


## EXONIANA DO YOU REMEMBER?

Can Exonians help identify the individuals shown in this photo? Do you have any good health stories that you want to share? Send us your answers, along with your healing memories. You might win a prize. Mail them to Exoniana, c/o *The Exeter Bulletin*, Phillips Exeter Academy, Communications Office, 20 Main Street, Exeter, NH 03833.



### ANSWERS TO THE LAST ISSUE:



Two shining stars wrote in with poignant stargazing stories and one of them knew the correct answer to our mystery photo. Now gaze into this telescope to see the mirror likeness of the mystery photo that can be found in the Phelps Science Center. The tile floor in the lobby was arranged to mirror the sky on the evening of October 27, 2001, the same day the building was dedicated. Find more details about this building in the Winter 2002 *Bulletin* or visit [http://306.exeter.edu/publications/exeter/winter\\_02/science\\_2.html](http://306.exeter.edu/publications/exeter/winter_02/science_2.html)

### AND THE WINNER IS:

**VERONICA ORTIZ '94** of Los Angeles, California who received an Exeter travel bag. "This photo is of a Planisphere (or star chart) that could be found inside the Grainger Observatory. I believe a hint is on page 26 of the winter 2007 *Bulletin*. I very much enjoyed this issue of the *Bulletin* as it brought back memories of the time I felt so fortunate to spend at Grainger Observatory.

"My very first night in Exeter, NH, 3,000 miles away from home, my Sampler leaders led me out to Grainger Observatory via the fields. The sight before me was breathtaking. In the distance a low mist hugged the two observation domes, leaving me to wonder in amazement what was inside. Hailing from a light-polluted city, I never thought I would come so close to such beautiful equipment. In time I became an observatory proctor and found great satisfaction stargazing, setting up Celestron telescopes and carrying Red LED flashlights. I especially loved going inside the domes and looking through the incredibly

powerful telescopes. Eventually in my senior year I won the Mackenty Prize for achievement in astronomy. At the time I was convinced I would become an astrophysicist. (I did not, but that's another story.)

"I took many photographs of Andromeda, stars, the moon and the sun. On one of the coldest nights in some 20 years, according to the local radio stations, I proctored the observatory. It was late January; I had been back on campus only a week and I knew I had to get to the observatory before my work piled on for the term. (I was one of very few students who had a key to the observatory. I spent many hours there. I felt safe and special.) On that coldest of

nights, the stars were the brightest and the clearest I had ever observed or seen since."

### ONCE IN A LIFETIME?

One clear evening, I think in the spring of 1940, by the Thompson Gymnasium, brainy Cushing Davis '40 pointed out to me the five visible planets—Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Mercury—in an almost straight vertical line; and mentioned how long it would be—years and years—before the same configuration would reoccur.

*Joseph C. Merriam '41  
Framingham, MA*

*Editor's note: Congratulations to Joseph Merriam for winning the second prize.*

## Calling All Red Bandits

Please help Academy Archivist Ed Desrochers compile a chronological list of all Red Bandits, Exeter's high-spirited pep leaders at Exeter/Andover games. He would also like to include and verify additional information about the Red Bandits' history and purpose. The first reference to the group appears in *The Exonian* on November 14, 1992.

According to Desrochers' research, the Red Bandits were founded in the fall of 1992 by John Forte '93 and Aaron Wolfson '93, the first leaders of the group whose purpose was to revitalize what appeared to be low school spirit during Exeter/Andover games. Both seniors at that time were dorm mates in Wentworth Hall. Forte had hoped to create something that would carry on after they graduated. The other two members of the original group were Alex Berkett '93 and Chance Hawkins '93.

Berkett, Forte and Hawkins were dorm proctors and athletes in winter/spring sports. A former football player, Forte was looking for a way to be involved in athletics in the fall term. They "borrowed" and painted a trash can lid, then they went to a game and started "jumping around making noise." They quickly became very popular and eventually became part of the traditional Exeter/Andover psych assembly. At the end of the year, they found new students to carry on the tradition.

If you were a Red Bandit, or can recall the names of the members of the group while you were at Exeter, please email [edesrochers@exeter.edu](mailto:edesrochers@exeter.edu).

