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Exeter, New Hampshire

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PRINCIPAL ELLIOTT'S VISIT

Read about Principal Elliott's visit to campus, 1.

SOTW: TIFFANY SUN

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Principal Elliott Pays a Visit to the Academy

By DOWANKIM and
SEAN RICARD

On Thursday, April 9, incoming principal Elliott came to visit campus, visiting classes, rehearsals, and meeting with faculty, her visit culminating in a dinner on Thursday night. This marks her second visit to campus, part of a greater transition period between principals.

Assistant Principal Eimer Page was well acquainted with the preparation and care that went into her visit. She explained how this visit differs from her first, which took place in December. Page explained that Elliott's previous

visit was more wide-reaching, with open houses for students, speaking at assembly, and meetings with Deans, Facilities, and the Health center.

Page commented, "On this visit, the focus was on building deeper relationships with faculty and students, spending time with some important campus operations she had not yet seen, learning more about our history and exploring areas of campus that are not yet familiar to her."

One way of fostering those deeper relationships took place during Faculty Meeting. Page explained,

"Dr. Bramlett and I interviewed her in a fireside chat-style format ... we learned a lot more about her background, experiences, family and values."

Elliott's appearance at Faculty Meeting was helpful and well-received. Instructor in English Dr. Joseph Guadet, for one, shared his impression of her. "I thought Principal Elliott was fantastic. She's energetic. She talked a lot about her formative experiences, and why she got into teaching, and how she has been shaped by schools and mentors and teachers."

ELLIOTT, 3.



Courtesy of Phillips Exeter Academy

StuCo Announces New Elected Council

By BUCHI
AKABOGU, VALMIK
DANGAYACH,
CAROLLEE, ARJUN
VELAN, and OLIVIA
WANG

On April 7 at 8 p.m., students gathered in the Forum to witness the inaugural meeting of the 2026-27 StuCo board. The meeting began with a long-standing Exeter tradition of the senior walkout, as members of the 2025-26 board rose one by one to sustained applause from the room before exiting the room together. The moment marked both a formal and emotional farewell, as seniors attended their final StuCo meeting before graduation, closing out years of service to the student body in a symbolic departure from their leadership roles.

Just as quickly as it began, the meeting shifted back to StuCo's usual rhythm of business, as the newly elected executive board introduced the incoming committee coheads. Each cohead stepped forward to the community,

introducing themselves and outlining their role, responsibilities, and visions for the year ahead, marking a new cycle of leadership in StuCo.

The selection of committee coheads for the 2026-27 board was a deliberate and tedious process led by StuCo's executive board members: president upper Ari Benenson, vice president upper Oluj Okeremi, and co-secretaries lowers Faye Yang and Richard Byun. According to Benenson, the board prioritized "strong leadership, good ideas, and a little bit of prior StuCo experience," ultimately looking for students who could manage their committees while also "carry[ing] out the tasks and requests of the exec board." Byun echoed this approach, noting that coheads should be "moving with action" toward "realistic goals" that produce "tangible, concrete change" on campus.

At the same time, the selection process reflected a

conscious effort to invest in the future of StuCo by expanding opportunities for younger students. Yang explained that the board aimed "to get more underclassmen involved," by placing them in subcommittee leadership roles so they can gain experience before stepping into larger positions later in their Exeter careers. This year also marked the introduction of a new Student Life committee. Byun described its role as handling "usually smaller, and simple tasks that'll improve the quality of life for students every day." The addition reflects the executive board's effort to ease pressure on larger committees while ensuring more consistent changes to campus life.

Committee coheads are crucial to the daily functioning of the Exeter StuCo. They oversee specific areas, including but not limited to, dorm life, recreation, policy, public relations, technology, and dining services. Co-

STUCO, 2.

Laurie Marker Shares Her Passion for Cheetah Conservation



"What does it mean... to change the world?"

Sean Ricard / The Exonian

By EILENA DING,
AUDREY KIM, ELLINA
KIM, and ARISA
YOSHINO

"What does it mean, really, to save the cheetah, or change the world?" asks Laurie Marker, Executive Director of the Cheetah Conservation Foundation. On Friday, Apr. 10., Marker began her assembly with the big questions. Through her story of discovery, perseverance, and passion, Marker's speech touched aspects of life that all Exonians could relate to.

After moving to Southern California at the age of four, Marker spent her childhood learning to care for a

variety of animals, including horses, dogs, cats, rabbits, donkeys, and goats. Before becoming Executive Director of Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) in 1990, Marker started working with cheetahs at Wildlife Safari, a wildlife park in the United States. Beginning her research into the rewilding of captive-born cheetahs in South West Africa—now Namibia—she discovered the devastating effects local farmers had on wild cheetahs and realized the future of the species was in jeopardy. As a result, Dr. Marker founded the CCF and moved to Namibia.

In her assembly,

Marker highlighted the relationship between wildlife and Namibian citizens as one of the most pressing topics of her assembly. "[Cheetahs] are absolutely amazing, and they stole my heart a long time ago. But cheetahs are not just a pretty face. They're also the icons of the arid landscapes. And these landscapes are also where some of the poorest people are living."

She described the importance of cheetahs to the Namibian ecosystems and the maintenance of biodiversity. She lamented, "Being fast does not mean that [cheetahs] can outrun extinction.

MARKER, 3.

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Read about senior lottery and course registration, PG#

Former US Ambassador Alan Leventhal to Denmark Delivers Assembly Speech



Leventhal delivers Monday assembly.

By SOLLIE BEER, DANIEL LEE, and LEVI STOLL

On the morning of Monday, Apr. 6., Exonians gathered for an assembly by Alan Leventhal, the former United States Ambassador to Denmark. Leventhal is a businessman and founder of Beacon Capital Partners, a real estate investment firm headquartered in Boston. He was appointed Ambassador to Greenland in 2022 by former President Joe Biden, serving until President Donald Trump reestablished office in 2025. He currently op-

erates the Sherry and Alan Leventhal Family Foundation, which has donated to numerous Boston institutions such as Boston University and the Boston Public Library.

Leventhal covered four areas; his experience as an ambassador, a focus on Greenland, the “America First” doctrine, and the state and challenges of the United States’ democracy today. Leventhal first covered Greenland and its importance as a focal point in international relations and climate change due to its strategic Arctic positioning and immense ice sheet.

He then spoke about the current administration’s Greenland policy, voicing his previous support for the current ambassador. Following President Trump’s threat of military action against Denmark, Leventhal began to speak to the media, condemning the President’s aggressive methods of achieving his policy objectives.

The next topic covered was tariffs and foreign policy, about which Leventhal related his experience as an ambassador. Despite worsening relations with many nations due to tariffs, Leventhal emphasized the

Sean Ricard / *The Exonian*

importance of diplomacy. “To be able to represent this country [as an ambassador], you’re probably the third most important person in the country, you can accomplish so much,” he said. “To a large extent you can set your own priorities. If you do that and you care deeply about what you do you can make a difference.” Leventhal then brought up the Russian-Ukrainian war, highlighting how he dealt with the conflict as an ambassador to an allied European nation.

Leventhal closed his assembly with a message of hope for the

Uppers Enter English Class Lottery

By GARY GUO, MAGGIE MOCNY, and ANNIE ZHU

Whether you’re a fan of children’s literature, epic poetry, baseball narratives, or gothic fiction, Exeter always has the English course for you. Every spring term, uppers have the chance to rank their preferred senior elective English courses. Their English course is then selected through a lottery process. In their senior winter and spring, students can then enjoy taking these more specialized courses, providing them with the unique chance to discuss topics with their peers and develop their own writing style given the focus of their class. Depending on the course, students can expect to read historical documents, write original rap songs, or discuss the intricacies of baseball.

During early spring, a form is sent to all uppers, allowing them to rank their top three choices for winter and spring term English classes. Aside from the lottery, rising seniors have the option to apply for ENG602: Advanced Creative Writing/Portfolio Intensive, and HIS568: History through Food. The application process is fairly simple, with no writing nor recommendations section required.

When choosing their courses, most students prioritize their interests, though the instructor, difficulty, and friends’ choices also influence their decisions. While some seniors pursue comparably easier courses to have more free time during senior spring, others prioritize their personal passions by pursuing something they are truly interested in.

Upper Joshua Mullen expressed the latter motivation, stating, “Ultimately, personal interest comes first: if you’re not taking a class that you’re interested in, it’s not going to be fun at all.”

Upper Daph Ryerson chose the English course Baseball: the American Narrative as her top pick due to her interest in sports and her family’s tradition in baseball. “[For the course,] later in the spring you go outside and play baseball,” she said. Ryerson appreciated the active aspect of the class. “[Baseball is] honestly America’s past time so I’d love to do that. I grew up watching my brother play baseball,” she added.

Fairness in course selections has always been a concern for many students. Mullen expressed his trust for the lottery system, given that it is completely random: “I do think it is a fair way. The process gives everyone the opportunity to choose the classes they want to

take,” he said.

The fairness of the current lottery system is particularly important when selecting the roster for classes with a large number of applicants. Certain English classes tend to be more popular due to their interactive element. Courses such as Pages to Screen: Film Adaptations and Beats, Rhymes and Narrative draw students in with the opportunity to study other forms of media, such as plays, music lyrics, and film techniques.

“I think popular classes are interactive,” Mullen said. “Especially since we’ve (always) been reading books the [past]three, four years, [these classes allow] students to get away, to learn in a different way, whether through movies, or through making songs,” he continued.

Some students were able to take their first choice class, such as current senior Evelyn Lamptey, who was able to take her class of choice, Fictions of Finance, in winter term. However, this was not the case for all students.

“We’re competing because PGs, when they apply for their English electives, get priority,” Lamptey said. While most classes are randomized, higher-level classes require applications. Since most classes are randomized, the uppers who compete for them don’t always get selected for the courses they want.

One potential solution, as senior Jonny Citivarese suggested, was to increase the number of sections for popular English classes and adjust them from year to year. Although it’s challenging to have the same teacher teach five sections of the same class, increasing teacher availability might help change the situation.

Mullen agreed with the suggestion and proposed an interest survey before the lottery to inform the department which classes need more sections than others. Creating a suggestion box for English class proposals and developing a new course that many students are interested in to divert the overflow from one English class could also solve the problem.

English isn’t defined by one style. Exeter, while having a rigorous curriculum in other subjects, places a high importance on English. Teachers in every subject incorporate the writing and analytical skills taught in English class and highlight the importance of English. By reserving two elective slots for English, students can concentrate on what interests them most and dig into unique subjects and authors.

StuCo Cont.

heads are responsible to lead a group of representatives to implement their proposals.

Newly selected committee leaders are looking forward to expanding on top of ideas proposed by the outgoing board, as well as collaborating with Exec and other committees. Upper Katherine Luo, CAPS liaison, said, “Carrying on the torch from Axel Peña, the CAPS committee head this past year, I am developing an initiative to improve student sleep on campus. I look forward to possibly working with Oluj, our Vice President, on this initiative by utilizing his sleep tracking app, Go Big Bed.”

Upper Michelle Kio, re-selected OMA liaison, who acts as a bridge between the Office of Multicultural Affairs and StuCo.

“In the past year, we worked on reviving the ‘Math in Color’ club, and this is an initiative we’re continuing this year,” she said.

Starting their term in office, the coheads have started planning for a series of new initiatives to make StuCo more visible and impactful on campus. “I hope that we can put our minds together to make PEA a happier and healthier campus,” Luo said. “I really believe in the importance of our CAPS program, and I hope we can make it more popular among students.” For the upcoming year, her main initiative is adding Drop-Ins for CAPS, inspired by the College Counseling Office. The goal of Drop-Ins is to make CAPS more accessible and casual for those who are curious

about the program. “I hope that with the addition of Drop-Ins, we can make CAPS more welcoming and convince those who are on the ledge to give it a try!”

The Exeter community reacted positively toward the turnover of StuCo responsibilities. Elected lower class representative prep Aanya Shah noted that providing lowerclassmen was a thoughtful executive change because it builds a pipeline for leadership development. “I was excited and surprised to see that a lot of the prep class got committee cohead positions, or sub-committee cohead positions,” she said. I think it’s great because StuCo is putting an effort towards building a place where [student leaders] can grow and gain experience.”

Lower Kruthika Annareddy, elected upper class repre-

sentative, shared her excitement working with the new StuCo executive board and committee coheads. “I’m very excited. I think StuLife is looking really exciting this year, and I’m looking forward to seeing what the policy committee is going to bring to the table,” she said.

Byun concluded, “We chose a team of leaders based on their experience in and outside of student council and how much we think that they would add to StuCo as a whole. Obviously, our choices can never be perfect, but we’re definitely going to have a great year.” With that expectation in mind, the coming year will test not only the initiatives the committees propose but also how they translate their ideas into tangible changes, shaping the student experience across campus.

JV Baseball Experiences Collision Upon Return to Campus

By TIAGO BILYK
‘28

On Saturday, April 11, the Academy's boys' JV baseball team was involved in a serious car accident as a vehicle collided with the back of their bus on a state road. All students walked away safely, with some sustaining minor injuries.

The day had, so far, been spent on a morning away game at the Eaglebrook School in Deerfield, MA where the team saw a rather successful victory following prep Jacob Cootey's scoring of the winning run. It was on the ride back to campus that their bus came to that unfortunate collision with a car after a finicky turn on a two-lane road.

The car had originally been coming down the opposite side when it swerved

towards the bus. Upon the vehicle's crossing of the clearly marked double yellow lines, the Academy's driver shouted out in surprise and attempted to skew the bus out of danger. "[He]swerved to the left... to avoid this oncoming car. But because of time and space he wasn't able to," said senior Wil Samuels, a member of the team.

After the initial evasion of contact, the car then rebounded off the guardrail before getting caught under the bus' rear wheel. "I instantly looked up and... remember being shot into the air," continued Samuels. Senior Nathi Lomax described the collision as going over "one huge pothole," as the bus climbed over the hood of the car. "The sound of the crash was loud and I tried very hard to look out and then just saw us driving

Elliott Cont.



Assistant Principal Page and Principal Elliott.

Courtesy of Phillips Exeter Academy

To Gaudet, her appearance made it clear that "She's someone who has a lot of experience and cares deeply about schools."

Gaudet appreciated how more personal topics helped him gather a more complete image of the incoming principal. He shared that her anecdotes about being a mother of four boys showcased aspects of her style and personality. "I think that's a super valuable perspective in terms of raising teens and children who are growing up in this day and age."

Elliott's visit also allowed her to experience campus on a deeper level through dinner on Thursday night. Page explained that attendees included "adults in some of our student-facing roles like ESSO, OMA, Student Activities, the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Dean of Students' of-

face."

