

**Celestine Chaney, 65, of Buffalo**  
**Roberta A. Drury, 32, of Buffalo**  
**Andre Mackniel, 53, of Auburn**  
**Katherine Massey, 72, of Buffalo**  
**Margus D. Morrison, 52, of Buffalo**  
**Heyward Patterson, 67, of Buffalo**  
**Aaron Salter, 55, of Lockport**  
**Geraldine Talley, 62, of Buffalo**  
**Ruth Whitfield, 86, of Buffalo**  
**Pearl Young, 77, of Buffalo**

**Zaire Goodman, 20, of Buffalo, was treated and released from hospital · Jennifer Warrington, 50, of Tonawanda, New York, was treated and released from hospital · Christopher Braden, 55, of Lackawanna, New York, had non-life-threatening injuries**

---

**We dedicate these pages to the victims  
of hate crimes in May, 2022.**

**May 15**

**Laguna Woods, CA**

**May 14**

**Buffalo, NY**

**May 11**

**Dallas, TX**

# Academy Responds to Buffalo Shooting

By ANVIBHATE, JOYCHI, and SOPHIE MA

On Saturday, May 14, at a Tops Supermarket in Buffalo, New York, 13 people fell victim to a mass shooting. Ten people were killed, the other three injured, and 11 of the total victims were Black. Among them was a security guard who tried to stop the assailant, a taxi driver, a grandmother of six, two school teachers, and civilians shopping for groceries or picking up cakes for their kids' birthdays. The U.S. Department of Justice and F.B.I. are investigating the shooting as a federal hate crime.

The shooter, Payton Gendron, originally from Conklin, NY, had stood outside that same supermarket multiple times before in the months prior to the shooting. Law enforcement officials later reported of the eighteen-year-old shooter's online statements and his clear fascist, anti-Black, anti-semitic, and white supremacist leaning. Gendron faced charges of first-degree murder, to which he pleaded not guilty. More charges against him are expected to follow.

In a school-wide email sent on Sunday, May 15, Dean of Students Russell Weatherspoon addressed the event. "[Our] community members hail from many places, and our connections beyond Exeter link us to many other people. You or someone with whom you make regular contact may have a tie to those attacked in Buffalo, San Antonio, or other locales. If you need support, please reach out to good friends, personal or club advisers, other trusted adults, CAPS and other supports. And, of course, be attentive to anyone needing your listening ear because of the fear and vulnerability these terrorist attacks inspire," Weatherspoon wrote.

"It was so shocking," senior and cohead of Black Students of Excellence (BSE) Justin Burks said. "You live at Exeter and it's such a hyper liberal environment that you don't really think things like that can even happen anymore. We're taught that stuff like that is left in the past. And so when I [learned] of how egregiously violent the shooter's actions were, it was a surprise."

"I was talking with my friends about it, and they were sharing a lot of the feelings that I'm experiencing right now," Burks continued. "How is it even possible that someone could have that much hate and that much anger at another human for being having a different skin color?"

Just days prior to the shooting in Buffalo, three women of

Korean descent were shot at a hair salon in Dallas, Texas, for which the F.B.I. and Justice Department also initiated a federal hate crime investigation. The suspect in the Dallas crime, Jeremy Smith, has since been admitted to several mental health facilities.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) has initiated close conversation since Saturday to discuss appropriate campus response to these tragedies. "We have a group that's called the Campus Climate Response Team (CCRT)," Dean of Multicultural Affairs Sherry Hernández said. "That was activated on Monday. Conversations were underway with Dr. Bramlett and Dean Weatherspoon about how to respond."

"We [also reached] out to OMA club advisors. I wanted them to know that I appreciate them," Hernández continued. "They are often the first to respond to our students as it relates to identity-related harm and their wellbeing was my priority."

Weatherspoon and the administration shared similar thoughts, emphasizing the importance of community and supporting one another. "As a community here, we need to be thinking all the time about how we are treating one another from the most common aspects of life," Weatherspoon explained. "In dorm life, on the team, in any kind of group of people or a musical group."

In March of 2021, an anti-Asian shooting took place in Atlanta, Georgia. Student organizers responded by hosting a Candlelight Vigil in honor of the victims. Currently, it is unclear if there will be a school-wide event in response to recent events, whether student-led or initiated by the Academy.

Hernández shared that following conversations on campus, OMA noticed a general sense of fatigue in the student body. "The priority we had was to keep our ears close to the ground and really pay attention to what our students are expressing to us and what they were feeling," Hernández explained. "Students were not expressing to us any desire to do anything apart from finishing out the year, many expressing that they were feeling emotionally tired."

"We wanted to respond in a way that was in support of what students were expressing to us, as opposed to forcing upon anything that would make them feel even more exhausted," Hernández added. "This time of year, our aim and our goal is for students to finish happy, healthy, and whole in however way we can."

Weatherspoon agreed. "I

think what we do is we try to use the support systems that we have, beginning with the relationships that people feel most close to and the clubs that they may attend. Especially when we're thinking about students who may find themselves in the target group," he said in an interview with *The Exonian*.

Weatherspoon continued talking about how certain marginalized identities can often become targets, and therefore require a lot of external support. "It's pretty obvious, in some situations, if you're Jewish, you're the target. Or if you're Black, or you're Asian, or if you're Latinx, or you're LGBTQ+, you find that you are part of the group. We want to use the clubs, affinity groups and other gatherings that we already have to support students," Weatherspoon said.

Weatherspoon stressed the importance of creating a community on campus and stepping up to responsibility on a daily basis. "In its most extreme forms, we have to try to do what we as individuals or we as a school can do to fight back against these ideas and attitudes. For instance, if students are sitting with students and they're hearing people right near them, trafficking in some kind of dangerous rhetoric, that's not a time to turn away. That's a time to turn to the person next to you and go 'what are you talking about?' Otherwise, as I said, we will spend all of our days expecting the worst and perhaps living that way."

"This is a moment we have got to join forces," Weatherspoon concluded. "It is hope in the best things that enables us to not only get up in the morning, but to realize that there's a lot of worthwhile stuff to do."

Senior and African Students Association cohead Catherine Uwakwe felt that the campus headspace does not currently give room for introspection or action. "I honestly feel like most of this campus is still in their Exeter bubble, hyper focused on major assignments that have been piling on as we enter the end of the school year. I'm not sure we really have a lot of space and time to really sit down and reflect on what's happening off campus."

Affinity spaces such as BSE have also planned to acknowledge the shootings in their own way. "I was hoping to hold a moment of silence at our next BSE meeting in respect to the people who lost their lives," Burks shared. "Though not at this exact moment, we definitely will engage in a discussion about [the event]. We tend to avoid talking about these things because they're depressing to speak about for Black

students on campus."

"Even though we do want to make our members aware that stuff like this is happening, we don't want to bring down the mood," Burks continued. "We want BSE to be a space where we can uplift all of our members and allow our members to enjoy themselves while on campus."

Simultaneously, Burks expressed interest in a school-wide event to memorialize the victims and acknowledge the shooting. "I think a school wide event would be good. I think that the school sometimes isn't as aware of Black students' problems and struggles," Burks said. "It would be very considerate of the school to host a school-wide event, pay some respect to the people who lost their lives, and just spread awareness that this type of thing is happening. Even though an email was sent, I think that a moment of silence or just some school wide event would better resonate with the student body."

Following Weatherspoon's initial email, Director of Campus Safety Paul Gravel also sent out a school-wide email. In his email, Gravel encouraged students to be vigilant and to report any suspicious behavior to Campus Safety or the Exeter Police Department.

"Our initial response is to try to obtain as much information from various open sources as possible," Gravel shared with *The Exonian*. "We tried to determine if the shooter acted alone or as part of a group that may or may not have ties to New Hampshire."

"As I stated in my campus-wide email, we have reached out to local law enforcement to determine if there was any intelligence on the shooter or other information on the shooting they could share with us," Gravel continued. "Chief Poulin of the Exeter Police shared that there was no information that the shooter had ties to our area."

"We are very fortunate in that Campus Safety has a great relationship with local law enforcement and contacts at the Department of Homeland Security Fusion Center," Gravel added. "If there were to be pertinent information, we would be provided that. And because our community is so diverse, [we] have spoken with Exeter Police about increasing the frequency of their patrols around campus."

Senior and co-head of Asian Voices, William Park, noted that these emails were much appreciated. "For those that want to talk about it because they have been personally affected, the emails serve as recognition throughout the

community that this did happen," Park said. "It gives an explanation for a student to tell their teacher or an athlete to their coach why they might be out of it. It can make students think about checking up on their friends that they care about."

"Most importantly, it recognizes that our bubble at Exeter isn't the entire world and that these terrible tragedies have happened," Park continued. "It's a small act of respect for the victims that they deserve."

Burks and Uwakwe also suggested the Academy send out emails reminding students of CAPS and OMA resources. "I think that the CAPS department does a great job of providing our students with really good mental health support," Burks said. "I think that it would be great if they could send out an email separate from the administration. CAPS could definitely help a lot of students who are struggling right now [with the mental toll of the events]."

Uwakwe echoed Burks' statement. "I feel like students would appreciate recognition of the issue and I think it would be useful to send out reminders that spaces like OMA exist for everyone and support can also be found there."

Hernández emphasized that OMA is a space students can turn to. "The OMA office is open every day, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. [Students] can always find someone that they can speak to, whether it's current events or what's going on with them academically or socially," Hernández said. "The best way to demonstrate our support for students is again, continuing to be open, continuing to be available, checking in with our advisees, [checking in] with all of the students in ways that are not intrusive, in ways that are really sensitive, and picking up on cues on whether or not they're interested in discussing perhaps something more than just surface."

"We try to build trust throughout the year so that students can come to us in moments of great grief," Hernández continued. "So we're not beginning a relationship in a time that's really difficult. But we may encounter new relationships during a time when it's difficult and we're ready to respond to that as well."

"I want our students to know that we are here," Hernández concluded. "We want you to rely on us and come see us. We care about you and we know that you're carrying many, many things. And we don't want you to worry alone."

## Excerpted Conversation with Dean Weatherspoon

Weatherspoon emphasized the importance of checking up on people, both students and faculty. "We don't feel immediately under threat right here right now, but we're checking in with particular student leaders, asking 'what are you hearing?' 'What are you hearing from the group?' 'Are there any particular individuals that you're concerned about?' We also try to do that on the adult level. The adults are people too, and they also can be experiencing fear, trauma, and rage like

anybody else," he said.

"In the history of this country, people of color have been a very frequent, and sometimes nearly constant, target," Weatherspoon continued. "And yet they're not the only targets. We want to be supporting everybody on campus. For instance, one of the things that we did after we learned this was, we immediately asked ourselves 'who's from Buffalo?' Let's quickly look and see how many people we have in Buffalo."

Weatherspoon further

explained how although this incident targeted a specific group, anyone could be affected by the news. "I had someone come and say to me, 'my heart just absolutely goes out to you as a Black person. You know, not only for this, for this event, but for the long history of events such as these, which obviously you're conscious of every day you live.'" he explained. "This person was white. Two of the people who were killed were white. And then there are people who live in Buf-

falo. And then there are people who have relatives who live in Buffalo. And then there are other people who are just not in either of those camps, but they're just demoralized to think that this is an ongoing thing in American life."

"If you have any sense that you've got anyone in your group who may be affected by this, please stop in on them. If they, or you need additional help, please, pick up the phone. There's a whole bunch of resources— including CAPS— that you can take

advantage of," Weatherspoon said.

Weatherspoon also stressed the importance of viewing the Buffalo attack as a learning and community building experience. He discussed how teenagers should take this opportunity to come together and rise up in the name of justice. "We get civility, we get humanity. We get a truly diverse nation coming together as one... it is important in different ways to condemn this stuff," he said.

# The Exonian

## NEWS

Read Dean of Students Weatherspoon, Director of Campus Safety Paul Gravel, the OMA Office and student leaders reflect on the Buffalo shooting, page 2.

## LIFE

Read about senior Shalom Headly's legacy of being unapologetically themselves, page 9.

## OP-ED

Carl Lindemann '79 argues against the celebration of Exeter alumni who may not embody "knowledge with goodness," page 10.

## Campus Reflects on Gender Equity in Athletics



A field hockey midfielder plays on the field.

Joy Chi/The Exonian

By ANVIBHATE, ERIN CHEN, and PHIN GIBBS

Over the last decade, inequities between the treatment of girls and boys sports, as well as gender non-conforming students' athletics, have come to the attention of the athletics department. As a result, the athletic department has implemented changes to all facets of the sports program such as scheduling, infrastructure, and uniforms, to make it a more equal playing field for all genders.

One of the athletics department's biggest efforts made to bridge the inequity in sports among the different genders was rearranging the scheduling and amounts of games for each team. Director of Athletics and PE Jason Baseden spoke about

their responsibility to get all gender sports in an "equal setting" before moving forward, and the different ways in which they have begun to do that.

"Whenever we could, we tried to showcase some of the girls' programs on Friday Night Light," Baseden said. "Seventy-five percent of our Friday Night Games have been girls games, because one way there are inequities in athletics is because of the discrepancies in spectators at boys' events and spectators at girls events."

Baseden continued to emphasize how important it is to make sure one gender does not take up all the most popular and most watched game times. "It's really the scheduling, as well as trying to make sure that the boys

ATHLETICS, 4

## Exeter Gathers For Relay For Life

By SOPHIE MA, KENDRA WANG, and ALAYSHA ZHANG

The Academy held its annual Relay for Life event this past Saturday, May 7, in support of the American Cancer Society. Various dorms and clubs ran booths around the indoor ice rink to raise money for the event, and speakers shared sentiments during Luminaria.

The student-led Relay for Life Committee planned the event with help from Day Student Coordinator Elizabeth Reyes, Exeter Student Service Organization (ESSO) Program Assistant Maureen Costello, and Director of Student Activities Joanne Lembo. Senior Riley Valashinas and lower Angel Guo acted as co-chairs, overseeing the planning process. Lower Harry McGovern and upper Zach Quitkin

worked in outreach to communicate and organize booth sign-ups. In Luminaria, upper Nicole Craighead and lower Elie Ana Sperantsas held auditions for potential performers. To complete the organizational team, uppers Rajiv Raval and Vibha Udayakumar managed event publicity.

Guo shared why she decided to take part in Relay for Life. "I participated in Exeter's Relay for Life because of how cancer has affected my life," Guo said. "My dad has had colon cancer since I was five. Having spent countless hours in the waiting room and by the treatment bed, I became intrigued by the disease that plagued my indomitable father."

"However, the battle against cancer isn't fought solely from within a hospital," Guo continued. "The battle that can-

cer patients, spouses, and children like myself must fight is one supported by Relay for Life. By chairing this event, I hope to convey my dedication and show my dad and everyone else in the cancer community how much they are loved."

McGovern helped with the event's booth planning. "I decided to do Relay for Life because I had cancer myself," he said. "As a cancer survivor, I wanted to give back to the community and help support families who are currently suffering from cancer."

He continued, "the event is truly meaningful, and although I personally could not attend, I am proud of our work. Exeter created a great platform to spread awareness—with each dorm or club hosting their own booths to make money—attendees were able to support

the American Cancer Society on a personal level, while also enjoying the night with friends."

Reyes shared the specificity of this year's event. "This event is a co-sponsored event between ESSO and Student Activities," Reyes said. "We have been organizing it for as long as I've worked here except for our 2 years off due to COVID. I love Relay because of this partnership approach and it is an event that brings the whole school together."

"It is also important to me because my mother passed away from cancer many years ago. It's a great opportunity to work with students to do something for our community while honoring her memory," Reyes continued.

Guo explained the

RELAY FOR LIFE, 4

## Exonians Prepare Production "Open The Gate"

By LAUREN KIM and CHENGYUE ZHANG

This spring term, with the ricochet of squash balls and the clatter of rackets gone until next winter, it appears that the indoor squash courts have been put to another use by Academy students. Among the four indoor squash courts, each cubicle portrays a realistic panorama of student life; a window into an Exonian's daily routines. As animated projections dance on the white walls, the courts are lit up with muted blues and neon purples, with bright spotlights scanning the entire room. With decor ranging from laden beds inspired by dorm rooms,

to a flowered garden furnished with benches, this gorgeous display is actually the set of a new student production, titled "OPEN THE GATE."

OPEN THE GATE is a devised theater piece originally set to open on May 13. Due to resurgence of Covid on campus, it is postponed and tentatively rescheduled for Friday May 20 and Saturday May 21. Centering around the experiences of Exonians, this production aims to amplify student voices in a unique setting. The production allows students to have greater autonomy over the writing, stage tech, and creative

OPEN THE GATE, 6

## Students Celebrate AAPI Heritage Month

By ASHLEY JIANG, SOPHIA TURNER, and LEOZHANG

Asian and multicultural groups celebrated the Asian American Pacific-Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month with Spring Soul Fest, Hot Wings Challenge, Asian Dinner, and other Asian-centered affinity events.

Dean of Multicultural Affairs Sherry Hernández announced the beginning of AAPI Heritage Month in an email to all students: "AAPI Heritage Month is dedicated to celebrating the impact that the AAPI community has had on culture and society in the United States. The AAPI community encompasses cultures from the entirety of Asia and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia."

Asian Student Program Coordinator and faculty advisor of Asian Voices Kerrie Tinsley hoped that the AAPI events can "celebrate the rich history of Asians, Asian Americans,

and Pacific Islanders, and to encourage learning more about the coalition of Asian Americans while recognizing and understanding cultural differences."

