Exonians our first snow day in almost ten years. And some might also recall the email sent on the night before by Thomas, who was putting together a crew to help Maintenance shovel snow throughout the night.

"I think [it's important] just being together in unison," he reflected. "Whether people believe it or not, we live in a community. And living in community means that we have to do things that sometimes we don't want to, or to do things that help somebody else. And that's it. I truly believe that if we all chip in a little bit, it makes everyone's life a whole lot easier." Thomas's sunny personality and constant service to the Academy make him a foundational member of the community.

Fall Fest Cont.

work together every August to plan for the event, discussing the popularity of menus and activities from last year and deciding the coming festival's theme. The Dining Services are supported in their planning by the Principal's Office, Facilities Management Electricians Department, Student Activities, ESSO, and many staff and faculty contributing their effort.

For Annie Barrows, the Assistant Dining Hall Manager at Elm Street Dining Hall, the rainy weather "was a consideration" for her team, as it disrupted the tents and decorations assembled for the evening. Dining Hall Staff Rebecca Bolton had similar worries. "The rain was definitely a challenge and an unexpected one," she said. "But, we worked really hard, and we got it all dried up, and the sun came out, so it turned into a great evening."

Many students enjoyed the festive, autumnal atmosphere at the festival. Lower Angeliki Katsanis called the atmosphere amazing, highlighting the face painting and fortune-telling. Some returning students thought that this year's festival surpassed that of last year's.

"They took last year's festival and multiplied it by 100," said upper Abby Rogers. "In my opinion, it's so much more fun this year."

Senior Laavanya Rasia also enjoyed the festival's community vibes and enjoyed the opportunity to "spend a little time outside before the weather starts to get colder." She also commended the fun activities and the variety of the food options.

The event was enjoyed by all Exeter community members, regardless of age. Math Instructor Rachel Labes' young daughter had a "wonderful time" trying the food and getting her face painted. Dean of Students Ashley Taylor, who did not play any role in planning the event, said her kids loved the bouncy houses.

After the end of a long week, students began their weekend with carnival-themed hors d'oeuvres, which included freshly fried chicken wings, a swirl of marshmallow fluff toasted to a golden brown atop a decadent chocolate cupcake, and onion rings with a crispy batter.

For many, the fall-themed food options were the highlight of the festival. Autumn options included pumpkin bread, apple cider, and corn dogs. Departing somewhat from the autumnal theme were offerings such as empanadas and a Kona Ice truck. Many agreed that the mac and cheese was the star of the menu.

Prep Maya Dehghan praised the food offerings prepared by Dining Services. "Any event where there's free food, I'll be there," she remarked. But the food was so good that she "would genuinely love to pay for" it.

Similarly, lower Dani'el Scoon agreed, stating, "the food was the best … the mac and cheese was really good."

The fall fest included various activities like spectating invited guests, juggling, a radar gun, a corn maze, and the main attraction: riding on a moving pumpkin.

Part of the Dubois Circus, aerial performer Victoria Grimmy brought hula hoops and juggling balls for attendees. "It was really lovely to meet so many people who also do circus," Grimmy said. "There's so many people that can hula-hoop and actually do a little bit of aerial."

Macy Furse, who worked at the Kona Ice Truck, enjoyed interacting with students, staff, and staff family. Furse loved "seeing the joy on all students' faces" as she handed out shaved ice to those in line. "Everyone was having the best time and [I loved] seeing friendships and seeing everyone enjoying the evening," she said.

While most students delighted in the festival itself, some were displeased with the use of AI-generated promotional posters for the event. Prep Emelie Anstett would have preferred the school use human-designed posters, emphasizing the mistakes she saw on some of the AI-generated posters. "I don't like AI either way," she stated.

Scoon found the use of AI "somewhat hypocritical," given the school's general prohibition of AI use in the classroom, but he ultimately "couldn't care less."

In general, students highly praise the event for the food and activities offered. Fall Fest does a great job encompassing how autumn should feel. It creates excitement across campus for the upcoming season and signals the changing of leaves into vibrant shades of yellow, red, and orange. With the rigorous schedule at Exeter, though, the Fall Fest gives students a time when they are able to hang out with their friends and indulge in delicious food, improving morale on campus. It's a brief break from the constant rush of Exeter life, where students can forget about everything for a few hours and just enjoy themselves.


Plearn Devakula Na Ayudhya / *The Exonian*


Plearn Devakula Na Ayudhya / *The Exonian*


Plearn Devakula Na Ayudhya / *The Exonian*

Alumni Spotlight: Student to Teacher, Madia Shivik

By JESS ANSELM, CONNOR CALABIA, ARIALE OSEI, and DIYA SANDEEP

For many alumni, Phillips Exeter Academy is more than just a school; it is an experience that shapes who they become long after graduation. Maida Shivik, class of 93, a former Exeter student who is now a mathematics teacher at the American School in London, reflected on how her time at Exeter influenced her academically, socially, and personally. From discovering her passion for mathematics to navigating the challenges of confidence and belonging, her experience reveals how Exeter's opportunities, relationships, and expectations helped shape the person she is today.

Shivik was a resident of South Hampton, New Hampshire — which as many day students can tell you is an incredibly small town not too far from Exeter. The Academy was the only place she had applied to, and was really the only school she was interested in attending. Shivik described driving by campus in her youth. "I just remember asking my mom, [after] looking out the window and seeing the Academy Building 'What is that, Mom? What is that place?' And she was like, 'Oh, it's a school for really smart kids.' And I was like, well, then that's where I'm going. And so it was pretty much decided then."

Her most distinct memories of Exeter are of its math program; after all, she would go on to spend much of life guiding other students through a similar one. She remembered, "I know you guys now kind of have this 'Exeter math,' like it wasn't called that when I was there. My exams were in blue books and it was pages and pages of writing about math. It might be one or two problems, but I spent a lot of time having to write about those problems." She continued, "It just made me understand math on a much deeper level in terms of not just solving problems, but seeing how it all fit together," which then influenced how she teaches her students now.

Shivik was that peer in each of our classes who is the first to put the hardest problem on the board. "Every single report card that I had, my teacher said, 'Maida has an amazing ability to explain complicated problems in a way that's really easy to understand,'" Shivik reflected. "And I should have probably known then that this was the clue that I was going to end up being a math teacher."

She went on to praise her own math teachers, including Anja Greer, who is the namesake of the Anja S. Greer Conference on Mathematics & Technology, which is a teacher development course held yearly over the summer. She said, "I just had some really, really amazing teachers who were so encouraging of me in that aspect of mathematics, especially at a time when math was very much a gendered thing. It was like, 'yeah, boys do math, girls don't,' and so like that, I think [Exeter's math programs] just laid the foundation for me to pursue this job that I do now."

While Shivik, as a day student, never had the level of dorm community common among boarders, the day student community during her years at Exeter was much more tightly knit. She described them as "a posse unto ourselves," and added, "We had a lot of relationships across grade levels too. Your strongest core relationships were with the day students that were in your grade, but you definitely had a lot of relationships and friendships with people who were across grades, just because you were all day students."

Many of her friends also being day students, Shivik recounted one of their few pranks in her senior year, explaining, "It was for my Exeter/Andover day. My two friends, one of which lived on a farm and had access to large quantities of lard, decided to drive to Andover the night before the Exeter/Andover day, and cover the stands of Andover's section of their stadium with lard. And on the way back, we're waiting for them to get back … and they got into a car accident, just a minor fender bender. They weren't hurt or anything like that." In hindsight, she mentions it was an awful prank to pull, but it had been funny in her youth.

Club culture was also less big on campus back then and Shivik was a proud member of Glee Club (now known as Exeter Choral Union). She expanded, "Just having that experience of creating a piece of music with all these amazing voices, and we did productions of pretty massive pieces, like the Brahms Requiem, and we would perform in the church, and my family would come, friends of my family would come, and just having that experience to be able to perform, which was something new for me as well, was really powerful."

Exeter certainly helped Shivik develop her sense of self, although she wishes that she didn't have the "awkward teenager" phase as she is much more confident now, especially regarding the imposter syndrome that many Exonians face. She shared, "I wasn't popular by any stretch of the imagination because I was introverted, and I was a day student. I was also on financial aid, and I was going to class with the daughter of the head of Lehman Brothers, and so there was definitely a class-divide lack of confidence, like I'm just this poor kid from down the road, and then there's all these really amazing, really wealthy people here who have so much more confidence just based on how they were raised and who they were brought up as."

Nevertheless, it was Exeter that set Shivik on her path towards becoming a math teacher. She returned to the idea of confidence, and said that because of Exeter, "I was just more able to kind of go like, 'oh yeah, I want to go to college in New York City,' and then I'm not afraid to move across the country, and then I'm not afraid to move across the world. Knowing that I have been able to make friends with and connect with people from all over the world through Exeter, there's no reason I can't go and do that in my life then."

Why math? Shivik explained, "I had really amazing math teachers at Exeter, and I think I 100 percent credit me being a math teacher now with that. It was not even remotely my plan when I was at Exeter to become a teacher, because my mother was a teacher, my mother's mother was a teacher, like my whole family was teachers, and I was like, 'I'm not going to be a teacher,' but I think the number one way that Exeter helped me was preparing me for whatever career because I did things before I was a teacher." She added that while she hates writing, "we did so much writing that it really taught me how to communicate clearly, and I just think that's helped in every aspect of my career that I've had for my adult life."

Ms. Shvik teaches eighth-grade mathematics — Algebra 1 and Geometry — at the American School in London. When asked what advice she would give to current and prospective Exeter students, she acknowledged that her vision of Exeter is different from what it is now, but encouraged students to "maximize every possible opportunity." In short, take advantage of as many experiences as possible — not just academics. She specifically mentioned hockey, Glee Club, and her Galápagos biology trip, explaining that these are experiences that broadened her life experiences so much. She also emphasized the importance of choosing a college based on personal fit, not its name. She advises students to "find the school and the program that matches you" and to focus on what feels right for them rather than prestige.

For her, Exeter was nothing if not deeply formative, as it is for many of us. And still, she has only continued to bloom in her time after the Academy. Her work with students at the American School in London proves her full circle journey, as she takes on the role of teaching math to the next generation of students like her — excited and eager to learn.

Wilkinson Cont.

Wilkinson's involvement in Black Students of Excellence began with hesitation. During most of his prep year, he didn't attend BSE. "I'm mixed. My dad is white, my mom is Black, and she's from Uganda. I knew I was Black, but I wasn't sure whether I was 'Black enough' to join BSC," he recalled. It was not until an older student repeatedly encouraged him that he finally went to a meeting.

Once he did, Wilkinson found a community he had realized he was missing. "I remember feeling a true sense of belonging and community," he said. Conversations about shared experiences and microaggressions helped him realize that he wasn't alone at school. "There was always going to be somebody who had my back," Wilkinson said. Being part of BSE helped give him the confidence he needed to give back to his community.

Upper Trinity Donker, who first met Wilkinson through BSE her prep year and now serves alongside him as co-head, described him as "probably the most confident person I know," someone who was willing to walk up and start a conversation with anyone. It inspired Donker to take more chances herself, as "[he] taught me to try new things … because I know the consequences aren't as big as you think they are."

BSE also opened the door for Wilkinson to become more involved in other cultural clubs. He became active in the African Student Association, which helped him lean more into his identity. He later joined other dance groups such as Afro Shade with encouragement from his friends, which helped him find community.

Over time, Wilkinson shifted from being the person welcomed to one helping welcome others. Now as a BSE co-head, he said leadership made the process feel "full circle." After finding a sense of belonging, he felt responsible for creating the same environment for younger students. "I've been able to become the kind of person I saw in other people when I was younger," Wilkinson said. "That idea of giving back is really important to me."

As a co-head, Wilkinson became someone younger students can look up to. Donker described him as a natural leader who keeps the club organized. "I looked up to him in my prep year, and I'm sure that the prep now looks up to him as well," she said.

Outside of the Nekton Pool and club rooms, Wilkinson developed a deep passion for the Chinese language at Exeter. When he arrived at the Academy, he thought he would continue his studies in Spanish. After receiving suggestions from his mom and friend, Wilkinson switched to Mandarin. "I was scared. I thought I was going to fail. But I went into it with the mentality that I might never have this opportunity again, so I might as well put everything into it," reflected Wilkinson.

After four years with the Chinese program at Exeter, Wilkinson speaks the language almost fluently and has traveled with the department and on his own to China, including Beijing and Taiwan. Wilkinson is grateful for the faculty instructors in Chinese: Mr. Levi Stribling, Ms. Ting Yuan, and Mr. Ning Zhou.

He thanked Stribling for always reminding him to "pay more attention, become more detail-oriented and meticulous" with his work. For Yuan and Zhou, he expressed gratitude for them always pushing him to challenge himself and have trust in himself

As a result, Chinese for Wilkinson means more than a course credit to fulfill; he genuinely enjoyed the classes and activities. "Being in Chinese class and doing all the activities has always made it such a lightheartened class," Wilkinson remarked. "At Exeter, people often complain about having to go to class or say classes aren't as enjoyable as they expected. But for me, Chinese has consistently been fun, and because I viewed it that way, I was able to do well.

Wilkinson believed that learning Chinese is more than sitting in classrooms and interacting with locals on a school trip. "I also love the language because of the people I take classes with," noted Wilkinson. "Beyond learning Chinese itself, it gives me another way to connect with so many people."

