

The Exonian

The oldest continuously running preparatory school newspaper in America

Phillips Exeter Academy
Exeter, New Hampshire



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Ale Murat Elected As StuCo President StuCo Voted Twice Against Co-Presidency

By the 144th EXECUTIVE BOARD and NEWS EDITORS

A Note from The Exonian's 144th Executive Board:

On election day, upper and runoff candidate Aaron Joy alerted Elections Committee coheads to an instance of negative campaigning on an Academy student's Instagram story, characterizing it as an attack on personhood. The 2021-22 StuCo Executive Board (Exec) has never shared the textual component of the Instagram story in full. At the Wednesday emergency meeting, StuCo Exec chose to refer to the Instagram story as "a social media post that invoked a racist attack on a candidate's character."

We believe that publishing the Instagram story verbatim is necessary to fulfill The Exonian's mission to report with accuracy and to drive positive change. On the afternoon of Wednesday, Feb. 23, however, we heard from the Deans' Office, StuCo advisors, and



Future StuCo president Ale Murat smiles in the sunshine. Courtesy of William Park

2021-22 StuCo Exec, who all cautioned The Exonian against publishing the Instagram story out of concern for the potential impact on the student who posted the story as well as the runoff candidates involved.

The Exonian has always prioritized the unbiased presentation of facts. In the context of this article, we contin-

ue to believe that publishing the complete Instagram story would fulfill this commitment. That being said, out of consideration for fellow members of the Academy, we have chosen not to publish the Instagram story. Nevertheless, we hope that this article encourages more informed and respectful public discourse surrounding the election, the runoff candi-

dates, and the student body's decision to elect upper Ale Murat as the new StuCo president.

On Friday, Feb. 18, Student Council (StuCo) announced upper Ale Murat as the newly elected StuCo president per the student body's

STUCO RUNOFFS, 4

StuCo Announced Primaries Results

By RISHI GURUDEVAN, LAUREN KIM, SOPHIE MA, and CATHERINE WU

On Friday, Feb. 18, Student Council (StuCo) announced upper Ale Murat as the newly elected StuCo president per the student body's votes tallied on election day Tuesday, Feb. 15. Murat won a majority vote over runoff candidate upper Aaron Joy in an election with 68% turnout rate. Murat joins uppers vice president Grace Puchalski and co-secretary Nate Puchalski, as well as lower co-secretary Kevin Treehan to serve on the 2022-23 StuCo Executive Board (Exec). Class representative elections, normally held at least three weeks after StuCo Exec elections, may be postponed to after spring break.

Election Committee co-head and upper Tucker Gibbs describes the campaigning process. "Over the

past month, we have run the elections for all four executive board members. The elections for vice president and the two co secretaries are pretty straightforward. Prospective candidates get 350 signatures, they write a candidate statement, and then they're eligible to be candidates. And then we hold the elections, where we use a single transferable vote for the presidential primary and the rest of the executive board."

Among the presidential candidates, Azza Uwhubetine decided to go big or go home. "I figured that if I'm gonna run for any position on StuCo, I might as well just run for the biggest one. Exeter always had a very special place in my heart. Now that I've been here for three years, I realized there are a lot of things that we can change."

"One of my big goals is making Exeter the most sex positive place," Uwhubetine stated. "We can do

PRIMARIES, 3

NEWS-IN-BRIEF

Kaminski Abandons Plea Deal; Trial Scheduled for October

By ANVI BHATE, BEEKE FOCK, SYLVIA LANGER, EMI LEVINE, and ELLIE ANASPERANTSAS

On Friday, Feb. 11, former Math Instructor Szczesny "Jerzy" Kaminski was scheduled to plead guilty to three counts of aggravated felonious assault and one misdemeanor count of sexual assault as a part of a negotiated plea deal with prosecutors to resolve the case.

The morning of the trial, his attorney Amy Spencer appeared before the Rockingham Superior Court to inform the court of Kaminski's plea deal withdrawal. Kaminski went against Spencer's advice and opted for a trial. The trial is scheduled during the week of Oct. 31 to Nov. 7. Spencer is no longer representing Kaminski in court.

Attorney Christina Dunn, who represents the victim of the alleged crimes, told *Seacoast Online News*, "As far as the survivor and her family are concerned, they thought this was a done deal and they were finally

going to get their justice."

"It feels to them like another betrayal," Dunn continued. "She was betrayed for years when he sexually abused her when he was her teacher at Phillips Exeter and this feels like another betrayal because he was supposed to plead guilty and now, he's not going to."

Dean of Students Russell Weatherspoon notified the school about this update in an all-school email sent on Feb. 11. "This unexpected turn of events creates fresh, heavy burdens on the survivor, her family and others," Weatherspoon wrote. He also informed students that the pre-planned events offered to students would still stand in place. The events included open spaces to talk in Phillips Church, opportunities to talk with CAPS counselors, Principal Rawson drop-in "office hours," OMA drop-in hours, a discussion and healing circle in Thompson Gym, and a solidarity walk.

Some students felt distressed in lieu of this recent news. Upper and co-head

of Fem Club Jennifer Finklestein expressed her thoughts on Kaminski's withdrawal of the plea. "I think it really speaks to the terrible person Kaminski was that he wasn't willing to grant closure and drag on the process, especially against legal advice, selfishly," Finklestein said. "It's upsetting to me. I also wanted closure. I am kind of nervous for the beginning of next year. There's going to be perhaps the [rising] lowers that will be reminded of this within the first month of school. It's just a deja vu of what happened this year."

The Academy has had a long history of sexual assault cases involving teachers and their students. The publication of the *Vanity Fair* exposé in Sept. 2021 titled "Mr. Weber's Confession" detailed the significant flaws in the Academy's sexual assault policies and how they are handled. This sparked major backlash from current and former students, with a student-led protest occurring shortly after the publication of the article outside the Academy Building.

Students skipped assembly and instead heard about the unfair pressures and burdens placed on student leaders during that time. It was evident that the administration was not doing its role in helping students process their thoughts and emotions regarding the information in the article.

In response to this protest, Principal Rawson made a statement saying he and various student leaders were collaborating together to improve the Academy's sexual assault policies. On Feb. 8, days before the Kaminski trial, Rawson sent out a similar email. The email provided an update on the Academy's ongoing work to revise its protocols for responding to reports of student sexual misconduct or assault.

In the email, Rawson said that, currently, "a student who wants to report sexual misconduct or assault will be able to report to any trusted adult. The student then will be given a 'support coordinator'—a new position that we are creating—to provide support throughout

the investigation. The support coordinator could be a professionally trained faculty member or could be our experienced Director of Student Well-Being."

"Resources available to the reporting student during the investigation will include, in addition to the support coordinator: their adviser, the trusted adult, counselor(s), deans, a HAVEN advocate, and the Director of Student Well-Being," Rawson continued. "The trusted adult, adviser and support coordinator also will have multiple resources available, as needed, throughout the investigation."

He assured the student body that the Academy is "consulting with external experts on our proposed changes, including experienced case investigators and experts from HAVEN and RAINN (Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network), and have consulted with adults on campus who have been involved in past cases in different capacities."

The administration has also sought feedback in

meetings with student leaders of EASA, Fem Club and Transitions, and "has looked at similar processes at peer schools."

"We will present the changes to Student Council for feedback, as we did when we revised the process in 2019; of course, we will also present them to the faculty, who approve changes to the E-Book," Rawson wrote.

He closed off the email by writing, "This is important work and we will continue to pursue it with urgency."

The email mentions multiple times the Director of Student Well-Being, Christina Palmer, who came under scrutiny by students shortly following the *Vanity Fair* article. In the article, Nancy Sales talked about Palmer's role in Weber's case, as well as with another case involving two students that occurred during Sales' time at Exeter. Sales claimed Palmer failed to handle either situation appropriately, and current students were concerned about the reporting and handling process of sexual assault cases.

OMA Celebrates Lunar New Year and Black History Month

By NHAN PHAN, LIANNA YANG, and CHENGYUE ZHANG

The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) held a series of cultural events to celebrate Lunar New Year and Black History Month.

Lunar New Year

To organize the Lunar New Year celebration, OMA collaborated with Dining Hall Services, and families also contributed funding for

decorations and snacks as well as 30-second greeting videos that were screened in the dining halls.

Sherry Hernandez, Dean of Multicultural Affairs, explained how celebrations for Lunar New Year have been a staple: "Over the years, OMA has partnered with Dining Services and Student Activities to plan an inclusive celebration of Lunar New Year. In addition to having a menu that reflected the many countries that celebrate Lunar

New Year, [Asian Student Program Coordinator Kerrie Tinsley] ensured that this same diversity was represented in the posters, decorations, candies, and treats that are typical of this celebration."

Culture played an important role in the organization of the celebration. "Although the celebratory customs of Lunar New Year differ around the world, one aspect that seemed to be a common thread was the coming together of families to share

OMA, 2



Elm Street Dining Hall stocks traditional Asian snacks

Joy Chi/The Exonian

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OMA Celebrations Cont.

meals," Tinsley said. "The way we honored that custom was by working closely with the dining hall staff to create an experience that we hoped was reminiscent of home."

"I also wanted to say that parents were an integral part of this celebration," Tinsley said.

"It was clear that parents wanted to give their own students a piece of home during this important holiday; however, they also wanted to share a part of their culture with the Exeter community at large."

Some students offered their thoughts on this year's Lunar New Year celebrations. "I think the main concept of Lunar New Year, just like a lot of other traditions, is being together with family and friends and just having a good time in general," Upper Enzo Nakornsi said. "I really felt that when with all of my friends, we had a feast, kind of. [It was] not big or anything. We went up to the second floor, laid out our food, and ate together, but it was really nice because I got to interact with my friends. It felt like home."

Senior Gretl Baghdadi shared similar sentiments. "I

was so happy when I got to Elm and saw all the people who would normally celebrate eating happily. I felt giddy and smiley for the rest of the night because the excess of food and laughter in Elm felt reminiscent of my home celebrations," she said.

Prep Jessica Phan also enjoyed the school's celebrations, "I initially... didn't expect [the school] to do anything. So I thought it was a very pleasant surprise that they made the food and then put decorations up and everything. That's really nice."

Phan was happy that her country was represented in the celebration. "I didn't expect them to have anything about Vietnam at all, but they had spring rolls, which is one of the classic Vietnamese foods. Also, they have some posters on Wetherall walls about Vietnam and the Tết holiday, so I really liked it," Phan said.

Students also provided ideas about how they think Lunar New Year celebrations could be improved. "I wish that there was a bit more dedication for celebration beyond food available to all students. My dormmates made dump-lings until late into the night

and that made it feel more like home, but I wish that [the celebration] was more built-in so that it didn't have to take time off other things and get deprioritized," Baghdadi said. "I know a lot of people who just came and went for the food simply due to the nature that schoolwork takes priority over celebrations."

"[My family] usually uses food preparation as a way to bring us closer and reflect on the impact of a new year on us so far," Baghdadi continued. "We make a lot of variety of foods from different LNY-celebrating countries which I felt was a bit underrepresented at the dining halls."

Prep Davido Zhang thinks Lunar New Year celebrations could be more inclusive. "I would hope that the school could figure out a way for more students to join the celebration. On that day, I only saw groups of Asians gathered to celebrate. I think it would work better with activities that students can participate in."

Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, OMA hosted a

webinar series titled: "Negro: Pejorative. Outdated. Or Both?" with Dr. Patricia Davis of Northeastern University, Dr. Lamont Slater of Central State University, and Dr. Benjamin Wendorf of Quinsigamond Community College on Feb. 16. On Feb. 18, students could participate in a paint night, attend the Black History Month Gala on Feb. 19, or attend a dodgeball match between Athletes for Racial Justice vs. OMA as part of Black History Month observance.

Some Black students feel as though Black History Month is not being celebrated enough. "They haven't done anything, a single thing, and it's already February 13th," lower Jodi Henry said. "I am so beyond frustrated and disappointed that the school is not doing anything."

Lower Kalel Cuffe agreed: "On Feb. 1 the school made an announcement to say 'Happy Black History Month!', and since then, there has been no other mention of Black History Month."

"I've only had one thing during Black History Month from the OMA proctors, the hair circle," Henry continued. "I also have one event com-

ing up, but it is also hosted by the OMA proctors. I feel like the school is not really doing anything. It is mostly the students. But at the same time I think [the Academy] wants the students to do things, not them."

Lower Akubah Ndubah pointed out a potential problem with the current education about racial justice: "The school just provides the space and sometimes the resources for self-education, but I feel that you get out of it as much effort you put in," Ndubah said. "Especially if [people] are not actively trying to understand and learn about the racial, cultural and historical significance actively."

Some students suggested different activities to increase the involvement and celebration of the Black community with ideas such as Black Artists coming to speak during Assembly and soul food mixers discussed.

"I think the events could be more involving or fun. A lot of the events so far have been just listening and absorbing, but I feel like more chances to apply what we are learning this month would be good," lower Solu Ajene said.

Upper Abigail Babalola

recalled having a great experience at a dinner in Wetherell during her prep year. "They had decorations, they had biscuits, they brought in some fancy chef, and just for one night, I was able to just eat good food with my friends," she said. "We had a laugh, we had a giggle, and overall I just want to see more of that." Babalola would like to see co-heads of certain Black affinity groups become more proactive and communicate with the administration to make similar events happen.

Henry thinks the school should have more diversity in the Black speakers they bring on campus and focus more on Black excellence rather than activism. "I enjoy having activists speak, and I appreciate what they stand for, but we need diversity in our speakers," Henry said.

OMA's efforts to help students feel at home on campus have been meaningful to many students as they continue working towards inclusivity on campus. "I think that OMA is doing a really great job... They have done a great job at least thinking about what students would want," Phan said.

Students Engage in STEM Competitions

By JETT GOETZ, ROXANE PARK, and LEO ZHANG

Academy students hosted and competed in a variety of STEM competitions this term. Among these were the student-led Exeter Math Club Competition (EMCC) and the Science Olympiad Invitational Competition.

EMCC

The annual EMCC is a middle school math competition run by Exeter's Math Club, drawing participants from all around the world. This year, it was held on Jan 29, and it was led by Math Club coheads, seniors Neil Chowdhury, Jacob David, Lucy Xiao, and Eric Yang.

Running for almost the entire day, the competition garnered more than 800 middle school registrants, only slightly less than previous, in-person years. The competition itself consists of four

sections. "Two of them are individual [and] two of them are collaborative," Xiao explained. "For the individual rounds, one of them is speed. It tests your ability to do problems fast. And the other one is accuracy, which has harder problems and you have more time to work on them."

All of the problems used on the tests were written by Math Club members, and preparations began during fall term. "Around November we started thinking about problem ideas and brainstorming," Yang said. "In terms of actual logistics and setup, that all happened throughout the month of January."

As the competition is normally held in person at the Academy, many adjustments were made to adapt to the virtual format this year during COVID. Nearly 40 Exonians volunteered to proctor the various Zoom breakout rooms, and Yang explained how "It's a lot harder to monitor stu-

dents when they're working through Zoom," Yang said. "You sort of have to trust that their camera is pointed at their workspace and they're not pulling out a calculator on the side, although you can't really account for that."

Xiao thought that the online format allowed the competition to be more inclusive. "Often some students can't travel to participate in a competition—I think that it certainly gives us a wider range of students," she said.

But the coheads also highlighted that the event was not just about competition. "Something that we try to do, at the end of the day, is to create a fun experience for them," Yang said. "So interspersed with the competition itself, we did have other small events. For example, we hosted two student panels this year, which were in the form of webinars. And they were to just give contestants... a way for them to experience or get a sense of

what Exeter is like."

Xiao described another panel that focused on the underrepresentation of girls in mathematics: "I feel like middle school is sort of the place where girls start to be less involved in STEM. So I felt the need to share the perspective of girls in STEM." Math teacher and club adviser Chelsea Drescher, former Lucy Cai '21, and Xiao were featured on the panel to talk about their experiences in the primarily male-dominated field.

This year's EMCC concluded after the four rounds, lunch breaks for both west and east coast time zones, multiple panels, and a closing awards ceremony. "I'm excited and I trust the future math club members to bring their creativity forwards," Yang concluded.

Science Olympiad

The Science Olympiad is a competition where students

compete in events featuring different branches of science. Due to the pandemic, this year's competition was held online on Feb. 5.