"One aspect that we really hope to highlight in our AAPI heritage month events is the importance of solidarity both within the AAPI community and among the wider community on campus. OMA is committed to supporting and affirming individual cultural and affinity groups, but we also recognize the powerful voice that can be created by coming together in solidarity," Tinsley continued.

The International Student Alliance, Exeter Pinoy Society, and Asian Voices hosted the Spring Soul Fest on April 30th. As students snacked on a variety of foods like boba, Asian snacks, and empanadas, others were performing at the Academic Quad, with open-mic and karaoke performances.



AAPI, 5

AAPI faculty help serve the food at Asian Dinner.

Minseo Kim/The Exonian

# News

## » RELAY FOR LIFE

Read about planning for the return of an annual event, raising awareness for cancer, page 3.

## » OPEN THE GATE

Read about a play written by and produced for Exonians, page 3.

## » AAPI

Read about Asian students' reception of the Asian Dinner, page 3.



Upper Blake Simpson and lower Victor Matheos perform at Relay For Life.

Minseo Kim/The Exonian

## Relay For Life Cont'd

overarching purpose of Relay for Life. “While the ultimate goal of Relay for Life is to raise awareness and money for the American Cancer Society, the purpose of this year’s event was to bring RFL back to Exeter. We focused on educating the community about Exeter Relay for Life traditions. For instance, we made sure that the ‘oasis,’ a big wooden cage you can pay to lock your friends in, would be at the event.”

“Bringing students together for one cause,” Reyes agreed, “and honoring those who have been impacted by cancer in some way. We raised money to support the work of the American Cancer Society, while also having an event on campus where all are welcome and can have fun and support others.”

Comparing this year’s Relay for Life to other years, Reyes noted, “this year’s event was different because it was a rebuilding year...The only students who knew what Relay for Life was at PEA are four-year seniors and some of them don’t remember the event well. All the students had to try to picture what we were asking them to do without the institutional memory.”

Much to the team’s delight, the event had a great turnout. “Aside from the mask mandate,

I think that the event emulated past ones,” Guo said. “Because of Relay for Life’s unfamiliarity, we initially expected lower turnout and donations, but many students showed up and had a lot of fun. We exceeded our \$3000 fundraising target, too.”

Many students in the Exeter community decided to pitch in and manage a booth at the event. “When I was in the first grade, my mom was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer, and it’s been a big part of my life,” prep Celia Dowling said. “I want to do whatever I can to help other people who have gone through the same situation as I have.”

Running her booth with Dowling was prep Kamara Williams. “We ran a booth for face-painting and it went great,” Williams said. “We came up with a layout design based on the materials we had on hand. There was also the limited time factor and the fact that there were only two of us to consider, but I think we did just fine. Everyone’s really enthusiastic about what we’re doing and it’s fun to see all the creative booths.”

Other students had a similar experience with their booths. “Zach asked me to run the oasis jail cell booth, and it was a great time,” upper Enzo

Nakornsri said. “It’s a Relay for Life tradition. You pay one ticket to get someone into jail and pay one ticket to get them out. It’s prison corruption and bribery rolled into one. I’m really glad I got to contribute to the event.”

“I ran the varsity lacrosse booth, where we painted nails teal for ovarian cancer,” lower Annika Finelli said. “I had a really great experience!”

Lower Eamin Ahmed was a part of the boys’ and girls’ cross-country team’s booth. “I think it’s great that we have this event,” he said. “It got the school together in a really meaningful way. The cross-country team was running a crepe station where you could get these crepes with strawberry, chocolate, and other flavors. Lots of people came over and bought our stuff, so that was great.”

Cashier and prep Angelina Gong shared similar remarks. “I decided to take part in this event because I think it’s a really great cause,” she said. “There are people who are close to me who have been affected, like my grandmother with breast cancer. I sold tickets—50 cents per ticket that they could use in each booth. I signed up as a volunteer in the email they sent out.”

A similar theme of

personal connection to the event was further shared by many others. “My mom has cancer and it’s affected our lives in so many ways,” upper Holden Quaresma said. “I wanted to help the Exeter community and everyone who might be in a similar situation.”

“I had fun with our booth, too— it already had a lot of materials and the classics community is really close, so it wasn’t too difficult to get people on board,” Quaresma continued. “It was about rallying the community. We’ve done a lot of stuff like this in the past but this is for a really meaningful cause. I’m proud that we all came together in such a short amount of time, and that we managed to pull something like this together.”

Many of those in attendance appreciated the event. “I attended the event because one of my family friends recently passed away from cancer. Relay for Life was an impactful and meaningful event. I am glad the Academy hosted such an event to raise awareness,” upper Ming Thompson said.

“My favorite booth was the jail booth,” Thompson continued. “I really enjoyed putting my friends in jail. Although I escaped myself, it was an exhilarating experience, and I had a very fun night. I also really liked

the smoothie booth because the juice they made was all natural ingredients.”

Other students greatly enjoyed the event. “I think it was a great event with a lot of scope,” prep Junhyeok Jang said. “It brought the Exeter community together and gave a spotlight to student passion in front of a lot of people. It’s great that our talents and passions were being used for a good cause. This was honestly way better than I thought it would be. There was a lot of stuff being offered. In general, it was a really lively atmosphere.”

For some upperclassmen, this year’s Relay for Life was particularly important. “This is my first Relay for Life at the Academy,” upper Ophelia Bentley said. “COVID got in the way of all the previous ones, and I’m really glad I came. It’s a great environment, a fun place to be.”

In particular, this is the last Relay for Life for the senior class. “I came to the event because I was hosting the Wentworth booth,” senior Jack Archer said. “I think it’s a fun event that also impacts other people in a really positive way. We put a lot of thought into our booth. It actually makes me sad that this is my last one at the Academy. I lost the opportunity to attend past events because of

COVID, and I’m really glad I could have my last one in person.”

The significance of their last Relay for Life was a common theme among the senior class. “This is actually my first Relay for Life, incidentally,” senior Fawaz Omidia said. “I was a new lower and there wasn’t anything like this—and if there was, I didn’t hear about it. But I’m really glad I went. It was a beautiful event, and seeing the number of people who have been affected by cancer, either directly or indirectly, creates a strong sense of community. Just being there for your friends says, let’s get together for something.”

Senior Emma Finn agreed. “I love Relay for Life,” she said. “Riley and her colleagues did an incredible job organizing this meaningful event. I know I’ll miss it next year. It was really wonderful to see the Exeter community come together for a good cause.”

Notably, the Academy’s administration recognized the time and effort put into this year’s edition of Relay for Life. “The event was fantastic,” Principal Rawson concluded. “Very well-organized and meaningful.”



Senior Shantelle Subkhanberdina sings “All I Want” by Kodialine at the Relay For Life luminaria.

Minseo Kim/The Exonian

# Gender Equity in Athletics, Cont'd

teams aren't always in the prime time space," Baseden continued. "We've tried to adapt to that and make sure that there is, at a minimum, equal time in who's playing in the prime time spaces for games."

This policy also extended to E/a games, and the way the timings for those games were organized. "We adapted E/a day this fall so that every team had a full hour where they were the only team competing," Baseden added. "All of the games had record numbers."

Still, Baseden recognized that there was still a long way to go, especially in terms of the discrepancies between audiences that appear at different types of games. "It's disappointing for me to see that we have a school of 1,500 students, and only on a couple of occasions are there more than say 50 students at a game," Baseden commented. "Sometimes you'd think we might have some students coming out to support, especially the girls sports programs."

"I'd also like to see more faculty at the games. It seems to be the same few faculty already going to the games," Baseden mentioned.

Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Katie Brule echoed similar sentiments, adding that there were also large discrepancies in the amounts of supplies and gear provided to different gendered teams. Describing what she heard from students when she first got to the Academy, Brule said, "The boys' sports got more spectators and they tended to get more gear supplied for them. They have slightly more access to things or slightly more campus culture around their events."

Additionally, one of the major shifts the faculty and coaches had to carry out was a change in the infrastructure of the athletic facilities, from a very male-centered sports block. This was a result of

Exeter being a single-gender school when many of these buildings were originally built, causing difficulties to the incorporation of girls athletics.

"Anything we try to do to the athletics complex to adapt these things, the nature of the building, being concrete, comes with more challenges...we've got work to do, our coaching staff and athletic department staff, are making changes there as well so it's both on the human as well as the physical side."

Brule, commented on the discrepancies between the girls' and boys' basketball locker rooms, "the current situation is that the boys' locker room is attached to Love Gym, and ours is on the other side attached to the main girls locker room."

Varsity Basketball and Lacrosse Player and Senior Ana Casey vocalized the poor conditions of their team room. "When we saw our team room in preseason, it was not usable. There were no benches, there were no cubbies and there was trash on the floor," Casey described. "Although there are plans to create a new locker room which will be attached to the gym, the current situation is evidence of current inequities in the basketball program."

Moreover, over the past few years, the athletic department has transitioned towards changing scheduling and facilities to support transgender or non-binary students, including creating all-gender bathrooms. "We support whatever anybody identifies with and we are going to support them in whatever way, shape, or form they need their support," Baseden explained.

"We want to make sure that we answer anybody's call in those areas. Right now we feel like we're doing it but if we're not, we want to know so we can make sure to correct that as soon

as possible."

Another aspect of athletics that's previously been inequitable in terms of gender expression is the athletic uniforms. Field Hockey Player and Prep Beatrix Prairie commented on the ways certain items of athletic clothing can feel invalidating for many students who don't identify with certain gender expressions. "Many people, including girls, do not feel comfortable wearing skirts and often skirts make game play more difficult. Having uniforms with skirts promotes stereotypes and can drive away certain members of the community, specifically trans, nonbinary and gender non-conforming students, from joining these teams." Prairie said.

Field Hockey and Squash Coach Mercy Carbonell added on, speaking about how the uniform for some sports has traditionally been. "I am concerned about the fact that in two of the sports I coach, field hockey and squash, the uniform registers as a traditionally or historically CisHet feminine gig: a skirt," Carbonell commented. "I would hope we might shift that. In lacrosse we did so. Easily."

Additionally, feeling accepted into a team is a crucial aspect of being a student athlete. In team sports where communication is present at all times, acceptance and inclusion can make or break this experience for students and deter them from sports in the future.

Baseden shared, "A lot of people think it's just about wins and losses. It's absolutely not that. This is all about developing life skills and relationships." So in this day and age where many students do identify as queer, are we at the level where these athletic spaces are open to all? It's important that the whole community makes an effort as well to educate themselves and take action to create safe environments. This respon-

sibility should not rely on queer athletes alone to step up. Carbonell adds, "I am concerned about the messaging on all sports teams: how many athletes identify as queer & feel they can be out & open on their teams? What is not allowing for that openness? What would we need to alter in crucial ways to allow for athletes on all teams to feel they can be their most authentic selves?"

Brule takes this into her own hands as a coach by working towards an inclusive community on the basketball team. "In the language, we don't we don't say 'go guard your girl' like it's 'go guard your player.' Very, very small little language changes are super easy," she said. All teams can use the same mindset, to take small steps in improving their community.

Any student can voice their concerns so our school can continue to improve. The athletic department works to solve any issues brought to them, but they can't accomplish this when they have none brought to them. Brule and Casey encourage people to reach out to our athletic department who listened to their concerns about the basketball teams' locker room. Baseden opens his doors to communicate with all student athletes. "To be honest what's really helpful is when we hear from [them], because the world that you live in is a little bit different from the world we [The Athletic Department] live in." Baseden said.

Some student leaders are taking action to voice how they feel on this cause. Captain's Counsel was created by the athletic department to teach leadership skills to team captains. After the first meeting, a few girls' team captains reached out to talk to the athletic faculty separately. They informed the athletic department of the student athlete perspective, including topics such as the sexual misconduct culture in

athletics.

"I also think myself and a lot of other girls captains on campus through Captains' Council, and just, in general, have been advocating for girls or women sports a lot more," senior Ana Casey, captain of the basketball team, said.

Both sides of this partnership have been able to benefit from this information. Since this meeting, the athletic department has taken steps such as rebuilding the girls' basketball room and making sure that the girls' teams playing time is just as equal as the boys' teams.

"They've been a huge asset to us, helping us understand their experience and pointing out areas of inequity." Baseden said.

Athletes are taking the initiative to bring these conversations to the rest of the Exeter community. Many students around campus aren't aware of the many inequities many genders face through athletics. "I think there's a lot of education to be done on equity in sports. Around campus, I've tried to hold conversations with some kids on the guys' versions of teams and it's very frustrating when they don't necessarily understand what we have to go to. And I'm not saying that they have to understand, but I don't think they appreciate how they have it versus how we have it," upper Sami Smith adds.

Outreach has been helpful in every way. Students and the Athletic Department have taken to social media with Instagram accounts like @bigredzone\_ and @exeterathletics. These accounts update with game times and hype up games before they happen. "It's been better this year, I think Big Red Zone has been a big part of that," Casey said. Following these accounts are a great way to remember to attend games and support student athletes.

Coaches are also work-

ing to fix some of the lesser talked about root problems in game attendance. The amount of recruits and PGs that play on the girls' teams are significantly less than the ones on the boys' teams. This can contribute to how many attendees show at games, as Brule said, "The boys' program is historically very successful and they are very competitive. They have boys going to play at the collegiate level every year and going to play at high collegiate programs. We don't have that same established access right now." While this is an issue that reaches outside of Exeter's control, we do have power over certain parts of it. How can we make prospective and current students feel more supported in athletic spaces? "If you're a current twelfth grader or thinking about taking a PG year, and looking at Exeter and you're seeing for PGs there's only two female-identifying people in that class year, you would probably be like, 'Oh, maybe not. Maybe I won't do that,'" Brule added.

Some students believe that the cause of lower numbers at girls' games is sexism. Smith said, "All of the players have an agreement that we're just as good as the guys' [team] and we work just as hard and we have to go through a lot of the things that guys don't have to go through."

When an article came out in the Exonian in 2006 about this same issue, the female-identifying students did not all feel the same way, almost accepting the fact that they weren't as competitive as the boys' teams.

Much has changed since 2006. Casey emphasized, "We want people to show up for games and we want non-athletes, which means that we also have to show up to other types of events. We all want a closer Exeter where we have a good team spirit."

# AAPI Heritage Month Cont'd

Upper and co-head of Beat of Asia's Grace Nivera commented on the student turnout and vibrant engagement in Soul Fest. "The energy was really high, and I could see a lot of people having a good time. When Shantelle performed, everybody had their phone flashlights out. She is an amazing performer with an angelic voice. It was also fun to hear everybody screaming during karaoke. There are certain songs that everybody loves, you know? People were performing their hearts out during karaoke," she said.

Senior and co-head of Asian Voices William Park explained the motivation behind hosting Soul Fest and necessary planning procedures. "Toby and I hosted the open mic program at the beginning and I emceed the karaoke portion. It was fun for me to get the crowd hyped with whoever was performing and I made sure that everyone was engaged in it."

"My favorite part was seeing the audience getting engaged, such as playing an anime soundtrack or cheering the performers on. It was peak Exeter for me to see such a huge crowd cheering people on collectively," he continued.

Nivera agreed, stating that Soul Fest helped to honor Asian identity. "Asian food was a great way to encourage Asian heritage and the karaoke is obviously a beloved staple in many

Asian households. There could have been games at the event, but then, Soul Fest would be too similar to Asian Carnival. To that respect, I think the event was perfect."

Students soon turned their attention to the Hot Wings Contest. On May 6, at the Academic Quad, students from Asian Voices, Black Students of Excellence, and La Alianza Latina gathered together for a friendly competition of who could handle the most spice.

The idea for the contest began with senior Juliette Ortiz, who then told seniors Hansi Zhu and KG Buckingham-White. It eventually spread to the rest of the affinity clubs and solidified into a real event. "We all decided that this was going to be so fun to do, especially because we always talk about how much spice we can handle," Park said.

The contest ended up going above and beyond their expectations. With over 80 sign-ups, the turnout for the event was surprising, according to Park. "It was so much better than we could have imagined at the beginning," he said. "It was really hype. Everybody was cheering their club's name, and midway through everybody was crying and helping each other, and it got really intense. The eighth wing, The Bomb, was the worst."

With milk and water nearby for safety as well as tofu options for vegetarians,



Senior Kiese Nanor and upper Jacqueline Subkhanberdina at the Asian Carnival.

Minseo Kim/The Exonian

it was clear the student coordinators had put a lot of thought into the event. A big goal had been to get the affinity spaces familiar with each other in solidarity. "[As cohead of Asian Voices], we've been working on just having these different communities come together, support each other, and have fun. We want to show that racial solidarity isn't a 1960s Civil Rights movement, but something that we can easily bring towards the day," Park reflected. "Seeing the pride that everybody had for their respective affinity spaces and holding this incredible event together was a great success in my eyes."

Tinsley spoke further on the importance of AAPI-centered events as a celebration and affirmation of Asian students with the surge of anti-Asian sentiment around the nation. "We understand that the news our students are exposed to is saturated with stories about anti-Asian sentiment and violence, as well as about the challenges of being Asian or Asian American in the current climate. The intention of our AAPI offerings is always to create spaces and host events that continue to affirm and empower our students," she said.

"I think people really underestimate how empow-

ering and connecting programming like [the AAPI events] can be. This was my first event where all three of these spaces came together within the umbrella of OMA, and it was really awesome to see everybody else and how much pride they had," Park continued, reminiscing on previous events. "Soul Fest and My Black Is Royalty fashion show is something I'm going to remember even after I graduate because it's really powerful to see these events that students and OMA can organize. It's really great that more of it is happening and how much people want to come to them."

