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The Exonian



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Exonians Distance Inconsistently

By OTTODDO, JEANNIE EOM and HANSIZHU

A post on the Academy’s official Instagram page last week seemed to show students within six feet of one another. This post, along with a boys’ dorm’s post of unmasked students posing and eating in close proximity, prompted debate among students, parents and faculty members over the enforcement of coronavirus-related rules and guidelines.

The Student Guidebook, which has been revised multiple times, states that students must remain socially-distanced and masked at all times, except when they eat outdoors while six feet apart.

Dean of Students Brooks Moriarty shared his perspective on the photos posted. “It’s not clear to me that students are closer than six feet apart,” he said. “What I can see—masks, outdoors, students engaged in an in-person dorm activity—looks like a nice moment. Students have generally been doing a nice

job with the guidelines. These students pictures may be appropriately distanced. If they were not, I would expect someone in the community to assist with re-positioning”

Dean of Residential Life Carol Cahalane added that adults are working to help students uphold guidelines. “Students are generally observing these standards, and when they miss the mark, students and adults are asked to remind those who stray,” she said. “Faculty and staff are asked to share concerns with one of the deans. If a student repeatedly chooses to violate the health protocols or cannot adhere to them, we are addressing those matters, which can include requiring students to become remote learners.”

Nonetheless, the Instagram posts sparked criticism from students and parents alike. “I realize that these are unprecedented times,” parent Dacia Napier said. “Everyone is having to deal with completely new situations, but consistency is important.” Though individual students may be rule-breakers, she added, social

media posts are a reflection of the Academy.

Student comments in response to Soule Hall’s post referenced white privilege and elitism, citing a lack of proper distancing.

Upper Joe Doe* elaborated on the implications of Soule’s behavior. “COVID-19 has a disproportionately impacted Black and Latinx communities . . . If you don’t socially distance, it’s analogous to saying you don’t care about the lives of BI-POC students. If a Black Exonian and a white Exonian both get serious COVID cases and have to be treated at a public hospital, the white kid is more likely to receive good treatment. It’s not tangentially racist. It’s racist,” they said. “Posting a picture is problematic because it’s an indication that they are celebrating that moment, when there is nothing to be celebrated.”

Upper Liza McMahan agreed. “Soule Hall should work better on advocating a safer environment, not allowing these white boys to do what they want and endangering

Untested Students Quarantined

By DAVID CHEN, EVAN GON-ZALEZ and TUCKER GIBBS

Following the second round of on-campus testing for September arrivals, four students were quarantined for missing their mandated COVID-19 tests. These students were quarantined for four days while awaiting secondary testing.

September arrivals have received two PCR tests since coming on campus, the second time on Wednesday, Sep. 30. Students who missed the testing window were quarantined on the third floor of the Lamont Health and Wellness Center until a negative test result was received.

All students on campus are required to take PCR tests on a rotating basis. October arrivals are being tested once a week for their first two weeks on campus. Back in September, early arrivals were also required to take two tests.

Uppers and seniors’ only requirement now is to take two more tests over the duration of

this term, on dates specified by the Health Center. Because these tests are now planned many weeks into the future, there is no possibility to reschedule a missed test. “Unfortunately, we do not have flexibility with our lab to change the dates of testing or the number of tests administered, so it is imperative that you come for your assigned test as scheduled,” Dean of Student Health and Wellness Johnny Griffith said in an email.

Due to the necessity that students are tested regularly, “we have had to resort to that [quarantine] policy only when students have received multiple reminders and still failed to show up for testing,” Griffith added. Griffith did not provide a medical reason for the quarantine procedure.

Students in quarantine due to missing their PCR tests were quarantined for four to five days on the third floor of the Health Center, despite earlier impressions that quarantine would only be 48 hours. The reasoning provided was that tests took longer to come back due to the large

number of tests administered.

Some of these students felt their quarantine was unnecessary, noting that their likelihood of testing positive did not increase because they missed their tests. “I don’t feel that I should’ve had to quarantine because I didn’t come into close contact with anyone, and I didn’t have any symptoms, but I understand that I should’ve taken my COVID test,” upper KG Buckingham-White said.

During the quarantine period, students were confined to their rooms; they were not allowed to see other students and were escorted to showers. However, they were offered takeout food options such as Front Row Pizza and Los Olas. Students reported that they used their quarantine time to catch up on work and watch Netflix.

For many of the students, the quarantine served as a reminder to follow the coronavirus guidelines closely. “I definitely won’t be missing my COVID test,” Buckingham-White said. “[It was] totally not worth it.”

Mandated Club Times Questioned

By AMY LUM and ANDREA LUO

To accommodate the altered schedule, Director of Student Activities Joanne Lembo assigned meeting blocks for each club. Meeting times factored previous meeting frequencies and locations, as well as limited input from club co-heads and advisers. However, students noted that club meeting times overlap with other appointments, and many do not accommodate students learning remotely in different time zones.

Lembo outlined the meeting requirements in an email to club leadership teams on Sep. 4. Clubs are only permitted to meet during their allotted time slot, most of which are one hour. Additionally, club advisers must be present in all meetings, remote or in-person.

Faculty member Hannah

Lim highlighted the pressure placed on students with scheduling conflicts, along with those in different time zones. “Students, particularly students off-campus who are outside the [Eastern Standard] time zone, [are being] pulled in too many directions with the current schedule,” Lim said. “I’m concerned that the bulk of the burden is being placed on individual students to make difficult choices, on their own, between sleep and building/maintaining connections to PEA.”

The schedule has also posed challenges for many students and club co-heads due to conflicting commitments. “In order to promote equity among all students in different time zones and students playing different sports, we would need to meet at times that aren’t assigned to us on the schedule,” Mock Trial co-head Alicia Go-



Senior Alicia Gopal sits, socially distanced with dorm friends.

Teja Vankireddy/The Exonian

News

» WRITE FOR THE EXONIAN

The Exonian is Phillips Exeter Academy's student newspaper; join us by writing for the Editorial Board, coding or maintaining our website for the Web Board, or maintaining our financial health through the Business Board. Reach out to any member of the Board, including Editor-in-Chief Anne Brandes, for more information.

Distancing, Cont.

others more at risk," she said.

"This has been pretty clear insight into the pattern [of white privilege] that's been pretty obvious in the past, and it's also concerning how that continues to be asserted in so many different respects," upper Zander Galli added. "And now, it's even from a public health perspective, which is sad and not ideal."

With the arrival of underclassmen, the number of students on campus has almost doubled. Some upperclassmen have noticed a more general increase in social distance violations, such as those captured in the posts. However, many students said that they were unable to criticize or call out their peers, citing social pressure and judgment. Some of these students called for more enforcement of social distancing guidelines by administrators.

Senior Ella Sudduth shared her frustration. "[Underclassmen] are able to be in this space because we worked hard [to follow the rules]," Sudduth said. "If we did a bad job, they wouldn't be able to come... now they're ruining it for us."

Galli, however, noted that upperclassmen struggled with guidelines even before new students ar-

rived. "Coming back to school, it was exhausting the first two weeks because I was constantly telling people to put on their masks," he said. "But after the first two weeks, nobody took it seriously. At that point, I thought, 'If it's gonna pass, it's gonna pass anyway. I might as well care a little bit less about [correcting others].'"

Upper Michelle Park, who elected to stay home, sympathized with new students looking to make friends at the beginning of the year. "There are a lot of variables that they're thinking about right now. If I were a prep... I admit that it would be a little difficult for me to abide by social distancing rules, just because I might feel like making friends is more important," she said. "Regardless, I still think it's much more important to socially distance and abide by COVID laws."

Piano Instructor Jung Mi Lee stressed that following rules will allow the student body further opportunities. "I want to see my students soon," she said, "and the only way we are going to be able to do that is if we all follow the rules."

*Name change made to preserve anonymity.

Club Rules Challenged, Cont.

pal said.

Clubs that were given longer meeting times are all scheduled during the same time block, which Model United Nations (MUN) co-head Phil Horrigan believed has created issues for their operation. "Model UN, Debate, Mock Trial and *The Exonian* all overlap, which is incredibly frustrating as those clubs share a lot of members," Horrigan said. "For recruiting preps and other new students, this is equally annoying because they are having to choose which clubs they want to join before they can experience any."

Horrigan noted additional concerns about the overlap of club meetings and sports. "There are several elements of the schedule which preclude certain groups, specifically athletes, from engaging with the largest clubs on campus," he said. "This fact only reinforces the stereotype that athletes don't do clubs because it makes them totally inaccessible."

Students also had various opinions over the decision to give certain clubs longer meeting times. "[It] makes sense.

For example, *The Exonian* is pressured with creating the newspaper for the school. So they obviously need more time to participate. [Robotics Club is] pressured to win the state championship and set world records. So with these large competitions or these large end-goals or projects in mind, these larger clubs are given more time," Robotics Club co-head Vincent Xiao said.

Due to various time zone differences, the new club schedule has also made it harder for international students to attend club meetings. With classes scheduled during the morning and night and clubs sandwiched in between, international students must sacrifice their sleep to attend club meetings. "For Paper Airplanes, I'm actually one of the co-heads, but the meeting is at 1:00p.m., which was 1:00a.m. for me. And also it's on a Saturday, during the weekend, so it's one of the only days when I can sleep early," upper Emma Chen, who is studying remotely, said.

International student and upper Emily Wang proposed

a return to the spring term schedule. "If they had class all during the day like before and not the 8p.m., they could put all the clubs and whatever a little later," Wang said. "Then, you would do school and then wake up again for clubs later at night."

Noting that extracurriculars play a large role in students' lives, Lim voiced concern over the balance that students must find between school and extracurriculars. "I know Exonians pride themselves in their multifaceted passions, but I have a hard time seeing where all the time and energy can come from to be a fully present and engaged student in classes while maintaining a vibrant extracurricular club life," Lim said.