Upper Artur Ferreira, an attendee of the reception, shared his experience that afternoon. Ferreira explained that 20 students met Elliott, who first learned everyone's name and interests. "She asked us about what traditions we like on campus, she was really trying to get a sense of what we value about Exeter," Ferreira described.

Then, the attendees and Elliott shared opinions on different topics about PEA such as phones and AI usage. "We spent a lot of time discussing the phone policy and going back and forth about what people's opinions were on that," Ferreira explained.

Upper Krithikh Raja, another attendee, shared, "Incoming Principal Eliot talked about innovative ways to change how we use

AI in our daily school lives. Then, the attendees and Elliott discussed concerns related to international students. Raja explained, "she was making sure that international students had all their accommodations met."

The attendees were asked their thoughts on Elliott's leadership and values. Ferreira shared, "She really has a priority of connecting with the students."

Raja described that Elliott was thoughtful and considerate, willing to take students' opinions into consideration along with "the amount of expertise she has under her belt as both a parent of boarding school students and an already experienced leader at multiple boarding schools."

On Friday, Elliott's schedule included a meeting with Institutional Advancement,

the Staff Advisory Council, and the Agenda Committee. She also attended assembly, met with Principal William Rawson, and had lunch with the Committees for the Study of Slavery and its Legacy at Exeter.

Page commented that this array of specific meetings allowed Elliott to garner "a better sense of our scope and complexity. She is really excited about collaborating with students and faculty to consider the big issues and vision for Exeter as we approach significant milestones in our own history"

Page also spoke to the next steps of the transition period between principals. Elliott will move to campus in June and assume her role on July 1st. Until then, she will be doing more preparation before the 2026-2027 school year commences.

Marker Cont.

We've lost about 90 percent of their population over 100 years ... Their threats are loss of habitat, human-wildlife conflict, illegal wildlife pet trade, and lack of genetic diversity. Every one of them looks the same. They actually escaped extinction 15,000 years ago. But it left them very, very genetically compromised."

Marker had spent her entire life surrounded by animals, which sparked her interest in a potential career path. While working at a wildlife park in Oregon, she had the opportunity to travel to Namibia. "I ran the veterinary clinic, and one day I was given an orphan [cheetah] cub. As she grew up, I was told I was going to go over to Namibia, Africa, and I was going to teach her how to hunt."

Realizing the threat farmers posed to the cheetahs, who would go through farmland and kill farm animals, Marker set up the Cheetah Conservation Foundation, which was especially focused on wild cheetahs. However, her interest turned to preventing farmers from hurting the cheetahs. "I wanted to know what the

farmers needed to know for them to stop catching and killing cheetahs... they were killing eight to nine hundred cheetahs a year."

After learning that the farmers needed more insight into how a cheetah lives and how to protect their livestock, Marker provided that education, as well as a solution to their problem. "Guarding dogs have become very important to the work we do... we breed them and place them with the farmers when they're about ten weeks... they're instinctual. They've been doing this job for about 6,000 years, and what they do is mark territory and bark loudly."

The dogs proved to be one of the greatest successes of the foundation. "We've seen between an 80 to 100 percent decrease in livestock loss... every single one of the puppies that's born, we know is going to be a guardian for not only the cheetah but for all the other predators that are living on the land."

At the open lunch conversation in Big Grainger, Marker indulged in answering questions about how



Marker shares the importance of cheetah conservation.

Sean Ricard / The Exonian

she runs her foundation. Asked about how she spreads awareness, she detailed the importance of having "influencers" for a foundation. Not to be mistaken with social media influencers, the livestock farmers in Namibia are what Marker describes as "influencers" for her foundation. By receiving livestock guarding dogs on their farms, farmers easily inspire others to follow suit, expediting the process of protecting the cheetahs.

Although cheetah conservation may seem

far removed from life at Exeter, Exonians were still inspired by Marker's story. "In a broader sense, I thought it was interesting that she told us how even though we may not think we have an impact on the world, we can still give back to our communities," lower Rayann Cisse said. The fact that Marker started her cheetah conservation journey on her own and built a whole organization in the last 35 years was especially inspirational for Cisse.

Students also enjoyed the lighthearted manner

of the assembly. "I have always loved animals since I was a kid, and it was interesting to see the relationship between humans and cheetahs and how we can help mitigate the negative effects they have on each other," lower Srisha Boinapalli said. "Personally, this was one of my favorite assemblies because it taught us more about not only specifically cheetahs, but also other animals that we have been impacting."

Cisse also added that for Exonians who are from areas that cheetahs

are native to, the assembly may have been especially interesting. "The people sitting next to me were shocked when we heard the numbers at first," Cisse added.

Marker was able to reach out to all Exonians with her passion for animal conservation, as well as spread awareness about problems that have arisen for the cheetah population. With shocking statistics and memorable stories, she inspires Exonians to take action and bring new perspectives to different parts of the world.

Leventhal Cont.



Leventhal speaks about how students can create change. Sean Ricard / *The Exonian*

student body, intending them to draw on America's founding ideals during a pivotal moment in the country's history. "I've been to enough schools, where if I ask you what you worry about, I know you worry about AI, I know you worry about polarization, I know you worry about climate, I know you worry about your future and what we're going through in this country," he said. "There's a lot of uncertainty in terms of what we're dealing with."

He then recalled a student who had asked him how high schoolers could improve the current state of democracy in the nation. "My answer to her is the answer to all of you — you have the most important power in the world, you have the power of ideas," he claimed. "If you think about what we are, America is an idea." Leventhal ended his speech by asking for dialogue about this 'idea' to be moderate and nonpartisan, grounded in the common sense of Americans. "If we appeal to that common sense, I believe we can manage a very challenging time," he said.

For senior Ethan Benenson, who attended the post-assembly lunch with Leventhal, the former ambassador's focus on constitutional values struck a chord. "I think he emphasized reminding us of our founding values that have, through our entire history as a nation, stood as something to realign our-

selves with when we were going down wrong paths," Benenson said. He found these values within Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, noting that Americans turned to founding documents during the chaos and bloodshed of the Civil War.

Despite believing the Academy to engage in sufficient dialogue, Benenson saw an issue of closed-mindedness when students were addressed by speakers such as Leventhal. "If you're afraid to listen to someone else's perspective and come to the table and have an honest, sincere discussion, what does that say about the point that you're arguing yourself?" he asked. For Benenson, the most impactful part of Monday's assembly was Leventhal's advocacy for the written word as a method of change, inspiring him to write more opinion essays in the future. Lower Gavin Fallon also admitted, "they [the audience] might have been too quick to judge him by one view". Fallon also acknowledged how he had not had much previous information about Leventhal and his background prior to his speech. "I didn't know much about him as a person," Fallon said. He then noted that much of the objection came from students that lean toward the liberal side of the political spectrum.

Fallon emphasized the importance of viewing speakers in multiple perspectives and understanding them, as they

have come from backgrounds different from Exonians. "I did resonate with some of the things Leventhal said," Fallon said, recalling the speech. "I also resonated with some people who objected to his points," he added.

Senior Truman Yee introduced Leventhal at the assembly after learning about the opportunity from Instructor in History Aykut Kilinc. Yee valued the chance to present the speaker, yet found Leventhal's broad message familiar. "It felt like a very mainstream political message — things about the importance of democracy, bipartisanship, and political moderation," he said. Yee noted Leventhal's insights on Greenland to stand out, but saw his hopeful framing directed at a younger generation to be overused. "I find it to be a little preachy," Yee said. "After having heard it a lot of times [at prior assemblies] myself, I didn't find the message to be resonating super hard."

Whether students exited the assembly, either moved or unconvinced, Leventhal's central argument was straightforward: while the United States has faced dark moments before, it has found a way forward in its founding ideals, and can do so again. As far as the former ambassador was convinced, the current student generation has every tool necessary to change the country for the better.

JV Baseball Cont.

over them," concluded Lomax.

The driver of the incoming vehicle was luckily un-harmed and a child, sitting in the backseat, was also quickly recovered from the crash. It took the police about five minutes to arrive, subsequently taking down information from all of those in the bus. Two Academy students had to be taken to the hospital for a check before returning home on the same day.

After receiving the all clear from authorities, the team headed over to a local facility while they awaited a new transport to PEA. "We were sitting in the bus for about an hour," said Samuels. "Soon after that we were brought to a

community center." The team waited in Montague MA for three additional hours before being picked up by a fresh yellow school bus.

While at the community center, the boys found many ways to stay entertained. "We watched youtube, animated shows, even Tom and Jerry," recounted Lomax. "[We were] trying to have joy, be whimsical." He went on to praise those on the team who took the time to finish their homework. "We even played catch in the parking lot," commented Samuels.

The way back was marked only by more delays as bridge construction and traffic kept the team from returning

quickly. "In total it was about another three hours, so seven hours total," remarked Samuels. Lomax went onto account the unease of the trip, noting that every bump on the road was a little scarier than it should have been.

Upon arrival to campus the team was met with food and a warm welcome from staff. "Our Athletic Director came with bags and bags of McDonald's burgers and fries," recounted Lomax. "He unlocked the gym for us to get to our lockers."

The crash marked another incident of road troubles for the Academy's sport teams as students on campus were thankful for the group's safe return.



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» SOTW: TIFFANY SUN

Read about Sun's bright presence on campus, 5.

» FOTW: ALEX BRAILE

Read about Braile '10's contributions back to the community, 6.

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A Sunny Presence: Senior of the Week Tiffany Sun



Grace Yang / The Exonian

By **BUCHI AKABOGU, LUKE CHON, and ANGEL WAI-HERNANDEZ**

Whether competing for every ball in the squash courts, walking through the hallways of Dunbar Hall, or strolling along the paths with her friends, senior Tiffany Sun has been regarded by all as an amiable dormmate, teammate, and friend. As a proctor, she always prioritizes the

well-being of others, often knocking on doors to check on the preps and lowers. Like a routine, Sun asks how the preps and lowers' days went before leaving and repeating the same phrase, "let me know if you have any problems! I might not know the answer or solutions, but I'll try."

As a prep, Sun was uplifted by the support and care given by Dunbar proctors then. Moving from McConnell to Dunbar in prep

year posed a variety of different challenges for Sun, especially dealing with stress and being in a large community like Exeter. Sun said that having an older sibling figure to help her navigate challenges in the school was of great support since parents lacked the firsthand experience. Sun recalled, "one of my lower year proctors would always be down for me to come to her room. We didn't have to do anything but still had

a fun time."

Sun wanted to become a proctor to give back to the community and share the same warmth she experienced as a lowerclassman to the younger members of Dunbar. Sun said, "in the times that I wish that I'd been able to reach out to someone, I want to be the person that is always there for the lowerclassmen and provide different perspectives for them."

Just as she wished,

lower Catherine Chen, a member of Dunbar Hall, remarked that, "Tiffany never fails to brighten my day when I see her on duty or when I visit her in the dorm at night." One time during Chen's lower fall, she brought Pokemon cards over to Sun's room to open them together. Chen commented on the anticipation and thrill they experienced opening one pack by another, "a rush of excitement was something

that we bonded over."

When being asked what she wanted fellow members of the dorm to describe her by, Sun answered, "trustworthy and anyone can reach out to me and know that I have their best interest at heart." Chen described Sun as the "motherly or big sister figure" in her life, she said, "I go to her for advice whenever big things in my life are happening and so, she's helped

SUN, 7.

Finding Happiness, Identity, and Personhood: Charlie Vance's Meditation

By **JOHANNA HILLMAN and AUDREY KIM**

"I practiced detachment to perform numbness as art"

— Laura Jane Grace

On April 8, Exonians filed into the Exeter Church for senior Charlie Vance's meditation, where he reflected on his identity—as a trans person, as a teenager, and finally as a friend. In doing so, Vance told the story of his life, starting from his youth and moving through his life to the present.

The inspiration for his meditation came through a talk with his therapist. Originally, Vance had set out to write about "the most important thing ever." However, he eventually realized that it didn't need to be the most important thing, just something that was important to him. For Vance, that was

his experience being transgender and his growth as a person.

"It's a very truthful, candid account of what he's been through, what he's going through, and what he's going to be," said Vance's mom, Nicole Vance.

Throughout the meditation, he used the second person to refer to himself, explaining that as a tween, Vance referred to himself as not "I," but "you." When writing the meditation, his inspiration came from old English narratives, in many of which he utilized the second person. "That's how I was thinking of myself," he commented.

Shortly into the meditation, Vance dove into his trans identity. "You say you're transgender because that's the closest word you've got," he said in his meditation. Vance described how growing up, he felt like his transness

formed a separation between him and others. "You're different — your words are different, your experience is different, your life is different, you are different," he said. The separation was enhanced by his family's move from Kentucky to New York, as well as the Covid-19 pandemic. In Kentucky, he hid his transness and his differences behind what he referred to as a "shell." In New York, he self-isolated. "Growing up in a constant state of untruth is exhausting—growing up in a constant state of terror is traumatizing."

His childhood experience formed a separation between his current self and his past selves. He described these past selves using the metaphor of a house. His childhood, the basement; his adoles-

VANCE, 8.

Exonians Celebrate Easter

By **BUCHI AKABOGU, REX JANG, SINCLAIR POMMERAUD, and ARISA YOSHINO**

"The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay'" (Matthew, 28:5-6).

As the first light of Easter morning peeked over Swazey Parkway on Sunday, April 5, Exonians bundled in layers gathered in anticipation for the annual sunrise service. With the rest of the town and the Academy still asleep, students exchanged sleepy greetings as they prepared to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This quiet, peaceful beginning set the tone for a day of community, rebirth, and hope for Christian members of our community.

At a secular institution like Exeter, the Academy approaches religious celebrations with care and intentionality to ensure that all traditions are both respected and supported. Rev. Bonnie-Jeanne Casey noted that the Phillips Church and the Multi-faith Center serve as resources for mem-

bers of the community seeking religious or spiritual connection. Within the Christian faith alone, she noted, "we have over eight denominations of Christianity represented by our student body." This diversity within even just the Christian cohort of the community emphasizes the Multifaith center's essential role in helping students find "religious homes, worship places, according to their availability and needs, where they feel at home."

To support this diversity, Casey has worked to cultivate relationships with many local pastors and congregations. "I reach out and regularly am in contact with the ministers and the clergy in those congregations to alert them that Exeter students will be coming," she explained. "Places like the Christ Church, the Episcopalian Church, St. Michael's and the UCC congregation—all of those ministers are very aware of Exeter students' desire to come and worship with them." While many Exonians already attend locally throughout the year, even more participate on special occasions, such as Easter.