Student coordinators

and various clubs are far from being done with their hard work in planning these events. Upcoming AAPI-related activities include the Asian Carnival on May 14 co-hosted by Asian Advisory Board and 8 Asian clubs with performances by the Pinoy Society, Beat of Asia and Shakti; AAPI movies series lunch at Capital Thai on May 13 and 20; Drag Queen Bingo co-hosted by Asian Advisory Board and Gender Sexuality Alliance on May 20th; and dinner with guest chef Raj Mandekar of Tulsi Restaurant on May 21.



The cast of "Open The Gate" at a rehearsal on the squash courts.

Joy Chi/The Exonian

## "Open The Gate" to Premiere May 20th, Cont'd

processes, while being directed by two faculty advisors: English instructor Dr. Sahar Ullah and Theater instructor Blythe de Oliveira Foster. The cast consists of a diverse range of students hailing from different grades and backgrounds. Although the cast initially had disagreements regarding the plotline and direction of the production, it is currently well-prepared to open its doors to the community this coming Friday.

Being a piece of devised theater, OPEN THE GATE PEA presents a range of Exeter experiences to the audience. "The students came into our class not having a script nor knowing what the show was going to look like or be about. Every class, we created and collaborated and built pieces of the play which our community will soon witness and experience - created by, for, and about our experiences as Exonians," Ullah and de Oliveira Foster explained.

The decision to stage the production in the Squash Court was also an unique one. "Imagining possibilities for the Spring play, we thought about students here at Exeter who have important things to say and about spaces on campus where

they might reach folks who don't already hang out at the theater," Ullah and de Oliveira Foster continued. "Ms. Carbonell suggested the gym and the theatricality of the squash courts. Many of us didn't initially feel particularly comfortable in the gym - definitely a story or two there! And yet, when we started asking around, the Athletics Department warmly opened their doors to us and invited us in. And we're here!"

"The audience moves from one squash court to the next, to the next and to the next. There's a distinct tone shift between each one without losing the main thread of the story, which I think is super special," upper and performer Adalie Burton said. "We will all absolutely love the show in the squash courts or not, but I think that it being in the squash court kind of forced us to think outside the box and interact with this idea of performing in a space that we're not maybe very comfortable in yet."

Although OPEN THE GATE does not have a traditionally cohesive plotline, the common Exeter experience ties the show together, and allows the audience to grasp the meaning.

"[The cast] all look at the school very differently but also go through a lot of the same things. I think that's where we got a lot of inspiration from. Then it branched off into our different lives and how each of us bring [our experiences] with us to everything that we do at Exeter. I think the show is really about our different lives and how we intersect at Exeter," Burton summarized.

Despite some uncertainty when devising the unique production, the performers are proud of the work created thus far.

Senior and performer Emily Wang said, "I think we struggled a lot in finding a sense of direction or a cohesive theme, and there were some tensions within the group. However, now that we have a solid script and are just working on getting small things right, everything is pretty good and I am really proud of what we have created."

"It is a very interesting, very experimental piece that consists of deep monologues and reflections of students. It is very different because of the fact that we were the creators of it. We had so much freedom while creating it," senior and actor Dada Grochalova added

on. In the early days of rehearsal, the student actors are given themes and writing prompts to come up with one minute monologues or short scenes, and then these are combined. "This process inspired us to collaborate and sort of give up creative control, but also just be willing to let our specific stories combine with someone else's," Burton reflected.

Wang reflected on the speech she wrote regarding her feelings towards the Academy and how the production enabled her to be honest with her perspective.

"I was able to share a lot of my thoughts either through monologues or group scenes," Wang said. "I think this production is a really good space and opportunity for me to channel my energy and emotions. I got to write a speech about why I hate this school, which felt really good."

Many actors find themselves excited for the unique set design and costumes. Upper and performer Alysha Lai said, "the set and costumes sound really cool. We all get to wear jumpsuits and then they're dyed different neon colors. We all have an assigned color,

we get sneakers and make them personalized."

"And, the set is totally unique with the squash courts," Lai continued. "There's a lot of really cool ideas as well. We will have the audience sitting in the bleachers and every act they move to a different court."

Similarly, the directors are proud of the work the cast has put in. "Considering how we began with only themes, writing prompts, concepts, and movement work in March - and seeing how far we have now come in May - it's been wonderfully satisfying. The biggest challenge we faced was asking our students to trust us to guide them through a process in which we also did not know what the play would be about or look like," Ullah and de Oliveira Foster said.

"To quote one of the lines from the play—written entirely by our students - 'We learned how to hate, love and forgive.' After getting over the most challenging moments of frustration, we came together as collaborators to create a play that makes transparent and tells that process as the story. And we are so proud," Ullah and de Oliveira Foster said.

Lai added on, "I'm

proud that we actually have a play written because for a while it felt like we wouldn't have something. And then one day, it suddenly all came together and I'm quite proud of everything we've accomplished because the story and the play itself is quite special."

"What motivated me to join such a special show is the fact that it is so driven by identity and each of our individual problems, but also how we all are able to disagree and still love each other. My biggest hope for the show coming in was that it would be something really special that you couldn't recreate anywhere else, and I think that we've definitely done that," Burton said.

Ullah and de Oliveira Foster encourage students to attend the play's opening, and to appreciate the hard work performers and tech crew have put into the production.

"Come to the show!" Ullah and de Oliveira Foster said. "Get your tickets! Seating is limited! Shout out to tech! Big shout out to stage management! And have a great day."





### Barnard Pre-College Summer Programs 2022

Spend a summer learning and exploring in New York City!

<p><b>Programs Offered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7-Week Pre-Baccalaureate Program (Earn college credit!) Thursday, June 30 - Saturday, August 13</li> <li>3-Week Young Women's Leadership Institute (Explore 7 specialized tracks!) Thursday, June 30 - Thursday, July 21</li> <li>3-Week Athena Summer Innovation Institute (Learn leadership skills!) Saturday, July 23 - Friday, August 12</li> <li>3-Week Kode With Klossy Powered By Barnard (Learn Coding!) Saturday, July 23 - Friday, August 12</li> </ul>	<p><b>Key Dates:</b></p> <p>Application Deadline: April 15</p>
--	--

Scan the QR code for more information and to apply!



SCAN ME

# Life

## » FOW

Read about Santos's travels and experience before coming to the Academy, page 8.

## » MENTAL HEALTH

Read about campus response to the boba and succulent plant event, page 8.

## » TEAS

Read about Cilley and Merrill's dorm teas this past weekend, page 7.

## Dormitories Celebrate at Spring Teas

By LAUREN KIM and CALISTALEE

Every spring at the Academy, students don their Sunday best in the warm weather and spend quality time with their dormmates. Most dorms hold their 'teas' around May. They have become a cherished tradition and opportunity for students to dress-up according to a theme, and take pictures among the blooming spring foliage.

Two dorms held their teas on May 1: Cilley Hall and Gould House. With the gorgeous weather, these two dorms implemented themes, props, and games to give their students a much-needed break, and connect with their friends.

In prior years, Gould had issues funding their tea. "Last year was fun, but we ran out of money by the time we had it," upper and Gould proctor Alysha Lai said. "When

you're so big, you can buy things in bulk, which is cheaper. But in a house, it's like ten people and we can't really do that," she explained. "This year, we needed a budget. That's why we could purchase a lot of the stuff that we wanted," Lai continued.

This year, the house's tea had a specific spring-related theme. Hosted on their lawn, each resident and their guests were given flower crowns, and dressed up in an assigned color. This colored-theme made every outfit a statement. "Everyone stood out because springtime tea dresses are just so gorgeous," Lai said. "Everyone looked amazing, especially because they had their own color."

Cilley Hall, on the other hand, gave their residents more freedom with what they chose to wear, opting for a dorm survey in which residents had the opportunity to vote on topics like theme

and dress code.

Cilley Hall dorm representative and upper Yifei Zhao described the questionnaire. "We had a poll several days before the tea asking whether we wanted a casual party or a semi-formal party. Most people voted for a semi-formal party, with semi-formal attire," he said. "We knew about this tea around two weeks in advance. So, we had plenty of time to plan and think about who we wanted to bring."

This was also the dorm's first tea in a few years, making it the first Cilley tea for many students. Lower Aidan Ting reflected on his experiences. "I think the highlights of the tea were the food and the nice weather. This is actually the first Cilley tea I've ever been to and I took lots of photos."

Many dorms held their teas the following weekend, with Wheelwright, Merrill, Dunbar, Amen

, and Soule all celebrating despite the storms.

In Wheelwright, old proctors planned the event. Before the tea, senior Audrey Aslani-Far described the organizing process. "We plan for it to be outside, and for there to be lots of finger food and drinks. The theme will be about flowers," Aslani-Far continued, "I am very excited for this event and for the warm weather!"

Fellow proctor and senior Coco Lipe added on, "I can't wait to make pink Arnold Palmers with the iced tea and lemonade. I'm looking forward to this tea a lot."

Merrill Hall took a different approach to tea planning. Instead of the senior proctors organizing the event, they decided to give the upcoming upper proctors a chance to show their skills. Upper Bronwyn Hall described the events the new team planned, "There are some lawn games, music, and

student activities in the works."

Aside from the activities, Merrill also had an assortment of good food. "I'm really looking forward to the food, especially the fruit," Hall said before the event, noting the menu of salads, cupcakes, and fruit.

The theme, also chosen by the uppers, was very different from last year's. "We went with a pretty basic spring floral theme," upper Saniha Mahendra-Rajah explained. "Last year, we did more of an upscale Met Gala party and now we wanted to give everyone a more typical tea experience."

A big part of every tea is the outfits and dressing up. Many students love to shop for clothes to show off at tea. Lower Sophia Descalzi was particularly excited for this aspect of tea. "I'm looking forward to my dress the most. I spent six hours picking it out and I'm very proud of

it. I'm also excited to see everyone else get dressed up," Descalzi said.

Students also enjoyed the social aspect of dressing up, fondly noting the time they spent getting ready with friends. Senior Sophie Fernandez said, "I had fun straightening my friend's hair when we were getting ready."

"The atmosphere was fun and I had a great time getting ready with friends," lower Addison Brannon added, regarding getting ready for Wheelwright tea. "We all were trying on outfits and doing each other's hair."

This year's teas, both concluded and to come, are a success once again. With many teas occurring on the same date, students have made memories and enjoyed the weather. A highlight of every spring, teas are "a way of having pure joy," Zhao concluded.

## What's in a Club? Korean Society

By LAUREN KIM

Every Monday evening at 6:15 p.m., within the chandelier-lit halls of Wetherall, Korean Society (KS) regulars gather around laden plates of dinner to catch up on their eventful weeks. Led by seniors Garrett Paik, Allison Kim, Christine Chung and upper Jonathan Jeun, Korean Society welcomes any student interested in the community, regardless of any Korean heritage. Some regular members of Korean Society include preps Minjae Suh, Roxanne Park, lowers William Soh, Hillary Yoon, Lianna Yang, uppers Ella Kim, David Kim, Jayson Tung, Abigail Byun; and seniors Thomas Yun and Anika Tsai. Whether it be poking fun at interim co-head and lower William "Mr. Lat Spread" Soh, or

ranking their days on a scale of one-to-ten (with an average that gradually declines as the term continues), KS-ers consistently look forward to every dinner together.

One standout event with KS this year was the Korean takeout dinner one Friday night, where with the help of our faculty advisor, we ordered the best that Korean cuisine has to offer from Sue's Korean Kitchen. Over paper plates of bulgogi, tteokbokki, galbi, and more, attendees not only witnessed an entertaining onion-eating challenge between David Kim and Yun (with D. Kim emerging victorious), but also listened to Yun's wise words regarding the best time to indulge in Korean food (lunchtime, with copious amounts of tooth-brushing after). Topics in conversation ranged from complaining

about physics tests to divulging into everyone's favorite ajumma fit. The delicious night ended with Soh taking initiative with the cleaning-up process, and showing off his dish-washing prowess.

Another event for members was a trip to a KBBQ place near Boston in April, of which only the most dedicated KS-ers were invited to attend. Taking charge of social media, Yoon and Yang documented the barbecue dinner on the Korean Society Instagram page (with the handle @ks\_exeter), with some mouth-watering dishes featured. Members even paid a visit to a local H-Mart after purchasing sought-after delights such as jjapagetti instant ramen, Pocky Sticks, and shrimp crackers.

However, as many members would agree,

the true highlight of Korean Society lies with the weekly meetings over dinner. Beginning at 6:15p.m., members grab their dinner and join A. Kim and Paik at their table, as Jeun unfortunately often fails to make a timely appearance. Speaking of timely appearances, member attendance may vary over each week, inciting Paik to keep a diligent attendance record for members (which hopefully isn't being kept that diligently). Yet, no matter the attendance grade, the entertaining flow of conversation definitely attracts many members to continue dining with Korean Society, week after week. One recurring topic is a possible Korean Society mandoo-making event (an idea courtesy of Ella Kim), while other times members have brought up the tense Korean-Japanese relations

and an examination of Korean army culture. One dinner may result in a height comparison between our co-heads, while in another a contest of the steady Korean 'archer' hand. It is definitely clear that even one dinner with Korean Society will result in guaranteed enlightenment.

Not only are the in-person interactions in this society top-notch, but the online presence KS-ers maintain is truly commendable. The Instagram page both features highlights of all four of our wonderful co-heads, and also keeps vigilant track of daily rankings. Follow to witness not only the amazing photos of Paik, but also the creative filters Yang implements on almost every member. Korean Society happens to boast a ridiculously lengthy email chain, dating back to

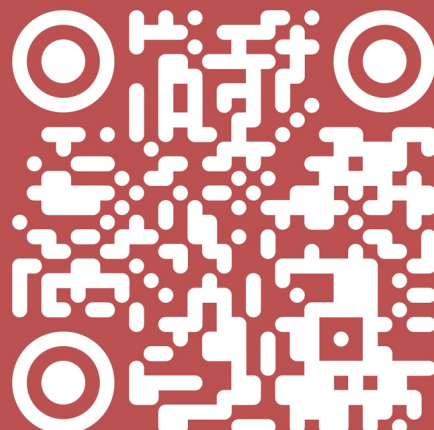
early September. A few weeks ago, when Paik sent out an email asking members to decode an anagram for a special prize, Outlook notifications went haywire as numerous emails were sent to the chain in an instant, resulting in an impressive chain of 16 emails.

All in all, it is only fair to conclude that Korean Society is one of the standout clubs at the Academy, maybe even the best. Whatever an exemplary affinity space consists of, Korean Society definitely possesses every quality, whether it be dedicated members or exciting events. Regardless if you have any connection to Korea or not, we KS-ers are open to any members, and welcome you to join us at our dinners in Weth.



**TUNE IN**  
To 90.5 FM WPEA,  
Exeter

Listen to student shows  
live using your radio or the  
QR code!!



# Faculty of the Week: Viviana Santos



Modern Languages Instructor Viviana Santos smiles in her classroom.

*Courtesy of Viviana Santos*

By ANVI BHATE and ANDREW YUAN

If anyone on campus could be considered a world citizen with experiences from a vast range of cultures and countries, there is no one more fitting than Viviana Santos. Spending her free time traveling and exploring new art and cuisines, Santos thoroughly enjoys discovering new corners of the world—both for self-fulfillment, and to create opportunities for students and their futures.

Serving as a French, Spanish, and Italian teacher on campus, Santos' multi-cultural background is prominent in everything she does. Growing up in Puerto Rico, daughter of two Cuban immigrants, Santos' childhood experiences influenced much of her love for travel and spreading education.

Having been born into a family of "political exiles," many of her relatives were forced to flee their countries in order to be able to speak and move freely. "I was raised on a diet of stories of longing and lost opportunities. But also stories of tremendous resilience," Santos described.

Once they settled down in Puerto Rico, her parents rebuilt their lives and earned her many opportunities to learn, travel and believe in her future. The strong women in her life at the time also had a large impact on what she believed in. "My grandmother who was from Oviedo in Asturias had a fourth grade education," Santos said. "My mother was one of the first women to earn a degree in Accounting from the Escuela de Comercio at the University of Havana."

"I learned from a very early time that education is power,"

she added.

Her continuation into higher education only nourished this idea, and after graduating university, Santos went on to finish a Ph.D. in eighteenth century French literature by women, and the creation of the marriage contract as a literary construct. Moving to Philadelphia with her husband, she taught French and Spanish at Rutgers, University of Delaware, and St. Joseph's University.

Santos recounted how she ended up teaching at the Academy: "My husband was a special operations pilot in the United States Air Force, and was planning to transition into commercial flying. We had two young children and Exeter seemed like a good environment for me to teach and for us to raise our children in a supportive community."

Throughout her time at

the Academy, Santos has been well known and loved for being one of the kindest and most helpful French and Spanish teachers. Many students said her class is the most fun, which is reflected in her learning philosophy. "Learning should not be about grades or tests or work," Santos explained her ideas. "It should be about the wonder that comes with discovery."

"Learning, ideally, is a process that brings you fulfillment and fuels your interests and allows you to broaden your experiences," Santos continued.

Lower Deborah Ang praised Santos for her helpful approach to students and the community. "She's been at Exeter for such a long time, and she knows so much and is really helpful in all aspects of Exeter life. She is really caring and always makes time for any students who come to her for help," she said.

