Out of the ashes

■ It’s a bird! It’s a phoenix! It’s—wait, is it a phoenix?
After a decade of sweat and cheers, the old, tattered Maroons mascot has been laid to rest, and out of its ashes a new costume springs this fall. Bigger, meaner, and much more maroon, it still falls short in the epitomizing-a-phoenix category. “We were never able to find a company that produces a specific phoenix outfit,” says Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Information Dave Hilbert. What fans will notice first is the color—a “very distinctive” maroon.

The new get-up, which has an aerie resemblance to an eagle, is also more imposing, a plus for the man behind the mascot. Stephen Bonnett, ’11, says the old outfit made him feel “like a gangly string bean.”
—Asher Klein, ’11, and Burke Frank, ’11

Red eyes express athletic fury—and academic all-nighters.

Sharper, harder beak sheds the Road Runner look.

Broader, firmer torso implies long days at Ratner.

Plumage is now maroon, not crimson. This isn’t Harvard.

Talons to grasp enemies and carry them away. Plus, we’ve never met a phoenix with shoes.