Kirtland Society co-head Charlie Preston called for Lembo to reverse the new club policies. "It shows the lack of trust the administration has in student leaders. Students know how to run their clubs and recognize what their members need, and it's insulting that our administration seems to think otherwise."

Students Elect Upperclassmen Representatives

By OTTODo and TUCKER GIBBS

Student Council (StuCo) announced senior and upper rep election winners last Tuesday. Uppers Shalom Headly, Allison Kim and Bona Yoo were elected upper class representatives, and Ursula Wise, Hannah Lee and Drew Smith were appointed Class President, Class Vice President and Class Treasurer, respectively. To elect these representatives, StuCo employed a new electronic voting process this year.

In previous years, Student Council utilized physical election booths where voters scanned a QR code, signed a ballot and voted on their devices. Due to the pandemic, Student Council switched from in-person voting to an online process.

According to Elections Committee co-head Charlie Preston, the revised process was easier compared to previous years while remaining equally secure. With no paper ballots, however, the Elections Committee and advisors could no longer compare the number of votes casted to the actual number of voters.

Nonetheless, the Elections Committee is confident in the voting systems in place. "I don't see any way that we need to have a margin of error or any other election checks," Pres-

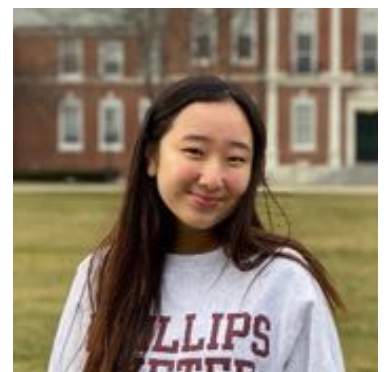
ton said. "We trust our students to not want to meddle with the system, and, if they wanted to, [it] would be pretty difficult."

Additionally, representatives were not required to collect signatures, unlike in previous years. Instead, the Elections Committee held interviews with potential candidates, asking questions ranging from previous leadership experience to plans for the year. The interviews were recorded and posted on Student Council's Canvas site.

Three seniors were and three uppers were elected out of the six seniors and five uppers approved by the committee.

The upper representatives stated that inclusivity, equity and community building are the focus for their tenure. They plan to host in-person events twice a month and collate campus resources for uppers that cover topics like physical and mental health. "We want to make sure that checking up on people is normalized," Yoo said.

Upper Shalom Headly, the only representative who elected to stay home for the fall, elaborated on community bonding from a distance. "It's easy to feel ignored or isolated when everyone else is at school while you're at home," Headley said. "The most important thing for us to do is



make sure that people still feel like Exeter is a community for them to rely on. Loneliness brings a lot of stress, and Exeter gives us enough of that already."

On Oct. 10, senior representatives met to discuss collective initiatives. "We discussed ways to foster anti-racism in our class and encourage our seniors and [postgraduates] to vote in the upcoming presidential

election, if eligible. We want to address the racism BIPOC students and faculty face daily," Lee said.

In addition, some of the representatives are focused on community connectivity. "We want to do virtual competitions, based on fun facts about our grade, and competitions that are in person as well, like scavenger hunts," Senior Class President Ursula Wise said. "I think that that

would just make things more interesting for everyone."

With students in varying places and conditions, "it will be more challenging for class reps to stay connected to classmates this year," Student Council adviser and Dean of Academic Affairs Laura Marshall said. "Students will need to make an effort to reach out to their reps to offer their opinions on different issues."

Exeter Reacts to Presidential Debates

By KAYLEE CHEN, TINA HUANG and ANYATANG

The presidential debate on Sep. 29 and vice presidential debate last Wednesday sparked debate throughout the community as students 18 and older prepare to vote absentee or in-person.

The Academy's Democratic Club held live screenings of both debates. Students watched President Donald Trump and former Vice-President Joe Biden on a projection set up in North Side's Quad, a set-up repeated the following week. News of the screening came from a Facebook Messenger group chat, which kept attendee numbers low.

Attendee and senior Phil Horrigan noted the nature of student comments during the screening.

"Our reactions came in a few different varieties: cringing at Biden being a terrible speaker—although, for someone with a stutter, he is really good—cheering on Chris Wallace for fighting with Trump, and expressing our disbelief at how blindingly incompetent the President of the United States is," Horrigan said. "I think being in-person amplified

these reactions."

Some dorms also held screenings. Upper Coco Lipe watched the Presidential Debate with her dormmates in the Wheelwright common room. "We had a bit of political analysis afterwards, but everyone was incredibly frustrated the entire time because it was hard to tell what either of them were saying," Lipe said. "Trump was interrupting significantly more than Biden."

Senior Meili Hart thought the debate did not serve a clear purpose.

"We got no meaningful clarification on the candidates' respective positions—in part due to Chris Wallace's performance as a moderator," Hart said.

Other students, though, mentioned how the debate changed their views on the candidates. "I was more convinced to support [Biden] because of this debate," Democratic Club co-head and upper Grace Valashinas said. "This was in part because of [Biden's] continual addresses to the American people—looking straight into the camera and appealing to viewers was a great strategy—but also because of Trump's abhorrent performance."

Some students found parts of the debate difficult to watch. "As a queer person of color, when I saw Trump refusing to condemn white supremacists, telling them to 'step back and stand by,' I felt gutted," prep Avery Doe* said.

Other students were less critical of President Donald Trump's refusal to condemn white supremacists. Prep Juno Cowans found Trump's statements on white supremacy "disappointing, but understandable" because "politics is a vicious game." Cowans noted it was "unfortunate because [white supremacy] is definitely wrong."

"An important issue that came to light is the riots and lawlessness in our cities. I feel [Trump] was able to represent that he was going to fight this lawlessness. I don't think that the way he's going to do that is the right way, but it's important to me that it gets done," Cowans added. "I would vote for him over [Biden], who did not specify a good plan about that."

Some classes have also been discussing the debate. In her existentialism class, upper Kitty Coats and her classmates talked about the limitations of sharing political views during a term online. "We used to

spend some time talking about political issues as we settled into class, but we don't really do that on Zoom," Coats said. "It's a very emotional election for many, and [my classmates] said they were mostly talking about it with their friends instead of people in their classes. The school should be more active in communicating with us about the election so we are not thinking about it alone."

For the Vice Presidential Debate, upper Zander Galli believed Vice President Mike Pence and Senator Kamala Harris were more understandable than their running mates. "Policies and stances were much clearer than in the previous debate," Galli said. "We saw Pence call himself 'unapologetically pro-life.'"

"I don't think there's much of a debate among this community whether the current administration should serve for another four years," Galli continued. "There's less of a discussion about the core of the debate and more of a focus on the ridiculous idiosyncrasies, such as the fly that sat on Pence's head."

Prep Matilda Damon talked about how both debates could negatively impact America's youth, recalling a question posed during the Vice Pres-

idential Debate. "An eighth-grader asked something along the lines of, 'If our leaders are fighting, what is that supposed to represent?' Seeing people running for President yelling, bickering and calling each other stupid is really hard, especially for the youth."

Hart noted that debates offer an opportunity to engage in meaningful political discourse. "There's a clear liberal majority on campus," Hart said. "When engaging in these difficult discussions, we should do so with respect and humility, and we should aim to understand other points of view. I do think that some conservative voices are afraid to speak their minds. We should encourage them to speak up and engage in honest civil discourse."

Horrigan, however, took a different stance. "I don't feel bad for conservatives who think that a liberal institution is silencing them," Horrigan said. "If your ideology is based on hatred or the oppression of others, then you should feel worried about sharing those ideologies with others because that ideology lacks the empathetic basis required for civilized discourse."

*Name change made to preserve anonymity.

» MERCY CARBONELL

Read about Faculty of the Week Mercy Carbonell, along with remembrances from friends, 5.

» OLIVER HESS

Read about Senior of the Week Oliver Hess, 4.

» ASSEMBLY

Tomorrow's Assembly speaker will be author Jessica Chiccehitto Hindman.

Dean of the Week: Johnny Griffith



Johnny Griffith smiles outside Jeremiah Smith Hall.

Will Victor/*The Exonian*

By OTTODODO and CELINE GU

In his 14 years at the Academy, Dean of Health and Wellness and English Instructor Johnny Griffith has served in many roles—many of them athletic. He has been a dorm affiliate at Dow House and Browning, a dorm head in Main Street, and an assistant coach and coach of Junior Varsity Girls' Basketball, Varsity Girls' Basketball, Club Basketball and Club Soccer Coach.

Griffith's involvement in coaching at Exeter reflects his own interest in sports. "If you've ever been inside of his classroom, he has decorations of different baseball teams, books about baseballs and physical signed baseballs on his bookshelf," senior Hassane Fiteni said. Griffith also enjoys playing pickleball, running and boating in his free time.

In addition to sports, Griffith hikes frequently. "He just began hiking the 48 4000 footers in New Hampshire. He is up to six so far but hopes to finish under five years," Dean of Academic Affairs Laura Marshall said. Griffith hopes to travel to Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Greece and Ireland, taking his passion for hiking to new terrains.

Though Griffith now considers New England to be his home, he hasn't lost his Texan charm. Upper Matthew Chen described how Texas lives within his accent. "It only comes out on certain syllables, particularly the 'wh' sound in words such as 'when' or 'why,' which come out more like 'hwen' and 'hwhy,'" Chen said.

Griffith is well-known for his elaborate haunted houses every Halloween. According to Marshall, "he begins his planning process in August, and it takes an entire month to set it up. Obsession is really an understatement." This hard work pays off, as many of his close friends recall his annual haunted houses as being some of their fondest memories together.

