

LIFE

Read Mimi Haripottawekul's Senior Spotlight, 6.

OPINIONS

The 142nd Board presents their First Writes, 4.

SPORTS

Boys basketball defeats Governors and Proctor Academy, 8.

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The Exonian

Phillips Exeter Academy
Exeter, New Hampshire



16

PRESENTERS

13

WORKSHOPS

17

UNSILENCED
PERFORMERS

Academy to Celebrate King's Legacy

BY JEANNIE EOM AND ANYA TANG

“One either allows racial inequities to persevere, as a racist, or confronts racial inequities, as an antiracist. There is no in-between safe space of “not racist.” The claim of “not racist” neutrality is a mask for racism.”

—IBRAM X. KENDI

The legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 17 with workshops on racial justice replacing regular classes. The day will open with a keynote by Ibram X. Kendi, author of *How to Be an Anti-Racist*.

This year's MLK Committee chose to recenter discussion on King. “We start with an idea and then try to frame and connect that idea to MLK,” upper and committee member Dillon Mims said. “From there, we branch

MLK DAY, 2



Ibram X. Kendi
Courtesy of Ibram Kendi

Faculty Continue DEI Training

BY KAYLEE CHEN AND LINA HUANG

Exeter faculty participated in a diversity training session last Monday. Lee Mun Wah, a speaker and founder of StirFry Seminars and Counseling—a platform that uses a unique, communication-based approach to promoting multicultural dialogue—led the workshop. Lee facilitated faculty conversations and shared his story as a Chinese-American documentary filmmaker, educator and diversity trainer.

The Committee of Equity and Inclusion, co-chaired by Director of Equity and Inclusion Stephanie Bramlett and Dean of Faculty Ellen Wolff, planned this event as a continuation of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives of recent years. “[T]he Academy is committed to ongoing work on diversity, equity and inclusion, in keeping with the trustees’ DEI vision statement. For an education to be excellent, it must be equitable and inclusive,” Wolff said.

Bramlett noted that the event was scheduled near Martin Luther King (MLK) day in order to prepare for discussions about race and identity. “This allows the whole adult community to come together and begin thinking about the conversations that we will be

having during MLK day,” she said.

The training was located in Grainger Hall and occurred in two sessions, one in the morning and another in the afternoon. Although teaching faculty were required to participate in the morning, other faculty could choose between a morning or afternoon session. Faculty from different departments came to each session, an arrangement that English Instructor Rebecca Moore commended. “That was a very conscious decision that enhanced the whole premise of ‘getting to know you,’” she said.

Lee asked faculty to pair up without speaking and discuss the assumptions they made about the other person based on appearance. Faculty engaged in both listener and speaker roles, which Moore appreciated. “We’re all working on the same mission [but] we don’t have that much time to actually engage with that because a lot of the time we’re engaging with [students],” she said. “What I found useful was the time and space to practice these kinds of listening skills and phrases with another adult in the community whom up until that point, I had seen but never spoken to [extensively].”

English Instructor Courtney

DIVERSITY, 3

IT Releases New ExeterConnect

BY TUCKER GIBBS, MINSEO KIM, AND MARINA AVILOVA

An updated Exeter Connect page utilizing the Microsoft SharePoint collaborative platform software debuted on Wednesday, Jan. 8.

On the new site, components of ExeterConnect, such as the Community Directory and the Dining Menus, were rearranged differently within the new layout of the website. The homepage now is organized into sections providing the dining menu options for the day, announcements for upcoming events, and other features that resemble the features provided on the Exeter Connect site used prior to the updates.

The IT SharePoint Migration Team, comprised of members from the school's Information Technology (IT) Department: Kathy Pottle, Guy Kayton, John Foley and Julia Looi, along with two outside consultants, directed the project. The team upgraded the site from the previously-used SharePoint 2010 platform to a more secure cloud-based SharePoint Online platform. Additionally, the team added a new layout for the site and new available features.

The remodeling of Exeter Connect has been underway since last February shortly after

the new Director of Technology Services, Scott Heffner, joined the team. Ultimately, a lack of security coverage by Microsoft prompted the update. “Since Exeter Connect is on the Internet, we couldn’t risk being on a platform that no longer receives security patches from Microsoft,” Heffner said. “Secondarily, the old Exeter Connect was highly customized, making it hard to manage and very cumbersome to upgrade.”

The IT team has been planning out the transition to the new mobile-friendly SharePoint cloud version for about a year. Senior Web Software Developer Kayton has provided some insight into the team’s process for the site’s updates as he explained, “We had to migrate sites, documents and data,” Kayton said. “We also had to migrate the underline support of user groups and emails from our on premise Active Directory to groups and emails in the cloud with Office 365.”

Other than the overall new look and user interface for the Exeter Connect site, the IT SharePoint Migration Team has implemented multiple special updates and features. The News Post feature allows key editors to share news, and mobile phone users that have installed

the SharePoint application can be notified with pop-up messages.

Additionally, at the top of the Exeter Connect page, the home page will notify the school community about the latest events on campus. There is personalization available for students and faculty in the “Favorites” page and the “Frequent Sites” section, which lists the user’s most regularly visited sites on the platform.

Another visible change to the Connect page was the addition of student birthdays. It was not a complete addition from the old website; birthdays were available to faculty and staff. According to Foley, “There was a birthday list but didn’t have pictures.”

Student birthday pictures were added to increase student engagement and let more people know of their peer’s birthdays. Looi explained, “To ensure that we did not violate any student-related privacy regulation, we first consulted with the Dean of Students office.”

Since the update, some students have had problems with Connect. The main issue related to the College Counseling website Naviance. “Naviance was an interesting example because the process worked as expected when we worked with

EXETERCONNECT, 3

Exclusive Interview: Marianne Williamson Visits Exeter

BY TUCKER GIBBS

Edited excerpts from The Exonian’s exclusive interview with political activist and former presidential candidate Marianne Williamson.

Disclaimer: The Exonian does not endorse any presidential candidate or political views.

The Exonian

What made you decide to get into politics?

Marianne Williamson

We should all think of ourselves as in politics. The word politics comes from the [Greek] root, politeia. It doesn’t mean ‘of the government’;

it means ‘of the people,’ who are all involved in politics, and, if we’re not, we should be, in the sense that our emotional, psychological and intellectual orientation to life should include a conservative political and participation in political issues.

The Exonian

What made you decide to run for president?

Marianne Williamson

I think, for many of us, the election of Donald Trump changed everything. It was the thing I could do which I felt was the greatest service to the transformation that’s needed.

The Exonian

What has driven your key policies?

Marianne Williamson

I think the way to defeat Trump, as well as to transform this country, is not just through a set of policy prescriptions, but rather through an alternative vision for where the country needs to go. If you’re only talking policies, your opponent can shoot down the policy. But he can’t shoot down a vision. And that’s why the idea of a season of repair is a season of moral repair. That has been the forefront for all of the policy prescriptions on which I stand.

The Exonian

And what issue or issues has been most important to you throughout the campaign?

Marianne Williamson

Department of Children and Youth in order to rescue the millions of underserved, at risk, chronically traumatized children.

A Department of Peace to help establish peace creation as a core principle of our national security agenda.

Reparations for slavery and the Native Americans, which I feel is necessary to heal the soul of this nation.

A Whole Health Plan which includes incentivizing health and addressing the underlying factors for so much of America’s chronic

illness—not just figuring out a way to give everyone health care. This is extremely important in life. But we need to create greater health.

In addition to that, I’ve been very aware we need to enter the corporate aristocracy that now dominates our government and, through the extension of our society, is very corrupt. It’s very undemocratic.

The Exonian

Why haven’t other candidates taken them up?

Marianne Williamson

Because they do not all represent a basis to short term profitability for

WILLIAMSON, 2

News

» BYSTANDER

Class of 2021 attended a student led workshop organized by Dr. Palmer on bystanderism and sexual assault.

» CHARLES BLOW

Charles Blow spoke at assembly on January 7, conversing with students on the power of journalism.

» EXETERCONNECT

The IT department designed a new version of the ExeterConnect website with updated design.

Uppers Discuss Sexual Misconduct Prevention

BY JEANNIE EOM, KIESSE NANOR AND CINDY SU

Uppers gathered for required workshop “Being a Bystander” on Jan. 10. At the event, which was organized by Director of Student Well-Being Christina Palmer, students discussed in small groups appropriate courses of action when witnessing cases of sexual and relationship violence.

Now in its third year, the workshop preserved its format from last year after Exonians Against Sexual Assault (EASA) reworked its structure in conjunction with the Health Department and the Prevention Innovation Research Center at the University of New Hampshire. This resulted in an emphasis on student-led discussions, and no faculty members were present.