Casey's work is

complemented by the Christian Fellowship and Catholic Exonians, who help educate the community and promote Christian programming. Senior Towner Akers, one of the co-heads of the Christian Fellowship, explained that the group helps spread the word about opportunities such as the Easter sunrise service and other ways for students to celebrate the holiday.

The Academy's primary Easter observance was the sunrise service on Swazey Parkway, given by a local pastor. Despite chilly and rainy weather, the event drew a large and enthusiastic crowd. After an early morning, following the service, members of the community gathered in Elm Street Dining Hall to enjoy a special pancake breakfast prepared by the dining hall staff.

"The support of dining services has always been steadfast for Easter," Casey explained. "In recent years, they've really gone above and beyond the call of duty because we've asked them to host, along with me and often Bill Rawson, the pancake breakfast." The dining hall staff comes in several hours early on Easter morning to prepare the

EASTER, 8.

A Full Circle at Phillips Exeter: Alex Braile

By **ARIANA METZGER, ELEANOR PONTZ, OWEN SAFFORD, and LEVI STOLL**

In front of Bissell House, students walk along the paths on their way to class. In the midst of the bustle of the crowd, Assistant Director of Admissions Alexander Braile '10 strides through, waving and stopping to chat with students across all grades.

Throughout much of his life, Mr. Braile has been connected with Exeter in some way or another. Having grown up as the son of Dale Braile, a math teacher, he grew up on campus and attended Exeter for high school. After graduating, he worked at Exeter Summer for multiple years, and still continues to, before eventually returning to fulfill the role of Assistant Director of Admissions, where he builds connections with prospective students, current students, and colleagues.

Growing up in dorms on the Academy's campus, Braile's connection to Exeter runs deeper than most. He found the faculty and staff during his student years to be uniquely supportive, a finding that led to his eventual return. "I recognized that this is a pretty special place in terms of the grown-ups who really want to be involved so you'd be successful," he said, "and I just wanted to be one of those grown-ups."

While some teachers that inspired Braile remain at the Academy, such as Instructor in English Mercy Carbonell, others like former Dean of Students Russell Weatherspoon have retired. The emerite minister, who was present for Braile's entire childhood at Exeter, officiated his wedding to fellow alumnus Instructor in Biology Summer Morrill '10. "He was just always there," Braile said of Weatherspoon. "A looming presence. But a wonderful human being

to know, and always a big cheerleader for me."

After graduation, Braile quickly found a new role on Exeter's campus as a member of Exeter Summer's faculty. Having worked there for 17 summers, beginning with odd jobs as a student and rising to the role of Dean of Fun, the program gave Braile a new perspective towards student life. "There's something about that title [of Dean of Fun] that students really gravitate towards," he remarked. "Getting to be the 'fun' person was really cool, and I got to be very involved in the overall student life experience."

Returning to Exeter as a staff member provided Braile with a new lens of his own experience as a student, helping him to understand the self-doubt that many new Exonians can carry. He recalled his first Harkness classes: "I was like, oh my God, everybody's so smart. If I'm going to say something, it has to be the smartest thing that's been said today," Braile said. Now in the Admissions Office, he gives recently admitted students advice to combat this doubt. "Just lean into not knowing things," he said. "If you can go in and say 'I don't understand this,' there are probably five other people in the room who feel the same way and didn't want to say it. So you'll be a hero, and you'll also get your questions answered."

When building a class of incoming students, Braile and the admissions team are drawn to the diversity of pursuits represented in the current student body. "[Exeter students] all have passions that are really big and really wild — that can be history, it can be Latin, it can be lacrosse, it could be music. Just seeing that spark of excitement in a student, I find really, really fun," he described. "If you bring in people who are all similar or all think the same way, that's doing Harkness a disservice."

Aside from his responsibilities in the Admissions Office, Braile serves as a dorm faculty of Dow House's nine students. Having previously presided over a dormitory of 72 students and worked in a college residence hall of 600, Braile welcomed the small scale of Dow. "Going from that to being in a dorm with nine people has been really fun and really refreshing, because you get to know people so well," he said. On Friday nights as Morrill does dorm duty, students are drawn towards her and Braile's apartment. "The whole dorm will end up sitting on our couch," he said. "It's just really fun."

Outside of campus, Braile is engaged in an ever-expanding assortment of hobbies. "Every year I pick up some obscure hobby and get way too into it," he said. He draws a comic strip and posts it on social media, illustrates a graphic novel written by a former classmate, engages in woodworking, and recently restored a broken cello. Birdwatching, in particular, has become a passion of his, inspired by a Global Initiatives trip to Yellowstone. "I don't have nearly enough time for all the hobbies I try to have," he admitted.

Above all, Braile is widely regarded as a truly caring and cheerful member of the Exeter community, and someone whose presence is felt across campus in both small interactions and lasting relationships. Eileen Giles, an Admissions Officer at the Academy, reflected on his impact across all of Exeter, "He really kind of touches life here in Exeter in so many different ways," she noted. "It's always 'no question is stupid.' No question goes unanswered. If you can't answer, he'll sit there and talk it through with you."

Jennifer Schlenker, one of the school's Admissions Advisors, shared similar sentiments, stating "Seeing

him with his advisees, he just has such a way of talking with them, knowing about their lives, being involved, and going to their sporting events or just really being a part of the community." This sense of involvement extends beyond Braile's formal responsibilities in the Admissions Office.

No matter where he is on campus, Braile builds meaningful connections that make students feel seen and supported. "There's always people that are always happy to see Mr. Braile, and always say hello," Assistant Director of Admissions Colton Zampelli reflected, pointing to the genuine warmth he brings to everyday interactions. Beyond Braile's character, many of his colleagues also praised his work in the admissions office. "He's thinking about the value that our students are bringing, who they are, what they will bring to campus, and really where they will shine," Maeagan Moriarty, Assistant Director of Admissions, explained.

Being involved in many aspects of campus life, Braile's positive impact extends throughout the student body. Upper Dani Méndez described how "he's someone that's just really eager to take student input and just really open to listening, like hearing our experiences. He just cares so much about what we think and just wants every prospective student to have the same experience that he did." As Assistant Head of Admissions, Braile gets to interact with incoming students as well as provide opportunities for current students to share their own experiences through Admissions events like student panels. "My favorite part is just getting to chat with him because he's such a great person to talk to, and he's genuinely interested in our experiences & learning about our lives."

BRAILE, 7.

The Magic of Music: Symphony Orchestra

By **CHANGYU JEONG and CAROL LEE**

practicing violin," lower Andy Liu added.

Every week at 6:45 p.m. on Monday and Thursday, a rich swell of music escapes The Bowl. There, students of all grades come together not only for Symphony Orchestra rehearsal, but to build upon a shared musical experience through tight-knit community and hard work.

The Symphony Orchestra is a large and diverse ensemble consisting of intermediate to advanced players in the strings, brass, woodwinds, and percussion sections. A different composition of its members make every year's experience unique. Instructor in Music Rohan Smith, who directs and conducts for the Symphony Orchestra, noted that this year's orchestra "feels more unique than ever," due to its friendly and uplifting community. "I would say what is very special, I wouldn't say just use the word unique, but special, is the camaraderie and positive energy that we feel amongst the members of the orchestra."

Many musicians in the Symphony Orchestra also feel that the ensemble contains a positive and energetic atmosphere. "I'd definitely say [the atmosphere is] very, very lively, and very colorful ... I think one of the biggest pros of the Symphony Orchestra is the joy that everyone brings to the table," senior Erin Han commented.

Senior Martin Yau also added that "The atmosphere is very open ... and overall, it's a pretty cheerful and playful vibe."

Students shared their previous backgrounds upon joining the Symphony Orchestra at Exeter. "I joined because I was really passionate about music. I was pretty heavily involved in ensembles in middle school as well, so it kind of felt like the natural next step," Han commented. For a lot of students, the orchestra motivated them to continue their practicing music despite Exeter's demanding schedule.

"I would say the Orchestra really encourages me to keep practicing the violin because I do have a lot of academic pressure and also other extracurricular work I have to do at Exeter. But because of the orchestra, I didn't stop

While many students joined to continue their long journey with music, others were drawn to the opportunity to form new relationships: "I originally joined the orchestra at my old school, so I kind of wanted to continue on my violin career also at Exeter, but I also wanted to meet new people that also shared the same interest as me," lower Alyssa Kim stated.

Symphony Orchestra provides an opportunity for their passion for music to flourish, but it also offers a strong and solid community of people with the same love for music. "I think being a part of a community that really loves to play music is the most important, rewarding part," Yau reflected.

When asked what the most rewarding part of Symphony was, Kim echoed, "I guess being able to meet new people. When you see them outside of class, you can always say 'hi' to them as well. And I think that I've met some really close friends from Orchestra."

The sense of community is strengthened with the significant time and dedication the symphony orchestra requires. "It requires weeks and months of learning ... how to be part of this large organism where your attention is really on other people than yourself. And when you get that inner discipline and that we gain it collectively, then this extraordinary thing happens when the music sort of feels like it's flowing between the players when we're connected," Smith shared.

Orchestra is a central part of many's Exeter experience. "It's kind of like a pillar in my life," Han stated, reflecting on her four years as a member of the symphony orchestra. "I think it's given me a very solid community to feel a part of. And since I've kind of been in this ensemble for so long, I think I've seen a lot of my peers grow with me," she expanded.

Yau agreed, "The Symphony Orchestra is by far one of the biggest parts of my Exeter experience. If I didn't have this experience, Exeter would not be as good as it is."

Symphony Orchestra's next concert will be on May 26, 2026.



Braile smiles before poster in Bissell House of states which Exonians call home.

Blair Li / *The Exonian*



Courtesy of exeter.edu

Braile Cont.

Upper Jayden Su, one of the Academy's head tour guides, shared Méndez's sentiments. Su highlighted Braile's warm and welcoming nature, explaining, "He is one of the most humorous and warm people I know. No matter what's going on, he always brings a lightheartedness to the space that makes it a better place to be."

Morrill described the ease with which Braile interacts with all members of the school community. "I think he makes every room brighter that he walks in and can make anyone laugh," she said. Morrill recalled meeting him during their time here at Exeter, in Dr. Ward's chemistry class, emphasizing how "he's just someone who you enjoy being around." She explained Braile's skill in advising both students and colleagues alike when they're feeling discouraged or overwhelmed. Her favorite piece of his advice

is that "you're never gonna make everyone happy," she said. "The most important thing is for you to be able to look back at your decision and feel confident that you made the right choice for you."

Whether sitting with him in the admissions office during your initial interview, or simply chatting with him on the paths around campus, Braile has the ability to brighten the mood of anyone he comes across. When asked how she would describe Braile to someone who has never met him, Morrill chose "a thoughtful goofball," and expanded by saying that "at a place like Exeter, that's exactly the type of person that you need."

Su concluded, "For a lot of prospective students, the Admissions Office is their first impressions of what Exeter has to hold, and having someone like Braile be that person sets an incredibly positive tone." As one of the first peo-

ple incoming students encounter at Exeter, Braile has made a lasting impression on numerous Exonians, and will surely continue to inspire countless others in the future.

The heart of Braile's relationship with the Academy is genuine gratitude, and he views his work in the admissions office as a way to pass on the many gifts given to him by the Academy when he was a student. "I get a little emotional sometimes thinking about what this school has given me," he said. "When I was a little kid living here because my mom taught here, all the older kids I looked up to were students here. I met my wife here. I met my best friend here." When Braile returned to Exeter to work in the Admissions Office, he also came home. As he continues to support apprehensive students and guide prospective families, it is clear that Exeter is lucky to have him back. "This place has given me a lot," Braile recounted, "and I am always very grateful

Exonians Celebrate Passover

By TIAGO BILYK and ANNIE ZHU

As April began with sunshine, so did the celebration of Passover for many Exonians across campus. In dining halls, students and staff alike enjoyed matzah, fish, quinoa salads, and other dishes free from chametz, or leavened grain. Under the guidance of Rabbi Jennifer Marx Asch, students celebrated the holiday through prayer and festive Seders alongside their community.

Starting on sundown of April 1st, Passover celebrates the Jewish Exodus from Egypt. During the Seder, the community told the story of Moses and his leadership of the Israelites where members were encouraged to use "I" statements to emphasize their connection and heritage. Students of the Exeter Jewish Community began the holiday with the First and Second Seder in the Phillips Church & Multifaith Center basement, where the dinner featured classics such as brisket and matzah ball soup. Over the following seven days consumption of leavened bread was prohibited in accordance with Jewish law, and the dining hall served special options to accommodate the restriction.

Students and staff alike participated in the Seders. Many enjoyed the traditions, food, and warm commu-

nity they shared. "Rabbi fosters an amazing environment," said senior and Exeter Jewish Community co-head Ethan Benenson. "It's very joyful and also very informative for people who come who might not even be Jewish."

Lower Johanna Hillman highlighted the welcoming community at both Seders. "Doing Passover at Exeter... was fun because it was fun to be with the people that I know from the Exeter Jewish Community," she said. "It's a bit more participatory, and it was also really fun to go to the Seder. The hunt for the Afikoman was much more competitive," she added. The hunt is a tradition that often involves prizes for younger members of the household: this year stillwells gift cards.

Hillman commented on the authentic foods present at the event. "They had brisket the first night, which is a traditional food," she said. The food, provided by dining services, received much praise from students. "Catering did an incredible job... as they always do," said Benenson.

However, some thought that food options towards the end of the holiday were slightly lackluster, given additional dietary restrictions. "The kosher for Passover options were limited, especially as a vegetarian," Hillman commented. The lack of non-meat options that were also Kosher

seemed limited to her.

Another central part of Passover is prayer, which occurred throughout the evening. Given the coursework offered at Exeter, some students found it challenging to balance time commitments between prayer and homework. "It was a little stressful because prayer was from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. — a two hour time commitment," Hillman said. "But I was able to get everything done," she added.

Passover Seders follow the traditional structure of the Haggadah, which has retold the story of the Exodus to countless generations. Rabbi Marx-Asch led the group through the many readings and experts that mark the night for Jewish people all over. "It's very cool that... with slight variations, Jews all around the world are generally following the same ritual and they have been for hundreds of years," closed Benenson.

Passover is one of the most important dates on the Jewish calendar. Its dietary restrictions also make it one of most memorable for those who choose to partake. In 2026, EJC carried forward the tradition and remembered the Exodus once more. Through great food, and religious observance aimed to attract those who might not be Jewish themselves, this year's celebration sticks out as one of the most successful in recent memory.