As an English Instructor, Griffith finds great joy in making connections with students. "My favorite type of conversation is one in which I feel like I'm able to connect with a student's experience and help the make sense of that experience, whether in the form of writing a personal narrative or personal essay about that experience or just figuring out how that experience figures into their overall development as a human being," he said. "I went into education because I love being with students, and I guess some of my favorite memories of being with students is working with them in the classroom as an English teacher but also being with them out on the soccer pitch or the basketball court." Marshall, who met Griffith at the

Wolfeboro Camp School, noted that Griffith cared for teenagers, particularly those who struggled, long before he arrived at Exeter.

Senior Hassane Fiteni commented on Griffith's impact as an instructor. "When I first met him, he came off as very knowledgeable, very intelligent as many [at] Exeter are," Fiteni said. "He balances intelligence, kindness and helpfulness. He cares for his students like they are his children but treats them with the respect of adults."

Fiteni elaborated on the specific ways Griffith has helped him grow. "One part of his Harkness rubric is non-verbal participation. I learned that inviting others to speak is just as important as being confident in my own words," Fiteni said.

Beyond English, Fiteni has held many prolonged conversations with Griffith. "When I conferenced my papers with him, I got to talk to him about other things as well. He started telling me about the history of the Academy and about changes the English Department has undergone. He gave me a more holistic appreciation for Exeter," Fiteni said.

Griffith has even made an impact during the community's virtual spring. "During our spring term online, Mr. Griffith gave us opportunities to talk about racial violence and global pandemics and offered our English class as a safe discussion space," senior Hannah Lee said.

Fiteni also noticed Griffith's eagerness for social change. "During the Black Lives Matter protests, Mr. Griffith talked to us about anti-Black and anti-Asian racism. When I talked to him about social justice, I could tell that he was well-read and knowledgeable," Fiteni said. "He is one of the more 'woke' English teachers, so to speak."

This year, Griffith has stepped into a new administrative position. "I have enjoyed being part of a team working to find solutions and meet the complicated demands of all the new challenges we're facing," he said. "Every hour of every day is a little different. There's an element of unpredictability to the work that is both interesting and exhausting. But mostly interesting."

Still, his focus on student lives remains ever-present. "My best day would be a day when I feel like I am able to make a positive impact on behalf of at least one student in need of support or assistance while also taking care of myself by getting outside for a hike or a game of tennis," Griffith said. "There would also be a place in there to spend some time with my family."

"Before Exeter, I tried to imagine what the teachers would be like—were they the kind that I would remember as life-changing?" Fiteni said. "Mr. Griffith is definitely one of those teachers for me. When I think about legends in the English Department, Mr. Griffith definitely stands among them."

Dorms Welcome New Residents on Move-In Day

By ANNA TRAN and MOKSHA AKIL

After a month of heavy anticipation, underclassmen arrived onto campus last week and were welcomed with pleasure by the uppers and seniors.

Dorm faculty and proctors organized activities for the newcomers to get them acclimated to the new environment. "We wanted to make them feel really welcome and quickly at home," Science Instructor and Gould House dorm head Katherine Hernandez said.

Leading up to their arrival on campus, dorm faculty and students prepared extensively for the move-in. "We were in touch with them regularly throughout the days and weeks leading up to their arrival on campus, making sure to answer all questions that they had," Math Instructor and Knight House dorm head David Huoppi said.

Activities spanned multiple days for both waves of arrivals, according to Hernandez. "Our proctors ran an open Zoom room on Thursday evening, where our

students arriving in October could drop by to ask questions about what to pack, what to leave behind and what to expect," she said. "Many of the uppers and seniors worked together to put together arrangements of sunflowers and small treats to be placed on everyone's desk. We are trying to bring some light and joy to everyone's room—those already here and those just arriving."

Hernandez further explained how the proctors and dorm faculty welcomed the incomers, from helping them move their luggage to organizing in-person events. "We also ran two dorm events on Sunday—a mid-afternoon round of icebreakers over some apple cider doughnuts and an evening fire pit complete with s'mores and hot chocolate," she continued.

While each dorm had their own activities, most of the preps went on a tour of the campus led by their proctors. "[This was a] great [opportunity] for me to meet new people who weren't in my grade," prep Sophia Lala said.

Prep William Lu went into further detail about his day. "For our dorm bonding activity, we played

a trivia game about school, and we did a maze game of sorts," he said. "For non-organized activities, we hung out in the common room, played ping pong [and] went to meals together."

Dorm bonding was an important theme of the day, and many preps felt welcomed due to this emphasis. However, many of them had already connected online and recognized each other immediately on campus. "I definitely felt very welcome," Lala said. "I had already been connected to quite a few preps, both day students and boarders, and all of them were extremely inclusive."

Prep Christopher Serrao enjoyed how the upperclassmen in his dorm made an effort to connect with the lowerclassmen. "From the first moment I arrived, I felt at home. The boys in Peabody were friendly and helped me carry my bags to my room" he said. "They [also] decided to eat lunch with all the preps."

Huoppi agreed with Serrao on how the upperclassmen were delighted to meet the preps and welcome the lowers back onto cam-

pus. "All of the uppers and seniors were very excited to meet them, welcome them, get to know them, answer questions and show them around campus," Huoppi said.

Some returning students found the arrival on campus rather jarring. Lower day student Clara Gulick, having to spend most of her time outdoors, commented on the new look and atmosphere of campus. "[With] all the buildings being off limits, [campus] feels really funny," she said. "[Mostly] being on campus and not going to classes."

Lower Sinna Oumer agreed that the feeling of campus wasn't the same. "It was all a bit unfamiliar and strange," she said. "It just felt a little bit off, but I was like, 'I guess this is it now.'"

She continued with how it was difficult to recognize everyone with their masks on, and depicted the disparities between students' arrival on campus this year and last year. "When I first came to campus last year, there was all this hugging, hanging out, which really was not present this time around. It felt a lot more muted, and maybe a part

of that was because the uppers and seniors came back before we did. It felt sad, a little bit, like this wasn't the way it was supposed to go."

In regards to the transition for preps and lowers to the Exeter campus and atmosphere, while the preps are thoroughly enjoying being on campus, some lowers are finding the change a bit disorienting, especially in comparison to their own prep year arrival. Oumer talked about how back at home, she "built [her] routines around social interaction with [her] family [and] how many chores [she] have to do around the house," and how she had grown accustomed and comfortable to that work schedule. Slowly warming up to the new Exeter environment, she said, "I feel like it's taken me the week, but I feel like I have it back on track."

Even though underclassmen arrived on campus a month later, Serrao explained how Exeter has helped the new stage in his life begin. "I am really enjoying Exeter so far. The academics are challenging, the people are amazing, and the opportunities are endless. It truly has surpassed my expectations."

Senior of the Week: Oliver Hess



Senior Oliver Hess sits in his dorm room.

Teja Vankireddy/*The Exonian*

By JEANNIE EOM and CLARK WU

Oliver Hess, born and raised in St. Petersburg, Florida, felt that the schooling system there was not sufficiently challenging. “I knew that Exeter would afford me with significantly more academic challenges and more diversity in clubs, in a better culture than the school I used to go to,” he said. “That was the primary reason driving me. I did very well at my old school, but I just didn’t think it was enough.” Hess decided to transfer into the Academy as a new lower.

“A big fish in a little pond,” described Maggie Wainwright, now one of Hess’s close friends.

As Wainwright recalled, Hess, “in his own words, wanted to relocate to a much roomier pond... [in] recognition of his own abilities and the desire to both challenge himself and spend time with brilliant people to be able to learn from his peers and teachers.” Hess’ penchant for self-exploration, Wainwright said, is always evident in their interactions. It is a quality she observes with admiration as Hess continues his journey of discovery.

Looking back today, Hess believes he “adjusted pretty well.” “A lot of cliques were already formed and people had already settled themselves into their dorms,” Hess said “I went in knowing only one person—Adam [Tuchler]—but in the end, it turned out great.”

Quickly, Hess found himself immersed in Exeter’s theater program. *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* was

Hess’ first theatre show at the Academy. Unlike theatre at his previous school, Hess felt that “competition immediately went out the window at Exeter.” “I didn’t feel like I was competing for the role; the whole cast was there because they truly enjoyed theatre,” he recalled.

The final showing coincided with the grand opening of Goel Theatre, and the event “was a real blast,” Hess said. “It brought the whole cast and crew together.”

While his integration in the theatre community went seeming well, Hess’ first DRAMAT experience went embarrassingly. Wainwright cast him in a “risqué” play, as an unsuspecting husband sharing dinner with his wife and high school sweetheart. “The show was really naughty, but we performed it on parent’s weekend. The audience was entirely grandparents,” Wainwright said. “It was so beautifully painful because none of the sex jokes landed, and it was crickets for half an hour.”

“Oliver is an exceptional actor and performer. His obvious talents are only equaled by his humility and modesty,” Theatre Instructor Rob Richards said. “It is never easy to find a young actor who can pull off playing someone considerably older, but Oliver did it with remarkable and authentic grace. His maturity and willingness to apply himself and take considerable risks is inspiring. Thankfully, and perhaps most impressive, is his natural ability to collaborate.”

In the upper year of the theatre experience, Hess took on two pro-

ductions, allowing him to assume a leadership position and “show newer students the ropes.” “The community did not change; the people are what make theatre what it is,” he said.

Indeed, though Hess’ experience with *The Secret Garden* was “the most chaotic possible,” he loved his role of Archibald Craven—not only for the depth and dimensionality of his character but the cast, “a group of people who I wouldn’t trade for anything.”

“I was privileged to share the stage with the genuine, soulful, and elegant actor and singer that Oliver is,” senior Yona Kruger, an actress in *The Secret Garden*, said. “Whether it be drinking tea in the music building, running around the theater, or talking about our weird English teachers Oliver is always someone I can depend on.”

