

WORCESTER
COLLEGE
RECORD



2001

region to dispel myths about the university.

In addition to the larger scale projects and the success of college clubs and societies many individuals have been successful this year. There are several blues captains, Jonathan Boone is carving his way up the ranks of the Cherwell newspaper team, Eleanor Fletcher has been elected OUSU sabbatical for finance and funding next year and many individuals are directing plays.

Finally I must thank all of the committee for their talents and hard work, not forgetting their charm, charisma and appetite for chocolate which keep the meetings alive. Special thanks must go to the Secretary Louise Farrar and to Florian Ederer for their dedication; it has been great fun to work with them.

Caroline Essery
President JCR

MCR REPORT

During the course of 2000-2001, much was accomplished within the Middle Common Room and therefore I should take this occasion to applaud the hard work of just a few of those who have donated their time and effort toward improving our MCR.

Firstly, let me express my appreciation both to Sylvia Bergh, our MCR Treasurer, who exhibited a noble degree of parsimonious control in matters of finance, and to Andy Briant, our MCR Secretary, who organized the motions of the Executive Committee, chaired general meetings of the MCR, and generously helped behind the scenes. Also, I am, as ever, grateful for the enthusiastic efforts of our MCR Social Secretaries, Christine Whelan and Rebecca Holland, who arranged a plethora of electrifying events in term and who spearheaded the ongoing tradition of notorious MCR Bops. Thanks must also be accorded to Maggie Limarego, Welfare and Women's Representative, who upheld the interests of the MCR before the Domestic Committee, led discussion groups on matters arising within College on issues of security, health, and well-being, and introduced the weekly port and chocolate in the MCR reading room following Graduate Dining Club. I must also express my gratitude to Luke Rallan, who adopted the role of the MCR Computer Representative with a degree of patience and ability that continues to astound me. Lastly, I must salute John Wilby, Bar Manger, who generously dealt out copious amounts of social lubricant on all occasions, premeditated or spontaneous, in keeping with convivial Worcester style.

As for the year on record, I do not know exactly where to begin, though it seems initially most appropriate to boast unabashedly about the MCR's victory over the SCR in the annual cricket match, though this conquest really only set a precedent for what the year held in store. We were blessed by numerous sports players among the freshers, many of who took an interest in rowing only to be thwarted by a deluge of torrential rain that resulted in the cancelling of Christ Church regatta and almost wiped out Torpids as well; nonetheless, the Worcester First Eight elected four members from the MCR among its blades - John Randall, Tom Mitchell, John Malo and Andy Short, all of whom

performed well in Cambridge's Fairburn's Race. In other athletic areas, Stuart Marshall played admirably for the Oxford University Water-Polo team, which reached the British Universities Sports Association semi-finals; Sylvia Bergh took part in the Oxford Fencing Club Varsity Match where the team beat Cambridge overall and went on to complete in the BUSA championships; Kirstie Anderson, a cross-country blue, led the Worcester mixed college team to win Teddy Hall relays; Matin Law, along with acting as Treasurer of the University Sailing Club, performed well enough to merit a position on the second sailing team; Ravi Gupta, while not gallivanting around the world doing medical research in South Africa, Tanzania, and Peru, played ice hockey for the University on the second team; Lucy Moore, a gifted wielder of the flying pie-pan, bolstered Oxford's Ultimate Frisbee squad; and our fine new bar manager, Richard Bomphrey, won a half blue in the Windsurfing Varsity match. Perhaps the most conspicuous Worcester success at University level was the stunning performance of Werner Gey Van Pittius in the Oxford versus Cambridge rugby match at Twickenham: his unselfish running and trenchant tackling were instrumental in ensuring another Dark Blue victory and, in the opinion of the TV analysts and exultant MCR supporters alike, should have been further rewarded with the accolade 'Man of the Match'.

The Intercollegiate Quiz Tournament also finally met the dark horse of Worcester A this year, prompting Keith Owen, James Murray, Andrew Reisner, and John Wilby to answer obscure questions with an amazing breadth of general knowledge. The fabulous foursome won their group and entered into the quarter finals only to be narrowly beaten in a match against the St. John's University Challenge team.

Similarly, Worcester I Table Tennis team, consisting of Andrew Culp, John Wilby, and yours truly, blazed through all makes of competition in Michaelmas, won their group, and then tragically lost in the first round of finals. Devastated by the defeat, I was forced to turn to poetry for solace, and was serendipitously awarded third place in the Poetry Society's Martin Starkie Competition, which perhaps will validate my new office, MCR Poet. However, I was not alone in my artistic pursuits - Marc Thormeier, our resident thespian, performed in several plays, Hazel Betts gave a stunning flute recital, and Lisa Poyneer stole the show at the College's photographic exhibit during Arts Week.

On the whole, I believe that the out-going committee has really tried to redefine the character of the MCR with the aim of forming a network of greater inclusiveness and tolerance, which means that it is now almost impossible for me to paint a reliable portrait of our tangible successes during this past year, for any picture that I might conjure up would still be insufficient - since the real spirit of the new MCR cannot be expressed in simple categories of the academic, athletic, and social variety. So I would ask our successors to remember that the real value of the Common Room lies in the communal support it gives to a group of highly talented individuals whose futures may well be brilliant but are still uncertain. The high quality of this support is the true justification of the MCR's existence.

Lamar Mitchell
MCR President