

Wednesday, December 13, 1989

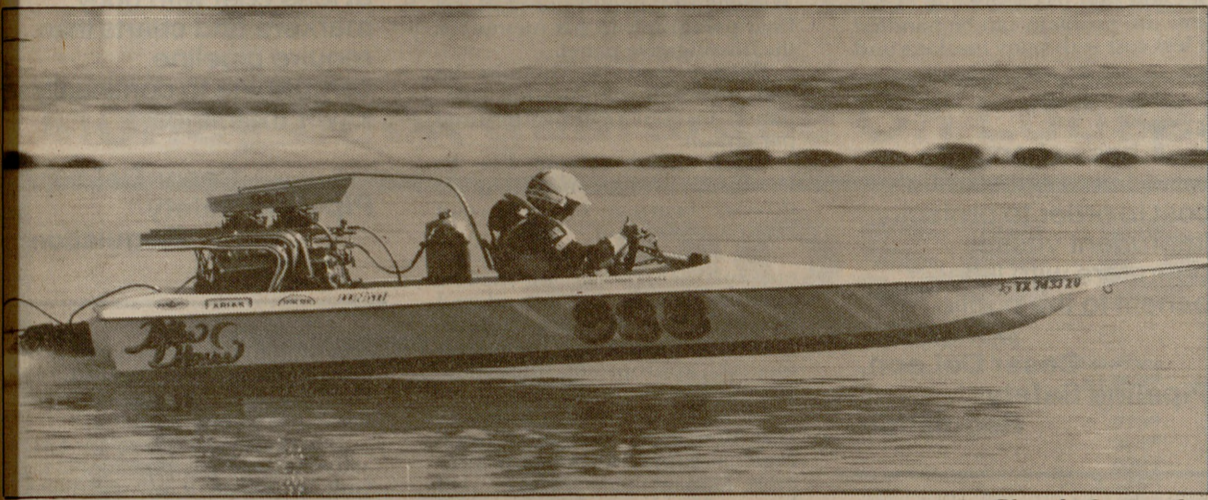


Photo by Sotography

A&M senior Randy Rudell races his 650-horsepower boat at the International Hot Boat Association's World Finals in the modified eliminator class.

A&M students place first in international boat race

Tough year proves worthwhile in final round for drag-racing team

By **CHRIS VAUGHN**
Of The Battalion Staff

In his first try at international competition, Texas A&M senior Randy Rudell defeated a field of 32 and captured first place in the modified eliminator class of the International Hot Boat Association's World Finals of Drag Boat Racing.

Rudell and A&M senior Donald Campbell, the crew chief, however, did not get to savor the victory in the winner's circle.

The two civil engineering majors, barely dry from their last race, hopped on a plane back to College

Station without the four-foot tall trophy and cash winnings they had just earned. Rudell's father stayed to pick up the winnings.

The drag boat racing finals, which were held in Phoenix in November, were the culmination of several months of racing in Texas and Louisiana for the two A&M students.

"This is the first year we entered the international finals," Rudell, a native of Manuel, said. "We didn't expect to do so well, but things just worked out for us."

The modified eliminator class, which is for boats that can race a 1/4-mile in 10-11 seconds, featured com-

petition from all over the United States and Canada, according to Campbell, a native of Abilene.

Rudell said the victory in the international level of drag boat racing more than makes up for a tough year elsewhere on the racing circuit.

"We went through three motors in one year," Rudell said. "Three motors in one year is pretty bad. But this made it all worth it."

The boat, which currently has a 650-horsepower engine, is undergoing another engine change soon when the two students will upgrade the engine to 1,000-horsepower.

Firefighter's free speech case refused

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Kilgore firefighter's attorney says the Supreme Court has sent a message to government officials by refusing to uphold a firefighter's suspension for criticizing the city.

"This sends a message that public employees do not surrender their First Amendment rights to engage in public debate," said attorney, Betsy Julian of Dallas, who represented firefighter Gary Moore.

The court refused Monday to hear the city of Kilgore's appeal stemming from comments Moore made after a 1985 fatal fire.

Moore had been an active opponent of budget cuts that reduced the number of city firefighters.

When a fire killed one firefighter and injured another, Moore told reporters "We are in a position to say, 'I told you so,' to the city."

He was suspended without pay for 30 days and placed on probation for "unsanctioned comments" and "insubordinate speech."

U.S. District Judge William Steger of Tyler sided with the city, but the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the city had violated Moore's constitutional guarantee of free speech.

UPD annual reports show decrease in DWI arrests

By **RICHARD ROSS**
Of The Battalion Staff

Either students at Texas A&M are getting smarter about driving while intoxicated, or police aren't enforcing the law as closely this semester.

The University Police Department's annual report shows a major decline in DWI incidents by A&M students.

