

# The Exonian

The oldest continuously running preparatory school newspaper in America

Phillips Exeter Academy  
Exeter, New Hampshire



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## Monica Guzmán Addresses Academy on Polarization

By TEDDY CAPOZZI, AMY LIN, CHLOE LIND, CIARA O'NEILL and GRACIELLA POLOMAR

On Tuesday, Sept. 26, students gathered in Assembly Hall to welcome guest speaker Monica Guzmán. In her speech, she encouraged students to build bridges and embrace polarizing conversations. The much-anticipated assembly was an opportunity for students to reflect on how they present their political beliefs at a community level.

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Austin Desisto / The Exonian

## Marianne Williamson Speaks to Exeter Community

By EVANDIERBERG,  
LUCY JUNG and  
LAUREN LEE

On Oct. 2, Exeter's Democratic Club hosted 2024 presidential candidate Marianne Williamson in Water Street Bookstore.

Williamson spoke on the agenda of her campaign, answered questions, and urged the audience to take action. She spoke of the hate-driven progress of those who are "willing to go to great lengths to effectuate their worldview," citing last month's Neo-Nazi demonstrations in Florida and movements to ban studies of Black history. Williamson concluded, "We have to be as convicted behind a worldview of love as people who hate are convicted behind a worldview of hate."

Finally, Williamson said "as voters in New Hampshire, you do have a lot of power," and that "to whatever extent you feel moved to using that power, on behalf of my campaign, I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Long-time Democratic Club advisor Jacquelyne Weatherspoon shared the history of the Academy's hosting presidential candidates on campus. According to Weatherspoon, hosting candidates is a long tradition. Weatherspoon said, "\$100 to the Secretary of State's office is all it costs to run for president from New Hampshire. So when you don't have a lot of money, but you feel you have a strong message, you would come to New Hampshire. Sometimes the New Hampshire primaries would have 20 people running for president from all over the country."

"At that time, [around 20 years ago,] the Academy was extremely generous and kind to the larger community of Exeter. It would be announced in a local paper that such and such a candidate would be in the assembly hall, and anybody was welcome to come. It was a way for the community to learn about local policies, right here at Phillips Exeter," Weatherspoon continued.

More recently, however, the Academy has been unable to host candidates directly on campus as Exeter qualifies as a non-profit. Democratic

Club co-head and senior Nat Welling said, "Something with tax codes makes us unable to host candidates on campus if they're running for the office. Luckily we've hosted similar events in Water Street Bookstore before, and they were great for letting us host Ms. Williamson there."

Attendees reflected on Williamson's speech and Q&A session.

*"As voters in New Hampshire, you do have a lot of power. To whatever extent you feel moved to using that power, on behalf of my campaign, I thank you from the bottom of my heart."*

Democratic Club co-head and senior Aliyana Koch-Manzur said, "Though there wasn't a lot of promotion for the event, the place ended up being packed — people were sitting on the floors because there weren't any chairs left."

Koch-Manzur reflected on the atmosphere of the event. "It was a very intimate environment. Everyone who wanted to could come up to her afterward, talk to her, and take pictures. [Even her speech] felt more like a conversation; there was some back and forth."

Republican Club co-head and upper CJ Smith affirmed the importance of New Hampshire as an early primary state. "There are a lot of opportunities in Exeter to see political candidates and learn about their policies at their events, so I try to take advantage of those as much as possible," Smith noted. Despite believing that "it was a great event and a really good opportunity to engage," Smith reflects on feelings of frustration caused by the lack of response to a question he posed. "I asked a question about her policies and the overall United States business and environment. She said I didn't have any evidence for my claims and basically dismissed my question without really answering it."

Welling spoke on the level of transparency that Williamson had in her speech. "What stood out to me was

how anti-establishment she came off as. It was nice to see such a left-leaning candidate who was willing to call out both parties for not getting things done in the past. She was very unfiltered."

Democratic Club co-head and senior Eric Wu also appreciated Williamson's emphasis on moving forward. "She wants to stand up to [the establishment] and really represent people, which I found to be very exciting and inspiring."

Weatherspoon shared her views regarding Williamson's campaign. "To me, when I listened to her, she was in between Bernie Sanders and former candidate, Ralph Nader. Nader would talk about cars and fuel, and what it's doing to the environment, things like that. She spoke about similar things."

Some of Williamson's main campaign goals were the environment, the money that [the United States] spends on defense, and student loans. For students, Weatherspoon continued, "[Williamson's] focus on student loans would have definitely been attractive. I saw the heads nodding in the room when she was talking about that. One thing I noticed was that she's hitting every college campus in the state of New Hampshire. So what that says to me is that part of her strategy is targeting education, student loans, to gather support from young voters and first-time voters."

Overall, the guest speaker event was a success, and Exeter's political clubs are expecting to host more speakers like Williamson in the near future. "Around six Republican candidates are coming [this] week, such as Mike Pence, Vivek Ramaswamy, and Nikki Haley, who's coming for the second time," Koch-Manzur said.

"Although Dem Club isn't sponsoring any of those events, I would encourage any students who are interested in politics at all to go to them. Though you may disagree with the speakers' views, the experience of seeing what it's like to run for president and what the areas of focus are on a national level is really insightful. I think everyone should try to experience that," Koch-Manzur said.

## Harvard Inaugurates Claudine Gay '88 as 30th President

By THE 145TH  
EXECUTIVE BOARD

On Friday, Sept. 29, Harvard University inaugurated Claudine Gay '88 as its 30th president. Gay is the first person of color and second woman to lead the institution.

The ceremony at Tercentenary Theatre began with a procession in which 185 universities and institutions from around the world were represented. It included invocations, musical performances, dance, and greetings from the Harvard community's four pillars — students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Principal William Rawson attended the ceremony as a representative of the Academy, which was the only secondary school represented in the procession.

Gay marked her inauguration with a call to action, sharing her vision of a diverse community equal to the particular challenges of the world's most daunting problems.

"The courage of this university — our resolve, against all odds — to question the world as it is and imagine and make a better one: It is what Harvard was made to do," Gay said Friday. "By continually recommitting ourselves to our central purpose, with renewed vision and vigor, we advance the prospects of humankind."

"Our stories — and the stories of the many

trailblazers between us — are linked by this institution's long history of exclusion and the long journey of resistance and resilience to overcome it," Gay continued. "And because of the collective courage of all those who dared to create a different future, I stand before you on this stage able to say, 'I am Claudine Gay, the president of Harvard University.'"

Gay urged students and her academic peers to keep challenging the status quo and pushing the boundaries of knowledge in the sciences and other fields. She challenged scientists to take chances in pursuit of ambitious objectives.

"Asking 'Why not?' should be a Harvard refrain — the willingness to sound foolish, risk ridicule, be dismissed as a dreamer. We've seen it time and again — the courage to take a chance, even when success seems beyond reach. And the courage to collaborate, to listen, to compromise, to grow," she said.

Since 2018, Gay served as dean of Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences. She first joined Harvard in 2006 as a professor of government, then began teaching African American studies the year after.

Rawson shared his thoughts on the ceremony and Gay's speech. "Claudine Gay's inauguration was an historic moment for

Harvard and a proud moment for Exeter. Processing behind the Harvard faculty with representatives of more than 170 colleges and universities was a great honor for our school. Observing the entire ceremony from the second row — even though we were soaked by rain — was absolutely exciting. President Gay's speech was moving and deeply meaningful, as were the remarks of other speakers who welcomed President Gay to her new responsibilities. It was quite special that evening to tell the senior class and alumni at the ELW dinner where I had been that afternoon and hear the roar in response," he said.

Amelia Tardy '22 and a current sophomore at Harvard, spoke on Gay's inauguration: "President Claudine Gay's inauguration as Harvard's 30th president holds immense importance, as it signals a groundbreaking stride towards diversity and inclusivity in academic leadership. Her remarkable journey and accomplishments serve as a testament to her exceptional leadership. Her appointment not only shatters historical barriers, but inspires a generation of young leaders. I am absolutely thrilled about her presidency, both as a Harvard student, and an Exeter graduate," Tardy said.



Photo courtesy of CNN

Claudine Gay '88 smiles during her inauguration as the 30th president of Harvard University.

# News

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# Guzmán Addresses Academy Cont.

Guzmán is a self-proclaimed bridge builder, award-winning author, Mexican-American immigrant, and liberal journalist who encourages people to be receptive listeners. As the daughter of Republican Mexican immigrants, Guzmán recalls her home was never without argument. Over time, she learned to listen more intently to those of opposing political stances, like her parents. When Guzmán's parents voted for Trump in 2020, she was fearful a political schism would take place within her family. In navigating this familial hurdle, Guzmán said she learned the importance of intellectual humility and giving people the benefit of the doubt. "People can only hear when they're heard," she said.

During assembly, Guzmán shared her thoughts on how healthy debate can thrive on campus. She felt debates should cover divisive topics, but everyone should be participating in a "collective search for truth."

"[The] central idea of Monica Guzmán's talk was [about] being curious about others' perspectives and question[ing] certainty,"

Upper Catherine Yan said when reflecting on the assembly. Guzmán

emphasized how curiosity and friction are necessary for debate, but felt that the two sides should be collaborating, not arguing.

Republican Club co-head and senior Carter Otis found Guzmán and her parents' strong relationship albeit their contrasting views noteworthy. "I think it's really important to be able to maintain a healthy relationship with people [you] disagree [with]. I have a lot of people who come to my club regularly that I really disagree with. I don't think they're correct, but I do listen to them and I also learn from them. You're never always right."

Some students found Guzmán's speech to be relevant to Academy life, particularly the Harkness method. "We can make the Harkness table less daunting by ensuring that students feel safe being vocal about their opinions," prep Ava Salvador said. "There should be no imbalance of power at the round table."

Senior Leo Braham, another Republican Club co-head, shared a different perspective. Braham sided with Guzmán on bridge building and appreciated the school for bringing her in to speak. However, he believed that her message was, "Too little, too late."



Students talk with assembly speaker Monica Guzmán.

Austin Desisto / The Exonian

Braham stated that while he feels comfortable sharing his political beliefs with others at the academy, he knows many other students are afraid to state their opinions, specifically at the Harkness table. He felt that this was completely contradictory to what Harkness is supposed to be about, and pushed for mutual respect of opposing political views at the Harkness table. However, he emphasized his appreciation towards the academy for their reflection on the political divide, and how they are working to create a space for everyone to share their opinions,

as shown by the Guzmán assembly.

"A lot of my political beliefs align with my [views] on human rights, so, sometimes discussing them with people who have opposing political beliefs can put me in unsafe and compromising situations," Salvador said. As a community, Salvador believes the school needs to better cater to the needs of Exeter's diverse student body. While many students feel safe sharing their political alliances, Salvador remarked that marginalized students on campus sometimes do not feel comfortable sharing their views.

Democratic Club co-head Aliyana Koch-Manzur believes the school could be a safer place for healthy discourse if community members learn to consider opposing viewpoints, regardless if they are outside of their own political spectrum. "From the view that Exeter's coming from, we tend to look at everything with a very liberal point of view without really considering that half of this country is conservative. We also look at it from a bit of a place of privilege. So I thought what she was trying to emphasize, asking questions and not coming into political discussions without any preconceived notion, was a good thing to emphasize on this campus,"

Otis emphasized the importance of diversity

of thought mentioned in the assembly. "One element of her talk that I really liked was [that] just because someone disagrees with you, it doesn't mean

*"Molding our students into good democratic citizens ought to be an even higher priority for Exeter — and any American high school — than getting our students into the best possible college."*

they hate everything. It just means that they have a different order of priorities. For immigration for example, maybe they prioritize their security over humanity or economic policy. It's important to [note] they're not an evil person. They just have a different set of priorities."

Instructor in American history Bill Jordan has followed Guzman's work for several years and has done his part to include such models in his curriculum. "I've been following her Braver Angels group since I read about it in 2017 and have been promoting similar ideas in my courses for decades—especially in my Politics and Public Policy course," Jordan wrote. "Molding our students into good democratic citizens ought to be an even higher priority for

Exeter—and any American high school—than getting our students into the best possible college."

Along with learning about government, Jordan said, "Citizenship education should involve teaching students to practice epistemic humility, open-mindedness and how to live and compromise with adversaries rather than go to war with them."

Students hold out hopes for future assemblies similar to this one. "I think it's interesting that the school seems to [have focused] on bipartisanship for two assemblies in a row. I think it is a bit of an issue on our campus and in the country as a whole. So, I like that we're doing this, even if some of the execution could have been done a bit better," Koch-Manzur said.

"I hope talks like this and bringing in conservatives like Governor Sununu (a past assembly guest) helps people change—not necessarily [to] become more affiliated with one party or the other, but [to] just get used to hearing different views," Otis said. "I do appreciate that the school is saying we need to have more people with different views [at assemblies], but I also do want to make sure the school follows through on that."



Assembly speaker Monica Guzmán presenting.

Austin Desisto / The Exonian



Principal Rawson in attendance at assembly with guest speaker Monica Guzmán.

Austin Desisto / The Exonian

# Clubs Reflect on Underclassmen Participation

By EVANDIERBERG,  
JOONYOUNG HEO, and  
ROX PARK

Despite some speculation that clubs on campus have seen a general drop in participation among lowerclassmen, most clubs have not experienced any significant decrease in membership.

Due to the many restrictions and precautions established during the pandemic, club participation had notably dwindled. There was concern this year that clubs, perhaps from lasting effects of COVID-19, had not recovered to pre-pandemic numbers. On the contrary, however, students and faculty recount that most clubs have either retained or significantly grown their membership relative to previous years.

this year we've managed to match it, with more than 60 people trying out and at least 30 more interested. We haven't seen a drop in membership at all."

The Exeter Economics Association — another club with competitive components — also attracted many newcomers. "Over the last two meetings, we've had more than 40 members per meeting—that's a lot compared to previous years," upper and cohead Dhruv Nagarajan said. "A lot of the participation comes from the underclassmen because they're the most interested in joining the club. But we've also seen higher retention rates of upperclassmen."

This positive trend was not limited to the most competitive clubs. "The a cappella groups had really good turnout," upper and cohead Emma

new faces and new preps,

*"A lot of the participation comes from the underclassmen because they're the most interested in joining the club. But we've also seen higher retention rates of upperclassmen."*

so that was nice."

Republican Club had a similar experience. "Our numbers are pretty close to last year's," senior and cohead Leo Braham said. "Especially near the beginning of the term. It was something like 20 people. We were meeting for dinner so people were coming in and out, but it stayed around that number. It's a good group, especially with all the new faces this year. I think interest will only grow as

general increase in club publicity, these clubs jumped at the opportunity.

"Our a cappella groups had lots of interest even before club night and lots after, all due to PR representation around campus," Sordi said. "Also helpful was that we announced the audition for a cappella groups during concert choir, so that got a lot of people interested."

Other clubs have explicitly promoted opportunities for competition. "For economics, we were able to advertise our club success on a national level in terms of competitions," Nagarajan said. "That really enticed a lot of the younger students to join and give it a shot. Quiz bowl was very enticing as well."

Nagarajan, who also helps to lead the Business Club, said, "This year's meetings are a lot more

to the lower classes or underclassmen as well. We do have some people in the 2025 class who seem interested, which is always promising."

As with all generalizations, of course, a handful of clubs have indeed seen a slight decrease in membership, for a number of other reasons. New clubs, for instance, struggled with drawing new members because they felt overshadowed by more popular and well-established clubs.

As a cohead of the newly formed Go Club, upper Davido Zhang suggested a way to combat this issue. "From the logistics side, for Student Activities, what they could have done better for new clubs is send an email saying, 'Hey, these are the new clubs.' That's it," Zhang said. "There should be a way to bring extra

participate in, then stop attending them a few weeks later. Many feel pressured by their friends to sign up for similar clubs. In addition, older students tend to lose interest in participating if they feel that they cannot gain something from it in return.

"A lot of the people who attended Philosophy Club last year might have been lowers or uppers looking for coheadships, so now they don't attend, or they simply don't have the time this year," Altman said. "It's a shame because it's difficult to maintain people without an incentive in the rushed environment of Exeter. To keep people in clubs if they don't have aspirations to be cohead, you need to keep them interested somehow. One can pretty easily do that if the club is a competition or something of the like, or really any competitive event a club can lead up to, but that's not in line with the nature of most clubs."

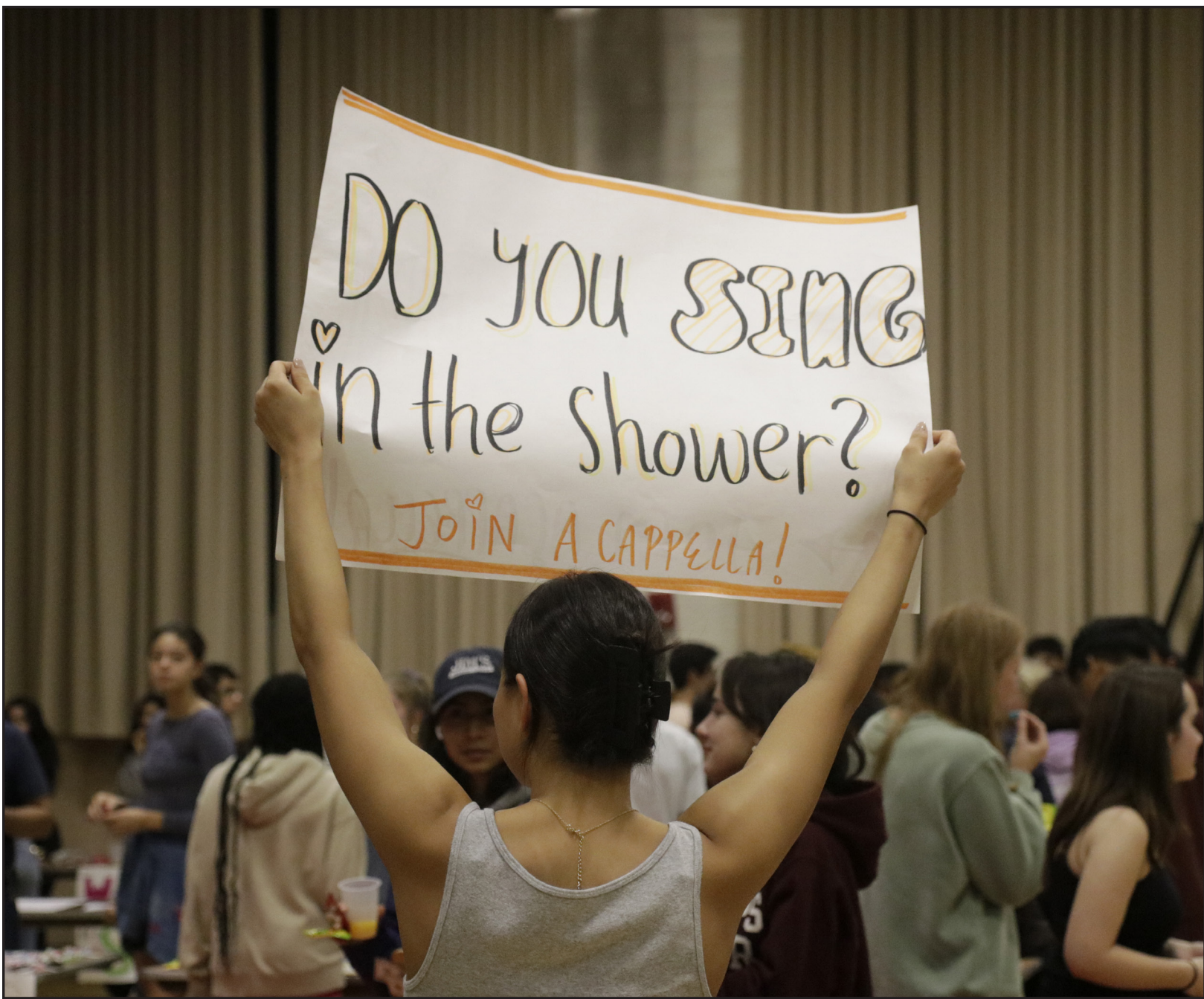
"I mean it all starts with competition, right?" Zhang said. "The only reason why we are so inclined to get all of these positions is because people around us are getting them. It's almost as if it's purely peer pressure."

