

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A LACK OF LEADERSHIP

This letter is in response to the article “Profiles in Leadership,” in the fall 2004 issue. Being a retired Naval officer and former ship captain, the title caught my attention; however, I was disappointed in the article for two reasons.

First, the comments about leadership, except for those by Brigadier General Richard Rowe '69, were not particularly germane or compelling. (Colonel Dallas Brown '74 was apparently not asked to comment on leadership.) There is an implication in the article that successful and accomplished people, which all of those profiled were, are good leaders. Alas, this is not necessarily the case. Many very successful people in many professions turn out to have very minimal leadership skills.

The main reason for this letter is to note and object to the general partisanship of this article, except for the interviews with the two Army officers, who were appropriately apolitical. Particularly offensive to this alumnus were the comments of David McKean '75, Senator Kerry's chief of staff. As a retired military officer, I was especially offended by Mr. McKean's cheap shot at the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. For Mr. McKean to have accused that group of “McCarthyism” is beyond reproach. I would remind Mr. McKean and your readers that this group includes more than 250 veterans, including Kerry's entire chain of command in Vietnam and most of his fellow swift boat skippers.

Mr. McKean is perfectly entitled to his views. But to publicize those views a few weeks before an important national election is another matter. I hope *The Exeter Bulletin* does better in the future.

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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.

TRUSTEE ROUNDUP

The fall meeting of the Academy trustees took place on October 28 and 29, and was shortened by a day to accommodate the launch of The Exeter Initiatives campaign. New trustees William Rawson '71 and Michael Plater '74 arrived on campus a day early and spent the day immersing themselves in Academy life today.

Reports from the building and grounds committee on current and future projects dominated the trustees' agenda on Thursday. The trustees toured the new squash facility (see page 7), and received a status report on the Academy Center, which is on budget and on schedule.

The committee approved a plan to deepen the pool in Love Gym to better accommodate the diving and water polo programs. New safety standards for pools used for diving competitions necessitate the renovation, which will begin in March and take six months to complete.

The trustees appointed an “Affordability Task Force” to study ways in which tuition increases might be reduced in future years. This committee grows out of the concern that the percentage of Americans who can afford the full cost of an Exeter education continues to decrease even as the Academy is aggressively raising money for financial aid. This committee will look for ways to slow the rate of tuition increases.

On Friday afternoon, the trustees met with former trustees who had returned to campus for the campaign launch celebration.