

Squaring the Blade

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Number 1
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REPORT FROM THE MANAGING COMMITTEE

The Winds Of Change Blow Ever Stronger Over Crew

This issue contains information from many sources—the speech by MIT President Vest at last fall’s annual dinner; remarks by Coach Frailey at the dedication of an eight-oared shell in his name, also last October; a column by MIT’s new athletic director, Candace Royer (a must read); information from the coaches about the crews; a guest column by Pete Peterson, a long-time contributor to rowing at MIT; and an introductory column by the chair of a new Friends of Crew regatta committee that is intended to support the teams by encouraging alumni attendance at races.

Much is happening, and a great deal is at stake. Our message to you is that we must be involved and we must stay involved for the long haul. The challenges that have faced all athletics at MIT can be addressed, but they will not be corrected in one year. (A column we had hoped to include from Dean for Student Life Benedict confirms his desire to increase the athletic department budget as a whole over the next several years.) Our financial help and vocal support can contribute significantly to enabling today’s undergraduates to have the best possible experience in competitive intercollegiate rowing.

Director Royer’s column provides information about the challenges facing crew at MIT. You may not know that MIT is an NCAA Division III school for many sports. Rowing has traditionally not been an NCAA sport but rather regulated under the EARC and EAWRC. In recent years, women’s rowing became an NCAA sport; men’s rowing still is not. Equally important, however, is the MIT administration’s perception of what is a fair level of support for each sport.

The concern has been raised that the demands of rowing may be inconsistent with MIT’s academic focus and standards. Your input to the MIT administration on these issues is needed.

We think crew is underfunded, especially based on the number of participants and the number of student hours per year spent on training. Some would say, however, that crew is overfunded compared to other sports. Some

ask why the rowers should work out all year. The concern has been raised that the demands of rowing may be inconsistent with MIT’s academic focus and standards. Your input to the MIT administration on these issues is needed.

We have told the administration that rowing complements the academic focus of MIT and that rowers at MIT want to compete with the Ivies in rowing just as they do academically. Please add your voice.

One concern about supporting rowing is whether to support programs that are reduced to non-Sprint competition (see Pete Peterson’s column). At this time, MIT is considering whether to downgrade women’s rowing further. We need to provide all of the moral support we can muster to emphasize to the MIT administration that this would be the wrong choice. Do we stop supporting crew financially because of the uncertainty? You must make your own choice.

But be assured that the Friends Managing Committee is committed to encouraging use of alumni dollars by MIT to enable the students to compete at the highest levels. We are working with Dean Benedict and Athletic Director Royer to update the agreement between Friends and MIT to support specific goals
(continued on page 10)



MIT CREW: VOICES FROM THE PAST

Alumni Update Us About Their Lives

LOUIS W. MAXSON '44 notes that his youngest son, Bruce, was recently promoted to vice president and general manager of Verizon California Operations. Louis fondly looks back on winning races and collecting shirts from crews that MIT beat. Send him best wishes at 917 Taylor Ave., Godfrey, IL 62035; mitoar4@aol.com.

Writes JOHN W. LEONARD '47, "At a reception and dinner with Lou Holtz in his glory days at Notre Dame, he asked me where I went to school. I asked him how many varsity sports Notre Dame had. 'Eighteen,' he said. I said, 'We have 40.' 'Incredible,' he exclaimed. 'Where is that?' I replied, 'The jock center of the western world—MIT.'" Other of his memories from his crew days are talking with WILD BILL REYNOLDS and beating Harvard three times, Washington, California, Princeton, and Wisconsin. Greet John at 1012 Wyndemere Dr., Boise, ID 83702.

IRWIN STERMAN '55 resides at 15 Indian Hill Rd., New Rochelle, NY 10804; davis@gateway.net.

"I have just retired from TRW Avionics Division in San Diego and have started a new career in the fiber optics communication industry," writes MIKE MYERS '57 (12947 Creek Park Dr., Poway, CA 92064; minkyp@home.com). He passes along the following: "PAUL POLUSHUK is president of Information Gatekeeper in Brookline, Massachusetts." His favorite memories include the trips made by train to Dartmouth and Princeton. "I can still smell the spring down there in Princeton. Thanks to Jack Frailey for his great coaching. I still work out on my Concept II every day."

Reports CLAUDIA W. BUSER '81, a process engineering group leader, "I have been at Genzyme (Framingham) for five years. I have three children: Andrea (7), Alexander (5), and Ariel (2). I can't remember the last time I rowed a crew shell, but I have been canoeing in one or two New Jersey races with my husband yearly. Also, we canoe with our children." She well remembers rowing against Columbia University in the Harlem River and her first Foot of the Charles race. Write Claudia at 12 West

St., Sudbury, MA 01776; e-mail: claudiabuser@alum.mit.edu.

DAVID COPELAND '81 was lightweight coxswain 1979-'80, and now he is chief thermal engineer of Showa Aluminum Corporation in Japan. He married Rika Watabe in December 1997, moved back to Japan in February 1998, had a son, Tsutermu William, born September 1998, and joined Showa in March 1999. "I take frequent trips back to the U.S., just about every month." He's crossed paths with RUSSELL MURPHY '82, who was also a lightweight and who is now assistant professor of economics at Virginia Tech. David enjoys looking back at beating Yale in 1979 and remembering the sunny, calm mornings in the spring before the wind and the traffic would start. He also enjoyed steering close to the buoys in the Head of the Charles. Write him at 5-7-21 Nahakuki, Oyama-shi, Tochigi-ken 323-0806, JAPAN.