Many students also feel that the role of clubs on campus, which has always been a source of friendly competition, is shifting from previous years.

"I think it's an overall trend ever since COVID that people have less enthusiasm for clubs, and I don't know why," Zhang said. "I've heard people say it's related to grade inflation, or it's just that students don't want to do clubs, which could mean that there's a different type of students going to this school. If you're committed to clubs, that basically means that you have to be a part of a community. Otherwise, what's the point? Then you're just doing all this extra work. I feel like people are reluctant to do this now or maybe have just found better ways of balancing academics and their free time."

For his part, Yun considered the factor of stress, which has famously been a defining aspect of the Exonian experience for decades. "Someone told me that during COVID they made some sort of rule that you can't have any new competitive clubs be made from that point on, meaning clubs that compete interscholastically," he said. "I think the motive was to take away the competitive nature of clubs, because it was stressing kids out too much and giving them too much of a workload," he said. "And I think you can kind of see that shift in culture across all clubs and just across campus in general."

As it turns out, then, there remain several unresolved issues about the nature of club participation and the lack of exposure for certain clubs. Still, while the pandemic raised concerns about dropping student engagement in these extracurriculars, there has not been any general decrease this year. Club leaders are hoping this trend will sustain itself and wind upward in the coming months, as the community continues to adjust to new norms in the post-pandemic era.



Clubs showcased their creative and eye-catching posters at Club Expo.

Victoria Liu / *The Exonian*

Competitive clubs on campus have easily observed significant increases in participation. "Debate had more than 60 people turn up last Tuesday," senior and Daniel Webster Debate Society (DWDS) cohead Colin Jung said. "Preps and lowers in particular seemed excited. One told me it was a great meeting. They were excited to continue with debate and very impressed by the exhibition round. The numbers were much higher than in recent years."

A large part of the club's consistently high membership rate is its reputation and competitive nature. "Debate always gets a lot of members as one of the major clubs on campus," senior and DWDS cohead James Yun said. "It's hard to compare with membership before COVID, but our turnout this year has been good. I think the current board has done a great job of getting a lot of engagement."

Mock Trial was a similar case. "Tryout sign-ups have been increasing at a linear rate," Jung, who is also a cohead of the Mock Trial club, said. "Our information session last Thursday had great turnout. Last year was historically successful, and

Sordi said. "We had over 40 people audition and we could fill a lot of our groups with those people. Interestingly, we had many more lowers than preps. I don't really know why, but it was nice to get lots of new lowerclassmen anyway."

*"I think the motive was to take away the competitive nature of clubs, because it was stressing kids out too much and giving them too much of a workload."*

Many clubs that did not see a notable increase in membership still managed to retain their numbers from previous years. "Around 15 people showed up to Philosophy Club last Sunday," lower and cohead Sam Altman said. "Last year our attendance fluctuated a lot depending on the time of year, but in general our numbers now certainly would've been close to our peak last year. It's hard to tell how long people will stay throughout the year, but most of our new attendees were actually

the year goes on and more presidential candidates come to Exeter."

Performance-based groups also saw growth following last year's revival of in-person events. "Our big event for Exeter Association of Rock (EAR) was the assembly we had last winter with the whole school in attendance, which helped us get a name out because I think COVID really killed a lot of the momentum of that club," senior and cohead Ayaan Akhtar said. "We've been having a full-school assembly every year for decades now, but there was a three-year gap in between, which is almost enough to phase it out if you're thinking of people who are here for four years."

EAR saw immediate success in spring following winter's full-school assembly. Akhtar said, "We had about 13 bands sign up for a spring show and about five sign up for the winter assembly. So our numbers more than doubled, just from a little bit of exposure."

The success of these clubs had a common theme. As COVID's dwindling presence made space for info sessions, word of mouth, and a

multi-dimensional than in past years. We have case studies, guest speakers, lots of general events, and business competitions. Those speak to a broad range of students."

Certain clubs even coordinated their meetings to avoid scheduling conflicts and attract as many lowerclassmen as possible. In particular, Jung, who is also a cohead of the Legal Society, Ethics Forum, and Catholic Exonians, saw great turnout with this strategy.

"These clubs have an upward trajectory because we go to great lengths to make sure they're accessible," Jung said. "We make sure to work with those clubs and not against them, and that's possible because I'm in charge of many clubs that similar interest groups tend to go to. We've really seen high turnout because of it."

Alternatively, some clubs have seen results based largely on chance, particularly as extracurricular interests shift from class to class. "It is kind of a problem that a lot of the student musicians are in the class of 2024," Akhtar said. "So we're trying really hard to reach out

attention to just the new clubs somehow, because a lot of the clubs do depend on the previous coheads or participants introducing them to the new students, and new clubs just don't have that."

In contrast to her a cappella club, Sordi observed less interest in auditions for DRAMAT, the drama club, for a similar reason. "We didn't publicize the way we should have," she said. "We should've talked to people in plays. The club is going through a dry spell probably because of the low publicity. Last year there wasn't much club presence on campus, either."

The amount of time and energy that members must commit to certain clubs also plays a role. "There are clubs that a lot of people want to do that are also a large time commitment, but there are also a lot of high-commitment clubs that are very specific in interest so they don't bring in a lot of new members," upper Byran Huang said, a cohead of the Robotics Club and its competitive MUREX team.

Another issue is that new students traditionally sign up for more clubs than they will actually

# Academy Responds to Rise in COVID-19 Cases

By **ETHANDING, ADELLE PITTS, LILY RAMPE, MARVIN SHIM, and HUGO SHINN**

In a school-wide email sent on Sept. 28, Academy Medical Director Katy Lilly confirmed the rise in COVID cases and other illnesses on campus. As there have been four to seven reported COVID cases each day, Lilly shared that the Health Center will be used for quarantining students with more severe symptoms. Students with milder symptoms will quarantine at home, if they live within a 250-mile radius, or in their dorms, if they do not share a room with another student.

Students who were quarantined in the Health Center shared their experiences. “I stayed on the second floor, where all the infirmaries are. The nurses really tried to make that place feel like home. One of the nurses in particular brought us tea every night, and the other nurses were always very accommodating,” senior Katelyn Cui said.

“The nurses were always super helpful and willing to make me ramen, and I have no complaints about the Health Center itself,” lower Maya Shah added.

Students who lived within a 5-hour radius were expected to quarantine at home. “I eventually drove home to isolate, but I did spend one night in the Health Center before that,” upper Lucy Previn said. “While I was there the nurses all took great care of me. There’s a button to press if you need any help in the rooms, and there was always someone that came within a few minutes when I called in the night.”

Some students who quarantined at home appreciated the comfort and interaction of being close to family. “It was obviously an inconvenience for my mom to drive up, but I’m happy I got to go home. Staying in the Health Center was a pretty isolating experience,” Previn shared. “You’re in a very small room, and it’s kind of depressing when you’re there for hours on end with nothing to do, while you’re sick. At home, you’re in a more comfortable environment, you can have basically whatever food you want, and you’re going to be more taken care of.”

Other students felt that having to drive home while sick was inconvenient, but necessary. “It is kind of a disruption to go home, and it’s also putting your

family at risk. I was a little bit frustrated, but I think the Health Center is so full that it’s really an act of non sibi to go home,” senior Maeve Kennedy said.

For many students, COVID created an obstacle academically. “Part of it was the break in the rhythm. I think that to be able to thrive at Exeter, I have to have a certain momentum. So, being sick can interrupt that,” Cui said.

Confusion surrounding options for keeping up with classes while sick was another issue. “I didn’t know that I had the option of online classes. I just assumed that everything was in person. I was doing the homework, and I emailed all my teachers,” Shah shared. “However, we weren’t able to communicate very well because it’s hard to send over all the coursework and [the content of each] Harkness discussion.”

Beyond academics, students felt that quarantining so early in the school year was hard socially. “I’m a new student and a new lower, so I’m just getting in the hang of things, and I don’t have the fallback of a prep. I was set back in terms of making friendships because to make new friendships you have to be around a lot,” Shah said.

“Something that really makes Exeter work is being around other people and having their love of learning as well and their interest in classes or just having passing conversations with them. Trying to keep up with school is so much more difficult in quarantine because these passing conversations are really rejuvenating and motivating,” senior Katelyn Cui said.

Some students felt that Harkness may also play a role in COVID risks. “The entire purpose of Harkness is to discuss and to speak towards the table. All these requirements of Harkness spread COVID. It puts every student at a greater risk,” prep Bryan Cho said.

Considering the number of COVID cases, some students believe the Academy should have implemented masking policies. “I think having people wear masks would have definitely helped, especially since towards the second week is when people start getting stressed out, and I know that impacts people’s sleep and immune system,” Cui said.

“I think that enforcing mask-wearing, at least in really crowded spaces such

as Assembly, where it was hot, stuffy, and there isn’t any airflow, would have been really helpful in the beginning,” Cui said.

Prep Henry Hazelton disagreed. “I don’t think the school should have required masks as it would have impacted the overall beginning experience of Exeter. Having too many restrictions would have been detrimental to making new friends.”

Other students who utilized the Health Center felt that the rise in COVID cases made wait times much longer. “I have issues with the disorganization and the policies of the health center. I think that they were inefficient and need to communicate with the [rest of the] school better. They didn’t even tell any of my dorm faculty that they were sending someone with active strep back to the dorm,” lower Tristan Price said.

Prep Noa Wood added, “The health center was really understaffed. I tested negative for COVID, but I still had to wait a long time. I was deferred for at least an hour to an hour and a half.”

Shah also noted that she felt the Academy’s current vaccination policy should be changed. “I believe that vaccines should be mandatory given the pandemic that we’ve all been through,” Shah said.

Though quarantining was a difficult experience, students greatly appreciated the effort of Health Center staff to make them feel at home. “It can be difficult to take care of a bunch of sick high schoolers, and the Health Center staff worked really hard to make our experience as comfortable as possible,” shared Cui.

“I think there are always going to be things that you’re not happy with if you’re sick and waiting in the Health Center. In my experience, I was treated very kindly and my overall experience was very positive considering how overwhelmed they were with everything,” Kennedy said.

Despite some of his dissatisfactions with his experience with the Health Center, Price believed that Health Center staff were doing the best they could. “The nurses and doctors there are all very kind. They don’t have the numbers to keep up with all the new cases. Although there are some inconveniences with the system, they’re trying their hardest to keep everyone safe,” Price said.

# Student Council Reveals Plans for 2023-2024 School Year

By **ANNA BYUN, WILLIAMINOUE, LUCY JUNG, HEMANI STALLARD, and JADE YOO**

On Sep. 12, the Student Council held its first meeting of the ‘23-’24 academic year. During the meeting, on behalf of the Student Council, President Kevin Treehan presented a list of goals that outlined the Student Council’s overall objectives for the coming year. Following the meeting, a document detailing these goals was sent out, elaborating on committee-specific objectives, such as reform to policies within the Community Conduct Committee (CCC) or free detergent tap for students. In addition to this initiative, a Student Council Canvas page was created to keep track of each committee’s progress.

The Student Council Executive Board this year is composed of four members: President Kevin Treehan ‘24, Vice-President Will Soh ‘24, and co-Secretaries Emilia Kniestedt ‘24 and Caspar Bailey ‘25.

Treehan gave an overview of the direction the Student Council was heading this year. “The approach that we’re taking is a lot more initiative-driven than committee-driven, which means we’ve changed a lot of the ways we’re conducting meetings. Instead of having committee reports, we’re now focusing on presenting the progress of the individual projects that we’re working on.”

The Executive Board has since delegated varying tasks to different committees to implement such policies. Of those, the Policy Committee was tasked with ironing out the Vs, CCC, and revised dress code policies. Co-Head and lower Forrest Zeng explained, “Our goal over the next few weeks is to get closed for Vs for seniors from January onward, after their college applications are done. We are doing this on the precedent of Andover’s policy, which allows for a similar policy.”

Zeng also noted the Policy Committee’s focus on implementing a grading feedback deadline policy, which has been in motion since the past spring. “Essentially, on major assignments such

as tests or essays, teachers have to give you the assignment, fully graded, within two weeks. Through this, we want to create accountability between the students and teachers.” Zeng anticipates the policy to be implemented in the next few weeks, as the policy committee continues to progress on other initiatives such as CCC reform, self-medication for students, and closed-door visitations for seniors.

Soh elaborated on the CCC reform initiatives: “We’re aiming to ensure mental health is a greater consideration in the CCC process, we hope to ensure that CAPS counselors are available upon request while cases are being heard and to ensure that mental health considerations are factored into the CCC decision.”

As for the dress code, Zeng explained, “We hope to have a clearer policy on dress code by the end of fall term. The faculty are having a meeting to discuss the dress code soon, and the Student Council will send a representative, Andrew Yuan, to represent the student’s opinions.”

Other committees, such as Student Life, are also aiming to pass new policies. When asked about the Student Life committee’s goals for this upcoming year, co-head and lower Kamilah Abilah noted their focus on “electric detergent taps.” Abilah explained, “This enables students to obtain free, green cleaning products anytime they require them. It has cut the use of potentially harmful chemical cleaners by 90% at Stanford, saving students money. So, we’re hoping the Exeter community can do the same.”

Abilah also mentioned the committee’s plan to simplify the process for dorm funding requests. “Student Life wishes to increase our dorm finances to have two rounds throughout the year rather than just one near the end of the year. As a result, dorms will find it much simpler to acquire what they want when they want.”

This change is also being spearheaded by the Treasury Committee. Co-head and senior Aavik Wadivkar explained, “While we’re using the same schema of dorm funds as last year, we will have a much tighter turnaround for fund processing. Instead of

the process lasting months and over a term, we (along with StuLife and the Exec board) aim to have everything.”

In the future, the Treasury Committee also hopes to increase transparency about the Student Council’s budget. “This year, we’d like to really push for participation in our internal budget requests (ie. requests that are handled by the committee and not the Student Council as a whole) as well as further advertising use of our budget. We have \$40K - we’d like to use quite a bit of it this year!” Wadivkar concluded.

Though the Mental Health Committee does not have concrete plans in place, co-head and senior Amber Zou shared that similar social wellness events, such as distributing boba and succulents, will be on the agenda. “We are hoping to promote relaxation and community building, and create a closer bridge of communication between CAPS, the administration, and the student body.”

For the Recreation Committee, revitalizing past campus life events is its top priority. “We’ve been trying to create some more events and bring back more life to campus, especially after the long period of time we couldn’t plan any events due to the pandemic,” co-head and upper Anna Holtz said. She continued, giving a rundown of the upcoming Rec events this term: “A recent success we’ve had is the Eversons, who came last weekend. We also have the neon dance [on September 30th] and another semiformal on November 4th. We also of course have E/A pep rallies and pep assembly...[but] we also want to create a wider variety of events for students, aside from dances.”

Outside of the implementation of new school-wide policies, the Student Council also implemented changes to its internal operation. Notably, weekly Sunday committee meetings will no longer occur, now limited to weekly Tuesday meetings. Instead, the tasks originally delegated to committees on Sundays will be sent out via Slack, a messaging app designed for business organizations.

## The Exonian

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

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# Senior of the Week: Advay Nomula

By EVAN DIERBERG, PHINN GIBBS, KAI GOWDA, LAUREN LEE, and JULIA ZHOU

In the early hours of the morning, while most students are still fast asleep in their dorms, senior Advay Nomula rushes to catch the 680 Downeaster Amtrak before it leaves. He leaves Dover, New Hampshire, before the sun rises and starts his 40-minute commute to the Academy, running shoes and school books in hand.

Nomula is no doubt an influential figure around campus. Day student proctor for Webster Hall, co-captain of the boys cross-country team, and co-head of both Engineering and Subcontinent Society, Nomula does it all. Whether you find him brightening the library's second floor with dad jokes among friends or assisting fellow students with challenging physics assignments at the Learning Center, he is an integral member of the community.

When deciding to apply to Exeter, Nomula says he was drawn to something most would be wary of: the academic rigor. "A big reason was academics, because I knew I could get a better education here [than my local high school]. The courses would be more challenging and rigorous. I felt like I was exhausting rigor in my old school district. I knew there'd be other opportunities that I could explore, too," he said.

A fundamental aspect of Nomula's Exeter experience is his daily commute to school. "I live far away in a choice town [at a distance where students can choose to be a boarding or day student]. I applied to Exeter so I could be a day student. The nice thing is that there is a train, from Dover to Exeter, and so I take that," he explained.

"The problem is that the train is really early," he continued. "It's at 6:17 a.m., so I get to campus pretty early, before the dining hall even opens. I wake up at 5:30 to 5:40 every morning, take the train — that's my experience as a day student. It's kind of unique," Nomula shared.

Nomula's parents hail from the South Indian states of Hyderabad and Warangal. "We're a Telugu family, a Hindu family, and so I carry those values with me through my life. I stay connected with my Telugu side by watching movies and listening to music," Nomula said.

He has also maintained this connection through his participation and leadership in Subcontinent Society. Describing his experience in the club, Nomula said, "Hanging out with fellow brown people, people who you know have some similarities with you, is cool. You can learn a lot about people who are like you that you wouldn't even think of, and experiences that other people have that are a lot different from you, even though they're very similar to you."

Upper Siri Bompelli, a fellow co-head of Subcontinent Society, attended the same elementary and middle school as Nomula. "He's really smart and really hard working. He's always super helpful and is willing to help you whenever

you need it," Bompelli said.

Not only does he maintain a strong internal connection to his heritage, Nomula actively seeks to share his culture with his community. For the Subcontinent Society Relay for Life booth, he and his family made a traditional dish, pani puri. "[Advay] encouraged me to try one, and even though I have terrible spice tolerance, I decided to give it a shot," lower Ethan Benenson, Nomula's friend and cross-country teammate, reflected. "Right away I felt like I was burning up. Advay laughed and offered me the deep-fried breaded sphere without the spicy liquid inside. Even though there were a lot of people around, because of how Advay handled it, I didn't feel embarrassed at all."

Nomula approaches his work as the Subcontinent Society co-head with a willingness to learn and grow every day. "You can learn a lot from people who are like you, and learn from experiences that people have that are different from yours," he said.

Besides his leadership in Subcontinent Society, Nomula also co-leads the Engineering Club. Nomula shared some of the club activities: "We enjoy building things, using resources in the design lab, like small circuits, or making something using 3D printing is pretty cool."

Engineering Club co-head and senior Alinne Romero-Torres noted, "I think he always has some enthusiasm when he brings ideas to the table and he seems genuinely excited about what he's doing or what he can bring to a group."

This curiosity and drive is also evident in Nomula's pursuit of his academic interests. "I'm a big math guy," Nomula said. "I think this doesn't happen to most people, but after coming to Exeter, I started to love math a lot more. Maybe it's because of the way they teach it, because there was just a whole new vat of knowledge that I was not exposed to at all."

Nomula truly appreciates classes that challenge his intuition and provoke more nuanced analysis. "Last year I took CSC590 — a software solutions course. Our class learned to think about a software solution and not just the programming part of it, but also the actual problem you're trying to solve, including how you pitch it, how you market, or how to get the solution across. Thinking about softwares and all those different facets was pretty eye-opening."

"And as a final project with Enzo [Nakomsri] and Catherine [Wu], we made a game out of it, called Exeter Sims, so that was fun," Nomula continued.

Apart from his extracurriculars and academics, Nomula is a committed distance runner and co-leads the cross-country team. "I run cross-country and distance track. Growing up, I've been pretty connected to running, so that's always fun. I look forward to the practices and even on a Sunday, or even when we don't actually have an official practice. Sometimes, getting what we call a 'Sunday Shakeout,' a quick short run, really easy

paced, with my teammates, is pretty fun."

Upper Pearce Covert echoed Nomula's commitment to the sport, noting, "Over the summer he did the most mileage out of anyone this year. I think that goes to show his work ethic and his drive. He doubled the amount of mileage I did over the summer, which is absolutely crazy to me."

Nomula recalled some highlights from his running career at Exeter. "Some of the big cross-country meets that we've had, such as Interscholastics my lower year, when all four of our teams [both Varsities and both JV teams] won — that was a pretty cool day," Nomula said.