Whether with people he met in class or international students who spoke Chinese as their first language, Wilkinson always found opportunities to use the language socially. He initially worried people would react with, "Why are you speaking Chinese?" However, Wilkinson recalled, "people have been really welcoming. They created a comfortable environment for me to speak and practice the language," as he paid kudos to Chinese speakers on campus.

For Wilkinson's friends, his warmth comes through in ordinary moments, from a familiar hug to an impromptu TikTok dance. "He is an amazing hugger, and he will always, always greet you with a hug every time he sees you," said senior Melody Ma. "he gives the type of hugs that tell you he's here for you." Kook similarly described how Wilkinson senses when she is feeling down and suggests making a TikTok together. "And as soon as we start dancing, my mood goes up, and his mood goes up," she said. "He really knows how to lift up the energy." His uplifting energy comes from an attentiveness Lena has felt throughout their friendship. "All his emotions seem very genuine," she recalled. "It doesn't seem like he's just doing it for him; he actually cares about us, and I can see his warmth radiate."

His energy and optimism also shape the way he supports his friends. "It's easy for most people, including myself, to focus on the negative sides in life in general," upper Penelope Ghisleni said, "But Ben inspires everyone to think positively. His optimism is contagious." Wilkinson's care for others carries into his everyday life, in which he is dedicated to helping the people around him feel encouraged. For senior Amal Akhtar, Wilkinson's effort in his friendships is what she admires. "He always puts other people before him," she reflected, "and I learn so much from him every day."



Blair Li / *The Exonian*

His care has built friendships that extended from shared interests and activities to deeper relationships at Exeter. As senior Michelle Kio-Michael reminisced, "Honestly, when we became close, I knew they weren't lying about the whole "lifelong friends" thing."

"He is one of the all-time greats at 'Imposter!'" English Instructor Ellee Dean shared, "He is fun and full of fresh ideas." Having taught Wilkinson for two consecutive terms, Dean also remembers Wilkinson's amazing ability to use his voice with an eye for both what is real and what is funny.

Wilkinson emerges as someone whose impact on Exeter goes far beyond the number of activities or leadership positions he has taken on. Again and again, people described him as a welcoming and genuine mentor who is deeply committed to the people around him. His journey from a new student to the person all newcomers look up to shows how much he has grown, as well as his intention to give back the same support he received. Whether through diving, OMA clubs, ESSO, Chinese, or his friendships, Wilkinson has built community wherever he goes. As he prepares to leave Exeter, he hopes to carry forward the same empathy, cooperation, and service that others have shown him. His greatest legacy is not the success he found through a single achievement, but the way he makes people feel seen, supported, and confident.

Tales From Town: Arlynn Polletta

By TIAGO BILYK, SEBASTIAN BRIGGS, MARKUS FRIEDBERG, DN SCHREFFLER, ISABELLE ZHAO

The pursuit of equity in education has become a hot topic over the past few years. But for Ms. Arlynn Polletta, the answer is simple — they are inseparable.

Poletta is the Chief Equity Officer for School Administrative Unit 16, the network of 11 schools surrounding the Exeter vicinity. Her job encompasses a variety of duties including, most chiefly, responding to and helping others deal with discrimination issues across the variety of campuses. This year, Polletta is also charged with running the equity committee of the New Hampshire School Board Association, where members discuss bills and policies affecting the school system through a lens of equity.

Poletta defined educational equity as "ensuring that all students have what they need, and ensuring that we're designing systems for students with marginalized communities in mind." Ultimately, she believes that educational equity makes policies and classroom practices more beneficial for all students.

Managing a group of over 4,000 pupils from Exeter to Stratham, Polletta never lives the same day twice. At any given moment, she may be working on large, macro issues, tackling the policy of the New Hampshire School Board Association, or speaking one-on-one with a teacher or student. "I spend a lot of time driving between our schools," she reflected. "So, I can be at four different schools in a day, which is fascinating because every one of them has their own energy and culture, and so pivoting between those communities can sometimes be very fun and sometimes overwhelming."

When issues do arise, Polletta responds by asking a simple question: "how do we learn and restore after something happens?" Often the answer is found outside of the classroom, where she serves as an administrative adviser to a handful of clubs and extra curricular groups. "We have a group called Roots and Wings out of the high school," she said. "It's a group that cares a lot about social issues and community connections. We have a lot of community partnerships." These opportunities, Polletta believes, create a vested interest for the students in the success of equity in their local communities.

Polletta officially started in education in the early 2000s as a classroom teacher focused mainly on the English and Art spaces. Polletta took great inspiration from her mother, who had focused her own career in public school education in Michigan, and even founded a preschool which Polletta later attended.

From the very beginning of her journey, Polletta always cared deeply about equity and inclusion. This deep care carved a path for her towards a world in education, and exploring social issues through the arts. After teaching for many years, Polletta later attended the University of Massachusetts Amherst for their social justice education program. This experience served as a catalyst for her true "pivot into the educational equity space" and the fight for the elimination of discrimination against students.

For Poletta, equity is inseparable from the broader purpose of education. "I don't think you can separate equity from education," she said. "Educational equity is such an important part of understanding what it means to be in schools, in the world, in higher education."

This belief has followed her throughout her nearly three decades in the field. From her early years in the classroom to her current work, her focus has remained constant. Today, she brings that lifelong commitment to SAU 16, where her work extends across public schools in Exeter and the surrounding area.

"Equity comes up all over, everywhere, all the time," Poletta said. Her career reflects that idea: she has encountered questions of equity in individual classrooms, independent-school settings, educational programs, and now across an entire public-school system.

For Poletta, that breadth also means that her work is never truly finished. She described equity as a "lifetime work that never has an endpoint," but rather something that is "always evolving… growing… adapting." In describing equity this way, Poletta stressed its ongoing nature and said that work continues to develop instead of reaching a fixed conclusion.

Looking ahead, she also acknowledged that progress can be gradual. "Change that is sustainable and meaningful certainly doesn't happen quickly," she said, concluding that the pace of change was one of the greatest challenges of equity work today. "As far as I'm concerned, there's always so much more work to do, right?"

Meditation Cont.

story, of a moment she witnessed when she was in Haiti, caring for people after the earthquake in 2010. She told of a young girl, at the camp she was at, finding some saltine crackers. As hungry as she was, instead of eating them all, she broke them up and shared them with the children around her.

She starts and finishes the story with the same quote, "Communion creates community," and by the second time she had uttered the words it was as if a new meaning had been attached to the phrase.

When reflecting on her time in Haiti she thanked her music career for the ability to think on her feet: " I truly, truly believe it was my musical background that empowered me to apply a range of skills and knowledge to be able to meet the needs around me."

One of the people she learned this from was a high priest in the Armenian Apostolic Church named Father Hayr Sourp Oshagan Minassian. Father Minassian after breaking his neck at 25, she notes, "was a quadriplegic in a wheelchair for the last 50 years of his life. But after he accomplished so much and did it all with a positive attitude and a practice of perseverance and determination."

She also reflects on the younger generation around her today, specifically Celia Ephram, Han Yan, and Barb Flocco, the young student on piano for Mrs. Nadeau, "I can tell you that I have learned from every student I have ever taught, and I continue to learn every day of my life."

Her students feel that their learning on the other hand, comes from more than just the classroom, when it comes to her meditation Senior Celia notes, "It gave me a different perspective on what I can, include my meditation. I've been thinking about what topic I want to write about. So it was interesting to hear her talk about her religion and kind of how her religion influenced her view on life."



Mrs. Nadeau delivers her meditaion. Hopson Kounavis / *The Exonian*

Having lived such an intriguing life, she advises us, "keeping a journal is a lifetime gift to yourself! A handwritten journal is the best I've found, since it forces you to reflect as you write , and to remember more."

She closes out her reflection by bringing us back to the topic of grace, "Grace is not something that you can buy. It's not something you can grab. It's a gift. And I wanted people to be aware that everyone has access to grace and that living in grace and living graciously toward others is a really good habit to practice."

Ultimately through Mrs. Nadeau's meditation, as well as her day to day life, encourages us to find beauty in the world surrounding us. If we are able to do that we will be able to make resources out of even the most inconvenient things.

However if there is one thing she hopes you take away from this, it is the importance of grace. She teaches us that grace is a resource different from all the others, while it is abundant it is not something to be bought out. It is instead something that we as humans pass on to each other. She exudes this in her writing, her traveling and finally, her music.

Dow Cont.

proctors claim. Last year's proctors — current alumnae and class of 2026, Paris Tran and Olivia Dockery — informed the new students that the dorm tea required a talent show. "They told all the new students that it was a longstanding tradition and that they couldn't break it, so they had to come up with a talent," Morrill said. "We had everything from magic tricks to people playing music to people trying to shoot things off of someone else's head with a tennis ball." She laughed. "And all of this was blatantly untrue." "I was like, you guys," Braile added, "there was no talent show. That was not a thing." Morrill counts it in the dorm's favor. "The takeaway is that we have a lot of people who like to be very silly," she said, "and I have very much enjoyed that."

That same playful spirit extends beyond Dow's walls through its friendly rivalry with Gould House. Every Academy Life Day, the two houses face off in the Unger Games, a combination of the "Hunger Games" and Capture the Flag that takes place in Phelps Stadium and Hatch field.

The competition begins before the game itself. Yuan noted Dow proctors writing a letter to Gould challenging them to this year's Unger Games. "We basically ran over to them at 10 p.m.," she recalled.

During the game, students took on different roles, defense and attack, and brought props to better immerse in the experience. Li shared, "We had toy guns with foam bullets and other foam weapons to get past the other team, find their flag, and bring it back to our own home base, while the other team is trying to do the



Residents of Dow House gather for a photo. Blair Li / *The Exonian*

hem a chance to meet people from another house. Sometimes that's how friendships start."

Still, when asked about her opinion on the rivalry, Filani gave a less diplomatic response: "Dow House is better."

Dow's charm is undeniable. Despite its inconspicuous size and location, the dorm nonetheless houses unlimited warmth and presence. Whether it's in their dorm traditions or their invaluable dorm residents, Dow is a gem to Exeter's campus and community.

Op-Ed

» **TAYLOR SWIFT**
Encore or flop? Read about Ariana's thoughts on Taylor Swift's encore, 13.

» **MIND MOTIVATION**
Read prep Lucy Xiao and lowers Veolla Jiang and Olivia Wang's mindset tricks, 13.

» **LOCAL POLITICS**
Read uppers Tiago Bilyk and Sean Ricard's case for getting involved, 14.

General Tso's Chicken : "Authentic" or "Appropriate"?

By GARY GUO '29

When I first ordered General Tso's Chicken at a Chinese restaurant in the US, I was shocked by the combination of broccoli, walnuts, fried chicken, and a sweet sauce that appeared before me. I had been expecting something similar to the sweet-and-sour pork tenderloin I had known and loved growing up. But instead of the tantalizingly thin strips of pork sprinkled with white sesame seeds and covered in a ketchup-like sauce that leaves a sour aftertaste, I received a dish that was barely edible (in my estimation), packed with sugar and laden with the heaviness of all things fried and breaded. I was repulsed.

For most Americans who have never been to China, Chinese restaurants offer a way to experience food they have only ever seen on TV. The American version of General Tso's strikes the perfect balance: the familiarity of fried chicken, delivered in an atmosphere rife with fortune cookies and faux-mahogany furniture.

According to journalist Jennifer 8. Lee's TED talk on the search for General Tso's, the combination of sweetness, frying, and chicken is central to the dish's American appeal. Certainly, the sautéed pork intestine served up on Chinese tables might not win over many Americans in a hurry, especially those choosing between a Big Mac, a Whopper, or General Tso's.

The original General Tso's Chicken recipe is generally credited to Peng Chang-kuei, a chef from Hunan who moved to Taiwan in 1949. In the 1950s, Peng created General Tso's Chicken and named it in honor of the nineteenth-century Hunanese general Zuo Zongtang (although General Zuo never actually even tasted the dish).

General Tso's was introduced to the United States in the early 1970s after Restaurateur David Keh and Chef T.T. Wang visited Taiwan in 1971 and encountered Peng's cooking. They served their respective versions in their New York restaurants: Keh's Uncle Tai's Hunan Yuan served diced chicken with water chestnuts, while Wang's Hunam served a version with a crispier batter and a sweeter sauce, called General Ching's chicken.

In 1973, Peng opened his own restaurant in New York and also changed his recipe to better serve non-Hunanese customers. Originally a Hunanese dish, Peng described the original flavor of General Tso's as "heavy, sour, hot, and salty" in a 2004 interview with The New York Times.

After a couple more tries, I have learned to appreciate the American version of General Tso's, although I will never think of it as anything but Chinese-American food. At this point, after eating the dining hall's version of this dish again and again, I have started to appreciate it for what it is. The sweet sauce isn't all that hideous. It's okay that the food here in the United States will hardly ever recreate the dishes my mom makes. I am beginning to realize that cultural differences impact food as much as anything else in this multicultural society. I can understand the beauty in that.

Food, it turns out, is an apt marker of societal integration. New York Times bestselling cookbook author Bill Leung of The Woks of Life presents his recipe for General Tso's as a treasure passed down from his father, who was for many years a chef at a US restaurant. Leung describes the dish as an authentic version of the restaurant classic, a dish that has become a fixture to American cuisine in 2026. For many Chinese Americans, including the Leung family, General Tso's has paved a way for belonging.

It makes sense, after all, that food changes over time. Migration and resources shaped by climate and economics will always impact what we eat. If I can learn to enjoy General Tso's chicken, I hope the next time you go to a Chinese restaurant, you will choose to try other dishes on the menu. Ask the staff, "What's your favorite? What's fresh today?" Ask your Chinese friends what they grew up eating, and try something new.