Prep Byran Huang elaborated on the structure of the Olympiad: "Science Olympiad embodies all different topics of science. Each year there are different events. Events are like a test or something you build and you compete against other schools against certain criteria that may be a test score you wanna achieve or a certain performance on a device."

The Academy's team was chosen through a test on the nervous system, with preparations for the contest starting in the fall. Huang, a member of the junior varsity team, competed in the antenna building event, taking a test on radio frequencies, time, and physics.

The competition being online versus in-person affected the experience. "[I] definitely feel it would've been more like a science fair type of thing

where you'd have like different groups stationed around a big auditorium, and it'd be more supervised," Smith said. "But overall, we are really fortunate that Exeter was able to secure all of the materials necessary for all the tests, like chemistry equipment and building materials."

Smith's even included a test and a lab portion where participants identified different substances by finding their pH and other factors. "It was my first [Science Olympiad], so it was definitely more difficult," Smith said. "You're allowed to bring a sheet of paper with notes, but I wasn't too sure on that."

While this was Smith's first competition, it certainly won't be his last. As talented Exonians continue to test their knowledge in a variety of STEM competitions, they can look forward to more competitions on the horizon.

Academy Hosts Winter Wellness Activities

By CASPAR BAILEY, LUCY READING, and ANDREW YUAN

As the end of winter term approaches, Academy students have noticed an increase in stress around campus. Student clubs and organizations have hosted wellness events to alleviate stress caused by the intensified workload and finals schedule.

Recently, some students have found that they are substantially more stressed than they usually are. Prep Patrick Snyder noted the social interaction of students around him. "Some people have become asocial and secluded themselves from society. One of them being myself, generally my stress levels seem to fluctuate with my homework," he said.

Senior Vincent Xiao agreed. "I think as we transition to the later half of the term students are certainly becoming more worn out, and with incoming major assignments, I do notice an increase in stress levels around campus. I am taking harder courses this term so I'm spending more time and effort on them, which does contribute to

higher stress levels," he said.

In order to mitigate the rise in stress levels, Health's Angels, a student-led club to educate peers on a variety of health issues and promote positive health behaviors, has organized several de-stressing activities throughout winter term. Club leaders hope to see a decrease in stress, and to see the events spread positivity as well as awareness about Health's Angels and its goals.

The club, working alongside Counseling and Psychological Services and Health Education instructors, has previously hosted a Mandela coloring event at Elizabeth Phillips Academy Center, a cocoa kit and bookmark launch party, a night fitness event with Health Education Instructor Brandon Thomas, and a nature walk with Science Instructor Andrew McTammany.

A lot of thought and planning went into the winter wellness events. "Some events were already planned, like the perfectionism lecture Dr. Thurber had organized. Health's Angels came up with other ideas like the tabling event for healthy relationships and the upcoming digital de-

tox day," Health Education Instructor Elizabeth Soucy said. "We all worked together to brainstorm ideas and some are still coming! Friday night fitness activities were an idea that came up organically and Mr. Thomas jumped in to organize that."

The events are designed to help students take a break from school and try something new. "The original idea was for a winter birding walk. By February, most of the species had migrated south, so we switched it to a nature walk," McTammany said. "The goal is to create opportunities for students to rebalance during winter term, which is fairly important. I hope that this becomes a yearly event. At the very least, I hope it gets students out of their routine and involved in a new experience."

Lower and member of Health's Angels Elizabeth Catizone further explained the goals of the program: "A lot of the events are really quick events that you can just stop in on, like the hot chocolate event," she said. "It's a quick table event where you can drop in and we hope that students understand that if they

want to read the brochures, find resources, then they can do that. They're quick events to spread some awareness and positivity."

Members of Health's Angels have high hopes as to where this club can go in the Exeter community. Upper and club member Gwen Serrano commented on the personal contribution of Health's Angel on her: "The club could function as a reminders app on my phone to remember to check in on myself and do things that actually make me happy as well as taking a break from all the work you have to do here as an Exonian," she said.

Catizone shared her thoughts on students' engagement in mental health activities: "I liked the coloring competition that we did," she added. "Because I was a little cynical, it's high school, is anyone really going to color? But so many people actually participated and I remember the winning team finished theirs within the department meeting block. It was really fun."

Student Council Mental Health Committee has also been meeting since last

summer to promote positive changes in students' mental health with events and activities.

Senior and Student Council Mental Health Committee Co-Head Maxine Park explained the planning process for its upcoming mental health activities: "We met over the summer with the class representatives from each year ago to brainstorm some ideas and get a better sense for what students from different grades need," she said. "One idea that was really awesome was to hold an event where people could choose some small plants to brighten up their rooms so we decided to go with this one!"

Lower and Mental Health Committee member Atishay Jain agreed. "Collaboration is key in an event like this. Working together on the Mental Health Committee to plan an event which has the potential to bring the entire Exeter community together is truly something that means a lot to me. Specifically, for this event, when I think of decorating plants, it's just therapeutic and something you can do with your friends in a chill way."

Park hopes that the small changes brought by the project can create positive changes on mental health of community members. "It's a pretty small change to just add a plant to your room. But I think one of the things we've seen this past year is that these small moments of comfort really do matter—whether it's taking a moment to have a conversation with a friend, go on a walk, etc.—small changes accumulate and can have a really meaningful impact on our outlook and happiness in the long run," Park continued.

Park shared her hopes for the future mental health committee as Student Council expects its turnover: "It would be awesome to see future MHC boards investing in student events like these," Park said. "Whether it's something like plants or our Word of Encouragement initiative last year, it's about making mental health conversation & support[ing] part of our culture. Small events like these help shift that culture, little by little, into something where students feel like they have a place to be supported and relax when they need it!"

StuCo Primaries Cont.



Uppers Grace Puchalski, Nate Puchalski, and lower Kevin Treehan will serve on the 2022-23 StuCo Executive Board, along with StuCo President-elect Ale Murat (not pictured).

Minsco Kim/*The Exonian*

this very easily by putting condoms in our bathrooms. On top of that, I wanna advertise the Exeter sexual health services that are offered at the health center. For example, did you know that you can get confidentially STD tested at the health center? I feel like as a high school without parents, we should do our best to make it like a sexually safe place.”

“I also wanna move the dining hall times to eight to ten on Saturdays. Did you know that dining hall workers pull up this campus every day at 5:00 AM to get our food ready? It wouldn’t just benefit us but also benefit them; I don’t know about you, but I’m not awake at 7:00 AM on a Saturday.”

Presidential candidate Ale Murat also describes her campaign, and the policies she hopes will help the student body. Murat says, “my campaign is based around leaving a legacy for the people. I want to focus on getting back the projects, the policies and the promises that were made by past executive boards. For example, I was talking to some lowers and they told me that they wanted to see push and pull levers in the bathroom because people don’t like their hands to get dirty in this pandemic.”

Murat also hopes to bring back traditions on-campus, “I want to bring back the evening prayer, because that was such an important event from my prep year. I would obviously support more school-wide dances once COVID regulations are lessened. And, in terms of policy bringing back mental health days, passing a visitations policy, and leaving a legacy policy (which ensures that these projects are seen through.)”

Similarly, presidential candidate Minsco Kim shared her experiences and

viewpoints while campaigning for Student Council president. “Running for President is definitely competitive and challenging, but I felt I was up to the challenge. First and foremost, I wanted to help students. I care, and I’m honestly not sure how to explain all of these feelings into words of genuinity, but I’m sure actions can speak for themselves, and I’m sure this feeling applies to other candidates and many people as well.”

“I also wanted to make big changes both inside and outside StuCo, and as a figurehead for bringing out big picture changes, becoming President makes it easier to bring about these propositions and help unify StuCo with the student body. I enjoy problem solving and have been part of StuCo for a long time. I’ve worked with many current StuCo members across grades, and from my experiences of running Spring Fling 2021 and other projects, I knew I’d do a great job if I got elected,” Kim continued.

Kim expressed her feelings after presidential run-ups were announced as well. “I was looking forward to being able to debate and share ideas during the run-offs, but it’s fine that I didn’t make it. There are always other ways, and this isn’t the end of anything. In fact, I learned a lot while running for President, and enjoyed it. I got to talk to more people. My interest grew even more in solving issues we face on campus.”

“Ultimately, I learned from my experiences in running for President and helped bring students’ problems and ideas for everyone to think about, and that’s what matters. In the end, everyone’s on the same team. We’re all working to make students’ lives better at Exeter, whether it’s hosting fun socials, making

policy changes, striving for financial equity, and making the little joys of everyday possible by problem solving.” Kim added.

Candidates from other positions shared their insights regarding the election as well. “It sounds cliché, but I ran to cause some “change” here,” co-secretary Kevin Treehan said. “The Student Council has so much money and influence at its disposal, but it never seems to know how or for what to use it for. I want to bring actionable and doable policies to the table so we can work together as a school and make life that much better for all of us.”

Treehan discussed some of his future plans as Student Council co-secretary. “I plan to work with the rest of the Exec Board to officialize the OLSConnect app, which is currently available on the App Store that displays your schedule and the d-hall menus... with their support, we can integrate more features and make it into a real hub for campus information”

“Among other things, I’ve been an advocate for reform of Grill. The lack of price tags unnecessarily burdens students with financial constraints, as they may be uncertain as to whether they can afford an item and thus be disincentivized from purchasing it,” Treehan continued.

“Further efforts would include making Grill Points worth a dollar each for more purchasing flexibility, and ensuring that proceeds from the tip jar at the counter goes to Grill employees instead of the endowment fund,” Treehan said.

Vice-president Puchalski describes her policies, which surround more connection within the community. “I ran for Vice President because I am a current cohead of student life, and I have

enjoyed some of the changes we have helped make, and I wanted to do bigger things for this community,” she says. “Mainly it was a campaign to “Restore Exeter” to pre-covid conditions. One of my bigger policies was testing at the door to ensure that dances are possible this spring. In general, I plan on bringing spirit, passion, and comradery to the Exeter community.”

Many candidates also commented on their experiences during campaigning.

In terms of the in-person signature collection process for candidates, Gibbs says “compared to the CCC elections where we did it online, this was a lot better. This signature collection process was a return to the standard constitutional process that is tried-and-tested. I think it’s pretty straightforward for candidates to get 350 signatures, especially with D-Hall opening up now.”

Regarding the signature collecting, “Terrifying,” Treehan said. “I thought I was being a real nuisance, interrupting (over 350) people’s meals! Though everyone was nice about it, I wonder if the Elections Committee should examine if there are better ways to gauge support for candidates looking to make a bid.”

Upper Cam Guthrie, who ran for co-secretary, agreed with the difficulty in getting signatures, but also reflected that it was good representation for his campaign. “It was very difficult because you have to go up to people that you haven’t talked to before and introduce yourself. I think that’s a good thing because it gets your name out there. You get to talk with them about your campaign and policies, which I think is awesome.”

Puchalski says “my experience collecting signatures was a bit stressful at times, but overall it was really

amazing to meet some new students and get to chat with a large population of the Exeter community!”

Lower Aavik Wadivkar, another candidate who ran for Student Council co-secretary, had similar experiences. “Signature collecting was quick and efficient, with 400 signatures within 2 days. My 400th signature also happened to be Principal Rawson himself.”

In terms of spreading awareness to their campaign, many candidates used online platforms to connect with students at the Academy. “I did my best to use Instagram to spread awareness of my policies. Unfortunately, I wasn’t able to take full advantage of the online aspect of campaigning, and I plan to rectify that with any future campaigns,” Wadivkar continued.

“I usually make some videos that I post on the socials! With kids spending most of their time on phones recently, I’ve found short and engaging videos are the most effective way to communicate goals and plans,” Treehan agreed.

Joy outlined his campaign platform. He planned to establish an organization called Intern PEA, which would have entailed a collaboration between current Exonians and Exonian alumni/ae. Joy described it as “an internship pipeline that seeks to connect students on campus who want internships with alums’ companies.”

Joy is also a proponent of ending Saturday classes, as, in his view, an extra “half day ruins mental health in the week before and the week after.”

Joy believes his previous experiences with StuCo will help guide him as president. “Having served as co-secretary for a year, I’ve worked my hardest for the student body, and to enhance life on

the daily. I’m running for president to sort of continue that, to take it a step further. That’s what you, I’m trying to bring with these policies that [they’re] really intended to better student life in some really tangible wayson campus and off campus during the summer.”

A supporter of Aaron Joy’s campaign, lower Pippa Pflaum praises Joy’s policy of Wi-Fi on athletics buses, which will be beneficial for athletes who travel long distances to games. “I think that policy was a really smart call. It’ll make a huge difference with doing homework, as it’s usually a long commute for sports, like two, three, or even six hours on a bus. And if you can’t get work done, it could be a huge waste of time.”

Nonetheless, candidates who were not voted into a position remained supportive and expressed congratulations. “The elections are a big chance to spotlight people, and it made me see how many cool people and personalities there are on campus. I look forward to what the Student Council has in store for us in the future, as well as what everyone as individuals will be doing to make campus and beyond a better place,” Kim said.

Murat concludes with, “I just want to reiterate that this election is not about me. It’s not about Aaron. It’s about you guys. It’s about who can serve your needs the best, whose initiatives are actually achievable in terms of student council, and who has been working day and night nonstop to bettering your student life experience here at Exeter. Honestly, I just hope that people can trust me with their vote, so I can be able to serve the student body in a new way that I’ve been hoping for a really long time.”

StuCo Presidential Runoffs Cont.

votes tallied on election day Tuesday, Feb. 15. Murat won a majority vote over runoff candidate, upper Aaron Joy. In all, 68 percent of Academy students turned out to vote.

Murat joins uppers vice president Grace Puchalski and co-secretary Nate Puchalski, as well as lower co-secretary Kevin Treehan to serve on the 2022-23 StuCo Executive Board (Exec). Class representative elections, normally held at least three weeks after StuCo Exec elections, will be postponed to March 29 after spring break.

The delay in announcing election results was a consequence of extensive discussions addressing the effects of negative campaigning. On election day, Joy alerted Elections Committee coheads and uppers Tucker Gibbs and Will Durawa to an instance of negative campaigning on an Academy student's Instagram story, characterizing it as an attack on personhood.

Considering the potential impact on voting behavior, the current StuCo Exec Board and Elections Committee decided to leave the Tuesday election ballots uncounted while considering alternatives to determining the new StuCo president.

On Wednesday, Feb. 16, StuCo faculty advisors as well as Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Stephanie Bramlett and Dean of Multicultural Affairs Sherry Hernandez engaged in a series of discussions with students that gave rise to the possibility of a co-presidency. StuCo Exec's and the Elections Committee coheads' individual conversations with Joy and Murat then confirmed that both candidates were open to co-presidency. According to Gibbs, the discussions "suggested to us [Elections Committee] that co-presidency was the best solution that balanced the satisfaction of all parties involved and the vote of the student body, given that holding a new election was out of the question."

Durawa and Gibbs pointed to the StuCo presidential election of 2017 as a precedent of "opting for co-presidency when there were questions about election fairness due to extenuating circumstances." In the spring of 2017, election fraud was discovered to have taken place. As a result, then-StuCo faculty advisors Carol Cahalane and Laura Marshall expanded 2017-18 StuCo Exec to accommodate all candidates who ran as the class of 2017 had already graduated. This included the 2017-18 presidential runoff candidates Menat Bahnasy and Jackson Parell as co-presidents.

The Elections Committee coheads then outlined the two possible paths to declaring co-presidency: "One way is to go through StuCo and declare a state of emergency, which would allow for specific otherwise-unconstitutional actions to take place, since co-presidents are not found in the letter of the StuCo Constitution. Or we could present the case to Principal Rawson, who theoretically has the implied constitutional authority to overrule the constitution and declare that co-presidency is permissible under the circumstances. However, we did not want to go down the second route because that would go against the wishes of StuCo and by extension the student body, who voted twice against co-presidency." Gibbs said. "It should be noted that this is the first time we're us-

ing the state of emergency clause, written last year by [alum] Phil Horrigan, to declare co-presidents when the [2020-21 presidential] election resulted in an exact tie, a constitutional gray area because there is nothing written in the Constitution about exact ties."

At the StuCo emergency meeting on Wednesday evening, senior and current StuCo co-secretary Kiese Nanor presented the motion to declare a state of emergency to announce co-presidency. The motion, which required a two-thirds majority to pass, fell to a majority abstention vote.

"I think it's understandable that [the motion fell through]," Durawa said. "We weren't able to provide a lot of information, and I don't think the student body felt that they could make an informed decision."