Acting allowed Hess to take the weights of Exeter off his shoulders for a while. “Whenever I walked into the black box, I was either memorizing my lines, or I was being a different character. I didn’t think about anything else except for what was going on onstage,” he said. “It was nothing but a cathartic experience.”

“He can commit to his character and make a weird alcoholic, mid-forties, hunchback dad relatable to the average Exonian,” Wainwright said, admiring Hess’ exploration of characters.

Hess’ love of theatre extends into his Harkness experience as well. “I think a little bit of every Harkness

discussion is like acting. You could be pretending like you’ve done the reading, or you might articulate your point in a kind of overly dramatic way that you know your teacher will eat up and write your name down,” he said. “I guess theatre influences how I conduct myself elsewhere.”

“Oliver is an amazing actor, singer, classmate and friend,” senior Addie Luce, who met Hess in her lower fall English class, said. “I could feel his warmth radiate to all of those around him. He truly brightens up any space he is in with his laugh and sarcastic remarks.”

Hess’ affinity for the arts extends beyond theater into a cappella, Concert Choir and Gli Scalatori. Exeter’s serenades, a highlight of Hess’ many a cappella endeavors, are memories he will cherish long after graduation. “For people in the dorms, it’s just kind of a fun, spontaneous thing that they might not think about afterwards,” he said. “But for me, it’s just fun walking around in the freezing cold singing the same song 18 times a night and doing the same the next night.”

Senior Stephen McNulty, fellow singer and actor, held Hess’ presence during Exeter rehearsals dear. “Oliver (and company!) would turn off the lights and blast out music really loudly in Powell Hall,” he said. “It’s those spontaneous moments he creates that drive communities together, and I think everyone recognizes the role he plays in that.”

“Oliver and I have worked together in two a cappella groups for

three years now,” senior and a cappella singer Emilio Abelmann said. “He always manages to put a smile on my face, and now, as a co-head, his leadership is incredible.”

Wainwright found that during Hess’ time at Exeter, he grew to “let go of expectations that aren’t useful to him.” In his upper year, he decided to act in the winter musical rather than continuing his career in Varsity Swimming. “It was a big choice for him and one I think he’s really happy to have made,” Wainwright said.

“This year, he’s taking a load of interesting history and philosophy courses that he is really passionate about and wants to pursue as an adult,” Wainwright added. “I think that he has always known what he loves and that’s wonderful. More and more, he’s prioritizing what he loves and not buying into the toxic expectations at Exeter that exist, instead forging his own path.”

Orion Bloomfield ‘20 highlighted Hess’ “incredible protagonist vibes.” “He is a charisma magnet, and he masters the dichotomy of humble and accomplished,” Bloomfield said. “I hope I can stay close with Oliver Papa for a long while.”

Richards had similarly high praise. “He will remain a standout for me in my 27 years of directing plays here at the Academy.”

“There are some fish that cannot be caught. It’s not that they are faster or stronger than other fish, they’re just touched by something extra.”

- Ed Bloom, young, from *Big Fish*

Faculty of the Week: Mercy Carbonell

By OTTOD and LINAHUANG

Mercy Carbonell's perfect day starts with waking up without needing to be anywhere, hearing the breathing of her loved ones, and seeing Justice of every kind being served.

Carbonell fights for this day—"a day where all have access to healthcare, food, education and reparations to what each of us needs in our own ways, a day where Black people, queer people, people with disabilities and people living on the street will not have to live in fear of being killed, a day where Indigenous people will be able to have their land back and a day where marginalized communities will receive the dignity of their authentic beings," she explained.

"(On that day), the earth will not be burning, the elderly will rise to laughter with their loved ones, who will come through the door with flowers and music and lean down to offer a kiss on their foreheads. On that day, children in NICU wards will feel the touch of their mothers' hands on their backs and know that they will live and grow strong even before they have language to speak about it," she continued.

"Somewhere in a place I have never known, someone is turning to someone they have been furious with for centuries, and they are engaged in reconciliation and listening to one another's pain/grief/infinite joy/laughter," she said.

"In this world, the people I love and care for are not in pain, are able to work to do what they love or move freely and will feel a new state of contentment and enthusiasm and purpose. In this world, I can visit the people I miss dearly, walk or bike or hike in sunlight or even rain, swim or float in an ocean, write, make art, make meals from food grown from gardens, make music and sit with a slow evening ahead, discussing of a new world," Carbonell said.

Carbonell was a "young queer/sort of out white feminist maybe socialist/woman athlete-artist maybe scholar" in college in the late 80's and 90's, where she studied Studio Art. "I gravitated towards those who were outspoken, willing to name injustice, creating Art in their own ways, exploring the crossing of genres, unsilencing what had been silenced," she said. "I spent hours in the Printmaking Studio creating etchings that were a reclamation of language used in violence against women."

Despite her interest in visual art, she ended up majoring in English. "I was in love with words: the grace of rhetoric; the elegant and radical composition of a sentence; the ambiguity of thought and ideas; the way a lasting question can ground us and keep us in motion."

In 1993, Carbonell was a line cook and a prep chef when she was offered a job as an intern at Exeter. "That seemed at the time like gold. I could make Art, teach Rosario Morales & Audre Lorde & Adrienne Rich & Cherrie Moraga & Gloria Anzaldua, encourage students

to find their personal voice as writers, coach the sports I had always loved, drive 10 minutes to the ocean at 6am, leap in, driveback, train on the courts & have 'free' food and maybe make a life. Maybe," she said.

At Exeter, she has worn many hats: an English teacher; a Field Hockey, Squash and Lacrosse coach, all of which she was recruited for in college; a dedicated past and present committee member for MLK day and Meditation, Academic Advising, Hidden Culture & Curriculum and Learning About Learning; an occasional artist for the Lamont Gallery; and a speaker who shares her quest to make the world a better place.

In this venture, Carbonell has broken many traditions. At the end of a year of coaching the field hockey team, Carbonell always grants the MVP award to the entire team. "This is a clear lesson that she instills in players and students," Mathematics Instructor and former student Diana Davis said.

"I have always believed in the creation of a 'team'—cohorts, coalitions, teams for competition on playing fields, communities where listening/foregrounding/justice is central, the creating & the sharing of meals. I have always believed that a life in the Arts is what will heal, nurture, create and allow for justice. I believe in reconciliation, listening, speaking truth," Carbonell said.

Six questions frame her drive for equity: "Who Speaks? Who listens? Whose voices are silenced? Whose voices are legitimized? What systems/structures are in place that do not allow for Justice? How can we envision education for liberation & justice?"

If you have had any correspondence with Carbonell, you'll know that questions are at the center of her approach to teaching. (And tides!) Senior Isa Matsubayashi noticed this. "Even if somebody asks a 'not-so-amazing question,' she leans into the table, urging them, Matsubayashi said. "'Tell me more,' she would say. I believe that this is because she doesn't believe in 'not-so-amazing questions.'"

With endless questions steering her, Carbonell opens spaces of listening, discourse, learning and unlearning. "I think of Listening, of carefully listening, of the way confusion opens conversation, of the way half truths uttered even with hesitation are small offerings that open meaning and new questions for all to hear, to witness and to receive," Carbonell said.

In addition to exploring new ideas, recovering or unlearning are critical aspects of Carbonell's pedagogy. "Some teachers watch children, so small and wild, growing up and they create landscapes their students can trust. Sometimes, even though I love to witness students swinging into consciousness, I want to help my students recover what they were like when they were that small, that wild," Carbonell said. "I believe in meeting students where they are."

lems and engages with passion.

"She is open about her sexuality and she was really the first person I met that made me think that that could also be a possibility for me," senior Sophie Turer said. "I know her life hasn't been easy, but if I could be even a fraction of the person she is I would be happy. There have been times where I've gone to her feeling entirely hopeless and she has comforted me and motivated me more than anyone else really could."

"Ms. Carbonell's friendship has been a backbone for so many faculty at Exeter through the years. Her radical queerness has been a safe haven for students and adults alike seeking a kindred spirit," a former faculty member said.

Carbonell's living and working spaces also reflect her generous spirit. "You're immediately assaulted with bright colors, her students' art projects, books, rubber ducks, and a Harkness table that is written and drawn on with all of her students' signatures, quotes, and drawings. Her house is very much the same. It is an organized chaos, and it is wonderful," Shetreet said.

Davis hopes to one day do the same. "Over the years, I have collected lots of interesting relics and inspiring objects, which I am looking forward to putting in my own classroom (if COVID ends and I ever actually teach out of one); this is inspired by Ms. Carbonell," she said.

Carbonell's carefully cultivated chaotic classroom has been a home for Turer. "Maybe it's just the rosy glaze of memory, but it felt like an escape from our lives into her world of peace and books. I feel like everywhere she goes she carries her other realm with her. Her space where we are all free to dream and think, without the cuffs of reality or judgment," she said.

The first time English Instructor Willie Perdomo walked into Carbonell's classroom, he recalled seeing a pair of boxing gloves. "That's when I realized that my Phillips Hall neighbor is a fighter in the most sublime sense of the word."

"Her endless labor of love, often against the currents that be, has opened and continues to open space for those of us who are not historically the neatest fit at Exeter," Dorm Affiliate and MLK Committee member Derin Korman said. "Knowing that she has been doing this work for twenty-five years and counting, I wouldn't dare to imagine a PEA without Ms. Carbonell."

Carbonell's extensive impact on those around her may simply be a product of her curiosity. "I am drawn to what is meaningful," she said. "I am curious about how others make, feel, create experience meaning no matter where I am. I am drawn to the unknown. I am drawn to people who have a spiritual depth, a soulful way of being in the world, who ask questions & are vulnerable, are creative and from whom I can learn new ways of being."

While instilling curiosity and elevating others, Carbonell remembers those who have supported her the whole way. "The loss of Rev. Heidi Heath and Lauren O'Neal weigh on me every day. Dear friends, comrades in queering life, I miss them every day in my professional realm."