The workshop focused on “being a bystander, knowing that you can help by learning to recognize the signs of when someone is in trouble and stepping in to assist in ways that impact a positive outcome,” Palmer said. “This workshop reviewed with students the definition of a bystander, touched on the scope of sexual and relationship violence, recognizing situations and understanding the Academy culture. We used practice scenarios and reviewed resources available.”

“The workshop is part of a series of preventative work that the Academy is committed to for all students to understand consent, healthy relationships, being a bystander and dating violence,” Palmer added.

To prepare for the event, Palmer trained student volunteer leaders beforehand, acquainting them with a set of scripts. At the workshop, the leaders engaged students in the conversation, steering the discussion toward the right direction when necessary. Students reacted to practice scenarios and discussed available resources.

Some expressed satisfaction with the student-led discussion. “I thought it was cool that students led it instead of teachers,” upper Keara Polovick said. “I think people are more open to discussing personal experiences when surrounded by students, especially because we were focused on bystanders in cases of sexual assault—something that is often difficult to talk about with adults.”

However, others believed that student leadership was not fitting for such an important topic. “Letting students lead the program was good in theory, but it ultimately led to people getting off-topic easily or not focusing or not contributing,” upper Zoe Barron said. “I think the discussion should be student-led but with a faculty advisor or facilitator if we really want to carry out productive discussions.”

Polovick noted these shortcomings as well. “In some sense, it was more informal and maybe not as productive,” she said. “But, again, I think that people were more open to sharing their raw feelings [with other students] because some of these topics are sensitive.”

The groups were separated by last name; some uppers wished for more diversity within their groups. “If there was a more randomized way ... would’ve been nice,” upper Christina Xiao said. “For a lot of all upper required events, we’ve already been with people in our same last name sections.”

The timing of the event also received some criticism. “Friday night is not the best time,” upper Emilio Abelmann said. “In all honesty, I think there should be a whole day dedicated to the topic and its nuances—similar to Martin Luther King Jr. Day or Climate Action Day.”

Students felt that the timing was not conducive to attentiveness. “Students seemed, for the

most part, uninterested in being there because it was on Friday night,” Barron said. “I think the discussion could have been much more productive if it was during a school day because students would be more engaged and less irritated.”

Upper Sofina Tillman noted that the presentation seemed “rushed and last minute.” “They had multiple typos in the manual sheet. You could tell they repeated questions from previous years,” she said. “I talked to the moderators—one said they just gave out a packet and there wasn’t a lot of preparation.”

However, the repetition of information from previous years was intentional, as prevention work can be effective when it is repetitive, which isn’t just “one and done,” Palmer said.

Many suggested that the program be open to the rest of the campus in the future. “I’ve heard it is most necessary for uppers, but that doesn’t mean it isn’t necessary for other classes,” Barron said.

Polovick shared a similar belief. “I wasn’t sure why it was just for uppers because I think that anyone should have knowledge of ... the roles of bystanders,” she said. “I definitely think it could have been open to more people.”

Palmer noted that plans for more consistent training are already in place. “Next year, health classes will be required at all grade levels, and bringing in the bystander is part of the upper curriculum,” she said. “Prevention work can be effective when it is repetitive—not ‘one and done.’”

Overall, students appreciated the workshop experience. “I definitely learned a bit more about being a bystander and what that means,” upper Isabel Carden said. “[We talked] about the role of a bystander and how you can be active or passive.”



Marianne Williamson.

Erik Tanner/Rolling Stone

Williamson Visits Exeter

CONTINUED FROM WILLIAMSON, 1

the huge multinational corporations that dominate Washington.

The Exonian

And how do you plan to stay involved in the political landscape?

Marianne Williamson

I feel there needs to be a movement a political movement of moral repair in this country. I plan to continue articulating these ideas, these principles, these issues. I will be hosting a Repair America conference in Washington, D.C. probably at the end of March. And whatever else my heart leads me to do in service to the goal of course correcting our country while there is still time.

The Exonian

What would be involved in the Repair America Conference?

Marianne Williamson

We will take the six pillars of moral repair as articulated. You can see them on my website, and we will have experts in all of those areas so that people can go deeper in their understanding

of what’s possible. And I think this will be helpful—not only to voters but also to people who are running for office who want to know more about what that would mean.

The Exonian

Are there any candidates who have kind of piqued your interest that you’d like to work with in the future?

Marianne Williamson

Bernie [Sanders], Elizabeth [Warren], Andrew [Yang] and Tulsi [Gabbard].

The Exonian

Do you think they would be adopted by them?

Marianne Williamson

I have no way of knowing that.

The Exonian

And what led you to suspend your campaign?

Marianne Williamson

I didn’t have the money, and I didn’t have the machine that were adequate to take things forward to where they need to be an element of the campaign.

Anticipating Annual MLK Celebration

CONTINUED FROM MLK, 1

out that idea as much as possible and explore its elements, and those elements then become workshops.”

The day will continue with a selection of workshops led by 16 workshop leaders in two sessions. One workshop, “Half and Half: Food and Liberation,” will be mandatory for all students. Led by chef Kurt Evans and culinary historian Michael Twitty, the workshop will foster discussion on the relationship between food and social justice. Evans, the founder of the End Mass Incarceration Project, will also highlight the families of mass incarceration victims.

Students will be able to choose their second workshop from a number of options, with topics ranging from women in activism to writing as a form of freedom.

The day will be preceded by Unsilenced, a student-led performance with seventeen acts. Unsilenced will take place tonight at 8 p.m. in the Assembly Hall. Lead-up events also included a screening of Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun* on Friday, Jan. 10, in the Goel Theater.

Senior and MLK committee member Kileidria Aguilar hopes the Exeter community will learn much from the day. “I think, when people think of MLK Day, they think of activism in general,” she

said. “Although activism is important, it is also important to know who Martin Luther King was, his ideology, his work for the civil rights movement specifically and the fact that movement set off a chain of other movements.”

Upper and committee member Zoe Barron expressed her desire to incite real change within students. “I’m hoping that the workshops we’ve chosen and the speakers we’ve chosen leave students feeling not just that they have learned something new but are changed inside because of it,” she said.

Feedback from last year has guided the committee’s work. “I heard that ... the keynote [last year] ... wasn’t anything super exciting,” upper Dillon Mims said. “We took that note, and we’re trying to move in a more exciting direction—something that will really get people engaged in how [civil rights] can relate to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.”

The committee hopes to examine the Civil Rights Movement through new lenses. “[The first workshop about] nonviolent campaigns at the Birmingham Jail will be really fascinating,” Mims said. “It’s sort of unorthodox because it’s not something that you think about all that often.”

In the past few years, on-campus constituencies have advocated for more diverse workshops. “The major chal-

lenges for AV were the topics discussed during MLK day and how [AV] wished there were more workshops addressing the Asian population on our campus,” Asian Voices (AV) co-head David Kim said.

This year, guest Maddie Schumacher will be presenting the workshop “Asian American and Black Coalitions: Lessons from Martin Luther King,” aimed at addressing interracial organizing and active allyship between black and Asian people.

Returning students look forward to learning more about diversity within the community. “[Previously,] it was inspiring to hear other people’s stories, but it was also mind-opening to realize that there is so much experience represented by our student body,” upper Hassane Fiteni said.

“I love how Exeter actually dedicates a day towards social justice issues facing society, instead of other schools who ignore these issues,” Kim added.

New students expressed similar excitement. “It really means a lot to me that Exeter takes this special day out of our class schedule to just learn about other people and other cultures and to be more accepting,” prep Sinna Oumer said. “I’m looking forward to see how [students’] perspectives will be changed by the workshops that day.”

Students hope that MLK



Exeter honors King.

Getty Images

Day will be one of both remembrance and inspiration. “I hope to remind people that the struggle for equality and justice is not over and that everything we do—listening to the

people coming to share their stories included—is one more step towards progress,” Barron said. “Although it may not seem like it, we can all help work towards that progress.”

Charles Blow Speaks in Defense of Truth

BY MOKSHA AKIL AND SAFIRA SCHIOWITZ

“We have become a society more interested in ammunition than information,” *New York Times* Columnist Charles Blow declared to a captivated audience. “We want to arm ourselves with accusations that affirm our convictions regardless of their veracity.” Blow, a *New York Times* columnist and the 141st *Exonian* board’s Strickler Speaker, addressed the Exeter community at assembly on Tue. Jan. 7, addressing the importance of journalism for American democracy and the weight of objectivity and truth in an increasingly divisive “fact crisis”.

Blow, who frequently discusses national politics and social justice, said his drive to write commentary comes from a question he poses: “If I don’t write it, who will?” By writing all that he believes must be written, he believes he will make journalism more accessible. “News has become somewhat of a luxury,” he said in the public Q&A session Tuesday evening. “So there’s a stress in society around journalism.”

With an increasing presence of the internet and social media-sourced news, he claimed that it was more difficult for the world’s population to be informed, and easier for them to skim headlines and encounter articles that echo their opinions. In regard to the United States, Blow said in his assembly speech, “We

are facing multiple dangers resulting from this degradation of truth. The country is facing a fact crisis.”