"We thought people didn't fully understand what we were trying to do and that's why so many people abstained. But it was encouraging, because that meant there were people who could still be swayed to what we thought was the best way forward," Gibbs added. "But as we saw on Thursday, that wasn't the case. Most of the votes broke against the state of emergency motion."

Indeed, when StuCo hosted a second emergency meeting on Thursday evening, the same motion failed, as not enough students were in favor to reach the two-thirds threshold. The meeting was longer than the first and many more non-voting members of the school community were present.

"I think we came at it knowing what we wanted the outcome to be, and that we needed to convince people of that. The meeting got fairly hostile very quickly, both for Exec and [the Elections Committee]. We were disappointed with both the outcome and the conduct of all the students involved. I think it could have been done a bit better," Gibbs said.

Current Student Council President senior Siona Jain shared similar thoughts. "Even though it's not going to change the election culture, I think co-presidency was ultimately the best option for a fair election," she said. "I think Exeter should permanently move to co-presidency. I feel like ultimately you get more things done with co-leadership and you have more perspectives brought to important conversations."

Joy said he was a bit surprised by the student Council's vote, given the earlier support for co-presidents by the Exec Board, Elections Committee, and both candidates.

"The consensus was that Tuesday's election results would not be accurate and would not be a fair representation," Joy said. "It's also important to recognize that both council meetings saw this election as deeply problematic. It came down to what the best solution would be to address the unfair election, be it co-presidents, no presidents, that Principal Rawson intervenes, etcetera. For instance, to my knowledge, some students abstained or voted against co-presidents because they thought that Principal Rawson would be the best decision maker. A no vote for co-presidents was not equivalent to condoning the use of Tuesday's results."

Durawa talked about his thoughts regarding the meeting. "It's nice to know that people feel so passionately about StuCo that

they're willing to come on a Thursday evening and share their opinions. I think we were confident that the option of co-presidents was the best way forward. But ultimately we're accountable to the student representatives. And if students do not want us to go forward with something, it's our job to listen to that," Durawa said.

"Usually, election disputes are resolved between StuCo Exec and Elections Committee coheads exclusively. In this case, the council was granted the power to recommend electoral matters as this instance of co-presidency involved declaring a state of emergency. It's not really our place to completely go against what the student body is saying. We do value their opinions and we work towards a balance between respecting our high school democracy and our Academy values," Gibbs said.

The current StuCo Exec and Elections Committee coheads did not involve Principal William Rawson while making the final decision for elections. According to an email on Feb. 18 sent on behalf of the Elections Committee, "in the absence of authority to take other action, the Elections Committee [coheads] learned the results from the advisers of Tuesday's election to name the next Student Council president."

Rawson expressed his thoughts on this year's election in an interview with The Exonian: "It is distressing that an election process that should bring students together as a community seemingly had the opposite effect, took several days to resolve, and left some feeling hurt and bruised." Rawson charged the 2022-23 StuCo with "examining the culture of the election process and reforming it to align more closely with school values and more effectively ensure fairness of results."

"I would like to see an election process that is characterized by positive rather than negative campaigning, much like the way in which this year's two candidates spoke at the debate, and where all concerned parties have confidence that the election process was conducted fairly. Reforms should be aimed at ensuring the fairness of the election process as well as avoiding negative behavior," Rawson added.

Dean of Students Russell Weatherspoon agreed. "What I assume that StuCo will soon try to do is to lay out and investigate the kinds of things that people who participate in the election process do that are problematic or unfair," Weatherspoon said. "The email that StuCo Elections sent, for instance, as I understand it, says that a candidate is responsible for everything that a supporter says. This was included presumably in response to issues StuCo has witnessed in past years. It would be interesting to see how StuCo addresses this."

Weatherspoon added that informed and respectful conversations among the general student body will be crucial in the process of identifying the issues in election culture. "Some students of color, for instance, have commented that there is an expectation that when they run for a role like this, they can pretty much expect that certain remarks will be made, that it's just part of the terrain. If that's true, that's something we want to change," Weatherspoon added.

Jain, who also experienced negativity during her

election campaign, agreed that the elections process is in need of reform and was happy the candidate came forward, which started conversations with advisors and in council for a solution. The situation was brought to Bramlett and Hernandez as well.

Murat detailed the action that has been taken by Exec so far: "What the current executive board is doing [is that] they met with Dr. Bramlett and Dean Hernandez on how we can sort of start going about this conversation," she said. "Personally I would like to hear lots of different opinions, not only from me, but from council in general to kind of go forth with what policies we want to put in place. I think that starting off, we need to be more clear on what campaigning rules are and like what is allowed and not allowed because so a lot of the things are vague."

"I think that people need to understand, and obviously as soon as I go in and there's a change of board, we're gonna set the tone that racism on campus is not gonna be tolerated by no standard whatsoever. And that should have already been how Exeter should function. But sadly that's not the case. When you go into elections, you kind of go in thinking that you're gonna hear a lot of bad things said about you and all that, and I think that we need to change that rhetoric," Murat continued. "Hopefully this won't happen in the future, but let's say next election, there was another racially charged post against a candidate, that post [should] be reported immediately to student council and elections committee. And, obviously we're going to start working on policies to put in place on how we respond to these concerns that arise and how we respond to these posts, so that way candidates don't have to feel like they're going into this and they're going to have their identity attacked."

At the moment, Murat doesn't have a specific policy in mind. "I think this will have to be a team effort, and we are going to have to have a lot of people come in from outside to help us figure this out," she added.

Durawa and Gibbs believe that their continued work in constitutional reform will support Rawson's vision. Among the many structural changes the revised StuCo Constitution would enact, the constitutional focus group led by Durawa and Gibbs considered "eliminating the presidential runoff election to eliminate the one-on-one tension and negative campaign that comes from support of one candidate over another," Gibbs said.

"I think by now everyone recognizes there are serious problems with how we structure elections and how election decisions are reached. With that in the public eye, StuCo will definitely invest more time and attention to constitutional reform," Gibbs said.

Gibbs also highlighted the importance of faculty advisors in this work: "Advisors carry with them institutional memory and an adult perspective, which are crucial to having these conversations about election processes," he said.

Students who attended the emergency meetings shared differing views on the co-presidency solution and the ultimate choice of adopting the Tuesday runoff vote.

Senior class president

Bona Yoo, a StuCo presidential runoff candidate last year, expressed that she was unsettled by some of the sentiments voiced in the two StuCo emergency meetings. Speaking about the second of the two meetings, Yoo said, "It got ugly. Fast. And I think people's emotions were high. I think people were very scared of something like the last election happening again, where the toxicity became very overwhelming."

Jain also commented on what was said at the meeting: "I'm honestly quite a bit disappointed in the remarks made at council, those being that this is not going to do anything to fix racism and therefore we shouldn't take this step," she continued. "I disagree with that because I think that in general, if you were gonna make a candidate feel more included and feel as though they have a fair election experience, that effort is something that we should take, even if it won't ultimately fix the election culture. I know that during my election, my opponent and I proposed co-presidency because of how toxic the election experience was for the both of us. It was shot down for constitutional reasons last year, but this year we had a 'State of Emergency' amendment that could make co-presidency possible. I'm disappointed that Council didn't vote in favor of co-presidency."

The Instagram story, characterized as an attack on personhood by Joy, was not endorsed or made on behalf of either runoff candidate.

Senior Daniel Zhang felt that the conversation at the Thursday emergency meeting failed to consider the nuances of how an attack on personhood affects different students of color at the Academy. "The main reason why I went to StuCo was in order to make points about the attack on personhood and how we as a community should respond to attacks on personhood. The only thing that I wanted to advance was that this attack on personhood on the candidate was not exceptional. It happens all the time—in casual dining hall conversations, dorm talks, in our subconscious—that the candidate in question was somehow less authentically committed. And therefore treating what happened with the Instagram story as an exceptional event is disingenuous," Zhang said, noting his satisfaction with the final election decision.

"I was of the impression that many students believed the decision to move forward with co-presidents was a moral decision that demonstrated empathy to the candidates. While I wholeheartedly agree that our first priority in deciding this matter should be respect for what the candidates are experiencing and grave attention to the attack on personhood, I feel that, as an Asian identifying student, the question of positionality was ignored by various StuCo members," Zhang said.

"Every student of color has a different and deeply personal relationship with attacks on personhood. This is a natural consequence of belonging to a diverse community. I was upset by the categorical language used to describe some Asian students in that room, who not only deeply empathize with what the candidates were going through, but have experienced the exact same thing the candidate was going through," Zhang added. "To hear that people describe Asian students [who care about and understand what the candidate is

going through but are not in favor of co-presidency as the immediate solution] as ignoring the attack on personhood seems to trivialize or ignore their personal experiences and seems to refuse to accept that a student can very fully recognize the impact of the attack in question and still advocate for a solution other than co-presidency."

Yoo shared her thoughts on this year's election process overall. "There's still a trend that we're seeing that people don't really hesitate to make evaluative comments on candidates or their character on social media. And that gets demoralizing for both candidates," she said. Yoo believes that people should carefully consider their words before criticizing candidates, as sometimes, she said, "we forget that, at the end of the day, we're high schoolers."

"Last year we had an ugly election, and Student Council and the Executive Board made a promise to sit down and have a conversation to see what constructive changes could be made to the election process itself. But I don't think we've done that yet," Yoo said. "For next year we really need to sit down and come up with actual rules or courses of action that can be applicable to situations like these, in hopes of avoiding them."

On Monday, Feb. 21, an anonymous "Concerned Student" started a petition named "DEI Action at Exeter" on Change.org. The petition calls for a correction of the election outcome, an appointment of co-presidents by Principal Rawson, and more "attention to injustice across campus." As of Feb. 23, the petition has accrued 76 anonymous student signatures. Joy shared that he did not start the petition, but knows the student who did.

"It was another student who was just really concerned about the proceedings, who recognized that [Laura] Marshall's email on behalf of the Elections Committee made clear that results were unfair, that this election shed light on an issue bigger than the elections itself," Joy said. "Something deeply problematic was said. The petition demonstrates the need for broader conversation, and there's student support in that regard."

"I think to determine whether something is fair or not, the context must be examined," Joy spoke on the proposition for co-presidency. "A deeply problematic social media post that accessed hundreds of students was made, and it fed into an unfortunately widely held anti-Asian stereotype. It's not the type of rhetoric that's taught to be rejected. It's the type that's very easily internalized and could have influenced votes," Joy said.

When asked how he would approach resolving the long-term issue of election culture, Joy mentioned the need for action, saying, "It starts with having serious campus wide conversations surrounding Anti-Asian stereotyping, and stereotyping against any group for that matter, and we must go from there."

"Since that Instagram story has moved through the community, I've witnessed the tangible and intangible ways in which it's damaged me when I see how others take the story and talk about it. At a school which deeply values equity and inclusion, we have the tools to rectify the situation — at least partially. And it's important that we do so," Joy said.

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Instructor of the Week: Eric Sinclair



Music Instructor Eric Sinclair strums on his guitar in the music building.

Joy Chi/*The Exonian*

By AVEEN BURNEY, HANNAH PARK, and ELAINE QIAO

As the sun pours warm light over the snow covered Academy campus, Music Instructor Eric Sinclair sits on a stool in his cozy office, humming a tune while preparing for his first guitar lesson of the day.

An Exeter native, Sinclair grew up knowing about the Academy. Before Exeter, he was an elementary school music teacher and a performing solo singer/guitarist. Now, he is a guitar instructor at the Academy—having taught for 43 years and counting, Sinclair is among the greats of the Academy's educators.

Sinclair's love for music began when he was around 10 years old on Feb. 9, 1964. It was sparked by the Beatles' "first appearance in the United States," appearing on TV in *The Ed Sullivan Show*. "To use a cliché, it really struck a chord," Sinclair joked.

His interest in music flourished in middle and high school, starting as a drummer after being inspired by his favorite Beatle, Ringo. However, he ditched the drums towards the end of his highschool career as he "wanted to write songs, and doing it with the drums didn't work."

After receiving a bachelor's degree in music education at the University of New Hampshire, Sinclair came back to Exeter and worked at Lincoln Street elementary school for his first teaching job as a general music teacher, and soon after, a private music teacher. One day, during one of his solo Saturday performances downtown, he had a fateful encounter with a group of Academy regulars who asked him to perform at their assembly.

He agreed and performed at assembly, then at a coffeehouse event later on. "I started wondering, gee, I wonder if the Academy has a guitar teacher," he said. That same time, Sinclair was teaching guitar to the daughter of Music Instructor Charlie Forbes. "I thought, well, I'll ask Charlie to see if they have a guitar teacher and he goes, 'Yeah, we do, but the person we have only teaches classical guitar. They don't teach folk music, rock, or anything else.'" After an interview over the phone, and a performance at the now-closed Loaf and Ladle, Sinclair was invited to become a guitar instructor the next fall.

At Exeter, Sinclair and

three other musicians—Andy Inzenga and Music Instructors Robert Squires and Les Harris—formed Merseyside, a Beatles cover band. He was the rhythm guitarist and a vocalist in the band, and for three and a half years, they played in a variety of places all over New England.

"One of the more memorable gigs was in Portsmouth in the summer," Sinclair said, reflecting on his favorite moments with Merseyside. "They have a summer street festival called Market Square Day where they close off all downtown Portsmouth to car traffic... we were on this stage at the end of a street, and I can still remember standing on that stage and looking up at this crowd of people," he continued. "There were people looking out the windows, and everybody was getting into it. People were dancing and it was a beautiful day. So that was a pretty special time."

Harris recounted his own favorite moments with the band. "One of the many great memories I have was performing together at a Beatles convention in the Catskills opening up for British Invasion star Billy J. Kramer and backing up Tony Sheridan," he continued, adding that the "Beatles themselves had backed up [Tony Sheridan] at one of their first recording sessions!"

He continued, explaining that his conversations with Sinclair aren't just about "Beatles and music... Mr. Sinclair is also an avid sports fan, so our discussions often include the latest Patriots or Red Sox game," he said.

Sinclair is also a self-produced soloist, having released *There Are (Songs to be Sung)*, a full scale album in 1995 which included the songs "Jerry Mulligan," "Winter of '92" and a campus favorite, "Pothole Blues." Though he had help from his bandmates, this album was largely a doing of his own. "I arranged for creating the graphics, for the packaging, having everything printed, and put together and then the tapes and CDs reproduced," he said. "The album... it's a bit of an antique now," Sinclair said.

He continued, reflecting on his busy performing days where he would often go out to perform after a full day of teaching at the Academy. "I would teach all day here on a Friday, then go to a club somewhere, play for three hours. Sometimes even on a Thursday night," he said. "It was kind of crazy, but it was for the most part, fun." Though Sinclair does not

perform as much as he did before, he continues to make music on his own, using his "little home recording set up" and sharing his creations with his family.

Though his weary days of performing are largely over, Exonians have watched Sinclair in his musical assemblies throughout his years at the academy. Sinclair's holiday Assemblies, a thing of the pre-COVID past, are ingrained in Exeter history. For Sinclair, they remain one of his "real highlights... For probably 12, 15 years, I would go into assembly with my guitar and lead the student body in holiday singalongs. We'd sing Jingle Bells, with all the verses!" he said. "Those were just a moment every year that I've had to look forward to. And that was always just a lot of fun. And it was so much fun to see the students out there for 20 minutes, relaxing and singing, you know, 'oh, you better watch out, you better not cry!'"

Though his holiday assemblies are a relic of the past, students can still watch Sinclair in the faculty chamber music concerts. "We had one in the fall, and basically it's, you know, any of us who have a piece of music that we would like to play," Sinclair explained. What makes them so special though? Sinclair explained "when you go to these concerts, you hear this continuous array of different styles of music and different performers... I have many

fond memories of playing in these, but also hearing my colleagues play as well," he said.

From his assemblies to the work he does with his students Sinclair's impact on the community is undeniable. His colleague, Orchestra Director Rohan Smith, reflected, "Without Mr. Sinclair, the music department would not be what it is," he said. "He and the people who joined the music department at the same time, there's a whole generation of them... they were trying to make the Exeter music department a really high-level music department that would offer students of every kind of music interest outlets in music, a good musical training."

"Besides being one of the best people that I know, Mr. Sinclair is also one of the best teachers out there," Harris said. "My daughter loved having him as a teacher and learned a lot from him. She is currently in [Los Angeles] making a living as a professional musician, so I thank him for his great teaching and the role that he played in my daughters musical development and success."