"Her love for the world and for people overflows. Her moral center is unwaveringly clear. And her kind insights into the complexity of experiences that make up Exeter cast everything into light," Religion Department Chair Hannah Hofheinz said.

"Ms. Carbonell embodies the human struggle to be free," Perdomo said. "She understands that struggle and progress are not mutually exclusive. Her level of resistance doesn't fall for the superficial trend toward justice and correction; hers is a lifelong battle for liberation and equality."

REMEMBRANCES FOR CARBONELL

"One of Mercy's great gifts is her capacity to be present... to listen deeply, to hear insights connected to you that aren't even echoes yet in your own spirit, but somehow, through love and patience, Mercy recognizes them and has a way of sharing her responses with you that opens you up to possibility, hope, and passion. You want to care when you are around her because she cares so much. I have walked away from an in-person conversation (on the beach or while walking with her beloved Scout) and have felt empowered to believe that I can make a difference. That my life matters, that your life matters and together we can bring about change that honors our dignity, creativity, differences, and energy. And somehow in the midst of all the ways we intersect with each other, we can experience the Unity of our Uniqueness as sacred."

-Jamie Hamilton

inspiring poetry about the importance of teamwork or highlighting the strengths and achievements of a particular player on the team, leaving the poems in our po boxes to busy us through our days and toward the afternoon's match. With Carbs as coach, you always had the sense that you were part of something bigger than just a meeting. She handed me her Brown Alumni Magazine. On the cover was playwright Paula Vogel who at the time was a teacher at Brown. Ms. Carbonell looked at me and said she thought I should apply to Brown and work with Paula Vogel. I did a lot of theater at Exeter, but I hadn't thought about becoming a playwright. I also hadn't really decided if I wanted to apply to Brown. She saw something in me that I hadn't fully connected yet. Fast forward 17 years from that moment and I am a playwright and TV writer who went to Brown and took a class with Paula Vogel...and still loves banana bread. I have Ms. Carbonell to thank for that."

-Ms. Carbonell has taught me to cherish my imagination, break loose from boundaries or norms, and approach my passions with the love that birthed them." - Osiris Russell-Delano '21

"Mercy Carbonell is a gem and has been one of the most formidable allies and agents for justice that I have ever met. She champions her students and friends with life giving words and protects like the mother of all bears. Her spirit is both rooted in truth and limitless as the air. That has been my experience of her and the impact it has had on me. I believe God sees me, with power and grace. I believe she does this for pupils passing through her classes, discovering themselves through her gently firm nudges. Mercy breathes life. I love her."

- Toyin Augustus

"As everyone knows, the pandemic forced schooling online in the spring. Zoom became the forefront of many movements for change at Ex-

eter, giving a voice to students who may have felt they were without one. I have been able to embrace more of who I am, including the parts I'd always been apprehensive about, because I knew that if I fell somebody would always be there to catch me and if I was struggling to fully "stand tall" there'd be somebody to bolster me as well as accept the full version of me. She encouraged me to hone in on and expand my empathy which has reignited the way that I think and interact with myself, others, and the world around me."

- Margaret Norsworthy-Edghill

I still think the greatest impact was having her as a role model and mentor while I was a student. There were so few out faculty back then and so few out students, that we really leaned on each other in the mid-90s. Homophobia and discrimination was blatant on campus and she was a vocal fighter against that.

- Alex Myers

Ms. Carbonell has relentless energy. She is unwaveringly focused on social justice, in all its forms, and on centering student experiences and voices. This permeates every area of her work. She's committed to asking the right questions as a way forward. She's also deeply creative, and she has what I like to think of as the poet's or artist's associative mind.

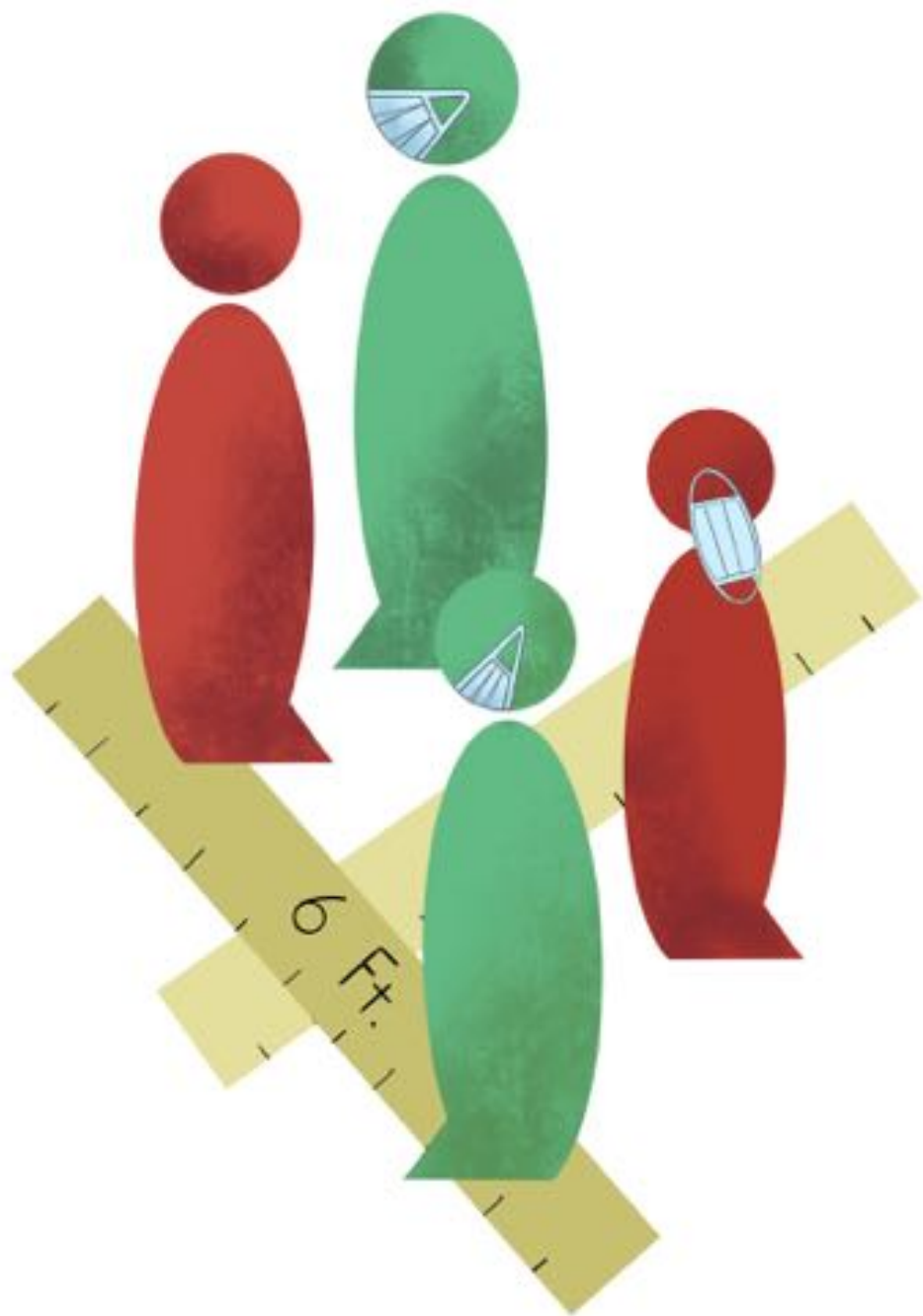
- Wei-Ling Woo



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Preps: Not the (Whole) Problem



Daniel Cui / *The Exonian*

By JEANNIE EOM '22

Generally put, people are not following our social distancing protocols. For some unfortunate reason, it has become trendy to ignore the rules, with social media being flooded each day with photos of people hugging, putting their faces together or physically making contact in one form or another.

Whether it is done for inten-

tional or unintentional purposes, it is difficult to excuse the mistakes that contribute to a public health crisis. On Oct. 13, 77 new coronavirus cases were reported in New Hampshire, 15 of whom were minors. This is yet another uptick in New Hampshire's total—slowly but surely approaching ten thousand cases.

Close contact has become more normalized: not just outdoors, but in indoor spaces as

well. It is evident that initial nervousness about the virus has dissipated on campus. Designated bathroom times have gone out the window, and the intermingling of various dorm units has become more noticeable. The symptom checker each night is performed without care, and the sanitizing spray remains full and untouched on the bathroom vanity.

Blame for rule-breaking has gone towards the underclass-

men, particularly preps. Often, I hear upperclassmen claim, "Preps are never following the rules; they have their masks off and do not social distance at all." Some underclassmen have been less sensitive to the rules, but I wholeheartedly disagree with the notion that underclassmen are more reckless and uncaring towards the community's safety.

I arrived on campus on Sep. 8, a day before the official return of the upperclassmen students. Tottering in the jolty car ride onto campus, I was double-masked under a KF-94, drawn from the 190 masks I had packed in my luggage. My palms were sweaty under rubber gloves—on for over twenty hours. And my glasses never left my face, despite their troublesome presence during naps.

Much of this nervousness was replicated on campus. Students were more than six feet apart—granted, the number of people was significantly fewer than there are now—and a sense of distress ensued any time someone accidentally broke the rules. When the first wave of students arrived the next day, the atmosphere remained similar. Students passed each other, curving, as if there were a ten-foot bubble around each person. You'd be hard pressed, to say the least, to see this scene now, particularly among underclassmen.

Why? It is not because underclassmen are inherently immature. They are not so unwise that they do not realize the potential consequences of their actions. However, the impression of danger has been weakly reflected since their arrival in October. Among other reasons, the impression of upperclassmen, myself included, has been partly responsible for this false perception. The positive outcome of a strict month allowed for a lax atmosphere to emerge in October. We did not relay to the underclassmen the raw unease that serves as a backbone of sensi-

tive, conscientious behavior.