We congratulate BARBARA MESINGER-RANNERT '81 on her promotion to associate staff of the internal medicine department at the Cleveland Clinic. She is active in research, clinical medicine, and teaching and has a special interest in geriatrics. She volunteers at the Cleveland Free Clinic. Drop her a line at 5600 Hawthorne Dr., Highland Heights, OH 44143; rapporb@ccf.org.

SABRINA BERNOLD '95 notes that she recently began business school at Stanford. She has crossed paths with MEELAN LEE, PRASHANT DOSHI, and BABAK AZAD-TATARI. Get in touch with Sabrina at 680 Serra St., E478, Stanford, CA 94305; sabrina.bernold@alum.mit.edu.



The Master Eights (men), 1980 Rowing Club, Massachusetts. John Everett '76 is the #7 seat.

HELP WANTED

Regatta Committee Forms, Needs Your Participation

As the 2001 spring racing season gets under way, the newly formed Regatta Committee is looking for enthusiastic members to support the MIT crew teams in their quest for victory. Formed to ensure a strong backing at regattas, the committee will provide a home base for the rowers and alumni, complete with food and cheering section, at all home races and major away races. Check racing schedules for regattas in your area. If you are interested in supporting the rowers by helping out with the committee, please contact Katy Croff at croff@alum.mit.edu.

SQUARING THE BLADE

A NEWSLETTER FOR
THE FRIENDS OF MIT CREW
VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 1

MANAGING COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS

DUSTIN ORDWAY '74, CHAIR
JOHN EVERETT '76
JOAN WHITTEN MILLER '80
JOHN MILLER, MEMBER EMERITUS

DIRECTOR OF CREW

VACANT

WOMEN'S ROWING

Varsity Hvy. & Lt. Coach SUSAN LINDHOLM
Novice Coach BILL PATTERSON

MEN'S ROWING

Varsity Hvy. Coach GORDON HAMILTON
Freshman Hvy. Coach MIKE LANE
Varsity Lt. Coach IAN HUTTON
Freshman Lt. Coach ANTHONY BROCK

FRIENDS MANAGING COMMITTEE
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ABOUT MIT ATHLETICS AND CREW...

MIT Rowing At A Critical Juncture—Views Of An Old Oarsman

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MIT is wrestling with the tough challenge of how to position the crew program at MIT within the new NCAA guidelines. The current thinking is to move the program from its present place in Division I to Division III, which would seriously curtail the program and the benefits to participating students. There are significant things at stake for MIT oarsmen and women that need to be fully considered. Whatever is decided regarding MIT rowing, some things must be preserved, or, in my opinion, the nature of rowing and its ability to add significant value to the MIT educational experience will be unalterably compromised and denigrated. Two things that must be continued are as follows:

- Rowing must continue to be a yearlong experience and not have the practice schedule significantly curtailed.
- The racing schedule must continue to be with the EARC, IRA, and Ivy schools as it now is and not be downgraded to Division III schools.

Why do I feel this way? The yearlong experience is necessary to develop the particular skills required for rowing and to forge the team bonds necessary for a true rowing experience. Unlike many other sports, rowing has no heroes or high scorers who are the main ingredient for success. A

crew succeeds only when the whole team works together and is bonded in commitment and trust that each will give his or her best and all. That spirit, understanding, and trust comes only from long hours together, honing disparate skills into a single machine. An abbreviated schedule will not provide the environment needed for that. At MIT I may have won no races, but I came away from the experience a far better man than I ever would have been without the benefit of rowing.

The race schedule, while frustrating for some since we don't win many races, is a privilege to be a part of. Losing the races we did instilled in me a hunger for winning that has fueled my career and kept me in rowing as a Masters competitive oarsman and, I might add, as a winning one. What Division III oarsman wouldn't want to row in the schedule MIT now rows in? Why give it up? It's unnecessary. I don't see MIT thinking about making the computer science program a third-level program and cannot comprehend why any such consideration should be given to crew.

If rowing at MIT is moved down to Division III, I know it will not be many years before the program as we know it will have disappeared. I'm sure that most alumni who actively support the sport at MIT today will find it difficult to continue supporting a watered-down program. Rowing contributes to the educational experience and growth of fully rounded men and women. We need to be strengthening crew, not committing it to a third-level outcome.

Communication Crucial As MIT Grapples With NCAA Rule Changes

By Candace Royer
MIT Athletic Director



Candace Royer

In January 2001, Dean for Student Life Larry Benedict announced a new department head and director of athletics for MIT. As a long-time member of the coaching and teaching staff and most recently serving as the director of physical education and associate department head in athletics, I was selected for this position. May I take this opportunity to let each of you know that I

consider this appointment to be both an honor and a privilege? I am enthusiastic about our future in the department, and I look forward to serving you and the MIT community in the years to come.

When Dustin Ordway and Joan Miller suggested that I write a brief column for your newsletter, I was thrilled and quickly agreed. Not only do I have the chance to introduce myself to you, but I have the greater privilege of informing you directly about the issues facing our rowing programs at this time.

Allow me to begin by saying that there is much work to be done. We wish to assure you, however, that we are working daily on this situation. We believe in the fine traditions of MIT rowing that have developed over a long and storied past, and we understand the passion of our current oarsmen and oarswomen to continue these traditions. It is not our intention to dismantle or destroy any of them; however, the actions we take must reflect the best interests of all of our sports programs. We fear that there is some confusion circulating just now, and I hope you will bear with me as I attempt to sort out the facts.

At the NCAA National Convention in January 2001, legislation was passed that has the potential to affect our rowing programs significantly. This legislation restricts all Division III sports programs to a 21-week maximum practice and competitive season. We would like to note that MIT did not vote in favor of the 21-week restriction on playing and practice seasons. In fact, we were part of a very small minority of schools that voted against this legislation.