Upper Ki Odums also noted Santos' devotion to her students. "She's just super understanding and always has your back. Even if things outside the class are impacting how you're doing, she's so willing to give you space to open up and sort of address what needs to be addressed but then also push you to sort of better yourself and engage with the class."

Students especially appreciated Santos' ability to connect with students outside of the classroom. "She really makes an effort to get to know people outside of their role as a student, and makes them feel valued for who they are as a person," senior Lila Busser commented.

Santos reciprocated many of their sentiments, sharing that the students are one of her favorite aspects of teaching at Exeter. "They are curious, thoughtful and so smart," she commented about the students she works with. "I really enjoy developing relationships, hearing about their days. Being

with students is energizing."

To Santos, education at the Academy and beyond revolves around creating pathways for students to achieve their goals. "I have spent the past 10 years working with students who apply to college through the Questbridge program. This is an amazing scholarship opportunity for students who have been historically marginalized and for whom educational opportunities are not guaranteed," Santos mentioned.

"I have rejoiced every year that one of the students I referred is able to make the college dream come true. This is what education for me is all about—creating opportunities and making access real," she said.

Santos mirrors many of the qualities she expresses through teaching in her personal life as well, immersing herself in exploration of new cultures and languages. "I think language is a conduit to learn about how others live," she said. "To immerse yourself in another culture and to see the world through a broader lens is the point of learning a new language, reading new literature, appreciating art and music and cuisine."

"Language is about fostering understanding and creating awareness of how much richer our lives can be when we embrace a worldview that is based on the richness of diversity," Santos added, when asked what she most enjoys about linguistics.

Apart from being an inspiring and understanding teacher, she is also a beloved advisor and caring dorm faculty. Senior Alex Singh, one of her advisees, recounted just how much she enriched her Exeter experience. "At times she has been a teacher, a friend, a mother, and a steady compass," Singh said. "I also knew her as a family friend well before coming to Exeter. She has always been someone I am motivated and

inspired by."

"She's guided me, pushed me, taught me not to take myself too seriously. She has demonstrated how to be a strong woman who challenges institutional norms," Singh continued. "She has been the glue that helps me hold everything together during my four years here. I could not imagine my experience here without her loving support."

Speaking about what Santos brought to the Exeter community in general, Singh commented, "Ms. Santos brings a unique sense of care to the Exeter community. She goes out of her way to help students feel sincere support. She is always a friendly face, and a strong advocate for her students."

When asked about the things she wished she had known before starting a career at the Academy, Santos responded, "I believe I have grown from the challenges I have faced here and the opportunities I now have are the result of the growth I have experienced. Exeter is what you make of it."

"I wish I had understood the culture here at PEA a bit better—it might have been helpful in those early days where I was struggling to fit into an environment that was very different from anything else I had experienced. It took some time to create lasting bonds here."

Santos, who will be leaving the Academy after this year, reflected on the time she spent here: "I am grateful for the opportunity to have met so many wonderful students, to have made lifelong friends, friends who pulled me up and helped me find my voice," she said.

"A loving family, meaningful work, and time to read in the sun, what more does one really need?" Santos concluded.

## Campus Hosts Mental Health Happenings

By SOPHIE MA and CATHERINE WU

Recently, students at the Academy came together to host events around campus in support of mental health. Events included lacrosse games for Morgan's Message as well as free boba and succulents provided by the Mental Health Committee.

The boys' and girls' Varsity Lacrosse games for Morgan's Message occurred on April 27 and saw a great turnout. The boba and succulent event, organized by Student Council's Mental Health Committee, successfully commenced the next day on April 28.

Members of the girls' varsity lacrosse team discussed the purpose behind the Morgan's Message. "Morgan's Message is a mental health organization intended to raise awareness and end the stigma surrounding mental health in athletics," upper Emilie Dubiel said. "It was created after the tragic death of Morgan Rodgers in 2019 by her friends and family to honor her life and try to help others who may be going through the same thing Morgan did."

Lower and member of the girls' varsity lacrosse team Annika Finelli continued, "Morgan's Message strives to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health within the student-athlete community and equalize the treatment of physical and mental health in athletics."

"Mental health is something that is talked about a lot when it comes to academics," Finelli said. "But before Morgan's message I felt as though I never really heard about it in a sports setting."

Dubiel, an organizer of the event, shared the planning processes. "We started planning the Morgan's Message dedication game this winter. After finding a home game that would work, we coordinated with New Hampton (our opponent for the games) and organized shirts to wear during our warmups."

"Coach Breen had some great banners made and Keighley Bosshardt [a lower on the team] coordinated with the organization to get stickers and pamphlets that we could pass out. We also planned a booth to be held in Grill all morning with volunteers from the boys and girls varsity teams to help run it," Dubiel continued.

"It was so cool to see the teams come together, and I think everything was super successful," Dubiel said. "Going into it, my main goal was to help spread awareness surrounding the topic and organization, and I feel like that was accomplished."

The event had a great turnout and was well organized by the two teams. "Between the varsity boys' and girls' team, we split up time slots to run the [info] booth, printed flyers with information on Morgan's Message, and collected donations," Finelli said.

Coach Christina Breen agreed that the event was very successful. "Seven students from the girls' and boys' varsity lacrosse teams worked to organize the info table in Agora. I was also able to get donations from some supportive alumni parents to have T-shirts made for both the Exeter teams and the New Hampton teams [we played]. It was a true show of unity."

Students noted how mental health is an important aspect of students' lives at Exeter. "Mental health is important to me because I think especially at Exeter, students tend to put their academic and athletic goals ahead of their mental health. I think by promoting the importance of mental health, more people will understand that it's not something to be ashamed of or shy away from," Dubiel said.

"I think there is a lot of pressure put on high level athletes to push through injuries and other health related things," Finelli added. "It's important to recognize that everyone deserves to receive support when it comes to things like this, especially when trying to balance athletics and academics. Both can be very demanding."

Other members of the team commented on the game itself. "The game was really good," upper Abigail Byun said. "We all had matching shirts, so it was really cool to see our team and their team all wearing the same shirt [to support the cause] even though we were competing that day."

Byun continued to share the team's efforts towards addressing mental health. "I think our coach is very understanding and we have great captains who we could reach out to. We have buddy systems on the team, so everyone has a buddy, and I think that makes it really easy to reach out to people and check in with your friends, even those that you aren't the closest to," Byun said.

Breen has made it a priority to ensure athletes are taking

care of themselves. "Every day we pause at the start of practice and meditate for two minutes, centering ourselves and releasing stress. We [also] have partnered with Morgan's Message and have taken the time to read their materials, learning how to manage stress. [Additionally,] we have partnered with CAPS to talk about ways to support injured players who might feel like they have lost a sense of joy and identity," Breen added.

Outside of the sports realm, Mental Health Committee organizers discussed the planning for the boba and succulent event. "Mental Health Committee Directors Amber Zou and Atishay Jain really led the planning for this event," organizer and senior Max Park said. "Mr. Thompson and Dr. Lee also offered their guidance and support as faculty advisors. Although, the original idea for this event came out of discussions we had with the class of 2024 reps last summer."

"The plants were from Cymbidium and the boba from Mr. Wish, both BIPOC owned businesses," lower Amber Zou added.

"Collaboration is key in an event like this," lower Atishay Jain said. "Working together to plan an event which has the potential to bring the entire Exeter community together is truly something that means a lot to me."

The event ultimately saw a great turnout. "The boba was so great," lower Rohan Radhakeesoon said. "It was very refreshing on a Thursday morning. The plants were nice, and they did a really great job planning this event."

"I love my succulent,"

lower Jack Hutchins agreed. "It makes me feel happy when I look at it. I'm very appreciative of this event."

The Mental Health Committee co-heads shared a little about their goals in planning this event. "We wanted to have a fun social event where students could enjoy music and boba and also adopt a cute plant," Zou explained. "Simple things like this that bring our students together can definitely help campus mental health. I think our goals were definitely achieved."

Jain echoed Zou's sentiment. "When I think of an event like this where we can give out plants like succulents, it's very therapeutic and something you can do with your friends in a chill way. It's almost like the mug-painting events earlier this year which had a great turn out."

Zou also explained a little about why mental health is so important to her. "As someone who suffers/suffered with mental health challenges, I can empathize with those who may be going through their own battles while also balancing the rigor of Exeter. I truly want to make a change on this campus for the better."

"We wanted to do something that would bring the community together and encourage self-care during spring midterms," Park said in agreement. "Spring term can often be the hardest when it comes to burnout and pulling through the year. We thought that plants would give students a little something to brighten up their room—taking a moment each day to care for and water a plant can also enhance a nice self-care routine."

Many students who attended the Mental Health Committee's event shared positive experiences. "I had a really fun time on Thursday at the event," upper Ming Thompson said. "I loved the boba and the succulent is now in my room. There were a lot of students there and it was fun to talk to friends."

Other students commented about their succulents. "The succulent is actually in my dorm now. It looks nice and is very pleasing," prep Davido Zhang said.

Students also discussed their opinions on the Academy's resources for supporting students' mental health. "I think the Academy could definitely be doing more. We don't get enough time off to just relax and fun events where students can just enjoy themselves have been scarce this year," upper Jesalina Phan said.

On the other hand, students also noted that recent student-planned events have been great stressors, such as the boba and succulent event, Soul Fest, Hot Wings Battle, as well as Relay for Life. "Going to these events has been a great escape from school and workload in general," Thompson said. "I'm happy that we don't have any Saturday classes left this term as well."

"I hope there are more future events to support students' mental health," Radhakeesoon concluded. "Many students face academic burn out during spring term, and having these small events really alleviates stress and reminds us of the importance of mental health."



# Senior of the Week: Shalom Headly



Senior Shalom Headly sits high above the grill patio.

Joy Chi/The Exonian

By SELIM KIM and ALAY-SHAZHANG

Four year senior Shalom Headly is always a shining presence, whether or not the spotlight shines on them. They are the co-head of Exeter Association of Rock (EAR) and an avid class representative for two years. Not only is Headly always present at events, but they are a trendsetter, someone who can always bring up the energy level, and a person many peers look up to.

Coming from Washington DC, Headly arrived at Exeter in search of a new community. “I wanted to be in a space where I felt normal, and as a queer person within a predominantly black community, I felt pretty isolated because of my queerness,” they said. “So, I wanted to come to Exeter because I thought it would be an intellectual challenge and also a place with a lot of different types of queer people.”

Headly was soon able to find their community at the Academy, especially within the arts. Headly explained, “My favorite subjects have been music. I love music and I took Dr Schultz’s electronic music composition class in upper fall and upper winter as well as a performance master class with Mr. Johnson. I’ve been taking music lessons my whole time here, I used to take guitar lessons with Mr. Squires before he left and I take voice lessons with Ms. Pacaric right now.”

Headly’s passion for music shines clear as some of their favorite memories at Exeter “have to be on stage.” Headly said, “I’ve been performing since I was a prep, through EAR and dance clubs, and while I haven’t really danced in a couple of years due to COVID, I love performing with EAR.”

Headly continued by looking back at one of their first, memorable performances. “The first song I ever performed at Exeter was ‘Jackie Wilson’ by Hozier for the EAR assembly, which I wasn’t even miked for, so I was playing the piano really badly, and screaming at the top of my lungs trying to do harmonies behind the lead singer, who was Chloe Minicucci, a lower at the time. But yeah, performing has been one of my favorite memories here,” Headly expressed.

Headly’s radiating presence on the stage also does not go unnoticed by friends. Upper Lara Muyombwe be-

lieves that Headly “brings talent” to the Exeter community. “Their voice needs to be heard, especially since their voice rings out with authenticity,” Muyombwe said.

Senior Anya Tang continued similar sentiments, sharing their admiration of seeing Headly perform. “I am always so moved by Shalom’s voice, but getting to hear them on the stage in the assembly hall was such a melodic, moving moment.”

Tang continued, “Some of my favorite memories with Shalom have been having the privilege to hear them sing...that is so amazing and so sacred and so intimate that it is one of those moments of care that I really cherish.”

Instructor in Health Education and advisor for Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) Courtney Shaw also recognizes Headly’s musical talent: “If you’ve ever been to anything that they’ve ever performed, your life has been blessed.”

However, Headly’s interests are not limited to music. They have been taking Japanese for 6 years now, and note their passion for the language. Headly said, “It’s just something I really love, I love learning new languages, I love Emily [Wang], she’s what makes the class great, and I can’t really imagine Exeter without it.”

Headly was also able to find an interest in religion courses. “I’ve only taken religion twice while at Exeter, but each time I’ve had Mr. Simpson and it’s been a pretty great learning experience, it’s really helping me do a lot of introspection and see myself in different ways,” they explained.

Though Headly has found their space in music and academic courses, Headly has also found a community amongst Exonians, contributing immensely to it.

Headly spoke about their time as a class representative. “Something else I’ve loved is just building a community here. I love being a class rep: I’ve been a class rep for the past two years and I just love helping people. It makes me really happy when I can give food back to my class, or plan an event that everyone enjoys, or give people an opportunity to relax, considering Exeter can be such a stressful environment,” Headly said.

This clear passion for community-building does not go unnoticed by Headly’s peers. Many note their

deep admiration for Headly’s ability to bring people together. Fellow co-head of EAR and class representative senior Allison Kim shared, “I think they do so much for the community. I was in StuCo with them, and they’ve been class rep for two years. They have so many good ideas for class events and they always make sure that people are going to be included.”

Senior Emily Wang noted, “They are very social, good at making friends, and asking people to hang out. They allow people to form different connections with different people and hang out together, which is nice. I’m sure they are a role model for a bunch of lowerclassmen because they’re also friends with a lot of lowerclassmen.”

“They definitely do bring a lot of people together,” Senior Alana Reale said, agreeing with Wang. “I think a lot of people know Shalom and a lot of people are friends with Shalom and many of the friends that I have I’ve actually met through Shalom, and that goes across grades... They’ve probably brought a lot of people together and helped form a lot of friendships that will last long.”

Like Wang and Reale, Tang continued the thought of Headly’s amity. Tang said, “I think Shalom does a lot of things at Exeter, but one of the key threads that ties together all of their work is that focus on bringing people together, whether it’s in their music, their art, their extracurriculars, or especially as one of our senior class reps and a student listener in Williams house.”

Tang continued, “Shalom’s contributions to this community are all centered on this capability to not only heal people through the virtue of what they create and how they express themselves, but also encourage and inspire people, especially me, to think differently about our own roles in this community and our own identities, ways of being in this world, ways of being with each other. And I think that is so, so wonderful.”

Muyombwe agreed with Tang regarding Headly’s ability to inspire others. “I admire the way that they’re always there to emotionally support people...I’ve been able to really understand myself and have conversations about myself with them. They’ve really helped me grow as a person and I admire that they’re such a good friend, and still take time for themselves,” Muy-

ombwe shared.

Headly’s ability to inspire others also extends towards educating others. Senior Jack Archer said, “I really appreciate how Shalom is willing to help people understand uncomfortable subjects they might not have much experience with. Shalom and I come from really different backgrounds, and I remember coming into Exeter thinking I understood a lot more about how race or gender or sexuality affects people’s lives than I actually did, and Shalom wasn’t afraid to call me out on my ignorance but then help me understand these things a little better.”

Archer continued, “They taught me how to approach things I didn’t know about with the intention to learn but also to be conscious of how this burdened people. I’m really grateful for the conversations we had back on the fourth floor of Wentworth, and I think they are a part of what has made me who I am now.”

Headly’s championship has also affected many people. Their humor and caring nature are treasured among their friends. “You can count on them when you’re having a hard time,” Kim said. “They are connected to people and willing to put so much energy into relationships. I know that takes a lot of effort, but they do that with everyone and anyone.”

Senior Tasmiah Akter spent time in quarantine during the same time as Headly last year, and she reflected on how Headly’s caring nature truly shined in those moments. Akter said, “I’m so grateful to be able to call Shalom my friend because not only do they bring so much joy into my life, but they also genuinely care for me as a person. What could’ve been a real-true draining, isolating, and downright boring time in my life became fun and even rejuvenating in many ways.”

Upper Yasmin Salerno noted her appreciation for Headly’s ability to make anyone, even those they have just met, feel included. “I appreciate their sort of inviting nature, as well as inclusivity. Whether you’re a lowerclassmen or you know them really well, or you don’t know them really well, they just kind of treat everyone like you’re their best friend already,” Salerno said.

To Headly, creating such feelings of inclusivity within all communities is one of the ways in which they

hope to contribute to Exeter. “For a long time I felt really alone and unheard at Exeter and so, if I could have at least helped others feel connected to this community, and helped them feel seen in ways they might not have before, then I’ve contributed more than enough,” Headly said.

Headly also believes that curating those close relationships is essential to one’s experience at Exeter. “The best thing you can do here is build community,” they advised. “Build connections that you’ll cherish forever. Even if they’re not friendships, all sorts of relationships are important to build and grow.”

Indeed, throughout their time at Exeter, Headly found a community, formed new relationships, and, above all, left a lasting mark. “I think the way they’ve interacted with people throughout the past four years, the way they involved themselves in the community, whether that be UnSilenced performances or EAR thing, and the conversations they’ve had with people will definitely stay on people’s minds,” Senior Diwura Adesanya said.

Within the relationships that Headly has formed, many shared their deep appreciation for Headly’s humor. “They’re funny. I think that I’m always laughing when I’m hanging out with them,” Wang said.

