**“Freshman Frolic” is Head preview**

By Ben V. Reis

The MIT Boathouse held its fifth annual "Freshman Frolic" last Friday, Oct. 11. Eleven boats, consisting of 59 men and women rowers (about 10 percent of the freshmen class), raced a short, yet grueling, two-mile course. As the boats positioned themselves on the starting line, Assistant Freshman Lightweight Coach Greg Barringer sang the national anthem through his megaphone. Freshman Lightweight Coach Mike Welch then gave the signal for each boat to start.

The freshmen then raced from the Science Museum to the Longfellow and Harvard Bridges, and then back to the Boathouse, where a crowd of 50 spectators cheered them on to the finish. All the rowers then came upstairs for a pizza and soda cool down.

With a strong wind, and wavy waters. The first boat, which came from behind to win with a time of 10:11, had freshmen Shannon Coon (coxswain), Rick Boardman, Josephine Harada, Ben Jordan, Clara Yang, Fouad Saadi, Rebecca Leonidovich, Luis Uribarri and Lizette Ace.

Ben V. Reis '95 is a member of the freshmen lightweight crew team.

**Crew to race in Head of the Charles**

By Jeff Kuehn

The MIT varsity crews will compete this Sunday in the biggest single-day regatta in the world — The Head of the Charles. Head Coach Mike Welch on the Charles River, "The Head" involves over 2000 competitors in about 800 shells. The course begins at the Boston University boathouse, just this side of the BU bridge, and winds along the Charles for three miles, finishing half a mile past the Eliot bridge. Hundreds of thousands of spectators traditionally line the banks, cheering on the rowers, whose boats leave the starting line about every fifteen seconds all day long.

MIT's varsity teams will field eight shells Sunday. A heavy-weight men's four-oared shell begins the day for MIT at 9 am, followed by two heavyweight men's eights and a women's eight at around 9:30. The women's youth 4, with all rowers and coxswain under age 20, will leave the line around 10:30 am, and the women's youth 8 event begins in hour later. For late-sleeping fans, the varsity lightweight team has entered two boats in the championship lightweight event, held at 1:30 pm, and will compete against the US national team, the French national team, and many other powerful crews from around the world. Due to the limited number of entries in this event, one MIT shell will be listed in the program as MIT and the other will be disguised as the Harvard shell.

Many MIT alumni and professors will be competing throughout the day.

All eight varsity crews are enthusiastic about this race and the opportunity to compete against some of the best crews in the world. Heavyweight co-captain Brad Laron '92 said, "We're rowing well. This is a really tough race, where finishing in the top third of your event is pretty darn good." We can do well and I'm really excited about it. The lightweights look really fast, though — the fastest crew we've had around here in a while."

Jeff Kuehn '92 is captain of the varsity lightweight crew team.