Other legislation that was passed created a new Division III national-level championship for women rowers. These two pieces of legislation when combined result in a few changes: 1) they provide an option for our women

(continued on page four)

MIT Grapples With NCAA Rule Changes

(continued from page three)

rowers to take part in a divided championship, that is, one exclusively for Division III rowing institutions; 2) they restrict the number of weeks that our women can effectively be under the direct supervision of their coaches (formerly, 26 weeks, which was the EAWRC standard); which then, 3) calls into question the efficacy of our women's crews remaining in the EAWRC.

Many of you have written to me expressing your grave concern about these developments. First, you have said that MIT should continue to row as an EARC/EAWRC (Sprint) school, and you have explained why this level of rowing is important to you and to future generations of oarsmen and women. Then, you have said that ONLY by rowing hard and long across many months of training can one's true potential be reached and the valuable bonds be formed among teammates. Our current students and coaches have reinforced your viewpoint on these issues.

Nevertheless, MIT is a Division III institution by philosophy and declaration. Therefore, we must either live by the rules that are passed by the NCAA as they apply to Division III institutions or attempt to change them to better fit with our fine traditions of rowing in the EARCs and EAWRCs. It should be pointed out that the playing season restriction is ONLY applicable for Division III institutions. All of the remaining institutions in the EARC/EAWRC are Division I schools such as Harvard, Princeton, Yale, etc., and will still be able to practice/compete for 26 weeks. It does not take MIT alumni long to postulate what effects a reduction in the number of weeks of practice without coaching supervision is likely to have on our female crews. Some have suggested that reclassification to Division I status is the only solution to the present dilemma.

To complicate matters, since our department has been committed to administering all sports programs along similar guidelines, there is the distinct possibility that the rowing experience for the men would need to be reformulated to approximate the women's program. Our female rowers have already

One of the questions that emerges is how to remain a Sprint school while complying with the restrictions that have been so suddenly placed upon us.

expressed that they would be very disappointed if the men's crews were to be permitted to row a longer season than the one that they are able to enjoy. Our oarsmen, of course, would find this situation to be completely abhorrent if not apocalyptic.

What is developing is not the beautiful picture of rowing at MIT that has existed and that so many of us wish to see continued. For a good portion of the first 60 days of my new administration, little time has passed without troubling thoughts related to our rowing programs. Assistant Director of Athletics John Benedict and I have spent countless hours with NCAA legislative services personnel, athletics directors, our own faculty coaches at MIT, the athletics board, and our strategic planning committee discussing and strategizing. We have consulted with the president and chancellor of MIT, and the new dean for student life continues to stay engaged in the entire process.

One of the questions that emerges is how to remain a Sprint school while complying with the restrictions that have been so suddenly placed upon us. It is not trivial to note that MIT is the only institution we have found that is in this dilemma in the EARC/EAWRC rowing community.

As I mentioned before, some constituents have suggested that the way to mitigate this legislation is to reclassify the women's program to the Division I level. While this appears to be a simple solution at first blush, a decision of this nature could have significant management implications for our remaining sports programs, coaches, and students. Division I classification would mean changes in some aspects of admissions documentation. In addition, there is a present moratorium on reclassification of any sport to Division I status until the spring of 2002. We are currently looking into the moratorium, but we do not hold out much hope for an exemption on the reclassification issue.

It is important to note that NCAA legislation or other constraints restrict

most of our sports programs. In fact, some of our programs cannot take full advantage of the 21-week rule due to weather or our inability to provide practice spaces and human resources over the longer term.

So, you might ask, what are our next steps? We are in the process of engaging legal counsel, Rich Hilliard, who was recommended to us by FOMITC during a recent conversation at MIT. Mr. Hilliard is very familiar with NCAA legislative services, issues, and litigation. We hope to utilize Mr. Hilliard to help us to determine what, if anything, there is that we can do to find an exception to the 21-week rule for our women's crews. Additionally, we intend to speak with other Sprint school administrators to examine the possibility of remaining a Sprint school (and rowing a Sprint schedule) without having to reclassify. We must mention that as a member of the NEWMAC conference, we do have conference obligations for participation in its championships. We will look into the possible scheduling ramifications of this responsibility as well as explore the anticipated scheduling obligations we might have at the regional and national NCAA level.

In the spirit of opening communications on this and other departmental issues that touch our rowing programs, we will keep you informed, and we invite your comments.

In the spirit of opening communications on this and other departmental issues that touch our rowing programs, we will keep you informed, and we invite your comments. Please know, however, that while I would like to respond to each of you who elect to write to me individually, I cannot continue to do so at the present time. We know that your feelings are strong and that your thoughts are worthy of our attention. I will ask Dustin to collect your comments and forward them to me for our consideration. We will keep you updated, perhaps through the FOMITC e-mail listserve, until this situation is resolved.

In closing, we are confident that by engaging our collective minds in searching for solutions, we will deepen our understanding of one another's perspectives and challenges. It is our hope that the future will find us in collaborative support of men's and women's rowing at MIT!

FRIENDS OF CREW DINNER: PRESIDENT VEST

A Call For Unity In An Effort To Improve All Of MIT

By Charles M. Vest
MIT President
October 21, 2000

It is a great pleasure for Becky and me to join the Friends of Crew this evening. We have broken bread with this extraordinary group several times during our years at MIT and always have greatly enjoyed it. We have many personal friends in this group.

It also has been our observation that there is no group whose loyalty to MIT exceeds that of our alumni rowers, whether they be octogenarians who still row together on the Tidal Basin in Washington or those of all ages who return here to their Cambridge home.