I have come to realize that embracing difference, whether at the table or in the classroom, at a music concert, or at play, is about getting outside of our comfort zone. What feels unfamiliar today may well become your comfort food of tomorrow!

The Exeter Food Scene

By SEAN MAHDAVIAN '27, ANDREW PHAM '27

When you come to Exeter it is guaranteed that at some point you will be asked to go out to dinner or lunch on a weekend, and inevitably you will be asked "what is your favorite spot in town?" To make sure we could answer the latter question effectively, we have decided to try nearly every cafe and or restaurant in Exeter.

There are many things to consider when going out to eat in Exeter. For example, what is the best restaurant when it comes to bang for your buck? What's the best restaurant for overall experience? Who has the best portions regardless of price?

Though the town of Exeter is somewhat small, its density of restaurants is not. Most know when you've been here long enough that Portsmouth has plenty of good restaurants as well, but something has to be said for the restaurants that are within walking distance.

All in all we have tried: Elm Dining Hall, OBA, Inkwell, Me & Ollie's, Sea Dog, Dunkin, Czar's brewery, Szechuan, Supreme Pizza, Khaophums, New England Pizza, D^2, The Juicery, Romeo's, Loaf & Ladle, Otto's, Il Cornicello, Trackside, Stillwells, Big Bean, Thirsty Moose, Sunny's, Cap Thai, Street, Las Olas, Lee Franks, Lexie's, Vino e Vivo, Ambrose, and ultimately the now defunct Otis. This listing is intentional. It is the reverse order of our best overall experiences at each restaurant. To many this list is, to say the least, controversial. But many factors must be taken into account when considering the best overall experience.

Take Cap Thai for example: Every time I order their pad thai, I know it will be a good day. I go to Cap Thai to order their pad thai whenever I get an A on a test. However, I would caution against ordering their spiciest pad thai. It knocked me out for two days. The wait staff always pay attention to your needs, filling up water without saying anything. They might have the best service of ANY restaurant in Exeter. And of course a special restaurant that loves to have the Exonian deck at its entrance. :)

And now a shout out to the best Mexican food in New England: Las Olas. It is quite a way to get there. You need to go past Sea Dog, walk a bit more before taking a left, but the walk will be worth it. Cheap, fast, and delicious is the name of the game. It is the meeting place of many, many gatherings, especially robotics. For some it is a 10/10. The quesadilla is amazing, and the only trade off is sometimes when charging you when to remind them you got double steak when they try and only charge you for veggie. Gotta keep that free refill available to all Exonian's.

And to end it off: a short letter to the now defunct Otis. Otis: you were, to be honest, overpriced, and had no bread. But one of the kindest staff out there and one of the true feelings of a fine dining experience in Exeter New Hampshire. I will say, the price makes it a once in a year experience. The sticky toffee pudding is the best desert I have had at Exeter and I will always remember it.

The culinary experience at Exeter is certainly varied and everyone can find some place they enjoy. We have almost certainly riled up some people's opinions, but this is our list. Write the article if you have something different. Skill diff. ;)

Rethinking U.S. Foreign Policy in Syria and Russia

By Instructor in History and Economics AYKUT KILINC

U.S. Ambassadors Robert Ford and Michael McFaul will speak at assembly on January 8 and April 12 respectively. Mr. Ford served in Syria under President Obama, beginning in 2011, while Mr. McFaul served for Obama in Russia from 2012 to 2014. These were particularly tumultuous years in both Eastern Europe and the Middle East and offer important lessons for US foreign policy.

As the dates of these ambassadors' visits approach, I have been thinking about how to provide my Contemporary Middle East students with a framework for understanding the events of this period. In the process, I have found myself becoming less critical of the decisions the Obama administration made during the early 2010s. For a long time, I believed that the United States should have taken a stronger approach to Syria and Russia. I was convinced that the U.S. could have avoided a bloody civil war in Syria, and curbed President Putin's expansionist agenda toward Ukraine. Because of the inconsistencies and hesitancies in the Obama administration, I was convinced, the Arab Spring would become an Arab winter and Russia under President Putin became an uncontrollable predatory state.

Beginning in Tunisia in 2010, the Arab Spring spread to Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, and by 2012, across the Middle East. Ambassador Ford witnessed the anti-authoritarian demands of the Arab Spring reach Syria, where protests and the regime's violent response helped set in motion a civil war that would last until the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad in late 2024.

When the Arab Spring initially arrived in Syria as a hopeful and uplifting movement in the summer of 2011, Ambassador Ford visited Hama, the fourth largest city, to demonstrate the U.S.'s solidarity with the popular demand for democratization. In the following years, however, the protest movement turned into an armed conflict with the Asad regime and produced one of the most tragic humanitarian crises of modern times, killing over six hundred thousand and forcing more than four million to flee the country. In the process, it triggered anti-immigration sentiments to rise in Europe. In its final stage, the civil war turned into a proxy conflict involving Turkey, Russia, Iran, and the United States, each power supporting its respective militias.

Similarly, Ambassador McFaul had a front-row view of the deterioration of relations between the United States and Vladimir Putin's Russia. The political crisis that erupted in Ukraine in 2013 over the country's relationship with the European Union was followed the next year by Russia's annexation of Crimea. The tensions between Russia and Ukraine continued to deepen over the following years and culminated in Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in early 2022. Ambassador McFaul was particularly well positioned to observe this transformation. He had helped develop the Obama administration's "reset" of its relations with Russia in 2009 in the immediate aftermath of the Russo-Georgian War. Instead of integrating Russia into the European socioeconomic and cultural arena, however, President Putin continuously tested America's and the surrounding countries' resolve since then.

During this period, my personal interest lay primarily with developments in Syria. As evidence mounted that the Assad regime possessed and had used chemical weapons, President Obama declared that their use would constitute a "red line." After the Assad regime carried out a major chemical weapons attack against civilians in August 2013, President Obama ultimately decided not to launch an immediate military strike. At the time, I was furious that an American president would not follow through on his warning. Instead, the administration pursued a diplomatic agreement with Russia under which Syria was required to place its declared chemical weapons stockpile under international control for destruction.

Russia's influence in Syria grew considerably in the years that followed. Its military intervention beginning in 2015, combined with support from Iran and its proxy Hezbollah, proved crucial to Assad's survival. Russian airpower helped the regime recapture control by bombing the centers of opposition in predominantly Sunni cities like Aleppo and Idlib, allowing Assad to remain in power for several more years. To my eyes, the U.S. simply watched as President Putin decimated civilian populations.

Ukraine presented the administration with a similar dilemma. Following Russia's intervention in Ukraine and subsequent annexation of Crimea in 2014, the Ukrainian government sought substantial American military assistance, including lethal defensive weapons like anti-tank missiles called Javelins. While it applied economic sanctions against Russia, the Obama administration remained cautious about providing military assistance because of concerns about escalating the confrontation with Russia. The United States eventually approved the sale of Javelins to Ukraine during the Trump administration. They would prove consequential in slowing down the initial Russian infiltration in the early weeks of the war in 2022.

The reader may recall Professor Serhii Plokhii's assembly talk almost a year ago, during which he made the argument that President Putin will continue his aggression until he is stopped. Over the past decade, Russia helped sustain the Assad regime through its military intervention, while Iran and Hezbollah provided additional forces and support on Assad's behalf. Russia's subsequent full-scale invasion of Ukraine raises an important question about how we should understand the caution exercised by the Obama administration during these earlier years.

I have been trying to imagine recently how President Obama and his administration understood the options available to them in the early

FOREIGN POLICY, 14.

Is Taylor Swift's New Album: "The Life of a Showgirl: The Encore" A Flop?

By AMELIA METZGER '30

Taylor Swift's The Life of a Showgirl: The Encore has been a huge let down to many fans. While it was highly anticipated since she teased new music in an SNL skit; so far it's been a flop. The excitement was through the roof as many fans had been eagerly awaiting a Reputation (Taylor's Version) and Taylor Swift (Taylor's Version) or what many fans call Debut. The delusion was only fueled even more after hearing she was working with legendary, Max Martin and Shellback who were the producers of Reputation. Yet after the initial release, some fans were far from satisfied with it.

After hearing the name Patient Zero, I assumed the vibes would be very poetic, psych-ward patient, and Victorian-gothic which is very much on theme for Taylor's previous album, The Tortured Poets Department. I hoped to dive back into that style of thoughtful, confessional, poetic songwriting yet instead got struck by more cringe, clunky and disconnected songs. While Taylor Swift is one of the best songwriters of our generation, lots of people found her new songs to be hard to relate to. Some went as far as to say that they mistook the songs for parodies, and were confused when they first heard the tracks, Patient Zero, Cleveland!, Pink Clouding, and Babylon.

Taylor was doing this weird thing of trying to make a love song and saying how happy she is but then switches up and talks about how much people were hating on her relationship. For example in the song Cleveland!, Swift says, "Scathing take 'bout how I'm fake/ And he could find someone younger" . Now yes she does have a lot of haters, but I've never seen anything about how Travis should "find someone younger" and her and Travis are the same age(36) so I don't see the problem with not having a massive age gap. Before the album release, she said she was trying to resemble 1989's beats while having folklore's lyricism which to me is shameful to compare 1989 and folklore to these deluxe tracks. Not to mention, to breed fun, peppy, pop, summer and cozy, moody, and rustic vibes is a very treacherous path that you have to be extremely careful with. As two of the most adored albums out of Taylor's discography, to many fans it was a disgrace to try to replicate the styles on the deluxe tracks. I think we saw her trying to blend the albums together a little bit too clearly in her song Babylon. She had very poetic, gentle, melancholy lyrics mashed with a random beat. You can't just try to make another album like your past one and if you do, at least try to make the songs good. She could've made a nice love song like "Sweet Nothing" and yet she chose to focus on the "haters". That really took away from what I thought she wanted to let everyone know: that she doesn't care.

You can make a sweet love song that's fun and peppy without making it cringe. She adds a lot of unnecessary words that make the songs a lot more hollow which in turn, makes the songs less appealing. She takes away all depth when she adds random voice memos abruptly in the song, or uses modern references like "girlboss" and "trolling". It's not really endearing to me, and it feels like she's trying to make herself younger but the best love songs are timeless and by using slang she's putting a timestamp on her work making it unlistenable in a few years. It's not like London Boy or some previous pop song of hers where we can really feel the love, because to me, Cleveland! isn't as genuine as London Boy. In a way, she is making fun of herself in Cleveland! by her clear sarcasm and purposely awkward lyrics but in London Boy she's just honestly talking about the feeling of being in love by singing "You know I love a London boy/ I enjoy walking Camden Market

TAYLOR SWIFT, 14.

All the Lights We Burn

By ARIALE OSEI '29 and DIYA SANDEEP '28

The dim lighting, the fall leaves, the pages on top of pages of neat cursive, the mellow jazz, brick buildings, and bookshelves of leather-bound books artfully arranged together—the primary characteristics of today's academia aesthetic, and what falls more in that niche than the Academy itself? Many of us have been exposed to the Pinterest boards of curated, color-coded reading and settings, and yet we are all acquainted with the reality of high school academia at this point. The disparity between the two becomes deeply apparent the further entrenched in academia you grow; after all, half of the aesthetic is the unshown effort that goes into seeming ease.

But beyond the general social media aesthetic, the Academy and its students have their own picture of academia, one that consists of picturesque 100s and an A written in red pen. And behind the academic success that we are all constantly striving for lies more time, effort, and devotion than many of us are able to give all of the time. Yet, students at the Academy continue to work rigorously towards their goals, as though people are watching even in all of the quiet moments—the few moments in which we are not masquerading as the perfect students.

So why do we aim for the stars? Academic success is framed in society as a student's primary goal. For the entirety of your high school, and maybe college, career, you are defined by your grades. It is every reel on Instagram, every must-watch fall TV show, every conversation you have with your friends. GPA, weighted. SAT score. Number of APs. A person, reduced to numbers, and so of course, we work to drive those numbers up. If we are valued by how well we perform on an assessment, then what are we worth when we cannot perform well? It is easier to put ourselves in a situation where we do not have to wonder.

The physical aesthetic is easy enough to match. Our campus is nothing but brick, and as October rolls in, the leaves will fade into fiery reds and burnt amber yellows. The chill will grow on us slowly, and sweaters will start coming out—the collared shirt and thick crewnecks that appear on our screens. And you can change your music taste to classical composers or Lana Del Rey, and start reading Sylvia Plath and Donna Tartt. It feels fitting, doesn't it? Fall is the season of the academia aesthetic. And what of the media?

Let's start with the founding father: Rory Gilmore, the ultimate poster child for academic perfection. Her character is frequently shown sacrificing her sleep, social life, and mental health all in hopes to maintain an immaculate transcript for her dream—Harvard. Similarly, Queen B—Blair Waldorf—challenged the definition of academic rigor. She deftly balanced her "mean girl" persona alongside razor-sharp intelligence, consistently maintaining a near-perfect GPA. Unrealistic or realistic?

Even avid fans of these two characters find it easy to overlook how academics are framed on screen. Dark mahogany walls, towering bookshelves that make you feel trapped until you finish, warm desk lamps, and coincidentally, the arrival of autumn only amplifies this vision. However, these media portrayals romanticize a subtly toxic culture. Like Rory and Blair, Exeter students frequently internalize intense workload and sleep deprivation as "initiation rituals" to solidify their place in an academically high-pressure environment. Have you ever overheard friends competing over who is the most overwhelmed—"I have a math test, history paper, and English paper all due tomorrow," "Well, I have three tests and four quizzes later this week," or the classic, "I only slept for three hours"? Late-night studying in library commons or dorm rooms, coffee from Grill, and relentless preparation for Harkness discussions or math tests become part of a shared, aestheticized student identity. Pop culture turns exhaustion into the only perceived path to high achievement, rather than personal process.