Nomula recalled memories with close friends at the Academy. "In the spring, playing spikeball on the lawn, till it's dark and just hanging out. I think those are the things I'll remember."

Senior Anna Kim commented on their group's daily ritual. "We have a breakfast table that everyone comes to and he's always super upbeat. Even if it's 8:00 a.m., no one wants to go. He has such a positive energy. The breakfast example is something that really speaks to me. I know that every day when I see him, at the breakfast table, he's always gonna have a good attitude and is gonna crack a joke or two. And that's such a good way to start the day."

Similarly, senior Rex Bedwick recalled his most prominent memory of Nomula. "I flat-tired and tripped him during my first time trial. We went out and we had no idea what we were doing and we were sprinting out off the start line. I tripped him from behind and then he rolled into the grass and fell forward and ripped his knee off really badly and it was very bloody. I remember after the race, I pulled him over and apologized. This is not that exciting a story, but it just reminds me of what a cool guy he was about it, because I screwed up his entire race and he was not holding it against me."

For senior and co-captain of cross-country Malcom Courchesne, "One thing I always have thought about Advay was that when you're around him, he's always willing to help you with homework or something like that. He's always gonna say, 'Here's how you do it.'"

Many of Nomula's friends share anecdotes about his personality. Senior Sam Pangan, a close friend of Nomula's, described some of his best qualities: "He's really willing to help people, which is one of his strongest assets, I think. And he just has this quality about him that makes him very approachable."

"I think Advay's ability to not take himself too seriously is something that sticks out, especially at Exeter. Where that shines through for me most is when we're playing spike ball together," Pangan said.

Pangan continued, "He's one of the few people that I can confidently say no one dislikes at all. He's just the most lovable person who knows how to diffuse a situation really well."

Nomula shared pieces of advice with the community.



Senior Advay Nomula poses for a photo on the library lawn. Austin Desisto/The Exonian

"When I was a lower, one of the seniors on the cross country team gave me this really good analogy, which I still live by. And I guess I'd tell other people that, too: If you add more lanes to the highway, the traffic won't get better. The traffic will stay the same. And so even if you are given more time and more time, there's just gonna be more work that fills that time or you don't use that time as productively. It's not a blessing to have a ton of time, but if you don't have as much time, you might be more productive to use your time wisely. And I guess be thankful for what you have."

Nomula continued, "We think that, since we're so young, one year of our lives feels a lot longer than someone who's 40 or 50. So what we're doing now is really only a small part of our lives, a lot smaller than we think of it, and so it's important to have a well-balanced life — academically, socially, athletically, and things like that. Know not to take yourself too seriously, and just go with the flow."

Pangan agreed, "He's told me half jokingly, half serious, if you are always wondering if the cup is half empty or half full, you'll never actually drink the water. I think that says a lot about Advay as a person."

Senior Eamin Ahmed similarly stated, "I'd say I can't think of a specific instance, but I know as his teammate on the cross-country team he is always looking out for everyone else. Especially in my lower year when I had to run track and he had more experience than I had, even like him having done middle school cross-country. He was just always giving me advice, giving other people advice. I think that is why we made him one of our captains. Just because of the experience he has, and the way he is really able to connect to people on a one on one basis."

Nomula's impact goes beyond accolades and awards; it extends to the lasting impressions he leaves on those around him. Friends, teammates, mentors, and fellow students all speak to his unwavering kindness, his humble nature, and his

ability to uplift the spirits of those he encounters.

Members of the Exeter community shared collections of memories regarding Nomula's legacy.

Reverend Bonnie Jean Casey, who works with Nomula for Hindu Society, commented, "I think he just has natural leadership qualities. He is a quiet leader, but he's persistent and he's very inclusive. He really works to include other people. He's also really willing to put the work in himself."

"To me, Advay really embodies so much of what Exeter is about. He definitely has non sibi and just exemplifies the whole idea of uniting knowledge with goodness," Casey continued.

Music Instructor and Nomula's advisor Eric Schultz shared, "When Advay was awarded the Gavit cup, an award given to one of the most outstanding members of the Upper grade class, it was a beautiful moment."

"Advay has spent three years being the very best student and person he could be," Schultz continued. "Working very hard to be the all-around excellent human being that he is. Mostly, he was flying under the radar. His goodness is so consistent across everything that he does, it was great to see him finally get that recognition."

Ahmed agreed, "Advay is behind some of those things that we don't always take the time to properly recognize but he has just done such a service to this community and he has just been such a good resource to this community in the last four years."

Many fellow Webster members also shared how Nomula has demonstrated his leadership in the dorm community. "Advay is a downright great person," senior and proctor Sangye Sherpa said. "He has been a day student proctor in Webster for two years now, and he always sends the dorm an email when it's someone's birthday."

Senior and proctor Harrison McGovern had similar sentiments. "It is with no exaggeration that I say Advay is the best day student in Webster Hall, if not the entire school. As

both the bearer of birthday announcements and a consistent figure in Fac/Proc, Advay brings an energy and kindness that are unrivaled on this campus," he said.

Sherpa continued to share anecdotes with Nomula, including how "Advay can type over two hundred words per minute."

"Last year, Advay wrote announcement emails for every student's birthday in Webster Hall. Without him, I would not have remembered my own birthday," McGovern noted.

Nomula's presence on campus is nothing short of remarkable. His commitment to both his academic pursuits and his numerous leadership roles demonstrates a level of dedication and passion that is truly inspiring. Whether he's leading the cross-country team to victory, co-heading the Engineering and Subcontinent Society, or helping fellow students with their studies, Nomula consistently brings his positive energy and willingness to make a difference.

Nomula concluded with a word of advice for Exonians. "Usually as seniors, when we step into the roles of leadership, we're just bringing our own flavor to what all the seniors have done before us. And so I'd say what I'm bringing to this campus is continuing the clubs that I'm a part of. So just continuing the legacy — like in the cross-country team or Subcontinent Society — just like keeping them running and keeping them running well."

"There's a lot of stuff that you don't know about the world and about people and that doesn't mean that you have to know everything. But I think being aware that you don't know is an important skill. And I feel like I've gotten to be very considerate of what people could be going through, what people have gone through, and so I think that's how I've grown. I've also grown to be more aware of myself and how I'm feeling and acknowledging how I'm feeling — being able to take some time for myself not to feel socially pressured and just to be my own person," Nomula concluded.

# Faculty of the Week: Genny Moriarty

By ETHAN DING, AMY LIN, and MAX MANTEL

In a warm classroom in the basement of Phillips Hall, students discuss carefully constructed questions about the previous night's reading. As they return to the table, discussion starts and English Instructor Genny Moriarty thoughtfully observes. After class, students who want a second pair of eyes to look at their English essay, or want advice on how to approach a physics problem, take a sigh of relief when they receive her email: Learning Center Open Tonight! To those that know her well, she is a favorite teacher, a supportive advisor, and a savior in the Learning Center. For everyone else, she is one of the most amiable and encouraging teachers one can hope to find on Exeter's campus.

When asked about teaching at Exeter, Moriarty reflected upon the familial significance the school holds to her. "It's kind of a family affair because Mr. Moriarty and I both work here and our kids have grown up on campus. Two of them graduated from here and they've all spent some time as students here as well," Moriarty said.

Moriarty initially moved to Exeter with her husband when he first got a job at the school. "It's been 15 years that we've lived on campus, but when [Mr. Moriarty and I] moved here, he took a job in the English department," Moriarty said. "At the time, our kids were small, and I was working part-time. I did some tutoring and some freelance writing that allowed me to be home with my kids when they were little. Then about 10 years ago, I started teaching part-time here and at my kids' school. And then I went full-time [at Exeter] for several years; I was working in the Communications Office, but I really missed being in the classroom. So, about five years ago, I left the Communications Office to go back into teaching and I've done that since then. Sometimes it's been part-time, but now I'm full-time, teaching and directing the Learning Centers."

In the classroom, Moriarty is sure to focus on what students are able to walk away with. "I hope that they feel a couple of things. I hope they feel able to consider ideas from multiple perspectives. I hope they feel willing to hear what someone else has to say, even if they don't agree with them. I hope they feel confident in expressing their ideas. I hope they feel that they can and have developed their own voices and kind of trust in them. Those are some of the things that I wish for all of our students and then more specifically in my classroom that we work on," Moriarty said.

The effect of this teaching style is evident. "I think something really great about her is that she's always willing to meet you where you are. If you're in the very



Ms. Moriarty smiles in her English classroom.

beginning of your process or later on, she's always there to make you be the best you can be for where you are," senior Parnis Mokhtari-Dizaji said. "She doesn't really make you feel uncomfortable. For example, I struggled with narrative writing especially because I was talking about some very personal parts of my own life and she was very understanding and worked with me to figure out what I wanted to convey rather than what she thinks I should convey."

Upper Nia Harris agreed with this, and elaborated on how Moriarty's unique teaching style has allowed her writing to grow. "What it is with writing [is that] Ms. Moriarty gives us a lot of time to really work through it, and she's so understanding when I have like half of my stuff done and she's like, 'No, it's okay.' You can work from here and this is good. It gives actual valuable information," Harris said.

On top of just teaching in the classroom, Moriarty has also taken the initiative to help with the Learning Center and has taken action to improve the space on a day-to-day level as well as an administrative one. "I think it's been really rewarding and it has grown tremendously. I want to do more training with our Peer Tutors this year, and now that we're over in the libraries, there are some systems to work out so that there are shorter waiting lines for STEM help. But I

love seeing how many Peer Tutors [there are], kids who are excited to join, that want to help their classmates," Moriarty said.

Student tutors at the Learning Center were quick to share how Moriarty has helped them. "She worked with the Head Tutors to transition it from a student-run club to a more institutional organization where faculty members and students are both tutoring and also having this coordinated effort where Head Tutors provided Peer Tutors with professional training," Head Tutor and senior Andrew Yuan said. "She has really brought on a lot of bold ideas in terms of how we can function better as a learning center and pays extremely detailed attention to how we as students and student leaders and head tutors are tutoring students in a responsible and respectful way that's in line with our school's mission."

Fellow Head Tutor and senior Valentina Zhang agreed with Yuan. "Before [the Learning Center] started, she had a meeting and she got all of [the tutors] pizza and she just hosted this [meeting], and she facilitated a discussion for us about how we could make the Learning Center a better place. I took away from that discussion and conversation that she genuinely cares so much about the wellbeing of the students. She really wants to make sure that people who come to the Learning

Center get the help that they need. And she's just always thinking of better ways to support the student body at Exeter and her students in her English class."

Throughout her various roles on campus, both students and faculty noted Moriarty's commitment to creating safe spaces. "Within the classroom she nurtures a safe and welcoming environment where every student feels valued and encouraged to express themselves. And something that really stands out to me is her kindness, patience, and mentorship, and that really instills in [her students] the confidence to embrace their unique voices. I think the biggest constant, having her both in my lower and upper year, is her unwavering commitment to creating an inclusive space where everyone is comfortable to take chances. And by the end of the term, you truly feel you found a family around the Harkness table," Mokhtari-Dizaji said.

Senior Minji Kim shared her experience as Moriarty's current student. "I only had Ms. Moriarty for half a term of English but my experience in the English department has changed significantly. She is such a sweet teacher. She brings passion and positive energy to every class, asking our highs and lows of the week genuinely intrigued by our answers," Kim said. "I remember always feeling comfortable going into her classes and coming away with a sense of fulfillment.

I never was excited or interested in humanities classes, especially English. But having Ms. Moriarty as a teacher, the respectful and social environment that she created allowed me to feel passionate about the course and taught me to become more present around the Harkness table."

Moriarty's advisees shared the same sentiment: "I'm new, not just to Exeter but to the country as a whole, so I really don't know what I'm doing super well," upper Meira Wohl shared. "Ms. Moriarty

has been really helpful if I ever had a question about anything, and I remember the first time I met her during ISO, she was like, 'Oh, if you need anything, you can send me a message or email me. I think it helps when your advisor is somebody who's very approachable because you feel comfortable going to them and asking questions, and I feel like she definitely is somebody who does her best to make people feel comfortable.'"

Fellow colleagues also noted Moriarty's positive example and presence in their departments. "Students connect to Ms. Moriarty because she has faith in their ability to write great papers and say brilliant things. This quality, always expressed with so much warmth, may be easily mistaken for 'niceness,' but it is so much more than that. She is a teacher who sets high expectations in the classroom and inspires her students to meet them," English Instructor Barbara Desmond said.

*"If she gives another meditation, put it on your calendar. Read the ones she's already given. Get to know her. Ask her for some pie."*

Dean of Faculty Eimer Page expressed her appreciation for Moriarty: "I have eaten her pie, shared her stories, and enjoyed her company ever since we first met. If she gives another meditation, put it on your calendar. Read the ones she's already given. Get to know her. Ask her for some pie."

One quirk of Moriarty's that students were quick to remark on was her love of tea. "If you do stop by Ms. Moriarty's classroom, do try out her tea. She has a great collection of tea and her kettle is always open for student use; you can always feel free to get yourself a cup of tea when talking to her, [like]

Hillary Yoon / *The Exonian* when we're workshoping an essay draft," Yuan said.

When asked about her love for tea, Moriarty did note a favorite recipe. "I love tea. I have a collection here that I like to share on occasion, like when we have writing days. What I drink every day is Earl Grey. I like it hot with honey and whole milk. And then I like it iced with vanilla syrup and whole milk."

The main constant when speaking to students and faculty was the profound effect that Moriarty has had on campus. "I believe teachers like Ms. Moriarty are the reason why Exeter is Exeter — because of her kindness, thoughtfulness, and brilliance. I'm sure countless other students, have found a sense of belonging at the Harkness table and beyond [because of her]. I believe that her presence is the embodiment of what makes Exeter a place where hearts and minds flourish. And anyone who has crossed paths with her is incredibly lucky," Mokhtari-Dizaji said.

Yuan echoed these thoughts. "She's done so much for the community that I feel like has been a little bit under the radar: she sends out Learning Center emails every single night, but it's something that's so instilled in our daily life that we should just appreciate Ms. Moriarty a bit more."

Moriarty had some advice to share for new members of the community throughout Exeter. "I would love for new teachers and new students to feel like it's okay to not have all the answers — that they can reach out and ask for help," Moriarty said. "And that they try new things, try to explore who they are in relation to other people, and that they kind of take advantage of all the resources and opportunities that we have here. I also hope that they'll be kind to themselves; I would really hope that they would not expect so much of themselves that they don't leave room for growth and for learning from failures as well."

# Academy Holds Annual Club Exposition

By ERIN HAN, TANIA LUCHAK, ROX PARK, LILY RAMPE, and THEA VAUGHAN

On Saturday, Sep. 16, at 8:00 p.m., hundreds of students waited outside Thompson Gym, clamoring with excitement. New students hoped to join communities of students that shared their interests and discover new hobbies to pursue; returning students came to join the fun and see if they had missed anything in previous years. When the doors opened, they were greeted with tables blanketed with posters, candy, and souvenirs presented by smiling upperclassmen who urged them to stop by. It seemed impossible to choose where to start. This is Club Night, the annual event where all 142 clubs from Badminton Club to Biology Club advertise to the student body and attract new members.

With so many different clubs competing for attention, the club leaders each found unique ways to attract new students to their stations.

Afro-Latinx Exonian Society (ALES) co-head and senior Alex Rosen focused on his station's appearance. "We talked with our advisors to get a tablecloth, which we thought would give our booth a more sophisticated look, as well as food, which we thought would attract more people," Rosen said. "[It] definitely worked!"

Upper Davido Zhang, a co-head of the Chinese Students Organization, described his club's creative method to garner sign-ups. "We went for a boba lottery, and it definitely worked out because this year it was a rule that during the club expo, you're not allowed to put a QR code there to directly sign up for the email list," Zhang said. "We attracted a lot of attention, and got over 100 sign-ups [for the lottery]."

Senior and Biology Club co-head Aden Lee adopted

a more conversational approach. "We promoted our club through talking about things we'll do in the year. We're going to make kombucha, do some medical diagnosis activities, and also help people prepare for science competitions like USABO (USA Biology Olympiad), ISEF (Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair), and JSHS (Junior Science and Humanities Symposium)," Lee explained.

Characteristically, the Robotics team used NFC cards, which make a notification appear on devices wirelessly by touching them to the card and lead to their MUREX team website. "We thought it was a different, more special way to distribute links rather than QR codes," co-head and upper Byran Huang, one of the masterminds behind the idea, said.

"But in general, you just have to yell and also you have to get candy," lower and Beats of Asia co-head Sophie Yu said.

"Just mostly word of mouth is the best way to advertise clubs," senior Colin Jung said. Jung serves as a co-head for Debate, Mock Trial, Legal Society, Ethics Bowl, and Catholic Exonians. "I lost my voice for several hours after, but it's good fun. There's a lot of energy and I like to feed off that."

Co-heads and prospective members alike agreed that Club Night is effective and important in catalyzing club involvement every year. Senior and Word! cohead Silja Pope recalled her experience as a new student navigating the lengthy list of clubs offerings. "I remember my first year here I was really excited for club night because, [though] I had gone through the list of clubs, there's something different about really talking with different people about the club that they're really passionate about, and maybe getting a little sample of what they do during each

meeting."

She added, "And you [also] stumble upon tables and clubs that maybe you would've scrolled past on the website."

Similarly, Jung agreed on Club Night's effectiveness: "It's the first encounter that most people, especially new people, have with our clubs on campus. And it's an excellent opportunity to get to know all the offerings we have here."

Some co-heads noticed general trends in the type of Exonians that came to their tables eager to sign up for their clubs. Pope reflected, "I think for Word!, [people who sign up] are oftentimes interested in creative writing and music and things like that. I ended up having a lot of conversations with people about meeting times, because a lot of them played instruments or were in some sort of singing ensemble that met during the time we were suggesting. So I think those types of people kind of tended to drift toward Word!"

This year's location in the Thompson Gym was an unfamiliar setting for returning students; in the previous two years, the event had been held outside in the Academic quads and in the larger Love Gym, chronologically. For Lee, the smaller space facilitated conversations with these prospective students. "I think that Biology Club had a really good smaller space so we could talk to people more directly," he said. "It was less chaotic, and I liked where we were specifically."

But to others, this change wasn't as positive. According to Yu, "It felt disconnected. Thompson Gym is a lot smaller than Love Gym."

Multiple upperclassmen mentioned preferring the outdoor format in 2021 and suggested returning to it for future club nights.

"I liked doing it outside," upper and Yu's fellow BoA cohead Minjae Suh recalled. "They did it outside [my]

prep year and we had tents in front of Wetherell and the Student Center. I like the vibe of [having the event] outside better, because it was warm and you could be as loud as possible and it's not echoey. It doesn't get hot and smelly; you can also play music. I think it just worked better."

"Bring it outdoors again," Zhang urged. "I thought that before it was perfectly fine. You could have, say, the Robotics team bring out their race car, you could show all your trophies, you could put more snacks out if you have more space."

Despite the whirlwind of positive emotions, this wasn't the only obstacle that students faced during the event. One of the primary concerns was confusion about QR codes and the sign-up process, as mentioned by Zhang. "The rule of not allowing to scan QR codes during the Club Expo is not favorable towards any new club just because nobody has heard of it and you're really focusing your audience on just the new students and that makes the job a lot tougher," he elaborated.

Prep Sophie Morrow and senior Hope Gantt agreed that giving clubs physical sign-up sheets would be a better option. "Previously, we would just sign up at the booths, which is better in case you forget to sign up afterward," Gantt explained.

Commenting on this year's digital sign-up list, Morrow added that you first have to find the clubs at club night, and then "you have to go home. You have to sign up over the computer."

The process is longer than necessary, leaving room for a common human error: forgetfulness. "I saw a lot of people taking pictures of the clubs that they wanted to join, but sometimes that doesn't translate into actually signing up for the email list," Gantt said. Students agree that a physical sign-up sheet would be more effective than signing up online for the

email list.