Blow described how politicians have often bent the truth to their benefit throughout history, including the current administration under President Donald Trump. To combat these skewed truths, “A free, fearless, adversarial, in-your-face press is the best friend a democracy can have,” Blow said. A weak press, he explained, leaves room for confusion of facts and truth.

Blow explained that not only was journalism important to America’s prioritization of truth but to democracy itself. “Our Constitutional amendments that protect freedom of speech and freedom of the press are pillars that make this country great, and that makes this country different,” Blow said.

Blow’s discussion of the significance of journalism within a democracy resonated with many listeners, from both within and outside of the PEA community.

Lisa Woody, an audience member of the Q & A open to the public, affirmed Blow’s reminder of the importance of newspapers and expressed how there will always be a need for journalism. “I don’t see journalism ever going away because people will always listen to it. Now what form that takes, I don’t know. But I think with it comes a great deal of responsibility, so we have to be careful,” she said.



Charles Blow serves as this year’s Strickler Speaker.

Teja Vankireddy/*The Exonian*

Some student audience members disagreed with Blow’s sentiment about the perils of social media. “There’s nothing that paper provides that electronic news can’t... so, I think what we’re facing with this sort of balance between electronic and paper media is a logical step,” senior Sam Park stated.

Senior and 141st *Exonian* Editor-In-Chief Suan Lee, who introduced Blow at assembly, expressed admiration for his work as a writer and journalist. She said she took inspiration from Blow’s use of narrative stories to support his claims. Blow’s de-

sire to appeal to the humanity in people and illustrate the people behind news stories is a way to see “the value of journalism and the goodness it does,” Lee said.

Audience member Lew Harriman expressed his appreciation for Blow’s objectivity. “I loved the clarity of his thinking. [He is] an observer and commentator. [He is] not a participant, [nor] an advocate. [Even though clearly he has a particular perspective] and would give you the impression that he has it, in fact he is quite clear that he does not.”

Meanwhile, students agreed with Blow’s views about the

strong connections between journalism, democracy, and truth. He heavily discussed how journalism and democracy go hand-in-hand. “Keeping checks and balances on the government through journalism is important,” prep Mateo Connelly expressed.

Lee also articulated the importance of being able to read a dissenting story objectively in a new age of divisive truth, regardless of personal preconceptions. “Mr. Blow’s statement that a rigorous press is fundamental to a thriving democracy is something I agree with wholeheartedly.”

Faculty Train in Inclusivity

CONTINUED FROM DIVERSITY, 1

Marshall found that discussing the exercise afterwards as a significant part of the workshop. “After every discussion topic he gave us, we had to recount what the speaker told us and then the speaker told us how we were as a listener. There was a constant checking in about whether we were truly listening to the other person,” she said.

Wolff enjoyed the dialogue with other faculty. “I especially valued the time spent in substantial and meaningful conversation with a colleague. I have heard others say that this was one of their favorite components of the day as well,” she said.

Vice Principal Karen Lassey shared her positive sentiments for the workshop. “I found the workshop with Lee Mun Wah to be powerful,” she said. “Scaffolded conversations in pairs was an opportunity to practice empathy and listening as well as connect with a colleague in meaningful ways.”

One moment during the workshop that stood out to Moore was when Lee asked the question, “What’s familiar about what happened?” Moore said, “It shakes me out of my usual pattern but not in an uncomfortable way – in a way that says, maybe I should check this, is this a pattern and what does it connect to,” she said. “It helps me practice so now if I were going to talk to [a person and they] were struggling with some experience, emotion, concern, I would have these questions more at the tip of my tongue.”

Science Instructor Katherine Hernandez took away much from the training in relation to her identity as a member of the white community. “Given my racial identity, there are moments in which I permit my whiteness to blind me to what’s

going on for others,” she said. “I appreciate knowing that I have colleagues who will call me in or invite me into conversations. It’s not the job of my students or my colleagues of color to point these things out to me as a white educator, but I do appreciate when I have those opportunities.”

Bramlett also lauded the values of the workshop and expressed interest in including other members of the community. “I’d love to see a similar day-long DEI training or workshop for students,” she said.

Faculty conversations about diversity and the training continued even after the event ended, including for Chinese instructor Ning Zhou. “I think this is a great step because I heard from other colleagues they hoped the school could continue this type of training. [I also think it is great] that faculty of various backgrounds can get together and get to know each other,” he said.

On the other hand, Hernandez wanted to apply what she learned to similar discussion spaces. “I think one of my areas of hope and enthusiasm right now centers on the white anti-racist affinity group, a group of adults in the community who identify as white and who want to take an active role in deconstructing systems of inequity, and reconstructing systems that support anti-racist work in the community. I think that the workshop we did on Monday is something that will inform our conversations.”

The same workshop is will not be repeated in following years, but this year’s training has been able to promote conversations among faculty. “The lessons learned at this workshop will advise our work in every capacity here at PEA,” Bramlett said.

New ExeterConnect Site Premieres

CONTINUED FROM CONNECT, 1

been planning out the transition to the new mobile-friendly SharePoint cloud version for about a year. Senior Web Software Developer Kayton has provided some insight into the team’s process for the site’s updates as he explained, “We had to migrate sites, documents, and data. We also had to migrate the underline support of user groups and emails from our on-premise Active Directory to groups and emails in the cloud with Office 365.”

Other than the overall new look and user interface for the Exeter Connect site, the IT SharePoint Migration Team has implemented multiple special updates and features. The News Post feature allows key editors to share news, and mobile phone users that have installed the SharePoint application can be notified with pop-up messages. At the top of the Exeter Connect page, the home page will notify the school community about the latest events on campus. There is personalization available for students and faculty in the “Favorites” page and the “Frequent Sites” section, which lists the user’s most regularly visited sites on the platform.

“The new platform also creates a unified experience through the waffle icon, located at the top left of the screen. You can receive your email, check your calendar, and launch other applications through the waffle icon,” Hefner said.

A large focus of the old Exeter Connect had been the intense customization for different groups. “When you landed on your home page, if you are a current student you saw something there, or a brand

new student, future student, you would see something else,” Web Software Developer John Foley said. “We took out the customization, we’re trying to just do the out of the box, built in SharePoint. We tried to take out the customization as much as we could just because it’s much easier to handle for the future.”

Since the update, students have had problems with Connect. The main issue has been related to College Counseling Application Naviance. “Naviance was an interesting example because the process worked as expected when we worked with the few students who experienced issues with logging into Naviance,” Project Management Office Manager Julia Looi said. “Other problems were related to permissions and access and content missed during the data migration from the former site to the new one.”

Ultimately, the source of the Naviance issue was found to be a bad link that the students were using, and the link on Connect works properly now.

The IT department has been pleasantly surprised with the ease of the transition. “If you look at previous implementations this has been much smoother,” Foley said. “If you look at it like that on the scale of other implementations. I’m talking about the little tiny details.”

One of the visible changes to the Connect page was the addition of student birthdays. It was not a complete addition from the old website; birthdays were available to faculty and staff. Foley said, “There was a birthday list but didn’t have pictures”.

Student birthday pictures were not available on the old

website because of privacy concerns. They were added to increase student engagement and let more people know of their peer’s birthdays. Looi explained, “To ensure that we did not violate any student-related privacy regulation, we first consulted with the Dean of Students office.”

Many students have been happy with the changes made by the Sharepoint Team. “I think the update was good and much needed. I did have some trouble finding stuff, but I think that once I get used to it, it would be fine,” senior Jason Huang said.

Some students have had mixed feelings about the update. “I did have some difficulty navigating it in the beginning though because I didn’t know where things like LionLinks were under different tabs,” lower Stella Shattuck said. “I personally think the site looks a lot cleaner in the sense that everything seems to be more organized and put together.”

While most students are pleased with the update, few are upset about what has been changed, particularly in reference to broken links. “It doesn’t make much sense,” prep Rohan Modi said. “All that the site really needed was two things; make it mobile friendly, and remove all the broken links. Instead, they tried to make it look modern but broke the whole site in the process.”

The new update, if all goes to plan, will remain for some time as the Academy’s safe, secure and efficient intranet, containing many new features intended to better both student and faculty life. “I think the overall look is a big improvement on the old site,” Huang said “It looks much better.”

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OpEd

» FIRST WRITES

The new editors of the 142nd Board outline their goals for the year.

» DIVERSITY IN STEM

Upper Kai Lockwood identifies a lack of mentorship as a cause for the lack of diversity in STEM fields.

» NEXT WEEK

Look out for more articles from our opinion writers next week.

First Writes of the 142nd Board

BY THE 142ND EDITORIAL BOARD

EXECUTIVE

The Exonian is a vehicle for change like no other.

