



JOHANNA MARANTO

(Top) Facebook.com CEO Mark Zuckerberg '02 (at left) talks with students.

(Right) NPR media correspondent David Folkenflik '87 critiques this week's paper with Exonian editor Libbie Cohn '08.



NICOLE PELLATON

THE MEDIA IS THEIR MESSAGE

In late January, Exeter hosted two prominent media figures, both alumni. Just two years after graduating from Exeter, **Mark Zuckerberg '02** founded Facebook.com, the phenomenally successful social-networking website, which now has 19 million registered users. Throughout his assembly talk, he emphasized the value of open information flow and on finding creative ways around obstacles. "This is how you can achieve revolutionary results," he said. He also explained why he has turned down buy-out offers. "It's not because of the amount of money," said Zuckerberg, who stopped off at Exeter en route to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. "For me and my colleagues, the most important thing is that we create an open information flow for people. Having media corporations owned by conglomerates is just not an attractive idea to me."

—Johanna Maranto

This is an "age of competing imperatives," said **David Folkenflik '87**, who covers the news media for National Public Radio. Much of his assembly talk focused on stories he has covered—notably the BALCO case—and on the conflicts he sees between the media and government. "All stories get overcovered or undercovered," he said in response to a question about the leaking of CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity, a story he considers overcovered. "It seemed to me to be a proxy for another question: were we lied to in order to get into the war?" He also spoke about the impact of journalism on his life. "Reporting gives you a passport for ridiculous intrusions," he said, which helped open him up "to a life of learning."

—Nicole Pellaton