Zhang also mentioned another barrier the coheads had to address: the low height of the tables. "Most of the clubs stuck their posters below the table but people [couldn't] really see them, so people just had to hold up their posters. If we thought that through earlier and somehow managed to make our posters stand on the table, that would have been a lot better," he said.

For coheads of multiple clubs, Club Night also involved scrambling around from table to table. "I wasn't able to get to all the clubs," Huang confessed, as in addition to Robotics Club, he was operating the stations for the Exeter Computing, Science Bowl, Science Olympiad, and Engineering Clubs. "Every club has multiple co-heads, so all the clubs turned out fine. There was always someone there to manage the table."

Zhang and his fellow co-heads devised a way to make Club Night easier for all of them. "For the clubs where we had more co-heads, we did shifts, so one person stood at the table for 30 minutes and then we would rotate. It works. Most clubs do it and usually it's not a problem since bigger clubs have more co-heads."

Lee agreed, "It was hard, but we divided it up well, so it wasn't too bad."

An additional ongoing issue that co-heads face at the start of each year is new students joining too many clubs at the expo that they eventually drop out of. "Preps tend to go to the first few meetings and then don't go to most of their clubs after that," Jung explained.

Suh provided one reason for this, saying, "I remember my prep year, the only reason why I joined so many clubs was because of peer pressure." Preps tend to join many clubs because their friends are as well during club night, but often drop out a few weeks later because

they aren't actually interested in these clubs.

According to Jung, "Every club wants to be the club that stays," so clubs find themselves competing not only to gain members at club night, but also to keep their new members.

This continues the cycle of new students facing peer pressure from clubs. "Now I have to peer pressure other people," Suh said. "Once you're on the email list, you start to think about [the club] a little bit. It's better than if you're not on the email list at all and you genuinely don't know that the club exists."

Jung conceded that peer pressure can be "a necessary thing to do" as clubs try to gain more members. In the end, while it has the side effect of some new students dropping out, not all do, meaning it is still an effective way to gain new members.

Despite these obstacles, both new students and coheads of multiple clubs still find Club Expo to be very effective. As a cohead of many humanities clubs, Jung said that "It's an excellent opportunity to get to know all the offerings we have here. We got around 86 signups for Mock Trial. For debate, we got several hundred signups, but for the actual first meeting, we tracked an attendance of 62, which is at least a record in the last decade. So it's really good results we're getting."

From the perspective of the students, it still remains an effective way to get involved. New senior Amrita Sankrit said she "got to learn so much about all the clubs here on campus, and it was a very informative experience."

With its own bittersweetness, Club Night continues to be an enjoyable annual tradition for every Exonian on campus. It opens up new opportunities to make friends through shared interests and stay involved with those interests despite the restless schedule at the Academy.

# Academy Sends Group to Participate in CERN Research Program

By JUNO COWANS, ERIN HAN, LILY RAMPE, MARVIN SHIM, and KEVIN THANT

During the two weeks between Sept. 14 and 28, as most Exonians rushed into their second week on campus, a small group of current uppers, seniors, and class of 2023 alumni traveled to Geneva, Switzerland. There, the team conducted research at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research.

The team's proposal, over four months in the making, was reviewed and selected out of 379 teams across the world, earning them a trip to CERN. There, Exeter's team spent two weeks working with CERN scientists and touring the lab's ultramodern facilities, finally equipped with the machinery to execute their experiment.

Instructor in Science James DiCarlo introduced their opportunity at CERN. "For a physicist, going to CERN is like going to Disney World," he said. "Around every corner there's some new fascinating thing."

Starting in the winter of 2023, team leader and current senior Ishaan Vohra assembled a team consisting mainly of Exeter Physics Club members drawn to the opportunity. Class of 2023 graduate and former

Physics Club co-head Isabella Vesely explained, "Since then we've done everything from ideation to research and existing theory [together]."

"We did some simulations of our original idea and put together probably dozens of engineering design iterations," Vesely continued. "That combination led up until around March to April, when we submitted our proposal to CERN scientists."

The team proposed to assemble and test a modular halbach ray. "With the support of Mr. DiCarlo and Mr. Saltman, as well as the guidance of external experts at Fermilab, the University of Liverpool, and Denmark Technical University, our proposal finally came together in the last few weeks before the mid-April deadline. Before we knew it, we had submitted our idea," Vohra said.

In preparation for the trip, the team held frequent meetings to familiarize themselves with the equipment they would soon get their hands on. Senior Achyuta Rajaram recalled, "We had several meetings with our wonderful support scientists Martin and Berare, where we learned immensely about the detectors and experimental setups that turned our proposal into a reality. Additionally

there was a learning curve with regards to the software tools like ROOT that we got started on in the summer."

Nominally, DiCarlo was the coach of the team, but he continuously emphasized that the project was student-led. "I was the chaperone. I was nominally also the 'coach' of the PEA team, though they really didn't need one. I tried to keep tabs on everyone's health and well-being. I offered my thoughts on data analysis and interpretation," DiCarlo said.

From the student perspective, upper Peter Morand echoed, "We were not simply Exonians — we were a team of Exonians on a mission, and Mr. DiCarlo was as excited as we were."

DiCarlo continued to share the extraordinary experience of traveling to CERN. "It was amazing to join in on these experiments. Once everything was up and running (a non-trivial state), we could simply enter into the beamline computer that we wanted particles whose momentum was three giga electron-volts, as if we were just ordering something online from DoorDash!"

DiCarlo detailed, "They'd come flooding down the tube — electrons with a momentum of three giga electron-volts traveling at 99.99985 percent

of the speed of light!"

When arriving at CERN, the team did face some setbacks in the form of malfunctioning detectors and parts, but senior William Soh elaborated on the support he found with the people at CERN. "It was really interesting to see how collaborative CERN is, and it was amazing to see so many people from all different parts of CERN come together whenever we had a problem. It was amazing to see how supportive and helpful the people at CERN were whenever we had problems," Soh explained.

With regards to the laboratory's facilities, Aubrey Zhang '23 shared, "CERN's facilities in terms of equipment and technology were really a sight to behold. Seeing all of it really gave me a sense of the lengths we humans can go to just for the sake of understanding the world we live in."

Senior William Lu listed the important steps of the group's proposal, including "Initial research (finding problems), finding an interesting starting problem (linear halbach arrays), thinking about real world problems (dipole bending magnets in accelerators), thinking back to lin halbach array, finding permanent

magnet circular halbach array, thinking about how we can improve the design (modularity)."

"And winning," Lu added.

Zhang shared some of his favorite moments in the laboratory, including "Witnessing a helium leak simulation at a life sized model of the LHC, simply seeing all the equipment (detectors, accelerators, et cetera) that I've only read about before, presenting in the auditorium where the higgs boson's discovery was announced, talking and working with CERN's scientists."

For Vesely, "One of the coolest things about this experience was seeing how much it related to what we did at Exeter. For example, we saw the first particle accelerator ever at CERN, and it was built with something that we actually studied in the Physics 500 sequence."

"We had done the calculations a few years ago when we took this class and a few of us that were in the same class all recognized it. So it definitely was a really fun moment to tell Mr. DiCarlo that we did indeed remember this one random problem on the problems that they gave us," Vesely continued.

Students noted other highlights outside of the lab

space from this two-week experience. "On a more casual note, our day trip to Geneva was extremely fun and relaxing, as a break away from the hard work we were doing," Rajaram said.

In addition to the opportunities directly offered by CERN, Vesely also shared a special collaborative moment from the trip. "Definitely another big [moment] was working with a team from another place in the world — from Pakistan. None of us had ever been to Pakistan and the Pakistani kids had never been to the States, so it was a really cool experience working with people from very different backgrounds and hearing about their ideas. They had their own experiment that meshed really well with ours."

"Then through some of the events that we had," Vesely continued, "we actually gave a tour to the US Ambassador of the United Nations of our own experiment, which was crazy, [since] she actually had questions and things that she was wondering about our experiment."

For the eight team members, their two weeks at CERN proved to be an invaluable time spent utilizing state-of-the-art facilities alongside scientists who offered continual help along their experimental process. Though they may not be surrounded by as many particle detectors at any given moment during the year, the group brings newfound knowledge and experience guaranteed to stick with them through all of their scientific pursuits.

# Students Reflect on Academy Life Day Celebrations

By TEDDY CAPOZZI, ISABEL EVANS, AHMED HAMAD, CHRISTINA HU, ELLEN JIN, and ALLEGRA LAI

On Tuesday, Sept. 19, Academy students spread far and wide for the annual tradition of Academy Life Day (ALD). Formally introduced in the fall of the 1995-1996 school year as “Residential Life Day,” the day was designed to give students a day off and allocate time to grow closer relationships with both faculty and peers. All respective dorms have their own destinations and activities planned for the day.

Senior and New Hall proctor Sophie Zhu expressed some discontent toward ALD and its ability to achieve camaraderie amongst dorms. “I think ALD has the potential to be a really good bonding experience but it’s really up to the students to reach out and hang out with people they haven’t met yet. It’s really easy for people to go off into cliques.”

Prep Alyssa Wang in Hoyt Hall agreed. “It did help us create a sense of community and I feel like I did bond with my dorm mates, but since we were split up in groups, I didn’t really bond with the whole dorm.”

This appeared to be less of an issue between smaller dorms. McConnell senior Audrey Sim felt her time picking apples at Hillcrest Farm gave ample time and opportunity to connect with both new and returning students. “I had lots of fun with my friends and we got to explore the orchard and just hang out. I feel close to my dorm now.”

Generally dorm faculty choose what the dorm will

do and where, though this has created some strife amongst students. Senior Knight House proctor Heesung Jung questioned his dorm’s decision to go to the beach. “We went to the beach and we did not go

into the water. I’m not even kidding. What is the point of going to the beach if you can’t go into the water?”

Across the road in Dow House, upper Evie Gaylord explained that her dorm came to a mutual agreement on their destination for ALD, which seems to have generated collective content from both students and dorm faculty. “We decided as a dorm where to go. There are only about 14 of us, so we decided amongst ourselves, then told the faculty, and they were happy with it.”

In Amen Hall, this year’s plans for ALD were very different from the past ones. Instead of going apple picking per usual, they took a short trip to Amesbury to have flatbreads from Flatbread Company. Though this change left many feeling disappointed, some were still excited about the new experiences they would have.

Senior Amen proctor Silja Pope thought it was a good opportunity to build stronger bonds within the dorm. “For many years now we have gone apple picking and I think people wanted a little bit of a change — something that could bring new groups of people together. So we decided to forgo that this year, and do something at Amesbury instead.”

Wheelwright Hall also switched it up this year, staying on campus, going to the fields, and playing a series of games titled the “Wheelympics.” Lower Sophie Yu gave her thoughts: “I would’ve hoped

that it was more inclusive to people who weren’t as enthusiastic about sports. I do wish we went off campus, but I think it was pretty fun still. I don’t think everyone was interested in it. A lot of people wished we went off campus, including me.”

Wheelwright proctor Ellie Wang gave some insight on the planning process for a big dorm. “We wanted it to be engaging but not require an athletic baseline to be able to play. The main motivation behind this activity was doing something a dorm with more than 60 people could do (so no escape room or water jetting) while keeping it engaging for everyone.”

This year, Lamont Hall also strayed from their normal activities for ALD. For many of the past years, Lamont Hall visited and hung out at the beach, but this year they went apple picking at Applecrest, a nearby orchard. During their first fac-proc meeting, Lamont Hall decided that, while the beach may be fun, it doesn’t allow for proper bonding.

Instructor in Science and dorm head of Lamont Jeanette Lovett expressed her thoughts about the students’ experience at the beach as an ALD trip location. “We had some concerns about the beach not being the best mingling experience for kids, because sometimes returning students gravitate towards their friend groups and don’t necessarily get to know the new kids, which is a big goal of Academy Life Day.”

As a day student proctor, E. Wang also touched on the effect of having the whole dorm together “My favorite part was being able to spend time with the whole dorm, which doesn’t happen often for us day students. I got to



Members of McConnell Hall celebrate Academy Life Day. Photo courtesy of @mcconnell\_hall

meet new students and see the day students mix in with everyone else, too. It feels nostalgic being a senior and a proctor organizing things for the dorm to do, because not long ago I was on the other side of things, looking up to my proctors.”

This new experience was a positive one for the dorm and helped build stronger bonds among the dorm; however, some students felt as though there could’ve been more efficiency and input when choosing the location for ALD.

Sarah Huang, an upper in Lamont, expressed her thoughts on this year’s ALD. “There are certain activities that are super fun, like go-karting and Dave and Buster’s. Those were more fun than what I did, especially because I’m allergic to apples. I would like to have a say because there are more fun things to do than what we did. I’m not sure how much input the proctors have, because I feel like typically the dorms

just do the same thing every year.”

When asked, many students expressed that they would like to have a say in what their dorm does or be able to give their own input. Many had their own ideas of where they wanted to go. Yu said, “I think the student body who’s going to be participating in these activities [should have a say].”

Huang agreed, “But I would like for it to be a larger dorm communal vote or suggestion box kind of thing.”

However, new students expressed their content over what their dorm did. Main Street prep Anthony Papanthanasopoulos said, “I think Main Street has a tradition of doing Capture the Flag. I think that’s kind of a cool tradition going from the years. So I wouldn’t really change where we go.”

Wang felt similarly. “Yes, I think we enjoyed it.

It helped [us] connect with people [we] don’t usually talk to.”

While ALD is one of the first events to kick off the year, there have been mixed reactions to how the day was spent this year. Whether they were new or old to this tradition, many students thought the day was well-spent and helped them connect with the new students and the day students. Some students felt that the day would’ve been more enjoyable if the dorm was to collectively decide on an activity. On the other hand, dorm faculty have raised concerns about certain activities preventing students from bonding with each other, especially if some of the returners have already established friend groups in their dorms. Overall, ALD has always been something students have looked forward to in the fall, and with some minor changes, it can remain a beloved tradition on our campus in the years to come.

## Meditation Spotlight: Genny Moriarty

By PHIN GIBBS ’25

**Q: Can you discuss your inspiration for the meditation and how it took its current form?**

A: I had a scene where I was cooking with my son. I actually wrote that a few years ago but then didn’t do anything with it. Pieces of the meditation have been floating around for a while, and I’ve occasionally revisited it, working it into an essay. However, it never quite reached the point I desired. This summer, when Mr. Hearon sent out an invitation to adults in the community to see who might want to give a meditation, I thought it might be a good time for me to use that as motivation to finish it. I had given a meditation a couple of years ago. After signing up, I thought, “Oh my gosh, what am I thinking? I just gave one a couple of years ago, and I have all this work to do this fall to get the learning centers launched.” I second-guessed myself a couple of times, but I kept returning to that material. I think it was timely in many ways. I’ve been

thinking about seniors who are getting ready to apply to school, so they were in the back of my mind as I was writing and thinking about what I wanted them to take away from it. You know, the idea that we can be so hard on ourselves and sometimes hard on one another. I wanted to invite them to think about how perfectionism sometimes obstructs things that can be really beautiful or good enough. So, both in connection with the fact that we went through a really challenging year as a school community last year and this year, I wanted to leave students, especially, but also my colleagues and friends, with the understanding that we make mistakes, and hopefully, we grow and learn from them, but we don’t let them paralyze us. The fear of making mistakes sometimes paralyzes us if we’re not careful.

**Q: There was this common strand of how you motherhood and talking about your oldest child. Was it difficult to open up about that and show that vulnerability?**

A: Absolutely. So I was writing this time about my middle child, actually. And I’ve written about my kids in the past. Because I felt I was kind of approaching this by also reading about his vulnerabilities, I wanted to make sure I got his permission. He was very loving and said I could write about him. But it is hard. It’s hard to look honestly at the way we play into certain dynamics. As a parent, you sometimes find yourselves at a loss for how to help a child. I think that can be true as teachers sometimes too. It did make me feel a little bit vulnerable. I was worried about him feeling vulnerable as well. But I also feel like there’s so much power in sharing that with the community because we all struggle sometimes in different ways.

**Q: The part in your meditation where you talked about this anger that you had at yourself for not writing as much as you wanted to or reading as many books as you had scheduled. How have you thought about**

**managing that anger and how did you express that in the meditation?**

A: I feel as though I was totally surprised. I didn’t remember feeling that way or writing those words. I do know I’ve occasionally felt like I’ve disappointed myself. When I read them, it made me feel sad because I remembered how much I was juggling then. In hindsight, it’s easy to say I should have been easier on myself. So, seeing that written out was a good reminder to me. I still sometimes am hard on myself, but I’m trying to catch myself now and just be a little gentler when I can.

**Q: Was a factor of the meditation creating sympathy with current seniors?**

A: Absolutely. It’s such a huge part of it. I feel that when you bring together smart, curious, ambitious, talented kids and adults, part of it is in the water. We all have plans for ourselves. It’s hard to see beyond the bubble or see beyond what’s immediately in front of us.

I did have them in mind. I know how hard it is to want to go to this school or want a relationship to work out. So that was really important to me that I at least offer some empathy toward them.

**Q: What were some literary devices you used?**

A: I think a lot about the sounds of my sentences when I’m writing. There were a couple of metaphors that were floating around in my mind as I was writing, and I worried a little bit that maybe it was too many. I had the cooking metaphor, and then I had the one about the angel eggs, and there was something else that I’m not sure about. What was the other one that I was really into? It was about the eyes, looking at ourselves through different lenses. I was a little worried as I was writing that it was too much. I often write a lot and then have to figure out how to structure it and what to cut back on.

**Q: How did you approach structuring your meditation, especially with all of its flashbacks**

**and flash-forwards?**

A: That was the hardest part of this piece for me. I started with the scene of cooking with my son, then I flashed back to cooking with my own mom, and then kind of flashed forward. I had some flashbacks and flash-forwards, and I moved stuff around a lot until it flowed the way I wanted it.

**Q: Music plays a significant role in setting the mood for meditation. What did you think about your song selection for the opening and closing songs, and how did they complement your meditation’s themes?**

A: I tried to find songs that thematically fit, even if they weren’t a complete match. The song I chose for the beginning was a song my brother put on a mixtape for me years ago. The mood of it felt to fit, if that makes sense. The other song my parents used to sing to me when I was little, and I sang it to my kids when they were little. It touched on the parenting aspect of it.



## » BEASTS

Read about upper Phin Gibb's thoughts on the Radiant Beasts, 10.

## » ZINN

Read about upper Joonyoung Heo's thoughts on Howard Zinn, 11.

## » GOTHIC

Read about upper Zoe Curtis's thoughts on the gothic aesthetic, 11.

# Radiant, Radiant, Beastly Beasts

By ALLISON KELLY '25

I'm sure you've seen them. Whether in the library, the third-floor balcony of EPAC, or the hard-to-miss radiance of the one feverishly bulging out the Academy Building, these *Radiant Beasts* by Claire Ashley are everywhere you look, intoxicating and exploding with colorful possibilities.

However, there's more to say about these creatures than to just admire their radiance. These pieces

break the boundaries of a traditionally confined canvas, just like the artist herself: Claire Ashley, who breaks the boundaries of painting and sculpture. As radiant as they are beastly, these colorful inflatables are also possibly one of the most relevant and significant art displays we've had on campus; from the feminist battle on abortion to promoting diverse opinions across campus.

Thought-provoking in every way, these beasts shed light on one of women's most pressing issues: abortion.

The displays are meant to “take up space” and have “their presence felt,” as feminist artist Claire Ashley states on her website. Ashley also explains how these beasts are meant to “vibrate with raunchy, energetic life — being lumpy, imperfect, and real,” just like the world around us.

In a world where women's rights are being threatened — not to sound too political here — Ashley creates these beasts as “taking up arms with pride, confidence, vigor, and beautiful attitude, to protect and support a

woman's right to choose.” In a post-Roe world, protecting and advocating for women in the United States is one of the most defining issues of our generation. So, why not express this war through one of the most powerful weapons known to man, but through art?

While squishy and playful, these creatures are simultaneously loud and in your face, as they should be when women's rights are at stake — an issue just as alarming as these beasts.

Whether you love them, hate them, or are completely

impassive towards these colorful inflatables meant to allegorize the fight for women's rights, art is one of the most important things we could have on campus, especially as we begin to make our way through the fall term.