The paper's responsibility is to pursue truth in a fair and transparent manner. We are the Exeter community's source for credible and holistic reporting. When our job is done, the truth rests in our readers' hands. We empower them to wield this truth for the betterment of our community.

To fully realize *The Exonian's* potential, the 142nd Executive Board looks to continue the paper's evolution. Over the next three terms, we will hone our focus into streamlining our operations by boosting the retention of our writers and maximizing the synergy between the Editorial, Web and Business boards. In moments when other areas of weakness are identified, we will concentrate our energies on new initiatives in addition to those outlined here.

It is also time to make *The Exonian* a more inclusive and accessible paper. The Executive Board has identified diversity and outreach as two of our central priorities. In its role as a community publication, it befits *The Exonian* to reflect the majority. Nevertheless, it is incumbent upon us to represent all perspectives to the best of our ability—not just what is convenient. We will strive to do so with humility and an open ear.

The 142nd Executive Board is also aware of our place in the larger, nationwide climate of media. Journalism, across the industry, is migrating or has migrated online. At the end of our tenure, we would like to see a paper that is visually distinct from its current iteration. We are committed to improving our website, graphics, photography and community engagement to ensure that a read-

er's experience with our platform matches the caliber of our news.

Our visual changes will also extend to our print layout. As an Executive Board, we have brought the paper a more modern aesthetic, designed by lower Otto Do. Yet, as we strive to innovate, we will also celebrate the storied history of our publication. As we forge ahead, we will not forget our roots. Looking forward, *The Exonian* will re-adopt its original logo, used by our founders over a century ago. Our heritage will guide us as we move into a time of evolution.

We, the 142nd Board, led by Editor-in-Chief Anne Brandes, Director of Writing Erin Choi and Managing Editor Felix Yeung, will be open in all correspondence and welcoming in all respects. We will not only sustain, but improve the paper where we can. Along the way, we will make mistakes, but we will learn from them. The paper, too, will grow as we do. Care, thought and collaboration have guided *The Exonian* through its 142-year history. We are confident that, with these same values, *The Exonian* can run for 142 more.

- Anne, Erin and Felix

NEWS

Over the span of its history, *The Exonian* has been dedicated to being the fairest and most thorough source of news at the Academy. Whether covering the community or world at-large, we deliver news with objectivity. As the News Team of the 142nd Board, we—Daniel Chen, Bona Hong, Emily Kang and Senai Robinson—promise to hold ourselves accountable for providing the full truth to students. Providing the full truth is to consider and view all people's truths, and we intend on including all ideas and beliefs with objectivity.

Although "true" objectivity may

not be attainable, we will nonetheless exclude our personal sentiments and emotions when seeking diverse perspectives and opinions. As we see Exeter face challenges, develop new systems and change traditions, we will report to the community with as much information and diverse perspectives as possible. We will push ourselves to not only report events, but to investigate critical aspects of our community in fulfillment of our promise to pursue the full truth.

In all these ways, we commit ourselves to the tradition of *The Exonian*, but we also promise to better these traditions by continuing to seek ways to improve our skills, include more diverse perspectives and maximize the level of objectivity. As the 142nd Board News Editors, we hope to uphold *The Exonian's* legacy, enhance *The Exonian* to a higher standard and to be providers for the Exeter community. We look forward to working with other members of the 142nd Board and hope we contribute positively to the Academy.

- Daniel, Bona, Emily and Senai

LIFE

Life at Exeter, between clubs, dances, midnight screams and an intense spikeball culture, is unlike that at any other high school. The Life Editors of the 142nd Editorial Board hope to capture every aspect of campus life that defines our distinctive Academy culture. We serve as a bridge between different on-campus communities, and we hope to strengthen this vital bond through written engagement. This year, we will celebrate the faculty, staff and students of Exeter, commend and critique our artistic performances and showcase columns and reviews on subjects that matter most to readers.

Though the Life Section's leadership will shift in the coming weeks, we are confident that this team, like life itself, will "uh ... find a way" to represent the close-knit Academy community that everyone knows. Through the trying times that Exeter presents us with, the Life Section continues its aim to report on the joy of the day-to-day of our lives here.

- Ben, Zane, Morgan and Ella

OPINION

Exonians, in the final estimation, are citizens, both of their school and of the world. They are engaged, they debate, they research, they protest. Because of that, we are graced with unique environments. From the quad to the dorm rooms, we translate this intellectualism into discussion that you could hardly find anywhere else. They are spaces designed for the messy romanticism of youth and for logical proofs set into stone, inflamed by our relentless optimism for a better world and a better school.

When done right, those real conversations are the greatest antidote we have to the pressures of callout culture and the greatest tool we have in the pursuit of truth. Though oftentimes difficult, discussion builds a healthier, more lively community.

We, as editors, do not make those conversations; our job, rather, is to lift late-night debates and silent voices onto a pedestal.

We seek to fashion a well-crafted pedestal—one that can support the entire community. To this end, we will actively seek out different voices more reflective of our school's diversity, work with writers to make opinions writing more accessible and protect the right of any student to voice their opinion, however controversial it may be.

- Dennis, Emmanuel and Stephen

SPORTS

What do you get when you combine three fish and some random land animal? Yup, your 142nd Sports Section editors! With Sydney Kang, Ginny Vazquez and Cooper Walshe making up three quarters of our sports board, Charlotte Lisa, the remaining quarter, will learn more this year about water sports than editing a newspaper. So, be sure to keep up with our section every Thursday for the latest news on all things Big Red athletics. The back page of *The Exonian* is where you can find the best content, from Athlete of the Week, to Exeter sports highlights, to quippy Quote Boxes and much more. Get ready to read all about your friends and your very own teams as a part of the greatest sports writing yet in this decade!

P.S. All rumors of nepotism surrounding the editor selection process are false. We know you've already survived two Walshes, rest assured, we now have the best one.

- Sydney, Charlotte, Ginny and Cooper

HUMOR

Hello. Hi. We are Humor. Hopefully, you have laughed at the Humor Page at some point in your time here. It is our hope that under our careful, scrupulous, very-last-minute editorship (this was written about a week after it was due), you will laugh again. Maybe even for the first time since coming to Exeter. Maybe for the first time since coming into existence. Who knows? We don't. Anyway, we promise to make you guys laugh—or at least smile, or at least do that thing where you exhale out of your nose rather quickly—every Thursday. So, please laugh. Even better than laughing, write. Please submit to exonianhumor@gmail.com.

[Insert quote about how humor page is so disappointing].

- Humor 142

Diversity Without A Backbone

BY KAI LOCKWOOD '21, ON BEHALF OF THE FTC VERTEX ROBOTICS TEAM

I see an increased dedication to diversity and a commitment to quantify the ideal in schools, workplaces, towns and cities in which we live and interact. We have simply been looking at diversity too numerically, particularly in STEM. This makes sense—by design, STEM fields are heavily rooted in numbers, data and statistics. I believe, however, that a grave oversight is made when we quantify diversity in the same way we look at lab results.

Companies such as Google, for instance, have launched Annual Reviews detailing their global diversity statistics in hiring. While this is a well thought-out method of holding companies accountable, we should be looking at diversity with greater scrutiny. Though it is good to say that Google hired 2.5 percent more women when comparing data from 2014 and 2018, we have to look at the hiring pool that Google is pulling from.

The majority of STEM fields are more saturated with women and

people of color than in the past since their work has been neglected for so long. But some 84% of STEM professionals in the United States are white or Asian males, and modern trends are alarming—we have seen a 12% drop in women earning computer science degrees since 1991. A question arises: why are we seeing fewer women and people of color seeking STEM degrees?

One answer might be an oversaturated pool of possible hires and a general lack of opportunities. It might be, then, more financially smart for people just to seek out other careers. But this is not true. STEM is one of the fastest-growing fields in the US, with a projected 28.2% increase in the number of jobs between 2014 and 2024.

Another answer might be the rampant sexism in Silicon Valley. Increased documentation of sexist behavior may have turned women away from pursuing careers in STEM. But this sexism has always existed. I see it in Ada Lovelace, the first known computer coder and software developer, whose accomplishments in the 1840s are still

shrouded in controversy over how much her male colleagues contributed to her work.

So, the question remains.

The answer comes in going beyond just statistics. If we look at just the numbers, just hiring and company data, we lose the nuance of where these people, these percentage points, come from. And where these people come from matters.

Right now, we have no backbone for diversity. Not everyone has access to the ladder between a childhood interest and a professional career in STEM. This backbone means having diverse mentorship in our K-12 schools.

It has further been demonstrated that kids pursue adult mentors or teachers that look like them to inform what they can do. By this, I mean that having adults in your field who share some aspect of your identity helps you learn more about that field.

Not all groups have adequate representation in their mentors. In 2011-12, 82% of all public school teachers were white, 7% were black and 8% were Hispanic. In that year, 51% of K-12 public school students were white, 16% were black and 24% were Hispanic, per the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It cannot be denied that there is an overwhelming

lack of representation for teachers of color.

