

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'THANK YOU, MR. HAYDEN'

The letter in your summer issue entitled "Chilson Leonard Reconsidered" inspired me to write of another faculty member with whom my personal experience was vastly different from his reputation on campus. I refer to Thomas Hayden, history instructor and dormmaster of Hoyt in 1973–74. He had a reputation for severity and inflexibility in the dorm and beyond.

*Thomas Hayden,
history instructor
and dormmaster of
Hoyt Hall*



I was a one-year senior in the fall of 1973, little realizing that I was also rebellion-in-waiting. Fairly quickly, I had "cut" four classes (two assemblies, as I didn't like to miss the very interesting classes) just to see what would happen. I found the resultant restrictions humiliating because I had to report to the dorm proctor every evening at 8 p.m. When one proctor reported to Mr. Hayden that I had repeatedly broken restrictions by leaving the dorm after 8, he called me into his office to ask if it was true. Terrified, I denied it. I went back upstairs to tell my friends what had happened, then back down to admit that, yes, I had been out—but only once. They thought I was crazy to tell him, but I didn't want the lie on my conscience; I had been out once to walk around the building. Mr. Hayden was very understanding once we had talked about why, and told me I could go out for a short walk on other occasions, provided I reported to him *first* for permission!

Before my restrictions were up, I missed another assembly—unintentionally this time—and was required to report to the dean of students. She thought I was bucking for expulsion and planned to

PEAN

Every Member Counts!

In our summer issue, we carried news of the Exeter Math Team's first-place finish at this year's American Regions Mathematics League (ARML) competition, but inadvertently omitted one of the team members, David Rush '09 of Scarsdale, NY. That's David, sixth from right, helping to hold up a banner at the June competition. With him are the 14 other members of the math team (left to right): Maria Chung '08 (Sungnam City, Korea); Sherry Gong '07 (San Juan, PR); Karl Cobbe '09 (Nevada City, CA); Paul Lee '09 (Carmel, IN); Keone Hon '07 (Kamuela, HI); Gye Hyun Baek '09 (Seoul, Korea); Han Lee '08 (Seoul, Korea); Brian Basham '08 (Brush Prairie, WA); Ashwin Suresh '08 (Acton, MA); David Rush; Jamie Karraker '08 (Morgantown, WV); John Yoshida '08 (Syosset, NY); Yi Han '08 (Pittsburgh, PA); Amy Huang '09 (Tenafly, NJ); Eric Cho '08 (Seoul, Korea).



recommend it at the faculty meeting in two days. When I reported this to Mr. Hayden, he said he would speak up for me, provided I was willing to go to the school psychiatrist. You see, Mr. Hayden knew about my home life and had been protecting me from drunken calls from home in the middle of the night for some time. I did as he asked immediately, and he came through for me in the faculty meeting.

Even that wasn't the end of it. By spring break, I had received a turn-down from my second-choice college and an "unlikely" early evaluation from my first choice—Yale. That left me with a good university in my hometown or a really poor "safety." Although he was taking a break from being college adviser that year, Mr. Hayden stepped in during spring break to try to persuade several colleges that they should reconsider particular students. Mine was the only one of the cases he took to Yale that gained not only that reconsideration, but also the reasons for the "unlikely" in the first place. He called me during break with instructions: Yale needed all the missing pieces of my application, including scores for my SAT; and I was to arrange an interview at the University of Pennsylvania where he had already secured me admission!

I can only credit my eventual acceptance at Yale to his dedication and kindness. He did not want me to go to college at home because of what he knew about my family, and he felt the "safety" would not do either. Mr. Hayden was the first person I ever confided in about my family life, and I will always be grateful for his understanding and support. I loved my year at Exeter and even qualified for a classical diploma. By spring semester, requirements completed, I asked to take five language classes at once. He probably thought I was nuts, but he approved it and I had a blast. Thank you, Mr. Hayden, for everything.

Jodi Benson '74
Fremont, CA

PROBLEM SOLVED!

An article in your summer issue about the Exeter Math Team began with the following problem: *The pages of a book are numbered consecutively from 1 to n . The book is divided into 12 chapters such that the number of digits used to number the pages of each chapter is the same. Compute the least possible value for n .*

The answer is 432. The solution involves these steps:

Recognize that the number of digits per

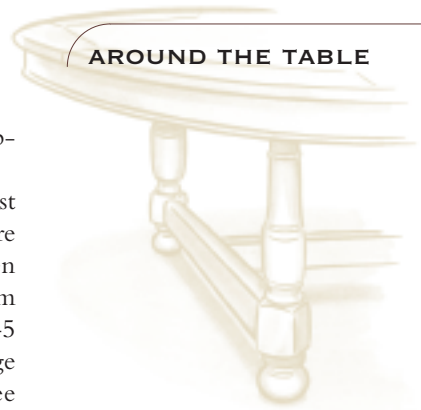
chapter must be divisible by 3, since most chapters will begin and end above page 100.

To minimize the number of pages, we must allocate the two-digit pages (of which there are 90, representing 180 digits) evenly between Chapters 1 and 2. Thus, Chapter 1 will go from page 1 to page 54 (nine single digits and 45 double digits), and Chapter 2 will go from page 55 to page 102 (45 double digits and three triple digits).

Now we know there are 99 digits per chapter, so the remaining 10 chapters must have a total of 33 three-digit pages each—a total of 330 pages. Add that number to the 102 pages comprising Chapters 1 and 2, and you have 432.

The students no doubt worked this out far more quickly than I did, but it's noteworthy that I did it at all, since my first-term math grade at Exeter in 1957, from Donald Dunbar, was a solid D.

Jan Schreiber '59
Chestnut Hill, MA



DON'T FORGET TO WRITE

We want to hear from you. Write to us at *The Exeter Bulletin*, Phillips Exeter Academy, 20 Main Street, Exeter, NH 03833. Or you can email us at bulletin@exeter.edu.

Corrections

In our summer issue, we significantly understated the significant impact that the 2007 Founder's Day Award winner, **K. Tucker Andersen '59**—a former vice president of the Academy Trustees and chair of the Investment Committee—has had on the Academy's endowment. Since 1989, the year that Andersen joined the Trustees, Exeter's endowment experienced not just "a remarkable 80 percent increase," as we reported, but rather exceeded a truly extraordinary 450 percent increase. Andersen also encouraged the development of policies to ensure Exeter spends its endowment wisely, so as to be able to meet the needs of successive generations of Exonians.

Reports of **Jeremy Faro's** defection to the class of '97 have been greatly exaggerated! In our summer issue coverage of a reception the student-led Gay Straight Alliance hosted in May for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender alumni/ae, we mistakenly listed Jeremy's class year as '97, when he was, and is, a member of the class of '92. And some less than ship-shape

proofreading caused us to misidentify yachtsman **Basil Vasiliou '67** in a photo caption that accompanied a profile about his adventures racing Six-Metre yachts in international competitions. That's Basil on the far right, with the crew of his boat, the *Jane Ann*.