These *Radiant Beasts* by Claire Ashley serve as a reminder to students across campus that there's more to life beyond Exeter — more than the books and the grades and the standardized tests, but meaning and color and radiance. They also remind us of how beauty can

be interpreted in multiple ways. Having these beasts on campus only promotes diversity of thought and without diversity of thought, what is a place like Exeter but meaningless? Who doesn't appreciate a pop of color in times of stress, even if it is a big radiant beast?

Though not for everyone, the beasts are beautiful in their own way and carry a powerful meaning. Beastly, airy, and radiant, they remind us of something greater lying outside of these protective brick barriers.

## Radiant Beasts

By PHIN GIBBS '25

Street art and graffiti — though closely associated with each other due to their urban origins and unconventional canvases — possess distinct characteristics and purposes. Banksy, an exemplary figure in this realm, has captivated art enthusiasts globally with his thought-provoking and often subversive creations, firmly establishing him as a leading voice in the world of contemporary urban art.

However, the installation *Radiant Beasts* on campus serves as a compelling case study of the challenges that can arise when attempting to integrate public art into a shared environment. Ostensibly, this installation seeks to demonstrate the Academy's commitment to fostering creativity and providing students with access to art in their daily lives. Its description as “pitting back hybrid ‘bodies’ that are moveable, wearable, and deliciously preposterous” suggests an approach to art that is playful and experimental.

Public art installations invariably provoke discussions about their impact on their surroundings. While art has the potential to enhance public spaces, it must coexist harmoniously with its environment. The placement and design of public sculptures and installations should carefully consider the surrounding landscape,

architectural context, and natural beauty to create a balanced and aesthetically pleasing experience for viewers.

In the case of *Radiant Beasts*, it becomes paramount to deliberate whether the seemingly random orientation of the amorphous blobs complements or conflicts with the campus's natural beauty. Public art's role is not confined to mere visual appeal; it should engage with the environment and the people who interact with it daily, sparking thoughtful dialogue and eliciting emotions.

Regrettably, *Radiant Beasts* falls short on both fronts. Primarily, it fails to evoke meaningful discussions or deeper conversations. Its primary intention appears to be entertainment and diversion, occupying space in a manner reminiscent of mundane, everyday objects. While there is certainly room for “fun” elements on campus, commissioning an artist to create seven disparate blobs devoid of a unifying theme feels like a missed opportunity.

Secondarily, effective public art should seamlessly integrate into its environment. Banksy's work, for instance, masterfully adds layers of meaning, humor, and commentary to preexisting structures, forming a cohesive relationship with its surroundings. In contrast, the presence of

massive inflatable blobs scattered around campus appears arbitrary and incongruous, detracting from the campus's intrinsic beauty, which has already been impacted by construction projects such as Wetherall, Langdell, Merrill, and the installation of Thermo-wells.

Advocacy for the appreciation of street art, which often emerges from grassroots movements and community engagement, aligns perfectly with the notion that art should be accessible to all. Public sculptures, murals, and installations have the potential to foster connections among individuals, sparking conversations and igniting the flames of creativity. Given this perspective, *Radiant Beasts* may be viewed as an affront to the concept of public art, as it seems to lack the transformative and engaging qualities that one would expect from an installation in a shared space.

While street art and graffiti represent distinct expressions within urban art, their power to captivate and provoke thought remains undeniable. *Radiant Beasts*, however, showcases the complexities of integrating public art into communal spaces. Public art should enhance the environment, elicit emotions, and encourage discourse. Unfortunately, this installation seems to miss the mark, emphasizing whimsy over substance and failing to harmonize with its surroundings, ultimately falling short of the profound

impact that true public art can achieve.

As we delve deeper into the discourse surrounding *Radiant Beasts*, it becomes apparent that the installation's shortcomings are not merely confined to its inability to generate meaningful conversations or its discordant integration with its environment. There are several additional layers to the critique that warrant exploration.

Firstly, the question arises: What defines the purpose of public art on a school's campus? Institutions of higher learning are not only centers of academic pursuit but also environments where aesthetics, culture, and creativity play significant roles in shaping the overall educational experience. Public art on a campus should ideally contribute to the intellectual and cultural development of students, faculty, and visitors. It should serve as a source of inspiration, provoke intellectual curiosity, and stimulate critical thinking.

*Radiant Beasts*, with its whimsical and seemingly arbitrary blobs, may indeed be entertaining to some extent, but it falls short of fulfilling these broader educational objectives. Art has the potential to transcend mere decoration; it can become a catalyst for deeper engagement with ideas, society, and the human condition. In this context, the installation appears to be a missed opportunity to harness the power of art for educational enrichment.

Secondly, public

art, when thoughtfully conceived, can serve as a reflection of an institution's values, aspirations, and identity. It has the potential to convey a message, evoke emotions, and connect with the ethos of the community it serves. It becomes a symbol, a point of pride, and a defining feature of the institution's character.

*Radiant Beasts*, with its seemingly random placement of inflatable blobs, lacks a coherent theme or message that could align with the Academy's values or identity. This absence of a unifying concept diminishes the installation's capacity to resonate with the campus community on a meaningful level. It becomes an inconsequential addition rather than a symbol that encapsulates the spirit and values of the institution.

Furthermore, the process of selecting and commissioning public art is a crucial aspect of ensuring its success. It involves collaboration between artists, curators, administrators, and the broader community to create a piece that resonates with the intended audience. This collaborative effort not only helps in defining the artistic vision but also in addressing practical considerations such as placement, materials, and long-term maintenance.

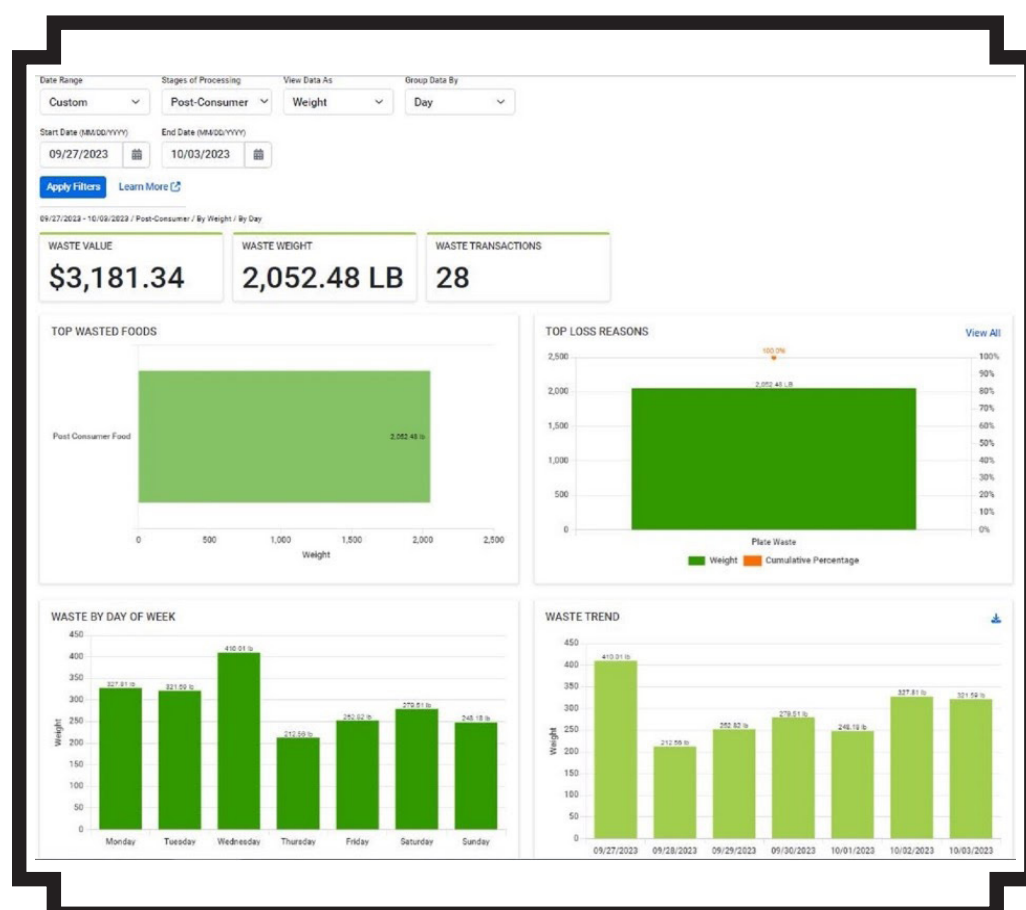
In the case of *Radiant Beasts*, there may be questions regarding the selection process and the extent to which diverse voices were included in shaping the installation. A more inclusive and participatory approach to

public art projects can lead to a stronger connection between the artwork and the community it serves.

Moreover, the dialogue surrounding public art should extend beyond its visual impact. It should encompass discussions about the sustainability of the installation, its long-term maintenance, and its adaptability to changing circumstances. Art in public spaces is subject to the elements, wear and tear, and evolving community needs. Therefore, a thoughtful plan for its ongoing care and potential reimagining is crucial.

In conclusion, the critique of *Radiant Beasts* extends beyond its immediate visual impact and integration with the campus environment. It raises questions about the purpose of public art on a school's campus, its potential for educational enrichment, its alignment with institutional values, the inclusivity of the selection process, and its long-term sustainability. These aspects collectively underscore the complexity of integrating public art into communal spaces and highlight the importance of a holistic approach that goes beyond aesthetics to encompass broader educational and community-building objectives. As we continue to explore the multifaceted dimensions of *Radiant Beasts*, we gain a deeper appreciation for the intricacies involved in the world of public art and its profound influence on our shared environments and experiences.

# New Community Plate Waste Tracking Initiative



Shown above are the statistics for the first week of tracking plate waste at Elm Street Dining Hall.

By EDVASSEUR

Have you noticed the new monitor in the entryway at Elm Street Dining Hall? Have you wondered what the monitor is for? It is there to share the quantity of food our community is throwing away.

Dining Services has been tracking their pre-consumer food waste since the fall of 2015. Pre-consumer food waste is any food item that has not been served. It begins with scraps from food fabrication to pans of food that are left over and cannot be reused as leftovers. Dining Services use waste tracking information as a training tool for cooks to hone their knife skills for cutting meats and vegetables. The front of the house staff collects and logs the waste. The Unit Manager uses this information to improve forecasting menu items

for each meal period.

Leanpath, a software system created by a company from Beaverton, Oregon, is used for this initiative/program. Dining Services can run reports to see trends from meal to meal and beyond. The waste is collected and weighed in the kitchen on a designated scale. The scale has an attached camera to take a photo of what is being discarded, and there is a tablet to enter details and source of the waste.

With the success in tracking pre-consumer food waste, Dining Services saw the opportunity to get the PEA Community involved by leveraging another tool from Leanpath called Spark. Spark provides us with the ability to track the plate waste that is generated by diners in the dining hall. All food that is left on the plates going back

into the dish room is put in a designated bin, then is weighed on a special scale in the kitchen that has a tablet attached to it. The weight is inputted into the tablet and the information is sent to the monitor that is in the entryway at Elm Street Dining Hall. The monitor will display the up-to-date weight of the plate waste for the community to see. The goal here is to inform the community of how much plate waste is being generated. Once a baseline is created, we are hopeful that community leaders will challenge the community by setting goals to reduce their plate waste.

On average, K-12 students waste an average of 39.2 pounds of food per year. I am sure that Exeter can do their part and skew this number downward. Remember, take what you want but eat what you take.

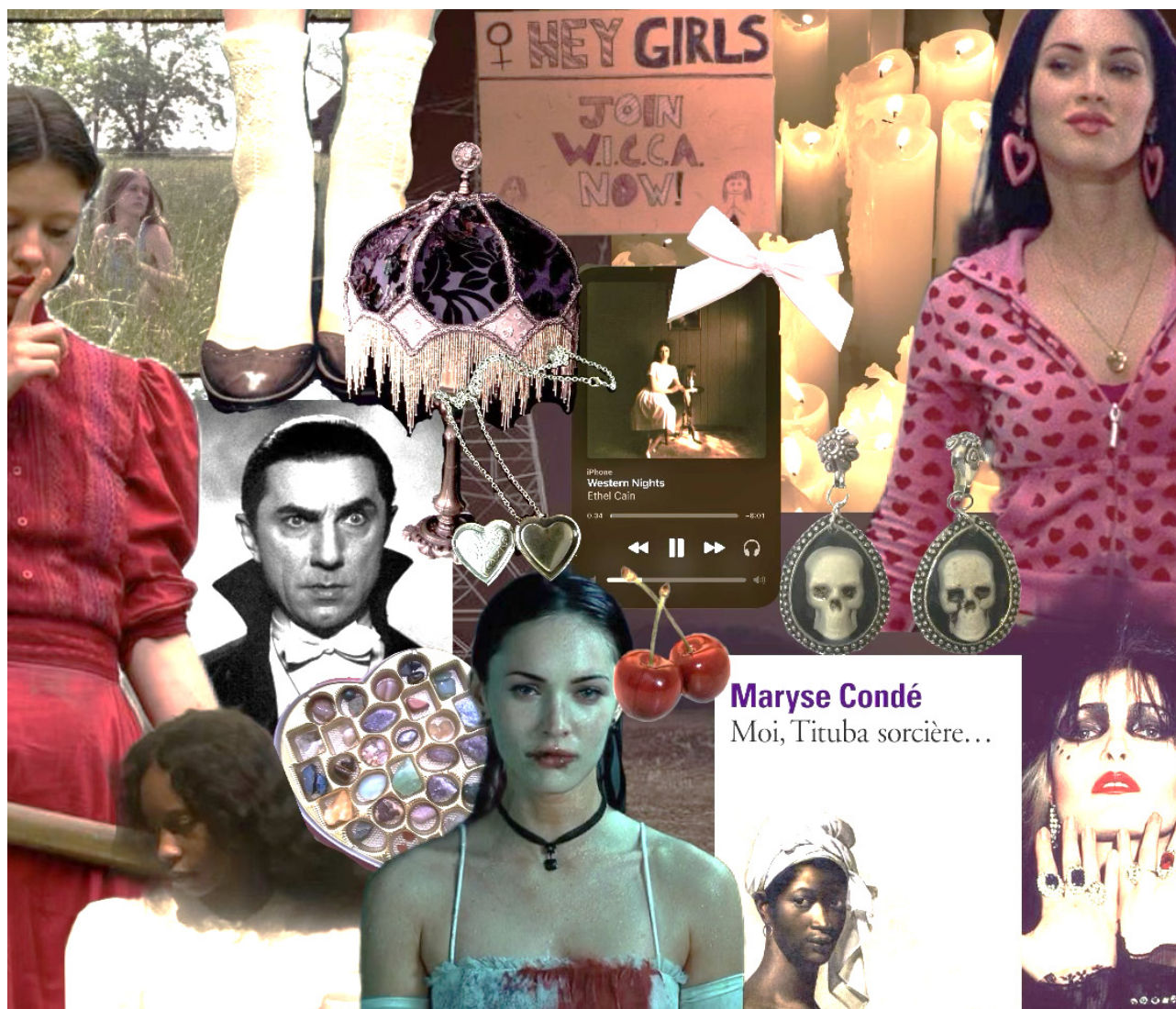
# Jennifer's Body, Ethel Cain, and Tituba: A Resurgence of the Gothic from New (and Old) Perspectives

By ZOE CURTIS '25

Goth is back, but not in the way you think. Input gothic into the Pinterest search bar, and recommended queries come by the dozen: Midwestern gothic, Southern gothic, coquette gothic, fairy gothic, mermaid gothic, witch gothic, whimsigothic, New England gothic — it's a far cry from the Bela Lugosi, Bauhausian, bat-nested goth of the 1980s. In fact, today's gothic encompasses more than the movement ever has before. "Gothic" is not just Jennifer Check swimming in a murky lake. It's the lake itself. It's weeping on the fire escape, pink ribbons tied in bows, a haunted church in Nebraska, antique teacups and the long-lost phenomenon of cable television. Gothic is simultaneously the blood we bleed and the blood we drink, and today's internet culture has no qualms with admitting to that grotesqueness.

Maybe it's an effect of economic recession, a reaction to our generation's post-COVID isolationist tendencies, or the existentialism created by American political controversy, but the revival seems to have come about at mysteriously opportune timing. For reasons unknown, goth culture seems to perfectly capture the zeitgeist of Gen Z's developing adolescence: one that promotes inclusivity as much as it does self-deprecating humor or overexposed photography.

Goth has seemed, from the start, to have a tacit hold on the idea of obscuring femininity. Whether it be the bondage trousers, spikey collars, or adherence



Zoe Curtis / The Exonian

to black, the Gothicism established in the '80s always tended to veer back to the masculine. The 2009 American horror comedy film *Jennifer's Body* seems the antithesis of that. Jennifer Check is hyper-femininity personified. She wears pink vinyl heart earrings; she cheers; she wants to be a groupie. She's the type of girl to order an appetini and gab about Dolce's newest collection with her friends, and yet, she's undeniably goth: a *literal* maneater. With the return to early aughts media, the film has experienced a renaissance of sorts, but this one concerns itself more with Jennifer's duality than

the satire of the movie as a whole.

*Jennifer's Body* plays with gender expression very elegantly. For each moment Megan Fox's character applies lip gloss or sucks on a lollipop, there's one of her inflicting harm and (to spare my readers the graphics) engaging in the aforementioned man-eating. This contrast between feminine and masculine stereotypes makes the movie all the more relevant today: she is not gothic in spite of her femininity; she's gothic *because* of it.

Music has leaned towards goth as well. Olivia Rodrigo released an album

entitled "Guts," Taylor Swift is hinting at "Reputation (Taylor's Version)," and Doja Cat is rumored to have been possessed by the devil. But the queen of them all? Hayden Silas Anhedonia, a.k.a. Ethel Cain. Cain uses gothic themes to express unique personal experiences: growing up in the rural south, a troubled relationship with her father, and reconciling femininity as a trans woman.

Cain's melodies are haunting and dissonant, more reminiscent of dirges than the professionally produced EPs they are. Cain is Lana Del Rey without idealism or hope, and goth culture eats it up. Cain has

become, indisputably, a goth icon. She can almost singularly be attributed to the rise of Southern gothic as an aesthetic, one that champions lace dresses and desecrated chapels, as well as stereotypical Southern women. Her music has provided a platform for discussing the experiences of trans individuals and the challenges they face, including discrimination and prejudice, especially as they intersect with religion and Southern societal conventions.

Nothing comes without racial interplay, and goth is surely no stranger to it. It's hard to ignore the culture's white-washed

origins: face paint and the romanticization of pale corpses, frontmen like Joy Division's Ian Curtis or Robert Smith of The Cure, a nearly all-white cast in the film adaptation of Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicides*. Until rather recently, there's always been an implicit notion that goth required some element of whiteness to truly exist.

Today's revivalist gothic begs to differ with that sentiment. "Tituba core" is a thing now, turning a story of racially motivated witch accusations into something that has become gorgeous and empowering, something that can be seen in Afrogoth, a subculture based on promoting inclusivity for Black goths, or heard in Screamin' Jay Hawkins' "I Put A Spell On You" as it rings from a speaker at your neighbor's Halloween party. Black culture and goth are not mutually exclusive. The Venn diagram of the two is rife with overlap.

In any and all of these cases, it seems that the new goth has taken a turn for the better: it's become inclusive. From its very origins, the culture has always been about empowering the pariahs, the dark, and the misunderstood. Today's goths deserve a movement that is accepting of them, and slowly but surely, Gen Z is facilitating that change. Though it might be forever until Alice Cooper's pallid face is replaced with Ethel Cain's, Jennifer Check becomes an icon outside of being a cute Halloween costume or Maryse Condé's *Moi, Tituba, Sorcière* becomes required reading, goth is back, and it is heading in the direction it needs to go: forward.

## The Problem With Howard Zinn

By JOONYOUNG HEO '25

It is often said that a man of one book is dangerous. Over time, the phrase has evolved to express "fear" of the opinions of someone who has only read a single book, some being more harmful than others.

