



General Wesley Clark (center) greets students following his December 3 talk at the Assembly Hall.



Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun



Congressman Dennis Kucinich

PRIMARY COLORS

When General Wesley Clark took the stage of the Assembly Hall this past December 3—U2’s “Beautiful Day” blaring, cameras flashing and the capacity crowd (a national one, as it turned out, thanks to a live broadcast on C-SPAN) waiting eagerly to hear what the presidential hopeful had to say—he became part of a longstanding tradition at the Academy. Every four years, in advance of the N.H. presidential primary, Exeter plays host to many of the candidates as they make their rounds of the Granite State. Clark also took advantage of the Academy’s facilities, enjoying an early-morning swim in the PEA pool, which was followed by an interview with ESPN.

Clark was just one of several candidates to visit the Academy last fall. At the invitation of PEA’s various student political organizations—under the passionate direction of former director of student activities Barbara James ’74, ’85, ’93 (Hon.), a veteran of three decades’ worth of primary events on campus, who came out of retirement to help again this year—Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun, Congressman Dennis Kucinich, Rebecca Lieberman (daughter of Senator Joseph Lieberman) and Chrissy Gephardt (daughter of House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt) all spoke on campus. By the time the actual primary rolled around on January 27, most of the candidates had visited the campus, some more than once.

The Democratic Club, which is 200 members strong, made over 5,000 calls during fall term in support of various candidates. “These students are interfacing with real people and hearing what they have to say about the issues,” says adviser Jacquelyne Weatherspoon. “They’re getting firsthand experience with what happens on the ground in a political campaign.”