One thing everyone seemingly appreciates about Sinclair is his wisdom. Smith commented, "I've often gone to Mr. Sinclair and said, 'Tell me about R&B [Rhythm and Blues]. Tell me about bluegrass artists, about popular music, and tell me about early guitarists

and a certain style of singing' and he's got absolutely encyclopedic knowledge of populous singing and guitar styles in this country," he said. "He knows the history. The history of blues, the history of folk music, the first history of r&b, the history of the Pete Seeger tradition, Bob Dylan tradition, he's got it all."

Senior Emily Lyons agreed. "I had a couple of guitars in my basement left by a family member, and showed them to Mr. Sinclair, wanting to learn more about them, as well as how to set them up with the amplifier, since I had only ever played an acoustic before," she recounted. "He knew exactly when the electric one had been made just by looking at it, and was able to tell me the whole history of the collaboration between the artist and company who designed it. It was a great experience to learn that history, and I felt like I gained a little bit of insight into the person who left the guitars to me."

Lyons continued on, touching on her lessons with Sinclair. "Mr. Sinclair has definitely impacted my experience at Exeter for the better. Guitar is something that I added to my schedule purely because I thought it would be fun, and I love having the chance to learn something without having to worry about a grade. He's never made lessons stressful, so they're always a stress break in the day," Lyons said.

Sinclair has a flexible and student-centered teaching style that has been admired by students and faculty alike. "He's always been available to let me guide the direction of the skills we'd work on, while also recommending pieces and techniques to keep me on track to being a well rounded player," Senior Malcolm John said.

Lower Gigi Lannon added, "Whenever I want to learn a new song, he listens to it a few times and then he can just play it and teach me. It is so cool. He is so passionate about guitar and music and it makes me excited to learn."

English Instructor and former student of Sinclair, Brooks Moriarty, described his relationship with Sinclair perfectly, saying, "He's in my world, you know, everybody has their own kind of mythology in their lives and stories and important characters. And he is one of those for me as a great teacher, and then to be fortunate enough to come back and see him regularly, chat with him and check in, to have him teach my son, and then to perform with him. I mean those people that give coherence and stability and joy to your lives. He's one of those for me."



Merseyside (1991), pictured L-R: Andy Inzenga, Robert Squires, Les Harris, Eric Sinclair.

Courtesy of Les Harris

Senior of the Week: Chieko Imamura



Senior Chieko Imamura outside local chocolate store La Cascade du Chocolat.

Courtesy of Chieko Imamura

By ANVI BHATE, LAUREN KIM, and CHENGYUE ZHANG

In the twisting corridors of Merrill Hall, the soft *clickety-clack* of knitting needles rings through the walls, as Proctor and senior Chieko Imamura teach her fellow Merrillites the art of knitting. They slurp on Orangina's and laugh as they catch up, Imamura's joy lighting up what has been a very stressful week.

Many fellow proctors associate Imamura with not only her love of knitting, but also her positivity and willingness to teach others. Imamura also began a legacy of crosswords at *The Exonian*, named "*Chieko's*

Crossword Corner," and serves as a training director for the WPEA radio station.

Reminiscing on her pre-Academy days, Imamura spoke about what sparked her desire to apply to Exeter: "I have an older brother and when he came to this age, I went with him on tours to prep schools. I remember being little and staring at the tank in the science center, or going to see the pool," Imamura said. "I was just always drawn to an independent life that I always thought was reserved for college students, but here you could have that in high school."

Since her prep year, Imamura has involved her-

self in various activities all over campus. "I'm very into community building clubs like tour guiding," Imamura said. "I really fell in love with tour guiding and talking to prospective students. Here's their first impression of this place, and I love Exeter to an unhealthy extent, so just being able to show other people that is so amazing. It makes you feel really good."

Imamura is also involved in her dorm community as a proctor. "[Being a proctor] is one of the most important things to me. I actually love this dorm so much," she said. "I love the wack [weird] smell that [Wetherall] brings. I love

the crusty walls."

Imamura adds her share of positivity and laughter to the dorm. History Instructor Troy Samuels described her unique sense of humor that brightens up any room: "Conversation with Chieko often ends with laughter and just general kind of good vibes all around."

Senior Ela Andreassen agreed with the sentiment. "I think she's a very joyful person. Every time you see her she's always happy and making the best of things," Andreassen explained. "Especially when things get really stressful, she's always a nice presence."

Senior Anna Tran reflected on one of her favorite memories of Chie-

ko. "It was a Friday night and we were just playing music in our room and it was getting kind of loud, so we had proctors coming by telling us to be quiet," Tran described. "But then the proctors joined in and then we turned the music up. It became like a little dance party in our room. There were a bunch of people stopping by. Then the dorm faculty came by and told us we were being way too loud, so Chieko and I took our speakers and went to the common room and it just became like a huge dorm dance party."

Besides being an avid part of the school community, Imamura was also an involved member of *The Exonian's* humor section. Imamura described the moment she decided to start writing crosswords when she was sitting in Grill with her friends one afternoon. "It felt fun to do because it was a puzzle, but you could make cultural references or references to seniors. It could just make people smile," Imamura explained. "It's something I'm really proud of, because I had never made a crossword before and just learned that skill on my own."

Imamura constantly is seeking ways to expand her skillset. Starting her lower year, Imamura explored her creative side with her own radio show. "It's been cool seeing her getting so involved with her radio show and helping other people out with theirs," Tran mentioned.

Senior Tommy Seidel agreed. "She leaves a generation of extremely well-trained radio DJs," he said.

In her own words, Imamura is most talented at the games Snake, Mindsweeper, and 2048. "My brother and I have such a large age gap, but we're also really close, so we compete in random things like Minesweeper or 2048," Imamura said.

Alongside those, she also spent many of her quarantine days practicing memorization. "I used to really want to be a memory champion," Imamura said, shedding light on her childhood dreams. "Now I can memorize a whole deck of cards in 10 minutes."

One of Imamura's most prominent attributes, both to herself and those around her, is her ability to not be confined within a "box," and express herself in many different ways in different areas.

"She listens to Green

Day while also loving Adele," Senior Moksha Akil said. "A lot of people in high school feel the pressure to stick within one box and I don't think she has done that. I think she's very much been able to be herself."

Imamura continued, giving advice to students still figuring out the paths of their Exeter career: "I just feel like putting [myself] in a box is kind of unproductive because it's important to recognize that even though you're not the best at [something] doesn't mean that you're not good at it or you don't love it. You don't have to be exceptional at everything. You don't have to work so hard that you don't get any sleep. You don't have to make your Exeter time a miserable time. I think keeping that in mind has made me go to concerts on Tuesday nights or watch new Marvel movies when they come out."

Imamura's friends commented on the ways she's changed since their prep year. "I think she's gotten a lot more assured of who she is. She's sort of come into her own as a person who exists outside of people's needs for her and what they need her to be. She's become more self-confident and self-assured," Andreassen said.

Seidel described Imamura's growth over the past years. "She's always been a thoughtful student inside and outside the classroom, but I'm glad to have seen her become more confident with her absolutely fire contributions in class. She deserves it!"

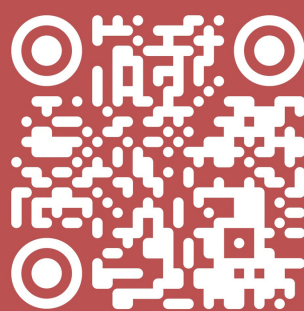
"I can't imagine my time at Exeter without Chieko," Tran reflected. "She's one of my best friends, and she's always there for the people around her. She has so much good and love to give, and I'm so happy to have been one of the people to receive that from her."

Samuels had similar thoughts, describing the long-lasting legacy Imamura would leave on Exeter. "I think, in a few years, Chieko will be one of those legendary heroes of the past who have passed the hollow halls of these dorms. [She is] who you hear about as new dorm faculty," Samuels commented, "She's going to be one of those larger than life characters who will be remembered on campus, just for everything that she is as a student, as an Exonian, and as one of those really memorable people."



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Trendwatch

By EMILIA KNIESTEDT, HEMANISTALLARD, and MINJAE SUH

Clothes can be used as a form of expression and as an outlet to showcase one's personal flare. Across grades some people never fail to look their best despite the constant rigor at Exeter.

These Exonians have been using their wardrobes to express their visual selves and boost their sense of identity. One stylish student from each grade—prep Chloe Richards, lower Vera Aimunmondion, upper Reggie Harris, and senior William Whitney—shared their insights on fashion and why they choose to dress up every morning.

When asked for her style inspiration, Richards said, "I would totally steal @lilrotini [Arabella Bartelloni]'s closet. She has the coolest gems from everywhere and doesn't go a day without a boring outfit."

Harris said, "There is a material professional that I know from San Francisco named David Shaheed, and I would be elated to steal his closet. He has an unmatched sense for piecing things together and for really making a full ensemble for the whole person."

Aimunmondion draws inspiration from the students around her. "I would steal Natalie Welling's accessories, Jodi Henry's shoes, and Amber Zou's clothes."

These well-dressed students draw inspiration for their outfits from a diverse pool of platforms while keeping their style authentic. Whitney shared: "I'm a big fan of *The Gentleman's Gazette* as a prominent men's fashion YouTube channel. The creators

have a very helpful outlook to people who are interested in exploring classic menswear and are trying to make it accessible to people."

Harris also takes inspiration from a specific style icon. "One of my biggest inspirations is a basketball player named Shai Gilgeous-Alexander. I like the composition of his outfits and I think he dresses really well," Harris said.

He continued speaking on his influences closer to home, "On a personal level, I think my sister and my father have influenced me. My sister helped me develop my fashion sense from an early age, and when my father was in high school, he got voted as 'best dressed', so I guess fashion runs in the family."

In order to create the looks they are hoping to complete, students have different techniques to mix their ideas to express themselves, using clothing from a variety of their favorite stores.

Whitney expressed how much he enjoys experimenting with vintage pieces. "The best way that I find things that I really love is either online, through sales of vintage items, in person garage sales, or wherever you might find old clothing that has been used and really appreciated throughout its life."

"There are golden eggs that you'll find when you search for a while. Some pieces are so unique that you will know 'this is the only or one of the very few pieces like this out there.' It gives it a great sense of value when you wear it," he continued.

Richards explained her thought process when mixing different items together. "I'll



William Whitney '22



Reggie Harris '23

usually pick one thing I really want to wear and build around it based on the temperature outside and my mood that day."

Harris thinks similarly, "I really like to center my outfits with my shoes because I have a lot of them. I try to correlate and build off of that with a shirt, and then from there it just evolves based on the season."

Despite having varying fashion styles, all of these students advised on looking into second hand shopping and

sustainable clothing stores. Whitney shared his love for online thrifting: "Funnily enough, I'm a big fan of eBay. I have quite the tie collection, but I have made sure that they are all vintage or antique. They are really well made and have really stood the test of time."

Similarly, Aimunmondion enjoys supporting sustainability endeavors through her fashion choices. "When I can, I invest in hand-made signature pieces from people here on campus such as upper Alysha



Vera Aimunmondion '24



Chloe Richards '25

Lai, who created a butterfly top for me. I also thrift Flip, and find some cool pieces from the Exeter Exchange sometimes."

These Exonians have a lot of expertise when it comes to buying and styling clothes. Whitney advised, "Treat each day's outfit as a work of art that can stand on its own. That outfit should be a reflection of your internal artistic sensibility."

He finished with some words of wisdom, "I think that there's a very large degree of

Joy Chi/*The Exonian*

experimentation, that is just completely ripe for the taking, when it comes to people pushing gender boundaries and pushing the boundaries of what classically style has meant, in pursuit of their own individual satisfaction. I would love to inspire somebody to wear something that makes them feel elegant, regardless of who they are or what the thing is."

Book Review: *The Plague* by Albert Camus

By JOONYOUNGHEO '25

*Author's Disclaimer: This article discusses the philosophical coherence of *The Plague* by Albert Camus and its significance in the modern era. I will reference several plot points, but they will only serve to create a broad, conceptual comprehension of the story. A number of key passages will be taken directly from the text. None of the characters will be mentioned in specific. None of the finer, more important details will be spoiled.*

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about *The Plague* is that the fictional events it chronicles are so similar to the pandemic today. Incidentally, it was a few months into the infamous year of 2020 that I first read this novel, and I was astonished by the parallels I could draw to today's world. The finer details are different, of course, but the thematic force is all there. The story may take place exclusively in the French Algerian city of Oran, the titular plague confined within its borders and kept from the rest of the world, but it is no less relevant to the pandemic under which we have trudged along for the past two years.

To understand the central motif of the novel and its magnitude in the present day, we need first to understand the author of the novel itself. A work of philosophical fiction, after all, has largely to do with the philosophy of the individual who wrote it. Before I read *The Plague*, I had occupied myself with *The Stranger*, another novel by Camus, without really knowing anything about him. It was a mistake; I could enjoy the writing for what it was, but I was frequently confused and occasionally horrified by the sharp turns and abrupt shifts in the story. Going in blind made it easy to misinterpret and misunderstand the stories. Similarly, I don't think a reader can get nearly as much out of *The Plague* without

knowing something about Camus—especially as the piece is considered by many to demonstrate his philosophy most effectively. He was a truly gifted thinker, and it would be wrong to discount his writing for its singularity.

Camus was a follower of absurdism—a philosophy for whose propagation he was largely responsible. He believed that the search for the meaning of life will inevitably fail because no such meaning exists, and that man's existence is, in this sense, "absurd." He believed in the inherently meaningless state of existence, while emphasizing the importance of embracing what our lives have to offer. We ought to accept a meaningless reality for what it is, he argued—really, we have no choice in the matter—and simply live with it. Camus was against the very notion of suicide, which he saw as the ultimate renunciation of human values. An individual must simultaneously accept a world devoid of meaning and defy it by living to the fullest. I find that this absurdist philosophy holds great merit, and that Camus was able to integrate it throughout a cohesive, masterful piece.

Before the first signs of plague are present in the town of Oran, the lives that people lead, I think, are not unlike ours—free, yet firmly tethered. Their lives are dictated subconsciously by their habits, and nothing in the world seems interesting. They live with such dull consistency that monotony would be a better word for it. Certainly there is variety; during the week they make as much money as possible, and on the weekends they love, they go to the cinema, they bathe in the sea. But they engage in these activities so often that variety might as well have ceased to exist, and they take it for granted. The narrator (whose name is revealed only at the end of the novel) tells us that "these habits are not particular to our town; really all our contemporaries are much the same." Oran is described as a town

whose people live without so much as an intimation of its tragedy. Camus, then, directly associates monotony with modernity.

I can't help but agree with him. The twenty-first century has given us a lot more to do, so much room for variety, yet we are still bored. Just as the townspeople of Oran are chained to the banality of habit, so too we spend each day doing what we did in the last. Those of us who are ambitious either fail to consider or choose to ignore the inherent absence of meaning in their objectives. We plod along in blissful ignorance, perhaps because it is the only thing we know, or perhaps because it is the best we can do.

Everything changes, however, when the rats pour onto the streets and the plague descends upon the town. Many of them try to cling on and act as though nothing has happened, of course, but once Oran is finally quarantined and everyone is prevented from coming and going, the population is forced to abandon the comfort of monotony and forge blindly ahead. Put simply, the status quo is overturned. Lovers and families are separated in an instant and people begin to drop like flies, covered from head to toe in swollen pustules. Yet, despite the suffering of exile and separation that they all share, each individual is alone in his suffering, entirely convinced that such pain is unique to himself. The townspeople see their anguish as distinct from the "common" struggle. Their selfishness drives an atmosphere of utter alienation in a town that has already been isolated from the rest of the world.

Similarly, when the pandemic hit in the last few weeks of 2019, everything was turned upside down. Very few of us could rely on the pattern of monotony that had carried us there. We had to break out of what we knew to do and adapt to jarring change. And, as in Oran, our first instinct had been to believe that we were so special,

so removed from "common" suffering, that the pandemic could not possibly affect us. A virus that started in China, we reasoned, could not possibly spread to the West. Had Covid really been contained in China, I suppose we would have sent money, delivered medical supplies, and done some research on the virus—but I doubt we would have done more. At the end of the day, it would have been treated as largely a "you" problem. That Camus could write so accurately of human nature speaks volumes of his philosophical and literary capacity.