I find that Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States* is one such book. Given its place as a national bestseller of public and critical acclaim, his magnum opus has been read by millions of Americans and distributed across the world. It has even achieved ubiquity in popular culture; Matt Damon's character in *Good Will Hunting*, for instance, tells the audience that Zinn is required reading "if you want to read a real history book." *A People's History*, then, is the only work of American history that many will ever read, the kind that anyone with little to no interest in the field can pick off the shelf.

I will discuss here exactly why this is cause for concern. Naturally, I feel quite strongly about the issue because I was one of these people myself, having perused Zinn some years ago and declared it the ultimate historical truth. As I will argue, this sort of conviction is as insidious as it is disingenuous.

*A People's History* was apparently written with good intentions. Zinn described his work as a departure from the "fundamental nationalist

glorification of country" (New York Times) that pervaded historical education in his time. He spoke in 1998 of inciting a "quiet revolution" (Flagpole Magazine), and he kept his word. In 700 pages, Zinn recounts themes of exploitation and oppression and marginalized communities. He lends his pen to voices we have rarely heard, stories we have rarely been told.

These are noble intentions. Zinn takes a new approach to history, challenging the typical narrative of American exceptionalism, and achieves some good results. Primary accounts from slaves, vivid descriptions from common laborers, bloody reports from the victims of American imperialism — these are certainly worth exploring. We have come to reconsider questions of morality and justice thanks largely to Zinn's effort. If the pendulum of historical education had been suspended at one extreme, the filtered lens of national exceptionalism, we can credit him for making it swing the other way.

Unfortunately, therein lies the problem. Zinn did jolt the pendulum toward the center, but with such force that it has now swung past the middle (the point of balance) and to the other extreme at breakneck speed. For many Americans, the pendulum is now suspended once more, this time at the equally filtered lens of "America

bad." If we irrationally loved this country in the past two centuries, we have come in the modern age to irrationally hate what it has done.

How exactly is Zinn responsible for this? His ambition to kindle a "quiet revolution" through *A People's History* has crafted an almost spiteful account of the last 250 years, distorted by a deep pessimism for the American experience. Just as some historians of previous decades narrowed on the most convenient facts to sustain their narrative of exceptionalism, so Zinn commits the same error, withholding contradictory evidence and filling in the gaps himself to present his own ideas of the history of the United States.

For Howard Zinn, American history is a rinse-and-repeat cycle of "common folk" trying to secure equality and democracy in a nation ruled by a small elite, dedicated at all costs to retaining their power and oppressing the people. The government is a cruel, thoughtless machine of destruction by its very nature, crushing minority uprisings in its sole pursuit of economic self-enrichment. In short, America is inherently evil.

Common sense advises us to reject this premise. Have there been cases where politicians and businessmen acted in their own interest? Without question. Have there been cases where individuals were unjustly persecuted and their civil

liberties violated? Too many to count. But to extrapolate these cases and blame the entirety of American leadership as conspirators, then perform a series of mental gymnastics to sustain this theory with distorted facts, is absurd. The result is at once a grave offense to our predecessors and highly counterproductive to teaching real history.

We are spoiled for choice, but perhaps Zinn's coverage of the two defining moments in American history are the best examples. On the Revolutionary War, he describes the national movement as a giant sham, a malicious device orchestrated by men like Washington and Adams to divert class conflict and secure popular support for their own ascent to power. Here are three facts: there were class tensions before the 1770s; the Revolution started in 1776; many wealthy colonial leaders rose to high positions by the 1780s. Zinn forces a causal link between them, ignoring in the meantime any genuine ideological motivation driving the revolutionaries against the British, or the natural occurrence whereby successful leaders are granted power. He ascribes malice where there was none.

On the Civil War, Zinn takes a similar approach. The war was never about slavery, he says — it was fought exclusively because "the northern elite wanted

economic expansion." Common Union soldiers were deceived by the moral crusade to fight for them, too. For evidence, Zinn argues that Lincoln did not care about the slaves by cherry-picking and removing from proper context several letters, vetoes of abolitionist decrees from his generals, and limiting clauses in the Emancipation Proclamation. In so doing, he ignores every practical reality of the 1860s (namely, how to win a war) and spits on the extraordinary goodness and moral sense of Abraham Lincoln.

At a certain point, Zinn's

**"Such a reader is solely exposed to one extreme, the filtered lens of 'America bad,' equally harmful as the other lens of national exceptionalism."**

arguments are no longer flimsy theories backed by twisted evidence — in straining to see evil behind good intentions and cold calculations behind plain righteousness, *A People's History* is as ungrateful as it is deliberately ignorant.

This is the Zinn problem, and it's only compounded by his style of writing such that a great many in his audience can't see that it exists. I know it well, since I was one of them. *A People's History* is addictive because it's presented as "real history," as Matt Damon informed us. It flaunts conventional

history by making radical assertions, and those hook the audience. Not unlike a conspiracy theory, it makes you feel privy to some great secret that few others are aware of. So the cycle persists — people read Zinn, and they are instantly won over.

The only solution is to read other authors. A proper overview of the Revolution or a biography on Lincoln would do wonders to counteract Zinn's pessimism. This is why a man of one book is particularly dangerous if the book so happens to be *A People's History*. Such a reader is solely exposed to one extreme, the filtered lens of "America bad," equally harmful as the other lens of national exceptionalism.

I reiterate — plenty of facts and figures from American history are contemptible. They ought to be cause for shame. Yet there have been just as many shining deeds and virtuous leaders in the last 250 years. It is a crime to let the first consideration drown out the second, and vice versa. The noted historian Eric Foner put it best: "History from the bottom up, though necessary as a corrective, is as limited in its own way as history from the top down." *A People's History* was an overcorrection.

Zinn does raise important questions to contemplate, and he does shed light on lost voices and forgotten stories. We can certainly learn something from all of it — but we must see his work for what it is. The pendulum is no better situated at one extreme than the other.

# The Second GOP Debate

By LILY RAMPE '26

"Every time I hear you, I feel a little bit dumber," Nikki Haley yelled at Vivek Ramaswamy, causing the room to erupt into yet another yelling match. As the moderators tried to regain control, more candidates jumped in, hoping to win the nation's support by putting on a memorable performance for the night. The result, however, is an uncivilized and deafening debate that leaves little hope in uniting the growing political divide in the United States.

On the night of Wednesday, Sept. 27, the Republican candidates for the 2024 Presidential Election faced off in a heated debate. Doug Burgum, Chris Christie, Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, Mike Pence, Vivek Ramaswamy, and Tim Scott debated at the Reagan Library in Simi Valley, California. To qualify, candidates had to pass multiple thresholds set by the GOP, including at least 500,000 donors, with 200 in 20 states or more.

The clear winner of the debate was Nikki Haley, former governor of South Carolina and United Nations ambassador. She kept her strong position from the first debate, while continuing to get her message across. Haley relies on her experience in the foreign service, using that to advance her support for Ukraine. She got into arguments, but was able to debate her way out. Being the only woman on the stage, Haley did not hesitate to speak her opinion and get her views heard. Her numbers continue to rise in the polls, recently polling higher than DeSantis.

Coming in close in second was Scott, a senator from South Carolina. He reasserted his position in the race after Wednesday night. He got his message across, which was important especially after his dull performance in the first debate. He was able to get his policy across while also attacking his fellow candidates. Towards the end of the debate, he criticized Haley for her increase of a gas tax during her

tenure as governor (New York Times). Although Haley combated it well, it kept Scott on the minds of viewers from the start to the finish. His policy mostly revolves around religion, reaching certain Republicans.

Many candidates had mediocre performances, including Pence, Burgum, Christie, and Ramaswamy. Pence, the Former Vice President of the United States during the Trump administration, is struggling to break out of Trump's shadow. The debate mostly consisted of him defending the work he ac-

complished during the Trump administration. Although he did not say anything memorable during the debate, he is essential in at least trying to get voters to rethink their allegiance to Trump.

It is surprising Burgum, the governor of North Dakota, made it this far. Burgum polls at 1.0%, the lowest out of the candidates. He was able to get his message across slightly more than the first debate, but was mostly lost in the shouting of the other, more popular, candidates.

Christie, the former Gov-

ernor of New Jersey, is running his campaign in spite of Trump. Throughout the debate he took several jabs at Trump, yet failed to get his policies across. His poor performance is reflected in the polls.

Ramaswamy, a young entrepreneur, had a disappointing performance. He spoke a lot, but got attacked more, especially on the history of his company in China. Scott attacked him for "being in business with the Communist Chinese Party."

"I'm glad Vivek got pulled out of his business deal in 2018 in China. That must have been about the time he decided to start voting in presidential elections," (CNN) Pence said, continuing his criticism of Ramaswamy's age and lack of experience.

More emphatically, the loser of the debate was the governor of Florida, DeSantis. In the first debate, he was able to pull himself out of Trump's shadow, creating his own identity in the race for president. DeSantis, however, let others get the last word too many times during the second debate and failed to say anything that had a lasting impression. His once-thriving campaign is losing momentum.

Noticeably absent was former President Donald Trump, who has decided to skip both of the GOP debates so far. Besides Christie memorably calling him "Donald Duck," and DeSantis saying he is "missing in action," the candidates did not focus on Trump. For him, skipping the debate saves him from having to defend his poli-

cies and past actions.

Although absent, Trump still is the frontrunner in the race, leaving little hope that one of the other candidates could take his spot. He polls at about 55%, leading the race nationally, as well as in most states for the primaries. Trump has been able to manipulate a group of Republicans to support him, especially since his supporters—in deep allegiance—fail to pay attention to any of the other Republican candidates besides himself.

Debates allow voters to see candidates unpolished and in action. As non-voters (and soon-to-be-voters), it is important for students to observe the political culture in the United States. Knowing your own values, listening to different viewpoints and being informed of the current issues that are provoking the major divides is crucial when developing an opinion. The Reagan Library serves as a reminder of a time when the GOP had prioritized reaching the common ground with their Democratic counterparts to produce policies that benefited the American people. Now, voters are left with a highly polarized national political landscape and a fraught Republican Party without a clear leader. Electing a new, moderate candidate could lead the party into a new direction and help support more bipartisan legislation, starting a new chapter that may shape not only the Republican Party but the United States Congress for generations to come.

## QUESTION OF THE ISSUE

### What is your favorite part of Exeter fall?

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

## RESPONSES FROM LAST ISSUE:

### Describe this coming year in 5 words.

Epitome of stress and happiness.

— Phin Gibbs '25

Like Prep year but worse

— Asha Masoudi '26



Republican candidates Mike Pence, Ron DeSantis, and Vivek Ramaswamy debating onstage at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California.

Courtesy of U.S. News & World Report

# Immigration Under Biden

By LEO ZHANG '25

Residents of Eagle Pass, Texas, saw something interesting happening in their city: billionaire Elon Musk made a surprise visit on Sept. 28, filming himself walking under an overpass, but he wasn't there to sell electric cars or promote X. In his video, Musk says that he came to Eagle Pass to experience the sudden migrant surge that has strained border towns. Tony Gonzales, a Republican representing Texas's 23rd district in the House of Representatives, also appeared in the video to talk about the dire situation of Eagle Pass. Since Biden took office, illegal immigration has spiked to record levels, creating humanitarian consequences across the United States. An insecure border endangers and burdens Americans. Policymakers should work to enforce our laws to keep our country safe and devise new measures to better secure the border.

Thousands of people are moving toward the southern border, and upwards of 9,000 individuals are crossing daily (New York Times), marking a sharp increase compared to previous months. Border towns such as Eagle Pass

are overwhelmed, with many declaring an emergency. Eagle Pass has needed to shut down a bridge to reassess agents to help process all the migrants, a move that would cost them \$15,000 a day in losses (New York Post). In the fiscal year of 2023, the Federal Government has allocated \$800 million to immigration relief, which doesn't come close to meeting the needs of cities like New York that take in thousands of migrants (ReliefWeb).

On Oct. 5, the Biden administration, who promised to abandon all Trump-Era immigration policies, decided to reinstate the border wall policy and construct a 20-mile-long barrier to curb immigration. The Department of Homeland Security explained, "There is presently an acute and immediate need to construct physical barriers and roads in the vicinity of the border of the United States to prevent unlawful entries into the United States" (Wall Street Journal). Biden's abandonment of many Trump-Era policies led to his immigration fiasco.

When Donald Trump assumed office, he also had to deal with high levels of illegal immigration. He established the Migrant

Protection Protocols, which required asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while the U.S. courts processed applications. After its introduction, "more than 60,000 illegal immigrants were returned to Mexico over a 13-month period" (Heritage Foundation).

During COVID-19, Trump established Title 42, which allowed the U.S. to turn away migrants coming from areas with high disease. Besides COVID-19, recent outbreaks of tuberculosis and polio have occurred in many sanctuary cities that took in large numbers of migrants. New York City's tuberculosis rate is more than double the national rate, while the rest of the state saw its first polio case since 1990 (New York Post).

While Trump's policies drew criticism for separating families and violating migrants' civil rights, he curbed migrant encounters at the border significantly and increased apprehensions of illegal immigrants (Pew Research). But Biden set out to overturn many of Trump's policies. In a tweet from 2020, Biden called the Migrant Protections Protocols "dangerous, inhumane, and...against everything we stand for as a nation of immigrants"

(X). He promised that he "[would] end it." The Biden Administration formally terminated the Migrant Protections Protocols on June 1, 2021. There may be a potential correlation between this happening and the fact that the highest recorded amount of migrant encounters at the border ever occurred in 2021. The record was broken again the following year amidst talks of granting migrants from countries like Venezuela and Haiti legal status (NBC).

Some might argue that Biden granting temporary legal status was an attempt to help alleviate the border, but with a little critical thinking, that would only add more pressure. The Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas announced that nearly 500,000 Venezuelans would receive temporary legal status (PBS). The concept of having legal status, even if temporary, would mean that people could cross illegally with no consequences and receive protection from the government for breaking our border laws. This would incentivize more people to come in illegally in hopes of staying in the country legally. Biden, however, is making the right move by resuming deportation flights

back to Venezuela, which would work to demonstrate that those who break the rules will face consequences. He should further broadcast that message to discourage illegal immigration.

If he doesn't, Biden would further exacerbate humanitarian issues. Cartels are smuggling drugs in record amounts across the border, especially fentanyl. The Drug Enforcement Agency last year "...seized enough fentanyl to kill every American — more than 50 million fentanyl-laced pills and over 10,000 pounds of fentanyl powder" (CBS). Human trafficking has also skyrocketed. Almost 150,000 unaccompanied migrant children entered the U.S., with 122,000 taken into custody, smashing the previous record of 69,000 (CBS); studies "estimate that 60% of Latin American children who set out to cross the border alone or with smugglers have been caught by the cartels and are being abused in child pornography or drug trafficking" (Texas Public Policy Foundation).

Right now, one of the prominent issues with illegal immigration is the unfairness to immigrants from other countries who cannot cross the border into the United States because they live in Europe, Africa, or Asia. Because of limited resources and space, the government can only take in a finite amount of immigrants.

The immigrants crossing the border illegally then would disproportionately fill up the limited number of spots. At the same time, other immigrants who don't have that option would have to wait years and possibly decades to immigrate lawfully. To promote fair, safe, and legal immigration, Biden should continue his newly adopted policies, such as constructing barriers and continued deportation.

However, some argue that tighter immigration would make it harder for migrants to leave inhospitable environments like violence-ridden towns or extreme poverty. The United States should work toward taking in migrants, but again, it has finite resources that would not support the thousands of people all over the world living in horrible conditions and that want to come. There must be a system that takes in people from around the world.

An insecure border endangers and burdens Americans. Restricting legal immigration isn't a solution. A growing economy and technological advances will require a larger workforce that immigrants can fulfill. Instead, the government should focus on admitting a diverse group of immigrants who want to work hard and contribute to our society while staying within its allocated resources.

# Ukraine's Recent Progress — and What the West Can Do More

By SUNGHYUN BAE and JOSEPH KIM

Since the start of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine last February, the world has been plunged into this conflict. A second wave of Ukrainian counter-offensives in Zaporizhzhia Oblast began in early June this year, and the war has recently escalated further with the use of cruise missiles, a group of which destroyed a significant Russian command office. With the new development in the war, the importance of Western aid became even more evident.

A Western audience reading this may wonder what their country can do to alleviate the situation for the Ukrainian Armed Forces, considering the importance of Ukraine in keeping the Western bloc intact and preventing further Russian incursions into Eastern Europe. The West needs to provide military support to Ukraine because the Ukrainian military depends on foreign weapons and equipment — in fact, that may be the only thing that is fueling their war effort.

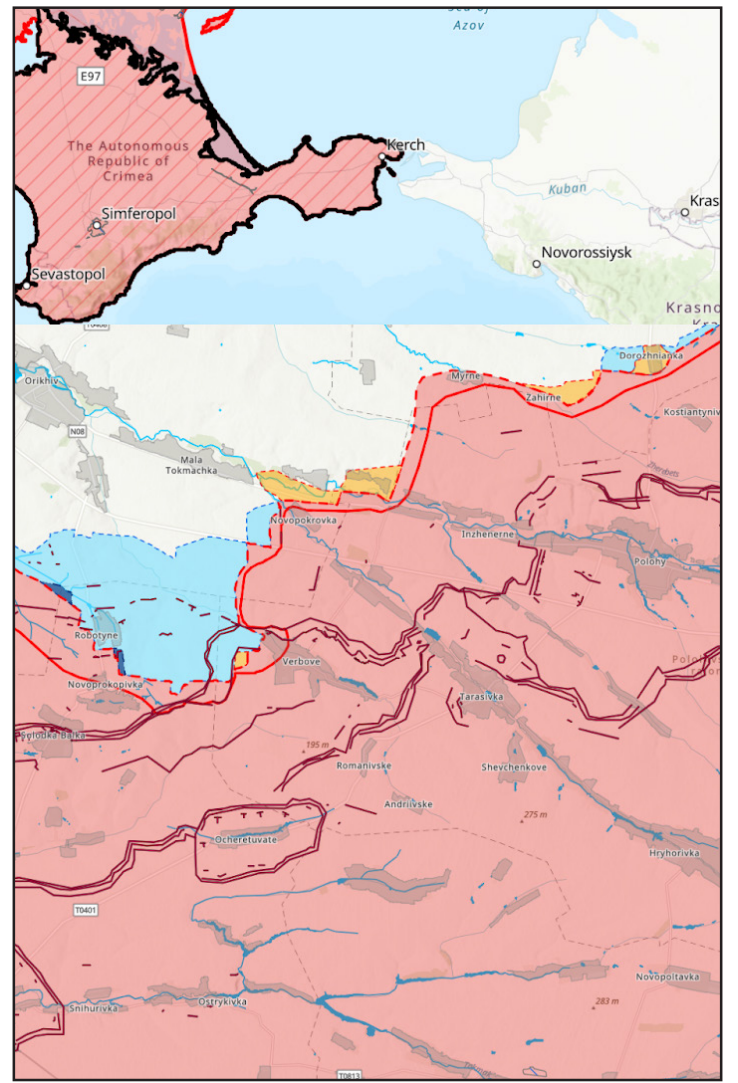
The Ukrainian military has proven to be a capable fighting force as long as it has the equipment necessary. On the morning of Sept. 21, Russia launched cruise missiles throughout Ukraine, 36 of which were shot down according to the official account of the Ukrainian Air Force. The following day, on Sept. 22, Ukraine launched Storm Shadow cruise missiles on the headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet located in Sevastopol. The Special Operations Forces Command of Ukraine's Armed Forces later reported that they killed 34 officers, including the commanding officer of the Black Sea Fleet, Admiral Viktor Sokolov. The Ukrainian Army also breached the Surovikin Line, the primary line of defense in Zaporizhzhia Oblast, littered with minefields and anti-tank defenses. The goal of the counterattack in Zaporizhzhia Oblast was to reach the town of Tokmak and, if successful, continue on towards the Azov coast at Melitopol and Berdyansk, splitting the entire Russian army in Ukraine into two. Many experts have considered this a

significant gain because it led the way for a general southern offensive towards the coast.

