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Academy Bids Farewell to Wetherell Dining Hall



By TEDDY CAPOZZI and LILY RAMPE

On March 2, students gathered to say farewell to the Wetherell Dining Hall — a campus staple for over

fifty years.

Wetherell was the Academy's first dining hall, located on the Northside of campus. The second dining hall — Elm Street — remains on the

Southside. Wetherell was a place for students, faculty, and administration to dine and chat, and was a central breakfast and lunch spot for many students given its proximity to academic

buildings.

The Farewell Wetherell event welcomed students, faculty, and administration to enjoy some baked treats and learn about the history of the Academy's oldest

dining hall.

The Exeter community was fortunate enough to have members of the Wetherell family come and commemorate the building. Among them was Chuck

Hillary Yoon / *The Exonian*

Wetherell, a recently retired machinist. While starting a new chapter of his life in retirement, Chuck has

ACADEMY, 2

Student Council Decides Committee Co-heads

By ERIN HAN, CJ SMITH, and MONA YADAV

Alongside the newly elected Student Council President, Vice President, and Co-Secretaries, many Exonians were recently elected to serve as co-heads for the various Student Council Committees.

Committees include everything from public relations to mental health, and students of all grade levels are welcome to join. As a new policy, each committee must have at least one member be an underclassman. In light of a strenuous and exhausting year, Student Council committee members have made it their priority to serve as interlocutors between the administration and the student body. With several policy goals, like closed door visitations for seniors and more fun and frequent events being pushed off, the committee heads also hope to advocate on behalf of the students.

"We're supposed to foster transparency and excitement around student council. So far in the past couple years, the PR team hasn't been doing a good enough job of that," remarked newly-elected Public Relations committee co-head Lauren Lee. Lee outlined the steps that she would take as co-head to increase dialogue with the student body. "We're going to create campus catchup videos to further create hype and excitement from the student body towards the student council and hopefully get new members and more members for the various committees that we have."

Tech co-head Alaysha Zhang explained why she applied for the position. "Exec reached out to me

and asked if I would like to join tech as more of the graphic side. Then in the future when we work on Stuco projects, we can also improve the design aspect."

She also explained how tech committee would work to help other committees. "We want to help them in whatever way possible — if they need any forms set out or in overall helping manage communication in the case of a PR committee."

"So I wanted to help the school return back to normal in a sense."

Lee also explained how she would accomplish her goals as co-head. "As peer co-heads, Nikki and I are planning to meet biweekly and recruit more members into the PR team so that we can be a more robust committee." She further reiterated her main promise to members of the student body. "I plan to be someone who has transparency as her greatest priority."

Lower and Recreation Committee co-head Anna Holtz explained what the committee does. "We're responsible for planning events. For the most part, dances are our biggest thing, but pep rallies are another big one. And then we also hold carnivals, and little things throughout the year. We're just trying to make campus more fun," she explained.

Holtz also shared why she decided to apply for the position: "I wanted to be involved in dances, especially since the year I came in, we had COVID-19 and all that. So I wanted to help the school return back to normal in a sense and I

Academy Admits Class of 2027

By AMY LIN and FORREST ZENG

On March 10, the Academy released admission decisions for all students who applied to Exeter during 2022-2023. This year, 16% of applicants were admitted across all classes. The admitted students include students of the incoming prep class of 2027.

The admission rate this past year was slightly higher than last year. Dean of Enrollment Bill Leahy said, "This year, we admitted approximately 16% of our applicants. That admit rate was slightly higher than last year and is similar to admit rates experienced by Exeter prior to the pandemic." He attributed it to the increase in applicants during the pandemic. "Like most of our peer schools, Exeter saw an increase in applications during the pandemic over the past two years. We are as always incredibly fortunate to have a remarkable group of students applying from around the world with a rich range of perspectives, experiences, interests, and backgrounds."

In addition to a return to pre-pandemic levels of applicants, this year was also the second year since the need-blind policy on financial aid was implemented. The policy ensures that during admission decisions, a student's request for financial aid is not considered during the selection process. "Because of the

need-blind commitment, our job was made easier because no student was denied admission due to their financial circumstances," Leahy said. "It is an incredibly powerful reflection of the mission and values of the school."

After years of complications in the application processes on account of the pandemic, students found it refreshing to be able to visit the campus freely and interact with the community at Exeter. Incoming lower Truman Yee said, "Visiting and interviewing in person was a nice change from the year before."

Students described their moments of acceptance as ones of elation. Incoming prep Melody Ma said, "I was over the moon. I was super excited because it means that I get to go to my dream school."

The application process was interesting for many. Ma said, "I feel like I got to know myself better throughout the process. It revealed my strengths and my weaknesses."

After being admitted, students' first steps will be to begin enrollment at Exeter. Many students might face decisions between multiple schools to which they applied. For Yee, the decision was easy. "Looking at the course of studies, seeing so many options was very nice," Yee said.

"What really stood out to me was how friendly the people were," Ma said.

"On my tour, we were walking down the street, and all the people in the cars waved at us. I remember that we walked into Phillips hall, and there was a teacher who was walking out of her classroom, but she saw us and turned back to reopen her door and gave me a little tour of her classroom."

Many incoming students will be coming to Expe-



A prospective student poses for a photo during Experience Exeter.

rience Exeter, where new students shadow a current student for a day. Head tour guide senior Tucker Gibbs said, "This is the first full-capacity version since 2019. Students will join and they will be paired with people with similar interests. They will shadow them from 10:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on those days."

Current students have found themselves creating online communities to welcome admitted students. Prep Enya Yu said, "I like helping people and talking to the new kids,

answering their questions."

"After March 10 when I was accepted, I found an Instagram account for the class of 2027 at Exeter," Ma said. "They added me to a group chat and I also found their Discord server. I've already connected with some new students that are going to Exeter."

Leahy said, "For students who are still trying to decide, I urge them

to reflect on the people at Exeter because it is the students and adults who will have the greatest impact on your daily experience."

"If you are on the line about committing to Exeter, think about the opportunities you'd like to have," Gibbs said. "Very few schools have these sorts of resources, opportunities, et cetera. In very few places you get such an engaged community of scholars and athletes. It really makes such a great experience."

Reflecting on last year while looking ahead to the future, Holtz said, "Last year was tough. Because of the winter term, we couldn't have a winter formal, but I definitely think next year is going to be a great year. I

felt like a lot of last year was figuring out what it takes to be a good committee co-head and learning all these skills. But now that I've had a year of experience, I think it'll really help me for next year and just being able to accomplish more."

STUCO, 2

just love dances and parties and all that type of stuff. So I just thought that it'd be a good role for me," she said.

Outlining her plans for her tenure, Holtz said, "Well, next year, we want to hold a lot of dances, specifically some sort of homecoming dance. I'm not

it that but students really want that to happen. We'll also organize pep rallies for all three terms, and I really want to do a carnival in the spring. And we also want to organize some sort of little indoor events for next winter, and then maybe another carnival in the fall,

right when students get back to campus."

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Farewell to Wetherell Cont.



Students enjoy a variety of snacks at the Farewell Wetherell event.

Hillary Yoon / *The Exonian*

found a strong fascination in genealogy. Last year he learned about his cousin and the dining hall he gave to the Academy.

At the Farewell Wetherell event, Chuck was able to enjoy the various selection of baked goods, fruits, and refreshments offered, as well as interact with a piece of his family history. During his speech, he discussed how he admired the building and Exeter's rich history.

"Well, I don't live here or anything, but I feel right at home here," Wetherell said. "Driving around Exeter, you can see all the history, and they try to hold on to that as much as they can. It's just a beautiful town, and a beautiful school."

Heidi Dumont, who serves as the Manager of Dining Services, explained what went into planning Farewell Wetherell.

"We created a dining

planning committee with volunteer dining team members to help with ideas for a fun event," Dumont said. "We also invited archivist Magee Lawhorn to research the history of dining and display her findings on the walls in [the] North and South [sides of the building], as well as [display] the motto 'Goodbye for Now' on the wall. As we were planning the Farewell event, we were also planning the move out for the renovation project and thought to move all the tables and chairs to create a dance space[, which] was the original idea."

Overall, students seemed to enjoy themselves at the event. Prep Jesse Ball said, "It was a chill and peaceful event, quiet, and interesting. I toured the basements and enjoyed learning about the history of the Wetherell family."

Prep Corinne Welling also expressed her

appreciation. "I love that the staff wanted to share their farewell with us because I can only imagine how it would feel for someone that has been working in Weth[erell] for 20+ years to have to say goodbye."

A crucial part of the event was the vast food selection, which consisted primarily of baked goods made in Wetherell's bakery. "We wanted to showcase our bakery and the work of our bakers Cindy Amabile and Mary Smith because it is very rare to have an in-house bakery on campus," Dumont said. "The executive chefs, Cindy and Mary, and I decided on all the sweets menu."

Students generally liked the food and the variety of treats offered. Welling said, "I absolutely loved all of the mini snacks and desserts. They were so cute! I am so thankful towards the staff that took the time to make us all that stuff."

Students on the north side of campus have generally enjoyed the convenience of having

Wetherell nearby. Upper Hansen Tsai, who resides in Ewald, said walking to the Elm Street Dining Hall has been very time consuming for him. "I think it's better than Elm Street because of its proximity to classrooms,

"Well, I don't live here or anything, but I feel right at home here."

and it's also closer to EPAC (Elizabeth Phillips Academy Center)."

Upper Lianna Yang found that the Wetherell experience was more intimate and provided a sense of home for her that she felt is missing at Elm

breakfast. "We go every morning at 7 a.m. when it opens, and we are on the left side at one of the roundtables working. It was a really nice place to work and not having that has made me less productive."

Students are slowly adjusting to dining in Grainger Auditorium, which is being used as a temporary dining hall in lieu of Wetherell. Prep Asha Masoudi said, "I think it's definitely strange without Weth[erell]."

"While we still have Grainger, it's a lot more cramped and chaotic. Weth also had amazing ice machines that I'm gonna miss." Carranza said, "I feel like the food in Grainger is just always the same. Like it's just the quality of the food has gone down."

Other students seem



Attendees were able to make speeches at the event.

Hillary Yoon / *The Exonian*



Students enjoy the Tiki decorations in the Fishbowl.

Hillary Yoon / *The Exonian*

Council Committee Co-heads Cont.

Upper and Policy Committee co-head Andrew Yuan briefly explained the role of the committee. "Our committee is basically responsible for communicating with the deans and the administration about what StuCo is working on. We coordinate with the Exec board of StuCo to come up with a set of policies that we want to be passed both on the student level and also on the faculty level. We also solicit opinions among students about what changes they want to see in terms of going forward in campus life. We try to come up with a compromise between the student body and the faculty members to the best of our ability to satisfy both the student's demands and also the administration's requirements. Overall, we connect Exec with some of

the policies on their priority list and we try to pass them with the consent of the faculty," he said.

Yuan wanted to become Policy Committee co-head because of the importance and responsibility of the committee. "I applied because I think policy committee is a committee of much use, and it's a very effective committee in terms of communicating with the different academic departments, communicating with deans, communicating with the administration to deliver what the students might need in terms of both their academic life and their life at Exeter as a community. The policy committee is working on some really interesting pieces of legislation so I wanted to be involved with that," he explained.

Yuan has many plans

for his tenure as committee co-head. "First of all, we're trying to create and publish an internal report on what the past Policy Committee has done and what we should be working on our future goals for this committee... We're just trying to work on picking up some work that the past committee has done... So specifically that would look like picking up work on CCC reform as well as working on the new visitations policy that has been in the works for two years. We are also examining the medical leave policy, especially in conjunction with the Mental Health Committee and also with CAPS and the deans," he said.

Some of the more compact goals of the committee involve language in absence emails and department policy reforms: "A small project

that the past committee started in the last term is trying to change or work around the dicky's email language, so we're trying to make it softer and more acceptable to parents and the student body. So that we will be working with Dean Griffith on. The primary upcoming goal we have is trying to get faculty members to have assignment feedback within one or two weeks because we know sometimes assignments can take a very long time for faculty to get back. We also want to focus on the schedule and changing it. We're going to try to take samples from our sister schools and use that to revise and reform our schedule. So we'll be working on that with a CVP group," Yuan said.

The committee also wants to create a liaison system with various

faculty. "And another thing that we're trying to create as a Policy Committee as a whole is to establish some subcommittee liaisons with departments... Right now we're thinking of department chairs only, but

"I feel like listening to students and hearing what people want us to do, planning wise, is the most important thing."

if there are relevant faculty members that we should also be connecting to, we will establish that as well," he explained.

Explaining how the Policy Committee will work to support students, Yuan said, "So I think the Policy Committee has these differing agendas and we'll try to work with Exec to the best of our ability. Not all of our policies are dependent upon Exec, and at the same

to be enjoying the dining experience at Grainger Auditorium. Ball said, "I find Grainger now to be more conveniently located for me and my classes."

Welling shares a similar sentiment. "I really like being able to get food in between my classes. Grainger is so accessible."