Data is not readily available for the diversity for LGBTQIA+ teachers since 6 states have "No Promo Homo" laws on the books and in many states it is still legal to fire a teacher who comes out as LGBTQ+. The problems that exist in the broader society exist in STEM.

Don't be fooled—Exeter is a microcosm of this problem in STEM education. Staying true to the STEM acronym, our science, computer science, and math faculty are our STEM mentors at Exeter. Out of our 50 adults who teach STEM classes at Exeter, a vast majority are white men—the next largest constituency is white women.

This is wildly disproportionate to our actual student population. According to Exeter's self-released statistics, 46.6% of Exonians are students of color, 50.8% male, 48.8% female and 0.4% of a self-identified gender.

We can also see this demonstrated in anecdotal evidence. For example, I am a non-binary person who has been interested in STEM since the 3rd grade. Thus, I have encountered hundreds of STEM educators across my schools, even if they didn't mentor me specifically. Still, I

have never met a non-binary identifying adult mentor who is interested in STEM.

This whole argument may bring up a chicken and egg scenario for some. How can you have diverse STEM mentors without first having diverse STEM mentors to mentor the diverse STEM mentors? Well, someone always has to be the first.

The route to breaking barriers is not easy, but we have seen people do it before. For example, Alan Hart was one of the first female-to-male trans people in the United States to undergo a hysterectomy. Hart was also a Yale graduate later regarded as a leader in the fight against tuberculosis due to his expertise in public health.

Another example is Sally Ride, the first American woman in space. Ride also shared a loving 27-year relationship with her female partner, Tam O'Shaughnessy.

I see in these examples that there is hope for minority communities to break barriers in STEM. The lack of adequate mentorship, however, makes it harder for us to reach the diversity that STEM needs to thrive. Why don't we make it easier by pushing and urging Exeter to make a commitment to diverse teachers and on-campus mentors in the STEM fields?

The Exonian

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The Exonian welcomes Letters to the Editor sent to the care of exonian@gmail.com.

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

Humor

» **ROAST OF ANNE BRANDES**
 Sometimes I wonder if Anne realizes how similar she is to Felix, but then I realize she's too Felix to notice.

» **ROAST OF FELIX YEUNG**
 The guy who had to start a club to learn how to be kind, just like Anne Brandes.

» **ROAST OF ERIN CHOI**
 Erin bought a \$300 painting from Caroline Calloway.

Transportation Tier List

BY JACK ARCHER

It is well known that there are better and worse ways to traverse the paths of Exeter. As always, the Humor section is here to guide you. Here are the ten best ways to get to Grill. And then maybe go to a class or two.

10. Roller skates: Good luck sitting down at a Harkness table. Also, you will probably have to take them off to cross roads.

9. Scooter: You can't ride a skateboard but always leave a minute before class starts. Or you can do those cool spinny tricks. Or the scooter has sick light up wheels. You still have to wear a helmet, though.

8. Running: You're still going to be late.

7. Walking: The basic method of traversing the Exeter paths. You can't go wrong with this one. Unless you and your two friends walk side by side and block everyone else from getting to class on time. Then you suck.

6. Skateboard: Hey, that looks awesome! I bet it saves you so much time, especially in Winter Term when it starts snowi — oh wait.

5. Bike: You probably live on South Side. If not, your bike probably lives on South Side now.

4. Crowd surfing: I swear it works. Try it on when you're walking to an 8a.m. class. You'll wake up at 8:55 as usual, except your head might hurt a little more.

3. Heelys: You get asked to EP (On Tuesdays of course) five times a day. Your DMs are too crowded to slide into; standing room only. You roll your way through life, toes held high. A bright future awaits you, and nothing is going to stop you from achieving your goals except moderately sized sticks and large acorns in the middle of the paths.

2. Golf cart: The true alpha of Exeter paths. The sea of pedestrians part before them, fearing death by Campus Safety officers about to unlock some prep's door because their lion card fell off their lanyard.

1. Pogo stick: Who needs to cross roads when you can simply clear them? Who needs to worry about groups of three blocking their way when you can soar above their heads? Who can attest that someone who pogos to class is not the coolest kid on campus? No one. That's who.

The Top 5 Choices Exonians Make When Deciding What Non-Eurocentric Aspects of Which Non-White MLK Guest to Critique.

BY ISABELLA AHMAD

1. consider
2. your
3. biases
4. and
5. refrain

TFW Felix Talks



Exonian Humor is the only cool part of the paper. Please submit to the exonianhumor@gmail.com. You're probably funny! L if you aren't tho. Maybe join an improv class or something.

Epic New DLC



Trustee Barnard's Planned Club Reform

BY SONNY FITENI

Over the 2019-2020 winter recess and amidst CCO assignments to uppers, Trustee Howard A. Barnard '77 released a statement calling for a reevaluation of student turnover processes. Among the most contentious of these changes are a mandatory faculty interview and what he calls "Vibe Check."

As part of these changes, prospective co-heads in organizations like *The Exonian* and Mock Trial would be at the mercy of an independent body of teachers and staff. This group would gauge candidates for qualities like people skills and personability. Whatever that means. Starting in the fall, anyone with any form of managerial as-

pirations must submit themselves to periodic surveying by a randomly selected peer for their general opinions of the student. This is the essence of the true "Vibe Check."

In typical Exonian fashion, students were outraged. Many in the prep and new lower camps were concerned how this might affect their runs for CCC. Chess Club is at a loss for how anyone could be their co-head. When pressed about his opinions regarding Barnard's statements, prep James Jones answered in a bit of confusion. "Do you mean the purple dinosaur?"

Among incumbent club leaders and seniors, a cry to preserve all the traditions of our proud institution was heralded. Mock Trial cohead

Samuel Farnsworth voiced their own worries about incorporating a faculty component to the process. "Part of the Exeter experience is being able to count on your friends, or ummm, newly made acquaintances, to hand you key board positions," the cohead reflected. "I just don't think that's something that we should seek to change."

Ewald senior Jack Zhang also had a few disgruntled words for the trustee. Unfortunately, Zhang's comments cannot be released at this time. In general, polled reactions to the decision said, "This is really really bad."

Anne Brandes, Erin Choi and Felix Yeung could not be reached for comment, despite Yeung's commitment to be more approachable.

Climate Experts Give Up

BY BENJAMIN GORMAN

As most would believe, with the exception of flat-earthers and the handful of people who refuse to use their brains, Earth's temperatures are rising. Exeter has been reminded of this fact plenty of times, with science teachers practically screaming that we need to do something and assembly speakers warning us about what little time we actually have left to change anything.

However, we saw climate change really pop off this past weekend, when we experienced spring-like temperatures in the middle of January, when it should be freezing cold. Hopefully, this will serve as a catalyst for more climate activism instead of a resurgence of salmon shorts, Vineyard Vines shirts and backwards hats, but the general attitude towards climate change has been one of inaction.

In response to this lack of doing anything, climate experts have

decided to give up. "I'm not doing anything to help the planet anymore. I leave my car running now just to see the smog rise up. I've started buying plastic bottles just to litter in rivers and parks. I let 4-5 space heaters run outside my house every day. You asked for this," scientist Kent Perture said. While I admire Dr. Perture's dedication towards speeding up Earth's path towards oblivion, I think he could improve his strategies. I recommend turning on all the faucets in his house while he sleeps, as well as reaching out to some colleagues about starting a nuclear fallout together.

Other responses to the general unwillingness to stop watching Netflix and actually do something to save the planet are more similar to how Professor Clive Mitt responded. Rather than commit hours to the research he used to do, Mitt stays in his room playing Fortnite and tweeting about how sad he is

all the time. Top tweets read, "I'm just tired of screaming into the void and having nobody respond back," "I just wanna burst out in tears for so many reasons, bro," and "RIP EARTH :(."

"[Mitt] hasn't stopped listening to Lucid Dreams by JUICE-WRLD," his mother added. "His media presence concerns me, but he'll come out of his room sometimes to make himself pizza rolls, which lets me know he's still doing pretty okay."

Personally, I welcome this new climate revolution. I can't wait until it's so hot in the summer that I can fry an egg on the sidewalk. Actually, I want it to get so hot that I can see my sweat evaporate. Like, right now. A common enemy of climate activism has been the meat industry, so why not just cook the cows while they're still on the ground? In the words of early 2000's artist, Ash, "Burn, Baby, Burn. Disco Inferno."

Jealousy Over Whale Pressures English Dept. to Buy Thoreau Skeleton

BY ADAM TUCHLER

Nearly 20 years of donations and renovations have left Exeter's Science Department with an impressive display of rare animals stuffed by skilled taxidermists. Hundreds of prospective students from around the world visit the Academy each year and marvel at the intimidating humpback whale skeleton hanging from the ceiling. The new Phelps Science Center has been the focus of many campus tours, at the expense of other departments. Well, not anymore.

