Men's crew prepares for optimistic spring season

By William Hou

Spring always brings about a new sense of optimism, but nowhere can this optimism be found more than with the men's crew teams at MIT. Good performances in the fall and excellent training over the winter by both heavyweight and lightweight squads should make their spring seasons much more successful than last year's seasons.

Both squads have new head coaches. Bruce Beall, world-class oarsman and former Harvard lightweight coach, is the new head coach of the lightweights. The freshmen heavyweight crews are coached by Gordon Hamilton, and the freshman lightweight crews are coached by Chris Hare. Hamilton was the US Women's Lightweight sculling coach, and Hare was an oarsman at Winchester Polytechnic Institute. Together, the four coaches have tremendous amounts of experience which will prove beneficial to the MIT rowing program.

What is Crew?

Despite MIT's location along the Charles River Basin, many students unfamiliar with the sport of rowing. A certain mystique has always been associated with crew. Crew is an expensive sport. An eight-oared shell costs over $50,000, and the crew's budget is $150 each. Because of the high capital expenditures necessary for starting a rowing program, many colleges simply cannot afford to have a crew program.

The six returning oarsmen are uninvited to the US Pre-Elite Development Camp. Some of this year's oarsmen are juniors.