As the months pass and the plague seems as though it might thrive in Oran forever, the townspeople begin to come together. The selfishness that drove them from each other dissolves into a collective struggle for freedom. Instead of cowering in their homes, the bravest of their numbers take up posts in the hospital wards alongside the doctors and nurses, and their neighbors start to join. They rise above themselves to fight the plague, running a much higher risk of contagion. Naturally they still languish in sadness and suffering, but "they had ceased to feel their sting."

Yet, just as in reality, the anti-plague effort is essentially futile. Mortality rates are higher than ever, there are never enough doctors on hand, and a long-awaited cure succeeds only in drawing out the agony of a patient's death. In fact, the town has gotten better at little more than the efficiency with which it disposes of its mangled corpses. This is the culmination of Camus's philosophy. The struggle against death, an inevitable wave of something that cannot be outrun, is meaningless because mankind will always lose. You can lock yourself in a quarantine unit and take a dose of every medicinal substance known to the world and not a single thing will change—eventually, we all die. It is both an invariable truth and the reason why Camus argues that ac-

ceptance is the only way out.

But this is what I find so appealing about his philosophy: the inherent lack of meaning does not make the struggle worthless. The struggle itself—the will to put up a fight in defiance of futility, as opposed to the cowardice of attempting to flee—makes it meaningful. We see the townspeople of Oran do just that; once they come to terms with the hopelessness of their predicament, many of them choose to help. One of our protagonists, a foreigner, tries for the entire first half of the novel to smuggle himself out of the town, where he "doesn't belong." The turning point of the story takes place when he offers to stay and aid the central protagonist, a doctor. Camus presents him as an exemplary character, and for good reason.

Once again I can draw a connection to our pandemic in the present day. It is true that we were rather stubborn early on, blinded to the extent to which it would affect our lives. But, by now, most of us have accepted that the pandemic is not a short-lived phenomenon; it will likely linger for more years to come, and its effects will transcend our generation. Instead of hiding away, we are doing our best to fight the virus. We are trying.

Strikingly, and in the style of philosophical realism for which I adore Camus's writing, the plague comes naturally to an end for a reason that is never made explicit. It might have been the cold weather that made Oran inhospitable for the plague, but even this is unconfirmed. The one thing we know for certain, however, is that the townspeople are not responsible for their own liberation. While they tried to fight the plague, their efforts were largely unsuccessful and had been on the brink of collapse. In this sense, Camus emphasizes once more that their struggle was meaningless—after all, it wasn't their handiwork that saved them.

When the plague was finally disappeared and Oran is reopened to the world, we see

that plague cannot "come and go without changing anything in men's hearts." The townspeople had taken their lives for granted, living in an unconscious loop of habits; now, with the plague gone, they appreciate the devastating power of separation and experience a genuine "overpowering, bewildering joy" at being reunited with their lovers and families. Love, then, is an inherent act of rebellion that defies the absurdity of man.

As our own pandemic is still at large, I cannot discuss the similarities in the present day. Perhaps, if I had to make a prediction, with the technology we have, I could see us succeeding where Oran failed. This is what we've done in the past; many diseases have been eradicated, or (at the very least) suppressed, largely through human effort. But our struggle against the pandemic, and against any disease we have known, was only ever a crude extension of our eternal struggle against death—and this latter struggle we can never overcome. I see the plague of Camus's Oran as a manifestation of the prospect of death we face every day. The meaningless state of life gives rise to an insurmountable uncertainty that makes defiance hopeless, and always doomed to fail.

Yet there is value in trying, and I believe, as Camus did, that putting up a fight is far better than surrendering to the absurdity of mankind.

Nonetheless, he knew that the tale he had to tell could not be one of a final victory. It could be only the record of what had had to be done, and what assuredly would have to be done again in the never ending fight against terror and its relentless onslaughts, despite their personal afflictions, by all who, while unable to be saints but refusing to bow down to pestilences, strive their utmost to be healers.

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Crimea and Ukraine

By JOONYOUNG HEO '25

In the past few weeks, Russian President Vladimir Putin has made his position of hostility unmistakably clear, escalating Russo-Ukrainian tensions to new heights. More than 100,000 Russian troops are gathered on Ukraine's eastern border, and "battalion tactical groups" are stationed in Belarus (directly North of Ukraine) and seem poised to invade at any moment. Nobody can be sure as to what Putin is planning, or what his motives might be. His end goal could encompass everything from taking the Ukrainian capital Kyiv and overthrowing the foreign government to expanding Russian territory to keeping the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on edge.

But perhaps one shouldn't be too surprised. After all, this isn't the first time Putin has found himself at the center of so much attention. In 2014, Russia invaded and annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine. One could call the Russo-Ukrainian crisis today a continuation of this conflict. Many countries, including Ukraine, condemned the act as a direct violation of international law. Under Boris Yeltsin's presidency, Russia had signed several key treaties that acknowledged Ukraine's territorial integrity, like the 1991 Belavezha Accords. This agreement officially dissolved the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and recognized the sovereignty of the former Soviet nations. Putin didn't care. In pursuit of geopolitical gain, largely in the warm water port of Sevastopol, the largest city in Crimea, he powered through. Claiming that the Russian Federation only wished to "ensure proper conditions for the people of Crimea to be able to freely express their will," he formally admitted Crimea shortly afterward.

Given this political precedent, one might assume that Putin will simply launch another invasion. The European Union (EU) and many others may have severed a few ties with and imposed various sanctions on Russia, the likes of which the country had not seen since the collapse of the Soviet Union, but those ap-

pear to have had little effect. One could essentially argue that Putin got away scot-free. There are several key points of contrast, however, that make Ukraine's case very different, and that ultimately diminish the true likelihood of a Russian invasion. At the very least, they will have given Putin something to think about.

The most significant difference lies in the political circumstances of 2014 and 2022. The Crimean annexation took place almost immediately after the Revolution of Dignity (also known as the Maidan revolution) in Ukraine, which ousted president Viktor Yanukovich and the contemporary government in Kyiv. There were riots and shootings as protesters seized control of the capital buildings. It was political turmoil in every sense of the term, and it gave Russia the perfect opportunity to, as Putin told his security service chiefs, "start working on returning Crimea to Russia." The Russian government had its pretext: to restore order and protect the majority population of ethnic Russians. There was considerable uncertainty throughout the whole affair, and much of the world could only stand to the side and watch it unfold. The revolution and subsequent coup d'état allowed Putin to take control with minimum backlash.

In contrast, the Ukraine that Russia faces today has had eight years of something close to stability. There hasn't been a mass protest or a popular uprising in recent times—certainly not a subversive, full-scale revolution with guns and violent riots. What is more, Putin lacks a clear pretext. In 2014, he was able to use the wellbeing of the Russian population of Crimea to slide his troops into the country. Now, he appears to the world as the sole aggressor, the instigator of any potential conflict. Should Putin throw caution to the wind and launch an invasion, this will undoubtedly affect the severity of international response and, as a result, the Russian economy.

Ukraine must not be underestimated in military strength, either; many of us assume that the country is a pushover, and that it couldn't possibly dissuade Putin from

an invasion. Perhaps this was true in 2014, when Yanukovich was overthrown and the nation was locked in disorder. Not anymore. Russia is a global superpower, of course, and Ukraine won't be able to shut Putin out forever, but they can make it a nightmare for the Russian army to advance and seize Ukrainian territory. A 2019 survey conducted by the private research organization Levada Center and commissioned by John O'Loughlin from the University of Colorado in Boulder found that 82 percent of the Crimean population supported its accession to Russia in 2014. This is not so in present-day Ukraine. Eight years have been enough time for a sense of national identity to take hold; in a 2017 public opinion survey by Rating Group Ukraine, 57 percent expressed a "very cold or cold attitude" toward Russia, while only 17 percent had a "very warm or warm attitude." If Putin doesn't have the local Ukrainian populace on his side, holding territory in the face of long-term insurgency will prove to be an even greater challenge.

Popular support back home is yet another factor that Putin cannot afford to ignore. Most Russians have consistently supported the Crimean annexation; the Levada Center records a 24 percent increase in Putin's popularity rating immediately following the event in 2014. On the other hand, few advocate for a deadly war in Ukraine. It's generally preferred that the two nations remain friendly neighbors. Launching an invasion would certainly add momentum to Putin's declining popularity rating. In October 2021 Levada reported that 42 percent of the Russian populace did not wish to see Putin's presidency after 2024, an all-time high in nearly a decade. If he succeeds in his Ukrainian venture, it would prompt an avalanche of economic sanctions from the international community. Although Russia has tried to construct a "fortress economy" by boosting reserves and decreasing foreign dependency on key resources, it will not be impervious to harm. Putin and the Russian elite could be prevented from spending abroad. With banks cut off from the global financial sys-



Ava Zhao/*The Exonian*

tem, the power of Russian corporations could likewise be constricted, more so than it was in 2014, draining billions from the economy. The ensuing recession would cause living standards for the average Russian, which have already been riding a downward spiral in the past seven years, to plummet. Conversely, if he fails—and Russia suffers heavy losses—the public will be outraged. Putin may be an autocrat, but history has consistently underscored the strength of popular uprisings. If the entire country turns against him, we might see his power begin to crumble.

Finally, the stakes are higher than ever for the rest of the world. Allowing Russia to invade could set the wrong precedent and fuel Putin's ambitions for a new Russian empire, making more European territory seem enticing. Belligerent political groups might reasonably surmise that instigating open warfare goes unpunished in the twenty-first century, triggering a chain reaction of serious conflicts over other disputed borders. Iran and Syria could be encouraged to use violence with impunity, making a bad situation worse.

As tensions in Asia heighten, China could become more confident in a potential invasion of Taiwan. Just as importantly, NATO would lose reputation and the United States, following its withdrawal from Afghanistan, could continue to decline in standing before the eyes of the world. Breach of international law could become commonplace when the voice of authority is lost in the clamor of war. Most nations thus have an incentive to prevent a Russian invasion. If Putin pushes forward with his plan, foreign intervention is a real possibility.

A popular basis for a high probability of an imminent Russian invasion is that Putin cannot afford to let Ukraine "fall" to the West. If Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accepts a place in NATO, as he seemed ready to do, the country would slip from Russia's sphere of influence—a nightmare for Putin. In many ways, he could see it as a serious threat to national security; for instance, Russia shares a considerable chunk of its western border with Ukraine, making it a strategically ideal point from which to undermine Moscow. But even this

is not sufficient incentive for a Ukrainian invasion. As I have explained, there are other factors that could well discourage Putin. His escalation of the crisis could very realistically be nothing more than a show of power, meant to deter NATO from eyeing Ukraine too closely. An invasion, after all, is not the only way to retain a regional hegemony.

Such are the key differences between Crimea and present-day Ukraine. The fact that Putin was able to take control of Crimea in 2014 with relatively trivial consequences says little about what he should do now, or what might unfold if he decides to forge ahead. Ukraine has grown significantly in the mere span of eight years, particularly in military strength. Popular support at home has taken a sharp turn and the international community has good reason to dissuade sovereign expansion. These are factors that Putin must take into consideration. A hasty, miscalculated step in the wrong position might just tip the scales against him.

Spotify: What to Do with Rogan?

By CJS MITH '25

The idea of "free speech" in the first amendment has always been a battleground of "ambiguity." Since the Wall Street Journal's coverage on the "Facebook Files," Americans have become increasingly aware of the extent to which social media moguls control and manipulate public discourse, the extent to which what we perceive as "free speech" may not be so free after all.

It's important to recognize that most social platforms adopt a "free-speech" model, one that sees all opinions, criticisms, musings as equal.

By AVEEN BURNEY '25

Spotify has the responsibility to mitigate the spread of misinformation on its platform, and Joe Rogan is nothing more than a misinformation machine. Rogan has undermined the efficacy of the vaccine and has made multiple baseless claims, from promoting ivermectin to calling the vaccine a "mass formation psychosis." Rogan's enormous audience of 11 million people enables this type of misinformation to

Spotify, albeit a music streaming service, is no exception to this pattern. Its mission is "to unlock the potential of human creativity—by giving a million creative artists the opportunity to live off their art and billions of fans the opportunity to enjoy and be inspired by it." The recent Joe Rogan controversy represents a fraction of the complicated relationship between platforms and their users.

Misinformation exists in all pockets of the digital world and incurs harm ultimately because companies have no incentive to control or remove it from their platforms. Part of this can be attributed to the Communications Decency

Act, better known as Section 230. This law resolves social media companies of liability to any consequences of content posted on their platforms. For example, if someone posted misinformation (let's say COVID misinformation) that led to real world harm (overdosing on ivermectin), the family of the dead person couldn't sue the platform on which the misinformation was circulated. Therefore, social media companies have no requirement to remove false information off their platforms, and in fact, they have an incentive to keep misinformation on their platforms. That incentive is ad revenue.

The MIT Technology Review found that, in 2018, Facebook paid over \$1.5 billion to content publishers and didn't conduct that much quality control on them. This led to an enormous rise in clickbait and false articles, the most salient consequence of which was Facebook's fueling of the Rohingya Muslim genocide by the Myanmar government. Facebook's investment in content creation directly led to profits for them with the rise of ad revenue on the site, but it also recognized Facebook as a funder and beneficiary of harmful misinformation. Many other social media companies have followed Facebook's profit strategy, and as such, misinformation has be-

come rampant on all parts of the internet. I believe that the lines of free speech are blurred significantly when determining what is misinformation and what is not. Especially in the age where algorithms run platforms, deciding what could produce harmful effects on society is immensely challenging. Nobody knows if a post will end up producing real-world impacts. To quote data scientist Cathy O'Neil, "They (Google) don't know what truth is." Therefore, I won't give a personal opinion on whether Joe Rogan should be removed from Spotify. However, whatever Spotify does, they need to remain consistent. Banning

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Please, Don't Strike Down Affirmative Action



Ava Zhao/The Exonian

By ANDREWYUAN '24

Author's Note: Whether the Affirmative Action policy itself should be amended is not a concern of this piece. I wrote this opinion piece only to rebuke the arguments against Affirmative Action previously delivered in front of the Supreme Court and to illustrate the dire consequences of full abolition of Affirmative Action.

No, Affirmative Action is not racist to Asians.

On January 24, 2022, the conservative-dominated Supreme Court decided to hear two cases attempting to challenge Affirmative Action, the gravest threats to the 61-year old executive order since its creation: *Students For Fair Admissions (SFFA) v. President and Fellows of Harvard and Students For Fair Admissions (SFFA) v. University of Carolina*.

When I first heard the argument that Affirmative Action was a racist policy against Asians and Asian Americans, I couldn't help but laugh out loud, not exactly at its logical fallacy, but more at the surrealism associated with this claim. It doesn't mean that SFFA's case is meaningless without any merit; it points to the dangerous highway

that conservative media and our current political discourse have led us to.

SFFA's case, that affirmative action harms Asians, assumes a long-time racist theory that has rooted in American communities for decades: the model minority. The claim follows that due to Asians' superior intelligence than other demographics, they achieve better standardized testing scores and GPAs required for college admissions, and thus are inherently entitled to or deserving of better college acceptances.

Sure, if you look at the test scores of Asians compared to other races on SATs or ACTs, you may find some grounds to favor SFFA's case. Yet the paradigm in which Asian-identifying and white people achieve higher standardized testing scores is a racist one to begin with.

In the United States, the first "standardized testing" appeared in 1890, when white southern Democrats invented literacy tests to disenfranchise Black voters whose votes might strip them from their legislative powers and, subsequently, segregationist agendas. At the time, Black people in America lacked access to education or the resources needed to further one's education. In

states highly populated with immigrants, local politicians allocated less funding to first-generation immigrant American communities and extended literacy tests to bar predominantly Latine citizens from voting.

Centuries of slavery, continued suppression of immigrants from Latin America and massacres of indigenous communities contrast with the highly selective and relatively more successful (prior to immigration) Asian immigrants that come to this country with more wealth for test prep. I do not deny the racism that Asians have experienced in American history, yet such racism dims in the cruelty that other demographics have suffered. Does such disparity not contribute to the systematically predetermined inequity between racial minorities?

If anything, SFFA's claim only encourages structural changes needed in standardized testing systems and questions the racist history buried beneath SAT and ACT's decades of influence in the college admission process. I agree. Standardized testing quantifies students' success and talent that ought not to be quantified in the first place.

Considering the years of systematic racism and

suppression that other racial minorities have experienced under a white hierarchy, affirmative action only combats the restrictive and racist testing systems set in place.