And I also must say that in an unusual way I personally benefit by the presence of crew at MIT—because I maintain my own physical and mental well-being by running—well, jogging—along the banks of the Charles each morning at about 6:30 before I begin my work day.

Throughout most of the year this affords me an inspiring view of the beauty of the shells, the coordinated efforts of those within them, and the flowing, symmetrical patterns of the vortices they shed.

Thank you.

But tonight as we break bread together, I am forewarned that some might prefer to break oars over my head.

This is not my preferred mode of sculling.

And I know that it really is not yours either.

Please do not expect any earth-shattering announcements or revelations tonight. But I am pleased to share some personal and institutional perspectives on something we all value—athletics, sports, and fitness at MIT.

Before having the honor and privilege of becoming MIT's president, I spent some 27 years at the University of Michigan. I have experienced so-called "big-time athletics," and I have experienced MIT athletics. These contrasting experiences inform my view of the world of sports and fitness on campus.

When my friend Jim Duderstadt was provost at the University of Michigan, he

went to visit their legendary athletic director, Don Canham. He was ushered into Canham's inner sanctum and started talking. Canham kept looking at him with a very odd expression and not being very responsive. After several minutes he slapped himself on the forehead and said, "Damn! You're the provost, aren't you? I thought you were a shoe salesman or something."

Hard to imagine that happening to Bob Brown at MIT.

I also could share with you the observations of my colleague Myles Brand, who recently sent his basketball coach on to alternative opportunities—someone named Bobby Knight. But I won't.

But I will tell you about my friend Harold Shapiro, president of Princeton, who moved from Michigan several years ago to take up that post. He recently noted that when he was president of Michigan he received maybe a dozen letters each year about athletics. At Princeton, about 30 percent of his mail is about athletics. I can relate to that.

Why am I saying all this?

For two reasons.

First reason: The mail about athletics at MIT has been hot and heavy during the last two years because it comes from people who care. They care about sports and fitness. They care about our students, past, present, and future, and they care about MIT. And most of them care specifically about crew.

Second reason: I talk a lot to my colleague presidents in many other universities, and most of them would give their right arm to have a balanced, participatory program like MIT. We have a true tradition of a balanced approach to sports, a recognition that academics come first. We have good priorities.

But this is not to say that we are perfect. We can and must improve in many ways.

My decade at MIT can be divided into two distinct segments.

During the first half of the '90s, MIT struggled mightily with serious financial challenges. Federal funding was stagnat-

ing, our endowment per student was far below those of most of our peers, and we had a duty to keep tuition, room, and board from growing rapidly and making MIT unaffordable.

The last five years have seen dramatic improvement in our financial environment. This is due primarily to the strong U.S. economy and the magnificent performance of equities.

During this period, we have greatly improved our underlying financial strength,

thanks in very large measure to our treasurer, Allan Bufferd, and to many of you who continue to support us with generous donations.

But the last five years have seen something of even more fundamental importance. There has been an upwelling of renewed commitment to the overall quality of life of students at MIT.

We have started down a long and permanent path to building strength on strength and establishing a student life at MIT second to none. The primary articulation of this change was the report of the Task Force on Student Life and Learning, which I appointed together with former Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education Roz Williams.

Two years of hard work, thought, and discussion with alumni, students, staff, and faculty convinced the task force that education at MIT should no longer rest on the two pillars of teaching and research. Rather, it should reflect a triad of academics, research, and community.

Community—the commitment to building campus community—means that we must strengthen and better integrate life and learning within the MIT student experience. Sports, fitness, and athletics must be—and are—very important elements of a renewed commitment to student life and learning.

Now I will be the very first to admit that athletics at MIT have been underfunded and that this was exacerbated during the tough financial times of the first several years of this decade. We have tried to do too much with too little. And I will be the first to admit that many of our facilities degenerated badly.

But I also want you to understand that all of the institute and its programs took

(continued on page eight)

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But tonight as we break bread together, I am forewarned that some might prefer to break oars over my head. This is not my preferred mode of sculling.

NEW EIGHT-OARED SHELL DEDICATED TO Jack Shares Some Of His Thoughts

By Jack Frailey
October 21, 2000

I am really quite overwhelmed. Overwhelmed by this high honor that has been bestowed upon me and overwhelmed by the emotions I'm feeling—because I can see so many here who were the fine young men willing to invest a part of their lives in me. What a pleasure and privilege it was for me to coach them.

Let me begin by thanking all who had a part in making this such a very, very special day for me. I'm not only referring to those who made the acquisition of this beautiful new shell possible, but also to all those who are here—those who made the choice to take a personal part in this dedication. And also to those who may be in the background, but who tended to all the logistical chores that led up to this glorious moment.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Now, most of you here have been, or are, oarsmen or -women and will relate to what I have to say because of the bond we share with each other. But there are others here who perhaps find it somewhat difficult to fully understand this wonderful sport and what it means to us. I think I can help them do that.

I guess I've cheated a little in preparing these remarks because half of what I have to say I shall read from a letter.

was written to a sportswriter in 1958 by Russell Callow, known to his fellow coaches as Rusty.

Rusty's credentials were awesome. He coached at Washington, Penn, and Navy, and among his many fine crews was one at Navy, dubbed "the Admirals" by the press, which still owns the record for the most consecutive wins in

concerning the rewards of rowing and the unity you have noticed among oarsmen and former oarsmen I cannot separate in my mind, since each partake so much of the other. You ask about the individual's sense of accomplishment and/or contribution to the group effort.