However, we are not the only ones responsible for this false sense of invincibility. The present situation was able to arise due to flawed representation of the Academy on its official media.

Anyone following the @PhillipsExeter Instagram account has seen that students are not socially distancing at six feet—the most basic of the Academy's new rules. There was an additional post made by Soule Hall that photographed upwards of thirty unmasked boys not sufficiently distanced—some were physically touching. The post was uploaded last week, and it remains on the account. It persists despite a thread in the comment section, supported by a number of people, that pushed back against the negative impression the post gives.

Dorm communities showcasing these violations publicly is more than a brazen violation of our new community norms: it is also an indication of entitlement and of the leverage that particular demographics have over minority communities when it comes to accessing medical care. Moreover, it implicitly permits a continuation of rule breaking.

And there has been both a lack of reinforcement and accountability in response to these actions.

It is imperative that all members of this community understand that pointing an accusatory finger at underclassmen, at preps, is neither a thoughtful reflection nor a practical method to solve the problem. I do believe that preps and lowers have disproportionately broken the Academy rules, enough to create a generalization that "underclassmen are never following the rules." However, understand that the underclassmen's actions come from somewhere. They are an unfortunate byproduct of a broader atmosphere around safety norms, stemming from the rest of the community as well.

Trump and Trauma

By OTTO DO '22

President Donald Trump's actions have engulfed the United States in an era of inequity and injustice. Simply put, America deserves a better President. But why is Trump who he is?

Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man, by niece Mary Trump, explores the multigenerational greed and expectations that have worked to condition the current commander-in-chief for this moment. It poses quite a few questions worth unpacking. For instance, we know that Trump has witnessed and suffered a great deal of childhood abuse, but did that push him towards what most at Exeter would consider "evil?" Does his upbringing justify—or, that failing, explain—his choices and behavior as President of the United States so many years later?

Fred Trump Sr., the President's father, sits at the center of this saga. Fred Sr. had near-impossible expectations for his eldest son, Fred Jr. The patriarch pitted the President—the middle child—against his brother. President Trump, who is seven years younger than his late brother, "had plenty of time to learn from watching Fred humiliate" his brother, his niece writes, and "the lesson he learned, at its simplest, was that it was wrong to be like Freddy: Fred [Sr.] didn't respect his oldest son, so neither would Donald."

Mary Trump says that their fa-

ther, a New York City real estate mogul, "destroyed" Donald by stunting his "ability to develop and experience the entire spectrum of human emotion... By limiting Donald's access to his own feelings and rendering many of them unacceptable, Fred perverted his son's perception of the world and damaged his ability to live in it," she writes.

However, Fred Sr.'s expectations were more than lofty. "Softness was unthinkable," Mary says. Whenever Fred Jr. apologized for any errors, his father grew furious. "Fred [Sr.] wanted his oldest son to be a 'killer.'" While not meant to be interpreted literally, per se, the "killer" attitude that Fred Sr. tried to instill in his sons explains President Trump's unapologetic and aggressive demeanor.

When Fred Jr. passed away from illness stemming from his chronic alcoholism in 1981, their father turned to Donald, and "when things turned south in the late 1980s, Fred [Sr.] could no longer separate himself from his son's brutal ineptitude; the father had no choice but to stay invested," Mary writes.

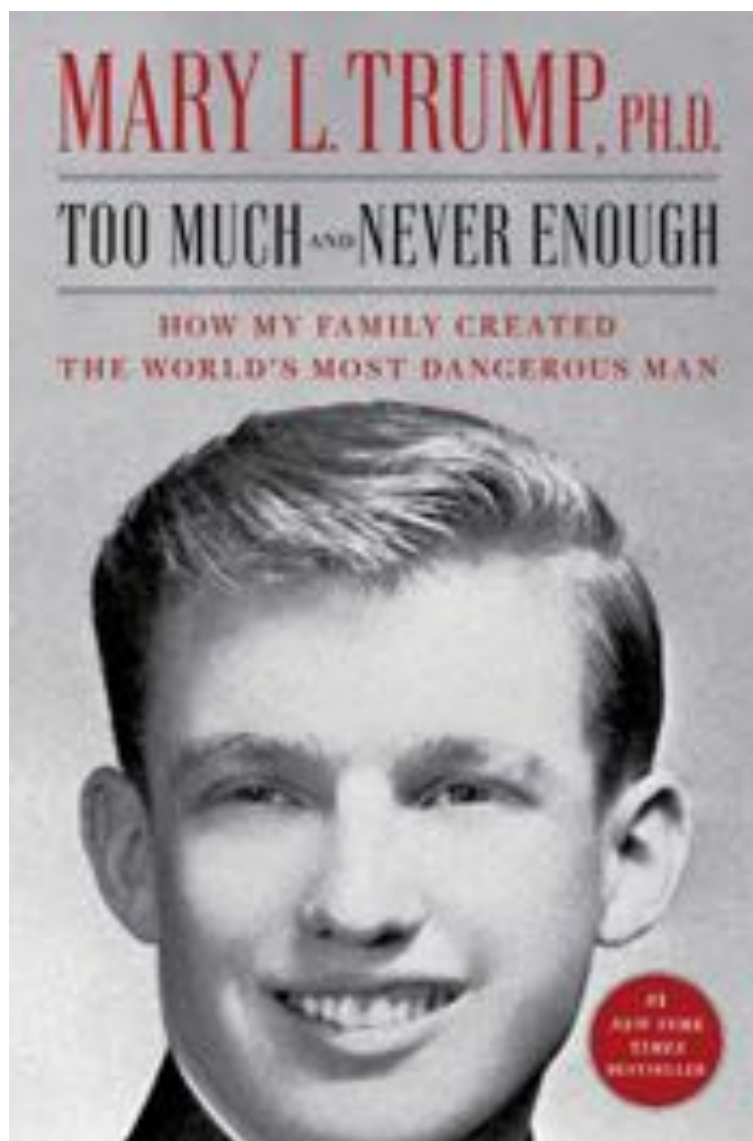
According to M. Trump, who has a degree in psychology, Fred Sr.'s cutthroat parenting cultivated Donald's narcissism. "This is far beyond garden-variety narcissism," she says. "Donald is not simply weak, his ego is a fragile thing that must be bolstered every moment because he knows deep down that he is nothing of what he claims to be."

In short, Mary Trump persuasively argues that President Donald Trump is a product of his childhood trauma—and that the effects of that trauma have permeated throughout the country during his presidency.

So, how much does this matter? Well, we are all shaped by two things—circumstance and choice. The former we have no control over, but the latter, although not entirely separate from the former, is within our reign of control. When we learn about the impact of our actions, we can no longer blame circumstance. The ball enters our court.

See, justice does not have a one-step, simple, easy how-to guide; its long arc is a continuous effort. The same is true of compassion, of empathy and of just about every other virtue. They have to be cultivated over long periods of time. But watch Trump's progress—after three whole years in the Presidency—his words and actions speak loudly.

In one of the gravest worldwide emergencies in decades, President Trump's administration has been thoroughly dishonest and has refused to help those suffering most during the pandemic. He has gone so far as to reject the aid of others. When China offered supplies and insight, for example, senior Trump administration trade official Peter Navarro said that "what we don't need is some kind of propaganda exercise during a crisis that the actions of the Chinese Commu-



Google

nist Party have made far more serious than it otherwise would have been." Anyone trained in Trumpian rhetoric knows exactly what's going on there—Trump's administration cares more about its own political image than the lives of Americans.

But that's not the most startling demonstration of his callousness. When asked to comment about the United States' lofty death toll, President Trump responded, "They are dying, that's true. And you have—it is

what it is." When we should be turning to the White House for wisdom, he tells us that "it is what it is" and raves about ingesting magical drugs. The joke is on us.

"The world's most dangerous man" has lived through years of trauma, and so I have sympathy for him, but I do not excuse his behavior. Trump is not an evil man because his father made him that way. He is an evil man because he refuses to take a single step towards change.

When Trends Aren't Enough

By ARHON STRAUSS '23

Social media has become quite the incredible tool—we use it to spread information, news and messages about everything from memes to pressing global issues. Environmental activism, Black Lives Matter and #MeToo have all been spread like wildfire across Facebook and Instagram, among other apps. But for all the good that social media has done to bring about awareness, has it really brought about change?

The answer to this question is complicated; on social media, there is about as much misinformation being spread as there is truth. Yet, this is not what I want to talk about now. Instead, let's focus on what it means when our global issues become hashtags and trends—how we as society have lost the ability to act on any one issue because our feeds and our stories are constantly pushing us to move on to the next “big issue.” The constant cycle of rapidly changing hashtags, challenges and trends has made us inept, too erratic to make any

meaningful change.

A great example of this is with global warming. Every day, thousands of people post about how this is a major issue, about how we need to act now, about how we only have twelve years—on and on and on. Many of these people, however, do nothing other than post on their stories before moving on to the next “big issue.” We reward lip service to the cause of the day.

This, in turn, has fostered an online environment where people, particularly young adults and teenagers, use social media as a way to get out of doing something meaningful. They could go to their local legislators, attend rallies or even do community service. But they don't. Because they've posted, they're able move on to the next issue without having actually done anything to help solve the previous one. Thus, a cycle is born where real issues are treated as trends to show who is “progressive” and “hip.” In the end, nothing is gained other than the temporary satisfaction of those

who perpetuate the cycle.

This is not to say that social media hasn't been used effectively to bring about change in the past. The #MeToo movement and Black Lives Matter have both been amplified via social media and the Internet at-large. Social media allowed people to connect, tell their stories and put pressure on different organizations to enact real change as higher and higher-ranking officials were called out for their inappropriate actions.