The characterization of Affirmative Action as a racist policy towards Asians excludes several Asian communities as the so-called "racism to Asians" only applies to particular "successful" ethnic groups. Bhutanese-Americans and Mongolese-Americans, for example, have one of the highest poverty rates in this country and many can hardly afford highly expensive test prep training.

Then, some other Asian parents argue that even taking away standardized testing, Asians are more qualified for college than students of other races due to their proven superior intelligence. I need not to explain how such a justification is deeply rooted in racism and discriminatory eugenics.

I understand why many Asians might think that Affirmative Action is inherently racist to us: it strips us of privileges that we have long benefitted from the college application process. Yet this privilege is clearly bestowed upon us by a racist system set in place to empower Asians and white

people in the interest of stifling the progress of other racial minorities.

SFFA's court cases reveal, if anything, the restrictive mindset that we as Asians may have set up around our perception of progress.

In an Asian Voices meeting a few weeks ago, an AAPI-identifying student questioned why we see a less represented Asian cultural identity than those of other racial minorities, specifically in music.

Perhaps we have subconsciously trapped ourselves in the notion that only education empowers progress. For the same reason, Asian parents have been categorized into a stereotype of helicopter parenting and pressuring children for success: the same group of Asian parents who stood behind a conservative lobbyist group to fight against the anti-racism agenda. For the same reason, Asian students have been expected to live up to their parents' expectations in STEM and standardized tests, subconsciously catering to the "model minority" bigotry.

We haven't seen Asian culture represented in art, literature or music until very recently. As Asians strive to fight for a voice on the table, SFFA seeks to backtrack on the progress of Asian representation in America and reinforce the "successful Asian" stereotype upon us.

Ultimately at the core of SFFA's case and in my conversation with other Asian parents, I see apprehension.

Asian parents are apprehensive that while their children have grown increasingly focused in art, activism, athletics and other realms of previously unexplored talents, they have grown rebellious against the path set by their parents. They are afraid that perhaps the financial success of Asians, which many attribute to the educational excellence of Asians at a young age, would be hindered by the prosperity of Asians in other realms.

The repercussions of this apprehension live with many Asian students today. As hate crime against Asians rises, students live with a haunted past of successful Asians that have come before them and a present urge to fight for their rights and representation.

At the root of the apprehension lies a group of old, white, neoconservative political strategists and businessmen who founded SFFA. They abuse the overwhelming

apprehension imposed upon Asian communities by a white system and manipulate it to protect white interests.

White Americans, on average, receive far more and far better education resources than do racial minorities. The same systematic privilege applies to white households in income, annual pay and neighborhood infrastructures. Throughout American history, white students have benefitted from a system designed by and for the white, non-immigrant population to succeed in the college admission process through donations, test prep programs and prominent extracurriculars on resumes.

Let's be clear: When Edward Blum founded SFFA with funds from conservative Searle Freedom Trust and DonorTrust, they fought Affirmative Action to maintain the white supremacy in educational institutions, not to help Asian students.

When the liberal media paints Asians as hostile towards other racial minorities, the conservatives laugh in their white fragility. When Fox News pundits praise Asian parents as courageous soldiers fighting "woke culture," the conservatives laugh in their white fragility. When Asians, black people, Latine Americans and indigenous people divide over their goals for racial progress, the conservatives laugh in their white fragility. They protect their interests by turning the racial minorities against each other.

When this racist ideology becomes normalized to an extent that the Supreme Court is willing to entertain these groundless and ridiculous cases, such racist ideologies are reinforced in the minds of other non-Asian demographics and exacerbate the current racial tensions in America.

At the end of the day, I am enraged and perhaps more disappointed at the controversies brought by *SFFA v. Harvard* and *SFFA v. University of North Carolina*. I am helpless too, helpless that as though we haven't suffered through enough racism last year, an anti-racist agenda has been painted as discriminatory, helpless that there really is little we can do to fight against the demonic presence of systematic racism that comes back to haunt us.

And that, my friends, is how white supremacy destroys us: divide and rule.

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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The Web Board staff members are listed on *The Exonian's* website: www.theexonian.com.

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

The Exonian welcomes Letters to the Editors sent to the care of sschiowitz@exeter.edu and jcwu2@exeter.edu.

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

Editors' Note

Dear readers:

We, the 144th Executive Board of *The Exonian*, would like to thank all of you for your continued support of the paper and the spirit of student journalism at Exeter.

Throughout this winter term, the 144th Executive Board has shared extensive discussions with both our Editorial Board and our faculty advisors about ways in which *The Exonian* has, in the past, understood and navigated conflicts, mentorship, and inclusivity. The phrase “toxic productivity” has come up many times. We recognize that *The Exonian* can sometimes demand too much from writers, editors, and even those in the community whose voices we promise to spotlight.

The 144th Editorial Board has voted to continue adopting the biweekly publishing schedule through the 2021-22 spring term. During the non-publishing weeks, *The Exonian* will not only continue to break news in web exclusives and on social media platforms, but also prepare for the 2022 Graduation Issue. Training in journalism ethics and anti-racism will also continue. We are excited to work within the biweekly framework.

The 144th Upper Board has also unanimously passed *The Exonian's* new, formalized policies on anonymity and confidentiality, both of which we had drafted and revised throughout early winter. An abridged version of both policies are attached in print for your viewing. The full text will be published online on theexonian.net in the next few weeks.

We drafted and passed these “editorial style guides” in hopes of helping our board and the boards to become more effectively safeguard community values and produce more accurate, responsible news and so those who choose to share sensitive information with our editors and reporters can refer to a clear set of guidelines before doing so.

The Exonian's Policy on Anonymity

While *The Exonian* works to collect and publish as much material on the record as possible, the editors and staff writers will sometimes quote or paraphrase sources that wish to be or must be anonymous (primarily in the News and Life sections), or publish writing from sources that wish to be or must be anonymous.

To increase the accountability of an anonymous source, ensure credibility of their information and uphold community values, *The Exonian* will abide by the following rules and procedures.

Acknowledgement of Exceptions:

The Exonian acknowledges that different cases may call for exceptions to the rules and procedures outlined in this Policy on Anonymity. Exceptions will be made only when absolutely necessary, with this Policy on Anonymity acting as a base for all courses of action. These exceptions will be determined by the Executive Board and advisers on a case by case basis. *The Exonian's* Executive Board and advisers will make exceptions to rules and procedures transparent to the source and/or other relevant individuals.

Requested Anonymity

A source must request anonymity before or during their interview. If the source provides written responses, the source must explicitly request anonymity in writing. If applicable, the source may choose whether or not the context to their provided information will remain on the record.

The source's interviewer will then pass the request for anonymity onto an editor assigned to the article and a member of the Executive Board for approval.

If anonymity is granted, the interviewer must send timely quote confirmations to the source to check for accuracy. The article

editor(s) and Editor(s)-in-Chief must know the identity of the source, and are obligated, like the interviewer, to keep the source's identity confidential.

If anonymity is not granted, the source may retract all statements and ask *The Exonian* to erase all written and/or electronic records of shared material.

Grounds for Denial of Requested Anonymity

A source's request for *The Exonian* to expunge their shared material after its publication will not be granted unless it is found that the material contained false information.

The Exonian will not publish hate speech or personal attacks on a member of the Academy under anonymity. If a source's shared material consists solely of an opinion and requests anonymity, that source will not be granted anonymity.

The Exonian will not grant anonymity if a source's shared material is a retelling of a situation that is clearly known to most students, faculty, and administrators of the Academy and is therefore not anonymous within the community.

The Exonian is obligated to follow state, federal, and the Academy's mandated reporting laws and procedures if a source makes allegations of significant misdeeds, including but not limited to sexual assault or harassment, physical abuse, and hazing.

The Exonian will not publish material praising a member of the Academy under anonymity, with the exception of the occasional quote box and annual Valentine grams. Editors will use their best judgment to evaluate the nature of anonymous praise.

Mandatory Anonymity

A source's material must be published anonymously if the material satisfies any of the following:

The material places the source in physical danger or in danger of legal retribution.

The material places a non-source student or staff of the Academy who did not consent to the publication of the material shared by the source in physical danger or in danger of legal retribution.

The source is planning to enter or has entered a lawsuit.

The source's material does not align with the Academy's “Publication Guidelines” (E-Book, p. 77).

The source's material involves records the Academy is legally bound to keep confidential, including but not limited to Academy personnel files.

De-identification

An anonymous source in *The Exonian* will not be identified by name, nor by any characteristic description of the source. A source's identifying information is not limited to the source's name, pronouns, or demographic information. Any experience or on-record contribution of anecdotal evidence shared by the source may be identifying information.

An anonymous student source will be referred to by grade level only.

An anonymous faculty or staff source will be referred to by “faculty member” or “staff member” only.

Pseudonyms will not be created for anonymous sources. The pronouns used for all anonymous sources will be they/them.

In writing, *The Exonian* will predicate information the anonymous source provides with context about how it obtained the source's information and why the source requested anonymity. If said context threatens the source's anonymity, that context will not be provided.

Quote Confirmations (policy to come)

Interviewers have the responsibility to inform the source that their material will be published. If the source's material necessitates mandatory anonymity, the interviewer must explain

to the source why that is. If the source provides written responses, the interviewer must respond with the same contents in a timely fashion.

If the source no longer wishes to share material, they may retract all statements and ask *The Exonian* to erase all written and/or electronic records of shared material. This applies during or before the quote confirmation period, and not after the material's publication unless it is found that the material contained false information.

Verbal Consent for the Publication of Especially Sensitive Material

Sources who must be or wish to be anonymous in an article must give verbal consent for the publication of especially sensitive shared material on a voice recording. Written consent can be given via email only if a source is unable to provide verbal consent.

Especially sensitive material is material that may put the source, *The Exonian*, or any other individual or organization in danger of legal retribution. *The Exonian's* Executive Board and advisers will judge whether a source's material is especially sensitive.

Security of Information Privy to The Exonian

Anonymous sources will not be included under recorded contacts. Anonymous materials, including but not limited to transcripts and written email responses, will be held by the writer and article editor only. The Executive Board may request access to the material. *The Exonian* will keep unpublished material strictly confidential.

Aftermath

A source who commented anonymously will not be marked as “declined to comment” by *The Exonian*.

Articles that use anonymous sources will credit the source's interviewer as a contributor in the byline.

Any concern or question pertaining to the authenticity or veracity of anonymously provided and published material—from inside or outside *The Exonian*—will be relayed to and answered by the Editor(s)-in-Chief.

The Exonian's Policy on Confidentiality

The Exonian is committed to engaging and informing the Academy community through the publication and dissemination of facts. However, as part of a newspaper, members of *The Exonian* are often privy to sensitive information and must treat it as such.

Just as *The Exonian* must be dedicated to transparency, so must it be dedicated to the tactful and ethical protection of information, as well as to the protection of people who may be impacted by that information. The purpose of the following rules and procedures is to guide *The Exonian* as it strives to strike this balance.

Acknowledgement of Exceptions (same as that of Policy on Anonymity)

Note on Terms Used Throughout this Policy:

Though *The Exonian's* complete Executive Board consists of all Editorial, Business, and Web Board (branch) heads, the phrase “Executive Board” will be used only in reference to the Editorial Board throughout this Policy on Confidentiality unless otherwise specified. The phrases “Upper Board” and “Lower Board” will also be used only in reference to the Editorial Board unless otherwise specified.

Regulations for Current Members of The Exonian:

Members of *The Exonian* CANNOT share any materials they have access to from their affiliation with the publication with non-members of *The Exonian*. Confidential materials within *The Exonian* include but

are not limited to: recordings of any kind, interview transcripts, identities of sources who wish to be or must be anonymous, and news tips.

The Exonian will keep unpublished material strictly confidential.

Regulations for Alumni/ae of The Exonian

Alumni/ae of *The Exonian* are former members of *The Exonian*. Former members of *The Exonian* remain bound by the conditions of this policy. Former members CANNOT share confidential materials that came to their attention during their membership with non-members of *The Exonian* or other unauthorized parties.

Members who left *The Exonian* before this policy was written must be made aware of this policy's conditions.

Communication with former members of *The Exonian* by current members about past or present confidential materials is prohibited, unless information from a former member is needed for a current undertaking.

If confidential information is needed for a current undertaking, all parties involved in that undertaking must adhere to the conditions outlined in this policy.

News Tips

A news tip is defined as information that is passed to a journalist in confidence with the ultimate goal of publication. All news tips should be directed to a current member of *The Exonian's* Upper or Executive Boards, whose names can be found on *The Exonian* masthead. Section editors are members of the Upper Board, while the Editor(s)-in-Chief, Managing Editor(s), Director(s) of Writing, and Chief Digital Editor(s) are members of the Executive Board.

Upper Board members must inform the Executive Board of a news tip upon receipt. The Executive Board will in turn inform *The Exonian's* faculty adviser(s) of the tip.

Any party within *The Exonian* who is not a member of *The Exonian's* Upper or Executive Boards informed of a news tip must relay that tip to the Executive Board as soon as possible.

At any given time outside of unprecedented or previously specified unique circumstances, knowledge of news tips is restricted only to the original receiving member of *The Exonian*, editors of the newspaper section to which the tip applies, the Executive Board, and *The Exonian's* faculty adviser(s).

Members of other editorial sections, members of *The Exonian's* Web and Business Boards, and members of the larger Academy community not involved with the subject of the news tip must not be informed of the tip.

Source Protection Anonymity

Sources of a news tip reserve the right to request anonymity, in which case their identity will be known only by the member of *The Exonian* to which the tip was originally relayed.

If anonymity is not explicitly requested, it will be assumed that the source of the news tip is comfortable with the disclosure of their identity to the Executive Board and *The Exonian's* faculty adviser(s).

The Exonian member originally informed of the news tip has the responsibility to glean further relevant information from the source in a respectful and sensitive manner. It is also their responsibility to act as liaison for communication between the source, appropriate members of the Upper Board, the Executive Board, and *The Exonian's* adviser(s) if necessary.

Source protection applies to any member of *The Exonian* who wishes to provide an anonymous news tip. That member of *The Exonian* must relay the tip to an Executive Board member, who will act as liaison for communication to other members of the Executive Board, appropriate members of the Upper Board,

and *The Exonian's* adviser(s) if necessary.

An Executive Board member who wishes to provide an anonymous news tip must relay the tip to the Executive Board as a whole or to one Executive Board member, who will act as liaison for communication to other members of the Executive Board, appropriate members of the Upper Board, and *The Exonian's* adviser(s) if necessary.

At any given time outside of unprecedented or previously specified unique circumstances, knowledge of a source's identity is restricted only to the original receiving member of *The Exonian*, editors of the newspaper section to which the tip applies, the Executive Board, and *The Exonian's* faculty adviser(s).

Members of other editorial sections, members of *The Exonian's* Web and Business Boards, and members of the larger Academy community not involved with the subject of the news tip must not be aware of a source's identity.

Off-the-Record Information Shared in Interviews

Off-the-record information is defined as information a source shares that they do not wish to be published. In interviews with members of *The Exonian*, sources reserve the right to explicitly state that a portion of their response is off-the-record (or an equivalent phrase). Members of *The Exonian* are responsible for informing sources of this right.

Interviewers must redact information stated off-the-record from interview transcripts. If it is not made clear that information still present in an interview transcript was stated off-the-record, it will be assumed that it is viable material for publication.

Interviewers will not share information received off-the-record with any non-member of *The Exonian*, unless sharing the information is required based on Academy, state, and federal policies. Interviewers have the right to share off-the-record information with other members of *The Exonian* only if it is needed to corroborate information gathered from other sources and assist in piecing together a story that writers and editors may not otherwise have access to.

Academy, State, and Federal Policies:

Policies on Mandatory Reporting of Illicit Activities

Within the Academy, illicit activity is any activity involving current and/or, in certain circumstances outlined in the E-Book, past members of the Academy community while on or off campus that violates Academy, state, and/or federal policies.

Members of *The Exonian* are committed to treating information about alleged and confirmed illicit activity with the utmost care. *The Exonian's* response to receiving such information will follow existent Academy, state, and federal procedures.

The Exonian does not have the legal or logistical capability to formally investigate alleged illicit activity.

If relevant to readership, members of *The Exonian* will write and publish articles about a formal investigation into alleged illicit activity that is already in progress or already completed. Members of *The Exonian* will do so through journalistic investigation into legally available resources, which include but are not limited to: affidavits, public statements, press releases, interviews, and what parties involved in the formal investigation are willing and able to share.