LIGHTS, 14.

Rethinking Motivation: Working With Our Minds, Not Againsnt Them

By OLIVIA WANG '29

"Once upon a time, there was a 90-year-old man who decided to manually dig up two massive mountains blocking his family's path. When a skeptic mocked him for attempting the impossible, the old man replied that while he may die, his children, grandchildren, and future generations would continue the work until it is finished. Moved by his unyielding determination and perseverance, the gods intervened and carried the mountains away for him." — Yu Gong Yi Shan, a classic Chinese fable

As a child, I often heard stories like this from my parents: tales of animals, humans, mythical creatures, and even gods with willpower, overcoming obstacles and persevering day after day with their strong mentality and only their strong mentality. Calling them "wisdom from our ancestors", they instilled this mindset in me that discipline means resisting short-term temptations and controlling impulses to achieve long-term goals.

For a long time, I idolized the mental state of continuously telling ourselves to push through, and viewed it as the ultimate pathway to success. But I began to wonder: is willpower really the only or the best way to stay motivated?

By the mid-twentieth century, behaviorist theories had become highly influential in explaining how consequences shape human behavior. American psychologist B.F. Skinner proposed a model known as the Reinforcement Theory of Motivation in 1957, building upon Edward Thorndike's 1911 "Law of Effect," arguing that motivation and behavior are largely determined by external consequences—rewards, punishments, or extinction—rather than internal needs or thoughts.

Consequently, this period of modern history saw a massive shift toward scientific, structured behavior management. This idea shaped parenting, education, and business. Parenting experts advocated for strict feeding and sleeping schedules for babies, and parents began using chore charts, sticker systems, and point rewards at home. At school, lessons were broken down into tiny, sequential steps, providing immediate feedback to students for correct answers. Companies moved away from flat salaries toward piece-rate pay, performance bonuses, and commission structures.

During the Cognitive Revolution of the 1960s and 70s, however, this model was increasingly challenged and supplemented. Grounded in scientific research evidence, the Self-Determination Theory states that when three basic psychological needs of humans—autonomy, competence, and relatedness—are satisfied, intrinsic motivation, doing an activity for its inherent enjoyment, naturally sparks. When intrinsically driven, we can be stimulated to perform at higher productivity levels. Scholars supporting this theory therefore claim that instead of forcing ourselves to perform well, we should treat low motivation as a physical signal of ill-being and take care of our basic psychological needs first.

However, self-determination is not a constant. Human drive fluctuates. Sleep deprivation, anxiety, and stress, as well as psychological states like discomfort or high emotional friction significantly hinder the activation of motivation of our body, disallowing intrinsic drive to boost our performance. In a sense, our brains perform their own cost-benefit analysis, weighing the energy expenditure of an action against its payoff. If the outcome of an activity is not worth the force required for it, in this place and at this time, we will not cognitively be motivated to do so.

That said, I'm not suggesting that we should always wait for intrinsic motivation, rigidly adhering to the ups and downs of our well-being and adjusting our work schedule accordingly, though theoretically, that is the way to optimize productivity. In reality, time is always ticking and tasks cannot be infinitely stretched across work cycles. Eventually, we will have to meet a deadline, specific or vague. Especially at Exeter, where everything is moving at such a fast pace, we cannot rely solely on intrinsic motivation. Tests are scheduled for specific blocks, assignments are due at specific times, clubs meet on specific days… What has to be done has to be done, no matter if we are in the best state of well-being or not.

So what can we do to counter the psychology of the human body, while taking care of our well-being and preventing burnout? What, in our motivation response cycle, can we control? Perhaps the answer is not to force intrinsic motivation to remain constant, but to accept that it will not—and to build external sources of motivation to carry us through the periods when it fades. Instead of waiting until we feel motivated again, we can rely on external structures—a quick snack as a reward, studying alongside a friend, or setting small, concrete deadlines—to temporarily supply the push that our internal drive cannot. Though they cannot manufacture genuine interest in a task, they can provide enough momentum to begin when intrinsic motivation alone is insufficient.

Swiss psychiatrist and psychotherapist Carl Jung once said, "When an inner situation is not made conscious, it happens outside, as fate." Self-awareness is the first step toward managing our psychological behaviors. It's important to check-in with ourselves by asking, "Why does this task feel so expensive right now? And what can I change about that equation?" Discipline isn't endlessly overpowering ourselves with willpower. Motivation is a tool, a rather useful one, and we can only master it by knowing ourselves well enough to build conditions in which doing what matters becomes easier.

Lights Cont.

These forms of media depict a picturesque facade of intellectual obsession, feeding the fantasy of rigorous study as a "curated aesthetic". How does this align with Exeter's study culture? We have to ask: are we treating academic rigor like art? Is emotional exhaustion being reframed as poetic sacrifice?

We've all heard the infamous campus rule that's passed down class by class—the three S's. Sleep. Study. Socialize; pick two. But in an environment obsessed with perfection, sleep is almost always the first sacrifice laid into the altar. We fall into the default routine of socializing first, then surviving off of a La Colombe mocha latte through late-night hours just to feel like we fit in. Arguably, preps and lowers are the ones most vulnerable to this, feeling pressure to adopt this preformative exhaustion just to prove they belong at Exeter before they even reach upper or senior year.

Our definition of academic achievement is often treated not just as a goal, but as the standard metric for personal value and social status. Blair Waldorf's refusal to settle for second best reflects Exeter's baseline, where high achievement is normalized and scoring anything lower than an A- can feel like a failure rather than a minor setback.

The media naturally turns mental strain into visual beauty, teaching us that suffering equals dedication—nothing more, nothing less. If you aren't physically drained or at times sacrificing your well-being—then what are you doing? The implication is that you simply "don't care enough." Reframing burnout as "poetic sacrifice" gives pain a sense of purpose. Subconsciously, it feels much better to believe you are living a desired dream of academic excellence than to admit you are quietly overwhelmed by the unmanageable workload. But everything comes with a price—and what price are we actually paying?

In reality, cognitive performance and focus are deeply individual. Human productivity doesn't conform to a single routine: some people reach "peak brain activity" at 5:00AM, while others thrive in mid-afternoon quiet blocks at Davis Library or in a bustling environment like Grill during the daytime. Forcing these performative study aesthetics ignores varied learning styles and ultimately pressures students to submit to either.

But still, the push to fit the standard isn't all bad. If we can move past the exhaustion that colors all of our days, and look purely at the amount of dedication we have offered to learning, then we have to question: would we try so hard all of the time if we were not constantly forcing ourselves to be better? When you can look past the struggle of all the individual moments, there is a dedication that underlays all that we do as students that might not exist if we were not confined to a setting in which its existence is not mandatory.

We want to try, because we want to succeed, and while our reasons for looking for one form of success above all others may not be ideal, to try is in and of itself a unique sort of success. It may not comfort you when you are lamenting a poor grade, and it may not seem worth anything now or any time soon. But eventually, it will be the trying that lingers and not the results. It will be the drive to succeed, to fit your own image of success past academia, that will lead you down all the right paths. It will be the trust you build in yourself to do what must be done that will shape your future.

And yes, it is difficult. It is difficult today, and it will be tomorrow, just as it was yesterday. It does not get easier. That is why we must learn how to function in a system that is structured against us and that asks so much of us—there is no shortage of opposition and tribulations, but we will learn how to fit the model or how to build a new one, simply because there is no other way forward. More than anything else, the Academy teaches you that you must keep moving. If you do not fit the academia aesthetic, there is always another way to continue.

You do not have to struggle as your friends do. You might not be the person who can sit and stare at a screen for five hours straight. You might not be the friend who holes themselves up in their room on a Friday night to study for your next test. You might not be the friend succeeding so thoroughly at compromising themself for some abstract letter grade. And that is okay, that is good.

The preppy clothes and alternative indie pop music that social media pushes down our throats is not, and has never been for that matter, the reality of academia. Acknowledging that is the first step in moving past it. Academia is fraught with struggles, and unfortunately, so will be every place you go after the Academy. But if you can learn to look past what we are shown now and find the core of the matter—perfection is simply a performance with an excellent tech crew—perhaps your days at the Academy will grow as kind to you as you are to yourself.

Taylor Swift Cont.

in the afternoon/ He likes my American smile/ Like a child when our eyes meet, darling, I fancy you" and we can really feel this giddy energy when we listen to it. When we can feel happiness in a song, we don't need it to be the deepest song ever, because that's not what it feels like all the time. What's important is that the artist puts their whole heart in it. That is what makes her songs relatable, because you can't relate to something if you feel like the artist is making fun of themselves in the song, so if you do relate in a sense, it feels like they are making fun of you.

What's especially frustrating as a fan is that we've seen her write good love songs before. I'm not saying that she needs to be heartbroken and freshly dumped to write a good song but the value of a song lies in the lyrics. You can say things literally like "this is the love of my life." or you can take into a whole different atmosphere by saying "I'm a fire and I'll keep your brittle heart warm. If your cascade ocean wave blues come." Believe it or not, these are both Taylor Swift songs. I think her music started being less valuable when she stopped caring about the quality of the songs.

The entire deluxe album is confusing to me because Taylor seems to be happy and is married and has everything she's wanted. Yet she's still writing about her ex in Patient Zero? I get that it's more about the story but I honestly feel like she did the same thing in Girl at Home from her album Red (Taylor's Version) about this story between Taylor, her ex, and his new girl. Even the beginning of the song is the same, where it starts with the chorus and then goes into the verse. And the sound of the song is really similar too. To me, the deluxe songs weren't exactly bad, they just were unoriginal. Nothing really stood out to me.

As I said a while ago, I'm extremely disappointed with Babylon. It gave such folklore vibes to me with its delicate lyrics and we could've given the song acoustics that would match the lyrics perfectly, but instead it was paired with a basic snare beat and a little bit of guitar picking, which was also a let down since Taylor worked with Shellback and Max Martin, who produced her beloved album Reputation. Taylor could've made a lot of these songs good but kept on choosing the wrong choice.

Is this going to be a trend or is it just a fluctuation? Will Taylor continue to keep making these songs no one asked for and if she does how will it affect her career? Will the Queen of Pop be dethroned by a new upcoming artist? With her grip already fading on music will she be able to hold on? What does this mean for songwriting, and the quality of songs for new artists? With Taylor's global outreach and influence, will it alter how our next generation of musicians create their own music?

Foreign Policy Cont.

2010s. Having come to the presidency determined to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and governing a country exhausted by prolonged military engagements, President Obama was understandably reluctant to commit the United States to another major conflict in the Middle East. The experience of the Iraq War, including the infamous abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib, had also profoundly affected American attitudes toward military intervention. In the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, many Americans were justifiably more concerned about their employment prospects and the value of their assets than about developments taking place in distant parts of the world.

In this light, I have become more sympathetic to the way the Obama administration approached its relationships with Russia and Syria at the time. Decisions that once appeared to me to reflect excessive caution and abandonment of legal and moral responsibilities now seem more complicated when viewed within the political, economic, and historical circumstances in which they were made. I hope that we will have a chance to hear some personal vignettes from Ambassadors Ford and McFaul that will help us better understand these crucial years, and, perhaps, how the decisions made during that period shaped the conflicts we are still facing today.

The American public is currently divided over the conflicts in which the United States is either directly involved or significantly affected. Several assumptions and values shape how each of us forms our own judgments. It is possible, however, that other variables and changing circumstances may shift the way we think over time. Some of the assumptions we hold today may not appear as compelling a decade from now. During our family's move to post-dorm housing over the summer, I misplaced Mr. Bill Jordan's "You Could Be Wrong" pin. I would be very grateful if a member of our community who has an extra pin would be willing to share it with me.

The Case for Getting Involved in Local Politics

By TIAGO BILYK '28 and SEAN RICARD '28

Whether you are headed to your favorite restaurant, off to buy a book or a vinyl, or maybe dragging yourself over to Walgreens, one building remains in your path. Town Hall's towering architecture and the statue of Lady Justice atop are a constant reminder of the town's government. The decisions made across the street, in the Town Offices, affect not only us but generations of Exonians to come.

Inside these offices, the Select Board, the Town of Exeter's political body, meets every other Monday. These meetings are comprised mostly of unsavory bureaucratic processes. Tax abatements, approvals of minutes, and repetitive motions to an empty room take up most of the board's time. But every once in a while, an agenda item brings dozens of locals packed into the Nowak Room.

Such was the case on September 28, when residents flooded the offices to attend two public hearings about parking. Or take last June, when many of the same residents swamped into the offices to witness a meeting between the board and the train company CSX to get clarity and voice their concerns about the disrepair of Park St. Bridge.

As we approach the midterm elections for the House of Representatives and certain members of the Senate, we are often concerned with our role in the broader political currents of our generation. The Academy's Democratic club, for one, spent this weekend out canvassing, registering voters in an effort to sway next month's contest between Congressman Chris Pappas and former Senator John Sununu for Senate, as well as that between Stefany Shaheen and Anthony DiLorenzo to represent the first district.

Beyond the ebb and flow of national politics, one must not forget the role of local influence in the day-to-day lives of Exonians, and in return, the impact we can have on our community through political engagement.

