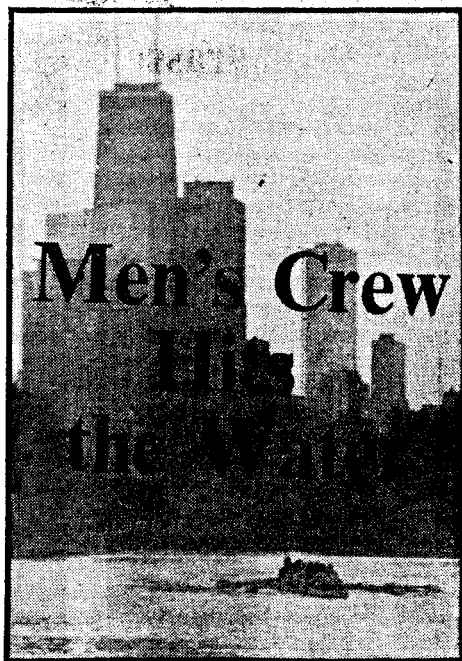


Spring 1981



By Michael Occhiolini

Although they don't sell carnations on Valentine's day or aggressively hawk T-Shirts on the quads, there is a men's crew team at Chicago, and the club hopes to make its presence known this year with the help of their new coach Murray Beach.

Beach, along with the obvious qualifications that the name implies, is currently the manager of the pre-elite Olympic squad for this year's summer season, and was formerly the assistant coach at Dartmouth. Beach has had long experience in crew competition, coaching a recent US National team and rowing for Harvard from 1973 to 1976. An accountant at Alexander Grant, Beach plans to be with the team at least three practices a week during the spring season.

Besides having a new coach, the club has acquired the freshman boat from Harvard. "This will be a turnaround year for us," noted team member Andy Lang, and the combination of a new coach, boat, and their first full year competition since 1977 will hopefully result in a competitive spring season.

The club competed this year in the fall, and spent the winter quarter working out in the Field House in preparation for the upcoming season. The team will go out on the water during the first week of spring quarter, practicing at the Lincoln Park Lagoon across from the zoo. The crew is at a slight competitive disadvantage practicing at Lincoln Park, for the Lagoon is only 2000 meters long compared to the average two to three mile practice run of other colleges.

The club has roughly twenty members, fairly evenly split between graduates and undergraduates. Most of the club members have had their initial crew experience at Chicago, although there are a few members with previous rowing experience. The team's first meet is April 18 against Notre Dame and Michigan State. Chicago successfully competed against Michigan State last summer and fall, but the Notre Dame squad could give Chicago some trouble.