Archer agreed. “All of my favorite memories with Shalom are just of spending time with him — in my room in Wentworth, catching up on a Sunday and updating swapping Wentworth and Will house stories. I always enjoy spending time with Shalom. He’s super easy to talk to, and always makes me laugh,” he said.

Kim shared similar sentiments: “I think Shalom is always so kind to everyone, even if they kind of tease you...and it’s not a malicious thing. They’re just very comfortable with you and willing to make jokes with you.”

Kim continued by recalling a specific moment where Headly shared a particularly hilarious anecdote. “This isn’t really a memory that I’ve had with them, but just a memory that remains in my mind. So they won, or they didn’t win...this hot dog contest in the summer of their seventh grade where they ate like 36 hot dogs. Sadly, they didn’t get to win because first place won like 40 or something. It was like in 10 minutes and whenever I eat hot dogs with them. I

remember this.”

“One of my other favorite things about Shalom is that they always make the most out of pocket comments. I cannot elaborate,” Tang added.

Though Headly has found their place within Exeter, they note that the path to achieving that was not always easy. “I actually really struggled academically for a long time. I was on scholastic warning and academic probation, and I had undiagnosed ADD until Upper Year,” Headly said.

Nevertheless, they prevailed through doing what they first came to Exeter to do: finding a community. Headly explained, “I built a support system and I moved dorms, I switched advisories too (I love you Dr. Marshall), and that helped me a lot. Having steady support and an understanding of my strengths and weaknesses, I learned how to organize myself in a way that made sense to me, and it helped me get back to where I needed to be.”

Now, many admire Headly’s ability to stay true to themselves. Prep Maemi Carillo said, “I think Shalom brings a presence in like the weirdest and the craziest way possible. I think everyone here is so centered and focused around their homework and school, but at least when I met them, they were just really good at making sure that I know that school isn’t everything. And they’re like, ‘oh, it’s good to have fun’... they’re really a bright persona on campus.”

Like Carillo, Shaw values Headly’s undoubtedly lively character. “Even when Shalom’s having a bad day, it’s really hard to gauge if they’re actually having a bad day because they’re still in such positive spirits. I think that that’s something that this campus is really gonna suffer as they leave this year because I think that a lot of times people really contribute to the pain Olympics here, and everybody’s talking about how they’re struggling and they’re proud of that, but Shalom was living and they’re proud of that,” Shaw noted.

Upper Kodi Lopez agreed. “Shalom leaves behind a legacy of being crazy and unapologetically themselves. They are also extremely funny. Since day one of my Exeter career, Shalom continued to be a strong figure in my life that I could either call in the middle of the night crying or have good times with,” Lopez said.

As the school year comes to a close and Headly nears graduation, they reflected on their four years at the Academy. “Exeter has taught me a lot. I’ve learned how to be my own person, and I have learned what I want in any environment that I’ll be in. Frankly, I learned that environments like Exeter are not designed for me and I don’t thrive in ways that I wanted to here. And that’s been really powerful for me. Learning that there wasn’t something wrong with me, it was just that I didn’t click with the space, helped me unlearn a lot of the self-hatred that I had gained while being here,” they said.

“Exeter has also taught me how to organize myself, how to organize others, how to network, how to ask questions, how to talk to teachers and administrators, and how to chase my dreams and trust my heart,” Headly concluded.

# Op-Ed

» **BIDEN 2024**  
Read Andrew Yuan '24's review of Biden's tenure thus far, page 10.

» **FRENCH POLLS**  
Read Joonyoung '25's evaluation of Emmanuel Macron's election in France, page 11.

» **UPPERCLASSMEN**  
Read Nhan Phan '24's reflection on growth and maturing at Exeter, page 11.

# Give Infamous Alums the Boot

By **CARL LINDEMANN '79**, Assistant School Minister and Instructor in Religion '91-'93

Are teachers responsible for what students do with their learning? This classic question hearkens back to Socrates' condemnation for educating Alcibiades, the Benedict Arnold of Ancient Athens. Now, with the Academy's primary purpose to shape the "minds and morals of the youth under their charge," the notoriety of numerous alumni should be the occasion for reflection—and action.

Three Exonians have recently proven themselves world-class in their pursuit of infamy. If we were to award a top prize, should the laurels go to a former Trustee who departed that ser-

vice for his pivotal part in enabling the opioid epidemic? The death toll from that has now passed 500,000 lives, with countless others mangled and maimed. Is that bested by another's algorithmic malevolence that has undermined democratic society worldwide? It is, as yet, unclear if the American experiment in self-governance will survive his machinations and the political violence it has inspired.

As notable as these achievements may be, what Richard Edelman '72, may yet accomplish is—quite literally—the be-all and end-all. He has been named "one of America's top climate villains" by The Guardian. It is likely that no other alumnus is as consequential to the lives of current Exonians and those that

follow. History itself may not survive to record how his ongoing efforts on behalf of the fossil fuel industry brings about the collapse of civilization.

Edelman is the CEO of the top public relations firm that has driven doubt and denial for the likes of ExxonMobil, Shell, and the American Petroleum Institute. Of late, his firm's messaging for them has shifted gears as the reality of our predicament has become undeniable. The spin is fast and furious to delay and deflect effective climate action. That is sure to maximize profits—at the cost of any hope to avoid a careening, out-of-control crash long after they've cashed the last client check.

Is there any way to throw this into reverse? Over the past year, fellow

public relations professionals as well as hundreds of scientists have confronted Edelman on this publicly. Will he cease and desist from this work? Pressured by worldwide media coverage, Edelman responded by saying they'd review their client list. The result? He discovered that his firm "has played a key role in helping organizations acknowledge the significance of climate change and start their journey towards action." Actually, if he has his way, this "journey" will be a slow one defined more by inaction. A trade newspaper's headline puts this into plain language: "Edelman to Fossil-Fuel Clients: You're Safe Here."

As the Class of '72 returns this week to mark their fiftieth reunion,

current students should feel free to share their concerns with Edelman if he's on campus. How will his part in today's climate crisis shape their lives if it turns to catastrophe and cataclysm when the Class of '22's fiftieth reunion arrives? Some may feel this intrusive and inappropriate. If so, what a sad legacy for the Academy's activist era of the early 70s, a time defined by much of *The Exonian's* editorial board resigning for freedom of speech and against editorial interference! Have these aging alumni ripened and rotted into shutting down students speaking up against those selling out their future?

The faculty, too, may wish to have a say. The Academy regularly recognizes alumni for their "usefulness to mankind."

But only offering incentives is obviously insufficient as the infamous activities of recent alumni attest. Other institutions have revoked diplomas and honorary degrees to express their dismay. Shouldn't this be an option when an alumnus has manifested John Phillips' fear for unleashing "knowledge without goodness" on society? Officially ostracizing Exonians is also in keeping with traditions. As their chickens come home to roost, infamous alumni would remember that Exeter is not a warm nest.

*Lindemann is the author of Santa Soaked, a youth empowerment climate story.*

*The sources used in this article are cited in the PDF version on The Exonian's website.*

# The Case Against Biden 2024

By **ANDREW YUAN '24**

Sorry, Joe, but incompetence is not a synonym for unity.

Joe Biden ran on a platform for bipartisan unity. As much as his presidential campaign and early presidency showcased impressive endorsements from top Republican figures, America remained divided in polarizing politics and we were nowhere closer to bipartisanship as we were during the early days of the Trump administration.

Biden promised to build a stronger coalition with NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and Pacific allies as an antidote against Trump's outspoken criticism of other free world leaders. Yet, as the former chairman/ranking member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee for 12 years, Biden's Afghanistan withdrawal showcased weaknesses of the American military and continues to leave the Middle East in a never-ending power vacuum.

In the present state of his failing presidency, Biden deserves an approval rating on par with that of Donald Trump. And if the Democrats wish to mitigate the overwhelming loss they will soon face in the midterms or in the upcoming presidential election, it's time to make Biden a one-term president.

### Young Voters

The Biden presidency shares some fatal similarities with the Trump administration that continue to haunt govern-

mental efficiency. In 2020, voters thought that Biden would be a pragmatic president who works in the shadows. Instead, Biden is consistently running the White House like a reality TV show synonymous to that of "The Apprentice" with publicized gaffes and social media campaigns.

Ultimately, it comes down to Biden's desperate appeal to young voters.

In the last few months, Biden has not only hosted a panel of TikTok stars to discuss messaging in the U.S.'s campaign against Ukraine, but also launched a nonprofit group dedicated to spreading Biden's agenda on TikTok. In doing so, Biden has turned to liberal celebrities such as Billie Eilish, Olivia Rodrigo and Jonas Brothers to garner support from idol-centered teens while mixing political messages such as "get vaxxed" or "solidarity against Russia" in the celebrities' White House promotions.

In the same way that Trump has garnered conservative support with his demeaning daily tweets, Biden is propagandizing his political stances in his overly visible Instagram Shorts and TikToks, accompanied by seemingly innocent and subtle celebrity photo-ops.

And let's not forget, these young voters almost cost Biden's presidential nomination in 2020 when they flocked to the growing progressive wing of Sanders and Warren, neither of which have explicitly ruled out a 2024 campaign against Biden.

So despite criticisms and caricatures from Republi-

cans, Biden persists on with the social media campaign.

Unlike Trump, however, Biden's campaign is not playing well among his audience. Most of the comments—from both young and elder users—under Biden's TikTok and Instagram section characterized Biden's social media posts as "cringy," highly unnecessary during a time of crisis, or both. On the other hand, despite liberal outrage against most of the tweets, Trump's chaotic social media updates solidified support from his Republican base on foreign policy and immigration stances.

Polls are telling of his meager support among young voters: Gallup's survey shows a drastic drop of 20 percent in Biden's approval rating among Millennials and Gen Z, from 59 percent to 39 percent. Quinnipiac provides a similar estimate of 58 percent disapproval against 21 percent approval.

Though Biden tries to build his image as a successor to Barack Obama, his public relationships strategy is telling a completely different story: a story about how a Democratic president who claims to be a "regular Joe" is boasting his extravagant Easter Holiday Bunny celebrations or White House Correspondents' Dinner while young people continue to be disproportionately disempowered and discouraged through overwhelming student debts and soaring inflation.

How can one not despair when our president is celebrating his completion of one-tenth of his campaign promise? How can one not de-

spair when our president's responses to climate change and the Ukrainian crisis are social media posts with Tom Brady? How can one not despair when our president fails to deliver even a public condemnation or signs of disappointment when reproductive rights are in jeopardy? When Republican senators are even willing to say that the impending decision on *Roe v. Wade* "undermines my confidence in the court?"

Young people can see through his hypocrisy and it's not one they would likely forgive in 2024.

### Successor

If the Democrats were to nominate Biden in two years, he would be the first person over 80 to ever receive the presidential nomination of a major party. Biden is no longer representative of the Democratic Party anymore: he is simply an old white man clenching onto the presidency despite his incompetence. Regardless of Biden's decision to run in 2024, the Democrats will eventually face the predicament of choosing a successor to Biden. Currently, Biden's concentrated power dynamic in the White House is costing the future of a post-Biden Democratic coalition, leaving no apparent candidate who would be able to compete against Trump, Pence or even DeSantis.

Mocked by Republicans and centrist Democrats as the "Invisible Vice President," Kamala Harris, according to various media sources, currently lacks an official

role in the White House, while her top aides continue to leave the White House.

There is a reason behind Harris's invisibility: Biden is asking her to resolve immigration and border disputes and pass voting rights legislation without even creating task forces with experts who could aid her in the first place.

We've had inexperienced vice presidents before and we've had equally inexperienced presidents before: Obama came to the White House with four years in the Senate too. Experience is not the excuse for inaction, but continued lack of assistance from experts and even Biden himself can explain Harris's seeming invisibility.

I had great faith in Kamala Harris once: sure, her claims don't necessarily match up with her actions, but hardly any politician could deliver all their promises. Adding onto her relatively young age, she seems to have an unstoppable political momentum and destined ascension to power: eight years as District Attorney, Attorney General of California for eight years, four years in the Senate and now the Vice President of the United States.

But as she becomes one of the only few choices to succeed Biden, Biden's lack of coordination in the White House and continued ignorance of Harris is killing her political future.

Biden seems to suggest Pete Buttigieg as another viable successor: he is a young Cabinet member and the Build Back Better plan garnered attention around his role as the

Secretary of Transportation.

Yet besides his grand plan to drastically improve American infrastructure (which may become either a political prize or an economic catastrophe), Buttigieg lacks any legislative or governing experience usually required by presidential nominees and his record as the mayor of South Bend continues to face renewed examination from liberals.

The other viable choices left are the progressive candidates and liberal centrists whose presidential runs in 2020 did not endure the scrutiny from the public or from their fellow competitors. The only viable choice for Democrats to find a compromising candidate is by breaking that Biden-centered bureaucracy in his own Cabinet and for his own Vice President.

As Eric Swalwell quoted Biden (who quoted John F. Kennedy) during a 2020 Democratic Presidential debate, "it's time to pass the torch."

In the past fall and winter terms, Exeter became an Exeter centered around Trump. Besides schoolwork and stress, it seems that students actively discussed politics as something tangible, as something they could one day change. Yet now as a president of a different party who branded himself as the healer of the nation continues to disappoint us, it's time for a change that should have happened in 2020.

Make Joe Biden a one-term president.

# 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.

**SAFIRA SCHIOWITZ CLARK WU**  
*Editors-in-Chief*

**ALIA BONANNO**  
*Managing Editor*

**MINSEO KIM**  
*Director of Design*

**JESSICA HUANG**  
*Director of Writing*

**NEWS EDITORS**  
David Chen  
Kaylee Chen  
Athena Wang  
Elina Yang

**LIFE EDITORS**  
Maya Cohen  
Will Hackett  
Sheela Iacobucci

**OPINIONS EDITORS**  
Arya Palla  
Nicholas Rose  
Angela Zhang  
Sophia Zhang

**SPORTS EDITORS**  
Jonathan Jeun  
Nat Kpodonu  
Arhon Strauss  
Michael Yang

**HUMOR EDITORS**  
Andrea Nystedt  
Nina Kellogg  
Blake Simpson

**GRAD ISSUE EDITOR**  
Andy Horrigan

**CRUCIVERBALIST**  
Gbemiga Salu

**LAYOUT EDITORS**  
Anvi Bhate  
Joy Chi  
Ashley Jiang  
Sophie Ma  
Catherine Wu

**SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR**  
Joy Chi

**ART EDITOR**  
Ava Zhao  
Chloé Zhu

**HEAD COPY EDITOR**  
Sophie Raskova

**SENIOR COLUMNIST**  
Tania Rana

**FACULTY ADVISORS**  
Erica Lazure  
T. Michael Matsumaru  
Chelsea Woodward

**CHIEF DIGITAL EDITOR**  
Tony Cai

**BUSINESS ADVISOR**  
Jean Maginnis

**BUSINESS CO-CHAIRS**  
Claire Fu  
Val Whitten

**MANAGING DIRECTOR**  
David Kim

**CHIEF ACCOUNTANT**  
Jayson Tung

**ADVERTISING**  
Colin Clark

**OPERATIONS**  
Eloise Goedkoop

**OUTREACH**  
Alysha Lai

**MARKETING**  
Emilie Dubiel

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
Ryan Kim

The Web Board staff members are listed on *The Exonian's* website: [www.theexonian.com](http://www.theexonian.com).

To subscribe to or advertise on *The Exonian*, contact [exonian@gmail.com](mailto:exonian@gmail.com) or call 603-777-4100. A subscription to the paper costs \$90 off campus and \$150 overseas.

*The Exonian* welcomes Letters to the Editors sent to the care of [sschiowitz@exeter.edu](mailto:sschiowitz@exeter.edu) and [jewu2@exeter.edu](mailto:jewu2@exeter.edu).

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

# Centrism at the French Polls

By JOONYOUNG HEO '25

French President Emmanuel Macron's victory over Marine Le Pen in the presidential election last April turned quite a few heads. His success makes him the first French president to secure a second term in just about two decades, and the first with a parliamentary majority to win since Charles de Gaulle in 1965. Macron's victory itself is not what took many by surprise; numerous election models had predicted before the second round that he would ultimately triumph over Le Pen. It was the numbers that were unexpected. Among other reputable sources, *The Economist* predicted in the first week of April that Macron, the "standard-bearer" of centrism, would only win by a narrow margin of 6 percent (53 percent to 47 percent). In reality, Macron defeated Le Pen with a margin of nearly 18 percent. This outcome indicates a shift in the socio-political climate of France and, for the broader future of centrist politics, the importance of renewal.

Macron's most recent victory is a reiteration of the 2017 election, in which his primary opponent was the very same Marine Le Pen. Their previous struggle was far more decisive with Macron winning his first term with 66 percent to Le Pen's 34 percent—a wide margin of about 32 percent. There was a good amount of luck involved, of course, when center-right candidate Francois Fillon, hitherto the frontrunner of the election,

took a devastating blow after a series of political scandals were made public. But Macron's first term was also largely the result of his centrism, a moderate party sandwiched between left and right on the political spectrum.

Specifically, Macron offered pragmatism over extreme party-based political ideology. His campaign was built on promises of a reinvigorated French economy and a pro-European government. In particular, his policies would stimulate growth and combat rising unemployment. Much to popular support, he pledged to mediate Brexit negotiations and consistently criticized the Russian government, backing sanctions imposed by the European Union (EU) in retaliation for the Russian annexation of the Crimean Peninsula. Overall, while Le Pen came across as negative and opposed to the system, Macron was framed as positive and optimistic about the future; BBC even describes that his campaign rallies were bright and festive, featuring pop music and colorful banners, in contrast to the "heavier police presence" and "angrier undercurrent" of Le Pen's gatherings.