At their biweekly meetings, the Select Board decides on policies directly impactful to our goings on at the Academy. Just last spring, Director of Facilities Management Mark Leighton presented the Academy's proposal for the renovation of the athletic center before the board for approval.

Furthermore, every single structure, renovation, or construction activity must first pass through the select board, as well as planning and zoning committees. This includes the Academy Building renovation, maintenance to the 400-acre academy woods, and new housing or classroom projects, such as 43 Front Street.

To many, the environment on campus creates a sense of detachment from what is beyond our two-mile radius. Often referred to as the Exeter Bubble, this protected and independent little region pushes students away from the many of the important questions of our times. This is not to say, of course, that students on campus are not concerned with the many troubles brought forth from developments such as AI and the current presidential administration's new handling of foreign policy. But our current ecosystem often becomes an echo-chamber for frustrations and national anxieties without a reliable tool for alleviation.

Frustrations with parking policy, roads, bridges, rivers, and forests, however, do have an outlet, sitting right under our noses on 10 Front Street. By no way do we expect the average Exonian to attend every meeting, organize every petition, or . But participation in, or even awareness of local issues can, for lack of better words, make students feel more useful and fulfilled when it comes to the political arena.

Say for example, a student is concerned about environmental issues. Rather than focusing their attention on multinational oil companies or failing national policies, one could ensure with their local governments that public lands, however small, remain public and protected from real estate developers.

Although the issues faced by the Town of Exeter are rather reflective of its place as a small New England town, by participating in our local government process students nevertheless gain a bottom-up glimpse of the entire federal network.

In 2025 the United States Government's budget sat at $7.01 Trillion. This number is daunting and hard to comprehend. But say an Exonian looks at this number from a smaller lens, the lens of local politics.

Every time a bridge needs repair or renovation, a specific amount of funding comes from the federal government, a certain amount from the state government, and a certain amount from the town itself. Surveys from federal agencies also have to be done. One who is aware of these otherwise boring bureaucratic processes will be left with a greater understanding of federal systems.

From international diplomacy to national economic policy, culture wars to real wars, students at Exeter have a wide range of political opinions and frustrations, but nowhere to direct them. Inspiring an awareness of local politics during Exonians' time at Exeter can and will have lasting improvement on our lives.

Sports

» COTW: BV SOCCER
Read about Benenson, Park, and Mullen's leadership on the field, 15.

» A LOST ATHLETE
Read about Alec Clement's legacy, 17.

A Culture of Excellence: BV Soccer Captains



Boy's Varsity Soccer captains Ari Benenson '27, Henry Park '27, and Joshua Mullen '27 stand outside Davis Hall. Arisa Yoshino / *The Exonian*

By GARY GUO, DOWAN KIM, and JAYDEN LU

The grass bends beneath the rolling ball, then springs back up behind it, a ripple that almost looks like a shadow chasing the ball. A midfielder races to meet the pass, and from the sidelines, teammates yell for a cross. In this instant, every mind is focused on a single question: where will the ball go next? Countless drills are run during practices for this moment. Behind the preparations are the captains: seniors Ari Benenson, Joshua Mullen, and Henry Park.

Benenson started playing soccer at age three and has continued playing for local clubs and his school team. The sport has also become an outlet for stress. "When I'm having a hard day or just need to blow some steam, I can always find a ball and play some soccer," Benenson said.

At Exeter, Benenson leads by example rather than trying to be the loudest voice on the team or giving the most speeches. With many underclassmen on the team, he focuses on staying calm and helping players remain confident through difficult moments. Benenson emphasized the importance of honestly assessing what went wrong while reminding teammates that one performance does not define their season.

"Our biggest strength has been how close we are as a team and how much we work for one another," Benenson reflected. Even when trailing during a game, the players keep competing and working together. That support also shows in how they respond to mistakes. Eneh recalled a captain encouraging him to move on after a missed shot. When disagreements arise, Drohan said, the captains remind players "we're all one team."

Mullen has been playing soccer forever. He started playing at four and played for a local team at six. At 13, he played for a big junior soccer club in New York City. He has played for the PEA varsity soccer team since his prep year.

Mullen envisions being a leader who will be remembered and respected as "someone who was welcoming and wanted to bring out the best in each and every one of them." His grit on the field and ability to bring the team together have naturally earned his team's deep respect.

"He can be quiet sometimes, but he can be strong and be a leader when he needs to be," prep Cashel Drohan added.

Each game and practice is followed by a motivational speech from the captains, reviewing performances and highlighting areas for improvement. "We always try to look towards the future and find ways that we can improve on what's happened in the past," Mullen observed.

Mullen focuses on helping younger players settle into the team and understanding how their strengths complement one another. By trying different positions, the captains can learn the optimal combination of players. For example, while the team initially implemented a three-back defense, they transitioned into a four-back defense after seeing talent in some defensive players.

Teammates say the captain's influence extends well beyond the pitch. Lower Cashel Drohan stated they strengthen team connections through activities such as game nights at the EPAC Game Room. Lower Chedom Eneh described the same attitude, from post-practice dinners to meeting teammates around campus. He noted that the captains make an effort to talk to new players and get to know them, helping everyone feel more comfortable with their teammates. "We try to incorporate the culture of trying to move together as a team on and off the field," Eneh said.

On the field, the captains set the tone from the very first minute of practice. Drohan said they're the most vocal ones, leading the warm-ups and giving advice all the time. Prior to matches, they energize everyone in the huddle. According to Rich Byun, the team's manager, Park urges the team to give their everything on the field for 90 minutes. Then Benenson leads the huddle with his countdown and energy. That kind of energy is crucial for the team at this stage.

At a record of one and three, it is clear the team has yet to reach its aspirations. Benenson said the team's goal is to become more consistent and learn how to play together. He defined the team's closeness as its biggest strength. Even when things are not going their way, everyone continues to compete for each other.

The captains have also noted areas for improvement. Benenson thinks the team must prevent "small mistakes" from becoming "bigger stretches where we lose control of a game." Mullen also stated that the team sometimes relies too heavily on certain players and needs to learn how to use everyone's strengths.

For the rest of the season, Benenson hopes to build on teamwork and develop greater consistency. "We still need to work on being more consistent for the full 90 minutes and making sure we don't let small mistakes turn into bigger stretches where we lose control of a game," Benenson told The Exonian.

Each captain brings something different to that effort. Prep Nathan Spier said Park "adds a real drive and intensity," Benenson "helps" players individually, and Mullen "just brings everyone together." Together, they give the team a sense of direction. Without them, Ian Zhou said, "the team would be scattered."

Varsity Football Dominates Chesire Amidst Nor' easter

By MARI CIASCHINI, CHANGYU JEONG, RYAN KANG, SOPHIA KIM, ISAAC MELAMED, OWEN SAFFORD, and THEO ZHANG

On Saturday, Sept. 26, Exeter's varsity football team took on Cheshire Academy in its second official game of the season. Coming off a 14-7 loss to Choate Rosemary Hall the previous week, Exeter went into the game looking to earn its first win and gain momentum early in the season.

The game presented an unusual challenge, however, as a nor'easter brought severe weather and difficult playing conditions to coastal New England that weekend. According to senior captain Brayden Murch, two separate thunder delays prolonged the game, and forced both teams back into the locker room.

Nonetheless, Exeter maintained control and ultimately defeated Cheshire 38-14. Murch credited the defense with creating key opportunities, pointing to "two forced fumbles by our defense that we ended up recovering," which he described as "definitely big for us." Offensively, Exeter adapted to the conditions by relying heavily on its rushing, as passing was difficult in the rain. Murch noted that "Fogo running the ball, Jamal running the ball, definitely helped us with the conditions," while also praising the offensive line, saying, "I think the O-line definitely stepped it up."

The victory also showed a significant improvement in Exeter's game from its previous matchup. "In the first game, we couldn't really get the run game going, and I think we definitely established that," Murch said.

Looking ahead, Murch emphasized the importance of maintaining the offensive line's performance. "We blocked really well that game, and if we can just keep that going into Williston, it was a tough opponent. I think that can definitely help us out," he said. With Williston Northampton School next on the schedule, Exeter will look to build on its dominant performance against Cheshire and carry its momentum into the next part of the season.

Annabel Jordan '28 Awarded Rock Award

By MAYA DEHGHAN, AUDREY KIM, JUNE KOH, ELA KORO, MAGGIE KOTKOWSKI, AZALEA KRASOV, SANIA RANADIVE, ARISA YOSHINO, and ANGIE YUAN

If you walk across the Hill Bridge toward the football fields, you are sure to instantly hear the familiar sounds of girls varsity soccer practice. Teammates call to one another, plastic cleats hit the turf, and the ball tumbles across the field. Among the players, captain and upper Annabel Jordan radiates a particular energy that everyone around her can feel. She is steady, calm, and gritty. She is a rock.

Jordan was the recipient of last week's Rock Award, which is given by the athletics department every week to a student-athlete "who consistently [goes] above and beyond, [demonstrates] what it means to be a great teammate, [displays] strong leadership on campus and [exhibits] non sibi."

Winning the Rock Award is a recognition of the immense time, effort, and care that Jordan has constantly put into the sport and the team for the last three years. "It means that the coaches see my efforts in trying to lead by example and in my communication, as well as my dedication to soccer," she explained.

The award also highlights not just Jordan's individual efforts, but her ability to inspire and set high, yet attainable, expectations for the rest of her team. "Every day I strive to be the best version of myself because I know there are people watching how I act and how I do things," she said. "I want to make sure everyone is working as hard as possible, but also if someone is struggling, I want to make sure they know they have resources all around them."

"I think that she is one of the most deserving people at this school to receive that award," said senior Orleans Germond, one of Jordan's co-captains. "She is the kind of leader who leads by example."

Senior Summer Mansfield agreed. "She's one of the hardest workers in practice and you can tell," Mansfield said. "She's the one who's communicating the most during all the passing drills, and the one who's running right until the end."

Upper Mandy Guo summed it up. "You can always see her working 110 percent," she said. "The way that she combines her work ethic and positive mentality is super inspirational, and it's something that all of us really look up to. Her consistency is very admirable as well. She's showing up every single day with the same amount of focus and effort."

Upper Charlie Kim, another teammate, emphasized Jordan's consistency and positive attitude. "She's a really good teammate and captain, and she always makes sure to be there to support you even during the times when she might not be feeling so good," Kim said. "This extends to both on the field and off the field. It's a consistent thing, and that is what makes her the rock."

When nominating a player for the Rock Award, head coach Diego Ardura noted that Jordan was the first person that came to mind for the coaches. "I think what stood out for us was her competitiveness and work ethic during practice," he said. "The intensity with which she does every single drill, and how competitive she is in everything she does, along with being a team-first person, are very important to us. She's always asking for feedback; she's always asking to help others and see how she can help the team."

Jordan's contributions to the girls varsity soccer program are an embodiment of true non sibi. When she plays soccer, she plays for her teammates, her coaches, and her fans. Most importantly, her determination supersedes any challenge that she faces.

"She always thinks that she can win, that she can compete no matter who's in front of her, and I think that's actually contagious," Ardura said. With the rest of this fall as well as her senior season still up ahead, Jordan is sure to remain a standout player on the team.

JV Football: A Look Back to the Past and at the Present







Boys' Junior Varsity Football game in action. Adrian Chan & Justin Zhang / *The Exonian*

By SOLLIE BEER, AVA CHUNG, ROHAN DADARWALA, HATTIE HESSICK, JUEUN HONG, ARIANA METZGER, and WILLIAM ZHAO

The JV Football team has started the season off strong with two wins against Cardigan Mountain School 31-6 and Exeter High School 13-0. With only 14 athletes on the JV Football team, the boys have created a close community and hope to continue their winning streak thus far into the season.

At Phelps Stadium on Sept. 23, the boys absolutely crushed their first game of the fall against Cardigan. Upper Ryan McPhee did some extensive running and followed through on tough plays that kept their defense tight. Continuing to hold a solid defense, Ethan Sheldon '30 was part of the final sack in their most recent game against EHS. As for offense, upper Jake Rohloff had a great pass to upper Jack Savino for the first touchdown of the game. "I love the first touchdown," commented Rohloff. "...you just get the weight off your shoulders, you know, get the points on the board."

Part of JV Football's success comes from the community they've built with one another and the messages instilled in them by coaches and captains. Coach Tim Mitropoulos, Coach Patrick Kelly, and Coach Brandon Thomas all strive to implement the idea that practice directly correlates to how athletes will play in games. Coach Mitropoulos noted that their goals as coaches are "to continue to improve every day individually and as a team, to be a team that is consistent in how we play and practice, and to have a great experience playing together as a team."

The efforts of the coaches and captains have affected each athlete. "He's [Coach Thomas] kind of taught me everything I need to know about football, and he's just a great coach," remarked Rohloff. Prep Max Gaeto agreed, noting the things the coaches do for them on a daily basis. "Coach Mit sends us an email every day and every Thursday," starts Gaeto. "Coach Thomas has looked over all of our film from the previous day and has stuff to point out so we can improve." Rohloff also noted the captains, seniors Cooper Meadville and Zane Eskandar, have been "great leaders" for the past two years.

Eskandar works to support the players both on and off the field, saying that his role is "ensuring the football grind continues outside of practice and our games and making sure our players eat well and succeed as students as well as athletes."

Even with two wins under their belt, JV Football is working hard to make sure they play as well as possible. Although there aren't any major challenges right now, Coach Mitropoulos noted, "Challenges are going to be part of our season, so we need to be ready for those and be prepared to fight through some adversity." Even though they emerged with a win, the team is still working hard to keep their streak going.