United States President Joe Biden promised Ukraine long-range tactical ballistic missiles weapons that could be used to strike Russian military targets well beyond the border. In addition to long range attack capability, the West has promised Ukraine with F-16 fighters, which will likely alleviate Ukraine's air superiority problem if given in substantial numbers. However, Ukraine will not be able to break the grinding stalemate if supplied with a much smaller quantity of Western arms. The recent progress in the war has shown that modern combat exhibits high rates of attrition, with both sides losing equipment extremely quickly. Current quantity of supplies contributed to Ukraine will allow the Ukrainian Armed Forces to endure on the battlefield but will likely be insufficient to produce any groundbreaking change.

Almost as important as military support is public opinion support for Ukraine.

While consistent public support positively influences diplomatic efforts against Russia, exaggerating war events actually hurts the cause. Initial media focus on Ukrainian losses during the summer probing attacks dwindled away as soon as that front restabilized, raising doubts about Western aid while leaving out crucial details. During the summer skirmishes, Western media inflated Ukrainian successes, calling a "breakthrough" on numerous occasions when gains were minimal. Sensationalization erodes trust, and Western governments must counter media exaggerations cautiously to maintain public support of the war endeavor. NATO aid to Ukraine is certainly helping the cause,



Map of the frontline in Zaporizhzhia Oblast

Image courtesy of Institute for the Study of War and American

but further contribution is necessary to win the war. The best thing Western states can do is to provide further military

support for Ukraine and be honest with their own citizens of the effects their support has on the progress of the war.

# Defending Postmodern Art

By JINMIN LEE '26

*Note: This article is written in the dialogue form made popular by Plato because it covers a broad number of ideas that are challenging to fit into one conventional essay. None of the characters mentioned are real.*

Playton: I hate postmodern art.

Jacques: Why? I think postmodern art can be quite... beautiful.

Playton: I have such contempt for postmodern art because it conveys absolutely no meaning.

Jacques: Hmm.

Playton: Think about it. What am I supposed to get any meaning out of postmodern art, such as a banana taped to a wall? Or what about those pieces of "art" called Radiant

posed to express a particular message to the world. Oftentimes, art is engineered to appeal to the emotions of the reader or viewer instead of purely using logic.

Jacques: So do you believe that the author's original intentions matter?

Playton: Absolutely; the whole purpose of art is to convey a message.

Jacques: But art is not the most efficient way to convey meaning, no? I mean, if you wanted to really make a message, why not just write an essay on something? Clearly, writing in prose is better for reasoning.

Playton: I don't think you're understanding me correctly. Of course, art isn't logical. But that's the whole point. It's a lot more persuasive to use emotions to say something than use logic. I always get

art? Like those paintings with just a great depiction of a landscape. Kind of like Bob Ross's paintings. I don't really think those hyperrealistic drawings are trying to persuade me of something.

Playton: You have a good point, but I'd say that even in those paintings, there is always a hidden message.

Jacques: Like what?

Playton: Perhaps painters decided to paint realistically because they wanted to imply the message that depicting the Truth is important and humans must strive toward it.

Jacques: What do you mean? The Truth? Why is it capitalized?

Playton: I meant the Truth as in coming to a better understanding of reality.

Jacques: Okay... Let's get to that later. What if the artist doesn't really mean any kind

where there is a separation between the artist and the viewer. Most postmodernists claim that the intentions of the artist don't matter. I don't think that would qualify as art because there is no message being conveyed.

Jacques: Why do you think postmodernists don't believe the intentions of the author are important? What I'm trying to get at is what made them believe that there should be a separation between the viewer and the artist.

Playton: I don't know. You tell me.

Jacques: First, I think postmodernists begin to reject logocentrism.

Playton: What even is logocentrism?

Jacques: It's the idea that whenever something is written, said, drawn, played, sung, or painted, others can under-

(verb) like (introducing a simile) an arrow (noun). But you can also interpret it as: time (imperative verb) flies (noun) like (introducing a simile) an arrow (noun): it's like you're ordering someone to time the flies like an arrow. You can even think of it like this: time (adjective) flies (noun) like (verb) an arrow (noun). Do you see how there are limitations to language? This theme is quite prevalent in postmodern art; there is a rejection of the belief that ideas or messages can be sent through mediums like writing or paintings. I think postmodern art tries to demonstrate this by disconnecting the receiver (viewer) from the sender (artist).

Playton: But logocentrism may not be perfect, but it works really well, doesn't it? I mean, we have stop signs on roads and people get into a lot fewer car accidents because of those.

Jacques: Sure, I'm not arguing that logocentrism doesn't work. In fact, we're having a conversation; I wouldn't be able to even understand you if logocentrism was so flawed. My point is that people often don't challenge certain limitations of language or art. I think postmodern art is simply pointing out that these mediums of communication, such as art, aren't perfect.

Playton: That's a good point. However, why not then still strive for logocentrism instead of rejecting it? I mean logocentrism is good, isn't it?

Jacques: I agree; we do understand each other through mediums like language and art. But postmodernists want to emphasize its limitations. But I have a second point. You mentioned the Truth before and how it's the "objective reality" and "how the world 'really is.'" I think postmodernists reject that idea as well.

Playton: Could you elaborate?

Jacques: Coming to think about it, the postmodern movement's essential philosophy revolves around the rejection of Truth. Does it exist? What even is it? Can you prove it? These are questions philosophers have been questioning for centuries, and nobody can really agree on a single definition. Postmodernism is a reaction to this inability to agree on the Truth. I mean, Nietzsche puts it very nicely when he says that: "Supposing that Truth is a woman [...] Is there not ground for suspecting that all philosophers, in so far as they have been dogmatists, have failed to understand

women?" Postmodernism is a mocking of the failures of philosophers.

Playton: Hmm. Okay. But I don't think it's quite productive at all to completely reject Truth, just like how it's not useful to reject logocentrism.

Jacques: I absolutely agree that it's not productive, but does art even have to be productive? In fact, I somewhat agree with what you said before about the purpose of art. It's to convey a particular message in an emotional way so that it alters the viewpoints of others or at least makes them question their beliefs. I think postmodern art is doing just that.

Playton: Doing what?

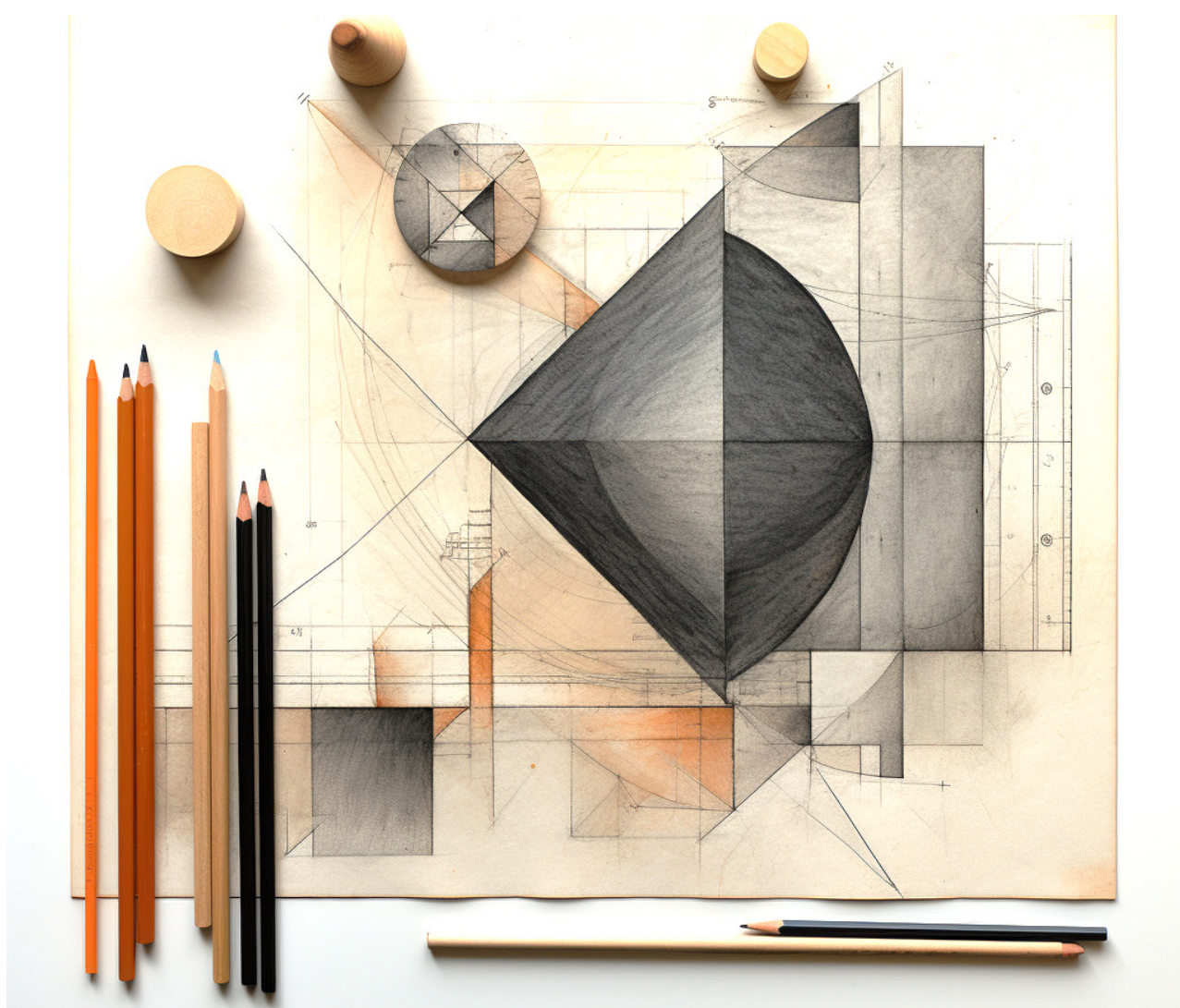
Jacques: It's making a grand mockery of conventional philosophical ideas regarding logocentrism and truth by making a radical show of completely trying to cut off any kind of meaning (I mean, a banana taped to a wall doesn't have much meaning) and making abstract figures (there can't be much Truth in artwork like Radiant Beasts).

Playton: Isn't that a contradiction? You just said art is about conveying a message and then claimed that postmodern art has no meaning.

Jacques: No. It's precisely that. The meaning of postmodern art is that it has no meaning. It's only trying to make a fool of the conventional ideas regarding truth and logocentrism. As you can see, I'm not saying Truth, but rather saying truth, without a capital T. Postmodernism is just trying to say that in a much more radical way.

Playton: You know what? Postmodern art does make sense that postmodern views against Truth and legitimate communication are illustrated in impactful ways. But I still think postmodernist ideas are not great for the advancement of ideas as we have to strive toward a better understanding of Truth, even if it seems hard to attain it. Similarly, as I've said before, we should actually make the assumption that logocentrism exists to have a productive society.

Jacques: I quite agree. I'm just claiming that postmodernist art successfully makes the postmodern statement of conveying the message that there is no message. Whether that is a productive thing to do is a different conversation. I may not fully agree with postmodern ideas, but I like how postmodern art makes a parody and mockery of truth and logocentrism.



Ava Zhao / The Exonian via Midjourney

Beasts all over campus right now? What am I supposed to learn or understand from those pieces of colorful balloons?

Jacques: I see your point. But what is the purpose of art in the first place?

Playton: It's a medium of communication that is sup-

moved by poems rather than an essay with a cold tone trying to persuade me.

Jacques: But clearly not every art is there just to convey a message. Isn't one major part of art appreciation?

Playton: Sure, but I think the "appreciation" part is only there to better persuade the viewer emotionally.

Jacques: What about realist

of message when painting? Would that still qualify as art for you? Let's say I'm not trying to say anything.

Playton: Hmm...

Jacques: Before we get ahead of ourselves, could you please define postmodern art for me? I want to make sure we're on the same page.

Playton: Sure. Postmodern art is a form of art

# Humor

## FAKE NEWS

## Headlines

By SUNGHYUN BAE, PHIN GIBBS, and TANAY NANDAN

1. “New Course Unveiled: Advanced Quantum Physics for Preps (PHY 670137)”
2. “Aliens Abduct Principal Rawson in Attempt to Steal School’s Exeter Bar Recipe”
3. “Academy Announces New Extracurricular Activity: Competitive Sock Puppetry”
4. “Exclusive Interview: Phillips Exeter Secretly Training Super-Genius Lab Rats to Take Over the World”
5. “School Mascot Rebellion at Phillips Exeter! Rampant Lions Demand Equal Representation in Yearbook Photos”
6. “Local Squirrel Named Valedictorian at Phillips Exeter Academy, Credits Acorn-omics Instructor Kilinc”
7. “Phillips Exeter Unveils New Sports Team: Competitive Hide-and-Seek”
8. “Science Experiment Gone Wild: Phillips Exeter’s Chemistry Lab Accidentally Creates Talking Beakers”
9. “Breaking News: Academy Announces Plans to Build a Moat Around the Library to Keep Out Study Distractions”
10. “Phillips Exeter Academy Implements ‘Silent Disco’ in the Library, Students Now Dance While They Study”
11. “Exclusive Interview with the Phillips Exeter Janitor Who Claims to Have Found Narnia Behind the Gymnasium”
12. “Phillips Exeter Discovers Ancient Textbooks in School’s Basement, Includes ‘The History of the Dinosaurs’ and ‘Quantum Mechanics for Cavemen’”
13. “Academy’s Top Secret Plan to Train Squirrels as Future World Leaders Leaked”
14. “CAPS Announces Initiative to Offer Pony Rides in Health Center.”
15. “Surprise Announcement: Phillips Exeter Academy to Host World’s First ‘Interstellar Bake-Off’ with Alien Judges”
16. “Academy Implements Required ‘Nap Time’ into Schedule, Students Excited to Get a Taste of Kindergarten Again”
17. “Breaking: Phillips Exeter Students Protest for Equal Representation of Muppet Characters in School Plays”
18. “Bigfoot Spotted on Campus, Offered Full Scholarship to Join Class of 2028”
19. “Phillips Exeter Launches New Course: ‘Conspiracy Theories 101 — Finding the Truth Behind School Elm’s Source of Meat,’ set to be taught by Mr. Chisholm”

## “To the New Uppers, to Make Much of Time”

By ZOE CURTIS ‘25

Dear Reader,

I am a woman, a Jew, and a freshly inaugurated Exonian. So, like my ancestors only would’ve appreciated: I’ve come to kvetch. It’s been three weeks in this bizarre little microcosm and I can already tell you that I have absolutely no idea what is going on. In this past hour alone, I’ve met the heir to the Anheuser-Busch fortune, spent \$15 on an iced honey-lavender latte (which I proceeded to spill after tripping over the historic Whitefield monument on Front Street), been assigned enough physics homework to warrant Einstein’s complaints, and gained a whole lot of forearm strength carrying around my HIS410 Additional Documents booklet (they are SUPPLEMENTARY?!).

My roommate is a Ukrainian supermodel/activist who has split the hydrogen atom and who also loves The Weeknd, and I’ve come to the only firm conviction that I have about this school: that there are no firm convictions.

Unlearn everything you once held to be true.

War is the soft-serve machine in Elm.

Freedom is a sleep-in.

Ignorance is strength.

P-Raw is watching you.

I’m fairly certain that PEA is some type of experiment to see how we can bend the fabric of time, because the hours here seem simultaneously infinite and lightning-quick. I’m not joking. On my first day here, the hands of my Timex started spinning around at Energizer Bunny-like speed and then the face shattered on the floor and cut my foot! Promptly, a vortex opened up on the third-floor landing, and I had to book

it like a Didion-obsessed Flo Jo to get out of there just in the nick of time to avoid being swallowed, and somehow they still expected me to make my 8 a.m. health class — phew!

But this is an educational institution, so I’m learning. I don’t just mean book studying, though that is like the plague here (not that I’m complaining — I’ve been a Goodreads user from the womb). I’m learning that the library is a brutalist corn maze, that Grill only opens at 4:00 on Saturdays (what?!), that I wasn’t supposed to have gone into Main Street that one time (to the Dean’s Office, I admit to NOTHING, and to the residents of Main Street, I am sorry for disturbing the peace), that I like chocolate a lot now — a freakish amount, honestly — and that the walk to Goel from Dutch House is curiously similar to descriptions I’ve read of Napoleon’s Russian

Campaign, especially if I’m hungry or it’s cold out.

In any other situation, I would be reading a book or watching a movie to quell my anxieties. In this place, I’m relegated to a couple of Winthrop speeches for history homework and a “L’histoire de La Pleiade” instructional video for French instead, along with having to memorize the entire U.S. Constitution and teach myself how to teach myself math. It’s only a matter of time before I go insane (if I haven’t already), or that hot guy I keep seeing in Elm — who is probably a figment of my imagination — gets COVID and mysteriously disappears forever.

With love, Orwell references, and plenty of confusion about tomorrow’s formats,

New Upper #1045369

# Top 5 Most Cancellable Jokes

By AVEEN BURNEY '25

Forgive me father for I have been canceled. If you think of more cancellable answers, please contact me.

1. What's gray and goes round and round and round? *An elephant on a merry-go-round.*
2. What kind of makeup do pirate girls wear? *Ship gloss.*
3. What do you call four bullfighters in quicksand? *Quatro cinco.*
4. What kinds of balls don't bounce? *Eyeballs.*
5. What do you call a stick that won't do anything you want? *A stick-in-the-mud.*

I know these are pretty controversial. Please don't report me guys, I can't take another case.

# Club Stereotypes

By THEA VAUGHAN '27

Imagine this: it's your first year at Exeter, you're still trying to figure out where all of your classes are, and you've just entered a gymnasium full of hundreds of students advertising their clubs. It's exciting. It's fun. And, oh yeah, you can't walk down an aisle without someone yelling at you to scan their QR code and join their group. An incredible first impression, right?

Welcome to Club Expo! Here, you'll find clubs you love, clubs you hate, and clubs you look at and say "Why not?" Beware, though: there's a good chance you'll end up joining the email list of at least one club you don't want to do.

Like when I got cornered by a singing group and found myself joining

their club. Good times!

As a new student myself, I saw many interesting clubs at Club Expo this year. Tea club, for example, was a popular club. It gives an excuse to sit, gossip and drink tea. Who wouldn't love it? Tea club is, of course, on the more relaxed end of the scale. On the other end, you get things like Model UN and Mock Trial. They're the perfect opportunity to look and sound important: "Your honor, my client is NOT GUILTY." (See? Wouldn't you feel so important saying that?) There's also student publication clubs, such as Exie Blog and The Exonian — which I would never join, obviously. If none of those interest you, don't fret, there are clubs for pretty much anything your heart desires. Except for a book club. There is, for some odd reason, no book club.

# There's Always Time for a Crisis

By ALLISON KELLY '25

How is it always the perfect time to find a new iPhone case, or write a book of short stories collected from a summer job, or completely reorganize my room when it also happens to be t-minus

46 minutes and 32 seconds till my math test begins?

Never when I have a free afternoon or a double sleep-in am I able to do anything creative. I just "don't have enough time," even with hours and hours of freedom.

I just have to get

these things done; I have to organize my bookshelf alphabetically, I have to color code my monthly calendar, I have to paint this landscape because I suddenly discovered I like to paint. I have to or else there will be a crisis, one where I

don't have time to do anything if not what I want.

How is it that when I have the most work to do in the shortest amount of time, I suddenly feel "most inspired" to follow my newly discovered "passion" for poetry?

I like to phrase it

like this: "I work best under pressure." But don't we all, especially here? Of course you "work best under pressure" since it's the only explanation that somewhat excuses the procrastination crime.

So for now, I guess I'll continue on shopping for a new

phone case, one the perfect shade of blue, completely unneeded and irrelevant to the Chemistry lab report that's due next block, but hey, I "work best under pressure."

When there isn't time to get anything done, there's always time for a crisis.

