

TO: The Clark Faculty-Student Athletic Council

FROM: Richard H. Prensner, Varsity Crew Member 1953, 1954, 1955.

SUBJECT: The Value of Dad Vail Regatta Participation.

The values of participation in major sporting events of any kind are somewhat understood by all. It was my experience to see the first hand effects of Clark's initial attempt at a regional regatta. Clark University, in my estimation, reaped great dividends in these ways:

First. The Reputation of Clark: I saw a great deal of interest on the part of all other crews and members of the Regatta Committee concerning Clark. Proof of the fact that we are highly regarded as a first rate participant in Regatta can be seen by the treatment we received. The President of the Fairmont Boat Club loaned us his best boat - only four months old. In addition, Clark Rowing has captured everyone's attention by disclaiming an age-old falsehood - that of race inequality in rowing. I quote the Regatta chairman, John C. Bratten "That's the first negro boy who's ever rowed the Scuykill Course - glad to see it. It is something which is long overdue. You boys at Clark have the right idea." (Mr. Bratten was referring to the membership of Art Lee in the Clark Crew.) Somewhat allied with this, the friendship which is built up between the competing crews is invaluable. The cementing of relations with other schools for which all sports at Clark continually strive, is made firm through social contacts between Clark crews and other representatives from nine other schools. This represents a geographical area extending from Florida to New Hampshire and west to Ohio. The benefits derived from participation by Clark University are invaluable.

Secondly. An Incentive to Clark Crewmen: Americans are traditionally of a competitive nature. Our business system is based on this drive; our sports are no exception. Crew is one of the most competitive sports known. It requires every available ounce of stamina and energy in a man. In order to stimulate a maximum of this spirit in athletes, they need something to work for each day. Last year's crew is an example. When our boys had the incentive of the Dad Vail Regatta ahead of them they showed more spirit than before and the performances improved. Our Varsity crew finished two races and several time trials in the fastest times ever recorded for Clark Crews.

Last year, the crew was invited to row as a guest member in the regatta. In order to participate further and continue to reap benefits, Clark must join the Dad Vail Rowing Association, or else it will be banned from all further participation. As an alumnus and former rowing representative of Clark University athletics, I strongly urge that my alma mater join the association as a permanent member and since November 28 is the deadline, immediate action in this matter is highly desirable.