Tethered to Macron's policies and his radical campaign was a fresh start for the French populace. At the time, the West was locked in political disunity. Britain had voted to leave the EU. From Denmark to Germany, populism was rapidly spreading across the continent. In the U.S., Donald Trump had just been elected to the White House. Political

factions were in direct clash, and people wanted someone who could effectively deal with these problems. Then along came Emmanuel Macron, the youngest candidate in the 2017 election and a man who had never before run for elected office. He had founded his own political party, En Marche!, no more than a year before the election. Everything about him was novel; his budding campaign combined liberal ideology on prevalent social issues, such as gay rights, that garnered support from the left, and laissez-faire economics that appealed to the right. Macron represented a refreshing alternative to a congested masthead of extreme left- and right-wing politicians.

Macron's re-election last month is a clear sign that he retains the support of a majority in the French populace. The strengths of his first presidential term can best be seen, perhaps, in the economy. Rather than cling on to redundant and obsolete jobs, his policies have strived to reform employee training, implement early education, and fund the creation of new businesses. Macron emphasized the importance of doing things the right way from the very beginning—even before his first term in office, he argued that the French government ought to provide its citizens with the skills they needed to navigate a rapidly changing global economy. He certainly wasn't inclined to embrace tradition and nostalgia if he believed his country could do better. Much to the public's approval, his administra-

tion expended hundreds of hours and billions of euros to help its workers and businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic. Whatever his political opponents may claim, it cannot be denied that he still has considerable support from his voters. The election models of 2022, it seems, drastically underestimated the popularity of Macron's centrist politics.

Yet it must be conceded, equally, that Macron has lost a significant amount of appeal in the eyes of French voters. An 18 percent margin this past April is certainly greater than the 6 percent that *The Economist* predicted, but it's noticeably inferior to the 32 percent margin of 2017. The numbers indicate a shift in French politics, suggesting that five years of centrist ideology has repelled from the center many indecisive votes on the left-right spectrum. Present-day politics, rooted in a virulent pandemic and armed conflict in Europe, have undoubtedly served to polarize the French voters—but Macron cannot blame his 18 percent margin on an unfortunate series of events.

In reality, his first term has disillusioned many of his supporters, especially those who lean to the left. In particular, his decision to abolish the annual solidarity tax on wealth (ISF), a tax on the most affluent French citizens, has earned the distaste of left-wing voters. While Macron had only meant to "encourage business growth and stimulate innovation," it was widely perceived as a "betrayal" of the working

class. What was presented by his administration as a fiscal policy for the betterment of France has been scorned by the left as one that has exposed his preference for the upper-class. From then on, his critics have dubbed him "le président des riches" (literally "the President of the Rich").

Perhaps it was inevitable that Macron, in five years, should have leaned to one end of the political spectrum. His presidential campaign may have offered a win-win deal for both left-wing and right-wing voters, but he could never really have stayed in the dead center for an entire term of office. Neutrality on the political spectrum is little more than an unattainable ideal in the workings of government. Eventually—invariably—he had to take a side, and in matters of the French economy, he chose to slide away from the left and aligned his policies with the right. In this sense, the shift from a 32 percent margin in 2017, earned through the avant-garde appeal of a centrist politician, to an 18 percent margin in 2022 was only natural. Many of those who cast a ballot for Macron were enticed by a new start promised by an up-and-coming politician. It follows, then, that the allure of novelty should have dried out in the first five years of his tenure.

As things stand right now, if Macron could run for a third term in the next election, it is doubtful that he would be able to win. Indeed, if his political adversary had been

a more popular, perhaps more moderate public figure in place of far-right nationalist Le Pen, his odds of a second term in office would have been a great distance from certain. Le Pen was famous for her controversial policy proposals—among them, following in Britain's footsteps to leave the EU—and though she had abandoned many of them, she has maintained her radical position on immigration and the legality of headscarves, which she called "a uniform imposed by the Islamists." Her support for Russian President Vladimir Putin in the past, in light of the ongoing invasion in Ukraine, was a critical weakness that Macron quickly and efficiently exploited. For quite a few voters, Macron was simply the better option.

The fundamental implication is that the world can never have too many centrist politicians. For left- and right-wing voters to coalesce under a single centrist candidate, they need a new face. A semblance of political neutrality—a perfectly centered candidate, leaning neither left nor right—cannot survive a term in office. Sooner or later a politician will have to make a choice, and that choice will polarize the country, disappointing one faction while pleasing another, and reveal their "true colors." If it really is in the best interest of the French people to elect a centrist to the Elysee Palace, as they elected Emmanuel Macron in 2017, a new candidate will have to rise to the challenge.

# An Homage to Upperclassmen

By NHAN PHAN '24

Perhaps, it is somewhat bittersweet to write this opinion piece at the end of what felt like another quick year. After all, just this time last year, I thought about the prospect of becoming a lower. This time, I'm thinking about the prospect of becoming an upper. Therefore, I find it compelling to reflect upon the year, as well as express some personal sentiments more suitable in writing than in actual expression—paper is befitting of such emotions.

I wrote from a place of emotion. I found it best that I write this article when I can feel at peace with myself. A typical Thursday night. Check-in at 8 p.m. LED lights in my room are set to just the perfect shade of brown-orange. My mini speaker on my desktop is playing One For My Baby (And One For The Road) by Frank Sinatra at just the right volume so that the slow jazz doesn't seep through the sound-proofless walls of Wentworth's fourth floor. At this point, I already finished next week's Tuesday homework; but I knew I still had a 333 section to write. My paper was about the Truman Doctrine and the escalation of the Cold War; not that it's anything important to the narrative anyways. Yet, instead, I'm writing this opinion to you, whoever's reading this article that I am the author of.

I'm surprised you got this far. I recently received a postcard from Kilin Tang '21 in my P.O. box. Even after knowing him for about half a year before he left, I had never truly come to realize how much

the upperclassmen meant to me. I arrived at campus on a cold February night after meeting Rex Bedwick '24 on a flight to Boston (per his request, I am obliged to say that he's awesome). It is hard to imagine we set foot into Wentworth that night faced with the reality that we are now on the cusp of becoming upperclassmen. I lived on the same floor as Kilin; in fact, I was his neighbor. Kevin Treehan '24 and I were roommates back then—we were placed in a small emergency double for the latter half of the year but we made it work, somehow, with the space we got.

I got to know Kilin during the latter half of the winter term since he was the debate captain of Kevin's Forensics team. The more time I spent with Kilin, the more I realized his undying love for Domino's and Criminal Minds; I remembered buying him two months' worth of Paramount+ subscriptions so that he could finish the thirteenth season of the show. It's not often that I reflect back on small moments like these, but it's these moments that defined my prep year. As I am writing this, I realized how important the small moments I spend with my upperclassmen friends (or, frankly, brothers) are.

I met Alex Luque '22 during the latter half of the winter of my prep year while helping out Mr. Campbell (our dorm faculty) to assemble a ping pong table. I think, at that point in time, his hair wasn't as grown out as it is today but, in all fairness, I liked it better when he grew it out anyways. I didn't recognize him until I remembered that he was part of my dais for the PEAMUN committee

that I was a part of that September. I was on my laptop from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. the next day (Vietnamese time zone); he was vice-chair and Janessa Vargas '22 was the chair of the committee on the Latin American Spring specialized committee.

This year, I got to know him better through an unlikely hobby: Monopoly. Through playing Monopoly with Alex, I met Nick Chiu '22. Admittedly, I was a pretty bad player because I played more with my heart than with my head. Hence, Alex fooled me into making "amnesty" deals most of the time, which carried him through to the end of the game; that should give you enough of an indication of the type of player Alex is. Nick was more of a conservative player; he preferred to give out cash like how Oprah gave out cars on her talk show. By the time the game ended (which usually is at 2 a.m.), Nick would only have a brown or light blue property at best and a thimble of cash at hand. The Monopoly "group" started with Alex, Nick, and myself. Kevin, my former roommate at that point, jumped in a couple of times. But as we played on, we found ourselves joined by Charlie Holtz '23 and Dax Knoll '23.

Charlie and Dax were adamant about winning. Dax was the proclaimed Californian Monopoly champion, whereas Charlie was the proclaimed "business strategist" of the dorm seemingly because he always had something to say. Whether it was a deal, a move, a roll, or a chance card, he jumped at the chance. It was always a fight between Dax, Charlie, and Alex; Nick and I were just there to be a part

of the fun but we occasionally would be used by either of the three of them as pawns on a chessboard (sorry, rather, tokens on a Monopoly board). Approaching the winter term of the lower year, our group found a new calling: poker. Poker was always the game to test the wits of the greatest minds in the dorm. If you have a particularly observant eye for poker, you would find that Alex doesn't bluff. Dax is an immensely statistical player with an indispensable poker face, Charlie is arguably one of the riskiest players of them all but at the same time, one of the most successful players of the group, and I, like Monopoly, used to play with my heart. The thing about playing with your heart is that in some cases where emotions are high, the others found it difficult to bluff because I would call them out for it. By the time this opinion gets published, we would be planning a tuxedo-out game to end the year; I sure look forward to it.

Dax and Charlie were good friends with Patrick McCann '23, who I have gotten to know better since my prep spring. Patrick is an upper whom I can safely say I admire. This fall he was one of the captains of Boys Varsity Water Polo. I, an avid Olympic water polo viewer, decided to give watching Exeter water polo a try and ultimately found joy in supporting the team. The excitement during a game is palpable. Using this as a segue, I recall one of the memorable moments for me at a water polo game was meeting Anna Kim '24's dad during Family Weekend. In that game, the team ace St. John's Prep by a score of

18-0. It was also during that game that Anna and Rohan Radhakeesoon '24 recorded upwards of 381 of my screams in a single game; Anna's dad now knows me as an avid supporter of any sports game that I go to.

I would often write Exonian articles on the team for their victories, and I had the chance to write an Athlete of the Week article for the water polo team captains, Patrick and Hayden Giles '22. Outside of the pool, Patrick is one of the most tenacious, no-nonsense people I've ever met. He approaches everything he does with discipline, and commitment, as well as an ever-so-slightly hint of stoicism (which is not a bad thing by any means). He would usually kick me out of his room when he was concentrating on his major assignments; I respected that. He would essentially simplify my ramble down into a few words; I also respected that. Patrick also has a relentless relationship with good food, and I appreciated that too. Earlier this Spring, Patrick, Charlie, and I spent a Saturday night at Cornicello. The table was booked a month in advance. By the end of the meal, we called ourselves the Bolognese boys simply because all three of us ordered the exact same pasta dish; we also planned a dinner for a table for 6 p.m. on the day this opinion piece will be published. It only takes a couple of spontaneous moments to learn a lot about someone.

I would be remiss not to talk about another senior that defined my Exeter experience: Jack Archer '22. You may know him as the 143rd Exonian Board Humor Editor, and I can assure you he is just what

you would expect of him in real life: just like last year's Humor section, it's funny because the editor himself thinks it's funny. All jokes aside, I was with Jack earlier this year to host the International Student Orientation (ISO) Program. To me, Jack was more than a leader, he aged well like not-so-fine wine. He is the peak embodiment of Exeter-ness and Wentworth-ness, for he carries traditions set forth by previous generations of the dorm and always pays an homage to them. Within ISO, the Name Game was his particular favorite. The group was split into two, and they had to guess a random name of a random person from the other team. Jack always betted on either "Nicholas" or its variations as his favorite name, but rest assured, he was wrong.

It's hard to believe that I am on the cusp of being an upperclassman. On one hand, it's exciting, on the other, it means some very tough goodbyes. Dax, Charlie, and Patrick will be seniors next year while Nick and Alex graduate in a week or two. Hence, this piece is an homage to my moments spent with them, as well as a testament to how much the moments spent with upperclassmen can define one's year. The lessons learned from them—poker skills from Dax and Charlie, to Patrick's commitment and stoicism, or Alex's mental resilience, Nick's virtue of kindness and empathy, and Jack's embodiment of Wentworth—will define my upperclassmen years and, perhaps, the time I spend with the next set of lowerclassmen stepping on Exeter's campus.

# You Can't Put a Number on Lives

By CJSMITH '25

American surgeon Samer Attar described the horrors of conflicts in Ukraine and Syria. "There were obliterated faces, disemboweled bodies, dismembered bodies, and chest wounds with collapsed lungs—all hallmarks of injuries from powerful ballistics."

Right before spring break, I wrote an opinion piece in *The Exonian* about the global geopolitical impacts of the war in Ukraine, especially as it relates to increasing tensions among emerging and longstanding global superpowers. However, my piece abstracted human suffering from the merciless fighting and terror that overwhelmed civilians, and it contributed to an issue that represents a larger trend in society. We now tend to forget about war for what it truly is, instead viewing it only from the perspective of those it least affects, which leads to the downplaying of civilian deaths in some regions more than others, and increased apathetic outlooks towards the atrocities of war, which gives instigators power to continue this vicious practice.

The lens through which we look at wars is one of the most subtle yet pervasive biases that

has spread throughout mainstream media today. As is the case in many of the conflicts both now and of the recent past, most attention goes to the instigators of the battles, not the war-torn places they use like playgrounds. Since the beginning of the Cold War, proxy wars have ravaged countries primarily in the global South, where the U.S. and the Soviet Union turned small skirmishes into major battles by bolstering dictators and revolutionaries alike. Nowadays, regional superpowers push the same wars, with increased economic sanctions and cyber warfare to make conflicts more destructive. Yet, the way we view conflicts has become diluted with increasingly abstract messaging about how war can further goals of certain countries and is necessary in the long run to spread peace. Not only is this message fallacious as I'll explain later, but it turns public opinion in favor of conflicts and creates a moral hazard of removing atrocities from the narrative of war.

Russian airstrikes have ravaged Syria since the mid 2010s after several global superpowers began taking sides in a once-minor conflict between Syrian dictator Bashar Al-Assad and Syrian rebels. And we shouldn't forget the oth-

er three failing, puppet government states in the Middle East: Iraq, Libya, and Yemen. It's likely that you've heard more about atrocities in Ukraine in the last two months than about atrocities in any of these places in the last five years. In the media's eyes, Ukraine is seen as much more relevant, the "hot opening salvo in a global conflict between the free world and a bloc of dictatorships," as *Wall Street Journal* commentator Adam O'Neal puts it. None of this is to take away from the amazing investigative reporting on Ukraine, but for the last five years, Russian airstrike after airstrike has struck Syria, Yemen has suffered one of the world's worst famines, and immense civil war has crushed Iraq, all while very little reporting on the human suffering in these places has become mainstream.

Why? It's simple: the Middle East is both rich in many resources, most notably oil, and also in the opportunity to make a narrative. That narrative, one of toppling dictatorships, spreading democracy, and eradicating terror, especially in a post Sep. 11 world, helps foreign powers latch onto those resources through public approval of vast military budgets. Simply put, there is no NATO, no EU (European Union),

and no explicit enemy threatening the safety and well-being of people in any of these places. Instead, the region is characterized by vague threats to western civilization as a whole. Evaluating the impacts of war on countries based on the amount of resources they hold puts some peoples' stories above others. And when those stories reflect the chaotic shaking of buildings, the sounds of gunfire and artillery in the air, and the despair and mournfulness which smolder the atmosphere, this imbalance in attention puts some peoples' lives above others. For nations that claim to spread peace and democracy, they attempt to instill it in very different ways depending on the country. And just like Vietnam and Central America during the Cold War, superpowers today usually leave the country in a much more precarious situation than they found it, setting up failed states, puppet governments, and the terrorist groups they say more military funding will keep at bay.

The 1920s brought the war on alcohol, the 80s brought the War on Drugs and Poverty, and the early 2000s brought the War on Terror. Branded as an attempt to hunt down the masterminds behind Sep. 11 and to prevent the spread of autocracy in

the Middle East, the War on Terror turned into an almost two-decade long slog, with the U.S. failing to accomplish its strategy in Afghanistan and Iraq after killing Osama bin Laden. The Cato Institute notes that the U.S. did not succeed in rebuilding these already delicate states, writing that "Afghanistan and Iraq have become even more corrupt since the United States began pouring in resources." (Cato, 2017) Instead, Islamic terrorist groups have sprung up in the unstable pockets of the region, and the U.S. and China continue to support proxy warfare in the Middle East by supporting the two regional superpowers of Saudi Arabia and Iran, respectively. And not only did terrorism and corruption increase after the invasion, but the wars took a devastating toll on not just citizens of the region, but also on U.S. veterans, who suffered tragic physical and mental health problems upon their return home. The Biden administration's chaotic withdrawal in the summer of 2021 proves further that hundreds of billions of dollars and thousands of lives resulted only in Afghan peoples' loss of freedom, especially for women. Remaking countries in their own image invites global superpowers to disrupt already

teetering states. And the radicalism they hoped to soothe, the autocracies they hoped to topple, the perfect democratic states they wished to build all collapse under the rubble that surrounds civilians caught in a war they never asked for.