"A personal goal of mine will be to slowly improve on my defensive line skills, specifically my releases off of the line and the first few seconds of contact off of the ball," added Gaeto. A common objective for the team is working on building a strong defense and playing consistently.

Lower Henry Newby, who is a varsity player, swung over to play during the JV game against EHS and offered an outside perspective. "I think that working on point consistency and playing aggressively will really benefit the team."

As a former JV player, he also noticed the growth

JV FOOTBALL , 17.

Football 101

By BUCHI AKABOGU and AUDREY KIM

"Set HUT!" A 6' 4" man with Maye emblazoned in red on a number ten navy blue jersey launches a diamond-shaped ball into the evening New England sky. "MAYYEE GOING DEEEEP!" The announcers yell. Four men adorning helmets rise from the turf of Gillette Stadium, reaching for the diamond-shaped ball slicing through the crisp October air. One in navy blue rises well above the rest, catching the ball. "TOUCHDOWN PATRIOTS!" The crowd erupts into cheers. This is Football.

Football is a core tenet of American culture. Because we all currently reside in the United States, it is important that we all understand the sport that makes Americans so crazy.

This is a sport played between two teams with 11 players on the field at a time. One team (playing offense) has a ball and is trying to get it to the other side to score, while the other (playing defense) is trying to prevent this from happening. The field is 100 yards long, with the two goal zones on the opposite ends of the field being 10 yards each.

The most important concept is downs. The offense gets four downs, or four attempts to get past 10 yards. If the offense succeeds, then they are able to continue attempting to reach further down the field. If not, then the possession switches.

To avoid this, teams will often punt the ball on fourth down for the other team to receive farther down the football field. If a team is close enough to the goal post, they can settle for a field goal and attempt a kick in between the goal posts, this time for three points.

To properly understand football, the offense is a great place to start. The offense of any football team is led by the quarterback. The quarterback throws the ball after each snap — the start of the play. The quarterback will attempt to throw the ball to an open player before the defensive linemen on the opposite team get past the offensive linemen and reach him for a sack — when the quarterback is tackled behind the line of scrimmage; the line where the play begins at the start of each drive. The quarterback also has the option to hand the ball off to the running back instead of throwing it. The offense's goal is to have a player catch the ball or run it into the opponent's end zone for a touchdown.

A touchdown awards seven points, with the option to attempt an extra point kick between the goal posts for an extra point. The second option is a single attempt to score a touchdown from the two-yard line; if successful, this grants two extra points. It is very uncommon for a team to go for the two-point option, as there is a 47 percent average conversion rate compared to the 97 percent rate for an extra point kick.

Every game begins with the punt return teams; one team will receive the ball from the punt and attempt to score a touchdown by running the full length of the field to their opponents endzone, while the other team tries to stop them. If a kick seems as if it is going to land farther back into a team's half of the field, the team will not catch the ball and allow it to bounce into their end zone for a touchback. After the touchback, the ball will be placed on the 35-yard line.

The defensive team tries to prevent the offense from advancing and gaining more points. To do this, they tackle, pressure the quarterback, and intercept passes. An interception is when a defensive player catches a pass that is thrown by the opposing team's quarterback, which gives the defensive team that caught the ball possession. A safety is worth two points, and it happens when the defense tackles an offensive player who has the ball in the offense's own end zone.

If you ever see a yellow cloth get thrown into the field, that's what referees use to indicate a foul. These fouls are usually followed by either the removal of a down or moving the offensive team backwards. Some examples of penalties include:

1. Holding: when a player illegally grabs or restricts their opponent

2. False Start: when a player moves illegally before the ball is snapped

3. Delay of Game: when the offense fails to snap the ball within the time of the play clock

4. Pass interference: when a player prevents an opponent from having a fair opportunity to catch a ball

5. Roughing the Passer: when a defender makes late contact with the quarterback after they threw the ball

Football is the lifeblood of this nation. From Sunday night in the dorm common room to E/a weekend in the fall, football is so much more than just a sport. It is a language shared by millions of Americans. The next time someone shouts "Set HUT" or celebrates a touchdown, you will know exactly what is happening, but most importantly of all, you will know why everyone is screaming.

Alec Clement: A Lost Athlete of PEA

By SELASIE AMEMASOR and SEAN RICARD

Throughout the Academy's history, many great athletes have trained, competed, graduated, and gone on to play in college and beyond. But some athletes, even greats, are lost in the academy's long history. One may never know of Alec Clement, who attended Exeter in 1923.

Janet Ross, daughter of Clement, as well as her husband Bob, visited the Exeter Historical Society with questions about her dad's life. Ross knew of her father's accomplishments: his career playing baseball and football that squared him head-to-head with greats such as Jim Thorpe and Babe Ruth — whom he struck out — as well as his time in the Navy and his coaching career later in life. But it was not until Bob encouraged Janet to look into her dad's career that they knew he attended the Academy.

As it turns out, our yearbook corroborates the couple's findings. Alec Clement came to Phillips Exeter Academy in his upper year after graduating from Chicopee High School in Massachusetts. He spent one year at the school as a student, and didn't graduate. Clement went on to teach at a number of schools across the country. He coached football and taught U.S. history from the late 1940s to the late 1950s.

Clement would have been class of 1923 and while he was here, he was a part of a number of clubs and sports associations. PEAN writes: "Alexander Mitchell Clement, Willimansett, Massachusetts," with nicknames listed as Alec, Al and Clem. An inscription under his yearbook photo quotes Sir Phillip Sidney, the prominent Elizabethan poet, "High erected thoughts seated in the heart of courtesy" The quote promotes intelligence, ambition and focus wrapped in kindness and consideration. The quote reflects values quite similar to an the often cited quote from the Academy Deed of Gifts, "Goodness without knowledge is weak and feeble, yet knowledge without goodness is dangerous, and that both unite form the noblest character, and lay the surest foundation of usefulness to mankind."

Clement was part of the Academy's football team, track squad, baseball team, and baseball squad. He tackled on the same fields and played in the fall E/a of 1921, when Exeter won 34-3. He played on the same team that educated ten college football hall-of-famers, the most of any high school in the country. The track squad on the other hand, while not the official team for Exeter, was a major group for students who enjoyed club sports. Clement was also a part of the Academy baseball squad and baseball team. Baseball, as important to us as it is today, was even more important to the students back in the 1920s. Our baseball rivalry with Andover dates back to 1878 and has since been a major part of academy culture.

Clement was also a part of the Christian fraternity. The club focused on faith and built community around the members' shared experiences. His other extracurriculars include the Williams Club, of which he was president. The Williams Club was associated with the college Williams College, where he would go on to attend following the year he spent at the academy.

His time spent after leaving Exeter was just as fascinating as his time here. He spent only three years at Williams College, where he was captain of the football team; standing at 5 '10 and weighing 170 pounds, he played wing-back for the school. He was named captain-elect at the end of his second year; however, he would leave before the beginning of his third year to play professional football. Clement also carried his love of baseball and basketball into the college's individual programs.

After college, Clement went on to join the specials team as a running back for the Frankford Yellow Jackets, a Philadelphia team that played in the NFL from 1924 to 1931. They would go on to be the forerunner of the Philadelphia Eagles. He played for the 1925 season, administering a 15-yard opening kickoff to the legendary Jim Thorpe.

He did not let his love of baseball falter, though. After a few failed attempts to start his own clubs, he joined the Jack O'Hara's All Stars team from 1927-28. With a 2.68 ERA, he proved more than useful. In their head-to-head against the Yankees, Clement only allowed four hits and struck out the legendary Hall of Famer Babe Ruth, with the team winning 4-0. A news article provided by Janet Ross touted him as "invincible" in his pitching.

He went on to coach multiple clubs, such as the junior basketball and football team for the Atlantic City Melrose Club Springfield Silvertowns in 1927. He also coached a string of baseball teams.

From 1930-37 he coached semi-pro football in North Adams while dipping his toes into the business world. It was also at North Adams' Teaching College where he acquired his Bachelor of Education.

Eventually, he retired from playing sports and enlisted in the U.S. Naval reserves in 1943. There, he instructed the Navy's ten-sport physical program. In 1944, he directed the unloading of high explosives onto ships on the Pacific coast, narrowly escaping an explosion that killed 322 men at Fort Chicago, California.

Clement settled down at Fairhaven High School to teach U.S. History and athletics. While he was very well known for his coaching career, most students remember him by his inspiring academic lectures; he served students from 1946 to 1958. Clement went on to join the Fairhaven High School Hall of Fame for his coaching career. He was inducted 36 years after his passing in 1970, at 65.

Alexander Clement's year at Exeter was more than just a stop on his way to a legacy career, it was something that made him a better person. After Exeter he made a profound impact on American sports, and gave back to his communities through the Navy, coaching, and teaching. But that quote, "High erected thoughts seated in the heart of courtesy," represents something integral to the paths of all Exonians. No matter the field, Clement exhibits how the academy's values can supplement all aspects of life.

JV Football Cont.

from last year's performance. The team had a 1064-day losing streak, but broke their position as the 'losingest team in Exeter history' with a standout victory in 2025. "I was pretty happy to see there was a new depth to the team, from both new players and the varsity swing players," said Newby.

Exeter JV Football has built a great foundation and a team environment that goes far beyond the scoreboard through the coaches' support and a strong emphasis on practice. As players noted, the work done off the field and in practices is what shows up during games. The team knows that there are still plenty of things to improve on, such as defense and consistency. The team also plans to go through any tough moments that might come their way. The boys are confident and always trust each other to improve on their game. With a strong start and a connected group, the JV Football team is ready to see how far it can go this season.



Adrian Chan & Justin Zhang / *The Exonian*

Humor

SIGN MY PREP REP SHEET!
Read about creative ways prep rep candidates use to ask for signatures, 18.

MY LAST WORDS
Read about Diya Sandeep's will before being sent to the Health Center, 19.

ORIGINS OF E/A
Read about the stories behind the Exeter > Andover rivalry, 19.

If the Duolingo Bird Was Your Language Teacher

By AVA CHUNG '29, JUEUN HONG '29, and LYDIA KUHNERT '28

On the first day of prep fall, you climb the stairs of Phillips Hall. Head down, checking emails on your phone, you walk into French 12T.

"Bonjour!" Looking up from your phone, a humongous, green owl stands before you. His eyes stare into your soul. "Comment tu t'appelles?" he asks, but his beak doesn't move. The voice comes from behind his uncannily unchanging expression.

"Duolingo, is that you?" you ask, looking around. All your classmates are unfazed, chatting about the weather or something.

"Oui, parles en français, s'il te plaît [Yes, speak in French, please], " responds Duolingo. "Tu as perdu ta série [You lost your streak]." He's right. You did lose your 24-day streak of learning French. "Assois-toi," he commands, so you sit down. Duolingo tries to sit in a wooden chair with everyone else, but the chair collapses underneath his large green bottom. You look around again, but everyone is talking with each other casually. Maybe you're hallucinating – is the vegan chocolate ice cream doing something to you?

"On va commencer la classe maintenant. [We're going to start class now]," says Duolingo after getting up from his rubble pile.

This was the first day of many for you. Whenever you answered a question correctly, a ding played from Duolingo's beak, which was just odd. When you answered incorrectly, another ominous sound was made. At the end of every class, Duolingo spoke in an unfamiliar voice about Super Duolingo, or more recently, about Duolingo's partnership with Taco Bell. If you didn't show up to class (even with "flexible absences"), he sent you odd emails. It was things like "Looks like you forgot your French lessons again. You know what happens now!" "Nobody ignores me…for long." or "Am I coming on too strong?" All the emails sent without fail every time you missed class, like you were in a toxic relationship.

Enough was enough, so you emailed the deans. The next day, you show up to class promptly, fearing what would happen if you didn't come. Duolingo isn't already there, which is strange. He's always there, always watching. You take a seat in one of the only chairs that's intact. Your peers are talking about last Monday's assembly when a woman comes into the classroom. She addresses the class in French, and you begin Harkness-ing to the best of our 12T abilities.

After class, you stop outside the classroom when you receive an email from the deans. They think you're out of whack, asking if it was a joke. If not, they suggest CAPS. Duolingo was never there in the first place. Have I been hallucinating, you wonder? You're relieved, though, even if something might be wrong with your head.

You're on your way to the stairs when you see a flash of green through the ajar door of a Spanish classroom. Stopping for a moment, you peer in through the crack. Duolingo's back is facing the door, but his head turns 180 degrees (you knew he was an owl, but didn't know he could do that), looking at you with his dead, soulless eyes.

"Hola!"

Circling Back to That 8 a.m.

By ADRIAN CHAN '28 and HARRISON WALDEN '30

Circling back to that 8 a.m.

Proud to share an inspirational story to reflect on how one decision has completely redefined how I approach sleeping: 8 ams are detrimental to participation synergy. As I sipped my Dunkin cold brew this morning, I was thinking about my KPIs as a recipient of secondary education and on how I might best align my non-insignificant mental health breaks on the Wall Street Journal with minimizing my biological age. At Wharton, we were always taught to think outside of the box, I thus decided to conduct a pilot study in consultation with @Mckensey and @BrianJohnson and @HarvardMedicalSchool in which I would have a singular nonflexible absence on a Wednesday morning that would allow me to both go to bed at 5 a.m. and wake up at 11 a.m. I know, I really dig the trend of optimized morning routines. The revolution of sleep science should be evident. I immediately noticed that this recalibration allowed for a more sustainable performance in my nonacademic commitments as well as alignment with the release of the midmorning Bloomberg newsblast. In the classroom, flexible attendance in Harkness discussions at 8 a.m. has allowed me to maximize my participation synergy with my peers. The scarcity of my presence has increased the perceived importance of my verbal communications as well as underlining how each individual stakeholder plays a unique role in fostering knowledge and goodness leveraging synergy across verticals. I hope you can take away a few tips on how sleep realignment can optimize your back-to-school strategy. Quality over quantity was successfully implemented in a classroom setting. I am eager for other opportunities where one simple change can create a new paradigm for approaching the world with greater vitality.