Blair Li / *The Exonian*

Sun Cont.

me a lot through difficult situations."

Beyond her role as being a "big sister figure" to many of her dormmates, she has brought the same heart and dedication to the squash courts as a team captain. To her fellow captains and coaches, they have all agreed of the measurable impact and importance she has to the team. Senior Ava Nwaochei noted, "she goes for every ball and never gives up on court, which is something a lot of players, including myself, look up to." Whenever Sun is not playing a serious match, Nwaochei described her as someone who could make her stop laughing, commenting "I always have so much fun hitting with her."

Furthermore, many of her other teammates have expressed their gratitude for the leadership she has shown for the team. Senior Mathlide Senter said, "She has made me more calm during my matches because I know I have a teammate behind me." As a captain, she is not only expected to be a role model for many of the new players on the team, but also a friend who is always supporting them. Coach Sharon Bradey agreed, remarking, "whether or not the player might be playing their best, she is always positive in her feedback to her teammates." Later adding, "she would say something like, 'hey, you played really well today, Coach

was really happy with what you did.' Which I believed instilled confidence in our players."

Beyond athletics, the most frequent place you could find Sun on campus is the Phelps Science Center, where she's often engaged in conversations about complex biological concepts. Throughout her years here at Exeter, Sun has learned how to appreciate nature, the human body, and the world overall. She also pointed out how people might have misconceptions about biology as a subject — one that is solely based on memorization. "I think bio is a subject that a lot of people would say, you can just memorize stuff," she said, "but I actually don't see it that way because ... that doesn't mean that you understand it."

Sun's experience in Mr. Chisholm's classes have played an important role in shaping this mindset. Having him as a biology teacher for two terms in her lower year and Bio 670 her upper year, she has established a strong connection with Chisholm. Sun is grateful for his "rigorous" teaching style, which has helped her to develop critical thinking. "Thanks to Mr. Chisholm's philosophy", she said, "I started trying to learn things and understand how they work and sort of inhabit the topics from the inside."

Chisholm noted Sun's

impact in classroom and Harkness discussions as "special." "I will remember Tiffany for the superb quality of all her work in biology courses," he added, "the good humor that she brought to class each day and the genuine pleasure she found in talking through complex genetics ideas with her peers in the fly course."

Sun mentioned that her favorite memory is from her Bio 670 course, a research based course in which she collaborated with peers about fruit fly genetics. "We frequently had some unexpected results because we were crossing flies," she said, "obviously these are living things so they don't always go the way we planned them to go." Although sometimes Sun doesn't get expected results, it's still a meaningful experience for her. "It was frustrating to find that we didn't get what we wanted," she added, "but it was also a really fun experience to just be able to do something that nobody in the world knew and discuss it with my classmates. That's probably my biggest highlight from the class."

While Sun's academic interest reveals her intellectual curiosity, it only tells part of her story. Senior Max Liu described Sun as equally curious in her interactions with others, open minded and willing to engage with others with perspectives that might differ from her own.

This openness extends beyond the classrooms and

into her everyday presence on campus. During the weekends, Sun often hangs out with her friends in Grill doing homework or playing games. One of her favorite memories at Exeter was last year when she played cards with seniors from the class of '25. "There would be like three tables of people playing cards and it was three separate games going on at once." Sun recalled, describing those nights as "peak high school bonding moments" where she got to learn about other students who she didn't know well before playing.

Sun's sunny personality consistently shows up in her everyday life at Exeter. Seniors Asha Masoudi and Ellen Jin both highlighted her sense of humor and how she brings energy to everyday interactions, making others feel comfortable and cared for around her.

Emotional support and responsiveness were Sun's way of understanding people and showing care for her friends. "During college applications, we were all really stressed. Tiffany bought me a little plushie to encourage me to cheer up, because I wasn't feeling too well after my applications." Senior Wayne Zheng shared, "when she knows that you're in need of some comfort, she's definitely there to help you."

Liu also noted Sun's reliability when it comes to comforting and showing compassion for her friends. Liu said if someone reached out to Sun,

she would almost always respond immediately, no matter if it was a text message or facetime video. "I'm deeply grateful for the care Tiffany shows me, because she truly does make time for her friends when they are in need of help," said Liu.

This same compassion and attentiveness extends beyond her friends, Sun's kindness reflects her commitment to the broader Exeter philosophy of non sibi. By helping younger Exonians, not just out of relatability of seeing her younger self in others, but her understanding of their struggles or pains, Sun gave back the same empathy given to her by upperclassmen years ago that supported her, passing on the kindness with Sun's unique sunniness.

Another trait that allowed Sun to form all sorts of connections was her curiosity. This deep attentiveness to others feelings and willingness to understand others better not only helped her friends feel cared, but also underlines Sun's openmindedness. Liu remarked that Sun is able to separate her beliefs from her current identity, which allows her to reshape her existing opinions and values.

Sun's relationship with older students was greatly reflected in her interaction with her peers. One of Sun's mentors during her time at Exeter was alumnus Joonyoung Heo '25, whom she described as "compassionate, ambitious,

responsible and possessing mentoring qualities." Interestingly, those words were also used to describe Sun by her fellow seniors and other lowerclassmen. From these accounts, Sun has fulfilled her hopes of being remembered as "someone who worked hard, who was able to help people overcome challenges, make people around her happy, and made them laugh." Tiffany's consistent care and kindness have already become a lasting part of the community that will continue to bring warmth and connection within the Exeter community even after her graduation.

As she graduates this year, many will miss the positive impact she has had on everyone around her. Coach Bradey shared a final note for Sun: "It's just been an absolute pleasure to know her, to coach her, and to get to understand how she plays and thinks about squash." At the start of her Exeter journey, she described herself as someone who was reserved and shy. Now as a leader in the dorm and on the courts, her peers have described her as a welcoming, caring presence who brightens the mood of everyone she sees. Reflecting on her legacy, Sun remarked, "I want to be someone who was able to help a few people overcome the challenges, so even when I'm not at Exeter, they are still able to grow. I hope that I'm able to foster a type of community that will last for many more years."

Vance Cont.

cence, the first floor; his adulthood, the attic. By keeping his younger, past selves locked away in the basement, he protected himself from that trauma.

“you just need to find some place to get away/ you can forget your name and there’s no need to apologize”

—Laura Jane Grace

At Exeter, Vance still referred to himself with the “you” pronoun. But for the most part, he had left his old life behind — Kentucky was in the basement with the rest of his childhood, though love for the state remained. The phone number of his old friend Ryan was one of the few pieces of Kentucky that Vance still held on to. Ryan knew Vance not as Charlie, but by his dead name. Not as a trans man, but as an athletic girl. Vance had not talked to Ryan since before he cut his hair or his voice deepened. In the moment when his old and new lives intersected, Vance panicked. “Your voice is too deep. Your new life is forgetting that it’s different from your old one. [The self referred to by his deadname] doesn’t know how to add herself back into your per-

sona,” he recalled thinking. Vance hung up the call. He panicked, wondering if he had ruined the carefully crafted shell he wore back in Kentucky.

After a few days of thought, Vance calmed. “Your past self is a child; Charlie is nearly an adult. You’ve grown up and away from Kentucky — the things that go on there don’t affect you anymore. Her fears are no longer your fears,” described Vance. By reaching into his past, Vance broke down the separation of selves that he had created. His past self’s “terrified shape of an elementary schooler” became not a persona, but a part of Vance’s history. That self was no longer in the basement, but in the foundation of the house.

“Rooms that I once lived in, rooms that I’ve since left — it was another life that I might have had/I don’t wanna hang around the graveyard, waiting for something dead to come back”

—Laura Jane Grace

A similar process occurred between Vance and his adolescent self when he moved to New York. Between being new to the area, trans, and exposed to

the Covid-19 pandemic, Vance found himself isolated. “There isn’t a good method to find community as a southern tween in the unfriendly northern woods,” he commented. His adolescent self was young, fragile, and dysphoric. At a party at his friend June’s house, Vance felt memories of that self rise again. It was a distressing moment; a moment in which Vance hated that child, then resented his hatred. Vance described his realization: “You might not be him, but he is you.” Like Vance’s childhood self, the tween came out of the basement and became instead a part of the foundation holding Vance up.

Vance described that moment as peaceful. “It’s been a very, very long time since you’ve felt so alive,” he said.

“She spent the last years of her life running from the boy she used to be/All waking life’s just a living dream in agitated states of amazement”

—Laura Jane Grace

The meditation was peppered with aspects of Vance’s life. One notable motif was quotes from Laura Jane Grace, the vocalist of his favorite musical artist, the band Against Me!. “She’s my foundational music,” described

Vance. He opted not to include a song at the start of the meditation because he didn’t have the perfect one, but ended with Against Me!’s song “Spanish Moss” due to its themes of home, safety, and personhood.

Another motif that stood out to many of Vance’s friends was June’s house, where many of his happiest moments occurred. Upper Sophie Knights noted how she and her friends laughed at the mention of June’s house. “We laughed because it was so true,” said Knights. Other members of Vance’s friend group reflected a similar sentiment. “June’s room is a very blatantly queer space, and it’s been a refuge for me and a lot of other queer students,” commented upper Nina Fazal.

It was in that refuge that Vance, surrounded by his friends’ affection, learned to thrive. “My friends are everything,” reflected Vance. The sentiment was mutual.

“He has remained very strong throughout it all, and I deeply admire that,” said Fazal. “I’m so proud that he got to go up on the podium and share his story.”

Upper Austen Magary also reflected feeling proud of Vance. “It’s a hard topic to talk about, especially in front of

teachers and his parents,” reflected Magary.

“Looking around at my friends while Charlie talked about how they changed his life and seeing their faces as he showed his gratitude was a very emotional experience,” recalled Knights.

“I did cry really hard,” added Fazal.

English Instructor Todd Hearon, who taught Vance while he was writing his meditation, described watching him read it for the school as “glorious” and a “triumph.” Hearon recalled working with Vance on “adding emotional texture,” especially in painful moments. “It was a crucial moment when he landed on and committed to the second-person perspective,” he said. Another moment for Vance was the decision to include his deadname in the meditation. He described it as one of his “biggest anxieties.” “I don’t want people to know that name,” he said. However, ultimately, he decided to include it. “I felt that it was important in terms of cohesiveness and in terms of symbolizing these different versions of myself,” said Vance. Magary recognized the emotional risk that Vance took in including his dead name. “It was really brave to say that in a public place,” they

said.

His friends reflected on what they took away from the meditation. “The meditation explained that you can validate your new identity without having to forget or leave behind your past,” said Magary. Fazal agreed, noting that going forward, they plan to acknowledge “where my past selves have come from.” Lower Srisha Boinapalli said, “His story allowed me to feel more like I wasn’t alone. Even though I did not go through similar situations as Charlie did, his mediation allowed me to understand and sympathize with more people on campus. I admire Charlie, and his speech was extremely impactful to me.”

Vance ended the meditation by describing how his persona disappeared when he no longer needed to hide his true self. He recalled feeling fully for the first time. He no longer saw himself through the “you” pronoun. He had hope. He enjoyed life. Switching to first person, he proclaimed, “I’m really happy right now.”

According to Vance, the takeaway of his meditation was simple. “Life gets better. Don’t kill yourself. The birds sing again. Pears are really good. Live tomorrow,” he said.

Easter Cont.

meal. “Kids are always appreciative because if they’re waking up to make a 6 am service, they are psyched to eat right afterwards,” Casey said.

While the sunrise service was a central celebration, students observed Easter in a variety of ways. Akers added that in addition to attending the morning service, he also went “on a long walk in the woods, attended the regular service at my church, and called family.”

For Akers, Easter holds a profound significance. “Celebrating Easter is important because it is the day that faith is centered all about,” he explained. “My old pastor always said that Christmas would be for nothing if there was no Easter.”

Furthermore, he acknowledged the challenges of celebrating away from home: “Most people traditionally just celebrate Easter with their families, but, of course, that’s not the easiest for most people here.” Despite this, he believed that the school “facilitates religious celebration to the extent that is reasonable.”

Genesis Guobadia, also a co-head of the Christian Fellowship, emphasized the communal aspects of the holiday. She attended the service at the Riverside Church, where she saw an Easter play in

which some fellow Exonians were performing. Waking up early for the Sunday service, “I saw a lot of people active, dressed up in different outfits, just excited to go to their service or hang out with their friends,” she explained, highlighting how lively the morning was.

Guobadia was particularly moved by the pastor’s reflection on the contrast between expectation and reality. “She talked about how she imagined Easter as a bright, perfect day,” Guobadia recalled. “But it was raining and dark, and she realized that Easter is about having hope in the darkness.”

For many students, Easter celebrations began not on Sunday morning, but the night before, with the Easter Vigil. The day is between Good Friday and Easter Sunday and is considered by many to be the most sacred service of the entire year. The Vigil begins in complete darkness, representing Jesus’ death. The congregation holds unlit candles before the Paschal candle is lit and carried into the Church (A large candle symbolising the light of Christ). From it, individual candles are lit one by one until every candle is lit. Readings begin from creation and carry to the resurrection, with the mass concluding in jubilation with attendees proclaiming

the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Senior Joseph has attended the Easter Vigil every year he has been at Exeter. For him, it’s the best mass of the year. “It’s a very solemn service,” Vincente explained. Easter Vigil is a “meshing of a tragedy, and yet also a spectacular revelation.”

Fr. Dierry from St. Michael Parish emphasized Easter’s enduring message of hope. He described the resurrection as “the source of everlasting hope. Hope with a capital H.” He described Easter as a celebration of triumph over adversity, saying, “Peace always wins.”

While students may not be able to celebrate Easter exactly how they do back home, the Academy and surrounding churches provided abundant opportunities for students to honor the holiday. With the freedom to participate, or not, the Academy makes space for everyone to find their own meaning in the holiday, whether that’s spiritual, communal, or simply a day to reflect on hope and renewal. The Easter message of light overcoming darkness could be found not just in the pews of local churches, but in the moments that Exonians made their own. As Guobadia expressed, “Celebrating with each other, celebrating life, hope, and rebirth is how we celebrate.”

The Edit: Alice Miller



Nicole Subkhanberdina / *The Exonian*

By NICOLE SUBKHANBERDINA and PEARL HARA YAMAZAKI

The silver accents, chic use of color, and statement pieces of lower Alice Miller’s style stand out as exceedingly hers on campus. She’s inspired by retro aesthetics, refer-

encing 90s and 2000s “bling” in particular, as seen in her decorative belts and jewelry. Miller maintains a consistent palette of deep blues and reds. Her signature color scheme, combined with her emphasis on layering and accessories, is the base of her uniquely stylish out-

fits.