People informing *The Exonian* of alleged illicit activity must be aware that any information they disclose, anonymously or not, will reach the attention of *The Exonian's* adult faculty adviser(s) (see E-Book, p. 37).

New Hampshire's reporting laws also legally obligate adults aged 18 or older to report any of the illicit activities listed above.

More information on Academy, state, and federal mandatory reporting policies can be found in

the E-Book.

Privacy Expectations

Interviews conducted by members of *The Exonian* are voice recorded and transcribed. While *The Exonian* strives to keep these materials confidential, it must adhere to Academy, state, and federal policies on the use of electronic materials (see E-Book, p.69).

More information on Academy privacy policies can be found in the E-Book.

Inter-Exonian Branch Relations and Executive Boards' Responsibilities:

The Executive Boards of *The Exonian's* three branches must maintain regular communication to ensure a greater sense of community within *The Exonian*, smoother production cycle, and higher quality newspaper.

Each branch's Executive Board members are responsible for informing each other and other members of *The Exonian* about changes to *The Exonian's* regular operations.

Information known within any of the three branch's Executive Boards that is not pertinent for Executive and/or non-Executive members of the other branches will remain confidential.

Specific terms of inter-branch relations will be discussed by the current Executive Boards and *The Exonian's* faculty adviser(s).

Regulations Specific to The Exonian's Executive Board:

Transparent communication between *The Exonian's* Executive Board, Upper Board, and Lower Board is essential for the facilitation of a community-centered and efficient publication.

Executive Board members are responsible for informing each other and other members of *The Exonian* about changes to *The Exonian's* regular operations.

Information known within the Executive Board that is not pertinent for non-Executive Board members of the other branches will remain confidential.

The Exonian's Executive Board is responsible for maintaining regular communication with *The Exonian's* faculty advisers. The topics discussed and information exchanged in meetings and communications with the advisers must be relayed to other members of *The Exonian*, unless the Executive Board members and adviser(s) agree that the contents of the discussion must remain confidential.

Topics discussed and information exchanged in private meetings and communications between the Editor(s)-in-Chief and faculty adviser(s) must be relayed to the appropriate members of *The Exonian* in a timely fashion, unless the Editor(s)-in-Chief and faculty adviser(s) agree that the contents of the discussion must remain confidential.

Regulations Specific to The Exonian's Upper and Lower Boards

All information relevant to *The Exonian* that is known to members of the Upper/Lower Boards must be relayed to the Executive Board, unless any of this policy's aforementioned specifications are applicable.

Board Turnovers

Information about confidentiality amidst *The Exonian's* board turnovers is outlined in *The Exonian* Bylaws.

Consequences for Breaking the Conditions in this Policy

Disregard for the conditions outlined in this Policy on Confidentiality by any person or persons will result in punishment, the nature of which will be decided by *The Exonian's* Editor(s)-in-Chief and advisers, or, if applicable, the Academy administration and/or legal authorities.

Sports

Athlete of the Week: Nate Pulchalski



Upper Nate Pulchalski wrestling at the Jan. 22 home competition against Governor's Academy.

Courtesy of Hillary Yoon

By HANNAHPARK and STELLASONG

The muscle bound upper Nate Pulchalski fights hard in both water polo (wopo) and wrestling. Known for his pure grit in the gym, the pool, and the mat, Pulchalski strives for excellence in the athletic center. Some other areas that Pulchalski pursues around campus are in the economic and business clubs. He is also the new co-secretary of Student Council. Pulchalski elevates his teammates and peers around him.

Before coming in as a prep, Pulchalski was already heavily involved in wrestling but was not yet introduced to the pool. As for wrestling, Pulchalski said, "I love the intensity of wrestling and being able to pin a lot of kids. This year, I placed 2nd at Class A's for my weight class, which is a pretty decent placement for myself."

Pulchalski's hard work and dedication can be seen through his electric performances on the mat. "I've only watched Exeter wrestling once but Nate stood out among the rest. He was so quick, he was like a flash. He pinned his first opponent in a matter of seconds, and the second match I watched was a long, straining match with Nate coming out victorious," upper Stellan Aalto said.

"He genuinely was the fastest fighter I saw out there and pinned his opponent in the quickest time," Aalto said. "You could also tell that he worked hard. Like before the fight, he was in a stable mindset, ignoring the sounds and distractions around him."

Lower teammate Alex Rosen added, "Nate is extremely hard working and dedicated. He always puts all his effort in even when we're all exhausted." He continued on, "I was a new

wrestler and water polo player this year and Nate was always there to help support me and give me great advice."

Pulchalski brings out the best in his fellow teammates. Upper Matt Dame said, "As a teammate, Nate will make you work. He is one of the most determined and focused people I know (at times he embodies the grindset) and this certainly translates into athletics. During water polo season, we would always partner up for drills and conditioning sets and he made me put my all into every practice."

Pulchalski is the embodiment of "the grind never stops." Lower Max Lacombe said, "One time I walked into Nate's room while he was going hard with his full body workout, and when I came back in an hour, he was still hitting the same workout."

Lower Charlie Gao added, "Many times at away

games on our long bus rides, I will always see Nate hard at work on his school work, never letting much time go to waste."

Not only is Pulchalski swift on the mat, but he is also quick to learn in the pool. Dame said, "Nate learns quickly and never stops learning. One of the most impressive parts of Nate's development in water polo is his understanding of the game. I always feel good about our chances when Nate has the ball because I know that he will find the right pass or take the perfect shot if it's there."

Pulchalski is also a wonderful presence in the dorm. Rosen said, "Nate is a very fun presence in the dorm. He is a leader in the dorm and makes sure that everyone can participate in activities."

"I would have a lot more positive things to say if he was still running the dorm grill. But aside from

the shortage of takis in the dorm, I couldn't imagine Soule without Nate," Dame joked.

When asked about the transition to wopo, Pulchalski said, "Wopo seemed like a really cool sport, and after I joined, the team was very welcoming. There were many other preps at the time who were also trying out wopo for the first time, so I fit right in."

Pulchalski described one highlight of his wopo season. "This year, during parents weekend, we scored a buzzer beater last second shot against Williston Northampton School, which was super hype with the stands packed."

Regarding his interests, Pulchalski said, "I love being in the gym, a little gym rat myself. I also love to be outdoors and travel with my big family of six."

When asked about his campaign with his twin, Pulchalski said, "Yeah it was a

good campaign. People really liked our slogan, 'Pushin' Pulchalski.'"

Pulchalski has shared some fond memories with his friends. Dame said, "I will never forget the infamous febreze wars last year between Nate, Antar, and a few other members of the dorm. There were some intense late-night battles over the control of the dorm's supply of febreze canisters. I could be discrediting Antar as I write this, but I believe that Nate emerged victorious after weeks of grueling combat. A champion, truly."

Upper and teammate Patrick McCann added, "The first time Nate came to preseason water polo, he immediately outpaced the entire team at our gruesome stadium workout."

Pulchalski concluded, "I am excited to finish out the wrestling season as well as getting back on the grind in the Spring."

Andover Crushes Exeter Boys' Squash

By VIR SHRESTHA and CATHERINEWU

The Academy's boys' squash team played against Phillips Academy on Feb. 2 for an interscholastic match held at home. Though Exeter suffered a zero to seven loss against Andover, they showcased their fighting spirit and look forward to a strong end to their season.

Players on the squash team shared their experiences at the match. "The match against Andover was a cool experience," lower Eric Wu said. "It was the first time I played as an Exeter athlete against Andover. I have some friends on the Andover squash team so it was cool seeing them too."

"However, we had a big loss against Andover, with only two wins on our team. Personally, I had a 2-0 lead against my opponent, but

I ended up squandering it and losing 3-2," Wu continued.

Prep Davido Zhang also discussed his thoughts regarding the match. "We originally didn't have the first chance to play against Andover. So I thought it was a really good time to practice, especially against some really strong opponents. Andover was a really good school to offer us that chance."

"That match didn't go as well as I thought, but a really good lesson from it was that I would really have to calm down to adjust my stamina, because that could really mean a lot when you're playing against someone terrifying such as [an Andover student]," Zhang continued.

Senior Oliver Riordan reflected on his match. "I was quick to hit the ball back to my opponent but I need to improve my play-

making abilities for future matches."

"Although the Andover match on Wednesday, Feb. 2 was tough, we maintained a lot of team camaraderie and spirit. The matches were close ones and everyone gave it their best shot. It was a challenging day but we kept our spirits up and played hard to the end. We are all looking forward to a rematch," lower Ryan Breen added.

Captain Ben Ehrman commented on the audience turnout as well. "The Fisher squash center was the most packed I've seen since the start of the pandemic. It was great to see we had that much support from the Exeter community."

Still amidst the pandemic, members on the team discussed their playing experiences with COVID protocols. "For the beginning of the term, everyone

had to have a mask on at all times. However, a couple days before the Andover match, we were allowed to practice without a mask on, and when we played Andover both teams did not have to wear a mask on the court. When we were not on the court, everyone still needed to have a mask on," Wu agreed.

"We currently wear masks when we are off the court during practices and matches. However, they are not required while we are playing the match on the court. The COVID protocols and guidelines have enabled us to have a safe, uninterrupted season," Breen noted.

Many players commented on facing defeat against Andover at the match. "I believe in our squash team," prep Byran Huang said. "As our coach says, it's not losing if you learned something from

that experience. I think our team received motivation and lessons in each loss we encountered, and we will use them for our future matches."

Ehrman stated, "I learned from this match to head into games playing at a faster pace. In the future, we got to take the ball earlier and put pressure on my opponents."

Despite suffering a loss, members still remained optimistic for the match and held positive attitudes. Regarding the loss, "It was very predictable based on previous records, and we were pretty prepared for it. The team spirit was okay... we were pretty prepared for our match and it didn't end up being as bad as we thought it'd be," Zhang said.

"The Andover team generally has a higher rating than our team, so they definitely had the edge

coming into the match. After we lost, the team was pretty tired. However, we kept our team spirit and rooted for those who were still playing. After the game... Coach Shang gave us a good talk, which definitely helped brighten our spirits," Wu shared.

Players expressed hopes for the remainder of this season as well. "I hope we can further improve for E/a. I am certainly excited for the prospect of playing Andover again, and I am sure the team is too. I want to shout out to my captains and teammates for helping me improve through this season and I wish we can come back with more wins," Huang stated.

"This loss gave us motivation: we're more motivated than ever to get better before our rematch during E/a," Ehrman concluded.

Girls' Varsity Hockey Bests Tilton School

By ELAINE QIAO and STELLA SONG

The Academy's girls' varsity hockey team had a home game on Jan. 26 against fellow New Hampshire high school, the Tilton School.

In the game, Exeter scored a 5-2 victory over Tilton. Players Kate Nixon, Tenley Nelson, Jessica Chen, Eden Welch, and Anjali Frary contributed to the five goals against the opposing team.

The team demonstrated impressive collaboration in reaching their goal. "The Tilton victory was remarkable because it was truly a team effort."

"In that game we had goals scored by 4 different pairings of players. That is a

very positive performance as often times it is one or two groups that dominate the scoring. In the Tilton game it was truly a balanced effort by the team with everyone contributing to the victory," Coach Jim Tufts said.

"I believe that the team's strength is the depth and balance that has led to success. We have many forwards that are fast, tenacious and skilled and that depth is a factor in pressuring our opponents. We have a defensive group that is very smart, makes great decisions with the puck and they have played very well. We also have 4 very solid goalies that compete hard in practice and have performed very well in games," Tufts added.

Senior and captain Grace Emmick shared a few

thoughts on the game, saying, "It was a phenomenal team effort all game. Each of the five goals came from different players, and everyone else gave it their all."

Upper Anjali Frary agreed. "The game against Tilton was well-paced, with lots of great contributions from everyone on the team. Each of our three lines performed well, with goals coming from each line. The team worked hard to execute the skills we have been focusing on recently, like getting lots of shots on goal and having strong offensive pressure. The team's energy was high, with growing enthusiasm as we picked up the pace, finishing the game with a strong third period," she said.

The team had a slow start, with a two-goal deficit

near the end of the first period, however, their team spirit was not discouraged. "We started to gain momentum near the end of the first period when Kate scored our first of five goals," Emmick said.

Upper Kate Nixon, who scored the first goal also agreed, saying, "We had an unfocused start, but with the help from coaches, we picked up the energy. We were good at noticing what the team spirit was, and we picked up the energy and pulled it together."

As with any sport, practice was essential in the team's victory. COVID restrictions posed challenges to team practices. Players shared their practice experiences during the outbreak of Omicron. "Although some guidelines were frustrating

at times, we were all flexible with locker room or masking protocols and never let them get in the way of us practicing and competing," Emmick said.

"I believe we had to wear masks during this game to follow COVID protocols, and we always were masked during practice. That has changed recently, as we have the option not to wear masks while on the ice," lower Jessica Chen said.

Practice and warmup prepared the team for the upcoming game. "I think that our pre-game warmup and music really helped us get fired up for our game. Practice the day before is usually a good way to practice our power-play, penalty kill, and other systems," Chen said.

Tufts shared the strategy

for the Tilton game. "For that game we wanted to deposit pucks deep in the Tilton end of the rink and put pressure on their defenders." Tufts is very proud of the team's efforts and growth. "The team has improved markedly this season—both as individual players and as a team! Every game is very competitive, hard fought and well played."

Nixon shared the team's goals and hopes for the rest of the season saying, "We have tough opponents for the rest of the season. Our goal is to take advantage of having more home games and get ready for E/a. We are aiming for focused, intense starts right from the beginning."

Captains of the Week: Girls' Varsity Squash

By LAUREN KIM and LIANNAYANG

The girls' varsity squash team has enjoyed numerous victories so far this season, and many players attribute the team's success to their captains' leadership. This year, the three captains for the girls' squash team are seniors Dorothy Baker, Kate Manderlink, and Lucy Weil. Along with the excellent guidance from the captains, the team takes pride in their positive team dynamic and significant effort from every player.

Many players said that they would describe their captains as "leaders by example." Lower Pippa Pflaum said, "The captains get to practice really early and get right on the court to warm up. I get thinking I am early and Dorothy is already on court warming up and Kate is stretching. Their commitment to the team and sport motivate me to show up early and work hard."

Reflecting on the advice the captains give her, prep Aria Suchak agreed.

"They always know what's happening so they can always help us out. And then just besides squash advice, I go to the captains for life advice too. Which I think is really helpful, especially as a younger lowerclassmen." Lower Ella Brady added, "My captain is really encouraging on court and off court and they give me good coaching."

When asked to describe the captains' personalities, prep Paloma Sze described all three as energetic and supportive. Sze said, "Lucy Weil always has great energy, and she's super encouraging whenever I play. Dorothy is always on top of making sure everyone is supporting each other, and she always leads the stretches we do. Kate is always the first one on court and she makes practice fun."

Upper Lally Lavin added, "I would describe their leadership as motivating because they balance working hard with being very positive and cheering... On the court, they are always providing help-

ful tips and willing to hit with anyone. Off the court, they play music, lead our cheers, and are always fun to hang out with."

Manderlink commented, "We try to make it a united team, a unity. We're almost at the end of the season, we have two really tough matches left for varsity and then nationals, Andover. So I think that having fun is also a big one, especially coming up to the end of the season. We're doing psych sort of something to keep the team connected and motivated and allow teammates to find connections between different grade levels. Like seniors and preps sort of making those connections through the different grade levels."

Weil added, "I think everybody is super positive and brings good energy. For example, Lally is always very excited to cheer and bring the energy. I think everybody also is just ready to go and happy when they come to practice."

Aside from captains,

the team as a whole strives to win matches, make fun memories, and maintain a cheerful environment. Baker recalled their team cheers: "Something that we do as a team when we play games, is after we do the initial introductions we get in a huddle and we wait for the other team to cheer. Then, after they cheer, we cheer louder and I think that's always a nice tradition."

Manderlink extends, "The other day we watched Carolyn win her flight at inter-schools. That was really exciting and memorable."

Lavin describes a highlight of the squash coaches dressing up, "One of my favorite moments was when Coach Lovey dressed as the Grinch the day before winter break and played in her costume."

"As captains, we try and stay really positive and energetic and I think that reflects in the team too! When some people are happy, it's like it translates," Manderlink said.