One Wednesday ago, I took a leap of faith in taking time to recharge. This journey has been nothing short of transformational. I have learned more about myself, my habits, and my balance than I ever thought possible. To anyone thinking about taking the leap: Do it. You will not regret it.

#mentalhealth #harkness #consulting #phillipsexeteracademy #stakeholderanalysis #inspirational

Sign My Prep Rep Sheet!

By BLAIR LI '28, CAROL LEE '28, and MAYA LEE-SCHONFIELD '30

You can see them everywhere. We came up with 5 different experiences you can have during the prep rep season.

Scene 1:

Waking on the paths

Prep rep applicant: Heyyy, are you a prep? Can you sign my prep rep sheet? (shoves the sheet and a pen in their face aggressively)

Senior: …Um, do I look that young?

Prep rep applicant: Oh, are you a lower?

Senior: Higher…

Prep rep applicant: Upper?

Senior: Higher…

Prep rep applicant: Oh! (Snatches the sheet away)

Scene 2:

Grill

Prep rep applicant: Heyyy guys. Can you sign my prep rep sheet? (approaches a group of lowers)

Lower: Yeah! Of course! Always a pleasure!

Prep rep applicant: Can you guys just pass it around?

Lower: Yeah! No worries!

Scene 3:

Weth

Prep rep applicant: Heyyy can you sign my sheet?

Prep: Why should I vote for you?

Prep rep applicant: Uhh… Cause like… erm… I'm just like better

Scene 4:

Agora

Prep rep applicant: Heyyy you guys are preps right? Can you sign this?

Prep: Wait, we're not actually preps. We're lowers.

Prep rep applicant: Oh, I thought I saw you guys during orientation.

Prep: No… You probably saw my doppelgänger.

Scene 5:

Mailroom, 5 minutes before the deadline

Prep rep applicant A: Bro how many signatures do you have?

Prep rep applicant B: I got 300 bro.

Prep rep applicant A: We don't have 300 preps dude.

Prep rep applicant B: Oh… what..?

Prep rep applicant A: What do I do? I only have 144 signatures.

Prep rep applicant B: Just fake it.

Prep rep applicant A: (scrolls through the directory)

Brought to You By The Exonian's Weather Forecast Team: Nor'easter and Local Reactions

By GABRIEL KIM '28, DANIEL JOON LEE '29, and SEAN RICARD '28

It's called the Nor'easter, because it didn't affect the west, nor the East

On Friday evening, New England saw a beautiful sunset like no other.

Yet in the streets, the people were in a frenzy, preparing for the storm.

Following the first day of the heavily anticipated Nor'easter, The Exonian has collated a multitude of reactions from the affected residents in the Exeter and New Jersey areas.

They're calling it the "disaster of the decade," second only to the leaf that fell from a tree last month. Experts claim the storm will have impacts "comparable to that of the Exeter phone policy" and affect as many individuals as the change from "fatigues" to "flabs" did.

Weather channels advised citizens to "wear clothes" when going outside as a cautionary measure for the storm. They also heavily advised against "not wearing clothes."

"I am preparing for the storm like a responsible citizen," said Mr. John, a resident of Exeter. "It's going to be a hard time, but my family is prepared for it." The interview was conducted after the storm had already passed. "The rain sure has been consistent this week, and now I see the sun. It's surely the calm before the storm." Mr. John commented on what was, in fact, the calm after the storm.

Mr. John had been seen going on a 5K run outside that Saturday. He did not have a shirt on.

Extensive research by top meteorologists at the Phelps Center concluded that the storm was caused by a group of children in Dublin singing "Rain Rain Go Away," veering the rains toward the New England area. The pope from the Vatican has issued warnings against such rituals because it "ruined his tan."

The total casualties of the storm is calculated to be 1, as Mr. John seems to have tripped outside during his run. The storm has not responded to requests for comments to confirm this statistic, causing the United Nations General Committee to convene this Sunday to heavily criticize the storm's cowardice over brunch and coffee.

Residents criticize the hypocrisy of news networks that had warned the residents of what is now being called the "storm who cried wolf", and the Senate has proposed a bill to cut budgets for meteorologists once again. Positions for professionals who can "talk to God" have been opened as alternatives. The Vatican has remained silent on this matter.

Meanwhile in New Jersey... (Editor's note: A fictitious state was chosen so as not to hurt anyone's feelings).

Local residents confirm that the world is indeed ending. And they still respect the pope. Local resident Vinny Gorgonzola commented on the drastic aftermath of the storm while knee-deep in floodwater. The recording was lost, however, when his Italian-American hand motions knocked over the recording equipment.

Mr. John said of New Jersey, "I didn't even know that state existed."

Local residents from Ocean City, N.J. were suddenly confused when the ocean annexed their entire municipal road system. "They can use this opportunity to go kayaking," Mr. John said. The Vatican declined a request to comment, instead sending us a link to Venetian travel brochures.

New Jersey resident Bruce Springsteen commented on the tumult, "Hrrrrgggngmmphand I took my carr arsgggrrrrrfrpOOH hd na dHAHH." His incomprehensible hooting and hollering likely included references to cars, girls, and being blue-collar. Luckily, Springsteen's 22 million dollar house was spared from the flooding.

Thank you for tuning into The Exonian's report on the Nor'easter.

The True Origin Story of E/a

By VEOLLA JIANG '29, OLIVIA WANG '29, and LUCY XIAO '30

Interviewer: Lamerson Aiang

Interviewees:

Joe King (12-year-old child of a resident faculty member)

Chanel Number Two

Ellis X. Evans and Turner E. Reed (members of Minor Street Hall)

Anonymous Upperclassman

Mary Had-A-Little Lamb

TAKE 1

Lamerson Aiang: Do I have your consent to be recorded?

Joe King: Yes.

Lamerson Aiang: Fantastic. My name is Lamerson Aiang and I'm a part-time student, full-time unpaid Exonian laborer. Now, Paul, we come to you today with a very important question. You wouldn't happen to know the… true origin of E/a, would you?

Joe King: I do. But it's a long story.

Lamerson Aiang: We've got all day. All the details please.

Lamerson Aiang: That's… hard to believe.

Joe King: I know. But it's the truth.

Lamerson Aiang: Hey you, do you mind—d'you mind covering that mic—

Lamerson Aiang: (muffled) Aight Joe, cut the crap lil' bro. You just said: "The story". The words: "The story". Like, what do you even WANT me to do with that kinda bulls—

TAKE 2

Chanel Number 2: I heard that one of our football players called Shane was secretly seeing one of Andover's star quarterbacks from Boston. Plus, this was like, back in the eighteenth century or whatever which made it SO scandalous. Apparently, their families forbade them from seeing each other EVER again and the whole rivalry started there… I guess their families donated a lot of money to keep hating the other school.

Lamerson Aiang: Very intriguing.

Chanel Number 2: And guess what? I heard that it was the story that inspired Shakespeare to write 'Romeo and Juliet'! You know, the whole family blood feud between the Capuccinos and the Macchiatos.

Lamerson Aiang: …Sounds about right.

Chanel Number 2: (sighs romantically) Who knew there could be so much tension on a football field…

TAKE 3

Lamerson Aiang: So. What can you tell me about how the E/a rivalry started?

Ellis X. Evans: Well, to begin, there are a few things you have to know about E/a.

Turner E. Reed: The first thing is that…

Ellis X. Evans & Turner E. Reed: (in unison) You do not talk about E/a.

Lamerson Aiang: Pardon?

Ellis X. Evans: The second thing is…

Ellis X. Evans & Turner E. Reed: (in unison) You do NOT talk about E/a!

Ellis X. Evans: Only two schools compete. Only one game at a time.

Ellis X. Evans & Turner E. Reed: (in unison) No shirts. No shoes.

Ellis X. Evans & Turner E. Reed: (looks at Lamerson Aiang expectantly)

Lamerson Aiang: (starts sweating profusely) Uh… security?

TAKE 4

Lamerson Aiang: So tell me why you're here.

Anonymous Upperclassman: I came here to talk about the origin of E/a. I heard some people were doing an article about that? And they said that you were THE man to talk to.

Lamerson Aiang: (blushes) Well, yeah that would be m—

Anonymous Upperclassman: They told me to take a left and find the 40-year-old looking guy. I gotta say, I never thought exploited labor could look so good, Ahjussi. You don't look a day over 30—

[INTERVIEWEE WAS DETERMINED TO BE AN UNRELIABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION. THE INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY STRICKEN FROM THE OFFICIAL EXONIAN RECORDS ON OCT. 5, 2026.]

TAKE 5

Lamerson Aiang: Ahem! So, Mary, what do you have to say about E/a?

Mary Had-A-Little Lamb: It all started on a cold November Saturday. A long, long time ago.

Lamerson Aiang: Yes?

Mary Had-A-Little Lamb: That year, Exeter and Andover students all gathered on Andover's campus to honor the heritage of the Phillips family. After all, the two schools come from the same roots. Exonians all boarded buses to head down south. While the bus driver was tying a flannel around his waist, a little sheep sneaked onto the bus and hid in the back row.

Lamerson Aiang: What do you mean a lamb?!

Mary Had-A-Little Lamb: He followed the students to the gym and began wandering off by himself, until he was caught by the Andover Dean of Students, who brought him to the middle of the crowd. Exeter students insisted the lamb belonged to them while Andover students proclaimed, "Well, it came here, so clearly it prefers Andover."

Lamerson Aiang: So… (looks straight into her eyes and interrogates) who do you support?

Mary Had-A-Little Lamb: It's just… it's so sad. Nobody ever asked the lamb what HE wanted.

Lamerson Aiang: …Right…

Mary Had-A-Little Lamb: That's the problem with E/a. Everyone is sooo obsessed with winning.

Lamerson Aiang: We're still talking about the sheep?

Mary Had-A-Little Lamb: His name was Snowball.

Lamerson Aiang: Okay… go on.

Mary Had-A-Little Lamb: Exeter eventually "won" the lamb back, but Andover accused Exeter of sheep theft, Exeter accused Andover of sheepnapping, and the argument became an annual competition.

Lamerson Aiang: So it's a rivalry between two schools fighting over the custody of a lamb. Andover's the mom, Exeter's the dad, they are divorced, and the lamb must be—

Mary Had-A-Little Lamb: (interrupts) Stop! Why are you making it sound so cruel? It's a competition between teenagers.

Lamerson Aiang: That is not making it sound better.

Mary Had-A-Little Lamb: Snowball was very happy. He got to make friends. He was popular.

Lamerson Aiang: Okay. And what happened to Snowball?

Mary Had-A-Little Lamb: (smiles) He went to college.

Lamerson Aiang: …

Mary Had-A-Little Lamb: Phillips Academy.

Lamerson Aiang: That's not a college

Mary Had-A-Little Lamb: Not with that attitude.

Lamerson Aiang: C'mon, so did it actually go to college or not?

Mary Had-A-Little Lamb: Him.

Lamerson Aiang: Sorry?

Mary Had-A-Little Lamb: You called him it.

Lamerson Aiang: My apologies. (sighs and leaves)

CONCLUSION:

Following review of all available statements, reliable interview transcripts, and historical evidence, editors have reached the following conclusion:

The E/a rivalry stemmed from a forbidden football romance, perhaps one all too similar to the hit queer TV show: Heated Rivalry. Scandalized by the affair, the football players' respective families made under-the-table contracts with principals of their respective schools to ignite a rivalry in the hopes of separating the star-crossed lovers for good. That rivalry has continued on into the 21st century. It is noted that the story should be taken with a grain of salt given its source.

Additionally, an alternative origin story provided by a young lady states that the E/a rivalry began as a legal custody case of a lamb that continued to spark controversies over the centuries. Despite the passionate, fierce, and rather physical competition that takes place annually, the lamb Snowball had a great time. May her soul rest in peace

All other sources were deemed either unstable, insane, or in mental decline.

CASE STATUS: CLOSED

Exonian Bedtime Stories

By ADAEZE ACHOLONU '29 and SOLEIL POMMERAUD '29

Sleepless Beauty (an Exonian's version):

Once upon a time, in a land far, far, away, there lived an Exonian in a simple abode under the name of Ewald Hall. Every day, the Exonian toiled away and completed assignments with diligence. They had lived in the kingdom of Exeter, New Hampshire for some time now, and moved about as if the campus was the back of their hand. They had friends now and were doing decently in classes. They were whipping up amazing things, like making happiness. Actual happiness and joy (/ref). But wait. What's this? Suddenly, the great evil mages 'majors' appeared in a clap of thunder. Three of them! On the same day! What to do? Emailing all three teachers and their adviser at the same time just to reschedule seems like too much work, so the Exonian decides to square up and take them all at the same time.