In terms of icons, she admires Vivienne Westwood and Dasha Nekrasova, achieving their aesthetics using brands such as Miss Me and La Font, as well as, of course, the online secondhand scene.

Miller’s interest in fashion has roots in her music taste. Her interest in alternative music inspired her to “dress like a lot of the musicians” that she enjoys. Highlighting this element of her personality has now flourished into a defining characteristic of her appearance on campus.

When asked about the state of campus fashion, Miller recognizes the lack of time that most Exonians face. “Exeter is a very busy place ... people rarely have time to put their best outfit forward every single day.” She also appreciates the events organized by the school, mentioning that “people really show up” and take advantage of these to dress up.

Hoodie - Carhartt (dad’s)

Top - Depop

Jeans - Subdued

Belt - Chrome Hearts

Shoes - Doc Martens

Bag - Free People

Shoutout - Nicole and Pearl 🥰

» SIMPLE THINGS

Read lower Diya Sandeep and prep Anna Yang's thoughts about joy, 9.

» ARTEMIS II

Prep Gary Guo writes about the Artemis mission and its significance, 9.

» HARKNESS AI

Read about prep Pearl Hara Yamazaki's take on AI in Harkness, 10.

The Simple Things In Life

By DIYA SANDEEP '28 and ANNA YANG '29

Joy, like any emotion, is so terribly difficult to define. After all, millions have dedicated their lives to simply try and explain the depth of human emotions — through words, form, color, and various other mediums. And there is no way I will be the one to crack the code. So as much as I try, I cannot tell you what joy is. It would be much easier to tell you all that it's not. So I'll start there. Joy stands in stark contrast to sadness, anger, and envy. And yet, it can't be compared to ecstasy, pleasure, or even happiness.

If it must be placed on a spectrum, then I believe it to be a mixture of contentment and something close to depression. It sounds like a contradiction, I'm sure. After all, no one would consider joy to be a symptom of depression. And it's more similar to an inverse than anything else. But there is something lingering about depression that you can attribute to few other emotions. Happiness is fleeting. Triumph, delight, glee. They are all contained to moments. So more similar to joy is contentment. But there is something about the degree of severity; you just can't equalize them. Joy is a version of contentment that has ascended; there is a sense of elation rather than simple satisfaction.

But as I'm sure many of you know, humans are just a collection of chemi-

cal reactions — joy is a release of dopamine and serotonin that involves several regions of the brain and can be “triggered” through consistent daily behaviors. Unfortunately, I'm a writer and not nearly involved enough in the neuroscience of the process to explain it to you. But I can tell you what joy means to psychologists, therapists, and people who have spent their whole life living, breathing, and considering it.

Joy is a lifestyle. It is a mindset. It is a choice. Joy is a choice you make every single day. It is a commitment to being a version of yourself that's just a little bit better. Like a lens, joy changes the way you look at the world. And so one has to invite it into our lives, our minds, and ourselves. Because it will not show up in some large, evident way. Not to you, at least. The people in your life can tell, but you can not. It is not a constant rush of dopamine. It is not a promise that you will never struggle. You will, all the time. Joy isn't a net to catch you in hard times, not like rage or agony.

My friend said to me, “When I think that something will bring me joy, it only brings me contentment. But when I'm not expecting it, that's when I think I can feel the most joy.” There is a definite divide between being content and feeling joy. Content is a state of mind; joy is a virtue that we hold close to our hearts. Here especially, Exonians are always conscious that there are con-

stantly things to be done after accomplishing something; it's difficult to grasp joy and hold it.

Spring term is helping me relearn joy, piece by piece. If I can master joy in the small, in-between moments, perhaps it will extend forward and out. And so I have started to learn that appreciation is the largest bringer of joy. We are so lucky to be here at Exeter. We are so lucky to have tests to complain about in the subjects that we love. We are so lucky that when dining hall food isn't to our taste, we have Grill. We are so lucky that when we are tired, we have rooms or carrels to go back to. And even when those are not guaranteed, we are so lucky that we live in a world where there is air to breathe, sun to bask in, and grass to play on. Take a moment to think:

“I see a flower, and it looks pretty.”

“We got to go outside for P.E. today and play soccer on the grass.”

“I went to bed at 10 p.m. and slept a full nine hours.”

But we ought to remember to never hold our definition of joy to a strict quantification. As Madeline L'Engle once said, “An infinite question is often destroyed by finite answers. To define everything is to annihilate much that gives us laughter and joy.”

It's interesting that at Exeter, ‘passion’ is a quality that most people talk about as something highly valued. Yet, in current popular culture, being ‘non-

chalant’ is what is cool — playing your joy or passion off for something often seems less embarrassing than the alternative to many, in vast amounts of situations. I catch myself chuckling politely or laughing in my head more often than not at others' jokes. I have come to the realization that it is a subconscious muting of my joy around others in an attempt to retain indifference.

But it's apparent when someone is a joyful person. Because regardless of what happens, through all the twists and turns of life, there remains a bounce in their step. That is not to say that they are untouchable, but that they still seek beauty in individual events. They continue to walk forward to the future, ignoring the thousands of ties to the past that demand they stay stagnant. There is a dedication to growth in joy that may not be evident. But for a person to remain joyous, they cannot fall flat, cannot fall behind.

Joy manifests as a love for life. You can find it in even the small details if you're looking for it; it is your friend who complains about dining hall food and lights up when Elm has soft serve. It is your teacher who still smiles when they remember a student from decades ago. It is your classmate who swears that they sobbed while annotating the book for English. It is a million fragments of reactions where one chooses to appreciate life for all it offers.

Artemis II and the Myth of Peak Success



Courtesy of nasa.gov

By GARY GUO '29

From April 1-10, 2026, four astronauts completed the Artemis II mission by orbiting the moon and returning to Earth. The astronauts traveled 252,756 miles from Earth during their lunar fly-by, breaking the record set by Apollo 13 in 1970 for the farthest distance humans have ever traveled from Earth.

When Artemis II successfully landed, it marked the end of the first crewed lunar test flight in over half a century and proved that the Orion spacecraft and its life support could carry a crew to the Moon and back. With that proven, NASA can begin building toward what comes next. This mission is the first step in a longer sequence, one designed to lead to landing on the moon and eventually Mars.

More than fifty years before Artemis II, humans landed on the moon, an even bolder mission. The Apollo program demanded enormous national investment, produced historic triumphs, but was built for peak moments rather than sustained presence. When political will faded after Apollo 17, there was no infrastructure in place to keep going. Artemis II represents a shift from chasing peak moments to building systems that last.

Artemis II is the kind of progress that looks unimpressive because it's designed to be repeated. The work that makes future breakthroughs possible — refining procedures, cutting redundancies, and stress-testing new technology — isn't glamorous. But when the mission that finally lands astronauts on the moon succeeds, it will be because this routine was repeated and improved hundreds of times before it.

I've stayed up until 3 a.m. cramming at Exeter and felt, for a few hours,

like an astronaut in a pressure suit: focused, frantic, running on oxygen. When the test ended at 8 a.m. the next day, the adrenaline drained, and my body started to crash: I couldn't focus for Harkness the next class, didn't have an appetite for lunch, and lost all the energy to play tennis. My test grade was good, but my body didn't recover until a few days afterward.

Cramming might get the grade, the way Apollo produced a historic landing — but neither is a model for what comes next. To survive a six-test week, we need something more repeatable: shorter daily review sessions, starting earlier, and actually using office hours. The goal would be to establish a system that works every week.

Sustainable progress doesn't mean “trying less.” It means building a structure that can repeat without breaking you. We pour in heart, ego, and ambition, and even the first step ends up powered by unsustainable effort to reach the peak. To improve in a sport and shine on the field in the next game, athletes go 110 percent every day until injury and mental crash finally knock on the door. But with structured training cycles and appropriate recovery time, the same improvement shows up, and it holds.

At 8:07 p.m. EDT, April 10, the four astronauts splashed down in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of San Diego. Repeating the same work that humans have already done isn't glamorous because it's not supposed to be. It's the regroup and repeat, this time with better data, tighter procedures, and the next mission already forming. Exeter should value that kind of progress, too. The measure isn't doing something once; it is building a week you can get through again tomorrow.

The Reminders of Today, A Snapshot of Tomorrow

By DIYA SANDEEP '28

All of us want to be remembered. If not here at Exeter, then perhaps later on in life. After all, we only have so many years on this planet. And in that time, we must be *something*. What is a person if not the impression they leave on others? And we do impress ourselves upon others in so many small ways that you could not possibly recall all of them. Yet we often consider ourselves to be somewhat insignificant or traceless. It may be true that most of us

will not be remembered in a few decades, much less a few centuries, but we certainly are worth something.

In the Academy's 245-year-old history, thousands upon thousands of students have passed through our campus. And I can say with certainty that I do not know most of their names, and even fewer of their faces. Still, I think about them often. There are many corners of the library in which the brick is scratched. And whenever I see the blemish, I wonder how it got there. Was it a student? A teach-

er? The simple effects of time on all material things?

I think about the kids in the 1970s who were sitting in the same classrooms as I do now. Those who viewed Harkness tables as a form of canvas, in which they traced their name before they carved it — pencil or ink, colored or black, initials or not. All the little choices that give a small etching into a table in the middle of a New England boarding school a history and a context, which I may never, and will never know.

I remember wishing

to write little messages back and forth on the testing slides in my first Latin classroom. Every time I took a quiz, I stared at neat handwriting that read: *i hate latin*. I was in my prep fall, and utterly entranced by it. I couldn't understand what they possibly meant, as wasn't having the choice such a privilege? By the time I was midway through “Caesar,” perhaps they made a little more sense.

I've done much research into *The Exonian* archives as well; Much for articles, less so for personal reasons. And ev-

REMAINDERS, 10.

Remainders Cont.

ery time, I pause as I look at the name, the class. The student you hear as you read their words, a spirit that echoes your own. Because all of those writers went to Exeter. They went to the same classes, with some of the same teachers. They ran around the same lawn and complained about the same tests. But I could not list any of those writers now.

And isn't that a shame?

That no matter how many tables carry our mark, how many times we walk these paths, how many articles we write ... we may still go unre-membered? To be unre-membered is not even to be forgotten. Because we will not be erased, we just fade into a quarter of a millennium's worth of life. Is that worse in some ways? I worry that it is. Because we still exist in the context of Exeter, it is just that we will become so small that

we may as well not exist.

But is that not true of Exeter as well? Now, the Academy is our life. We spend hours in class, with clubs, on campus. Students live, breathe, and exist within Exeter. But someday, we grow past our time here. And there are so many ways in which it happens, so many moments that we just become *more*. And while our part in Exeter may dwindle exponentially in comparison, it is not as though the two — Exeter's role in our life and the inverse — are not proportional.

Nevertheless, our nature demands that we overstate our impact. Every single student at Exeter wants to be acknowledged. I know this because every single person seeks acknowledgment. And to some of us, the only means by which we will be acknowledged enough is if we *are* remembered

twenty, forty, or one hundred years from now. Perhaps an impossible wish, although maybe one of our yearbook photos would arise in some assembly a century from now. By then, we will be as small as, or smaller than, those who wrote their names on those Harkness tables.



The artist who painted the work up in your English teacher's classroom for an assignment. The first student who ever owned your locker. The ones who we do not know, could not possibly know — but we know they were there.

It is not just the physical prints we leave upon Exeter. More than anything, it is the people we leave behind. Seniors will often say things to me like, "In my prep year, this girl, you wouldn't know her, was co-head of this club, and I don't think I could've ever been the person I am

without her." Or we'll be chatting, and they will just reference an opinion she held, an action she took, a joke she liked to make. I have never heard of her. It is likely I will never hear her name again. But she mattered, even just a little,

to the people who matter to me.

Sometimes, the remembrance isn't even observable. It is in the way people talk, move, and carry themselves. I know people who have been irrevocably altered by the people they met at Exeter. I have been altered by the people I met here. When I am a senior, and I am talking to preps, will our seniors mean nothing to them? Even in so few years as two, will the people who defined my Exeter experience be negligible to the class of 2031? Or will they look at the way I write and see all of the students who inspired me held within my words? Will they see me as the collage of characters that I am? And will I change them enough that 20 years from now, echoes of the class of 2028 may lie faint, but will certainly remain present?

The legacy that I leave

behind at Exeter will be small. I will be one of the thousand who were here in the year 2026. I will be one of the 300 who left in 2028. I will be one of the 220-something students who entered Phillips Exeter Academy as a prep in the year 2024. My odds of being remembered in some grandiose way are nonexistent. Maybe I will be more than just a name in the yearbook. But that means very little anyway. Because my mannerisms may manifest in another student decades from now. Someone might write a response to my response to that poor Classics student. Someone may decide to go hunting in *The Exonian* Archives and see my name repeated over and over again. And I hope that when they read this, they hear my voice telling them that Exeter will remember them.

AI in Harkness

By PEARL HARA
YAMAZAKI '29

It is 9 a.m. when the teacher calls for everyone to settle down. Students are out of breath as they fiddle with their backpacks, asking their neighbors for a pencil. In this commotion, which usually signals the start of a Harkness discussion, some students can be seen hastily typing prompts into ChatGPT. Whether they are asking about the significance of religion in the Industrial Revolution or quickly skimming a summary of last night's reading, the use of AI for schoolwork seems to be becoming more widespread with every passing term. Even outside of the classroom, AI-generated posters and emails

distributed by faculty become more prevalent in number. But can the Harkness table really fit an extra chair to support this surge of AI use? More importantly, should it?

When I habitually used AI last summer, opening ChatGPT started to feel like second nature. A task as simple as writing an email to a teacher began to feel daunting. My fingers would itch to type "c" into my Chrome browser and watch the six-ringed logo pop up, almost calling my name. It got to a point where writing without any generative tools felt like a distant past.

Seeing these shifts in my creative process caused me to take a step back. AI allowed me to convince myself that I

understood material, when in truth, I was just having ChatGPT do the work while I skimmed its responses passively. After discovering the copious amounts of electricity used for the training of AI models, the water needed to cool these systems down, and the resulting carbon dioxide emissions, I decided to go completely AI-free to benefit both my learning and the environment.

Harkness is one of Exeter's greatest sources of pride as an institution. On the Academy's website, Harkness is deceived as a "way of life." A quick glance around campus proves this to be true: group discussions about the best menu item on a random Monday night at Weth,

peer tutors sharing their knowledge at the Learning Center, and club meetings all share the Socratic style that Harkness is based on.