Teachers in Phillips Hall grew tired of their department being called "bland," so, after many faculty meetings, they arrived at the perfect solution, one which would pull students

away from the science building and draw them right to the magnificent Phillips Hall. They decided to purchase the skeleton of the brilliant philosopher and poet, Henry David Thoreau. Where and how they got the body, they would not disclose, but they did share that it would be displayed in Ms. Moore's classroom to "lighten the mood."

"At first, we were concerned with the ethics behind displaying a human skeleton," English Instructor Erica Lazure said. "But if the science building can have a whale, surely we can have a human."

There was much debate on whose skeleton would be best to purchase, from Ralph Waldo Emerson to Emily Dickinson; one teacher even grimly

requested Dan Brown. Regardless, the department was happy to announce that their purchase was successful, and that the skeleton would likely be on display as early as 2021.

This whole ordeal has inspired the other departments to spend their reserved money. The Music Department bought some new concert pianos, the Math Department renovated all the rooms to include white boards and, after years of saving, the Latin Department finally had enough money to resurrect the Holy Roman Empire.

As Henry David Thoreau once stated, "The world is but a canvas to our imagination." With that in mind, the English Department is looking forward to acquiring more famous skeletons in the future.

Quotes of the Week

"TikTok is the Chinese government's tool to spy on me"
 – Felix Yeung '21

"Since when are you anti-Chinese government?"
 – Erin Choi '21

"I don't talk about smooches all the time. Only some of the time."
 – Ethan Rosenthal '20

» **EVENING PRAYER**
Lower Shantelle Subkhanberdina and her friends will perform this Friday, Jan. 17.

» **SENIOR MEDITATION**
Senior Justin Li will be reading his meditation, “Painting Perfect,” next Wednesday, Jan. 22.

» **NEXT WEEK**
Lower Marco Ko will be reviewing British rapper Stormzy’s album “Heavy is the Head.”



Haripottawekul aspires to serve as an oncologist.

Teja Vankireddy/*The Exonian*

Senior Spotlight: Mimi Haripottawekul

BY LINA HUANG AND ANDREA LUO

Mention “edamame” to an average Exonian, and they’ll think of a vegetable. Mimi Haripottawekul will tell you about a machine she built with friends to recycle plastic into 3-D printing material. Mention “chemistry” to another Exonian, and they’ll tell you it’s one of three core sciences. Haripottawekul will tell you it’s a means to fight against systemic inequality and struggles in her home country of Thailand. To Haripottawekul, learning is not an exercise in thought; it’s another step in her mission to right injustices she has observed.

At her previous school in Thailand, she took an integrated science course combining biology, physics and chemistry that “wasn’t really structured,” deterring her from science.

But she had always felt a desire to help others, leading her to begin a charity called “Hariri,” where she would handknit yarn hats and then donate them to cancer patients. One trip to drop off hats would lead her to her inevitable calling: science.

With her mother, she traveled to the local government hospital and saw masses of people waiting together in one hallway. At

the time, she asked her mother, “Hey, Mom, why are there so many people? Why can’t they go to another hospital?”

“They get free or almost free treatment here, so they can’t afford to go to another place. Some of them have to wait up to 14 hours just to see a doctor for urgent cases,” her mother explained.

Looking back at the crowds huddled in the waiting room, she realized she needed to make a change.

“I’m so privileged. I can go to private hospitals and it’s going to be fine,” she said. “The

main reason I want to be a doctor is to confront the systematic issues in Thailand that make the shortage of doctors.” Haripottawekul does not want to practice medicine for mere profit but to “make a real change” and work in the public health sector.

Haripottawekul arrived as a new upper and was immediately immersed in science. Knowing she wanted to go into healthcare, she decided to enroll in Chemistry 500, which required a prerequisite of Physics 300.

“I’ve known I wanted to be a doctor for quite a while, but what if I don’t actually like science?” she said. But the Harkness method, which encouraged her to speak out and engage in her classes, “reaffirmed to me that I have the ability to do this. I have a dream. I want to keep going.”

Haripottawekul has become an independent leader to those around her. “She is so fearless when it comes to saying things, I don’t think she cares what others think of her sometimes,” senior Mia Glinn said. “She’ll do whatever is on her mind and say whatever she thinks. What I love about her so much is that she’s just on her own wave and she’s riding it.”

Since then, she has mixed science with her own creativity, resulting in internships in clinics for low-income patients and tackling sustainability issues in the Design Lab.

“I worked with two teammates, Panda and Molly, and we built a machine named Edamame. It was basically a machine you could put PLA [plastic] in, and then you can extrude 3D printing filament out from it,” she said. “It was a fun journey to experiment and build the product. A lot of hours spent in the design lab until we finally went to present. Although we didn’t win the big award, we still won something. And it wasn’t even the end that mattered. It’s kind of cliché, but the journey is what matters, not the destination.”

She wasn’t entirely sure what kind of doctor she wanted to be, initially considering dermatology. But looking to her own family helped her realize her true passion. “My dad’s side of the family has a very long history of cancer. During last year, spring term, my grandmother passed away. And I was having a very hard time. It was a very hard thing for me to process back then,” she said. “I found out my other grandmother had cancer

but fought through it, and survived somehow, but she’s really sick now. My aunt—she also got cancer, and the doctor said to me she won’t make it past this year. Honestly, I have a very high likelihood of getting cancer.”

After realizing the extent to which cancer ran in her family, she began to think of the millions of other families feeling the same pain as her. “Knowing the fear that [cancer] causes to the patient and to that patient’s family, I want to help because I want to develop this field further in any way possible.”

Her passion is easily noticed to anyone around her. “I see that she really wants to make a difference in the world. She works so hard everyday,” dormmate and upper Jasmine Liao said. “I remember the first time I met her, she was two weeks ahead of her work, and I could never do that.”

Math Instructor Gwyneth Coogan agreed. “You know she’s in the room when she’s in the room,” she said.

Haripottawekul still makes time for her non-science passions: the khim, an instrument indigenous to Thailand which she describes as a “hammered dulcimer,” and interacting with the elderly. She intersected the two through trips with her old school by playing the khim at nursing homes.

She described the moment where she realized what exactly she was giving to them. “In Thailand, there’s a stigma against nursing homes. In Asia, there’s a lot of emphasis on parents living with their kids when they’re really old. The people who are at nursing homes are seen as abandoned,” she said. “We played this one song that was from a Thai soap opera, and apparently a lot of them watched it. I was playing, and this one moment just like stuck out to me: I looked down, then I looked up and the smiles were so wonderful.”

Haripottawekul looks to the future with certainty, knowing one day she will be a doctor. “It’s not just a job, it’s a calling. It’s something that you have to dedicate your whole life to if you want to actually focus on this one goal,” she said. She encourages those with similar aspirations to start now. “You’re going to be giving back to the community anyway when you’re grown up, why don’t you just start now? You have the ability to make change. Big or small.”

Album Review: Courtney Barnett— “MTV Unplugged”

BY BLAKE SIMPSON

Throughout the 1990s, many fans enjoyed the novelty of seeing popular bands like Nirvana and Alice in Chains go on MTV Unplugged and perform their chugging rhythms with an acoustic bass and brush sticks. It seemed like fate that a singer-songwriter like Courtney Barnett would eventually take the stage for her own recent MTV Unplugged album—and she, by all means, killed it. Courtney Barnett is an Australian indie-folk artist whose witty, speedy style is nothing short of unique. She’s a wicked guitarist and vocalist, and her latest album measures up with the rest of her catalog. Barnett takes some of the best of her art to Unplugged (recorded on October 22, 2019 and released on December 6, 2019) and makes this classic program entirely her own—the best of this album is some of the greater music that I’ve ever heard.

The album consists of eight songs ranging from 4 minutes and 3 seconds to 6 minutes and

35 seconds, totaling 43 minutes and 25 seconds. Out of these eight tracks, I picked my three favorites to focus on, but I would like to give an honorable mention to “Nameless Faceless.” Although it did not make my top three, Nameless Faceless is a haunting duet performed with musician Evelyn Ida Morris that I found deserved a second listen for many reasons, despite it not being one of the songs I came back to immediately. My top three songs off of this album (in no particular order) were track one: “Depreston,” track four: “Avant Gardener,” and track six: “Untitled (Play It On Repeat).”

“Depreston” has a great drum groove, beautiful backing vocals and a lovely cello accompaniment played by Lucy Waldron. The cello adds beautifully to the song and works really well in a live context. All of the songs where Waldron is featured on cello are elevated musically but remain grounded by Barnett’s voice and words making for a perfect backdrop to Barnett’s work. The song is gloomy and

longing and is brought to life in front of an audience perfectly by this ensemble of musicians.