In terms of the new dining hall's renovation plans, Dumont said, "The renovation will take 16 months. We hope to get some drawings of the renditions so we can display them to the community. The dining team has worked with the architects and design team to create a dining experience that will be welcoming and updated to be efficient, and I cannot wait to see the final project done in the fall of 2024."

time, not all of Exec's policies have to go through us. I think one thing is trying to balance the number of policies that we can pass in a manageable manner so that we can satisfy the student body, but at the same time trying to accomplish compromise."

The main goal of all these committees is, as Yuan said, "to listen more to the student body. If a student has a particularly strong opinion about one thing that they see as unsatisfying in the school, I recommend they go out to the entire council so that they can give us feedback on that. So just more communication with the Student Council in general, more communication with the student body, and better engagement with both the faculty members and also with administration."

Holtz felt similarly, concluding with, "I feel like listening to students and hearing what people want us to do, planning wise, is the most important thing."

Life

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Read about our senior duo of the week Asa Campbell and Blake Simpson, 5.

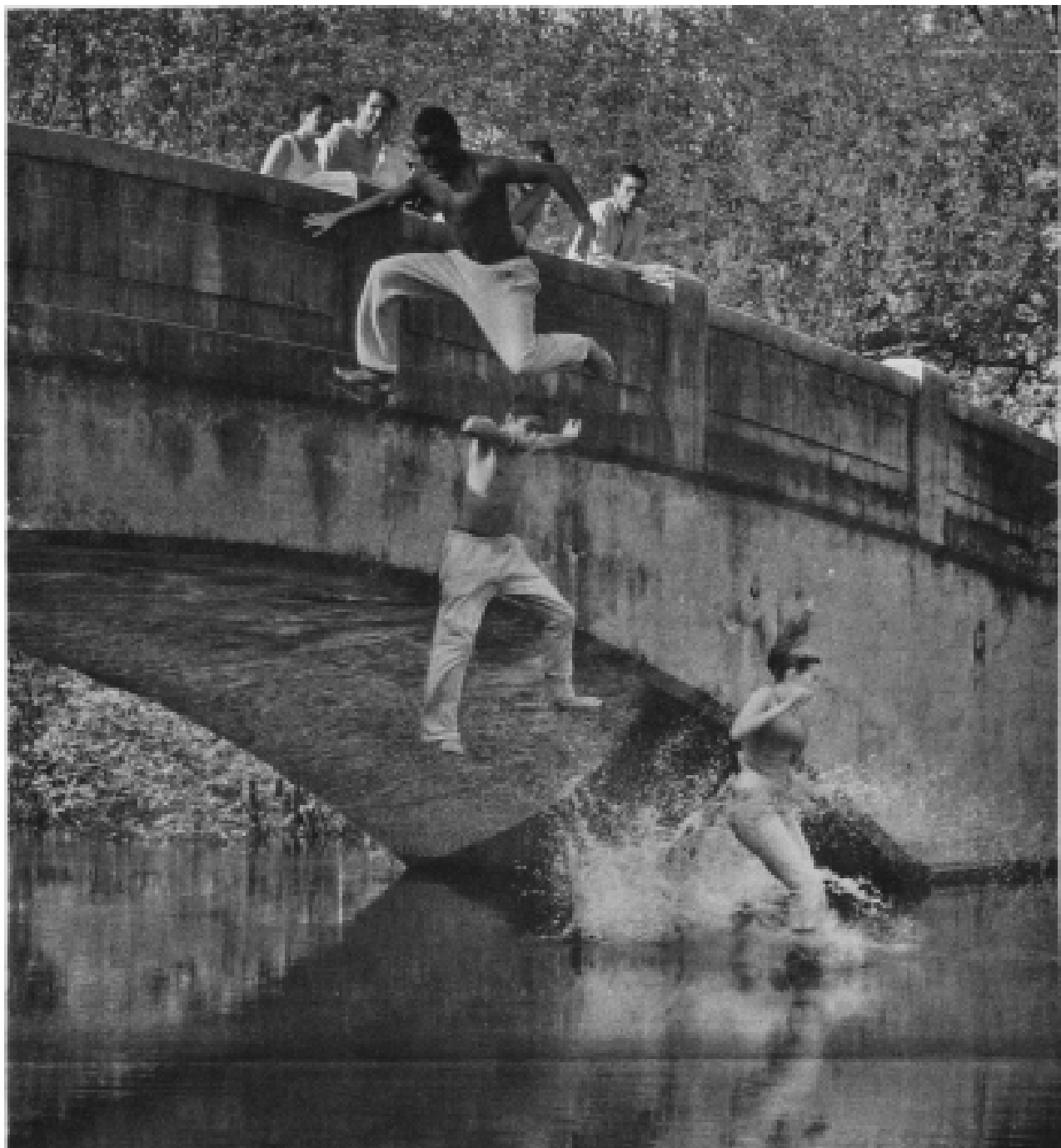
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» BRIDGE

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A Brief History of Bridge Jumping



From *The Exonian's* June 12, 2005 issue: Sadiq Okocha, Mik Patel, and Claire Brennan take part in a tradition to close the school year, jumping off Hill Bridge into the Exeter River.

By CHENGYUE ZHANG '24

Disclaimer: Please do not jump down the Hill Bridge because the water is too shallow and you will hurt yourself.

During the summer before Exeter, I sat on the asphalt shingle roof of this house in Massachusetts and started reading *A Separate Peace*, a novella written by Exeter alumnus John Knowles based on his personal experience studying at Exeter. I was feeling obligated and hoping to learn a bit more of Exeter's history and culture through this half-auto-biographical story. I finished the book in one sitting, captivated by the dramatic turns of events all incited by a tree/bridge jumping expenditure.

Nowadays, under the Student Information and Guidelines section of the E-book, it states very specifically: "jumping off Hill Bridge is prohibited." (The Hill Bridge, for those of you who do not know, is the stumpy, cream-colored bridge by the outdoor track.) I became extremely curious about bridge jumping and, thus, did a little digging into the history of bridge jumping at the Academy.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

In the 1970s and 80s, bridge jumping was a normal thing to do with friends, especially in the hot summer days. It is also a popular activity during an annual school-wide spring term event called "The Day." During "The Day" in May of 1972, students gathered on the river bank. "[There were] a hundred frisbees in the air during the afternoon, and the river was full of canoes rented downstream and bodies swimming and jumping off the bridge. As many as twenty people jumped at once. There were helium balloons floating in the air, and from somewhere, someone had produced two truck tires which people rolled around in," *The Exonian* reported. On "The Day" of 1977, the

weather got so hot in the afternoon that "the bridge was thronged all day with divers, jumpers, pushers (of people) and pushers." Mr. Kurtz (the Academy's principal at the time) was even invited multiple times to bridge jump, the *Exonian* wrote, but he rejected the offer. During this period, bridge jumping and other non-prohibited water-related activities, such as "swimming, rafting and boating," were allowed and regarded as common practices. According to a list of the "best" at Exeter, compiled through surveys taken at the

"Mr. Kurtz (the Academy's principal at the time) was even invited multiple times to bridge jump, the *Exonian* wrote."

dining hall published in *The Exonian* on April 17th, 1993, "Jumping off Hill Bridge is Best Thing about Spring."

The first mention in *The Exonian* of a student potentially getting in trouble from jumping off the bridge appeared in an humor article (the section was actually called 'Around Campus' at the time), on May 8, 1993. Author Drew Magary stated that "some students got kicked out [of the Academy] for "weekend activities," although they probably did have a lot of fun before getting caught. When you finally find that special thing that entertains (bridge jumping), just keep doing it."

The increasing consequences of bridge-jumping in the 1990s resulted in increasing *The Exonian* coverage and mentioning of the 'tradition.' Articles from issues of May 7, 1994, April 18th, 1996, June 9, 1996, June 7, 1998, and June 1, 2002 all described bridge jumping as something seniors must do before graduation, though it is technically banned. Multiple seniors referred to bridge jumping as some of the best experiences that highlighted their Exeter experiences.

According to an unofficial survey by a staff writer for *The Exonian* in 2003, about half of the seniors (class of 2004) had bridge-jumped more than once at Exeter.

THE DANGER OF LAMPREYS and of the CAR?

Along with coverage about how fun bridge jumping is, starting from the later half of the 90s, we also started to get a series of superstitions and myths related to potential danger in bridge jumping. An article published on March 7, 1996, suggested people not jump off from the tennis court side of the bridge because "story has it that someone once drove a car into the river, and that it is now buried beneath the water on that side. In addition to the bad luck that supposedly lingers with the car, one is likely to be severely injured by the wreckage if they chose to jump off [that] side."

Increasing mention of bridge jumping in *The Exonian* that potentially stemmed from the growing push-back from the school to prevent students from bridge jumping due to valid safety concerns. On May 14, 2004, Ryan McCarthy wrote an article, raising concerns about the danger of bridge jumping. Specifically, he wrote about a type of creature called Lamprey that his biology teachers have been teaching about in prep biology courses.

Again, in an article in issue of May 6, 2005, acknowledged the danger of bridge jumping. An Exeter Summer student landed in shallow water when bridge jumping and was "seriously injured," and the "broken bottles and bike parts" in the river also increased the danger level. According to the article, students who were caught bridge jumping received disciplinary cases, and most faculties would ask students to step down if they saw them trying to jump from the bridge. Despite all the potential danger mentioned in the article, some students expressed that they enjoyed bridge jumping and were willing to take the risk.

Charles Leung / *The Exonian*

SECURITY CAMERA!?

In 2006, there was a surge of articles written about bridge jumping, with a total of 26 mentions in all of *The Exonian's* articles of the year, due to a security camera campus safety placed "above the press boxes in Phelps Stadium." The camera was intended to be used to monitor and protect the new turf, but the security camera's "wide viewing angles, high definition zooms," and night vision allowed a clear view of students jumping off the bridge. Multiple *Exonians* were caught

"Multiple *Exonians* were caught on sight and stopped."

on sight and stopped.

Even though bridge jumping was already against the school rule, the new security cameras allowed bridge jumping to be effectively prevented in large quantities. Students were indigent, stating that the cameras "[violates the students' right] to be able to

go when it's rainy, Don't be mean to security just because they're doing their job, But hopefully we can get this new totalitarianism reversed. The Constitution guarantees all citizens governed by its laws the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, People forget that last one, Let's pursue happiness and hopefully catch it. That's all."

In reaction to these sentiments, Campus Safety officers Gilmore and Dean of Students Ethan Shapiro emphasized that the purpose for installing cameras was not to catch kids bridge jumping. Shapiro specifically said "I didn't even know there were cameras. They weren't put in there in conjunction with the Dean of Students office or else I would have known about them... Obviously students aren't supposed to jump off the bridge. It's a safety issue. When they do jump off the bridge, security tends to chase them away, but they don't send the names to me." Their response was surprising to me. It seemed that the students got the upper hand, and that at the time the school was not too keen in enforcing the no-bridge-jumping rule. "Many students agreed that the teachers don't seem to be unduly troubled by bridge jumping, and that its proscription is based mostly for litigation reasons," an article in *The Exonian* titled 'Breaking Rules to Preserve Traditions' published on May 11, 2006, stated. However, the faculty quotes in the same article presents a different perspective: faculty genuinely would like students to stop bridge jumping due to safety concerns." Students focus on the rule, there's no discussion of why the rule exists," Dean of Residential Life Russell Weatherspoon at the time said, "the rules exist to try to say, here are some things that may happen if you're not careful, so please avoid doing these things."

The little security camera "drama" slowly died down. In the following years, students wrote several humor articles in *The Exonian* about a campus safety officer going bridge jumping after work, a parent of an *Exonian* discovering the fun of bridge jumping after family weekend, and even Ed Harkness, the person who started the Harkness teaching method at Exeter, bridge jumping after being resurrected on his 133rd birthday. Bridge jumping continued to be mentioned or featured in several senior reflections over the years.

REMOVAL OF THE DAM

Bridge jumping took its

eliminated a barrier to fish passage, improved habitat and water quality, and provided for natural sediment movement through the system." The Great Dam was officially removed in 2016.

Due to the removal of the dam, the river depth decreased significantly (around six feet or even more), making it unsafe for bridge jumping. Acknowledging the new danger now involved, students finally accepted the rule of no bridge jumping, however heartbreaking the change was. "All I can do is hope that students find another way to get their youthful energy

"Acknowledging the new danger now involved, students finally accepted the rule of no bridge jumping, however heartbreaking the change was."

and desire for adventure and risk out in away that is not completely self destructive," Brooks Saltonstall '15 stated in an article published in February 2016.

WHAT NOW?

Above is the history of Bridge jumping at Exeter, a past honored tradition of the Academy too dangerous to be continued nowadays.

Though no longer practiced, this tradition appealed to me on an intellectual level (causing the article to be written). To me, bridge jumping sounds very, very 'Exeter' — crazy and straight-up fun. To me, it represents what Exeter should be like: a place where I "suck out all the marrow of life," not only by sitting consecutive hours by my desk crunching numbers or history reading, but also by acting stupid and irresponsible at times—climbing a tree, rolling down a snow-covered little hill, and pulling out high-pitched lip trills for no reasons in particular. I want Exeter to be (and to some degree it already is) a place where craziness, quirkiness, liveliness is celebrated.