# THE CARTOON CORNER

By AVA ZHAO

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



## CAN YOU GUESS THE FACULTY?

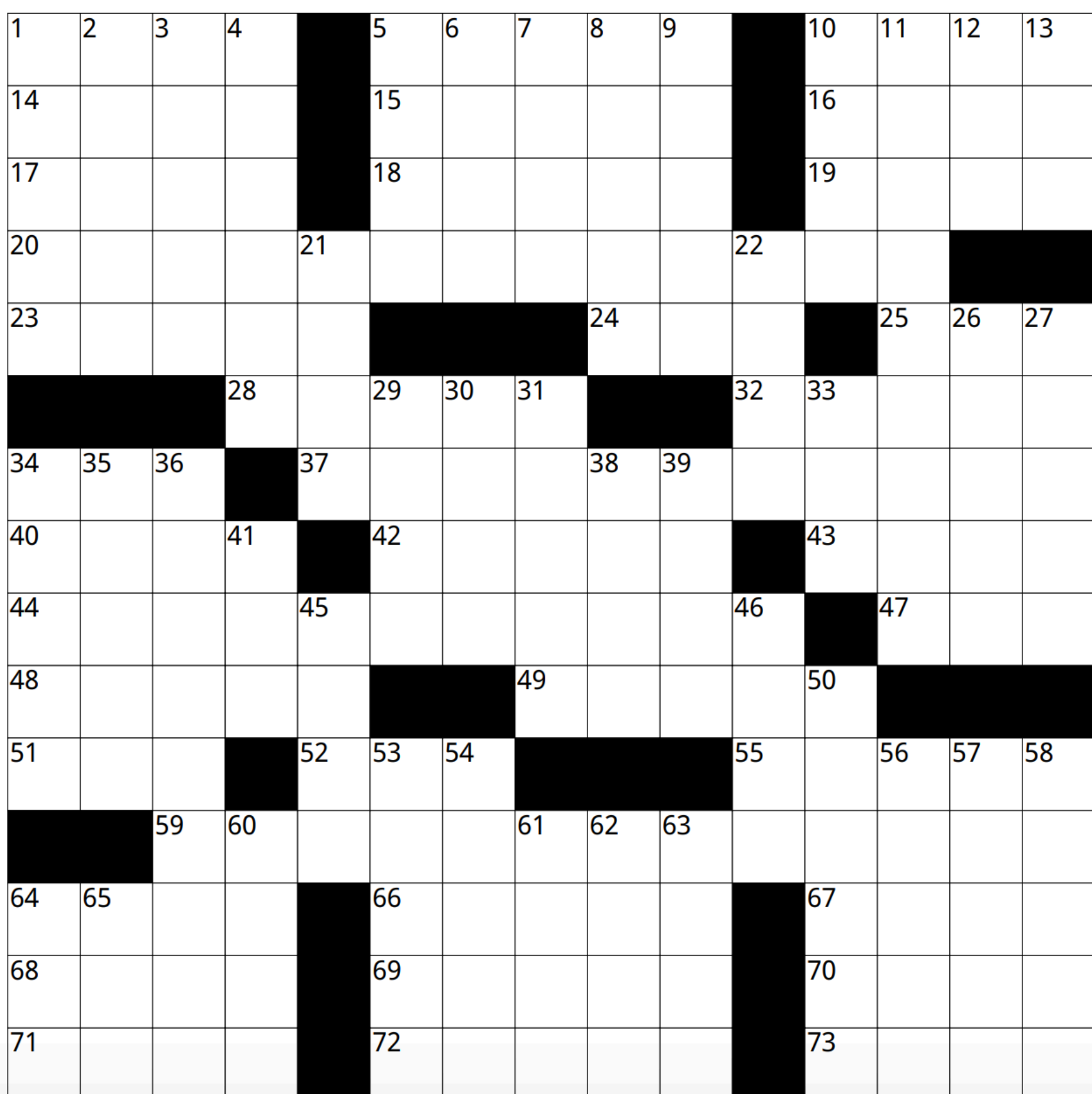
- Week 2 -



By AVAZHAO'24

# The Crossword Corner

By Finn  
Tronnes '24



## ACROSS

1- City in SW Russia  
5- Repeated before "a man after midnight"  
10- Seat in Parliament?  
14- Plural of solo  
15- Window style  
16- Creepy look  
17- Ever so slightly  
18- Famous brothers who went to the year 3000  
19- Museum curators' degs.  
20- "Money Trees"  
23- "Iron Chef America" host Brown  
24- Retiree-paying program: Abbr.

25- Will Ferrel Christmas movie  
28- Afro-Brazilian dance  
32- Second-generation Japanese-American  
34- Alysha and Jaq \_\_\_\_\_, '23&'21  
37- Scandinavian Muppet  
40- Informal negative  
42- "This is only \_\_\_\_\_"  
43- Faction  
44- Trick to try on a RedBike  
47- "Shut up!"  
48- Volunteering words  
49- Prefix with frost  
51- Cheap Thrills singer  
52- \_\_\_\_\_-Wan

Kenobi  
55- The gram  
39- HIS410 era  
64- 90.5 FM  
66- "\_\_\_\_\_ big deal"  
67- Cleans up a spill  
68- Since  
69- Seagoing mil. training group  
70- Related to  
71- Some online pics  
72- Purple Muppet whose self-identified species is "Whatever"  
73- What gives some dorm rooms a bright red glow

## DOWN

1- Tennis star Naomi  
2- Cheap lodging on a road trip  
3- Incline  
4- Youngsters  
5- Asian berry marketed as a "superfood"  
6- Noelle's boyfriend's car in "Teenage Dirtbag" by Wheatus  
7- Rodent with nice fur  
8- Breakfast, lunch and dinner  
9- "Anna & \_\_\_\_\_ Frozen Playground" (Lego set)  
10- \_\_\_\_\_ Mater  
11- Reloads  
12- Black or Red or Dead or Mediterranean or North

13- Hosp. areas  
21- Genetic messengers  
22- Ho Chi \_\_\_\_\_ City  
26- Slimy parasite  
27- Amendment that may be pled  
29- Kiss sound  
30- Dumb, à Grenoble  
31- Take \_\_\_\_\_ breath  
33- Suffix with robot  
34- Dark blue ore in Minecraft  
35- Fancy mayo  
36- as a substitute for  
38- Of Man, for one  
39- Mix  
41- Graffiti signature  
45- Sheep hair

46- Radiate  
50- Drummer Muppet  
53- Bounce sound  
54- Opener  
56- "Blowin' \_\_\_\_\_"  
by Kacey Musgraves  
57- Not so hot?  
58- Orgs.  
60- Bricks  
61- Takes the stage  
62- 1998 bug movie  
63- Bananas  
64- Tail shake  
65- Tire pressure meas.

# Sports

## » VOLLEYBALL

Read about the varsity girls volleyball team's match against Milton, 16.

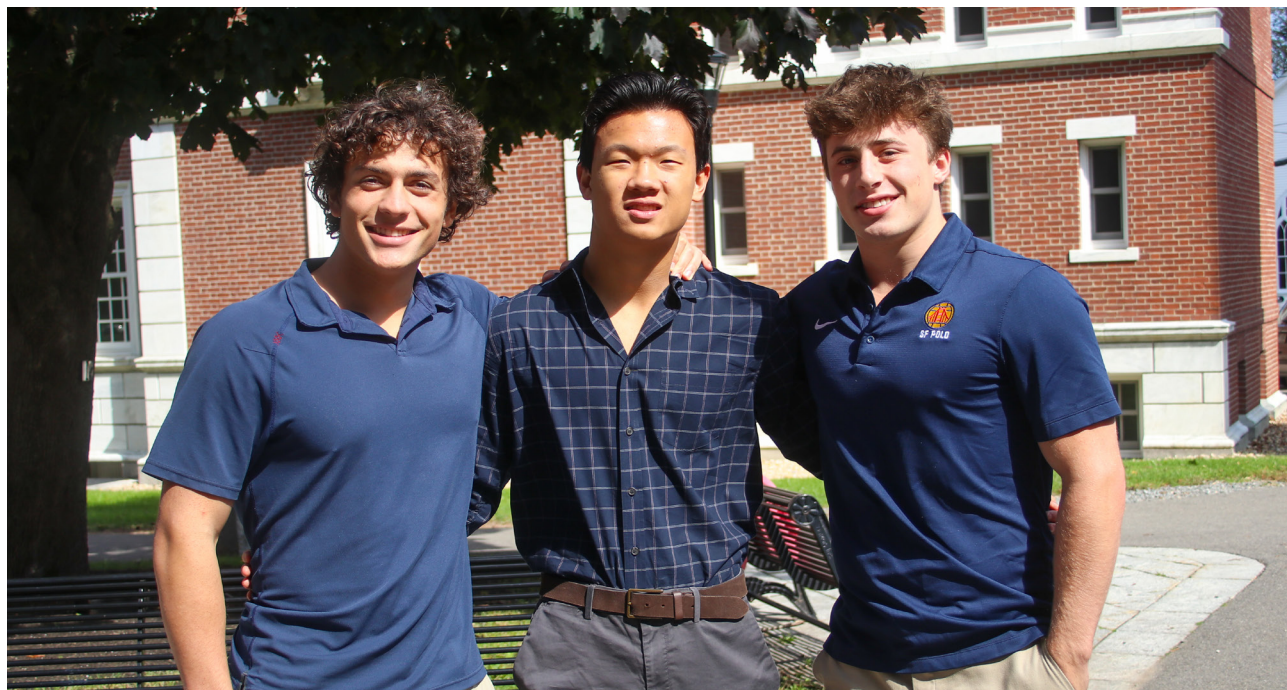
## » FIELD

Read about the varsity field hockey team's season so far, 16.

## » COTW

Read about the captains of the week: boys water polo, 16.

# Captains of the Week: Boys Water Polo



Varsity water polo captains smile for a photo outside of Elm Street Dining Hall.

By JACK CASSIDY, ROHIT KANTAMNENI, and LAUREN LEE

The boys varsity water polo team has had an exhilarating start to their season. With an undefeated record of 6-0, they're bound to be a competitive team at Interschols. Most recently, the boys pulled away with a 13-12 win over Choate this past weekend. Looking forward, the varsity squad will be facing off against Brunswick and CT Premier, among others this weekend at

the Cardinal Cup. Although very good teams, Big Red is prepared to show them what the team's been working on, including a more efficient defense and driving plays. These recent successes and top form demonstrate the leadership and mentality exhibited by the senior varsity captains: Alex Rosen, Charlie Gao, and Will Reed.

Some captains started their water polo journeys from early on while others started playing at Exeter. "I've been playing for quite a while starting around 12-

13. I played club water polo at my local club, Greenwich Aquatics, whose program was certainly competitive," Gao said.

Reed also started out early. "I started playing in 7th grade after a friend invited me to his club's practice, it would end up becoming my year-round sport. It developed from UI4 games to the current day here at Exeter."

On the flip side, Rosen started playing water polo in his first year at Exeter. "It sounded like a fun sport to get into as a beginner as

Hillary Yoon / *The Exonian*

I used to be a swimmer. My first year we did junior varsity and varsity together, so I got to play with varsity too. It was terrifying. I originally practiced with the JV guys and, in a shooting drill, volunteered to be goalie...That's how I first got in cage, and I've been a goalie ever since."

The captains have also done a fantastic job motivating the entire team to leave it all in the pool, and to hold each other accountable. "They influence me to be a better player, They inspire me to be a better teammate,"

prep Henry Wise said. Wise is not alone when he says this, as all preps on varsity have made significant progress already, since arriving for preseason.

For Gao, team camaraderie is crucial. Despite entering the Exeter Aquatics program as an experienced water polo athlete, Gao highlighted how the "transition into the high school water polo dynamic...changed the style that [he plays with]." As a leader, he believes that to truly push his fellow players to perform their best, he must set "good precedent to how we should practice, act, and play."

Rosen's style of leadership is also built on inclusivity and mentality. "I think that its most important for everyone to feel like they fit in. After that, I think its most important that people try their best."

Reed also expects a winning mentality and performance from his teammates. "When leading the team, I try to work with my fellow captains to make sure the boys are having fun while also working hard and focusing on the task at hand."

Upper Leo Zhang reflected on his captains' leadership qualities.

"They're very good leaders and I think more concretely they lead by example a lot. So whether that be swim sets, the intervals, and lifts. They're always making us stay on track."

One of Charlie's and the coaches' favorite ways to push the team is with "a lot of chairs" - an exercise in which players will hold metal chairs above their heads for minutes at a time in order to strengthen their legs. It's become a team signature.

The tight-knit relationships between the three captains are evident in how they cultivate a supportive team environment. "All three water polo captains are my close friends. I have been on varsity with Will all four years at Exeter, and Rosen and Gao since lower year," said senior Michael Yang.

Leo Zhang shared a similar sentiment. "They push us to our very best on the court and they push us very good off the court too 'cause they're great people." While the captains have fostered a very friendly and sociable team environment, their hard-nosed work ethics have enabled the team to get down to business when necessary.

# Varsity Field Hockey Starts Season Strong

By JACOB CREELAN, JOONYOUNG HEO, and ROX PARK

On many afternoons of the week, you can find the girls varsity field hockey team running up and down the turf, passing the ball back and forth. One of them hits it between the goalposts and the others cheer. When the whistle blows, the girls pick up their sticks and head to the locker rooms. It's the end of the day, and the start of a successful season.

The varsity team is mostly composed of uppers and seniors, led by senior captains Adora Perry, Pippa Pflaum, and Kate Rose. The head coach is Samantha Fahey and the assistant coaches are Sarah Nelson and Instructor in English Mercy Carbonell.

Players on the team have enjoyed their first few weeks on the field. "I think the season has been going really well so far," senior Lauren Zoota said. "It's good to get back up because we've had a couple of weeks where we haven't had any games. I feel like we're getting back into the rhythm, and the team is definitely coming together. We've been learning more about how to play as a team and share the ball."

"It's going well," prep

Luvy Danielson said. "The team is amazing, and it's been fun getting to know them. I think we have a lot of potential."

The team had a strong start to the season with a statement 9-0 win over the Tilton School. "It allowed us to experiment with positioning on the field and build confidence early in the season," upper Grace Benson said.

Following their opening victory, the team went into a tight match with Milton, eventually resulting in a 1-1 tie. The team fought back and forth all the way to overtime, with captain and senior Adora Perry scoring the lone goal.

"That game was a highlight for me," senior Audrey Mills said. "I feel the team worked really well and it was also a very close game. I also feel like I played well that day. My family came to the game, so it was a great experience."

Benson added, "The game against Milton was also a personal highlight for me. The game was very back-and-forth and overtime was no different, and it was really exciting to have a close-matched low-scoring game."

Accordingly, though not without obstacles, the team set the tone for the rest of the season, putting on an

impressive show of grit and talent in the first two matches.

"The first half of our season is the most challenging in the opponents we play," head coach Samantha Fahey said. "So we're tested every week, but each game sets us up for our next. We play a hard schedule in general and there are no easy games, but we're ready for that challenge."

Much of their success has come not only from skilled individual play but a strong sense of cohesion in the team itself. The players certainly do not hide their appreciation for each other, especially for their captains.

"I really admire the captains this year," upper Natalia Ulbin said. "Adora, Pippa, and Kate have led the team through practices and games by increasing the intensity and just being role models for the rest of us. When they play with full effort, it inspires the rest of us to play 100 percent as well."

"Our captains are great," Mills said. "They all work together very well, and they help lead the team on the field by doing warmups and being an amazing example for every girl on the field. But they are also so good off the field in answering any question about our practices, games or any other issues."

Upper Clare Stewart-Selvan had just as much to say. "The captains are doing a great job at keeping the energy up, and Kate's really good at inspiring the team when games get really competitive, when we get tired toward the end."

"The captains have been crucial to our success this season so far," Benson said. "Adora has been someone who sets the tone of every practice with her competitive attitude, and is a role model for the younger and newer players like me."

Many feel the same admiration for their fellow players as they do their captains.

For Zoota, Benson herself is an inspiration. "This is her first year ever playing field hockey and I think she's been doing a great job," Zoota said. "She's really stepped up and works really hard and she's been doing a great job this year."

Benson is not the only new player to have an impact on the team. "I admire Audrey Sim and Sam Crowley, our goalies," Mills said. "They are new this season and have been so incredible, especially in the games. They block so many shots on goal and both have such positive attitudes about everything."

Naturally, the close bond these seventeen girls share has made for some great moments off the field.

"Honestly, I think sitting at the bonfires together was my favorite team experience, but even when we do team dinners, some of us stay late at Elm because we want to keep talking," Stewart-Selvan said.

Indeed, their team dinners are a very special part of their team dynamic. "I know that seems like it should be happening on every team, but it doesn't," Fahey said. "Everyday I'm so impressed by what the students and student-athletes do, and their taking the time to sit down together tells me they're making time for each other off the field. They just seem to be enjoying each other, and that's a bigger win than a win on the field."

Looking ahead, the players are confident that the team will only continue to improve.

Mills referenced both personal goals and hopes for the team. "I hope that I improve as a player, get better with stick skills, and in general as the season progresses I look forward to seeing how my team does because we are very good, and I hope that we go far."

"I'm looking forward to

just understanding each other and playing more cohesively throughout the season," Stewart-Selvan said. "We're making a lot of progress and making some really good plays."

"I think we're all using each other and playing a very team-oriented game. I'm really looking forward to the rest of the season, as we can only progress from here," Ulbin added.

"I just want this team and this program to succeed—and get 10 or more wins," Fahey said. "With all the hard work they put in, there's nothing more rewarding than feeling good walking off the field, especially after a win. Last year we were only three games away from playoffs, so that's a huge goal for us. We're in a place to expect more of ourselves and when we start doing that consistently, we'll be able to put games away."

Driven by their determination and cooperative spirit, the girls varsity field hockey team is a commanding force at the Academy. With twelve games left in the season culminating in a final match against rival Phillips Academy, Exonians can expect to see hard-earned triumphs and an increasingly united team in the weeks ahead.

# Big Red Volleyball Crushes Milton Academy

By PHIN GIBBS, EMMA LI, HANNA WEI, and SOPHIA XUE

On Wednesday, Sept. 20, The girls volleyball team secured a 3-0 victory against Milton Academy in their season opener.

"We kicked off the match with a bit of a slow start in that first set, but what a thrilling ride it was! Despite the initial hiccup, we managed to pull through and secure a 25-20 victory. It was a testament to our resilience and determination right from the get-go," said senior and captain Sophia Dabney. "It was an

amazing first step for us. We showcased our potential, and it's clear that we have the talent and determination to make this season something truly special. It's not just about the win; it's about the growth, the learning, and the camaraderie that will define our journey."

As they moved into the second and third sets, Dabney saw an entirely new level of unity from her team. "It was like a switch had been flipped, and we were firing on all cylinders. The synergy among us was palpable, and we dominated those sets by a much larger margin. It wasn't just about

individual plays; it was about the collective effort, the unity, and the trust we had in each other."

Upper Ellie Ocampo shared Dabney's attitude toward the game and the team as a whole. "The effort and energy on the court were amazing. It set the tone for what I hope will be a successful season. This team is going to be something special and has [some] big accomplishments ahead."

Senior captain Amelia Byerly emphasized the importance of the win as validation for their hard work and preparation. "The win served as a moment

that ignited a fire within us, motivating us to push ourselves even harder in the coming weeks."

When reflecting on the game, Head Coach Bruce Shang thought it was an incredible first triumph for the team. "I thought we played well in our first game of the year. We have some things to work on, but overall, the team performed."

Byerly corroborated this sentiment. "While the victory was sweet, it also provided us with valuable insights into areas that require improvement. We've identified aspects of our

game that need fine-tuning, and we're eager to address them in practice."

Upper Aoibhe McNamara praised the team's collective enthusiasm and praised the win. "The win was a testament to the incredible potential that our team possesses."

Shang commented on the team's performance going forward. "The next game against Choate was an actual battle. 25-21, 25-23, 25-23. The games were high-action and stressful. We served tough and played great defense. Offensively, we had some great plays by Corinne Morrison, Amelia

Byerly, Ellie Ocampo, and Clare McCann. We were able to slow down their Division 1 outside and squeeze out a tough victory. Next week we play number 1 Loomis, it should be a great game."

When discussing the team's future, senior Corinne Morrison said, "Looking into the future, I see a successful season. Everyone comes to practice each day ready to work and very ready to win. After a perfect regular season last year, we have a reputation to withhold, but I know our entire team is ready for the challenge!"