You also speak of the unity of oars-



intercollegiate competition. But Rusty was more than that; he was also a Rhodes Scholar in philosophy. Knowing that, the sportswriter had asked him to respond to four questions, all of which could be summed up by "why crew?"

I'm going to read only a few excerpts from that masterful letter.

Your third and fourth questions

men, which you feel comes the closest to being a religion of anything in athletics.

Always remember that in rowing there are no quarters, halves, time-outs or substitutions. For anywhere from six to 22 minutes the eight or fewer oarsmen on a racing crew are in constant synchronous motion and are continuously expending near-maximum effort without any hope of a 'blow.' Once the starter's command is given, the individual oarsman is on his own in one sense, and interdependent on his fellows to 'row it out' in another. It is possible 'to dog it' in any sport, but it's all but impossible to hide lack of team effort from your fellow oarsmen in rowing. Those puddles that leave the end of the oar at the end of each stroke are as meaningful to the men they go past as the moving finger which, having written, moves on.

To me the finest spectacle in sport is to watch a crew when all of its members are seemingly close to exhaustion rise to challenge, or to the challenge of their opponents, and go out and beyond themselves. From this comes the sheer physical joy that an oarsman experiences when the boat is swinging, the spacing length-



ATED IN JACK FRAILEY'S HONOR

s During The October Dedication

ens out, and the called for or silent '10' or '20' hard strokes melds eight men and a coxswain into a single, wholly unified, struggling, competitive entity.

If you have never been part of such an effort, you can never really fully appreciate what it accomplishes in the minds and hearts of its participants. The individual oarsman never forgets such an experience, and in that great common effort lies the real secret of the almost 'religious' feeling oarsmen have for their sport and the affinity they feel for one another.

The supreme effort called for in the situation I have just described, and the long hours of backbreaking practice that it takes to ready a crew for competition, cannot help but build the participants' respect and admiration each for the other. To put it another way, I turn to the Bard in Henry V, wherein the King speaks to his army before the great battle of Agincourt: *We few, we happy few, we band of brothers, For he, today that sheds his blood with me, Shall be my brother...*

The rest of these remarks I probably didn't need to write down. I want to tell you now about the race which, from



among all that I've witnessed, most epitomizes what Rusty wrote and which all oarsmen and women come to know. It was at the Intercollegiate Rowing Association Regatta in 1989.

Strangers to the sport need to know a little about the regatta format before I go on. There are six major events: varsity eight, junior varsity eight, fours with and without coxswain, an open four in which freshmen may join with upperclassmen, and a pair without coxswain. Coaches from the powerhouse colleges with manpower to burn boat their best oarsmen in that order, so that those who wind up in the pair are the bottom two rungs on the ladder. There are 26 rungs above them.

The race I have in mind was the Grand Final in the last category, the pair. There were six boats in the race; it was won by Princeton in 7:39.8; behind Princeton by a scant 0.3 of a second was Wisconsin in 7:40.1; 10 seconds back in third place was Skidmore in 7:50.9. I was on the water that day announcing each race from start to finish. I can tell you that those two crews went the whole course in adjacent lanes as if they were the hulls of a catamaran. Neither boat was more than six feet ahead at any time, and the lead changed hands five or six times or more.

Now think! Those four men knew how

far down the list they stood within their own squads, yet the race meant everything to them (and little to anyone else). The race was theirs, not Princeton's or Wisconsin's. It was theirs. And for nearly eight minutes they gave and got exactly what Rusty wrote about. No time outs, no half time, no substitutes, no place to hide among their crewmates, completely unwilling to let their buddy down, their brother as it were, and wanting desperately to win. More than that, they were ready and willing to give it everything they had. After all, Skidmore was 10 seconds back; one or both pairs



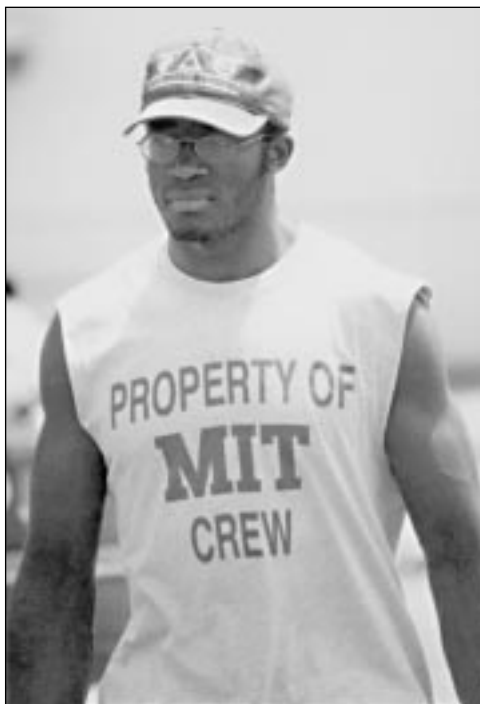
could have decided simply to stay comfortably in the lead and then make a mad dash to the finish line.

I repeat Rusty's words here for emphasis.

If you have never been part of such an effort you can never really fully appreciate what it accomplishes in the minds and hearts of its participants. The individual oarsman never forgets such an experience, and in that great common effort lies the real secret of the almost 'religious' feeling oarsmen have for their sport and the affinity they feel for one another.

That's how I felt when I rowed, that's how I feel now. I just wanted to take these few minutes to share these feelings with you.

Thank you.



A Call For Unity In An Effort To Improve All Of MIT

(continued from page five)

their lumps. Like athletics, everyone had to get along with all-too-modest annual budget increases, and all had to undergo some actual cuts.

We worked hard, and with mixed success, to improve management and systems, to gain efficiencies, and to better integrate our activities. This too has contributed to a more positive situation today.