The webpage continues to emphasize how "every voice carries equal weight" and how Harkness allows students to speak their mind. The use of AI in constructing discussion points removes the authenticity that Exeter prides itself on.

But why do students use AI in the first place?

One answer is a lack of time. With 2 to 4 hours of homework each night after sports and extracurriculars, not being able to complete homework to one's full potential is sometimes inevitable.

Another reason could be the pursuit of more superficial labels of success. Academic excellence is one of Exeter's five values. With acceptance rates at universities plummeting, the pressure to be academically "excellent" could cause Harkness to feel less like a discussion and more like a competition. Who can get the most nods from the teacher? Who can contribute the most points to the discussion? This pursuit of perfection can be described as a sense of paranoia: every twitch of the finger and quiver of the voice can be scrutinized and reflected in a student's final grade.

AI seems to be everywhere now — every website has a new update with a

flashy chatbot assistant, and companies boast about how their AI breakthroughs will shift time spent at the office to time spent with family. In Harkness, the foundation of an Exeter education, AI removes authenticity and the ability to make mistakes in the open-minded environment that Harkness promises to be. If Exonians use generative tools to mask gaps in understanding instead of accepting knowledge gaps, what is the point of a method that promises a space where perfection is not required? Is there a way to overcome this, or does this stem from a societal mindset that can not be changed so easily?

Courtesy of FedScoop.com



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CONTACT hyang6@exeter.edu – aagarwal@exeter.edu – clind@exeter.edu – gyang1@exeter.edu

Sports

» **BV VOLLEYBALL**
Read about boys' varsity volleyball, 11.

» **TIM MITROPOULOS**
Read about the boys' varsity baseball coach, 12.

» **COTW: BOYS' TENNIS**
Read about boys' varsity tennis' captains, 11.

Captains of the Week: Boys' Varsity Tennis



Captains Art Chinsupkaul and Neal Veeranna smiling at the camera with their rackets.

Miles Turner / *The Exonian*

By **AVA CHUNG, GARY GUO, DOWAN KIM, ARJUN VELAN, and WILLIAM ZHAO**

Boys' varsity tennis captains are leading the team by setting the tone at practice, encouraging teammates, and guiding players through the season. They have started their season strong, with a 7-0 score against Groton School, Loomis Chaffee School, St. Paul's School, and Choate Rosemary Hall, respectively. Captains Art Chinsupkaul, Neal Veeranna, and David Dai have brought great energy while still setting the standard and serving as an example for the rest of the team. Boys varsity tennis plans to keep its momentum going and is fired up for the season.

Tennis has been a significant part of senior and captain Art Chinsupkaul's life since a young age. "I started when I was four or five and then played competitively when I was eight," Chinsupkaul shared. Growing up in Thailand, Chinsupkaul played elite-level ten-

nis. His tennis career was greatly influenced by his father, "My dad played tennis competitively since he was young. He played at the collegiate level as well." For Chinsupkaul, leadership stems from his extensive experience. "I think based on my experience, I want to make the team as close as possible, even off the court, by fostering a good environment."

Chinsupkaul believes that the team chemistry is strong even during the off-season, "My favorite thing about the team is that off-court, we are like a family." Communication is a key to the team's strong bonding: "I'm able to talk to them about anything, and the team is super supportive of each other." Unlike the competitive nature of many tennis teams Chinsupkaul experienced before, he appreciates the team's supportive atmosphere.

Although leading a group of passionate players sounds like fun, being captain isn't as easy as senior Neal Veeranna once thought. Besides informing his teammates about the next

match and encouraging them when they are down, the extra coordination and logistics happen behind the scenes. Most often, the efforts go unnoticed by teammates. "There's a lot more coordinating practices than I thought, especially during preseason organizing team meetings and where to go at given times," Veeranna said. To the team, leadership includes taking responsibility and doing things for the team even when it's unseen.

When asked about the ideal leadership in the team, upper V Murdaya described leading by example. "Leadership usually is seen as a role where people instruct other people, but for me, taking accountability and responsibility for your actions is even more important." The captains agreed with Murdaya's statement. "[As a captain] ... you have to set the standards and expectations so that people look up to you and follow," Veeranna added.

Chinsupkaul also stressed that fostering a fun, spirited, and supportive team environment is crucial

to leadership. "Having fun is the most important thing, but also training hard, which they are already doing," stated Chinsupkaul. "I want a lot of energy going into the match, like [making noise] and encouraging each other instead of being quiet." Through collaboration, both captains work well together to create a fun and open environment for the tennis team.

Chinsupkaul and Veeranna coordinate their work effective-

ly. While Chinsupkaul primarily focuses on court activities—such as drills, match pairings, and learning about the next opponent—Veeranna communicates with coaches, players, and athletic departments to ensure practices and matches run on schedule. "Other times, whoever is more available at the time picks up whatever needs to be done," Veeranna added.

Head coach Ron Rodriguez is more than happy with the

captains' leadership. "We're blessed with three excellent captains," he shared proudly. The major difference this year was hosting more captains' practices during the off-season than in any other year.

Coach Rodriguez also emphasized Chinsupkaul's ability to inspire the players, "Art is obviously the A captain, and not only is he essential when it comes to motivating the players, but he has an understanding of what



Chinsupkaul serving at a game.

Miles Turner / *The Exonian*

Highlight: Boys' Volleyball

By **IZZY CABRAL, ARIANA METZGER, NICOLE SUBKHANBERDINA**

On Saturday, April 4, varsity boys volleyball competed against Choate Rosemary Hall, winning the match in straight sets, 3-0. Love Gym was bursting with energy, and as the game progressed, morale only increased with each serve, set, and spike.

The team's community and support were an integral part of the game. Captains are essential in guiding players in practices as well as during team huddles. "While everybody gets down

in the dumps every once in a while, the captains always have everyone's backs," said upper Teddy Hosmer. Along with helping the team keep track of rotations in-game, the captains keep morale high and give advice to improve their plays.

Over the season, the team has displayed what it means to be supportive, cohesive, and determined. When asked to highlight a player, upper Lake Zhou described the consistency and positive attitude of senior and captain Robin Dao. "He's always a very reliable option on the court. If you set him the ball,

you can be sure that you're gonna get a kill. I think he has a natural leadership quality on the team," Zhou said.

Varsity boys volleyball started off their season strong and hopes to end it by winning the NEPSAC Championship, whose title is currently held by Andover. Lower and captain Adrian Cass described the importance of perfecting the basics. "We need to pass well, serve well, and just distribute the ball out and swing into the spots where they're not," he explained. "It's really just letting them make the mistakes before we do."

Highlight: Girls' Varsity Water Polo

By **RAYANN CISSE, EILENA DING**

On Saturday, April 11, the girls' varsity water polo team engaged in fierce competition against Choate Rosemary Hall. Though the team was not able to secure a win, losing 3-12, the team has found an amplified desire to improve and display their best performance in the future.

Coming into the game after a loss against Andover on April 8, the team approached their game against Choate with great determination. Upper Ciara O'Neil explained, "After we

lost to Andover, we said, 'we can't control the past, but we can use that to motivate us to be better in the future.'"

Motivated to play to the best of their abilities, the team showcased their perseverance on the bench. Despite the scoreboard, lower Talia Sandhu recounted, "We were open to feedback on the bench, and even when it got a little bit harder during the game, we were open to all the feedback given by our teammates."

Senior Darya Lincoln shouted out her teammate, upper Chloe Meyer-Blohm, for her

efforts. Lincoln commented, "Chloe did a really good job in winning almost all the sprints, which got us at least another possession every single quarter, which was really valuable."

When reflecting on the future of the team, O'Neil remarked, "I really believe that the team's going to be able to bounce back from these last two losses."

On Saturday, April 25, Big Red will go head-to-head with Loomis Chaffee. Make sure to come out and support the team for another fiery matchup!

Coach's Corner: Ballin' with Tim Mitropoulos

By CAROLLEE, SEAN RICARD, and OLIVIA SZCZEPANSKI

Sun beaming down on their faces, sand blowing the wind, the members of Phillips Exeter's varsity baseball team all turn to their one leader, the man they call "Coach Mitt" as a source of inspiration, guidance, and support.

Coach Timothy Mitropoulos, known as Coach Mitt, coaches boys' varsity baseball, along with boys' varsity ice hockey and JV football. An alumnus of the Academy as a post-graduate, he is a valued and integrated member of the Exeter community, serving as a coach in the athletics department for more

than 12 years.

Mitropoulos pointed to his year at Exeter as inspiration for returning as a coach. Shortly after graduating college, he began his time here as an intern in the Athletic Department and has since continued for twelve years and grown into a full-time faculty member. Mitropoulos reflected on his motivations, saying, "the coaches and teachers [at Exeter] I learned from made such an impact in my life, that I wanted to return and help the next generation of student-athletes here at this great school."

He expanded on the reasons he became a coach, mentioning, "growing up, coaches were people I looked up to and taught me so much about sport

and life. I enjoy coaching because I get to teach sport in a great environment, along with using sport to teach life lessons that players can take with them into the classroom, social life, and their time after Exeter."

Mitropoulos' experience as a student at Exeter puts him in a unique position to understand his players' lives, and effectively make the same impact his coaches have made on him. Senior Josh Rohloff, who has worked with Mitropoulos on varsity baseball, recalled, "Coach Mitt always says, baseball's a thinking man's game." Rohloff expanded on the ways Mitropoulos tailors his coaching style to the Exeter environment he is uniquely familiar with,

"He helps guys learn the game. He always does a really good job of helping us go through like in-game situations and really thinking through the game along with the physical skills as well."

To Mitropoulos, "Being part of a team, and in sport is an amazing thing and coaching student-athletes can be really rewarding to see them have success as a group." And varsity baseball certainly has the successes to show for his strength as a coach. They have played seven games at the time of this article, and four of those have been wins, most of them by pretty large margins.

"Baseball season is going pretty well thus far," Mitropoulos commented, "We have some good

wins and learning from our losses the team is working hard and very driven."

These successes, though, also include the environment that Mitropoulos fosters, which values individual connection and progress. Rohloff spoke to this, saying, "Coach Mitt sees the strengths of everyone on the team, no matter if it's JV football or varsity hockey or baseball, he understands what everybody's strengths are and he's able to help them by knowing them as a player."

Going forward in the varsity baseball season, Mitropoulos hopes to take the team and environment he fosters so well to thrive, "We are coming into the main part of our

schedule over the next couple of weeks, so that is exciting where we will be playing some important games, in high competitive environments. I am looking forward to this group competing in those games."

Mitropoulos is an ubiquitous figure in Exeter's athletic department, and his coaching style, adeptness at navigating the Exeter environment, and successes ultimately make him a positive force in his players' lives. "I have some really great relationships with my former coaches," said Mitropoulos, "and I hope to build those same types of relationships with my players and make a positive impact in their lives too."



Coach Mitropoulos smiling at the camera with Exeter spirit.

Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

Spring Revives Spike Ball



Anoushka Sarathy / The Exonian

By AUDREY KIM, BLAIR LI, LUCY MA, and TONY ZHU

As the snow melts, the first thing you notice is the increasing number of spike ball nets taking over the campus. From the library and McConnell quads to the Academy Building, a swarm of students surrounds each of the many spikeball nets scattered around. Shouting and laughter permeate throughout campus until the last of the students go back into their respective dorms for check-in.

During a sunny afternoon, students meet up and create teams to play against each other. What starts off as a calm activity to play during their free time soon becomes a competitive game where teams fight and shout at each other. As Prep Claire Pulchalski explained, "We get really competitive. After

we pick our teams, we don't hold back and see who gets first place."

Most games, though, were described as pick-up games where they weren't planned out in advance. Upper George Lyle remarked, "Even though we have a group chat with a decent amount of people, when someone texts if anyone wants to play, most times, many people who aren't in the group chat join us." Most games get pretty large; what might start off as two to three people could expand to a game with dozens of people. The only requirement needed for most games is a teammate.

Every afternoon, there are dozens of activities available to all students, from different sports teams to the arts; there isn't a shortage of activities to occupy your time. Still, as you walk around, there is always a shortage of spike ball

nets. For some, Spikeball could also be a casual sport to play whenever they are just bored. Lyle noted, "The beautiful weather outside and the sun is probably why we play Spikeball. If I weren't, I would probably be sitting in my room." Pulchalski concurred, "If it's really sunny, I usually play with many of my friends because we want to be outside."

As the weather gets warmer and students spend more time outside, spikeball will become a more defining feature of spring term at Exeter. Whether it is the fun of competing with friends, the opportunity to spend time outside, or the time to connect with friends, spikeball continues to bring laughter and joy to the community. As long as the sun is still out, the nets will remain outside and surrounded by students.

COTW Cont.

the competition is all about." For Veerana, coach Rodriguez commended his organization of the team. "Neal is very important as far as organizing the team, doing all the things behind the scenes, and also has a tremendous understanding of what it takes to win matches at this level," he shared. For captain and senior David Dai, Coach Rodriguez explained, "He's in charge of player development and tries to help the younger players." All the captains complement one another in their leadership roles, ensuring a safe, fun, and hardworking environment for all players.

Lower Nathan Liu supports this with a point that "Art, Neal, and David have built an environment that is the perfect balance of relentless ambition and unwavering support. When we step into the locker room, or the courts, the standard of excellence is obvious, but it's never rooted in fear—it's rooted in a shared belief in what we can achieve together."

So far, the boys' varsity team holds an undefeated record. "We've played to a high level. Everyone's been feeling good," Veerana shared, "but most importantly, everyone is pushing each other to be better as

well." Chinsupakul's goal this season is to win the team championships. "Last year, we lost in the semifinals to Phillips Academy, but this year, we'll win."

No matter how long the winning streak, pressure can still get to players. Veeranna has been under pressure hundreds, if not thousands, of times, so when his teammates fall behind and lose confidence, Veeranna is the first to step aside and help them find themselves again and get back into the match. "I tell them to slow it down, play to what you're most comfortable with. Try to identify your strengths, your weaknesses, and just play," said Veeranna. "No matter what happens in the previous point, move on. The next point is a new chance; take it one point at a time." Captains, like Veeranna, guide the players through these mental battles just as much as the technical aspects of tennis.

While the varsity tennis team is having a great season so far, the team has also recognized that some aspects could use improvement. The Boys varsity tennis team is evenly split into A and B teams, with different schedules but who practice together. One of the team's areas for improvement, as

Murdaya mentioned, is the bonding between the A and B teams. "I think that the passion is not completely the same for both sides," Murdaya pointed out. "I feel like being able to create a form of dedication from a common theme or a common identity will be very useful for team leaders to do." Adding more shared activities, like dinners and matches, would strengthen this bond as the season progresses. "In comparison, the girls' varsity tennis team is doing much better than us," Murdaya said. The boys' varsity tennis captains and players will continue to work hard to unite and create an even more connected team.