“Avant Gardener” is probably my favorite track on the entire album. Barnett’s wit and lyrical prowess shine brightly on this track, and if “Depreston” is to set the bar for this ensemble, “Avant Gardener” raises it by a mile. Avant Gardener is a sort of rambling track with locked-in instrumentals that manage not to feel rigid. The bass, played by Bones Sloane, in this song felt like a driving force behind the tune. It was unwavering and allowed the melody to flow freely without losing its sense of direction. Something else worth noting is Waldron’s short but sweet solo in this song, which I found to be one of the overall highlights of the album.

Courtney Barnett’s MTV Unplugged is one of the best live albums I’ve listened to recently. Barnett’s work is an important, good sign for the indie and folk genres in the future. I would give this album an 8.3 out of 10. Even the songs that I’m not the biggest fan of are well-written and well-played—they just didn’t resonate with me. However, it’s important to listen for yourself and see what resonates with you personally. When considering how some artists often get new releases hyped up beyond belief, Courtney Barnett is vastly underrated.



Staff Spotlight: Warren Biggins

BY MINSEO KIM

If you are part of an environmental club initiative on campus or are interested in gathering specific data about the school's carbon footprint and energy consumption levels, Warren Biggins is the person to go to for extensive knowledge and guidance. If you're not, you may still want to have a chat with him, as his insight and passion for sustainability is enough to have made an impact on everyone who has had the opportunity to work with him.

Warren Biggins, Manager of Sustainability and Natural Resources as part of Facilities Management, works to engage students in sustainability initiatives on campus. He also works closely with colleague Sustainability Education Coordinator Jason BreMiller as co-chairs of the Environmental Stewardship Strategic Planning Committee, one of the school's five main branches for Environmental Stewardship. Together, they organize major environment-related school events, initiatives, and reflect on the Academy's vision in regards to its climate action plan.

Prior to coming to Phillips Exeter Academy, Biggins has been working for four years as Sustainability Manager at Pitzer College, a small liberal arts college in Claremont, California. Before studying to earn his master's degree in Environmental Management and Sustainability at Illinois Institute of Technology, he worked for three seasons for the National Park Service at Grand Teton National Park in Jackson, Wyoming. He has also lived in Chicago's suburban areas, taking part in hands-on

restoration work within its park districts. Furthermore, throughout his professional career, he has participated in environmental advocacy work for the Wilderness Society, an organization that collaborates with local communities in order to protect and preserve America's national forests, wildlife refuges, and public wildlands.

Biggins' role on campus encompasses coordination with sustainability clubs, initiatives, and school-wide events. He is in charge of the school's greenhouse gas emissions reporting and tracks the school's overall electricity usage. He has recently worked on creating a comprehensive carbon emissions inventory for the school that could be used to track their progress in the near future. Additionally, Biggins role extends to the ecosystems of the Academy's property. As BreMiller explains, "[Biggins] chairs the natural resources committee, he's responsible for determining how we're managing our fields and forest, our trail system, and such... he manages the more plant-related systems to ensure that they are as environmentally friendly as possible."

Specific projects that Biggins has helped support and coordinate include the Green Umbrella Learning Lab, events for Climate Action Day, and the RedBikes bike share program launch, which he and BreMiller both provided assistance for.

Biggins also supervises the Exeter operations of Green Move Out, an initiative to reduce end-of-year waste generated by students in colleges and boarding schools by donating objects to

Goodwill. He also assists with Green Graduation, which similarly helps reduce the waste produced from graduation events, and works as a liaison between the Waste Management team and the custodial staff in order to ensure that plans run smoothly. "We compost and recycle the vast majority of things during graduation. I work with dining and custodial on waste recycling and composting," Biggins explains.

He has also helped many of the student-run environmental clubs with various projects. He is the club advisor for Exeter Climate Lobby, which "provides students with opportunities to engage with climate activism through the political system," ECL co-head Erin McCann explains.

Last September, ECL organized for a student trip to attend the Climate Strike event. McCann notes Biggins' assistance with the event: "Biggins was very helpful in handling the logistics for the Strike, such as finding transportation and communicating our plans to the Dean's office to receive permission for students."

Upper Bea Burack, another co-head of the Exeter Climate Lobby, commented, "I think he has a lot of really good insights on how different sustainability measures will work on campus. He's always there to help out whenever we need advice."

Senior Harrison He, who became more closely involved in the topic of environmental sciences after taking the Green Umbrella Learning Lab classes during fall term, received help from Biggins for a dorm composting project with a few of his classmates. He recalled, "a lot of the time, we went to Biggins for advice on logistics and how to implement our pilot program. He helped us in that regard, and he also helped us with [acquir-



Biggins serves the community.

Along with his contributions to organized sustainability initiatives across campus, he spends a portion of time talking with motivated students. Biggins explains this in detail: "Mr. BreMiller and I also host Sustainability office hours, which is once a week this term, to advise some of the different student groups we work with, such as the Exeter Climate Lobby, E-Proctors, and we talk with students that have questions or ideas on sustainability initiatives they'd like to see on campus."

Outside the workplace, along with his consistent consideration of the school's sustainability programs, Biggins enjoys live music and goes to watch shows at the Stone Church in Newmarket or Prescott Park in Portsmouth from time to time. Additionally, he stays active. "You can catch him torturing himself on the Versa Climber or in the weight room at Love Gym during the week, and out for runs or hikes on the weekends,"

PEA photographer and videographer Christian Harrison says.

Will Vietor/*The Exonian*

Biggins' drive comes from his understanding of the importance of sustainability and the need for Academy students to study it and raise awareness. He commented, "The sooner students become aware of sustainability and what needs to happen, the sooner they can make it happen."

Although a relatively new staff member, only joining PEA last year, Biggins is quite committed to the school's sustainability efforts. As He notes, "I can tell that [Biggins is] obviously really passionate about sustainability. He's someone that not a lot of people on this campus know about. He should definitely be recognized more."

Reflecting on his time spent so far at the school, Biggins comes back to the students. "Working with students is probably the most rewarding part of my job, because it connects me to the educational mission of the Academy," he says. "It's especially rewarding when I am able to help a student turn their idea for a sustainability initiative into a reality."

Guidelines for the Winter Blues: A Prep's Take

BY CLARK WU

Congrats! If you're reading this article, you've survived your hell weeks (and possibly enjoyed a restful Christmas vacay). As someone who struggles with the below-freezing temperatures and the roller-coaster-like Exeter weather, I have a few tips for how to finish strong in the remaining weeks of winter term.

Exeter can get quite windy sometimes, and the cold, dry climate can render your skin parched like leather. As such, wearing your gloves and your Exeter beanie can help you stay warm and prevent sickness. You'll also want to wear your extra-windproof jacket (preferably with a hood) on the snowy or rainy days to keep your torso and neck warm; that's usually where the cold seeps in.

On top of that, definitely keep up your healthy routine. Eat a balanced diet with carbohydrates, proteins and vegetables, although it's okay to indulge in your favorite dessert once in a while. Always drink water! Pre-hydrate so you don't get dehydrated. Most importantly, get lots of sleep! Sleep deprivation happens the most over winter term, but it can lead to an awful cycle of headaches and grogginess. You might feel super hyped after pulling an all-nighter, but the lost sleep will affect you later in the week.

Getting through a tough Ex-

eter winter week can be made easier if you have something, anything, to look forward to. Maybe it's a movie you've always wanted to watch after check-in on a Friday or Saturday night or it's a planned weekend outing with friends to grab a bite in town. Anticipation for any activity inspires a lot of hopeful thinking.

Another way of dealing with the winter blues is simply getting lots of light. We naturally associate the sun with positivity and hope, so look for the sun every day, especially on the sunnier, warmer weekends! When you have a free in the middle of the day, refrain from curling up inside your room and instead consider going on a short walk into town or around campus. Going to the gym or running outdoors (hooray for distance track!) will also boost your dopamine, just be careful with the slippery iced slush on the sides of the roads. There's also a UV light therapy program in the library and in the health center. Just don't spend too much time sitting close to the white light or you might get burned!

Remember: winter is not difficult only for you, so spend time with your friends! They are here to take care of you and you are here to take care of them. If you have a roommate, voice your appreciation for them! During lunch or dinner time, put away for phones and laptops, meet up

with your friends and ask them how their day has been. Be genuinely interested in what they say and how they feel. Use your Harkness-trained listening skills and empathize with those who might be feeling down.

A good listener with a word of encouragement or a smile can be very powerful whether it's you or your friend.

Finally, always think with a positive mindset! Take on winter term one week, maybe even one day, at a time. Don't stress out about every single assignment that you have during the evening. Celebrate the little things: like when the sun started setting mid-G-block instead of during Uni Free. Spend maybe 10 to 20 minutes every day to reflect on your day: what are you grateful for? It can be as simple as a friend's witty joke, someone holding the door for you or the clean water coming out of your shower. Do something for yourself — something you truly enjoy. Singing along with Exeteras (an only all-male a cappella group on campus) during serenades season took up two hours of my evening on the busiest days of hell-week, but the happy faces I saw and the applause we got pumped me through those late nights.