When going through *the Exonian* archive researching for this article, one senior reflection stood out to me. Dev Patel, class of 2012, wrote his senior reflection "The day I took my place on the edge of the bridge despite the work clustering my schedule, the day I joined the ranks of *Exonians* past simply because I wanted to, represents the biggest transition of my life."

"I learned to define happiness for myself, not through the arbitrary standards



Students practice the old tradition of bridge jumping. Courtesy of *The Happy Talent*

make [their] own decisions" and "[ruin] a time-honored pastime." In a commentary titled "Lights, Cameras, Jump!" Tom Mandel, a senior at the time and also one of the students caught on camera bridge jumping, wrote "Students, I call upon you. Go bridge jumping. Go early and often. Go late and often. Go when it's sunny;

final halt when the Great Dam of Exeter was removed in 2016.

Talk about removing the dam initiated around 2007, and on March 11, 2014, the town of Exeter approved a proposal to remove the Great Dam on the Exeter River. According to atlanticfishhabitat.org, "the dam removal provided eight miles of free-flowing river,

established by others," Patel continued. "Springing from the stone ledge of the bridge for the first time signaled my leap into a world in which I determined my own sense of worth."

So here I propose to my fellow *Exonians*: Have fun! Live life! Be silly! (And read/write for *The Exonian*.)

Music Department Tours Puerto Rico

By ROX PARK '25

On the night of March 9, 58 Exonian singers and musicians stood at the chancel of the stunning Iglesia de San José, surrounded by 140-year-old white walls and stone. As the sun set through the cathedral windows, they cleared their voices and picked up their instruments, waiting for the cue from their conductors: Michael V. Forrestal '45 Chair in Music Kristofer Johnson, teaching intern Laura Grube, and former Michael V. Forrestal '45 Chair in Music and Instructor in Music Peter Schultz.

When the music finally began, the audience of locals and tourists alike basked in both the beauty of the classics — Mozart, Shostakovich, Monteverdi — and the novelty of the unfamiliar — Runestad, Quartel, and Shaw. The robust program ended with two modern Puerto Rican composers, Voz del Güiro and Ernesto Cordero, as the students savored their last few moments performing in the pieces' motherland.

Those 58 students and eight accompanying faculty enjoyed six days of a combined concert tour and vacation at the Caribbean island, sharing music and growing closer along the way. Senior and concert choir soprano Polly Valliant expressed her thoughts about the trip, saying, "I loved it. We left super early on a Saturday morning and then we came back that Friday morning. It

sang with the performing arts high school."

The days and nights in San Juan were equally as exhilarating as the early morning flights there and back; the schedule was jam-packed with activities for the students to hone their music skills and bond with each other.

Lower and bass Aymeric Dauge-Roth reflected on the group's growth. "I really enjoyed the professionalism that the choir built over the course of the week," Dauge-Roth said. "On Thursday we visited a local music school with kids our age. The concert choir got to sing a song with their choir and chamber orchestra played with their orchestra."

Valliant described the visit to the school as a positive experience as well: "I loved the performance we did with the performing arts high school. We were interacting with people our age who were also high schoolers [who] really loved to sing."

Lower and soprano Hemani Stallard described her growth on a more personal level. "I definitely got to diversify the types of singing that I did, especially with the different settings that we were going to and...all these incredible instructors in music. I grew musically, and my drive [and] my passion for music also grew."

For the tour itself, there were a total of four performances in a variety of locations: the Puerto

QUESTION OF THE ISSUE

In what way has the Exeter experience changed your life?

Submit your responses (short or long and may be anonymous) to exonian@gmail.com. Anyone is welcome to submit! Note: answers to this question will be published on the next issue! Faculty and adult members of the community are equally as welcome to submit a response.

last of them, at the Iglesia de San José, was the universal favorite. Senior and concert choir alto Angela Zhang said that "the last performance we did in the church was just so ethereal, from the acoustics to the audience. It made me realize that music is so much more than just a hobby. It's very much an intellectual pursuit and a lot of people's life's work, and...even though I won't be pursuing it professionally, it's something that I want to do justice to. [That performance] made me take music more seriously."

The young musicians cherished these opportunities to step out onto the real stage

Roth said. "The joy the audience gave me and others felt so fulfilling."

"This trip unlocked our school's music program's potential," Zhang said, "because I think being stuck in the Exeter bubble for so long, especially since COVID, has really done a number to the music program. Being able to travel outside of our bubble and work with other groups helped us realize that we can be so much better than we are currently. Performing for outside audiences also pushed us to become better musicians. This was a very much-needed trip."

Music program tour manager Barb Darby echoed Zhang's sentiment. "The kids definitely grew as musicians during the few days that we were there. The program repertoire stayed the same for all four performances, but you could see that from the beginning to the end of the trip, the level of playing had improved so much. It was awesome to see."

While they weren't practicing or performing, students were able to explore the island through organized trips and activities. "We visited a local organic farm where we ate delicious Puerto Rican cuisine and got to pet some baby bunnies," Dauge-Roth said. "On another day, we visited a coffee farm and received a tour of the coffee-making process. The schedule also allowed for smaller group excursions and sightseeing around Old San Juan."

To the students, a gift in disguise came as the buses accidentally broke down one day. "We had to turn around and come back," Valliant explained, "but we had the entire afternoon to ourselves, which was super nice. Everything else had been super blocked out, but this had been an afternoon and night that we just had. We went to the beach, we went out to dinner, we walked around, [and] we went shopping. It was really fun."

Many other students admitted wishing they had more free time but understood that the schedule was necessary for an

RESPONSES FROM LAST ISSUE:

What do you miss about Exeter over break, if anything?

I missed picking up a copy of *The Exonian* and watching the pile shrink.

- Joonyoung Heo '25

I really missed history club. Come join 7-8 pm Wednesdays.

- Ethan Ding '25

I missed appropriating Student Council funds for personal gain.

- Rox Park '25

organized trip. "I wish we had a little bit more flexibility with regards to scheduling," lower Sam Benochi said.

Students also described their appreciation for the accommodations. "They had this rooftop with a pool — it was really fancy, and the ambience there was really nice," Zhang said. "People would hang out there together at night and just talk. We were able to communicate with people that we have been singing with and doing music, but we haven't really been able to engage with each other in this relaxed sort of setting."

Darby named this forming of close relationships as one goal of the trip. "It's kind of crazy that there are kids here who see each other in the music building every day and know each other's names but have never had a real conversation," she said. "It was great to see them getting to know each other, going out and having fun, and making music together."

Lower and violinist Lucy Previn specified that these relationships formed not only within the concert choir and chamber orchestra but also across the ensembles. "As someone who is in the chamber orchestra, I didn't know many members of the concert choir going into the trip. However, during the six days that we were there, I was able to meet and become friends with many of my fellow musicians," Previn said.

"I think that that was the ultimate goal that they were trying to push," Stallard said, "for everyone to become a lot closer."

Behind the scenes is the careful dedication of the faculty in the Music Department in making the trip a success. Darby described that the process started nearly 10 months ago, as she and the other faculty began planning the flights, accommodations, activities, and venues. "This is the first trip like this that I've been able to plan in my position," Darby explained. "We were planning a trip for 2020 and then for 2021,

but they were canceled because of COVID, so we were really excited to get back out there and have the kids performing again. That was our hard goal."

This hard work did not go unnoticed by the students. "I think Ms. Darby is a rock star," Stallard shared enthusiastically. "She literally coordinated this whole trip with 50 plus kids and made everyone have a really good time and made sure nobody got lost or kidnapped. I really commend her for that."

"Mr. Johnson was also great," Stallard continued. "He was amazing at getting all these connections to prestigious music institutions. I don't even know how one has that many connections, but he did it all. And I think that Ms. Grube did an absolutely stellar job at conducting the Shostakovich piece, which I'm sure the orchestra kids would agree with me about."

Zhang agreed, thanking the organizers for making the trip a success. "The faculty did a really good job with planned sightseeing versus going out and exploring with friends, so you felt like you were getting to know the local people and the local culture, but you were also exploring everything you wanted to explore. We were able to sightsee and travel and go to really good restaurants, we had our free time. It felt like even though we were engaging in very robust musical activities, it still felt like a vacation. I think it was the most relaxing trip I have ever been on."

Previn suggested that others would benefit from similar trips: "[It] was a great experience, both musically and overall, and I'd certainly recommend that other groups on campus find similar ways to connect and learn."

Another trip is already in the works, Darby shared. "We've already started planning a trip for the jazz band next year — we'll be going to New Orleans. We have some places in mind for future trips as well, but I won't share those just yet."



The Music Department roams the streets of Puerto Rico. Courtesy of @peapuertorico

was so much fun — we sang in different churches, we sang with the university, [and] we

Rico Conservatory of Music, the Stella Maris Church, the Escuela Libre de Musica, and the Iglesia de San José. The

and perform for unfamiliar audiences. "My best memory is the audience's applause after each performance," Dauge-

Meditation Spotlight: Sheala Iacobucci

By CATHERINE WU '24

Q: What was the main focus of your meditation?

A: The main focus was my relationship with my sisters and growth and how that's improved. Going in, I knew that I wanted to write a story about my relationship with my siblings because that's something that I think about a lot and I think has influenced my life and the way I view things. I included the scene in my meditation from this summer when I went to a place...and I saw flowers. I thought, "Man, that'd be a good image."

Q: Could you give a brief summary of your meditation?

A: I talk about my relationship with my extended family and the way I've kind of viewed myself

through their eyes, the way I've viewed my relationship with my sisters through their eyes, and the way I've kind of stopped doing that.

"The main focus was my relationship with my sisters and growth and how that's improved."

Q: Was there someone or something that you were inspired by?

A: I guess the first thing that I think of is the first meditation I ever heard, which was during my prep year, and the first senior meditation was Sam Weil's. She wrote about body image as well, and that was the first time I've ever

heard someone [of] a high school age speak publicly about it. She also starts and ends with an image. They're very different, but I guess that was sort of something I was thinking about.

Q: Could you elaborate a little bit more about the image that you had in your meditation?

A: I started my meditation [by] talking about these daylilies that grow on the shore at my aunt's house. These flowers only last a day, and I kind of compare them with tiger lilies, which are just a different type of lily, and they're very similar, but I think the difference is that in planning tiger lilies, you can kind of regenerate them for a while. They grow bulbs. I thought that was kind of just a nice subtle difference.

Q: Is there an intended

audience for your story?

A: I didn't really write it with anyone in mind. But I think if there was an audience, it might be people who have had similar experiences to what I wrote about.

Q: Was there anyone along the way who supported you in your writing?

A: My friend Lila Busser who graduated last year. I shared a Google Doc with them and they were the first person that read my meditation. I think it was nice to have someone removed from the situation who I could trust — but also someone who I know is strong at writing — read it before anyone here did.

Q: What advice would you want to share with other students who will be writing their meditations in

the future?

A: In a meditation, there's so much pressure on it for it to be your "thesis about life" or a "here's why I've taken away from life so far." And it doesn't have to be that. First of all, it's literally just

"When you're writing about something so personal or something that's such a big part of your life, it's okay to not have an ending to it."

whatever you want. Mine ends with a question, literally, because I think when you're writing about something so personal or something that's such a big part of your life, it's okay to not have an ending to it or not actually

know the full takeaway. In a way, you'll never know the full takeaway about your relationship with your family or whatever is big enough to write about. So it's good to ask questions. It's okay to ask questions. I used that a lot in my meditation, and I think it's just a good thing to know.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add or shoutout?

A: I'd like to shout out Mr. Perdomo. He was my English teacher, and I think he chose really good meditations for us to use as our reference. That was the homework — reading the different meditations — and I think he chose a good selection. He's also someone who does not require any guidelines at all, which is helpful. I got a lot of freedom to just take my story where I wanted it to.

Seniors of the Week: Asa Campbell and Blake Simpson

By JOONYOUNG HEO and ROX PARK

The audience is loud, but the music is louder. As the last few bars of *The Chain* by Fleetwood Mac ring through the Assembly Hall, students break into hoots, whistles, and thunderous applause — and they get rowdier still as another group climbs to the stage and takes their positions for Soundgarden's *Jesus Christ Pose*. Here are seniors Blake Simpson and Asa Campbell, basking in the spotlight, ready to put on a show.

B. Simpson was born in Atlanta, Georgia, but he's since done a great deal of relocating. "I lived in Atlanta for six months before my parents decided the frostbite risk wasn't high enough, so we moved to Wisconsin," B. Simpson said. "I lived there for three years. Then we moved to Exeter, New Hampshire, and we've been here for about 15 years. I've spent a lot of time here just hanging out in town, going to Dunkin' Donuts, playing on the train tracks."

Campbell, meanwhile, had wanted to move from her previous home herself. "I moved from New York to Charlottesville, VA when I was eight, but I also missed the city a lot," she said. "I found that a lot of the people in Charlottesville were not people who appreciated me and my family's otherness. I didn't feel at home there, so as soon as I was in middle school, I started figuring out ways to get out of Virginia."

"My dad actually went to Exeter, so that sparked my interest in boarding

schools," Campbell continued. "I just really wanted to get out: restart, make my life anew, and take more control over it."