The night before the dreaded day arrives, the Exonian is reconsidering their decisions. After many a days of spikeballing and bed rotting, the Exonian has yet to study for a single subject! The only solution to the matter is clear. A potion must be concocted. Three Red Bulls added to a pot, with Monster Energy stirred in slowly. Then a sprinkle of espresso powder dissolved in a can of Celsius to finish it off. The Exonian looks at their masterpiece with satisfaction. All that's left to do is say the magic enchantment and drink it. "Light work, no reaction". The Exonian chugs the concoction. Oh… Okay it's got a little kick ooh. The Exonian sees their hands start to shake, undergoing the promised transformation to awakefulness.

Everything is more colorful, they feel like a new version of themselves. All powerful. All-knowing. These tests will be a piece of cake. The Exonian gets to work, feeling like Megamind as information floods through their brain. They see themselves from above:flipping through pages and scanning paragraphs like a robot. It's like ChatGPT had escaped their phone and possessed them.

The sun comes up and the rush still hasn't worn off. The Exonian attends their classes and takes their tests, feeling like a deity among mere mortals. By the time night comes around once again, the Exonian is elated. They had successfully pushed the boulder up to the top of the mountain and now stands proudly atop it. Snug like a bug in their bed, the Exonian shuts their exhausted eyes for some much-needed sleep.

But wait. The Exonian sits up. They can't seem to fall asleep! In horror, the Exonian pulls up the Claudian grimoire that they had gotten the potion spell from. Looking more closely, it seems they had missed an important detail when crafting the recipe. "Once this concoction is brewed and the crafter takes a sip," the pages read, "they shall never enter the realm of dreams again.".

Years have passed. The Exonian, withered with age, eyes bruised and bloodshot, looks at their calendar. Even now, it's fully booked. 7-8 a.m. Hold the horses. 8-9 a.m. Bark up the wrong tree. 9-9:30 a.m. Don't address the elephant in the room. 9:30-11 a.m. Beat around the bush. 11-12:40 p.m. Judge a book by its cover. It just keeps on going and going and going. The Exonian has lost all sense of time. No amount of melatonin or magnesium has eased their curse. The grimoire says there is only one solution, but the Exonian hadn't accepted it until now. Taking a bite of the grilled chicken breast from Elm, the Exonian finally shuts their eyes and never wakes up again. The End.

A Dying Person's Will (STOP TRYING TO CALL IT A COLD)

By CONNOR CALABIA'30 and DIYA SANDEEP'28

You guys,

I think I'm dying. I actually think I'm dying. Oh no, should I write a will?

What do you even put in a will? They don't teach us the important things here; all we know is how to rescue Alex the Geologist from a desert. Not how to write the document that tells the story of late nights, trips to the dining hall, and failing your first bio quiz. How do I tell my roommate that it's over, that I'll soon be underground; beyond connection to society with no cell service to boot?

So how will I die? What a great question. I'm ill—deathly ill indeed. The brief moments I wake up are a struggle, filled with coughing fits as I hallucinate my failed math test and collapse back into lovely dreams of finishing my homework for the week on Saturday. Even writing this is difficult, my fingers nearly numb and my sight kind of blurry. I'm shocked I made it this far, and so thankful to be alive just long enough to finish my will. Now, I have been locked away on the health center's second floor—their way of isolating me with my death looming over us all.

Well, this is my formal will then:

When I die, I want to outlaw sickness. This awful, awful cold that plagues Exonians. And! That kid who showed up to my 8 a.m math test without a mask on who couldn't stop coughing DESERVES EXPULSION. It's HIS fault that I suffer so. Clearly. It's definitely not the fact that I haven't slept more than three hours in a week and also am surviving off of skittles and a dream. It's also totally his fault that I failed the test; like cough more quietly, dude. I know you have like whooping cough or whatever but you don't need to be so obvious about it. You kept sniffling to the rhythm of Rick Astley, and it was distracting that I think I sent Alex into an underground tunnel system.

After that, I think health center toast should be put on the flag. HEALTH CENTER, HEALTH CENTER, YOUR TOAST IS SO BEAUTIFUL (sung in the tone of "America the Beautiful"). Truly, a gift to mankind. It almost makes my stay here bearable as it stretches across days and months and how long has it been since the term started? I'm working on getting mine to be the same perfect golden—or at least I was, before I was taken down by this horrendous cough that makes my whole body tremble and my throat scratchy as cheap chalk.

Anyways, I'm pretty sure I'm supposed to divvy up my belongings so you're welcome…

I leave my clothes to the Chic Club so they may admire them.

I leave my Spanish book to the bookstore so they may again resell it for $500, although I think it should be worth more considering it once belonged to me.

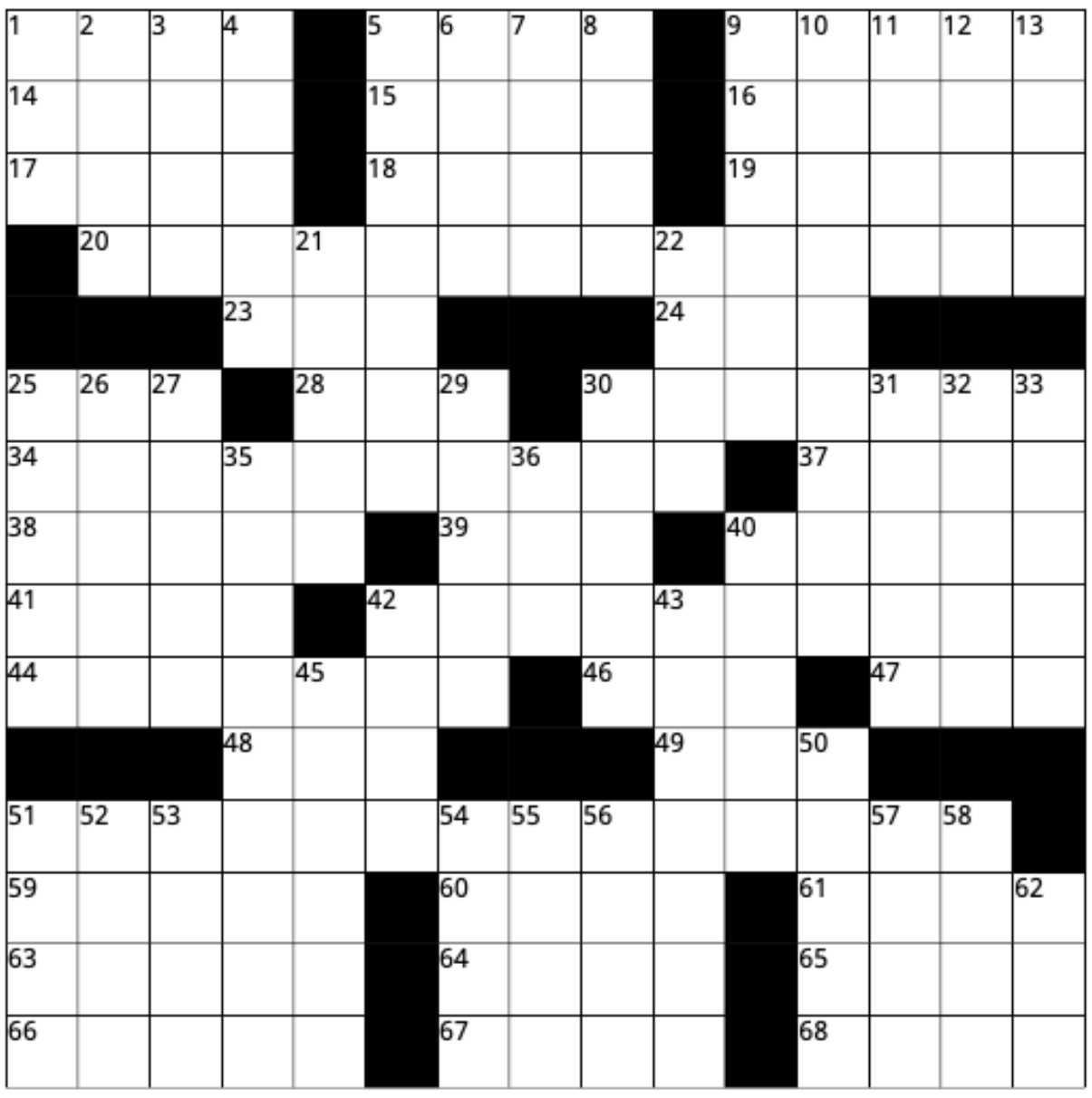
I leave my AI knowledge to admin, so they may create amazing posters.

I leave my Grill points, current and future to whatever unlucky soul spends all of theirs 3p.m. on Sunday.

Yay! See you never; I shall enjoy rest finally in death.

The Crossword Corner

By CAROL LEE '28



ACROSS
1 Major art museum in Aarhus, Denmark
5 Potato holder
9 Narrow openings
14 Gossips
15 Italian farewell
16 "Lost" actress Raymonde
17 An abbreviation for language
18 ___ and crafts
19 Used as a dining surface
20 Risky late-night coffee order
23 Job ad abbr.
24 Spanish for "to be"
25 Nonprofit that recruits college grads into education: Abbr.
28 Hosp. workers
30 Bills for drinks
34 Picnic game
37 Warmth
38 Sign of spring
39 Singer Rita
40 Size above medium
41 Volunteer's offer
42 Deep-fries
44 Spanish gentlemen
46 Sault ___ Marie
47 Amtrak stop: Abbr.
48 Italian counterpart of the BBC
49 Small batteries
51 Material in a pan
59 "This ___ Love Song" (Bon Jovi hit)
60 Greek war god, to Greeks
61 Actor Guinness
63 Just passed
64 Vocal quality
65 "American Beauty" actress Suvari
66 Jawbone of ___ (biblical weapon)
67 Org.
68 Iraq's ___ City

DOWN
1 Entirely
2 Way to go
3 "Yes ___?"
4 Smooth transition
5 Those who climb
6 Suffix with billion
7 Oscar winner Blanchett
8 Big name in headphones
9 Rude observer
10 After
11 Supermodel Sastre
12 Uncles, in Spanish
13 Not loco
21 ___ well (is a good sign)
22 Free TV spots
25 Massenet opera
26 Compel
27 Suffix with Unit
29 Waves away
30 Bills
31 Houston hockey team
32 Stop work, slangily
33 Inscribed pillar
35 Spanish for "misses"
36 Spanish gold
40 ___ the heart of
42 Provide with a roof
43 Quadrennial candidate Harold
45 Did some product promotion
50 Stitched lines
51 It's a long story
52 Noun suffix
53 Architectural pier
54 "I could ___ horse!"
55 Signs of success
56 Transgressions
57 Zeno of ___
58 Give temporarily
62 Automobile

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.

ANDREW YANG
Editor-in-Chief

ARYAN AGARWAL
Managing Editor

CHLOÉ LIND
Director of Writing

GRACE YANG
Director of Media

ERIC ALEY
GAVIN ZHAO
Chief Digital Editors

ADU ILANGOVAN
JOSHUA MULLEN
Business Co-Chairs

DIRECTORS OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING
Carly Canseco
Karolina Kozak

NEWS EDITORS
Leon Xie
Aaryan Patel
Marvin Shim
Angela He
Alexa Morel

LIFE EDITORS
Jillian Cheng
Alex Lim
Meghan Tate Zee
Henry Wise
Hanna Wei
Nick Baker

OPINIONS EDITORS
Melia Thibault
Aya Samson
Sarah Manor
Andrew Pham
William Inoue

COLUMN EDITOR
V Murdaya

HUMOR EDITORS
Amerson Liang
Annie Zhu
Tiago Bilyk
Audrey Kim

SPORTS EDITORS
Adelle Pitts
Samhita Koltur
Sean Mahdavian
Abigail Asfaw

CRUCIVERBALIST
Carol Lee

LAYOUT MANAGER
Emily Kim

HEAD COPY EDITOR
Levi Stoll

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGERS
Eilena Ding
Carol Lee
Arisa Yoshino

HEAD PHOTOGRAPHERS
Anoushka Sarathy
Sean Ricard

PHOTO EDITORS
Adrian Chan
Blair Li

HEAD VIDEOGRAPHERS
Kaylee Gong
Altay Bayraktar

HEAD ARTIST
Kevin Chen

ANCHOR
Buchi Akabogu

PODCAST MANAGERS
Katherine Luo
Sean Mahdavian

ASSOCIATE ARTISTS
Carol Lee
HB Reeder
Blair Li
Ariana Metzger
Katherine Luo

ASSOCIATE LAYOUT EDITORS
Carol Lee
Kaylee Gong
Arisa Yoshino
Lydia Kuhnert
Ellina Kim
Eilena Ding
Kristine Qiao
Olivia Wang
Luca Zhu
Tony Zhu

HEAD COPY EDITOR
Levi Stoll

ASSOCIATE COPY EDITORS
Owen Safford
Olivia Szczepanski
Lydia Kuhnert
Luke Chon
Levi Stoll
Gary Guo
Changyu Jeong
Buchi Akabogu

WEB BOARD

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Aaditya Bilakanti

HEAD CONTENT MANAGERS
Evan Chen
Carol Lee

BUSINESS BOARD

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
Ben Lewis

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SUBSCRIPTIONS
Ting-Ting Hsieh

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Hugo Shinn

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
Logan Beckerle

MANAGING DIRECTORS OF OPERATIONS
William Lefebvre
Jun Kuang

SENIOR ASSOCIATES
Joanie Meng

FACULTY ADVISERS
L.J. Cooper
Jessica Emory
Avantika Kumar
Erica P. Lazure
Fernando Pomar

To subscribe to or advertise on *The Exonian*, contact exonian@gmail.com or call 603-777-4100. A subscription to the paper costs $120 off campus and $150 overseas.

The Exonian welcomes Letters to the Editor sent to the care of hyang6@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.