When you brighten someone else's day, both of you will feel loved. An Exeter winter can be warm if we warm each other's hearts.

Students Dress to Impress: WinFo

BY CINDY SU AND KENDRAH SU

Maneuvering around puddles of slush in silk dresses, suits and heels, students from all around campus gathered in Grainger Auditorium to attend WPEA's Winter Formal dance last Saturday.

Upon entering the Phelps Science Center, a line had already formed for students to be photographed in front of a wintry, balloon-decorated backdrop. The live band's music resounded through the building, up the staircase where groups of students were posing for pictures. Many students joined the dance floor, socialized with fellow students and enjoyed the assortment of snacks outside of the entrance of Grainger.

One of the main draws of the dance was the food. The hors d'oeuvres included a wide selection of sweets such as cream puffs and strawberries, as well as pigs in a blanket and baked pastry. Beverages were available and the tiny rose-gold forks made a charming splash.

Attire did not disappoint as students pulled out all the stops for this well-attended dance. Many rocked a more typical outfit, sporting suits and dress shirts, while others opted for a spin back in time, wearing large ballroom gowns, Hawaiian shirts or unique accessories. Others thought more about comfort, standing out in sneakers, sweatpants, and sunglasses.

Student performers provided lush music for the reception, and an outside band provided lively, upbeat music for the dance. The setlist also incorporated more pop

and current songs rather than jazz or instrumental music, which we felt helped set an inviting, exciting tone while students streamed in.

The decorations transformed the science center into a blue and white winter wonderland. The tables facing the small stage where the student performers have had a very elegant feel to them, especially with the glass centerpieces filled with fairy lights.

As usual, extensive planning went into the process of organizing the event—both from students and faculty. As Assistant Director of Student Activities and advisor for WPEA, Kelly McGahie noted the collaborative process, noting that "[Winter Formal] was a team effort," she said.

Returners to the event noticed that there were many efforts made towards improvement. Emma Cerrato, a senior on the planning board, said, "We took feedback from last year to try to fix problems for this year." Some of those changes included a different location for the photo booth as well as a different location for the refreshments. Emily Kelleher, another senior on the planning board, noted a change in music. "[Winter Formal] never had students really singing. It's always been people playing jazz music," she said. "And so I really liked this—the songs this year and the group that we chose."

Although some students noted that it got a bit stuffy inside the venue, it was still a fun morale booster in the cold winter season. The combination of fancy suits and dresses, student performers and good snacks brought lots of joy to the PEA community.

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01 Exeter–Proctor

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60-21
78-0

SCORE

2-1

BOYS' WINTER TRACK

01 NHIAA Meet

BOYS' HOCKEY

01 Exeter–Dexter Southfield

PLACE

3rd

SCORE

1-5

GIRLS' WINTER TRACK

01 NHIAA Meet

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

01 Exeter–Andover

PLACE

3rd

SCORE

34-51

Basketball Slam Dunks Governor's

BY CHARLIE VENCI

Senior Niko Rocak receives a pass on the post. With a swift spin, he turns to the basket and leaps, determined to take it to the rack. With his left hand, he swipes the defender's hands out of the way while simultaneously slamming the ball through the hoop with his right hand. When the dust settles and Rocak's feet return to the court, Love Gymnasium erupts in cheers. Flashy dunks are a signature seal of Big Red's Boys Varsity basketball team.

Rocak's dunk came as icing on the cake for a weekend of underdog wins for Big Red. The team traveled to Governor's Academy on Friday night and escaped with a 62-57 win against a strong onslaught of talent. On Saturday, the team beat Proctor Academy at home with a final score of 62-51. The biggest highlight of the weekend was the fact that both Governor's and Proctor are in the AA Class, while Exeter is only in the A Class. The two upsets left Big Red with a season record of 8-0.

One cannot recap the Governor's game without mentioning the performances of lower Josh Morrisette and senior Declan Porter. Morrisette put up 22 points while Porter sealed the game for Big Red, shooting 75% from the 3-point line.

Although Big Red was leading 40-16 at halftime, the game came down to the wire. Rocak commented on the uphill battle that the team faced in the second half: "Even though we were up to twen-

ty, at some point we got caught up in the moment in the second half and had to deal with it. 15 players, 3 coaches, 2 managers against the rest of the gym," he said.

Upper Lucas McEachern explained some of the mistakes the team made that allowed Governor's to climb back into the game. Although the Gov's team made it look like it was going to be a close game at the end, Exeter proved that they were in control all along. In the final minutes of the game, Big Red pulled themselves out of the slump and buried the opposition.

Upper Robbie Stankard highlighted a message from Coach Tilton as being a crucial one in the dying minutes, stating, "Coach always tells us that there are going to be times when we aren't playing well and it's all about finding other ways to win. We proved that we don't go away when faced with adversity. The team stayed together to find a win," he said.

In the first half of the team's game against Proctor on Saturday, their fatigue from the night before revealed itself and Big Red fell behind. But, with the classic Exeter fighting spirit, the team battled their way back from being behind. "We weren't going to let them win," Stankard said. "As Coach Tilton likes to say, we grind down our opponents until we come out on top. There is always a definite change in body language in our opponents when we have worn them down. Proctor definitely showed that in the final



Senior Lucas Grandison dribbles down the court.

Teja Vankireddy/The Exonian

three minutes of the game."

It is the unrelenting drive within each player on the team that has carried the Big Red basketball program so far this season. This past weekend has been a successful one, but there were still a few aspects of the game that the team needs to improve upon. "We tend to start a game very well, but then we relax in the second half and ease up. We need to maintain our intensity for the entire game,"

Rocak said.

At this point in the season, it is safe to say that Big Red is on a roll. The team has not lost a game up to this point, and they are on track to finish with a phenomenal record. Part of this achievement can be attributed to the do or die mentality that each player holds within them.

McEachern explained what the rest of the season should look like for the team. "We need to be

great at everything we do consistently. We need to avoid having periods of time when we don't do what we need to do well."

In the end, it all comes down to whether or not Big Red can defend the Class A Title that it claimed last season.

In the eyes of McEachern and his teammates, this is the goal that gets them out of bed and through each day—"we're coming for that championship."



Lower Carolyn Fortin prepares to smash the ball.

Teja Vankireddy/The Exonian

Girls' Squash to Improve After Deerfield

BY SAVI KIEDEL

In their first doubleheader of the year, Varsity Girls' Squash traveled to Deerfield on Saturday to play against Big Green and Sacred Heart. Despite putting up their best fight, the girls left with two losses. The Girls left with a score of 0-7 against both schools.

In the days leading up to the match, the girls trained hard and did not waste time. The team looked to give every minute of training their best effort and worked on specific, individualized improvements. "We did a lot of ghosting and drills in practice," upper Catherine Fortin said. The practice of "ghosting" involves going through the motion of the squash strokes without the ball and is well known to be a hard workout.

In addition, the team completed a number of fitness and

consistency drills to stay light on their feet and rails tight on the wall. Upper Emily Baxter noted that the team "focused on the power and placement of [their] shots" in order to make the return more difficult for their opponent.

After the long bus ride out west to Deerfield, the girls got off the bus ready for a fight. "They have a really strong team and most of us were not expecting to win," lower Leandra Sze said.

Team members recognized other players for their outstanding performances. Baxter highlighted that Charlotte Kaufman "received the best results" out of the team that weekend, further recognizing KATE Manderlink for her valiant efforts during several matches.

Sze went on to mention a fantastic display of positivity from upper Anne Brandes, which helped the team keep

working and keep their spirits out of the gutters. "Anne had a really positive outlook when going into her matches, which I admired. She also gave a motivating pep talk to the team before we played," Sze said.

In the next few practices, the team will be preparing for their chance at redemption, in a match against St. Paul's this Wednesday. "This next match will be a great way to use skills we learned from the weekend's match and implement them into our play," Fortin said.

Sze shared similar sentiments. "We're hoping to improve and to try to win as many matches as we can," she said.

Despite these tough losses, the team will not let negativity bog them down the rest of the season. Indeed, the team hopes to use the experience against these two teams as motivation to push and win the rest of its matches.

Coop's Scoop: Winter Training Quote Box

"I restricted myself to only drinking Muscle Milk...I really noticed a difference."
- Aiden Silvestri '22

"I swam 800 furlongs."
- Chazz Venci '20

"I watched football."
- David Kim '20

"[Coach] Newbould emailed us updates about our workout everyday. But I just did the same run."
- Bianca Lee '20

"A magician never reveals their secret."
- Molly Longfield '22

"I was running and swimming in Florida so that I'd be ready for the hard sets Coach Lundy threw at me... It paid off."
- Ursie Wise '21

"I went to the gym here on campus over break and found myself being lapped, outlitted and beat every which way by all of the alumni."
- Abby Asch '21

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