Now in his fourth year at the Academy, B. Simpson has developed a rhythm to schoolwork and his classes, especially in Latin. "I decided on a whim when I was 14 that I should take Latin," he said. "I mean, they don't let you drive until you're 16 and drink till you're 21. I don't think they should be putting Latin in front of you when you're 14, but they did. And when Mr. Unger became my advisor, I was really psyched. He's helped me grow in Latin and Greek. It's great because we're both very passionate about the classics."

Campbell particularly

enjoys the diversity of course selections here. "A lot of my classes now have to do with honing in on my interests," she said. "I'm taking Mr. Perdomo's *Beats, Rhymes, and Narratives*, an English class that's just about hip hop. I'm also taking two advanced art courses where I get to

make and design structures, clothing, etcetera. Once you become a senior or a higher-level student at Exeter, you're able to make your learning your own, and I've been very grateful to be able to do that."

On campus, Campbell also founded the Mycology Club and runs a radio show. In her free time, she enjoys visual art — sewing, painting, and making clothing. B. Simpson, on the other hand, is a cohead of Stand-Up Comedy Club and previously a humor editor for *The Exonian*.

But it is in the Music Department that B. Simpson and Campbell have really devoted much of their time. As coheads of the Exeter Association of Rock (EAR), they also lead Dorkus Buxter, a small band of musicians just as passionate about the art as they are.

Both B. Simpson and Campbell found a passion for music early on in their

passions. "My prep year, I was sort of playing in a lot of different places, trying to get into shows," B. Simpson said. "Then in lower year I took a big leap of faith in myself and joined the Jazz Ensemble. I knew how to read music on guitar and played a lot of stuff in middle school, but I just didn't think I'd be good enough. But I went for it [anyway] and it was really fun."

"Recently, I also started in the contemporary music ensemble and Pep Band — one of the most fun opportunities to play guitar I've ever had," B. Simpson continued. "I'm trying percussion as well. My brother's the drummer and he's way better than me, but here I am. I've just tried to get out of my comfort zone with music."

For Campbell, aside from leading EAR and waking her roommate Hannah Vogel

up with her singing, her musical passions have taken form in her own free time. "I think right now, the biggest things that I do in terms of extracurriculars are related to band music," she said. "I've worked on my own online music production and written songs."

"With a lot of my music, I try to put my whole body into it," B. Simpson said. "I



Senior Asa Campbell poses in The Bowl.

Solei Silva-Carin / *The Exonian*

and that sometimes makes it challenging to pursue what you love, especially if it's an art," Campbell said. "It makes you feel the need to conform to a certain idea of success. But that made me want to play music even more. I wanted to push back on that and create opportunities for myself. I'd rather push forward and hang out and be around people I enjoy and make music and talk to interesting instructors who want to hear about that stuff, instead of getting bogged down by the fact that I have this paper to do and this test to study for and that my whole life belongs to someone else."

The two musicians credit much of their success to the faculty in the music department. "Mr. Rabb and Dr. Schultz have been revolutionizing the number of performance opportunities there are in the music department," B. Simpson said.

"Shoutout to Sir Rabb and Dr. Schultz," Campbell said.

Likewise, B. Simpson and Campbell's own work in the Music Department has been widely recognized by their peers. "You're never going to be able to replace Blake and Asa," upper Ayaan Akhtar said. "The energy and character they bring to their performances is something unbeatable. They live and breathe music, and that's something I really admire about them."

"Blake's a wizard on the guitar," Akhtar continued. "Whatever he does with his pedal board is amazing. In one show, he played until his fingers were bleeding. No one else is going to play at that level. And Asa, her stage presence is impeccable. The way she feels the music while she's singing — she's just so great."

In particular, members of EAR have felt their influence on the club. "They've done so much to improve the group," upper Vi Matheos said. "Just the sound setup of the last few performances has been so pristine. They're also doing a lot of work for the EAR community. The club is being taken much more seriously now because of it. Dr. Schultz let us know at the end of the EAR assembly that faculty members were

telling him it felt like a rock show, a real rock show. That was largely thanks to Blake and Asa."

"I think Blake has set the standard for guitar players in the school astronomically high," upper Charlie Scales said. "He's just an amazing player, and he blows every show out of the water. I really feed off his energy when we're playing. And Asa — whenever she's involved in an EAR concert, people are going to show up to see her. She's at her best when she's onstage, throwing her hair around, singing her heart out. A lot of singers are rigid, but she's super free with her voice. That's the spirit of rock, and that's what she brings."

B. Simpson and Asa's dedication to their craft has touched many beyond EAR and the Music Department. "Blake provides so much of the soundtrack of our lives: the side-splitting comedy and the ear-splitting rock," Instructor in Religion Thomas Simpson, also B. Simpson's father, said. "I love that I got a chance to play in the new pep band with Blake and Will before they graduate, and Ms. Simpson and I have loved seeing Blake, Asa, Will, and their bandmates play the music that electrifies them. I like to think that Blake and Asa have helped open space for rock, punk, and metal musicians to flourish just a little more at Exeter."

Director of Jazz, Bands, and Global Rhythm Ensemble Marcus Rabb has worked extensively with both B. Simpson and Campbell over the past two years, and he shared a similarly rewarding experience. "It was clear to me that Blake was a very talented musician who loved playing his guitar," Rabb said. "And when I first heard Asa sing, I was struck by how prepared she was and how much she really got into and enjoyed the music she was performing. It was really their talent and excitement about playing music that stood out from the start."

As musicians and as people, B. Simpson and Campbell have certainly developed in their time here. "My hair is better now," B. Simpson said. "It doesn't look good today, but in general, it's better.

But more than that, I hadn't known a hundred percent what I wanted to do or what I was passionate about [before coming here]. Last year, I sort of realized that I want to teach the classics or ancient studies. That's given me a really solid sense of purpose and a bit less fear about the future."

Confidence was also a strong theme for Campbell. "I've become a lot more confident in my abilities and who I am and who I present myself as," she said. "That's translated into my being a bit more confident in making music and performing. That, in turn, has helped me figure out what I want to do in the future. If you're in the arts, you doubt yourself so much because you think you're not going to make money, and maybe you're not good at it and won't like that life. I've always been too scared or worried to pursue my music even to my own standards. But now I know I can make stuff I enjoy, and it's stuff that I think other people enjoy as well."

Others around them have noticed their growth in self-assurance. "Asa has never changed so much as grown into herself," Vogel said. "She has such an infallible sense of self, whether she realizes it or not, and she has become so confident in that. She brings a true authenticity to Exeter that I think is rare to find anywhere."

"Asa's much more comfortable as a musician," Rabb agreed. "Her proficiency has equally skyrocketed. For Blake, he's reached a level of versatility in what he's doing that I don't think he had thought possible. He had himself in somewhat of a musical box. Now he's broken out of that. He's really expanded the concept of what he can do on his guitar."

"Both of them have raised the bar at the Academy, without question," Rabb continued. "They've shown kids what a 'rock musician' at Exeter can do. I just wish I had one more year to work with both of them. But I know they're going out to do great things."



Senior Blake Simpson smiles for the camera.

Solei Silva-Carin / *The Exonian*

lives. "I started playing a lot of music in middle school," B. Simpson said. "Even before then, I played trumpet for a year in the fourth grade, and then I stopped playing it for the next eight years. That is still the case today. Then I started playing guitar in the sixth grade, and that's really come to define my life."

Campbell's musical journey began even earlier. Throughout her life, she has played the violin, ukulele, and guitar. "My parents have always inspired a lot of artistic passion in me," she said. "They noticed that it was something I loved to do since I was little, so they encouraged that. They put me in orchestras and singing groups and whatnot."

At Exeter, B. Simpson and Campbell have further developed their musical

don't solo a lot in the sense of learning an actual solo. I might just rub a screwdriver against my guitar and just make the worst noises."

The Exeter experience has largely fueled B. Simpson's and Campbell's drive to perform and play music. "It's relieving," B. Simpson said. "It's forcing all of my tension to come out through the music, and it's a little treat for myself. And it's my way of expressing the self that's created in contrast with some of the competitiveness and the feeling that I'm not doing enough, or that I don't have the right dreams."

"I really just enjoy being an entertainer and adding some spice to campus life, adding some vibrancy to the cold heart of Exeter, New Hampshire. There's just so much to do here,

Op-Ed

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Exeter Needs a Harkness Discussion about Facebook

By GORDON HOUGH '61, JACK RUSSELL '61, and PRESTON TORBERT '61

Introduction

We and 24 of our classmates of the class of '61 believe that Exeter needs to talk about Facebook. We seek a Harkness-style discussion of social media, in particular Exeter's relationship with Facebook (now Meta, and including its subsidiaries Instagram and WhatsApp). This issue came up in Principal Rawson's most recent conversation on Jan. 12 when he said, "Social media is a concern — for which I do not have answers to." Our proposed discussion could help the Exeter community come to a consensus on how to deal with Facebook and other social media.

Exeter currently has a relationship with Facebook. It has a page on Facebook, has placed a Facebook icon on the alumni and other

free service in exchange for private, personal data to be used for whatever business purposes Facebook chooses — is immoral and harmful. This business model is immoral because it uses addiction, surveillance, and manipulation to deprive the user of autonomy. While addiction is generally associated with substances, "behavioral addiction" is now included in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Facebook website designers include social validation loops and intermittent reinforcement (the "Like" button) to "hook" users and induce addiction. Arguments that users should exercise self-discipline fail when their environment has been engineered to make sure that choices are not free and when the latest findings of psychology on human weaknesses are applied in the design of

It is already common practice for colleges and employers to ask for access to applicants' social media accounts, so consider the following scenario: How would students feel if they learned that Exeter recorded all their comments at the Harkness table and sold that information to advertising companies so they could manipulate the students? Wouldn't this conduct "shock the conscience"? But this is a close analogy to what Facebook is already doing. Take another hypothetical. Assume in the future that a person's DNA has market value. Would students feel comfortable if Exeter collected their DNA from each strand of hair left on the floor of a dormitory or classroom? Clearly, students — like the rest of us — would find that this was wrong. What about a person's microbiome? These analogies and the business model of Facebook exemplify

It would not surprise us if Exeter students were unaware of the moral failings of Facebook's business model.

Exeter's personal connections to Facebook suggest that Exeter has a special responsibility to take a stand. First, Exeter inspired Facebook. The digitization of Exeter's Photo Address Book by Kris Tillery '02 was the precedent for Mark Zuckerberg '02 to digitize the Harvard student directory — the original Facebook. Further, two of Facebook's most cogent critics are Exeter classmates. Roger McNamee '74, the managing director and a cofounder of Elevation Partners and an early investor in Facebook, harshly criticized Facebook in his book *Zucked*. Jim Steyer '74, a civil rights lawyer, Stanford professor, and children's advocate founded Common Sense Media, a non-profit organization promoting safe technology and media for children and wrote the book *Talking Back to Facebook: The Common Sense Guide to Raising Kids in the Digital Age*. And Kris Tillery has said of Facebook's business model, "The moral ambiguity of the [Facebook] platform — which is today the revenue based on advertising and targeting — raises big questions about how we should spend our time for our own happiness."

Exeter is, and sees itself as, a leader in American secondary education. We believe that deleting the Facebook icon would be an act of moral courage and leadership and set an example for other schools to review their own practices. In the effort to talk back to Facebook and call it to account, Exeter should be at the front of the line.

Finally, deleting the Facebook icon would remind students that popularity is not truth; convenience is not goodness; and instrumentalism is not morality.

Some may argue that the business model is not immoral because users consent. It is true that by using Facebook each user enters into a contract with it that contains an apparent consent to the collection and use of the user's data. But this consent is arguably void. The applicable law of the contract, that of California, renders void a contract that is "unconscionable." Unconscionable contracts are those that are "oppressive" and "shock the conscience." If the contract is found unconscionable, then the consent it contains would be void and Facebook would have no legal right to collect and use the user's data. No court has so ruled, but precedent and Facebook's immorality suggest the plausibility of such a result.

Regardless of consent, Facebook's business model, as noted above, is not only immoral, but it is also harmful. The business model creates an insatiable appetite for data because

the data makes possible the targeting, and therefore, the success of the advertising. The more time users spend on the app, the more data that can be collected. The algorithms, which prioritize

Finally, deleting the Facebook icon would remind students that popularity is not truth; convenience is not goodness; and instrumentalism is not morality.

what users see, are designed to increase time on the app. Therefore, they lead users to content that will keep them more engaged — content that is extreme in some way. Often that is content that is sensational and false. The aim in recommending content or other users is not accuracy, truth, or the public good; it is profit. Facebook favors falsity. As Adrienne LaFrance, Editor of *The Atlantic*, has written, Facebook was built to encourage the things that make it so harmful.

Examples of how Facebook's business model harms society are:

1. Intentionally Spreading Misinformation and Disinformation

Facebook's algorithms intentionally promote misinformation and disinformation because these algorithms cause more engagement, more data, and more advertising revenue. When President Biden was asked what his message was to social media platforms about Covid-19 disinformation, he said, "They're killing people."

2. Prioritizing Profits over Safety

Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen testified to Congress that "Facebook consistently resolved those conflicts [between its own profits and our safety] in favor of its own profits."