Whether it be team

lifts or playing challenge matches, regular team practices bring the team together. Baker describes the team meetings they have at the beginning of every practice. "We have a little team meeting where we just chat, and people are usually happy to be there. It is generally a positive environment. Even when we do challenge matches or anything that's otherwise kind of stressful, people still work really hard and they put a lot of effort in," Baker said. "It's nice to see people get better and grow as a team."

Agreeing with the improvement the team has made together, Lavin said, "Our practices have been really hard, but also really rewarding. We've amped it up to finish the season on a strong note and I've noticed everyone has improved a lot."

Pflaum described the challenge matches the team has, and the opportunities they have to grow further. "We usually do challenge matches on Mondays which is an opportunity

to move up on the ladder. And then, twice a week a professional squash player from Boston comes up to work with us which is a cool opportunity."

In spite of COVID-19 restrictions and the dreary New England winter weather, Baker admires her teammates for always bringing a positive attitude, both on and off the court. Baker says, "I respect how happy people can be in the winter. It's crazy how people come to the court when it's often really snowy and gray outside, but everyone is still smiling. They're still running their hardest. They're still laughing when they're messing up and it's just cool seeing people bring joy to an otherwise very dreary environment."

"We love the support," Weil concluded. "We're so excited to be a team, and without COVID this year it's been really good. We're looking forward to the rest of the season."



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Humor

How to Survive Conquer a Frozen Tundra

By ARIANA THORNTON '24

It's the break of dawn, and you look outside. Past your smudged dorm window lies an apocalyptic wasteland, with mutated snow substituted for the radioactive flames of YA dystopian novels. The pristine powder of previous days has transformed into a monstrosity of gray-colored slush, well-hidden puddles, and sheer ice with a vengeance for blood.

As a Southerner with an 8:00 a.m., you play your Spotify workout playlist while

doing your morning routine, praying for yourself get to class unscathed. Nodding along to Demi Lovato, you slowly change your mind. Why merely survive a frozen tundra when you can conquer it? You step onto the paved path outside your dorm with a spring in your step— and immediately sink down to your ankles in icy slush. The first trap. You waddle the rest of the way to Elm, grab a bagel, and sit down to ruminate on a proper attack plan. The Olympic Games came to Beijing, and it seems they must come to Exeter as

well. You did theater last term and are opting for winter, but you're positive you can make it through this treacherous environment like a true Exonian athlete.

Parkour isn't an Olympic sport, but it might as well be. Coat over your back and backpack over your shoulders, you hop from one wobbly ice-slush structure to the next, avoiding the flooded paths. Your first format is biology, so you try to take a shortcut to the science building along the library and have a near-wipeout on the bricks. Adrenaline

rushing through your veins, you steady yourself on a wall, realizing that there was a warning emailed earlier about this exact spot. You remind yourself to have better memory and push on.

You're pretty artistically inclined, yet you never thought it'd be demonstrated through a series of unexpected figure skating routines. Exonians around you engage in the sport, exhibiting hops and combination jumps, with one student even managing a Biellmann spin. You fall onto your backpack as you slip on

the corner to Tan Lane, and now you monobob down the slanted sidewalk to the entrance of the science building. You check the time on your surprisingly scratchless phone to see that it's already 8:00. A classmate of yours hurries across the street, and you both clamber through the doors— before promptly falling backwards on the slippery base of the stairwell. After all, it wouldn't be the Olympics without a photo finish. Who comes out as the champion? You'd rather not think about it.

Survival Guide to the SuperBowl (when you don't watch Football)

By ANDREWYUAN '24

∞. Watch the Winter Olympics. Honestly, if you've fallen that low, you might just watch the SuperBowl then.

7. Memorize the roster for both teams so you get to talk to that one jock friend who chases after you on a snowing Sunday morning without social anxiety.

6. Just nod vigorously.

5. Don't fall asleep when the game ends...the roar will meet you in your nightmares.

4. Show up for the commercials and halftime show so you don't miss the pop culture moments.

3. Tiptoe to your common room to get soda and pizza, then sneak back to your room.

2. Mute all the messages from your friends from L.A. or Ohio.

1. Don't show up to your common room for the actual show, remember your two major assignments due on Monday? (just sayin')



Courtesy of alamy.com

Suggestions for Student Council

By RISHI GURDEVAN '25

Observing Student Council this week has been... quite the experience. If you want the details, look elsewhere in this issue, but these are some suggestions that might improve its functionality.

1. Require more signatures to get onto the ballot so that even more candidates will accost more people every 3 seconds (Including Faculty).

Nowhere is safe, not even your English class.

2. Fill up the agenda so StuCo hours increase from 8-9pm to 8-11:59pm.

It's not like we have anything else to do on a Tuesday night.

3. Make it mandatory for

candidates to 'redecorate' walls on campus with a new wallpaper solely comprised of posters.

EPAC needs some pizzazz.

4. Be even less transparent with the student body.

You don't know what you don't know.

5. Reform StuCo to create a house of representatives and a senate to make decision-making even slower. What about an electoral college...

Hey, it works for the USA. Or does it...?

6. Appoint Andy Horrigan as StuCo Dictator.

No explanation needed.

Andy Horrigan's StuCo Campaign

By NHAN PHAN '24

Nhan:

The StuCo presidential elections have elapsed and Exonians want to know more about a breakout candidate who appealed to many: Andrew Horrigan himself. There has been a wave of outpouring support for your campaign among lowers and upperclassmen combined. In particular, they support the prep-less dining halls. So, let's start off with that. How do you plan to implement this?

Andy:

I think a really big part of this is that more often than not teachers do not use the long block, which obviously is the block right before lunch. So obviously they're the first ones to go to dining hall and they take all the tables, they take the booths; that really gets my gears going. So the legislation I would be proposing would get them to eat outside, as they deserve, I don't care how they get their food. They're not going in D-hall. They can just stand, I guess. I think we still have the tables up, so hopefully they can make use of those.

Nhan:

Interesting. But what do you think about when it rains? Do you think they still deserve to stand outside when it's raining?

Andy:

That's a good question. That's why I think campus is so great because it does offer external spaces. Like we have the Library cloister that 's pretty cool. And, you know, if

it gets too bad, we always have Grainger auditorium, which has previously been used as a dining hall.

Nhan:

Now I want to talk about your next policy, which is making masks mandatory while sleeping and showering too. Now, do you think this policy will be beneficial in curbing COVID-19 on campus, noting that the CDC does recommend masking as a good protection tool against transmission?

Andy:

Yeah, obviously. We, as Exonians, live in these massive complexes; we live in dormitories and those share a lot of air particles. And what does COVID love? COVID loves air. So, we can't make exceptions for when we are in our own rooms or showering, because what are you doing when you're in your own rooms or showering? You're still breathing that air, and unless there's a way to create a biosphere within dorms, I do not think it's feasible for us to be able to take our mask off during those times.

Nhan:

As we know, COVID also likes to stay on surfaces; tables, door handles, toilets. The toilets are especially the main hotspots of the virus. And especially if people are coming into these rooms and touching tables, touching bedside frames, touching all of this, how do you propose we combat against COVID 19 particles on surfaces?

Andy:

Yeah. And what's so great about StuCo is that we have just this enormous budget and I think we don't spend enough of it. What I would propose would be the purchase of hazmat suits for every Exonian so that we wouldn't have to touch any surfaces. We could just be in these yellow plastic suits.

Nhan:

The new fashion standard: hazmat suits. We'd love to see it. So how did the idea of Sunday classes come about?

Andy:

Yeah. Um, that's a really good question. And I have had a bunch of conversations with the student body about this very hot topic issue. Um, a lot of people complain that Sundays are, you know, a workday and that their only day off is Saturday, but really, you know you don't get worn out if you don't get rest. So, I think if we change Saturdays too, the day of work, you know, that will really help eliminate that stress on Sunday. And so it would just, you know, help the week move about.

Nhan:

For sure. Currently we have six Saturday classes a year. Do you propose we extend them, keep them, or get rid of them?

Andy:

What do students do when they have free time? They get up to no good, that's a proven fact. If they're just working more and having less free time, what does that do: that creates less of a chance for students to do potentially damaging things.

So, yeah, I think we should also go for more Saturday classes.

Nhan:

Thank you for the insightful response. Now, in general, how do you plan to restructure StuCo?

Andy:

That's a good question. I think what's great about StuCo is that many voices can be heard, and I want to completely get rid of that. Um, I think that we should have a dart board of things that we should do and have one of our advisors just randomly chuck darts, you know, and whatever it lands on we do, we accomplish, we propose to the administration.

Nhan:

So, just to clarify, you're in support of fully eliminating communication between the student, body and faculty and administration?

Andy:

Yeah. I don't want anyone to know what StuCo is doing. I want silence one day and then the next day, you know, boom, legislation saying that people have to have their doors open 270 degrees while getting visitations.

Nhan:

Are you going to be needing anyone else on the executive board to do that job with you?

Andy:

I obviously congratulate Kevin, Grace and Nate for getting all the votes that they did. And I think they ran very legitimate campaigns.

However, with the dart board style of policy, I really don't think that we have the need for any other executive members except maybe a vice president in the case of my passing, um, or for even that matter: subcommittees or, you know, dorm reps, grade reps, etc.

Nhan:

And how do you propose, let's say if your tenure ends, should it end, what is the process for electing a new president?

Andy:

Yeah, so obviously Grace would step in as an interim president. But you know, I really think the next president should be chosen by the shortest freshman and they would take over as president for the rest of their time at Exeter, of course.

Nhan:

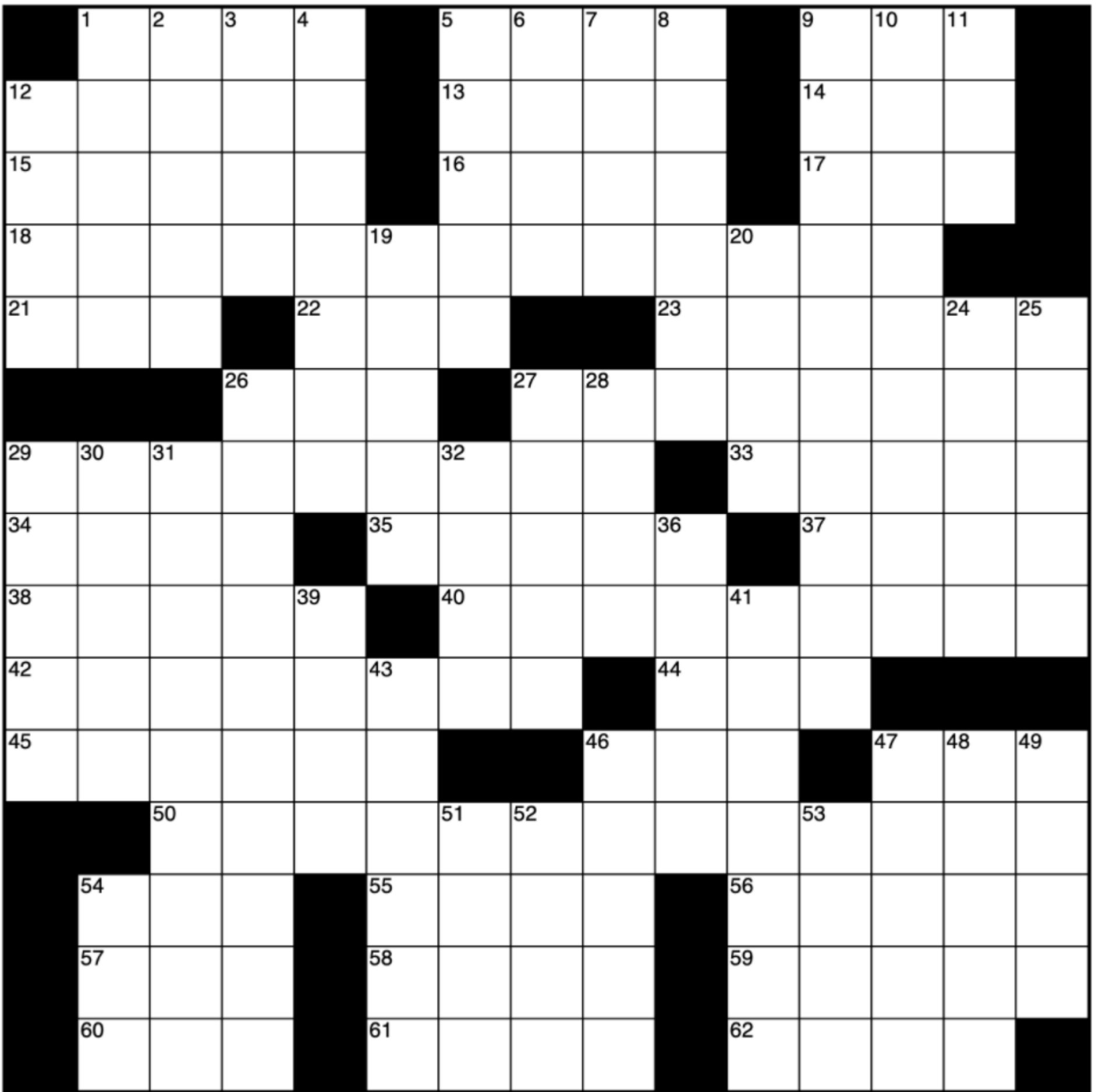
The last question that I have is why should everyone support you?

Andy:

I think I'm the only candidate who's really listening to everybody. I sat in Grill one day and I was like, "you know what, I'm going to run for president." So, I had a bunch of people coming to me as I was designing my poster. I was like, what do you want? And you know what I heard? I heard more Sunday classes. I heard faculty chaperoned visitations. I heard preplex dining halls. I heard Sibi and that's what the people want. They want Sibi.

The Crossword Corner: The Winter Thaw

By **STELLA SONG** and **GBEMIGA SALU**



ACROSS

- 1 Hulk’s radiation, G ____
- 5 Basic mode of Indian classical music
- 9 “CSI” network
- 12 Leading the pack
- 13 Apple desktop
- 14 Colloquial term for a reversal on the road
- 15 Super Bowl LVI Half-time performer Blige
- 16 Pub projectile
- 17 Make an offer
- 18 Literature focusing on a young protagonist’s growth
- 21 Anger
- 22 Silento’s “Whip and ____ (x2)”
- 23 Sandy sea
- 26 Media-monitoring org.
- 27 Former San Francisco Bay prison
- 29 Recognitions of achievement
- 33 Ignore, ____ blind eye
- 34 Donkey, in German

- 35 Hymn accompaniment
- 37 Wild hog
- 38 Directing duo Joe and Anthony
- 40 Fenders, bumpers, etc.
- 42 Impressive supplies
- 44 Proctor in college, somewhat
- 45 Use as a rendezvous point
- 46 You can bank on it
- 47 Flash-drive port
- 50 The 332, for example
- 54 “Lost” actor Daniel ____ Kim
- 55 “Amo, amas, ____”
- 56 Research bacteria
- 57 Sept. follower
- 58 Violinist/Comedian Thurber
- 59 “Judy” actress Zellweger
- 60 BTC competitor
- 61 New Haven collegians
- 62 Mine finds

DOWN

- 1 Win by ____ (prevail, barely)
- 2 Country singer Haggard
- 3 Emergency call, ____ ay
- 4 Offshoot
- 5 Mountain crest
- 6 “Amo, ____, amat”
- 7 Teri of “Tootsie”
- 8 Path of some electrical conversions, for short
- 9 Havana’s brass instruments
- 10 Exist in a state of wrongness
- 11 Lead singer of The Internet
- 12 Prefix meaning “both”
- 19 Composer ____ Herb Brown
- 20 The most exclusive club on campus
- 24 Chased
- 25 Romanov rulers
- 26 Washington grill?
- 27 “Euphoria” actor Cloud
- 28 Future attorney’s exam

- 29 Author of “Gods, Graves & Scholars”
- 30 “____ hope so!”
- 31 Casing for the Space Stone
- 32 Spoken
- 36 Best coffee shop in Exeter, 7...
- 39 “And later ____ the crowd thinned out...” (Bob Dylan lyric)
- 41 Cold wind from the Andes
- 43 Military order to relax
- 46 Play the role of
- 47 Winning by a point
- 48 Palindromic French Open champ
- 49 Captain Marvel Larson
- 51 Human right’s lawyer Clooney
- 52 Mrs. Kipling’s bestie from “Jessie”
- 53 Taiwanese PC maker
- 54 A deer, a female deer