We have broken out of the doldrums. One of the most tangible symbols of this change is in athletics. Next week we break ground for the construction of a magnificent new \$45 million sports and fitness center. This has been the dream and absolute number-one priority of the department and of our Athletics Visiting Committee for as long as I have been here. Now it will be a reality. It will have a profound impact on our community.

The sports and fitness center is the result of great planning by Dick Hill and his colleagues, the department of facilities, our chancellor, Larry Bacow, and many others. It also represents the deep commitment and concerted effort in fund raising that Larry, Paul Gray, and I have been engaged in for several years. It represents the leadership of our visiting committee chair, Mary Francis Wagley. Above all, it represents the extraordinary personal and financial commitment of Al and Barrie Zesiger, Harold and Betty Muckley, Brit and Alex d'Arbeloff, Ann and Tom Gerrity, and many others—some in this room this evening.

It shows the value that this community and institution place on sports and fitness, and it shows what we can accomplish when we plan and work together. This center will make us all very proud, and it will contribute to the wellness of generations of MIT men and women.

Strengthened commitment and resources can be seen in other ways as well. We have put in place a new turf field, renovated both the indoor and outdoor tracks, and built new locker rooms in the DuPont gymnasium.

And as the construction of the new Stata Center for Computer, Information, and Intelligence Sciences is completed, we will make renovations to the alumni pool and create additional fitness facilities in that area of campus as well.

The funding of the department of athletics received the largest percentage increase this year of any academic or administrative unit at MIT.

We have also made less visible but very important changes. For example, the funding of the department of athletics received the largest percentage increase this year of any academic or administrative unit at MIT.

This recommitment to the nature of student life at MIT is evident in the organization and activities of the senior leadership of MIT. I would first salute Roz Williams, who more than anyone else

helped us to shape the integration of student life and learning and begin to reorganize to realize our aspirations.

And a true hero in this renewal is Larry Bacow.

Two years ago, I asked Larry to take on the newly defined position of chancellor in order to provide strong leadership to the many impor-

tant activities that cut across traditional academic and administrative boundaries. Student life in general and athletics in particular are a major part of this broad portfolio. Larry has taken it on with zeal and has been instrumental in all that I have spoken about thus far.

As we work to create a still more effective organization and a stronger community, we have restructured the dean's office and made two stunning new appointments.

First, physics professor Bob Redwine has relinquished his position as director of MIT's laboratory for nuclear science to devote full time to serving as dean for undergraduate education.

Second, a remarkable and highly-experienced professional, Larry Benedict, moved from Johns Hopkins University to join MIT as our dean for student life.

The department of athletics, physical education, and recreation, through its director, now reports directly to Larry Benedict, and he has taken on this responsibility with great energy and competence. In less than two months, he has already made his very positive presence and support felt. He will serve us well.

Indeed, he already has begun a dialogue with the Friends of Crew. He is committed to raising funds for athletics and is committed to working in a cooperative and administratively appropriate way with you on the use of funds raised by Friends of Crew.

But, friends, it is not my intent just to make these positive announcements and sit down. We are at the beginning of a journey—not an end.

Although we have had a stronger tree from which to shake resources, we still face hard choices, and we still must establish a set of priorities and adhere to them. We need a philosophical framework.

I personally believe that we need not reinvent the philosophical framework altogether. In my view, this framework was set over 50 years ago by the Lewis Commission, which set MIT on its way to being a truly great university. The commission conceived and articulated the ideal of excellence through limited objectives.

My old pal Hannah Gray, former president of the University of Chicago, recently observed that universities become great as much through what they choose not to do as through what they choose to do. These are wise words.

Such a philosophy—of excellence through limited objectives—means that we must make conscious choices about the programs we field in intercollegiate athletics, recreational sports, and physical education. It means that we must have viable equipment and facilities for the programs we choose. And I believe that it means that we must, above all,

seek balance and opportunity for broad participation in sports for

our students. We must assure that large numbers of our students have the opportunity to compete and participate at various levels, thereby gaining the benefits of sports experiences. Our students deserve no less.

So how should these choices be made? We are initiating a comprehensive strategic planning process for the department. Dr. David Ellis, the former president of Lafayette College who directs this magnificent science museum, has been retained to help us develop and implement this planning process. Through this mechanism, we will identify the strengths and weaknesses of our programs, set priorities, and establish a roadmap for moving forward.

The Friends of Crew will have input to this process. The Athletics Visiting Committee will be engaged, and, of course, will the department and our stu-

We must assure that large numbers of our students have the opportunity to compete and participate at various levels, thereby gaining the benefits of sports experiences.

(continued on page 10)

MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT CREW OUTLOOK

Sophomores Lead The Charge In Rebuilding Program

By Gordon Hamilton
Heavyweight Coach

This year has very much been one of rebuilding. With a solid group of sophomores returning from last year's successful freshman squad, the varsity heavyweights rowed in the fall Head races with more sophomores in the first eight than at any time in the 15 years I have been here. Seven of the first nine were sophomores in this year's Head of the Charles. The lone upperclassmen were seniors Andy Copeland and captain Mark Jhon.

The first race of the year was the Head of the Ohio in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The MIT heavyweights have been competing in this regatta since the early '90s, largely thanks to the generosity of MIT crew alums in the area, particularly Chris Ryan and his family. This year, we were greeted with very strong winds blowing straight up river against the current, causing what proved to be unrowable conditions. The entire regatta, which has come to be second in size only to the Head of the Charles among fall Head races, was cancelled right after the completion of the open eights race in the mid-morning after several boats had swamped. MIT managed a third out of 20 entries through the rough water.