3. Commercial Exploitation of Friendship

Facebook debases friendship by surreptitiously employing the data of a user's friends to target the user with ads, encouraging extreme voices as friends, and copying all email contacts of users.

4. Harm to Children

Jim Steyer said of Facebook's Instagram Kids app, "The only thing they care about is hooking kids when they are most vulnerable, keeping them on the platform and getting access to as much of their personal data as possible."

5. Harm to Teenagers

Jean M. Twenge, a sociology professor at San Diego State University, has written that "Facebook use causes unhappiness, loneliness, and depression." Jonathan Haidt, social psychology professor at NYU Stern Business School, has written, "'We have the largest epidemic ever of teen mental health, and there is no other explanation [than social media], . . . It is a raging public-health epidemic and the kids themselves say Instagram did it . . ." And Jim Steyer has reported that when he polls his Stanford

class, more than half of the students said they wished Facebook didn't exist.

6. Harms to Users Generally

Studies have shown that more time on Facebook is associated with worse mental health and that taking a break from or deactivating Facebook can improve wellbeing and reduce polarization.

7. Harm to Country's Direction

A Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults found that about two-thirds of Americans (64%) said social media had a mostly negative effect on the country's direction.

8. Harm to Public Health

Nonprofit organizations, many doctors, and the U.S. Surgeon General have said that, by intentionally enabling and spreading misinformation and disinformation, Facebook harms public health.

9. Voter Manipulation

Experiments show that Facebook can change voting behavior by explicit or subliminal messages. They strongly suggest that to promote its business interests Facebook could use these messages to intentionally affect the voting behavior of its users as described by Harvard Law professor Jonathan Zittrain in his 2014 *New Republic* article "Facebook Could Decide an Election

"The time has come to make that in its current mode of operation Facebook's flaws outweigh its considerable benefits."

Without Anyone Ever Finding Out."

10. Facilitating the Jan. 6 Insurrection

Facebook, by fomenting and facilitating the spread of false narratives about the 2020 election result, was not a mere passive tool, but a catalyst for the insurrection.

Conclusion

Facebook has positive uses, but as Roger McNamee has written, "The time has come to accept that in its current mode of operation Facebook's flaws outweigh its considerable benefits." The bad — the immorality and the harms — outweighs the good.

We believe that Exeter's relationship with Facebook deserves discussion by the Exeter community. Of course, Exeter cannot prevent students' use of social media, but we believe it can teach them an important moral lesson by eliminating the Facebook icon on the alumni and other websites and even closing the Exeter Facebook page. These propositions would benefit from discussion and that discussion would help address the concerns that Principal Rawson expressed about social media. Investigative reporting by *The Exonian* together with inquiry by students and faculty could help prepare for such a discussion.



Ava Zhao / *The Exonian*

webpages, and uses the Facebook app to engage with alums, prospective students, and others. The school attempts to meet alums and others where they are — on Facebook.

This relationship is understandable. Facebook has many positive features. It has allowed Exeter students to message classmates for homework; enabled old friends to connect; allowed grandparents to enjoy photos of their grandchildren; assisted users to find organ donors; helped users raise relief funds after Hurricane Harvey; helped two million Americans to vote; allowed Egyptian protesters to coordinate demonstrations during the Arab Spring; and alerted French President Macron to Russian hackers two days before the French presidential election. In these ways, Facebook has been useful.

But Exeter differs from other Facebook users. Exeter's Deed of Gift instructs that "above all, it is expected that the attention of instructors to the disposition of the minds and morals of the youth under their charge will exceed every other care; well considering that though goodness without knowledge is weak and feeble, yet knowledge without goodness is dangerous . . . [Emphasis added]." As former principal Stephen Kurtz once told one of us, "Exeter is a moral education."

Immorality of Facebook's Business Model

We believe that Exeter's relationship with Facebook betrays this moral mission. Facebook's business

Facebook's platform.

Facebook's need for data requires watching and tracking — surveillance. In fact, the major study of its business model calls it "surveillance capitalism" (Shoshana Zuboff, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*). Facebook's collection of data — immediate, silent, invisible, unnoticed, and automatic — is so effective that Facebook is the biggest surveillance-based enterprise in history. It not only collects the information of its users, but it also obtains personal information on people who are not on Facebook.

Addiction and surveillance support manipulation. Manipulation is the treating of another person not as a fellow rational agent, but as a device to be operated. Manipulation violates another person's autonomy. Philosophers have not reached consensus on the precise nature of threats to autonomy. But clearly, when the environment is intentionally arranged to influence the individual in a way that is beneficial to the influencer and detrimental to the individual, the individual is manipulated, and autonomy depleted. As we adopt a more digital life, our environment online is intentionally arranged by Facebook and others for their benefit. Our online experiences are shaped to fit their commercial interests and we pay with a loss of our autonomy.

Our moral intuitions and analogies tell us that this business model is wrong. Take an example close to Exeter students.

"universal commodification" (everything is a marketable commodity), which is morally repugnant.

This business model is immoral, but Exeter's posting of the Facebook icon on the alumni and other webpages and the Exeter page on Facebook advertises the fact that Exeter condones, if not endorses, Facebook. Few alums, students, or others consult the online Privacy Notice so it would be unrealistic to deny any endorsement of Facebook by relying on the statement

These analogies and the business model of Facebook exemplify "universal commodification" (everything is a marketable commodity), which is morally repugnant.

there that "None of the links on the Site should be deemed to imply that the Academy endorses or has any affiliation with the third-party."

Exeter also has a policy on social media in the E-Book, which states that the Academy recognizes the many benefits of technology, but also recognizes the risk of internet use. It specifically acknowledges the right of students to use social media, including Facebook and Instagram, and supports open dialogue and diversity of thought. But it does not suggest any judgment on the business model of Facebook or other social media companies.

Prehistoric Creature of the Week

Lystrosaurus: The Greatest Survivor

By JUNHYEOK JANG '25

Introduction

One of the greatest life lessons natural history offers is this: It is not the strongest who survive — it is those who survive who are the strongest.

When asked to select the most dominant species to ever walk our planet, many names will come to mind for good reasons: *Tyrannosaurus*, the bone-crushing tyrant king — *Spinosaurus*, the most deadly killer both on land and underwater — *Homo sapiens*, a creature whose impacts have left a mark like no other in history, and more.

The name that first comes to mind is that of a seemingly mundane animal resembling a hybrid between a pig and a lizard. It was a humble herbivore, different from apex predators such as the *Giganotosaurus* or tiger. Nor did it possess any impressive physical advantages such as the strength and speed of *Brachiosaurus* and *Velociraptor*, respectively.

However, this animal was rivaled by none other in its adaptability and consequently dominated a world decimated by the deadliest catastrophe in history. Distinctively, it constituted 95 percent of all terrestrial life during its era, a record that remains to this day and is unlikely to be ever broken. This legend is a creature often underappreciated, yet has left an immense impact on the field of natural history and also deserves recognition as an epitome of finding true success in one's life. Its name was *Lystrosaurus*.

Biography

Lystrosaurus was a genus of dicynodonts, a clade of sturdy herbivores with a dual set of tusks, that lived during the middle Permian through the early Triassic (273 - 237 million years ago, estimates based on Radian - Ladinian eras). Its name translates to "shovel lizard" in Greek. *Lystrosaurus*' palates and mandible structures possessed a dense beak likely used for underground digging and uprooting vegetation. Large species of *Lystrosaurus*, such as *L. maccaigi*, had lengths up to three meters, while average species, including *L. murrayi*, were measured to be around one meter. *Lystrosaurus* fossils have been found in India, Africa, and Antarctica, serving as evidence for continental

drift.

The Permian Extinction

The Permian was a period in which many significant reptile lineages, including a mammal-like group known as synapsids, flourished. A representative synapsid was

Dimetrodon, the apex predator that terrorized the Cisuralian epoch (early-mid Permian). Many regard it as the most prominent organism of the Permian and as one of the greatest in history. Synapsids differentiate into two orders: pelycosaur and therapsids. Therapsids, including *Lystrosaurus*, gradually replaced the pelycosaur (which *Dimetrodon* was part of) as the Cisuralian epoch transitioned into the Guadalupian.

The Permian is also the period in which smaller continents congregated into the supercontinent Pangea. These continental drifts triggered a cascade of climate change which, by the end of the Permian, resulted in global warming at such a rapid rate that all life forms were jeopardized. The decisive blow that triggered the Permian-Triassic extinction, conventionally referred to as the Great Dying, was a series of volcanic activity in the Siberian Igneous Province. An immense quantity of carbon dioxide led to elevations in global temperatures and widespread anoxification and acidification in oceans. This catastrophe concluded with the obliteration of 96 percent of life, including Trilobita, which were present since the Cambrian period and had survived numerous mass extinction events; only the remaining five percent, including *Lystrosaurus*, survived into the Triassic period and the Mesozoic era.

The Greatest Survivor

Before the Permian-Triassic extinction, *Lystrosaurus* was a common prey species like deer in the present era. As aforementioned, in the early Triassic following the calamity, *Lystrosaurus* accounted for 95 percent of all terrestrial vertebrate

of its time, a record that still stands. How could a docile, seemingly mundane creature possibly end up as the ultimate survivor and the most dominant of all time?

Lystrosaurus possessed numerous features advantageous for survival on a scorched Earth.

escape to the relatively less affected southern regions. Although quite distant today, Antarctica, Africa, and India composed the area that would eventually diverge into the continent Gondwana; the discovery of *Lystrosaurus* fossils in such regions, as shown below, corroborates the existence

Lystrosaurus deserves recognition as the greatest survivor in history.

An Underappreciated Legacy

Sadly, *Lystrosaurus* faded into history during the Triassic period. As biodiversity of animal and plant life recovered from the Permian-Triassic

and provided immense assistance in revolutionizing the way modern researchers understand the continental drift of Pangea. For such reasons, it is only natural that *Lystrosaurus* deserves nothing less than to be remembered as one of our planet's greatest legends. *Lystrosaurus*'s unparalleled viability has allowed for biodiversity to be sustained at high levels as life began to recover from the cataclysmic aftermaths of the Great Dying. Without *Lystrosaurus*, well-known species such as *Tyrannosaurus* and *Spinosaurus* and even *Homo sapiens* may have never existed.

Most importantly, *Lystrosaurus* is an

excellent mentor for us to reflect on what success really means. In life, many people outperform us in many ways; there is always someone who surpasses us in intelligence, athleticism, or the ability to make social connections and garner popularity. However, *Lystrosaurus* teaches us that, in the end, those who survive until the very last, using every resource to its fullest, are the true winners. One's evaluation as an individual ultimately comes at the end of one's life, when one has lived through it all.

Lystrosaurus was not a deadly predator like *Tyrannosaurus*, did not possess a versatile offensive prowess on land and underwater like *Spinosaurus* — nor did they single-handedly impact the planet so extensively like *Homo sapiens*. Yet no other species has surpassed *Lystrosaurus* in surviving and dominating Earth, especially throughout a time when life on Earth was meeting its greatest challenge yet.

extinction, large predators and competitors, including some of the first dinosaurs, emerged, causing *Lystrosaurus* to dwindle in number and slowly evolve into other species. *Lystrosaurus* and its lineage of therapsids ultimately perished during the Triassic-Jurassic mass extinction. Because its niche was often on the lower end of the food pyramid and the species went extinct long before the Golden Era of the Jurassic and the Cretaceous, *Lystrosaurus* is often mistakenly seen as merely one of many prey organisms that have passed through time.

