

March 22, 1956

Mr. Richard L. Balch  
Director of Athletics  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Balch:

I am writing again about the possible purchase of a used 8 oar shell, which you offered us for \$200. I inspected the boat about a month ago and concluded that it would be definitely useful to us. Since then I have been working with our rowing club to try to raise the needed funds to purchase the boat. However, we have not been too successful and to date we have raised in round figures but \$140.00. We have some pledges outstanding which would bring the amount available to nearly \$160.00.

Since I realize the boat may not be available much longer, it occurred to me that I should at least offer to guarantee a cash payment of \$160.00 for you to consider, in the event that the boat might otherwise be dismantled for parts. If this price is within the range of acceptability, we could send you a check for this amount within a week and arrange to pick up the boat about April 2. Otherwise I fear we shall have to pass up this opportunity to improve our equipment until next year when I might try another appeal for funds with the hope of better success.

Thank you for the trouble you have incurred in our behalf, and whether you accept our offer or not, I sincerely appreciate your interest and cooperation in this matter of a rowing shell for us.

Sincerely yours,

F. Eugene Melder  
Coach of Crew and Associate  
Professor of Economics

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