It also set the stage for massive protests and greatly aided in organizing those already engaged in activism. The Women's March, for instance, could never have happened without social media platforms spreading word practically overnight. Black Lives Matter has also been impacted by social media, in both application and effectiveness. I'm sure these are only a couple of many more examples where social media brought people en masse into “real world” activism.

So, it is clear that social me-

dia has been useful in some cases yet ineffective in others. Now, this begs the question about what separates the issues it has helped versus those where it has been ineffectual?

To answer this, we need to look at the context. I think that the primary difference is that movements like #MeToo and Black Lives Matter largely sprang up in response to specific incidents—for instance, the death of George Floyd. There is a short-term goal (along with long-term goals, of course)—justice for George Floyd or Breonna Taylor, for instance—and that allows movements to be organized relatively quickly. Whether it be people protesting a government, a company or even person, it always depends on people showing up. And it's simply easier to show up in response to a headline that underscores a deeper problem.

But with things like climate change, deforestation and ongoing humanitarian crises, there is no short-term action nor attention-grabbing headline. One

effective policy reform can take years to come to fruition. Now, this is not to say that nothing short-term can be done to fight climate change or that the other issues I have mentioned can be solved with just short-term solutions—that would be absurd. Rather, I am trying to say that some causes more strongly benefit from the short-term news cycle. These tend to be the ones that are most ready to point to a clear immediate demand. Justice for George. Justice for Breonna. The nature of some movements allow them to fit into the trend culture that dominates social media platforms today. They are able to break past and be more than tools for simple information spreading.

Social media has been the driving force behind many influential movements in the modern age. Yet, for all the good it has done, it has trivialized certain issues by making them into trends. On top of that, it prevents us from keeping sustained attention on long-range problems. This not only demeans their importance but also leads to inaction. On its own, social media won't save us. It can only spread information, unless we show up and do the work.

A Call for New Rules

By MICHAEL POPIK '22

This article was first published on The Exonian's website during the spring term. Disclaimer: The author has not used any illicit substances and does not judge those who may use drugs or alcohol.

Amid the flurry of emails sent to students in past weeks, Dean Brooks Moriarty sent a form asking Exonians to list the belongings they would like sent home. As the term progresses, students will expect whatever objects they included on this form to be mailed to them. Therein lies the problem—administrators and employees will have unlimited access to students' dorm rooms and perhaps find drugs, alcohol and other prohibited substances. The Community Conduct Committee may be involved. In allowing unlimited access, Exeter must consider its own hypocrisy.

For those who have not fully read it, Moriarty's email states, “If you are concerned about something you've left in your room that is not allowed, we will offer non-disciplinary responses where

we are able.”

Why this sudden leniency? Well, Exeter cannot expel a critical mass of paying customers. It's not a good business decision—bad public relations. It simply doesn't have the means to take disciplinary action against a substantial portion of the student body at once.

The conflict between the discipline and counseling systems for substance use is a moot point for most Exonians. I've noticed many students here have friends who drink or do drugs, and no one cares. My understanding of student perception is that teachers don't go looking for drugs. They don't say, ‘Hey, I think that kid smokes weed, so let's check their room.’ They don't try to get students into trouble. I believe it's true—Dorm Heads seem to ignore certain hallways or floors: hear no evil, see no evil, do no evil.

However, the Deans' current approach to illicit substances stands in stark contrast to the one they describe at orientation, when the Deans lecture students on the disciplinary consequences of possessing, using or selling drugs and

alcohol. The Deans threaten disciplinary action in a vain attempt to combat drug and alcohol use.

But the truth is, the Deans also maintain a system for students to receive an educational, rather than punitive, response from the Academy. This is called a Non-Disciplinary Response (NDR). As long as the faculty do not suspect wrong-doing at the time students report themselves or their peers, the individuals involved are eligible for this option. Under this system, students' parents are informed and students typically receive counseling; as the Academy is mandated to report certain offenses, the Exeter Police Department may be involved.

Despite these conditions, NDRs are far more lax than traditional Academy discipline. This policy inconsistency must stop. Exeter is hard enough without added confusion surrounding drug and alcohol discipline.

Now, there are some things that Academy policy does right. The E Book supports counseling as a means of drug and alcohol abuse prevention through the Academy Student Assistance Program pol-

icy and allows students to report themselves or their peers. I support this policy.

For those unfortunate students caught without self-reporting, though, their experience is much different. After drug testing, according to the E Book, students can still be punished for previous offenses, whether or not they were caught during the act. They receive major disciplinary responses, up to Requirement to Withdraw. Students often feel that their violation is used as an example for administrators to discourage the continued substance use of those who have not been caught. This variable policy simply doesn't work.

The current dual system allows some to avoid discipline, while others do not—it may even benefit repeat offenders, who better understand the Academy's policies. Why have rules that only apply to the unlucky who haven't pre-written non-disciplinary response emails to the Health Center?

Alone, each policy has its purpose. Punishment deters and non-disciplinary responses make way for rehabilitation. Together, though, the sum of these parts leaves more unclear than that of a single, coherent system. Ideally, students in similar circumstances would always receive the same re-

sponse.

Instead, here is my proposal: the disciplinary response should be removed for all nicotine, alcohol, and marijuana incidents on campus, barring their sale. The high-stress environment at Exeter exacerbates pre-existing teenage problems. This creates a demand. And where there is demand, there is supply.

To decrease demand, Exeter has a single option—remove Exeter's stressors, assuming students do drugs recreationally and not to self-medicate. I do not support stripping Exeter of its prestigious challenging environment. I'm willing to bet that's the reason why most students chose to attend the Academy in the first place.

The school can preserve its reputation and support its students simultaneously. Instead of allowing most students to use illicit substances and punishing an unlucky few, the Academy could increase their surveillance, per se, to identify more students who use drugs or alcohol. Any users found would be aided by counseling. If the Academy permanently changes its policies to provide constructive, non-punitive responses to all those struggling with addiction, Exeter's drug culture would be in a much better place than it is today.



The Lamont Health and Wellness Center, where Exeter's healthcare services are provided.

Courtesy of Communications Department

Now That We're Back: A Deep Breath



Lower Safira Schiowitz unpacks.

By ANGELA ZHANG '23

As I'm writing this, I have been back on campus for exactly a week. It has been a long and tireless week, with so much happening at once that I am writing this mostly to organize and collect my own thoughts, some that the rest of the community may also relate with. Consider this something of a journal. You may relate with parts, you may not. And that's okay. Perhaps this is just a space to breathe.

For me, at least, it has been incredibly comforting to return and see familiar and new faces along the paths of Exeter. After all, seven months spent in quarantine, especially as an only child, is long and isolating, so it's refreshing for me to see everyone again. It feels like no time has passed at all, in some ways. People pick up right where they left off, reconnecting with close friends and forming relationships with newcomers. During the day, students spread out on blankets across the quads,

soaking in the sunshine that illuminates their skin, enjoying the outdoors. And, at night, students watch the sunset together and gaze at the stars, engaged in deep conversation. It's one of the more positive outcomes of the pandemic—and a lovely sight to see.

And even though the rules all feel normal to me now, when I take a step back and consider the circumstances we are in right now, I laugh. I laugh at how absurd our world would seem if I went back in time and told younger Angela where she would find herself this year. That I would be going to school and learning from a dorm room, never seeing someone's unmasked face in real life unless they were eating at least six feet away from me. That I would have to adhere to designated bathroom times in my dorm, or sign up for time slots to practice my instrument in the music building, rather than walking in whenever I wanted. Or that the outdoors would be filled with people sitting in distanced circles, with at

least six feet of space between each person.

For the most part, at least. There are still people who are within six feet of each other, even when there's more than ample space to socially distance. I see and hear about students ignoring rules and protocols far too frequently. I admit it is difficult to social distance at times, particularly when walking along the paths, but we should be trying our best to keep social distancing at the front of our minds at all times. There is no need to be hugging people right now, no need to be sitting so close with one another that you're breathing on each other, no need to have your mask dangling below your chin. And there is absolutely no justification whatsoever for talking back to or mocking people who ask you to respect the rules.

We are in the middle of a pandemic. Everyone's heard that phrase a thousand times by now, but it bears repeating—we're living in a pandemic. Now is not the time to be immature and

think you can have things go your way without any consequences.

Uppers and seniors have been trying their best to social distance for weeks now—it would be incredibly disrespectful for the people who just arrived on campus to forget that and risk all of us being removed from campus in the situation that there is an outbreak. It's not fair to anyone.

It's especially unfair to people who haven't even been able to return to campus yet—and for seniors who may not be able to come back to campus again if Exeter needs to close for the rest of the year. Right now, we need more empathy than ever. If you are an October arrival, imagine you have been on campus since September, devoutly following all protocols so that one day restrictions could be lightened up. You surely would not want some careless October arrivals to undermine all of the work you have done. Or imagine you are someone who hasn't been able to come back, and you go

Teja Vankireddy/*The Exonian*

onto social media to find people blatantly breaking the rules. How do you feel about that plan to return in January? You'd be quite unhappy, to say the least. It should behoove us to follow the rules so we can be a safer community day by day. Let's try harder to be more thoughtful and respectful of the rules and each other.

Other than that, everything seems to be going quite smoothly on campus. Classes are running, sports teams are practicing, clubs are about to be in full swing and students are getting accustomed to the new ways of life at Exeter. We're doing it! We're back! I am more than delighted to be back and see so many people enjoying campus again. The only way we can keep enjoying campus and keep things going as well as (or even better than) they are right now is by continuing to follow and respect all the rules, and I have faith that each and every one of us has the ability to do so. I really do.

Here's to a wonderful rest of the term!

The Exonian

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Humor

“Todd Hearn: the Tony Stark of English teachers”

—Dennis Kostakoglu Aydin ‘21

“What you gotta do is highlight the whole page and then underline the important parts. Then it’s like a party for your eyes.”