In reality, *Lystrosaurus* played a significant part in the renaissance of life from the ashes of the Permian-Triassic extinction

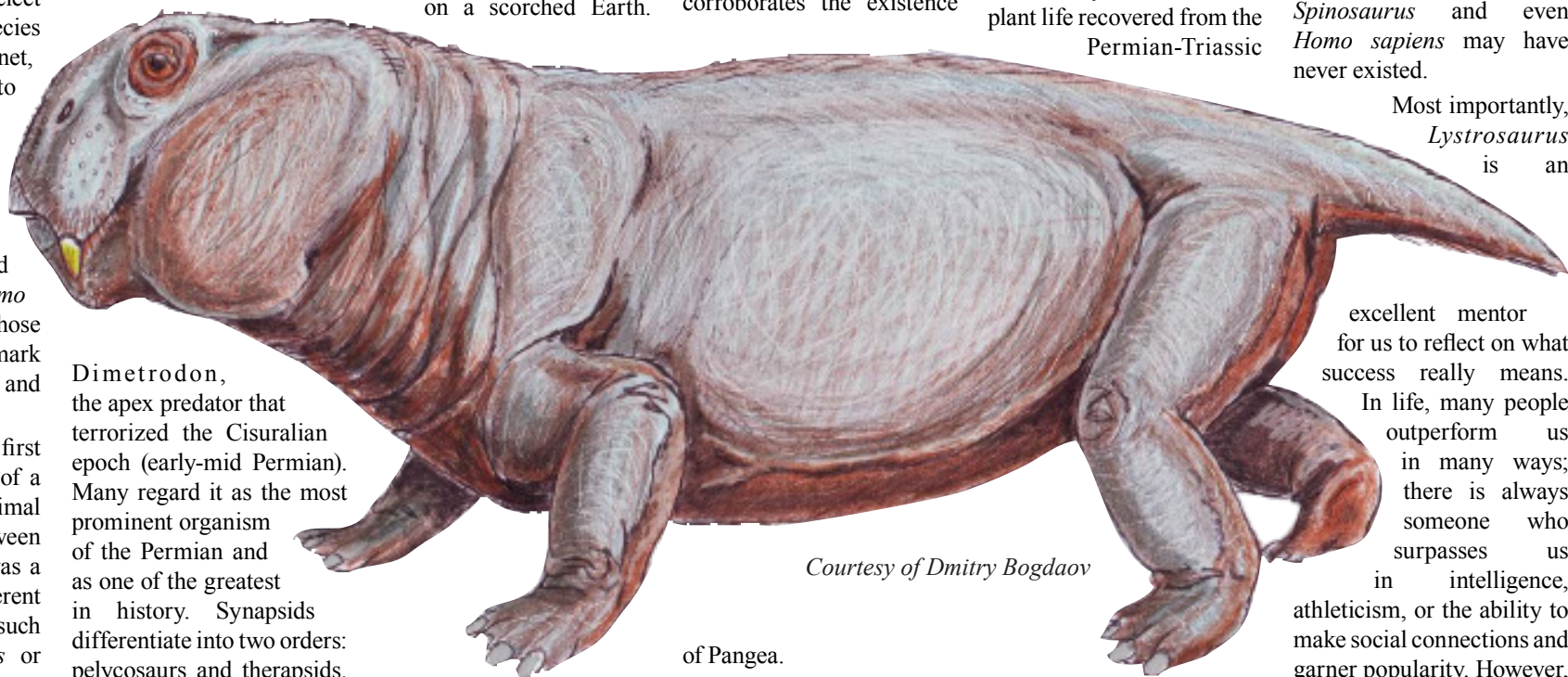
of Pangea.

Of course, a certain degree of luck played a part in *Lystrosaurus*'s immense survival. *Lystrosaurus* had the fortune of living in a world bereft of significant predators. *Dimetrodon*, a devastating predator to many contemporaneous tetrapod herbivores, was in its twilight days of dominance when *Lystrosaurus* emerged. Many carnivorous therapsids posing viable threats to *Lystrosaurus* perished during the Great Dying. Mainstream Triassic predators such as *Postosuchus* or *Nothosaurus* either rose to prominence years after *Lystrosaurus*'s decline or lived in different ecosystems.

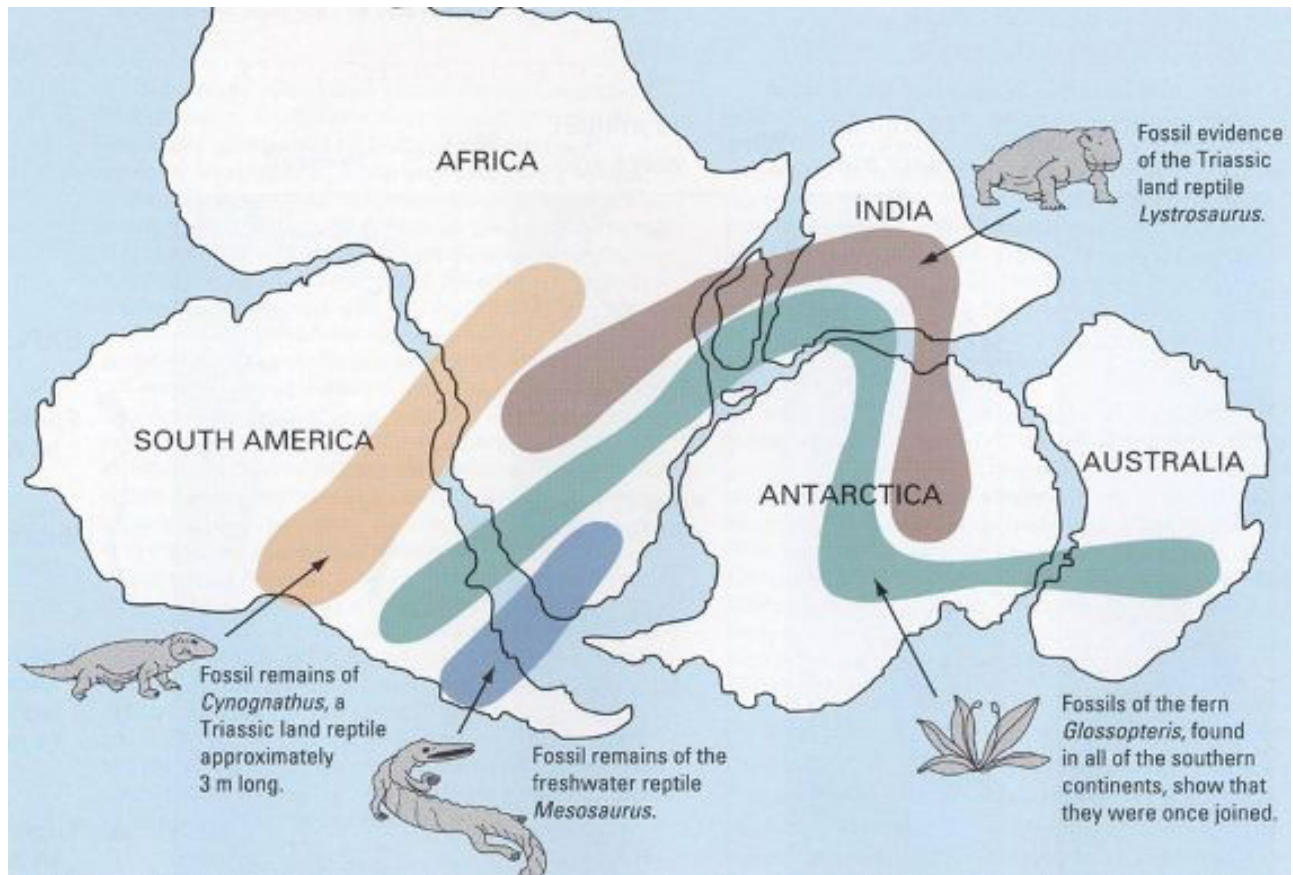
Regardless of the cause, no other single genus has dominated the planet as *Lystrosaurus* has;

Abrasions found in the beaks of numerous specimens suggest that *Lystrosaurus* spent a significant part of its life underground, finding sanctuary from the perils of the outside world. Modern analyses also speculate that *Lystrosaurus* had relatively large lungs, allowing for sufficient oxygen intake amidst a limited supply. However, considering that close relatives such as *Diictodon* and *Eodicynodon* also possessed similar qualities yet did not survive beyond the Great Dying, other factors must have contributed to *Lystrosaurus*'s unprecedented viability.

Lystrosaurus was also adept in long-distance travel, allowing it to disperse across Pangea and



Courtesy of Dmitry Bogdaov



Courtesy of the Geological Society

The Exonian

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

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A Place that is Not, Emotionally

By FORREST ZENG '26

Student 2: Mashed potatoes and rice — carbohydrates, for sure, but not balanced in the slightest.

Student 1: Don't offer comments on my food. Look at your own plate.

At this moment, another student came up to them from where they were sitting.

Student 3: Hello, sorry to interrupt. Nice to meet you.

Student 1: How do you do? It seems like you are carrying your plate, with some intent to find some open table that would bring you salvation among the ocean of students. I would hope your interruption of our meal is justified.

Student 3: Well, I was listening to the discussion you were describing in the line, and I had a flash memory of a time Forrest told me of another discussion he had. It was extremely interesting, to say the least; I think you all ought to hear it.

Student 2: You have made your case. Sit down and tell us.

Student 3 began to tell his story.

I woke up late on a Sunday morning. I walked to Elm and ate breakfast. There, I saw Forrest idly sitting at one of the taller tables, scratching his head. I walked up to him and sat down. We exchanged some small talk, before I asked, "Well, Forrest, what did you do yesterday?"

His eyes opened wide and his mouth twitched a bit. "Well, I had an enlightening conversation." I pushed him for more details, and his response was a bit like this:

Forrest returned to Cilley and entered a dark vestibule on the first floor, facing two doors. The door on his right was his destination. He put his hand on the door handle and shook — the

traditional Cillian method of making your presence known.

From behind the door, he heard Jinmin shout, "Intrā!"

Forrest opened the door and found himself face to face with Jinmin, already sitting in a chair on the opposite side of the room, and another chair facing opposite of it.

"Look who it is. My favorite cynic. And where is Andrew?" Forrest said.

"He was wandering outside. Let him be."

"...Systems where every facet of power and every facet of life as a subordinate or as a ruler is perfectly adherent to some set of rules."

And so they sat down. Jinmin looked at Forrest and said, "Forrest, you and I are philosophers. We are lovers of knowledge. That is where the word 'philosophy' comes from." Forrest concurred.

Jinmin continued, "Oftentimes, as philosophers, we create theoretical systems with certain definitions and rigid rules that are essentially 'perfect' in our opinions to achieve some ends." Forrest concurred.

"Forrest, you study political philosophy. What can you tell me about theoretically perfect, political systems? That is, systems where every facet of life as a subordinate or as a ruler is perfectly adherent to some set of rules."

He thought about it for a few moments, and then told Jinmin, "You describe utopia."

Jinmin asked, "What is that?"

"The word utopia was coined by English philosopher Thomas More. He took the word from

two Greek words, 'ou' and 'topos,' meaning 'no place,' respectively. In other words, More says

"In other words, More says that a perfect place is not a place."

that a perfect place is not a place."

"I see why he would name it this."

"What do you mean?"

Jinmin shifted in his chair and continued, "You see, when we architect perfect political systems based on reason, we believe that these systems would simply be impossible to achieve in any way. But why is that? Is it because of a physical or a mental hindrance?"

Forrest said, "Well, shifting political systems would surely cause some physical logistics, but it cannot start without a change in philosophy, or in other words, a change in general mentality."

"When Plato proposed in The Republic his utopian society, a hierarchical state where all the children are told a specific story about their specific role in life and are made to be satisfied with it, he did not even begin to believe that the society would be implemented," Jinmin added. "Why? Because, in spite of the perfect reason and the perfect outcome that Plato designs with his system, we still find some of it 'immoral.' What do you make of that?"

Forrest said, "Well, surely for the members themselves of that utopia, they would not find any of it unethical. This is because they have lived in it from birth, and that is their existence. Meanwhile, we might label this a 'dystopia,' meaning a 'bad place.' We shy away from a 'dystopia' because its expectations

of what our morals should be are different from our expectations. Our morals are based on our own environment from the moment we are born, and thus we base our expectations of society and our judgments of utopia on the facets of our own society. In turn, ethics, which is a general, interpersonal system of determining what is right or wrong, will also come from the environment in which this system of ethics develops."

"Surely our morals and ethics are found through some kind of reason?" "In a way, yes. They are based on certain axioms that are derived from our environment. But this rational morality comes to an emotional limit for most humans — we think it strange and 'dystopian' when Aldous Huxley describes in Brave New World a society where embryos are injected with special materials to hinder or advance their development, even though these biological ends create a perfect world, where every person is satisfied and healthy."

"And so most humans don't want to strive towards these societies because they are emotionally repulsed?"

"Precisely. Utopia is a place that is not, emotionally."

"Utopia is a place that is not, emotionally."

At this moment, there was a commotion outside the vestibule, and the door suddenly burst open. In walked Andrew. "Gentlemen, I have homework to do. I will banish you."

Before Andrew could pull Forrest out of his chair and throw him

violently into the hallway, Jinmin stood and implored Andrew to join their discussion. Forrest and Jinmin both knew that Andrew could not resist. Andrew feigned reluctance and accepted.

Forrest said to Andrew, "We were talking about utopia. Jinmin and I agree that utopia is a place that does not exist, because we, as humans, are emotionally repulsed based on our own relativist morality."

Andrew put his hand to his mouth and thought. After a few seconds, he said, "That is interesting. But then tell me this: if I were a caveman who did not understand agriculture, money, science, or government, then saw what the world was today, wouldn't I judge this to be some kind of utopia?" "But surely there is a difference — we would have different resources, in addition to having differences in time. Doesn't this imply that it would not be fair to contrast these circumstances?" Forrest asked.

"You are right. It would not be fair to consider the circumstances we live in to be the same as that of a caveman. But these circumstances are in fact created by some philosophical system that a caveman would consider utopian. In the end, we have created a rigorous government that has found a perfect method of getting food called 'agriculture,' among other things. Our total resources would still be the same as a caveman, but we would have access to so much more of it because of the way this utopia is structured."

"Well then, surely a caveman would be happy to live in our society, then?"

"Not quite, I believe. Just as we are repulsed by Huxley's utopia which we discussed earlier, a caveman might feel the same. As a caveman, I would not understand what 'property' is and would find it morally and emotionally repulsive. I would also find the same in agriculture — spending hours every day doing physically unattractive work, when I could be spending my hours exploring the hills, rivers, and forests in my area that are already quite ripe with resources."

"It seems so."