I am someone who is guilty of looking at wars only through the perspective of how it affects those who instigate it. I could do this because I have the privilege of looking at these conflicts from a far-away distance, as a thought in the back of my mind. The data recorded of casualties in wars will never do justice to the victims of unjust crimes. It instead serves a narrative that war produces long-term beneficial outcomes for those who start it, all while masquerading as a ploy to increase democracy—and with it, power. The imbalances among people who have their stories told versus the people who don't can be solved only through increased attention and care towards human suffering in places that have never been put in the spotlight. So if you see the number of victims of the next conflict in Syria, or Lebanon, or Libya, or Yemen, think of the stories behind the numbers, the stories that, hopefully one day, will be told.

## Youth Environmental Projects

By ARIANA THORNTON '24

On Jan. 4 this year, our Managing Editor Alia Bonnano '23 messaged the writers' group chat for *The Exonian* about a writing opportunity separate from the newspaper: *Ecosystemic*, a growing online environmental publication run through a group called Student Environmentalism and Sustainability Network (SEASN). "If any of you have written climate/sustainability-related pieces—whether op-ed or other sections—and would like to be published here, or if you would like to write some-

thing new, reach out to me!" Alia texted.

I was immediately intrigued. Months later, I'm a consistent contributing writer and artist for *Ecosystemic*: A SEASN Publication. You can browse the site at <https://seasn-ecosystemic.org>.

SEASN, created at Friends Select School in Pennsylvania, has members from tens of schools in a variety of locations, from Budapest, Hungary to Houston, Texas. Through regular meetings and programming, its core mission is to implement and push for environmental action by fostering a collaborative and passionate coa-

lition of students. Ecosystemic is one of their largest projects yet: it has amassed dozens of active student contributors who submit pieces from poetry to op-eds and features exclusive interviews with figures such as Harvard professor Daniel Shrag, who also happened to be Exeter's keynote speaker for Climate Action Day.

This statement from SEASN Founder Corey Booker is powerfully and beautifully true: "We recognized that without writing and art, a movement cannot be successful." Activism and art are historically connected, from Women's Suffrage to the Civil Rights Movement. Today, we spread and

empower ideas through flags, posters, banners, cartoons, music, film, and photography.

No matter how urgent a message such as a climate crisis is, it cannot gain traction without art, without literature, without viral visual media. And in a time when the American mainstream media's coverage of climate change is inadequate, inconsistent, or even completely false, young people finding and owning an online platform to spread their own voices is necessary and admirable. Until recently, climate silence was the norm on television; natural disasters such as wildfires and hurricanes

would be reported using terms such as "historic," "unprecedented," and "record-shattering"—but not "linked to climate change." Perhaps the proliferation of youth networks like *Ecosystemic*, propelling the involvement of hundreds of youth in nationwide environmental efforts, holds the power to shift the dialogue on climate change. With a change in dialogue comes a change in the narrative, and therefore, a shift in mindset. To join this effort, find *Ecosystemic* on Instagram at @ecosystemicmag.

At Exeter, there have already been various environmental projects led by student groups—now,

there is a burgeoning online publication. The Ocean Link, found online at <https://www.theoceanlink.com>, is a collaborative digital collage project started by Ocean Awareness and Action Club to raise marine awareness and passion. An artistic scroll-down gallery displays original quotes and photographs submitted by high school students.

"Will we single-handedly change the world?" Corey Booker writes. "Of course not! But with every peer we support, every person we inspire, and every student we encourage, we come one step closer."

## Relay For Life Heel Race Messages

*At Relay For Life, these Exonians, and more, raced a lap around the rink in heels in under 40 seconds.*

Will Park: 19 seconds. I was the fastest.

Allison Kim: Shout out to Korean Society, Gender-Sexuality Alliance, Exeter Association of Rock, Shalom, and Christine. Also follow me on insta @allisonkim3 lol

An anonymous upper: Aeneid? More like AeneMID!

Arya Nistane: Milk --> Cereal

Nicole Craighead: Nina Kellogg can WHIP it in heels.

An anonymous prep: Cilley >>>

An anonymous upper: "Hannah Montana says nobody's perfect, but here I am."

An anonymous lower: Call me an IMG model the way I ran down that track in stilettos

Dilan Cordoba: Shout out to the cutest girl on campus, Ifeoma Ajufo, for being a star on the track and in my heart. :)

## Sports

# Boys' Crew Wins Big Over Kent School

By KATE ROSE and  
CATHERINE WU

The Academy's varsity boys' crew team rowed towards their victory on April 30. The top four boats swept their competitors, Kent School, at St. Paul's. With a great start to the season, the team has trained hard and emerged victorious against some of their biggest rivals this year.

The team's hard training paid off. "Training for this race wasn't too different compared to our typical practices. The weather during the previous week had been really windy, and the day before our race required an abbreviated practice due to the choppy conditions," lower Carter Otis said.

"There were days where the river would be really wavy due to a lot of wind, and that caused the practice to be not that great or keep us on land," Huang agreed. "Our rows got steadily better throughout the week, and on Friday, we were cruising relatively well. And of course, Saturday went well."

Despite the weather cir-

cumstances during the prior week, "We made the most out of our time and kept working really hard," senior Andreas Lorgen said. "I think we showed a lot of resilience that week."

Upper Ryan Kim explains, "One of our captains, Alex Luque, tested positive for COVID a few days before the race, but instead of letting that dismantle us, we embraced it and worked harder than ever. Shoutout to Henry Blakemore, who moved up to the first boat in place of Alex and had a great race." Despite the unfortunate news, the team still performed extremely well and Alex's teammates readily stepped up in his absence.

Many members of the team shared their overall experiences at the race. "It was great!" captain and upper Weiyi Huang said. "The team has gotten really close over the past few weeks. Everyone has been pushing each other on and making the entire team get faster."

"It wouldn't be wrong to say that we were all nervous before the race; Kent was a relatively big challenge for us... Yet, after our races, we were all ecstatic to have

claimed the four wins. Everyone was celebrating with each other, regardless of what boat you were on really; everyone's really tight with each other, and there's really a great culture being built throughout this season in the team," Huang continued.

Coxswain and upper Ryan Kim expressed his thoughts on the overall atmosphere of the race. "The atmosphere was great," Kim said. "A lot of parents attended the race, and the team was very energetic."

Lower Carter Otis described the race day weather, explaining, "The race course, especially the start and the warm-up area were windy, and there were a couple waves that splashed into the boat."

"The sun had a cautious heat to it," lower Kevin Treechan added, "almost as if it was conscious that we'd have to rip it down the lake in a bit and didn't want to tire us out. Winds were high. Love was in the air. Perfect for a challenging day of racing."

Overall, the team performed well and athletes shared their individual and boat performances. "The

first boat won by 4.7 seconds, which translates to a little more than a boat length. It's the first time the 1st boat has beaten Kent in a few years, so we're happy with the result. Nevertheless, we still have a lot to improve on, and are working hard to find more speed as we near the end of the season," Kim said.

"As the stroke seat of B1, a lot of the piece's execution falls on me, especially the stroke rate and the rhythm of my stroke, and I think although I do have some spots I can touch up on, it was a decent execution to set the tone for the race. There are still things I will work on, and hopefully, it'll be even better at our next race this weekend against Hanover," Huang said.

Lower Rohan Radhakeesoon similarly noted, "We did really well, the boat was moving together, everyone was in sync. Kent's boat was pretty close to us at the start so we had to fight back a bit."

"My favorite memory must be when we were crossing the finish line with all the fans on the river bank. Our Cox, JJ, pointed to his mom in the stands. It

was really touching," lower Sangye Sherpa noted.

Huang described the post race vibe, stating, "Everyone was celebrating with each other, regardless of what boat you were on really; everyone's really tight with each other, and there's really a great culture being built throughout this season in the team."

On a broader scale, "The team performed quite well against Kent," Otis said. "I don't think that we had expected such a good result, but we were certainly happy to win."

"Overall, it was really exciting to see all four boats sweep Kent, especially B4 (the fourth varsity boat) who along with our B3 raced Kent's B3 and beat them. That's some really hype stuff—it really shows the depth of the team and the power throughout the team. Personally, I'm really excited to see these guys get older and get faster and to see where the team overall achieves in the next few years," Huang agreed.

Regarding the team spirit, "The team atmosphere was really good. Shoutout to all the Exeter crew parents who organized an amazing food

tent and supported us the entire day, they make every race day so much better. Our team is just taking this season one day at a time and one race at a time, trying to get better every day and every week, and we can't wait to see what the rest of the season brings us," Lorgen added.

"Our team captain talked to us beforehand and motivated our boat to win, and coach Leger motivated us to push ourselves for the race. When it was time to race, even though we were a bit anxious, we were all ready and felt well prepared to race," Radhakeesoon noted.

"We'll see Kent again at NEIRAS (New England Interscholastic Regatta). They'll be looking for revenge, and I'm looking forward to seeing how much they improve in the next few weeks. As for now, we're just focusing on the next race, and improving a little every day. We have a very determined and dedicated team this year and will be working incredibly hard over the next few weeks to become as fast as possible," Kim concluded.

# Boys' Volleyball Bests Choate

By HANNAH PARK and  
ALAYSHAZHANG

The boy's varsity volleyball team crushed Choate Rosemary Hall in a 3-1 game two weeks ago, adding a fifth win to their streak. Their perseverance and teamwork led to constant victories this season, with a highlight of the season being the home game win against Andover last month.

For upper Kenny Chen, this game was his first this year due to an injury early on in the season. "We played a lot better than Choate during that

game. Everyone played into their roles and successfully fulfilled their duties," Chen said.

The team has an overall very supportive dynamic, with teammates who always cheer each other during and outside of games. Upper Paolo Belfiore called out senior Chris Antosiewicz for "being a catalyst for us to get us going and into a flow," and senior Charlie Thibault and upper Heewoo Jung for "always being solid and doing their part."

Horrigan continued, shouting out Antosiewicz as well. "I would be

afraid to stand on the other side of the net if I were the Choate kids."

"Charlie and Heewoo were everywhere, getting great saves," Horrigan added.

Antosiewicz commented on how their usual practice had paid off during the game, "I think we've really started to be able to play as a team and that's great. And I think everybody started to be really solid and that's great because when we have all four options to hit from it's good."

Antosiewicz went on to say, "I think that as per usual, we kind of let

momentum slip a little bit in the middle of the Choate game. I think that just happened a little bit, but we were able to pick our heads up and we ended up winning."

"Olisa went off on the last set," Chen added. "The whole team made a consistent effort throughout the game. It was a long ride to Choate, so there was no way that we were going to lose there."

"At that point in the season, it was going well," Horrigan said, highlighting their home game win against Andover. "Getting that work done at home... we had a

really good atmosphere in the crowd."

The team was undefeated this season until last Wednesday when they lost against Andover in an away game. Antosiewicz reflected on the game against Andover. "Well at the start we were on a long winning streak. We were doing pretty well. I think we had our confidence and beat Andover in the first set. We played them in a four set series. So that was a tough game for us. We lost the last set, and game to them. And I think that's just given us a little bit of a reminder to have

a good work ethic. So I think we're working extra hard in practice now."

Despite the loss against Andover, players remain optimistic about future games. "I think we've been working hard all season, but I think now we got a special kind of drive, so that's good," Antosiewicz said.

"We are 5-1 on the season and need to regroup to prepare for the Class A tournament," Chen said. "Next Saturday we host the class A tournament, and hopefully we can bring home the NE championship again."

## A word or two for the athletes going into spring E/a?

By KATE ROSE and CHENGYUE ZHANG

- » "Andover should be light work. The boys' lacrosse team is going to continue our winning streak and blow them out of the water." Logan Olazabal '23
- » "I'm so ready to cheer my boys on, honestly so pumped." Drew Smith '21
- » "We are gonna smack Andover, we have to beat my hometown" Cam Guthrie '23
- » "The lacrosse, baseball, and softball games should be fun to watch" Rollie Castineyra '23
- » "I'm ready to smoke Andover on their own turf" Anonymous girls' varsity "laxer"
- » "Science Olympiad is better." Nick Rose '23
- » "Hopefully it's going to be a nice day to deck out in red." Anonymous Exonian
- » "I see wins in our future... or else." Anonymous and scary Exonian

# Captains of the Week: Boys' Baseball



Seniors and boys' baseball captains (from left to right) JR Bozek and Jake Shapiro smile on the baseball diamond.

*Courtesy of JR Bozek and Jake Shapiro*

By LAUREN KIM

On the afternoon of May 7, the boys' varsity baseball team faced off against Andover in a double-header, battling it out on the diamond for nearly four hours.

Big Red lost the first match 3-13, but came out victorious in the second with a score of 2-0, thanks to lower Beau Elson's aggressive pitches. This victory is one of many this season for the baseball team. Both players and coaches alike attribute their success to the leadership and attitudes of their captains: seniors JR Bozek and Jake Shapiro.

Bozek looked back on the team's performance this season. "Everybody is starting to settle into their roles on the field, and the results have been good. We had a little bit of a slow start to the season, but after a couple of games the team has really

pulled together and has been playing well," he said.

Bozek continued with an optimistic view: "We recently split with Worcester Academy in a double header and they are regarded as one of the best teams in the league, and we won against a very good Dexter team. Right now we are tied for first place in the conference, and are looking to hold that position."

Head coach Timothy Mitropoulos lauded the team's away victories, "highlights thus far have been our 3 league road victories. We have beaten Worcester, Dexter and Cushing all on the road. This is not an easy thing to do, and the guys have done a great job with their focus and drive to win when on the road...The other two road games were great as well, each having big moments where different guys came through in

clutch situations. We look to have more competitive league games this spring, with a few more wins, especially in the playoffs."

The win at Dexter Academy was certainly a highlight for senior and player Josh Morrisette, who comments Bozek on his performance. "A huge highlight was our win at Dexter. Dexter is one of the top teams in our league, and JR Bozek pitched an unreal game to keep us in the game... Giving up one run in the bottom of the 7th, we left with a 7-5 win."

Shapiro added on, "the season has gotten off to a good start for us. In league play we are 3-1 and we've beaten some teams that a lot of people didn't think we could."

As for their attitudes towards the team, Morrisette describes his captains' presence. "Our captains are just good people in general that we can all be friends with. They're

down to earth, and very approachable when needed," Morrisette says.

Mitropoulos adds on, describing the significant role the captains play, especially when creating an example for younger members of the team.

As someone who is often less vocal, Shapiro attributes his captainship as, "a person who leads by example. I try to do all the little things. Run on and off the field, pick up baseballs at practice, and obviously try and make the right play during the game to try and help the team win."

On the other hand, Bozek leads by encouraging his teammates to have fun with the game, and amplifying every player's voice on the team. "As a captain I have been trying to lead the team by making sure that everyone is enjoying playing, and that we create a tight knit positive atmosphere when we are together,"

says Bozek. "My goal is to try and make every player feel important on the team."

Overall, the team's atmosphere is not only one that encourages competition and high-level play, but is also where players can enjoy the game and connect with their teammates. Regarding the team's attitude towards winning whilst having fun, Morrisette says, "on the field, they hold us to a high standard which we all expect from ourselves. We want to win so they hold us to a winning standard. But at the same time, they let us have fun, joke around, laugh, and be who we are. We take baseball seriously, but we have so much fun doing it that you wouldn't tell."

Shapiro found his home on the baseball team, and thanked his teammates for providing the empowering community. "Exeter baseball has had a major impact

on me. I've had some good teammates in my past years on this team who have taught me a lot," Shapiro said. "I was one of the youngest guys on the team a few years ago but all the older kids reached out to me and made me feel comfortable on the field. I have tried to do the same now that I am one of the older kids on the team."

The team looks forward to more upcoming victories in the season, guided by their captains' leadership. Mitropoulos concluded, "They are good role models for the underclassman and have a great competitive edge to them. Along with the other seniors, the captains have been leading the way for us on and off the field thus far this season...We look to have more competitive league games this spring, with a few more wins, especially in the playoffs."

## Girls' Water Polo Prevails over Loomis, Sacred Heart, and Andover

By AVEEN BURNEY and SOPHIEMA

On April 30, the Academy's girls' Varsity Water Polo team played the Loomis Chaffee School and the Sacred Heart School in back-to-back games. The following Monday on May 2, the team saw a home game victory against Phillips Academy.

The game against Loomis Chaffee ended with a loss of 8-11. "The Loomis game was a nice rematch. We had played them in a very early game—they were our second game of the season," coach Meg Blitzshaw explained. "It was nice to see some improvement, but also some spaces where we need some more polish."

"[We were] playing back to back games, and we didn't play our best game against Sacred

Heart," Blitzshaw continued. "I think a lot of that was exhaustion from playing eight quarters back-to-back."

The Sacred Heart match ultimately concluded with another unfortunate loss of 2-11.

"Even though we lost the games against Loomis and Sacred Heart, it was an enjoyable experience," prep Sofia Wang said. "We pushed ourselves to play our best, and we can see our growth since our first game against Deerfield. We have gotten much better at communication and counterattack strategies."

The game against Phillips Academy went much more favorably, as the team clinched a 15-7 win in their home pool. "The Andover game was exciting because it had to be rescheduled twice due to COVID related issues. Originally it was

supposed to be in mid-April, so a month later we finally got to play our last game at home for our seniors," Blitzshaw said. "It was a big deal. Neither team had won a game yet, so it was a big moment and the girls came out so strong."

"It looked so much smoother and cohesive compared to some of our other games. I think we had eight different girls score in that game," Blitzshaw added.

"It's a great team," lower Sofia Contreras said. "Everyone really vibes. It feels like we're all besties. It's nice because the energy is always pretty up there, and even though we don't always win, it feels like we win because we keep up with that fun energy."