—Mary Timmons ‘21

“I was born in an egg and cracked open. Slithered out like a snake. *Hisses*”

—Felix Yeung ‘21

The Exonian Celebrates Editor-in-Chief’s Birthday and Reflects upon Her Email Writing Genius

By JACK ARCHER

Today, Thursday the 15th, is our very own Editor-in-Chief’s birthday. The Upper and Lower Board of *The Exonian* are thrilled that she has actually survived two-and a half terms of her arduous job.

To someone who doesn’t frequent the newsroom, her work might seem to consist of nothing more than sending mass emails once or twice a week. In truth, this is only like 90% of her job.

Don’t think it easy, however. As the term drags on, the EIC must dig deeper and deeper into her knowledge of etiquette in order to come up with a greeting she hasn’t used yet.

Often, Brandes draws on current events, opening a particularly memorable email with, “Hope you’re having a great first day of classes and staying safe!” on September the 10th, which indeed happened to be the first day of classes. On September 12th, she hit us with “Hope you’ve had a wonderful first few days!”

because, thanks to her acute observation skills honed by years of investigative journalism, she noticed that a few days had passed. On September 13th, upon realizing she needed to email the Upper Board for the third time in four days (it’s the kind of the only way we get stuff done), she greeted us with “Hello Again!” because she had said hello to us before, and now she was saying hello again.

Sometimes, Anne decides on a more casual route. On October 2nd, in her second email to the entire Exonian club list, she knew

she had to greet each and every member of our enormous club. And Brandes found a way to do that in just two words: “Hello everyone.” Two words. 322 members. Still wonder why she’s Editor-in-Chief?

I’ve spent hours poring over every message sent from the Executive Board, trying to glean the secrets of email greetings. I never struggle to find past emails from the fearless leaders of *The Exonian*, because all of them glow a nice bold blue in my inbox. Not exactly sure why this happens,

but I do read them carefully. I’m certain the examples above are merely the tip of the electronic iceberg (can’t use real ones anymore—those things are so tiny by now the metaphor doesn’t even work). Sometimes I’m amazed I get to hang out in the news room and make memes of these guys. On behalf of the Humor Page, we hope that Anne has an awesome birthday, laughs at all our jokes and that we didn’t take too many years off her life by trying to publish every bad photo of her we have.

The Benefits of Looking Directly into Your Webcam

By JACK ARCHER

1. *It’s scary as hell.*

- Perfect for halloween.
- This year, dress up as “social interaction.”
- To evoke maximum terror, go trick or treating door to door.

2. *You can make eye contact with multiple people at once.*

- I mean, talk about a power move.
- Who wouldn’t want to do that?

3. *Everyone will be too focused on you to notice your room is a hellscape.*

- Boy am I glad you can’t smell through Zoom.

4. *The little light is comforting.*

- Its tiny glow keeps you safe.
- You’ll always know when your camera’s on.
- So there can’t be anyone peering though that hole.
- Using your webcam like a window.
- Watching you always.
- The light’s off, so you’re alone.
- Right?

Executive Board Point-of-View



8 Pre-Zoom Questions You’ve Asked Yourself at Least Once

By JACK ARCHER

- What was my password again?
- Is that a smudge on my camera, or did I lose an eye last night?
-
- Why is my face in 420p while my acne’s in 4k?
- Do I really look like that?
- How can I position my head so it hides my unmade bed?
- What if they somehow see everything behind my laptop?
- Am I reeeaaaaalllyyy muted?

The Five Love Languages of Exeter

By SONNYFITENI

“If you see these signs, they might like you”

- Grilled Chicken Breasts with Marinara Sauce
- Being socially distanced, with masks, more than six feet apart.
- “Please man, just let me sleep.”
- You have been issued the following dickey(s).
- Stream their album on all platforms.

For more content, follow us on Instagram!

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Sports

» WRITE FOR THE EXONIAN

The *Exonian* is Phillips Exeter Academy's student newspaper; join us by writing for the Editorial Board, coding or maintaining our website for the Web Board, or maintaining our financial health through the Business Board. Reach out to any member of the Board, including Editor-in-Chief Anne Brandes, for more information.

Athlete of The Week: Girls' Volleyball



Last year's Girls' Volleyball team celebrates an E/A win.

Courtesy of Communications Department

By JONATHAN JEUN and ADRIAN SUN

Seniors Dylan O'Day and Eliya Toledano serve as this year's co-captains of the Girls' Volleyball team. Despite the changes that followed the pandemic, they lead Exeter's renowned volleyball team into a new season.

The two captains specialize in different positions. On the court, O'Day is one of the middles, where she strategizes ball placement and blocking. Toledano is one of the liberos on the team and plays a large role in defense. Still, the two captains share a common strength in serving for the team. "Both of their serves are powerful, and our team can count on them to give us some easy points with their serves," lower Sofia Morais said.

The two captains began playing volleyball before coming to Exeter. O'Day found her passion in volleyball in seventh grade. "Before volleyball, I tried every sport—soccer, lacrosse, basketball, tennis, crew—but volleyball was my favorite."

Toledano also started play-

ing in her middle school years. She began her volleyball career in the summer before seventh grade. "I did karate for eight years prior, but my mom encouraged me to get into volleyball, since she played in high school competitively as well."

Both captains associate volleyball with some of their most special memories of Exeter. Toledano described her friendships that stemmed from being on Exeter's volleyball team. "Being a part of the volleyball team has helped me make so many friends, become well-adjusted to campus life and, of course, take in the full experience of what Exeter offers without the underlying stresses of academics."

"Pre-season introduced me to some of my best friends that I am still friends with three years later," O'Day added.

Morais praised the captains' eagerness to connect with the team on and off the courts. "I remember passing around the volleyball with them on the quad before our first practice just to get to know each other," she

said. "They were both very welcoming and excited to meet the new players."

Their amiable personalities helped maintain the team's high spirits during practices and games. "Their energy is always uplifting on the court. I think that team chemistry is extremely important for a sport like volleyball," upper KG Buckham-White noted.

Upper Elizabeth Handte recalled her first impressions of the captains. When O'Day offered to show her around on one of her first days at Exeter, Handte was "surprised by her genuine character and welcoming attitude."

Handte and Toledano were new lowers in 2019, and, as the only liberos on the team, they forged a close relationship. "Eliya is one of my most supportive teammates," Handte said. "As my mentor, she acted as my second coach, and I see her as my role model."

Last fall, the team went undefeated the entire season, racking up a record of 20-0. Toledano's most notable highlight last year

was the match against Hopkins School. In order to secure the championship game, the team beat Hopkins with an intense final score of 3-0.

Toledano illustrated the team's triumphant experience in detail. "We huddled together on the floor, and half of us were crying. We were overall extremely proud of ourselves for turning 19 wins into a perfect 20-0 season," she said.

The captains gave credit to coaches Bruce Shang and Suzan Rowe for their success as well. "Coach Shang, the head coach, is by far one of my favorite coaches that I've had in the six years that I've played this sport," Toledano said. "His and Coach Rowe's constant support and 'tough love' has made me a better player altogether and taught me that hard work pays off."

O'Day echoed Toledano's sentiments, describing how the coaches helped her skills improve over time. While starting on Junior Varsity her prep year, Shang helped her improve. "It paid off because Coach Shang

decided to put me on varsity the following year. His motto, 'get better,' is integral to the team's dynamic and work ethic," she said.

Both captains plan on furthering their volleyball career in the future. O'Day wishes to continue playing Division III volleyball at her college, while keeping up with her academics as well. "I think that Exeter has prepared me to manage my time as a student-athlete," she mentioned. "I have mastered doing homework on the bus ride to games."

Toledano hopes to continue playing volleyball in the years to come, noting that she will use the lessons she learned at Exeter moving forward. "Exeter has taught me that 'with great risk often comes great reward' and that pushing myself to be the best that I can be is definitely the risk and the reward."

Although the girls did not have their ideal season this term, both captains hope to carry on the tradition of Exeter's volleyball family.

Big Red Football Trains Amid Pandemic Restrictions

By GRACE PUCHALSKI

Despite the circumstances, Big Red Football is still training strong in their home at Phelps Stadium. Football, like all other Exeter sports at the moment, must follow the strict no-contact rule in order to ensure social distancing. The team is also making sure to wear masks.

While such guidelines may seem like a setback in a high-contact sport, the players are using this time to train hard. The coaches, like the athletes, are up for a challenge this year, adapting to the new guidelines while creating engaging practices.

Among other exercises, players have participated in combine drills. They have also conducted conditioning drills that maintain social distancing. One drill includes players shuffling together between cones, maintaining eye contact and moving together. Drills like these help the team stay connected while distancing themselves. "The drills we are doing are all no contact. Most of them focus on form and technique, with lots of conditioning thrown in," upper Liam Brown said.

Unfortunately, Big Red Football will be unable to participate in any games this season. However, the use of equipment has

been vital in helping to replicate game-like situations. Obstacles are set up for players to run through, helping them simulate game plays. Football received several brand new helmets, as well, keeping them safe on the field.

Prior to Oct. 3, when underclassmen arrived on campus, the team only consisted of uppers and seniors. Now that the whole team is together, the athletes have been even more careful about distancing. Luckily, they have been doing a stellar job of ensuring safety first for the members.

The team has some great potential this year. "Our team has a lot of strong talent in the backfield and in the wide receiver positions," Brown said.

With this new infusion of talent and a lot of team spirit, it seems Big Red is headed in the right direction. Despite the setback of no games, the team is looking forward to possibly scrimmaging by the end of the season. Hopefully, the team will come out stronger than ever to dominate the opposition. Practice over at Phelps Stadium is certainly not normal this year—however, Big Red is glad to be back and is adapting to make the most of the situation.

Stay safe, and Go Big Red!



Senior Hugh McLaughlin last year.

Courtesy of Communications Department