Having reached this point, Jinmin added, "This reminds me of Russian philosopher Mikhail Bakhtin's theory. He believed that to understand a culture fully, you needed not only those inside the society to relate their experiences but also some outsiders to question it. In this way, one would be able to understand those facets of a society which would not be apparent to those within it, purely because one does not take an insider's description for granted. But knowing this, if we are all essentially the same species as the cavemen who lived a hundred thousand years ago, how did we find ourselves in the place we are now? I mean, it seems, our normalcy is the caveman's dystopia, even though we are the same species. How did we transform like this?"

Forrest thought, then said, "You said it yourself: hundreds of thousands of years of gradual change. The system of philosophy that humanity lived in changed ever so slightly every time a person was born. And every time a human was born, their beliefs would become the beliefs of their environment. Sure, there

would be different systems of thought, but inevitably, systems would be destroyed or consumed as more popular or physically 'beneficial' systems became dominant."

Jinmin asked, "Let us play the role of a ruler, then. I would like to transform my country, which is full of cavemen that don't understand my utopian model, as efficiently as I can. If we assume that I have already thought through the needed actions to establish this system,

"We would persuade our subjects not by detailing every logical step, for we know that reason is barely congruent with human emotion."

how would I overcome this 'obstacle' of emotion?"

"The same way that we speak."

Jinmin paused for a moment. "What do you mean?"

Forrest elaborated. "Admit it, as philosophers, we have become masters of rhetoric. To explain our concepts to others requires a good presentation that expresses composure and makes our words appealing. As a rational philosopher-king, we want to persuade our population that our system of reason, our utopia, would be beneficial for all of them, and make their future generations healthy and satisfied. We would persuade our subjects not by detailing every logical step, for we know that reason is barely congruent with human emotion.

In that case, we must use rhetoric. We must use sophistry, art, and perhaps even religion. These things cater to the emotions of our subjects. In this way, we can increase the rate at which our philosophical evolution moves which, without any significant rhetoric, would have taken place over thousands of years. How rousing it must have been to see the animated speeches of the revolutionary generation of the United States, preaching a utopia of republicanism, and having this utopia, at least its structure, come relatively quickly."

"I see now."

Andrew summarized, "Utopia could exist in the future thousands of years ahead of us, simply because, as humans, we are psychologically absorbent of the general thought of humanity, of the geist, as George Hegel put it. And that we are living in a utopia relative to those thousands of years before us because we grew up in a stream of consciousness directed by the systems of the times we live in. We simply do not realize it, because of the incremental, small changes in the systems. These changes are either small so that the inherent psychology of our minds adjusts without help, or they are big changes, but accompanied with some kind of art, or presentation that makes us feel attached to a new system of ideas."

And this is where Forrest ended his recollection, for he had to go to a meeting.

Student 2: Are we really living in a utopia? It all seems quite normal to me.

Student 1: You heard the discussion; we know what it is now.



Courtesy of Katelyn Cui

Humor

Best Grill Points Combos

By CHENGYUEZHANG '24

The Climber: (in celebration of the newly installed climbing wall): five Cliff bars (\$2.39* 5= \$11.95)

Pure Chocolate Overload: two bars of TONY's chocolate, one salty caramel one dark (\$6.29*2= \$12.58). (They raised the price over Spring break... It used to fit perfectly under \$12)

POPsicle-LOVE: 41 tootsie pops (41*\$0.29= \$11.89)

My Dinner is Ramen: 17 Maruchan ramen (17*\$0.69 = \$11.73) (u have the choice of beef or

chicken)

Assorted Halloween Candies: KitKat, Reese's, Hershey's, Snickers, Twix, and M&M. (6*\$1.99 = \$11.95)

The Math Genius: one can of Marshmallow Fluff, one bag of Hot and Spicy Beef Jerky, one bag of KRAFT Easy Mac, and a bag of Funyuns (\$2.86+\$3.99+\$2.59+\$2.49 = \$11.93)

Chocolatey Breakfasts: Three days a week, I treat myself with 1 chocolate croissant and 2 grill cookies as breakfast. (3*(\$3+\$0.5+\$0.5) = \$12)

One-point Snacks: One Arizona ice tea with two grill cookies. (\$0.99+2*\$0.5=\$1.99)

To Share with Your Ginger Friend: one bag of Chimes Ginger chew, one bar of Ginger crystallized in Dark Chocolate, two cans of Canada Dry Zero sugar Ginger Ale (\$4.29+\$3.59+\$1.99*2 = \$11.86)

The Pork-eating Chef: one pack of pork potsticker and one pack of Del Duca Genoa Salami (\$4.79+\$7.19 = \$11.98)

Bake an Oreo Cake for Your Dorm: A pack of Oreo and a bag of Super Moist Cake Mix (\$8.89+\$2.99 = \$11.88)

Gameze's Choice: one protein bar, one bottle of pomegranate juice, and one blueberry and strawberry mix (\$3.59+\$3.19+\$4.99 = \$11.77)

The Marrying Type: 12 Ring pops (12*\$0.99 = \$11.88)

The Dummy: Grill points? What are Grill points? I only get apples, bananas, and occasional pears from D-hall for snacks.

The True Mathematician Option: Use it all on grill *cookies please*. (24*\$0.5 = \$12)



Courtesy of Katelyn Cui

Ten Mildly Amusing Moments in American History

By JOONYOUNG HEO '25

Disclaimer: These events are listed in no particular order. Further, "mildly amusing" is a term I'm using very loosely. A handful of these events are somewhat tragic, and there I imply "incredibly ironic" more than "hilarious."

1. The Boat Story: In 1886, three thieves stole a boat from Teddy Roosevelt's Elkhorn Ranch. Perhaps his friends suggested that he forget about the whole thing, or call the local authorities and have them pursue the criminals. Instead, Roosevelt built a new boat, tracked down the thieves, and held them at gunpoint for a few days in the blistering cold.

2. Wilmer McLean: The First Battle of Bull Run was also the first major battle of the Civil War. The house of a wholesale grocer from Virginia named Wilmer McLean was commandeered by the Confederates until a Union cannonball destroyed the kitchen fireplace. McLean was

annoyed, but he and his family remained. Then the Second Battle of Bull Run took place a year later, and this time the McLeans moved out. Right outside Appomattox Court House, Virginia, they found a new home—which the Confederates commandeered three years later to officiate their surrender. Thus the war started in McLean's backyard and ended in his front parlor.

3. John Adams Dies: Adams passed away in 1826 — on July 4, in a town called Quincy, just like his son. But the most interesting detail is his dying words: "Thomas Jefferson survives." That short phrase captured a decades-long relationship, putting aside their many differences to acknowledge his respect for Jefferson, in whose hands the future of this country, Adams knew, would forever be secure. Incidentally, Jefferson had died five hours earlier.

4. First Presidential Assassination Attempt: Months before the attempt, Richard

Lawrence was often observed muttering about President Andrew Jackson in his paint shop. One morning, Lawrence suddenly left his shop and is reported to have said passionately that "I'll be damned if I don't do it." He found Jackson at a funeral and shot his first pistol at his back. He missed. Before anyone had time to react, Lawrence whipped out a second pistol and fired another shot. He missed. Jackson, 40 years old, finally noticed the shopkeeper and jumped on him with his cane. The crowd had to hold Jackson back before they could restrain Lawrence.

5. "The Dirtier, the Better": Charles Guiteau shot President James Garfield in September 1881. Garfield was immediately taken to the White House and subjected to intense medical care — headed by a physician named Willard Bliss, who applied a "the dirtier, the better" principle to his tools. He spent weeks probing around in Garfield's open wound without any

anesthetics, often using his bare fingers to attempt to dig out the bullet. Long story short, he failed, sepsis sauntered onto the stage, and the president died two months later.

6. Battle of New Orleans: After five intense months in the Gulf Campaign of the War of 1812, Brevet Major General Andrew Jackson won the decisive victory at New Orleans, defeating the powerful British Army under Major General Edward Pakenham with tactics and raw military genius. Jackson learned a few days later that the war had ended two weeks before, with the Treaty of Ghent signed in Belgium.

7. Hall Carbine Affair: During the Civil War, a certain individual purchased about 5,000 rifles at \$3.5 and sold them back to the government at \$22. It was further discovered that these weapons were more likely to blow off the soldiers' thumbs than hit an enemy target. That individual was J. P. Morgan. He still owns a bank or

something today.

8. Braddock's Defeat: British General Edward Braddock was sent to the American frontier in the French and Indian War to capture Fort Duquesne. He happened to have a chat with Benjamin Franklin, who warned him of the hostile Natives before he started on his expedition. Braddock replied with a laugh and a hearty sip of whatever they were drinking in those days: "These savages may, indeed, be a formidable enemy to your raw American militia, but upon the King's regular and disciplined troops, sir, it is impossible they should make any impression." Two months later, the Natives made an impression upon the King's regular and disciplined troops. Braddock was killed and the expedition was called off.

9. "Missed Me": During a 1987 speech, President Ronald Reagan was interrupted when a balloon popped somewhere in the audience. Without so much as a flinch,

he said "missed me" and carried on. Incidentally, Reagan would be the one to break Tecumseh's Curse, an urban legend foretelling the deaths in office of presidents elected in years divisible by 20: Harrison, Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, Harding, FDR, and JFK.

10. Tippecanoe and Tyler Too: In the election of 1840, a masterpiece was created. To support the campaign of William Henry Harrison and his running mate, John Tyler, the Whig Party wrote "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too." The lyrics viciously attacked the incumbent president, Martin Van Buren ("Van is a used-up man"). Recently, a rock band called They Might Be Giants recorded a modern interpretation of the tune. Historians everywhere guarantee that the average American who listens to this piece will be seized with the inexplicable urge to go out to the polls and vote for William Henry Harrison.

The Crossword Corner By Finn Tronnes '24

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ACROSS

- 1 Like fine wine
- 5 Puzzle solvers' cries
- 9 "... to fetch ___ of water"
- 14 NASCAR's Yarborough
- 15 Hawaii's state bird
- 16 Olive Garden fav
- 17 Painter Schiele
- 18 "Let's Marvin ___ and get it on!"
- 19 ___'s belt (constellation)
- 20 Harry Potter!
- 23 Multiracial Exonian Society (abbr.)
- 24 Capp and Capone
- 25 Australian boot brand
- 28 Song off of Lana Del Rey's "Honeymoon".
- 31 ___

- Soundsystem
- 34 "Thou ___ not..."
- 36 Modern ___, or Taylor Swift's Recent Tour
- 37 Pitbull album
- 38 "Stacy's Mom..."
- 42 Massachusetts motto opener
- 43 Environmental prefix
- 44 Holey footwear
- 45 Liotta, starred in 2023 film "Cocaine Bear"
- 46 Banished
- 49 Skills, Knowledge, and Experience (abbr.)
- 50 "The ___ of Adaline" movie
- 51 Greek goddess of the Earth

- 53 Cold shoulder
- 61 Alamogordo's county
- 62 Worldwide (abbr.)
- 63 Langston Hughes poem
- 64 Blood drive participant
- 65 Mother of Hermes
- 66 Nixon's scandal at the Water ___ hotel
- 67 Got up
- 68 "¿Cómo ___ usted?"
- 69 World Cup cheers

DOWN

- 1 Scored 100% on
- 2 Meat dress wearer, Lady ___
- 3 X AE A-12's father
- 4 Material of a Canadian tuxedo
- 5 A fish known for its luminescent fin
- 6 Real-life model for "Citizen Kane"
- 7 ___ Taylor-Joy
- 8 ___ money
- 9 Moon-landing program
- 10 "Are you happy to be in ___?" "Oui!"
- 11 "Yeah, right!"
- 12 "What business is ___ yours?"
- 13 ___ Kim

- of Gilmore Girls
- 21 Muse of poetry
- 22 Chocolate bean
- 25 "Yeah!" singer
- 26 Togo neighbor
- 27 Bloated, as the stomach
- 29 Do a juice cleanse, say
- 30 Rowing machine
- 31 Largest city in Nigeria
- 32 It has two hands, but no arms
- 33 Slow on the uptake
- 35 Bigger than a md.
- 37 "No CPR" order
- 39 2020 film starring John David Washington and Robert Pattinson

- 40 Zamboni surface
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- 46 Pay no attention to
- 47 "Aha!"
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- 54 "Believe ___ not..."
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- 56 It's money, proverbially
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- 58- List-ending (abbr.)
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Why You Should've Taken Me to Spring Formal

By FORREST ZENG '26

Last weekend, I was preparing to go to Spring Formal. I slowly smoothed out my suit, adjusted my belt, and looked at myself in the mirror. I readied a thick book, *The Republic*, by Plato. Not to read, of course, but to use in case anyone dared to touch my adored Cole Hahn shoes. I looked around my room, checking off the list I had prepared weeks before I realized I had forgotten something crucial: someone to bring.

How had I forgotten this essential detail? What was I thinking? Perhaps my lazy self expected someone to ask me out — how experienced I was! Panicked, I quickly measured my options. They didn't look good. Not going was out of the question: I had prepared for this very moment for weeks, months! Neither did I want to go alone and risk being labeled an "NPC" by the peasants. If I went with a friend, perhaps I could still retain a semblance of that precious "relevance," which Exonians treasure as much as their sleep.