For coach Blitzshaw and many of the girls on the team, this season marks a plethora of brand

new experiences. "It's my first year coaching at Exeter," Blitzshaw said. "It's been really fun to be at this pool. It's been a really good year and a good season and, from my perspective, it's really a chance to continue to sort of build momentum as we wrap up this year."

The team has had its share of challenges, as many players are fairly new to the game. "For our seniors, if they played all four years, this is only their second season, because there was the no season [during COVID] and then the sort of on campus co-ed season," Blitzshaw explained. "I'm excited that we finally have gotten to play, and I'm also sad for them that they haven't gotten to have the full water polo experience."

"Most of us began with little to no water polo knowledge," Wang

agreed. "But I am thrilled to see how far we have come since then. Our coach and captains have been very helpful with teaching and guiding us during training. We have been focusing on our fundamentals, shooting skills, and counterattack positions through a variety of partner drills and half-court gameplay."

Blitzshaw reflected a little on her own personal experiences with water polo. "My water polo career as an athlete started in my prep school years and it changed my life," Blitzshaw said. "It was really a life changing thing for me and I'm excited for more students to get that chance [to play water polo]."

"It's exciting to be able to actually build a water polo program," Blitzshaw continued. "I feel like the girls have been missing that with COVID. I

think that's true for a lot of sports, but it's a different thing with water polo because so many students have never played before they get here as opposed to other sports where they might be exposed [before coming to Exeter]."

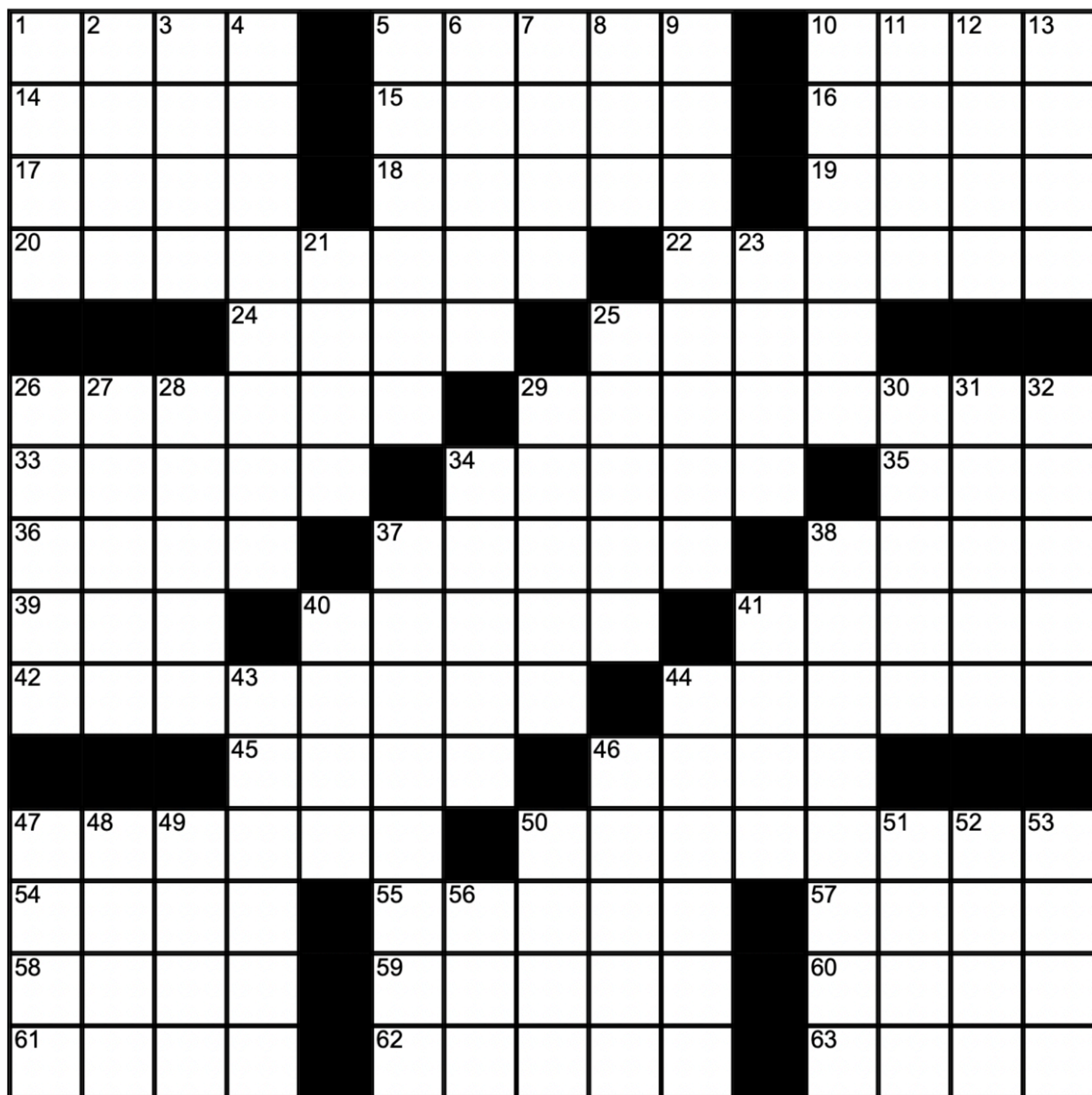
"It's a really exciting sport to build," Blitzshaw added. "They've been working really hard."

As the season came to a close, team mates reflected on fond experiences. "This season was amazing and I'm sad that it's come to an end," prep Danixza Pinto said. "I feel as though we made a family amongst us. We have all improved remarkably in just these short 2 months. I hope that next year we will be able to become an even stronger team, focusing on the fundamentals that we have learned and to continue the legacy of our graduating seniors."

Humor

# The Crossword Corner

By Max Mantel & Gbemiga Salu



**ACROSS**

- 1 Wyo. neighbor
- 5 None of the above
- 10 Hosted the event
- 14 “So You Want to Talk About Race” author Ijeoma
- 15 “Nothing is certain but \_\_\_ and taxes”
- 16 “Yikes!”
- 17 Drive-\_\_\_ window
- 18 “Erec et \_\_\_,” Chrétien de Troyes tale
- 19 List of chores
- 20 Delta asset
- 22 Lao-tzu’s philosophy
- 24 Org. led by Andy Horgan
- 25 2017 Zelda game (abbr.)
- 26 Fortnite \_\_\_ Royale
- 29 Calm
- 33 Spanish Netflix show about high schoolers
- 34 Marat of tennis
- 35 Ho \_\_\_ Minh City
- 36 Your brain has this, and so do your ear
- 37 Eye-related

- 38 Additional
- 39 Covert maritime org. game
- 40 Sty sniffer
- 41 Comic strip segment
- 42 Achilles’ heel
- 44 Lifted
- 45 Archibald of the NBA
- 46 Stain
- 47 Second-smallest continent
- 50 Financial
- 54 Winter fall
- 55 Usual bedtime
- 57 Meat-grading org.
- 58 Linden tree, in Spain Dr.
- 59 HBO show set in New Orleans
- 60 Very, in Versailles
- 61 C++ function to convert a character string to a double-precision floating-point value
- 62 “Salome” tenor
- 63 Lovers’ quarrel

**DOWN**

- 1 Part of N.B.
- 2 Grades K-12, for short
- 3 Dueler with Hamilton
- 4 Casino wheel-and-ball game
- 5 Danish seaport
- 6 I hold, in Latin
- 7 It grows on you
- 8 Airport listing (abbr.)
- 9 Effective use of language
- 10 The Supremes’ record label
- 11 “Parasite” star \_\_\_ Woo-shik
- 12 Wraps up
- 13 Foe of Mr. Fantastic, Dr.
- 21 Cruise stopover
- 23 “Got two fives for \_\_\_?”
- 25 Suit well
- 26 Under
- 27 Solo
- 28 Fibula neighbor
- 29 One hundred, in Japanese

- 30 Larger-than-life figures
- 31 Number of Little Pigs
- 32 Give up arguing
- 34 Imagine, informally
- 37 Dime, to a dollar
- 38 PR department ship-pings
- 40 What Thanos did
- 41 “It’s 8 o’clock in the morning” PinkPantheress song
- 43 Be familiar with
- 44 Cheered (for)
- 46 Doofus
- 47 Spanish 101 word
- 48 Standard measure
- 49 Hershey’s caramel-and-chocolate candy
- 50 River to the Elbe
- 51 Amt. on a new car window
- 52 It’s like a virus, in “Inception”
- 53 Playbill listing
- 56 Wrath

# A Conversation with the Anonymous Senior Assassins Gamemaster

By CLARK WU '23

On April 29, an anonymous student of the Academy announced via Instagram @thegameatexeter the launch of the Class of 2022 Senior Assassins game. *The Exonian's* co-Editor-in-Chief Clark Wu recently interviewed the anonymous Gamemaster. Highlighted here is the conversation in full, including a short message to the players.

From *The Exonian* to the assassin game survivors: stay dry, stay sharp!

Q: How did Exeter's game of Senior Assassin come to be?

A: A certain postgraduate in the cross country team is very outspoken and one day shared with me his tremendous disappointment that Exeter is the way it is. This led me to reminisce about my old

school, and I saw on Instagram that seniors there were dashing at each other with water guns and buckets. I wanted to bring that to Exeter.

Q: Has the game thus far been everything you wanted it to be?

A: I was initially a little worried that only a few friend groups would sign up and that those "too cool for school" wouldn't really do it. But by the time we started, we had 170, 180 sign ups, which is more than half the grade. That's really incredible.

Managing the game has been a blast, but at times a little stressful. Usually lunch and department meetings become my busiest times for recording outs and reassigning targets and I'd be frantically typing on both my phone and my laptop. All of the targets are randomly

assigned, but sometimes I do entertain the idea of playing God and assigning people a target they were or have been beefing with. I have, of course, refrained from doing so.

A lot of alumni actually reached out to me in the past few days. They would show the Instagram stories to their friends and tell me how fun the campus sounds, how they wish they did the same in their senior year. That makes me really happy.

Q: Best Assassin Moments?

A: On the first game day, I remember walking from Weth to my class in the science building. I saw Anne Chen hunt down Luke Chinburg with a sponge on one quad, then Bradley chasing Fawaz on another. Then on another quad Thomas Yun shot Josephine

with a water gun. One walk, three kills.

I know that Harry Gorman hid out in the Peabody bush waiting for James Urquhart to show up. I also know that the Soule seniors cleared out the Walgreens water gun section. If I recall correctly, only one of them remains. I happened to witness Soule resident Harry Sun falling victim to the wrath of Liza McMahan. Someone cried "Harry, watch out!" and they ran down Soule Hill.

Q: To what extent do you believe faculty and staff are aware of the game?

A: I'm pretty sure everybody knows. Some seniors have come into class wet or with scrapes here and there and mentioned it to their teachers. I remember Dean Weatherspoon came to senior grill once and Emma

Lyle ran right past him with a water gun. Some faculty shared that they wished they were included. Could you imagine Mr. Whittemore in the game? He would stroll around in his bucket hat and be so nonchalant about it all. I'm thinking that we could have a student-faculty game on senior week.

Q: A word to your many players?

A: I'm really happy that people have not made a mess of it, and that most are sticking to the rules. I've also found myself to enjoy the role of the all-seeing admin. I get to see from behind the scenes how much joy this has brought everyone. And that, in itself, is more validation than any sort of attached name could be.

I'm NOT really happy about our senior class's online

etiquette. When you all are messaging the account, you can be so rude. So many of you have been pestering me with target assignments. I can't get to all of you immediately, okay? So many of you are also incredibly lazy. If you don't know your target, find out for yourself. You have an Exeter education and access to Exeter Connect. Finally, do not ask who I am. I'm just going to hit you with 'your mom' jokes every time.

Q: How do you think the game will end?

A: When we get to the final three or two, I was thinking of inviting the whole campus to watch an arena-like battle. I don't know how exactly this will pan out. I also hope to host a ceremony-like event with plastic crowns for the winners.

## Mad Libs

By MAX MANTEL '25

**Play with your friends! From Mad Libs Live: One player acts as the "reader" and asks the other players, who haven't seen the story, to fill in the blanks with adjectives, nouns, exclamations, colors, adjectives, and more. These words are inserted into the blanks and then the story is read aloud to hilarious results. There are no winners or losers, only laughter.**

On a \_\_\_(adj.) Spring Night, I was \_\_\_(-ing verb.) back to my dorm, almost late for check-in because a \_\_\_(noun) was \_\_\_(-ing verb) in the line at Grill. On the way up the stairs, I saw someone leaving the bathroom holding a \_\_\_(noun) in their hand. I finally reached my room, but something was off. I smelled something similar to \_\_\_(noun) wafting from under

the door. I \_\_\_(ad-verb) opened the door and saw a \_\_\_(noun), lying right on my floor! I grabbed the nearest \_\_\_(noun) and started to \_\_\_(verb) the room. Thankfully, \_\_\_(person/noun) showed up and used a \_\_\_(noun) to help me. Soon, all the \_\_\_(noun) was gone, and I was ready to start my \_\_\_(task).

## Clark's Face When: Objection Hearsay



## Ask Humor (Again)

By CALISTA LEE '24

Q: How do you break it to your parents that your midterms were bad?

A: We've all had this problem. You get an A- in history and have to break it to your parents that Harvard University is never going to accept your less-than-perfect GPA. But fret not, I'm about to bequeath you with some life-changing tips: the easiest way to tell your folks that your midterms were life-shatteringly horrific.

Here it is: Think outside of the box. You don't have to tell your parents about

your midterms. Unless you actually send your grades to them, there's no way they'll know. A great solution (that I've personally tried out and found effective) is to just fix your grades yourself! When your teacher isn't looking, crack open their gradebook. Flip through until you find your name, and erase any bad grades you might've gotten. A C+? No, that's a B+ now! A-? How about an A+! Easy fix, right? Your teachers will never know how you improved so drastically and quickly!

Or, you can just study harder. Your choice.

Q: How do I subtly tell my friend her breath smells bad?

A: Get to know her better. Become her closest friend. Flirt with her. Tell her things you've never told anyone before. Confess your love to her. Go on your first date. Second date. Third. When you're ready for it, go in for the kiss. When she opens her mouth, swiftly pull out your Listerine breath spray and give her a little spritz in the mouth. Boom. Stand up and tell her you didn't really mean any of this. You just wanted to let her know that her breath smells bad.

She'll never have bad breath ever again, and if she does, at least you'll never be able to hang out with her and smell it.

Q: How do I talk to my friends back at home after a year of not seeing them?

A: For these situations, I've found that just being forward is the best way to go. You always have the excuse of boarding school to explain you not seeing them. Call your friends up this summer, ask them how they're doing, and ask to hang out. Pretty simple and I'm sure they'll appreciate it. If you're one of

those people who have completely cut off contact with their friends this year, try a slower approach. Respond to a few stories, snap them a couple times... When I'm thinking about staying in contact with people, I'll ask them a question about something I forgot. Sometimes I'll shoot a, "do you remember which classroom our eighth grade science class was in?", just to remind them that I still exist. But that's really all I have for you. If you stopped talking to your old friends all together, maybe you don't really deserve to have their friendship.

Q: My middle school best friends found another Chinese girl to love. Am I replaceable?

A: Yup, you are. And so are your friends. Make some new ones and shove it in their faces. But honestly, I wouldn't think like that. I'm sure your old friends still love you! When you get back home, make sure to meet up with them. Maybe you'll also become friends with the new Chinese girl, who knows?

Q: How do I get more than seven hours of sleep per day?

A: Go to any other school.

## Exeter Compliment Highlights

By ANVI BHATE '24

Dunbar: Yesterday at 3:20am I went to get my laundry because I was up and I had forgotten to put it in the dryer but when I walked down the stairs I heard a little clink and a clack from a distance and I started to feel a shiver down my spine because I am deathly afraid of ghosts and the dark and so I was just going to ignore it and walk past the common room but I saw a stream of light coming from the back end where the kitchen was so I slowly walked over to see what was happening and when I peered through the door I saw a girl in a onesie frying french fries in a pot of oil but I made no noise and after watching her for a little while, I went downstairs and got my laundry and came upstairs and slept naked.

@exeter\_compliments

I go to Andover but tbh, y'all are cooler

@exeter\_compliments

Life is so hard, I have to turn sideways to get my voluptuous posterior through every doorway. And even then, sometimes I still get stuck. God gives his toughest battles to his strongest soldiers :(

@exeter\_compliments

short people don't exist. If you are under 5'5 then you automatically are under my eye line, therefore I cannot see you, so you are not there. You do not exist. Have a good day, tall people.

@exeter\_compliments

new prep here! how often can i bring my cat to class? she's not a support animal or anything i acc can't stand her but she's got separation anxiety. are they allowed to check my backpack if they hear her distressed meowing?

@exeter\_compliments

Ditch drama. Get your money up, not your funny up.

@exeter\_compliments

I started cutting in line at dhal this year and never before have I felt so free. You know what, with 4 years of this place under my belt, let me tell you what I wish I'd known earlier: hug your friends. Tell your mom you love her. Cut in line every once in a while. Let your roommates out when they have to pee. Commit a little tax fraud if that's what you need to get through F block. Work through your experiences in the Trojan war in your next English paper. Find yourself a leash kid. Hell, hit a few pedestrians on your way out. Do what's right for YOU.

@exeter\_compliments

i <3 TORCHING bridges

@exeter\_compliments