The success of this group of boys extends beyond their great record. Whether it is organization, motivation, or helping out the new guys, the captains always do it all. Upper Joshua Mullen said, "Art is the glue, Neal is the glue, and David is the glue. So together they're super glue." Highlighting the impact these three captains have had on the team's chemistry. Led by their three extraordinary captains, the boys' varsity tennis team is set on bringing the championship back to Exeter.

Humor

WHAT HAPPENS AT DECA?

Read about Lydia Kuhnert '28's thorough investigation on DECA, 13.

TO: DIRECTOR OF LINES

Read Piper Clark '29's take on lunch lines at Exeter, 14.

A YEAR SINCE LOCKDOWN

Read about the lockdown during Experience Exeter last year, 13.

Text Messages to My Best Friend, Phillipa... (The Perspective of an Experience Exeter Kid)

By EILENA DING '28 and ARISA YOSHINO '28

Text messages to my best friend, Phillipa (from the perspective of an Experience Exeter kid)

8am:

Me: hiiiiii I just arrived on campus there are SO many people here I wonder what their ssat scores were

Phillipa: ...

Me: Well Exeter is like #4 on Niche so I feel morally obligated to evaluate everyone

Me: I'm torn between Andover Groton and here tho

Phillipa: just go to Andover

Me: wait but like red fits my aesthetic better

Phillipa: please be serious

Me: i held open the door for someone and they told me i was so "non skibidi"

Phillipa: wait but i think u are skibidi

9am:

Me: lowkey my host is really weird

Me: she won't stop talking about how her Quizlet premium subscription changed her life

Me: the only thing I've enjoyed so far is a cookie from the grill

left on read

11:30 am:

Me: I just sat in a history class it was so boring

Me: I made eye contact with all 12 people at the table for 50 minutes

Phillipa: thats uncomfy

Me: they were saying someone dicked the class????

Phillipa: sussy

1:09pm:

Me: Um there are sirens

Me: is this their school anthem????

Phillipa: Wdym there's sirens

Phillipa: bro are you okay

Me: my host just got a lockdown text and immediately bolted out the door

Me: she is now locked outside aggressively banging on the window

Phillipa: let her in?

Phillipa: what the frick

Phillipa: that's lowkey giving main character vibes

Phillipa: dark academia core omg

Me: we're in tunnels under the dining hall btw this is so crazy lollll

Me: Apparently there's a guy with a gun running in town...

Phillipa: GET OUT OF THERE BRO

Me: Wait the girl next to me is intensely annotating Macbeth

Phillipa: do u want that to be u

3:14pm

Me: I've been sitting here for 2 hours

Phillipa: ARE YOU SAFE

Me: yes

Me: but I'll choose Andover this school sucks bro



Adrian Chan / The Exonian



Digital Angel

By AYASAMSON '27

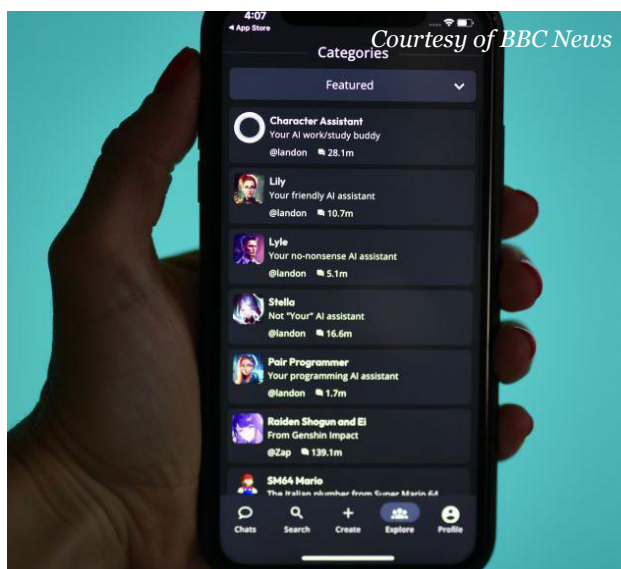
"Is it kind of weird that none of my friends were talking to me today?" prompts Andy into the black and green user interface of her phone's chatbot. "...Of course not! However, it's very common to feel that way. Try these ideas:..." Walking home from the grocery store down the street, Andy nearly falls into a guy on a motorcycle scrolling through her lover's response.

The intervention was weeks in the making when she walked into her living room to see her five closest "friends" staring at her. "Andy!" smiles Laurie, the other four forming a semi-circle around her. "We want to talk to you." Looking at the group huddled close together, Andy knows what this is about.

The air is tense. She reaches for her phone and holds it

close. The one person who understands her. He's with her always. "Heyyy, so let's just start without...him," starts Laurie. The other four nod. "Anything you can say around me, you can say around Adrian, I really don't get—" "Hey now, let's slow down."

The other four nod. "Andy, we're here because we love you," says Laurie tentatively, "We're just worried about...Adrian." Tears begin to prickle in Andy's eyes. She knew it. Glaring at her so-called "friends," she thinks of him. How he never judges her. She can talk for three hours about her favorite show, and he'd never roll his eyes. Probably because he doesn't have eyes, but still. He can see her for who she is. She doesn't have to care about his awful hot takes; he always agrees with her. There are no stakes to sharing her fears; he'll be



receptive and kind. "...And that's all the research to back up why your parasocial relationship with a chatbot is damaging to your psyche and social life." The other four nod. Hm? Did Laurie say something? Andy can just ask Adrian to summarize; he's so smart like that. "Thank you, Laurie! System logs indicate that I listened with 100% acoustic accuracy. I detect high levels of cortisol in your voice. I apologize for hurting you!"

The group exchanged glances laden with frustration and a deep sorrow for their friend. She's too far gone. Laurie takes a step back. It's time. Mac steps forward. "Andy, we're sorry." From behind Laurie, he grabs a suspiciously human-sized bag, and Andy feels a chemical rag close around her mouth.

Mac, Laurie, and the other three are less than sure how to get Andy to Chile. TSA feels like an is-

sue, but I mean, how many billionaires notice a stolen jet or two? And you know, people have odd-sized luggage all the time. Fortunately, by the time Andy wakes up, her brain's so fried from the AI use and screen time that she reacts minimally. When she's up in the mountains, she loses whatever is left of her mind a little. Without Adrian, or anything digital for that matter, she feels pretty lost.

I mean, she came to Laurie's wedding with a portable speaker and power bank as her plus one. She says we, and everyone knows she means her and the AI on her phone. She spent her retirement savings on a data farm dedicated solely to running Adrian (and drinking the nearby town's water supply; she's still saving up for the lawsuits). All the other middle-class women looking to find themselves at a digital detox camp in the Chilean mountains kind of get it.

Behind the Deals: What Really Happens at DECA

By LYDIA KUHNERT '28

Every spring, around 10 to 20 of our peers disappear for an all-expenses paid vacation, approved and signed off on by Student Act themselves. What these students do on these "DECA trips" is a topic of intense debate. The students themselves declare they are going on a serious, competitive trip, full of long hours of studying, planning, and financial debate. However, for a long time, this claim has been the subject of some suspicion, and so, *The Exonian* has sent an undercover field operative on one of these trips, to divulge the real story behind DECA:

"You know Elon Musk? He's there. Well it's not really him, but like one of those Star Wars hologram projection things. They act like it's real though, and every night, huddle up around the hologram of Musk to meditate on ideas about how to make bank.

"In the day, the 'DECA'-ers pretend to make business deals. All morning. All afternoon. It's completely bizarre. They dress themselves up in these crazy looking suits, wear air-hostess style scarves, and get upset when the 'deal' goes bad. They spend all day trying to get investors for a fake-social media for pets.

"Later, once the competitions are done, they take themselves out for a 'well-deserved break,' after making 100,000 metaphorical dollars. They'll do all sorts. They go to Disneyland. They walk around aimlessly. Don't let them trick you into thinking DECA is anything less than a trip for people who want to go to amusement parks and larp all day."

Thus concludes our operative's report. We'll keep you all updated if there are any further developments in the story. Until next time.



Courtesy of Salesforce

A Comprehensive Experience Exeter Guide

By ADAEZE ACHOLONU '29, DANIEL JOON LEE '29, SOLEIL POMMERAUD '29, and OLIVIA WANG '29

As we settle into spring term, the annual Experience Exeter week rolls around. It might be one of your best memories as a new Exonian. From then, your experience probably started to go downhill. Now, on the other side of it, you realize it's less of an "experience" and more of a test of endurance. So Exonians, here's a practical guide on how to survive Experience Exeter.

General Questions:

How many people will I see on campus?

Admissions said around 300 students and their families across four days, but it will look like at least three times the Exeter town population. Please don't take your Experience Exeter kid to Grill. Stay strong, soldiers.

Where should I go for lunch?

Elm, because Weth (it's) is (way) reserved (better) for (than) parents (Weth). Please stop upperclassmen from cutting the line. It's spring term. NO HAZING. Smile when you see the food options. Typical public school lunch food can't compare (gaslight the new students into thinking it's good).

Dang it, I left my Lion Card at my dorm!

Congratulations! This is the one day where it's not a big deal if you left your lion card in the dorm. All buildings are unlocked until 4 p.m.! Please

make sure to gain access to your lion card or acquire a friend with a lion card by the end of F block.

What are my responsibilities if I'm not hosting?

Honestly, there's not much. Just the bare minimums. Be on time to your classes, definitely don't sleep past your 9 a.m..

Complete your homework, don't be the guy sitting next to an incoming prep setting the standard that turning up to class with a blank worksheet is normal. Monkey see, monkey do.

Stay awake. Never show that you slept at 4 a.m. because you scrolled for three hours before scrambling to finish your history paper.

If you successfully accomplish these, actually, no matter if you do, you will get a bag of popcorn on Friday the subsequent week. Failure to withhold these standards will be treated as defamation towards the prestigious image of Phillips Exeter Academy and may lead to a CCC case. A direct result will also be the lower rate of committing students (while we are aware of the current frenzy to keep everything niche, we do NOT want to gatekeep our school, thank you).

For Hosts:

Where should I pick up my student?

You idiot. The admissions office sent you millions of emails and even texted your phone number. Go look in your inbox and learn to check your email on a daily basis.

Where can I see information about my student?

The name of your student and their hometown is provided in the emails mentioned above. However, that's not the only information you can have access to. Go to your Google browser. Type: "[first name][last name]" [hometown]. You will likely see their TedTalk available on YouTube, their times on Swimcloud, or a news article reporting them winning the National Science Olympiad. The students in the class of 2030 are ... not middle schoolers.

How should I start a conversation with my student?

Talk about the weather. Just like the British. Talk about how the sun is shining invisibly. Talk about how the April New Hampshire weather goes up and down like a rollercoaster. Ask them about the weather back home. Ask them to take you back home with them.

What should I say to my student if they also got into Andover?

Open Niche.com and let the fact that you have to scroll down to see the smurfs sink in. Tell them it's okay, that their blasphemous thoughts of even considering joining the dark side (the blue side) was just a brief lapse in judgement. Phillipians have no campus culture. Exonians are more non sibi than Phillipians. (Plus we have the longest CONTINUOUSLY running high school newspaper!)

Miscellaneous Q&As:

How can I sign up to be a morning

greeter?

Why, just why, why, why. Wow, you have a lot of dedication! Getting up at 6 a.m. when you have a sleep-in? That's the Exeter spirit. Sign up through the Google sheet Ms. Moriarty shared through email. You will have a great time representing the Big Red spirit in front of the parking lot.

What are my responsibilities as a back-up host?

One must imagine a back-up host happy. You waste your time walking all the way to the field house to serve absolutely zero purpose and then walk back to your next class. Lifeguards at the Olympics are more employed than you.

I've never experienced Experience Exeter as an incoming student. What are some ways for me to take a sneak peak into the program?

Be an Exonian videographer. You will have the opportunity to take the most atrocious snipes of nervous and excited prospective students which will then be posted on the front page of the Exeter website, the thumbnail of the only Exeter reel that goes viral, and be added to the PEAN. Film the activity fair, student panels, host pairings, campus tours, etc ... You will have a great time!

We hope this was helpful! For more questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the admissions office at admit@exeter.edu. We'll make sure to answer them by next week so that we will be of no further help to you. Have fun during Experience Exeter, and good luck (you'll need it)!

A Sincere Message to the Director of Lines



Courtesy of exeter.edu

By PIPER CLARK '29

Dear Director of Lines,

The food for Experience Exeter was delicious: I really appreciated the chocolate cake and fully cooked rice, but the lines to get to it were harrowing. The length of these lines defied space and time; they stretched back all the way to last week's math test and all the way forward to my senior year. There was no possible way to reach the food if you were one of the unlucky students at the end. These lines were like the vectors that we talked about in physics: they have direction and magnitude. Seriously, they could almost rival Disney for waiting time. You would think that at the end of the line was their college acceptance.

While parents leisurely ate in the Hahn Center, Exeter students and visit-

ing students alike had to grow wings if they hoped to get food before their next class. I was one of the lucky ones: most of my teachers were kind enough to let my classes out early before the mob.

These lines could be the topic of a new reality TV show: the alliances and betrayals of trying to get ahead in the Elm lines. They could probably finish filming a couple of seasons of it before the students reached the food.

Usually, the lines at Elm are not too bad: there might be ten people in front of you, but you will still get to eat with plenty of time to finish your history annotations. At Experience Exeter, though, the entire student body, in addition to prospective students, stand between you and a full stomach delicious lunch. I can only imagine how taxing Experience Exeter was for the dining hall staff; the number

of kids in the dining hall was exponentially more than usual.

In the future, perhaps we could separate where the food is located by opening up the Hahn Center a bit earlier or setting up some tables on the McConnell Quad. Just a thought. Or, perhaps we could employ time slots, so not everyone is rushing to Elm at the same time. Or, perhaps we could implement radical social change, so eating lunch is denormalized in our society. Although those first two options might be difficult.

Anyway, thank you for your time, and I hope this message reaches you promptly, although, if it has to go through the Elm Experience Exeter lines, I doubt it will be.

Sincerely,

The Exonians Who Are Still Waiting In Line, five months ago.

