

Women's crew rebuilding

By Lina Goode

Editor's note: An article in the May 7 Maroon incorrectly reported that a women's crew club defeated the men's crew club at the Midwest Rowing Championships. The women's crew club did not enter the event, nor did a team from Calvert, as the article stated. The Maroon apologizes for the error.

Settled into their new boathouse on the Chicago River, the 15 members of the women's crew club are going through the rebuilding paces. Most of the oarswomen only started rowing this spring, so they have had a tough time competing against more experienced teams.

At Notre Dame on April 24, the season got off to an exciting start as the UCWC varsity eight engaged in a seat-for-seat contest against Culver Military Academy. The UCWC boat, containing six novices in their first race, ultimately finished a few seconds behind Culver and far behind first place finisher Notre Dame. The varsity four entry, containing two novices, also lost to Notre Dame but whipped the Lincoln Park Boat Club to finish second. In the novice eight event, UCWC finished third and last to Notre Dame and Grand Valley State College, but earned verbal praise from the competitors' coaches for its performance.

At the Midwest Rowing Championships on May 1 in Madison, UCWC entered the novice four and novice eight races. In its first novice four race, UCWC finished seventh and last with a slow time of 9:32.3 over 1,850 meters. The novice eight finished last in both its heat and the consolation final against Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Kansas. However, the crew gained experience in dealing with equipment problems during the course of a race.

Coach Susan Urbas believes the novices are learning quickly and performing well, given their level of experience. "I'm far from satisfied," she said, "but the best interests of the team now lie in our focus being on long term development. That sometimes means sacrificing short term performance to boatings that maximize team experience. I am proud of their efforts to date and confident that with hard work, we will see calculated improvement as the season progresses."

The women's crew will compete at Waterloo, Iowa on May 15 and at the National Women's Rowing Association Regional Championships in Minneapolis on May 30. Women interested in recreational or competitive rowing this spring and summer should contact UCWC president Elisse Ghitelman at 955-5253.