As my friends and I walked around the dance, shaking hands with people, the entire fieldhouse began to shake. As the dance was called off, we decided to head to EPAC to enjoy a good game of Risk. I was thankful for the wobbly

floor that I did not have to spend more time awkwardly pushing past people to reach my extroverted friends who actually had the capability to speak to people.

Now, to make up for what I forgot to do in my specific, holistic, and carefully measured preparation, I will try my best and boldest to plant the biggest seeds of regret within your conscience for not taking me to Spring Formal. Be prepared, for I will spite you.

First, I have the most superior fashion. I treat my clothes like gold. Every week, I carefully wash my clothes with the most advanced of devices: the 3rd Floor Cilley Washing Machine 2000. In order to keep their natural shape, I do not fold my clothes: I place them, crammed in my laundry bag so they can enjoy the benefits of socializing with each other. My clothes are delicately selected from the bottom of my laundry bag.

My friends can testify to my impeccable taste. An anonymous prep labeled my artistic usage of the same khakis every day as "absolutely disgusting."

Second, I am intelligent. I have the calculative prowess to evaluate the precise rate at which I must run in order to get from the Classics Department in the Academy Building to the fourth floor of

Phelps in exactly 300 seconds. I am a master at evaluation. I can look at any person's backpack and determine which dorm they are in. In fact, I can tell that YOU, the reader, are from our very dear Cilley Hall. You might be wondering how I could magically know this correct statement! Based on the fact that I probably barged into your room, number 101 on the first floor, and demanded that you read my humor article because "the Exonian is dying," you are probably one of those Cilley gentlemen that asks the most contrarian questions during Student Council and Assembly.

My massive brain aside, I am also incredibly athletic. Allow me to list some of my achievements: running from the ground floor of the library to the fourth floor in only about 30 minutes, the greatest distance traveled ever to interview an annoyed student for *The Exonian* (the trip was long: Grill to EPAC basement), and holding the number-one ranking in wrestling line-cutters out of Elm. I am also the 14th-best player on a team with 14 members at Exeter. Clearly, these accomplishments demonstrate the wide range of my physical talent.

If these virtues do not persuade you, then perhaps one more thing can: I

am the most successful Harkness warrior in the world. My loquacity has no limits—my extremely attractive monologues can completely alter the way that you experience long-block English. Members of this

school who have had the honor of hearing my proliferative contributions compliment them as "frustrating," and "as annoying as the absence of trash cans in Elm."

In conclusion, since there will be a new, less trampoline-like Spring

Formal soon, hopefully you understand perfectly what you need to do. And that is why you should take me to Spring Formal.

13 Things You Must Do as an Anime Nerd at Exeter

By CHENGUYE ZHANG '24

Join the Anime Club. We meet Saturday 4-5 pm in EPAC Basement.

Go attend the convention *Anime Boston* in Spring term at least once.

Proudly ask a faculty if they watch/have watched anime. If the answer is yes, engage in a conversation with them. If the answer is no, turn around and leave. (Alinne, I'm talking about you.)

Finish a 12-episode anime on a school night.

Think about finishing *One Piece* before you graduate from Exeter.

Go to the Design Lab and utilize the resources there to make an anime cosplay for yourself (or make a cosplay for your friend and force them to wear it).

Loudly explain the premise of an anime in Grill during Uni-free.

Join *The Exonian* just to write anime reviews, so we can turn *The*

Exonian into an anime magazine together.

Spam the Library Acquisitions Form requesting manga volumes. (Maybe this time, they will take us seriously.)

Check out the Academy Library's meager and weird manga collections on the third-floor graphic novel section.

Visit the Exeter town library to check out their relatively abundant manga collections.

Ask Tazawa Sensei if you can borrow a volume of *Demon Slayer* from her. And if she says yes, which she most likely will, borrow it but do not read it because *Demon Slayer* is overrated (except for when it's not).

Make plans in your first year at Exeter to take one year of Japanese in your senior year but realize that you do not meet the graduation requirement. Then resort to learning Japanese on Duolingo and give up after ten days.

The Cartoon Corner

If you'd like to draw for *The Exonian* or simply have a piece featured, email Ava Zhao at yzhao4@exeter.edu! Anyone is welcome to submit.

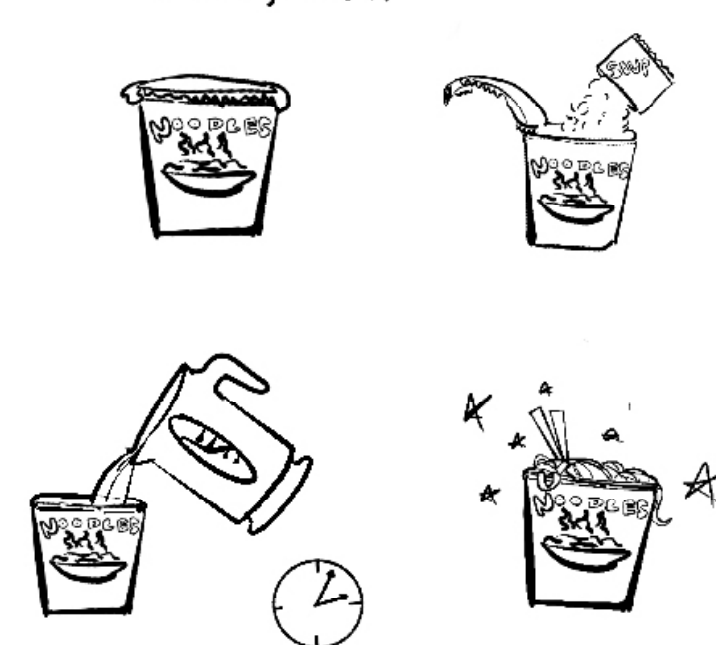
After a Mid-day Nap By KATELYN CUI '24



The Note-Taking Warrior By AVA ZHAO '24



STUDY BREAK!! By CATHERINE ZEHNER '24



Sports

» LACROSSE

Read about the boys and girls lacrosse teams' preparation for the spring season, 12.

» CREW

Read about the boys and girls crew teams' preseason training, 12.

Boys and Girls Lacrosse Train for Preseason



The girls varsity lacrosse team smiles for a preseason photo in Orlando, Florida.

Courtesy of @exetergirlslacrosse

By MATTHEW MINOR and LEOZHANG

During spring break, Exonians attended preseason trips to prepare for the upcoming season. The girls and boys lacrosse teams traveled down south to Florida to get a head start on their season.

The girls' team stayed in Orlando near Universal Studios, where they had action-packed days. Upper Adora Perry described their daily routine. "Preseason was a blast for all the girls involved. Our days varied, with a really great balance between work and play. Typically, we woke up and enjoyed a quality hotel breakfast as a team. We then transitioned to buses, went to our two-hour morning practice, then came back to the hotel. At that point, we enjoyed lunch, then either went for a second practice for the day ("two-a-days") or spent the evening relaxing

or enjoying our three-day passes at the Universal Studio Parks. Our days were long but enjoyable and we were always together as

"The downtime and just kicking back with the guys was probably my favorite part of the trip; we got to spend time getting to know each other better."

a team."

The boys ran on a similar schedule north of Orlando. Prep Luke Kim gave a detailed breakdown. "A typical day for us would start at around 6:45 a.m., where we would have to get ready and get breakfast at 7:00. Right after breakfast, we would go to practice for about two hours. We would get back to the hotel at around 10:45 and have lunch. We would have some time to relax, recover and bond with the team until

about 2:00 p.m., which was when our second practice was. Then once we finished another two-hour practice, we would head back for dinner until 7:00 p.m. Then at the end of the day, we had a scrimmage against a school that was also on the training trip."

At practices and scrimmages, the team sharpened their skills. "Everyone on the team was there, so we really got to use that time to plan ahead for the season in ways we hadn't done in past years. This meant getting buddies earlier, creating mottos and even practicing plays and motions that we'll use in the season," said senior and captain Nina Kellogg.

Senior Emilie Dubiel explained the areas that needed some work. "We spent a lot of time practicing and working on our zone defense, which really started coming together on the trip. We also got the opportunity to scrimmage Deerfield and

Choate, which really helped put together everything we worked on."

Not only did the trip help with lacrosse but also with team bonding. Perry explained, "Preseason was essential for team bonding; we had an awesome time together and established a really great connection. Both on the lacrosse field, where everyone grew as players and learned how to work together, to experiences in the hotel and during our free time. We performed skits as classes, which was a really fun thing to put together, and performed those skits in front of coaches and our other teammates. I think the time we spent together was quality, we were all so happy and energized throughout the trip and really enjoyed our time together."

Dubiel agreed, "I think preseason helped us by allowing us to get to know each other on the field in a fun environment.

Especially with a new team, it takes time for everyone to get to know each other, on and off the field. This trip is so beneficial in the sense that we're able to get to know each other better as players and as people. It also gives us the chance to come into the season feeling energized and excited."

"As we continue to practice and play, I can only see our team growing together, so we are extraordinarily excited for what's to come."

Upper Teddy Capozzi believes that team bonding was something that needed improvement during the trip. "The downtime and just kicking back with the guys was probably my favorite part of the trip; we got to spend time getting to know each other better. Being paired with different roommates strengthened

a lot of the camaraderie throughout the team also."

With preseason over, Perry explains how the team is shaping up as their season begins. "Our team is looking really good right now, especially anticipating our first game this Saturday, April 1. We have a ton of new players as well as players stepping up to really critical roles on the field. The sense of dedication and commitment to the team right now is strong, and our culture is one of support, consistency and excellence on the field. Our greatest challenge this season will be adapting to new styles of team play, including a new defensive strategy and I think some players are taking huge strides in playing great roles for the team. As we continue to practice and play, I can only see our team growing together, so we are extraordinarily excited for what's to come."

Exeter Crew Prepares for the Spring Season

By BILL O'CONNOR and JOONYOUNGHEO

The boys and girls crew teams met at Phillips Academy Andover in the last week of spring break for preseason practice. After a few days of hard training on the water, the athletes left with a stronger team spirit and motivation for the season ahead.

Members of the team found the preseason session very productive. "Everything was in eights, which meant there were eight rowers and one coxswain per boat," senior Henry Blake more said. "We had a few mixed boats, so there were members from both teams in one boat. We also used the ergs, rowing simulators, to work out on land."

"Our technique improved a ton from the beginning to the end," upper Jamie Reidy said. "The energy

in the boats was excellent, and so was the dynamic between the two teams. Even when it was colder, we were working out so much that it was hard to notice."

Even in their training, the team had a great time. "Everyone on the team progressed as athletes, and it was super fun to get back together with friends," upper Edie Fisher said. "The weather mostly cooperated as well. We had three warm days where some of us even wore tank tops. I really enjoyed it."

"We were rowing about 28 kilometers per day," senior Matilda Damon said. "That's a lot, but it didn't feel like it at all. The team was hanging out and playing games every night, and once we got on the water we were racing each other and having a blast."

Training at Andover was a new experience for

many on the team. "I've raced there before, but this was the first time training," Fisher said. "It was interesting to see a larger part of their river because normally we're just on the race course. There's a set of some intriguing billboards. A nice little house. The river didn't seem to end."

"The team was curious and maybe a little anxious to see how training would go, compared to our experience last year in Deland, Florida," senior and team captain Kate Nixon said. "We were all really pleased with how it went! The wind was always mild, and our two practices a day were thankfully always when the sun was out. We were very grateful that Andover allowed us to borrow their boat house."

"Last year in Florida, we only practiced four to a boat," Nixon said. "The fact that we were able to begin

the term in eights, let alone in our own boats, has given us a nice jump on the season. The return to practice on campus was comfortable and streamlined."

"The energy in the boats was excellent, and so was the dynamic between the two teams. Even when it was colder, we were working out so much that it was hard to notice."

"A strong preseason is crucial for the rest of the season," Reidy said. "The work we put in early on is going to be really important, and I think everyone recognized that. We took advantage of the time and space to learn and get comfortable in the boat again. We also brought a larger group, so hopefully, we trained some

more lowerclassmen for a greater range of strong rowers."

Their work in preseason has put the team in good shape for the next few months. "I'm excited for our first race," Blakemore said. "We have a scrimmage next week at the Exeter invitational, and I'm excited to see the guys in the top boats. But I'm also excited to see how the guys in the lower boats do this season."

"Now our team is set up really well to succeed this term," Damon said. "The extra mileage and coaching will definitely help us this season and, just maybe, prepare us for nationals."

"Deerfield is our big competition," Fisher said. "We've learned from last year never to underestimate a team. But really, I'm just excited to see how much progress our team has made and how many more med-

als we're going to win this year."

The rest of the team, following a great preseason, shares these ambitions. "I want to win the New England Interscholastic Rowing Association competition, I want to have another undefeated season, and I want to do better at nationals than we did last year," Blakemore said. "I want to stay focused, and make every stroke count because it would be a real shame to throw away all the hard work we've done."

"I'm excited to once again be with the strongest group of women I know," Nixon said. "The team is gritty, determined, and always in pursuit of speed and strength. The environment is infectious, and I can't wait to see what this season has in store for us."