The report said there were 46 DWI cases during the 1988-89 school year. According to the report, only two students have been arrested for DWI since the beginning of this semester.

University Police Associate Director Elmer E. Schneider said increased public awareness is one of the reasons for the decline of student DWI cases.

"Public awareness and media campaigns are partly responsible for the drop of DWI incidents," Schneider said. "Active participation by MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) and SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) have put the issue in the spotlight."

Schneider said alternative beverages served at group-sponsored events have helped decrease the A&M DWI rate.

"The DWI rate has also been in decline because of the inactivity of the Joint Task Force," Schneider said. "The task force is composed of the Bryan, College Station and University police departments."

He said the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission assists the three departments.

"The task force will be at full strength by the end of December," Schneider said. "The first patrol for the task force will begin New Year's Eve. The mission of the task force is to specifically find the maximum number of DWI violators."

During these events, every available officer in each of the three departments is out on the streets looking for drunk drivers, Schneider said.

He said the task force has been hampered by the decrease in federal funding.

Kristi Mathews, coordinator of the Anti-DWI Program for Brazos County, said the task force has been funded through the State Department of Highways and Transportation. She said Brazos County administers these funds.

Mathews said the task force received funding from federal grants in the past three years. This included a comprehensive anti-DWI grant.

"This year federal funding has decreased because of government cutbacks," she said. "Emergency medical systems and school bus safety are now getting part of the funding that once was devoted to DWI enforcement."

She said the cutbacks have complicated the enforcement of DWI, but police officials are hoping to receive more funding.

Officials: String of disasters stretch Red Cross's budget

By **Timothy King**
Special to The Battalion

In the past few months, the United States has experienced several natural disasters, stretching the American Red Cross to the limit of its ability to provide relief to victims in need.

In September, Hurricane Hugo struck the Caribbean and the east coast of the United States. Hurricane Jerry then played havoc on the beaches of Galveston Island and the shores of Texas and Louisiana, and then in October the San Francisco area suffered massive damage from a huge earthquake.

Since September 18, the day that Hugo roared into the Caribbean, the Red Cross has sheltered 188,735 people, served 12.4 million meals and given financial assistance to 143,698 families and individuals.

The Red Cross, which receives no government funding and exists on donations alone, has a charter from the U.S. Congress mandating that it "provide services to the U.S. Armed Forces and relief to disaster victims at home and abroad." The Red Cross Disaster Relief Program states that the organization has "both legal and moral mandates in the field of disaster relief," and does not have either the power or right to surrender these mandates.

Before Hurricane Hugo, the American Red Cross had \$10 million dollars in the bank. Hugo resulted in the costliest relief effort in the organization's history, a \$42 million project that left the organization with a \$32 million dollar debt.

Just a short time after Hurricane Hugo struck South Carolina, Hurricane Jerry struck the coast of Texas. Although considered a minor hurricane, Jerry left Texas with several million dollars worth of damage. Shortly after Jerry, an earthquake registering 7.0 on the Richter scale struck the San Francisco area, leaving hundreds dead or homeless, and in-

flicting billions of dollars of damage. When the string of disasters started, the Red Cross also was providing relief to flood victims in Kentucky.

Since that time the American Red Cross has been able to raise \$98.7 million for their Disaster Relief Fund, while estimating expenditures at about \$94 million. In a Dec. 4 news release, Gene Dyson, co-chairman of the Red Cross Disaster Relief Campaign, said, "This proves there is at least one force more powerful than Mother Nature: human nature. This is more than twice as much as we've ever raised for a disaster campaign."

Dyson said that the just having enough money to meet current expenses does not mean that all of the disaster victims' needs have been met, because relief efforts often continue for months or years.

Emily Stiteler, Director for the Brazos County chapter, says that in addition to meeting the immediate needs of victims, the Red Cross also tries to provide funds to help relocate families and individuals into new homes and to buy furniture and clothing. In addition, the Red Cross will fill medical or optical prescriptions for those victims in need.

Although the American Red Cross National Disaster Relief Program will come to the scene of any disaster of a large magnitude, the local chapters are responsible for providing funds for any local disasters that might occur. Stiteler said that each community is expected to meet its own local needs, with those needs usually appearing in the form of single family fires. Such fires usually increase in number as the winter months and cold weather approach.

Anyone wishing to make donations for local relief should make checks payable to the American Red Cross and send them to 207 W. 29th St., Bryan, TX 77803. Checks to support national relief efforts can be sent to Midwestern Operations Headquarters, 10195 Corporate Sq., St. Louis, Mo., 63132. Persons interested in becoming a Red Cross Volunteer or blood donor can call 822-2157.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



THANKS AGGIES
From all of us at:

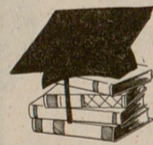
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