The next race of the fall was the New Hampshire Championships, where we had better weather and slightly better results, finishing third of 12 in the open four and first and fourth out of 10 entries in the open eight. The freshmen raced respectably in the frosh eight, coming in sixth, 12th, and 13th out of 15. For the past few years, we have viewed the New Hampshire Championships as a dress rehearsal for the Head of the Charles, which is frequently held the next weekend.

The Head of the Charles brought lovely weather, large crowds of spectators, and some annoying interference from a Duke crew in the championship eight, which caused us to lose precious time. We ended up 29th out of 55, but despite the interference, we were able to remain close to league rival Columbia. The club eight held the previous day saw our second eight come in 44th out of 68 entries.

The final race of the fall is the Foot of the Charles, a regatta in which all of the local colleges as well as Dartmouth heavyweights and Columbia and Dartmouth lightweights row in fours at the varsity level and in eights at the frosh level. This year, the Heavyweights came in 14th, 23rd, 26th, and 30th out of 42 entries. The frosh came in 11th, 15th, and 31st out of 35 entries.

The next event of interest was our Florida trip over IAP. For the first time in many years the frosh had two complete eights training in Hollywood. The varsity rowed mostly in fours and pairs, and the highlight was a practice we held in Miami Beach with Georgetown. Georgetown had beaten Navy, Columbia, and Rutgers in the Head of the Charles, and our first eight proved

to be slightly faster than they in some six or seven controlled rating pieces from 6-3 minutes in duration. This practice has given us some confidence as we face our coming schedule this spring.

One element of the winter training this year has been the whole NCAA division issue that the women's squad has been living under since January. It has caused us a great deal of concern, and significant time has been spent discussing this with the students and the administration. It has been very stressful; however, there has been a beneficial side to this: The heavyweights, lightweights, and women are truly supporting one another as we have come to realize even more just how interconnected we all are in this great opportunity we call MIT crew.

THE 2001 MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT CREW SCHEDULE

March		
Sat.	31	Class Challenge (heavyweight class boats v. Alumni)
April		
Sun.	1	Scrimmage v. Riverside BC, HOME
Sat.	7	Alumni Cup v. Columbia, HOME (1st varsity race time is 8:48 a.m.)
Sat.	14	Williams, Conn, WPI at Worcester (TBA)
Sat.	21	Compton Cup v. Harvard, Princeton at Princeton (TBA)
Sun.	22	Boston College, HOME (1st varsity race time at 8:48 a.m.)
May		
Sat.	5	Cochrane Cup v. Dartmouth, Wisconsin, HOME (1st var 2 at 10:00 a.m.)
Sun.	13	Eastern Sprints at Worcester
May/June		
Thurs.	31-	IRA Championships @ Cooper River, Camden, NJ
Sat.	2	

Friends of MIT Crew Account Information

More than \$1,000,000 has been raised since the founding of the Friends through thousands of individual donations by alumni and friends.

Friends' funds are separately collected and managed by MIT and continue to grow after the date of donation.

To direct donations to the Friends of MIT Crew account, earmark your MIT contribution to Friends of MIT Crew Acct. No. 3855200.

A Call For Unity In An Effort To Improve All Of MIT

(continued from page eight)

dents. This will be the primary vehicle for guiding decisions and allocations by both the department and the senior administration.

We are committed to continue raising funds and improving the crew program and facilities. The excellence of this program over the years has been a major part of MIT's culture and ethos. How could it be otherwise, given our superb location on the banks of the Charles?

Athletics, sports, and physical fitness are very important on this campus:

- They are one of the most effective mechanisms to create community and comradeship.
- They teach us team skills and leadership and the value of balancing competition and cooperation.
- They help us to develop life-long commitments to good health.
- And, yes, they provide a much-needed outlet and counterweight to the rigorous, demanding nature of education at MIT.

We need to set our disagreements aside and concentrate on working to-

gether openly for the good of MIT crew and all of MIT athletics. We have the leadership in place to do this, and, with your help, we will continue to strengthen the resource base that is needed.

No athletic director at MIT will ever

mistake the provost for a shoe salesman. But no MIT president, provost, chancellor, or dean will ever forget the importance of sports and recreation to our campus.

Thank you.

THE 2001 WOMEN'S CREW SCHEDULE

March

Sat.	24	Columbia, Coast Guard @ Columbia
Sat.	31	Dartmouth, Smith, UNH @ Home

April

Sat.	7	Georgetown, St. Joseph, Drexel @ Philadelphia (Double Dual)
Sat.	14	Williams, Connecticut College, WPI @ Worcester
Sat.	21	NEWMAC Championship @ Worcester
Sat.	28	Navy, Notre Dame @ Annapolis

May

Sat.	5	Radcliffe, BU @ Home
Sun.	13	Sprints @ Camden, New Jersey
Wed.	23-	NCAA 1st varsity (only when we qualify)
Sat.	26	

May/June

Wed.	30-	IRA 1st lightweight varsity only
Sat.	2	

The Winds Of Change Blow Ever Stronger Over Crew

(continued from page one)

identified in our strategic plan. We are communicating the concerns of alumni and students about maintaining MIT's rowing traditions and improving support for crew and other sports. We have met with MIT to straighten out MIT's handling of our finances and to resolve problems with MIT's treatment of the Boat Club. The Fund Planning Committee is continuing its efforts to prepare for a fund-raising campaign.

Whether or not you decide to support crew financially now or in the future, please take a few minutes to communicate with the MIT administration about the importance of crew. You can review and comment on the work in progress of the Athletic Department Strategic Planning Committee at <http://web.mit.edu/athletics/www/plan/index.html>. Also contact directly individuals you know in the administration to help educate them about how and why crew at the Sprints level is a good fit for MIT and not a threat

to the academic standards or quality of life of MIT students.