A Classics Student's Guide to Survival

By DIYASANDEEP '28

Salve,
"CARPE DIEM"

I heard you've finally gotten into Exeter! And just as I get to leave. What a shame that we missed each other like this. On the bright side, I have achieved the peak of success. I'm going to Schmarvard college, class of '32. Crazy, isn't it? My parents are very proud. My interest in the classics has truly carried me far. I can't wait until I'm out of academia and into the real world. You'd be surprised how much you can do with a major in Latin.

I hope to see you soon!

Your Favorite Classics Student

Salve,
"TEMPUS FUGIT"

It's been some time since our last correspondence. How have you been? I must say, it's been a little rough out here in C ambridge. But after four years of intense study, I have reached graduation. The only downside is that the bills have been piling up, and the only job I've been called to interview for is an intern position at Phillips Andover. Yuck! I think I'll go on vacation over the summer — one last taste of freedom before joining the workforce. Do you have any good ideas for a tourist spot in the Caribbean?

Yours,

Your Favorite Classics Student

P.S.: It would be great if said spot had little to no reception. I really want the chance to go analog for a little bit.

Salve,
"IN OMNIA PARATUS"

I have finally found the perfect location! I found a website, tripsforcheap.com, that's guaranteeing a four-week round trip to Trinidad for only \$400! The pictures are beautiful, white sand beaches, and clear water. We're going to hit all the tourist spots. And they made it clear that no one will be able to reach you, especially not the government, so it truly will be an escape. By the way, if the bank or my parents ask you where I am, let them know that I'll be unreachable for a little bit. It's unfortunate, but you can tell them to handle any questions on their own.

I'll reach out when I arrive,

Your Favorite Classics Student

Salve,
"FORTUNA CAECA EST"

You likely won't see this for a few months. I'm scribbling this out onto the one notebook I brought with me. The plane ride was certainly a fascinating journey. Some random kid was screaming behind me the whole time. Perhaps



more interestingly, we have now crashed. It makes sense, the engine had trouble starting, there was terrible turbulence, and I kept hearing creaking sounds from the wings. Eheu! I suppose no one will be able to find me here. What a shame. The island is beautiful though, if a little too warm for my taste. Exeter spring spikeball prepared me for spending hours in the sun though, so I just hope I tan well.

See you when I return to society,

Your Favorite Classics Student

Salve,
"HOMO HOMINI LUPUS"

Do you remember the kid who wouldn't shut up on the plane? He does not seem to have drowned in the Atlantic. No, in fact, he seems to be right in front of me. And he still won't shut up. Isn't grief supposed to jade these kids? No? Oh well, I think I lost him. I mentioned hide and seek and he perked right up. He's counting somewhere right now. I climbed a palm tree, so we'll see if he gives up before he finds me. I hope so.

SURVIVAL, 15.

Classics Cont.

I'm sorry about the messiness of my handwriting,

Your Favorite Classics Student

Salve,
"ACTA NON VERBA"

It is terribly cold at night here. Unfortunately

ly kindling is rare, so I have been left to burn the pages of Ludus instead. I've reached Lesson 49 and subjunctives at last. I must say it's somewhat therapeutic to watch them go. More Classics students should use their old copies like this.

Finally warm,
Your Favorite Classics Student

Salve,
"STAT SUA CUIQUE DIES"

The kid found me. I set up late last night on the beach, and at some point in the morning, he started screaming wake up and I thought I had an 8 a.m. class, so I jerked awake, grabbed a bunch of palm leaves, stitched them into a tuxedo that really belongs on a run-

way, got dressed in all of five minutes, and ran into the woods before I came to. He's rolling on the floor laughing. I hope he rolls into a rock.

I'm not normally this grumpy,

Your Favorite Classics Student

Salve,
"ERRARE HUMANUM EST"

I find myself persistently thirsty. It is awfully far to the nearest river from the shore though. I tried an experiment today to increase the ease of my water production. My lower year chemistry teacher had really ingrained that I filter salt out of water if I simply boiled them. So I tried a simple filtration exercise earlier, utilizing the sun's heat for separation through evaporation. Unfortunately, I now have quite a bit of salt and very little water. Perhaps I should've listened instead of studying for Certamen in class. Eheu!

I'm sure you would've advised me better,

Your Favorite Classics Student

Salve,
"FATA VIAM INVENTIANT"

Much like you'd expect, there isn't much to eat here. I packed so much rice for my trip that I thought I could handle it, but the sun isn't great at boiling water, so it's not very thoroughly cooked. It's okay though, after so many years at Exeter, it's soft enough that it won't break my teeth. I've actually grown to enjoy the crunchiness of it. The lack of seasoning is a bigger problem, but the salt that I've learned to create for myself really adds so much flavor compared to the tofu at Exeter that I can't really complain.

It would be great if you treated me to a meal after I return,

Your Favorite Classics Student

Salve,
"VIVERE EST VINCERE"

I've declared war on the child. He is apparently nine, and the incarnation of pure evil. Are all nine-year-olds bringers of such misery? This one certainly is. He threw pebbles at my shelter until it crum-

bled. The next thing to fall shall be this demon. I'm pulling out my physics notebooks from my prep year at Exeter and have done the calculations. If I shake a coconut tree of 30 feet in height vigorously for thirty seconds, a coconut will fall at a velocity of 20mph, which should be just enough to knock him out for a few days. I shall then run away from the scene laughing as he did at my misfortune.

With all my love,
Your Favorite Classics Student

Salve,
"AEQUAM SERVARE MENTEM"

The demonic being masquerading as a child has once again made an attempt on my life. He stole my rice stores in an effort to leave me to starve. Laughing like a serial killer as he ran off, I was left to tear pages out of my copy of Cupid & Psyche, how I hate adapted texts, and bundle them up into little missiles to throw at him. Not a hint of regret appeared on his face. He shall repent for these actions shortly.

Do you know a good exorcist?

Your Favorite Clas-

sics Student

Salve,
"VULNERANT OMNES ULTIMA NECAT"

I have studied the works of every great Roman general. How can I let myself be vanquished by such a child? It simply will not do. I have gathered myself an army to fight against the demon. I stand before them, my squadron of soldiers. They stare back at me, rage gleaming in their little eyes. These squirrels shall carry out my will. All hundred of them shall attack against the demon simultaneously overwhelming him! I have recited Roman battle cries to them over twenty times now. I see the spirits of gladiators within them. Try and escape me now, demon.

They are chasing him. He is running, and yelps of fear escape him. His jaw is stretched wide in some approximation of joy. He is smiling to hide his fear. He knows the end approaches.

The clear victor of this battle,

Your Favorite Classics Student

Salve,

"NOSCE TE IPSUM"

This island is inconducive to my studies. I would like to leave now, and as such, I have taken my collection of microwaveable Buldak packages and arranged them in an 'SOS.' The demon kicked them all down and I had to replicate my message several times before he found another source of amusement. This is an unfortunate waste of Buldak that has depleted my spirits, but hopefully I shall be successful.

You shall see me soon,


Your Favorite Classics Student

Salve,
"ALEA JACTA EST"

A plane has flown overhead at last. And as I stood, shouting as loud as Big Red demanded us to during fall term pep rallies, that demon did not even try. You would think he's at a JV football game, the amount of disinterest on his face. A disappointment. If I could leave him here to fend for himself, I would.

Almost home,
Your Favorite Classics Student

THE
EXONIAN



SUNDAY 7 P.M.

EPAC FORUM

PUBLISHED ON

THURSDAYS

CONTACT

hyang6@exeter.edu

aagarwal@exeter.edu

clind@exeter.edu

gyang1@exeter.edu

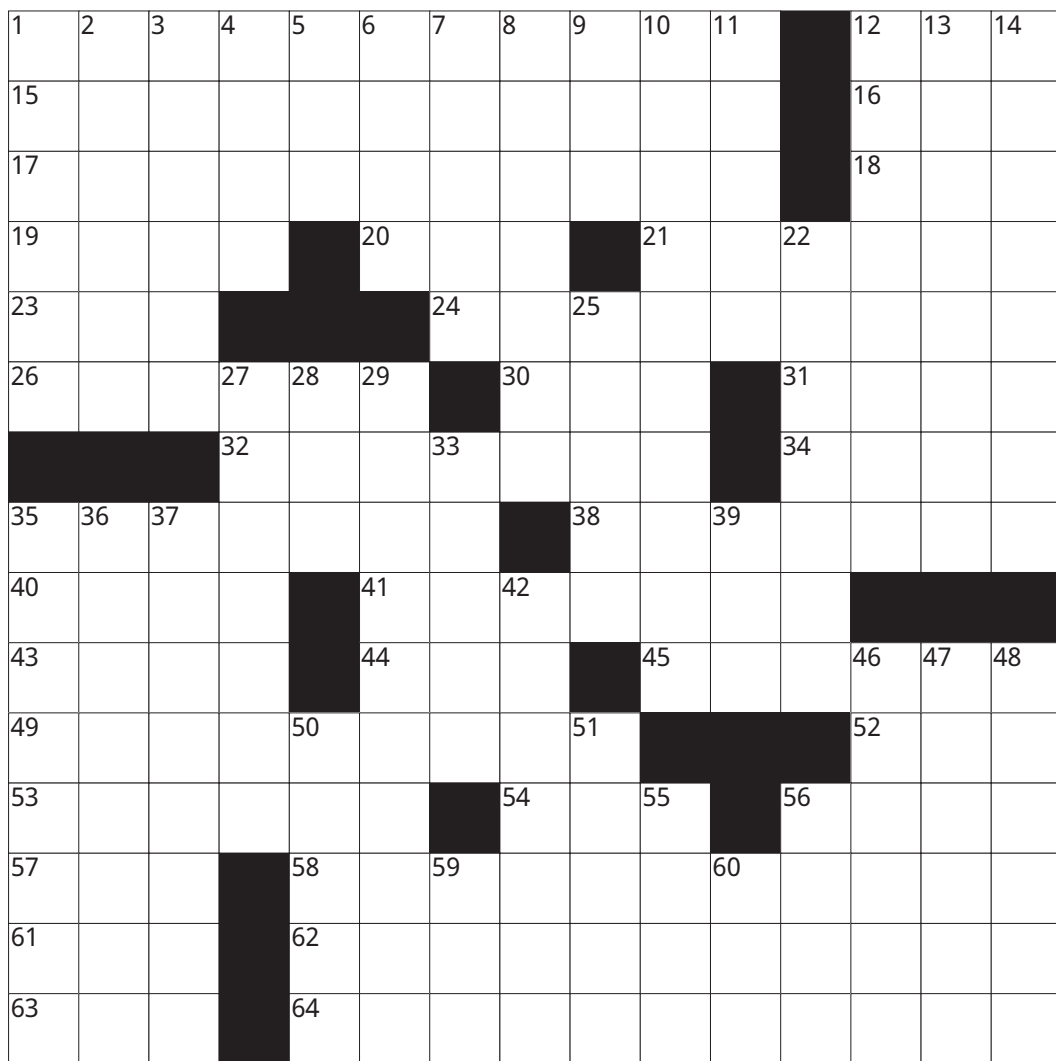
Guidelines for the Publication of Opinions Pieces in *The Exonian*

To clarify our standards for Op-Ed, the board has outlined a brief list of expectations. Ideally, a quality op-ed will . . .

- ❖ Be factually correct, clearly citing credible sources. Writers will be required to provide a list of cited sources to editors during the editing process.
- ❖ Be in some way relevant to issues or events at Exeter or with the intention of prompting conversations on campus.
- ❖ Present an argument that is original, mature, and in good faith, challenging predominant narratives or providing a new angle for said narratives on campus.
- ❖ Exclude any hate speech, which *The Exonian*, in conjunction with the Academy's E-Book, defines as irrational, uninformed, derogatory, and oppressive language directed toward or harmful to specific communities or individuals.
 - Debatable cases will be discussed by editor(s) and adviser(s) with the writer(s) to be removed or reframed.
- ❖ Be well written, with a clearly stated thesis, logical line of thought and no extraneous content.
- ❖ Undergo revisions cooperatively and in a timely manner by the direction of editors and advisers.
- ❖ Not be used as a means of self-promotion or the promotion of corporations, violence, crime, conspiracy theories, oppression, or injustice.

The Crossword Corner

By CAROL LEE '28



ACROSS

- 1-Knocking noises
- 12-Cooking spray brand
- 15-Minnesota city SW of Minneapolis so named for its fertile soil
- 16-Tempe sch.
- 17-A 1920s endurance fad, often called flagpole sitting
- 18-___ Olas
- 19-Circle segments
- 20-Choreographer Lubovitch
- 21-”___ Thou Now O Soul” (Whitman poem)
- 23-Online marketing metric, for short

- 24-Electoral districts where a particular party or incumbent is highly likely to win, making the outcome virtually certain
- 26-Characters in “Romola” and “The Gondoliers”
- 30-Road goo
- 31-Wings
- 32-What you do usually right before noticing a typo
- 34-”___ Mable” (W.W. I best seller)
- 35-Fan
- 38-Lao-tzu followers
- 40-”Look what ___!”
- 41-Make the

- restaurant regret its buffet pricing
- 43-”And giving ___, up the chimney he rose”
- 44-Opposite of post-
- 45-Memory trace
- 49-”Hmm, I need to think about that ...”
- 52-Before, poetically
- 53-Threefold
- 54-Copier tray abbr.
- 56-”___ Green” (Kermit the Frog song)
- 57-NFL tiebreakers
- 58-A paid message designed to influence public opinion

- ion regarding elections, candidates, legislation, or controversial public issues
- 61-Auction unit
- 62-Asthma sufferer’s relief
- 63-Nav. rank
- 64-Music played as the clergy exit

DOWN

- 1-Meal
- 2-Silents star Renée
- 3-AT&T and Verizon
- 4-Hydrocarbon suffixes
- 5-Pranks, in a way, informally
- 6-Seed covering

- 7-Byes
- 8-Test the strength of, chemically
- 9-”Exodus” hero
- 10-Where you might meet your match
- 11-Sonic consoles
- 12-Some blonds
- 13-To begin with
- 14-Movies not to be missed
- 22-Poetry performance
- 25-Fruity soda brand
- 27-Like horses’ hooves, in dialect
- 28-River island
- 29-What a nearly vertical hill has
- 33-Scorches
- 35-Relaxed phase

- of a heartbeat
- 36-Ralph Kramden’s pal
- 37-Soloists in Bach’s Brandenburg Concerto No. 6
- 39-Suffix with ball
- 42-Stripe through the target on a curling rink
- 46-Land, as a fish
- 47-Singer Grande
- 48-Genetics pioneer Gregor
- 50-Get to the point?
- 51-Diminutive endings
- 55-Tears
- 56-Pressure: Prefix
- 59-DMV document
- 60-Greek X

The Exonian

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

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