Involvement in leadership of Friends has grown. We are at a point in our history as an alumni organization that we need to develop our structure and involve even more of you. Between now and the annual dinner next October, we would like to develop a set of bylaws to expand on our agreement with MIT. The goal is to put in place a structure that encourages and enables participation by a broad spectrum of women and men, lights and heavies, younger and older grads, including those able to help with sweat or dollars or both.

The dozen-plus working together now and meeting regularly to address concerns and get the word out needs to become a larger group. And that larger group needs to help the entire group of thousands of rowing alumni become better informed and more involved. Please contact any of us to discuss what is happening now and how

you can help.

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MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT CREW OUTLOOK

Enthusiastic And Intense Team Pursues Lofty Goals

By Ian Hutton
Lightweight Coach

The fall of 2000 saw the usual flood of bewildered faces in and out of the boathouse as would-be freshman lightweights tried their hand at the Charles' most beloved endeavor. The frosh spent the majority of the fall season simply learning the stroke in anticipation of great things to come in the spring. Anthony Brock, coach of the freshman lightweights, took three eights out each afternoon throughout the fall and instilled in them a love for the sport and a sense of camaraderie. Many new friendships were spawned.

As the crews headed to Hanover for the Dartmouth Invitational, a gradual realization of what the world of rowing holds was now apparent on those once bewildered faces. The freshman lightweights fared all right against their league rivals, but it was clear that a little more preparation was necessary. The A boat finished eighth out of 15 crews, but as the race combined both heavyweights and lightweights in the same event, they were the fourth lightweight crew to cross the line. Despite their 15th-place finish, the B boat finished fifth among the lightweight crews.

So practice they did. And when the Tail of the Charles rolled around, they were much more well-rehearsed at the whole racing thing. The A boat finished 16th, just 16 seconds behind Harvard's A boat and only two seconds off of Columbia's B boat. MIT's B boat got off to a fast start before the rudder string broke about 200 meters into the race, necessitating a spontaneous pit-stop and costing precious minutes. The C boat finished 28th out of 35 crews.

The freshmen have been training quite rigorously throughout the winter and will kick off their spring season against Yale on March 31.

The varsity lightweights boasted 25 returning members at the outset of the fall season, but the rigors of a new training regimen, combined with early morning practices, streamlined the squad to 20 by the first race. In addition to a slightly different approach to strength and conditioning, the varsity lightweights learned a slightly different technical style as well. The squad's relentless enthusiasm and intensity pre-

cipitated some remarkable finishes in fall races. They have set some lofty goals for the spring.

The varsity opened its fall racing season with a win at the Textile River Regatta held on October 1. The first boat won its event by a convincing margin, beating second-place Boston College by 46 seconds and Holy Cross (in third) by 57 seconds. The second boat finished fourth, just 27 seconds behind Holy Cross. In earning the gold medal, the first boat posted the third-fastest time of the day, including heavyweight and open events.

The team returned to the river slightly more confident to begin practicing for the Head of the Charles. Part of the preparation included some goal-setting, wherein the first boat set its sights on finishing within 5 percent of the winning time. Despite a mediocre start and some difficulty with the cadence down the powerhouse stretch, the eight picked up speed throughout the remainder of the race, finishing ninth overall and posting a time that was within 5.2 percent of Yale's winning time.

Following the Head, the squad broke down into fours and began seat racing for the lineups that would compete at the Tail of the Charles. Inspired by its performance at the Head, the team continued its training with renewed

vigor in anticipation of squaring off against its league rivals once more.

Under ideal conditions and after months of intensive preparation, the varsity lightweights took advantage of their opportunity to shine at the Tail. The first boat rowed an impressive race, finishing in a tie with Dartmouth for eighth place. Just two seconds behind Harvard's first four and one second behind Harvard's second four, the MIT lightweights surprised a few of their league rivals by tying Dartmouth and beating Columbia, last year's winner of the IRAs.

The second four had some degree of difficulty with the rating, but began firing on all cylinders by the second half of the race and crossed the line in 27th place. The third and fourth fours rowed well but finished 33rd and 36th in a very competitive field of 41 crews that included six boats from Harvard, four boats from Columbia, and four from Dartmouth in addition to all of the heavyweight crews.

Following two tremendously productive weeks in Florida during IAP, the lightweights have continued to pour it on and are waiting for the river to thaw so they can return to the water. The varsity lightweights will open the spring season against Yale for the Joy Cup in new Haven on March 31.

THE 2001 MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT CREW SCHEDULE

April

Sun.	8	U.S. Military Academy (Army), Boston College, HOME
Sat.	14	Harvard, Dartmouth (Biglin Bowl) at Dartmouth
Sat.	21	Cornell, Columbia (Geiger Cup), HOME
Sun.	22	U.S. Naval Academy (Navy), HOME
Sat.	28	Rutgers, HOME

May

Sun.	13	Eastern Sprints at Worcester, Massachusetts
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June

Sat.	2	IRA Regatta at Camden, New Jersey
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WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Highlights Of Contents

- Report From Managing Committee pages 1,10
- Regatta Committee Forms, Needs Your Help page 2
- Rowing at Critical Juncture page 3
- Report From The New Athletic Director pages 3-4
- Message From President Vest pages 5, 8, 10
- Jack Frailey Speaks At Shell Dedication pages 6-7
- Men's Heavyweight Crew Outlook page 9
- Men's Lightweight Crew Outlook page 11