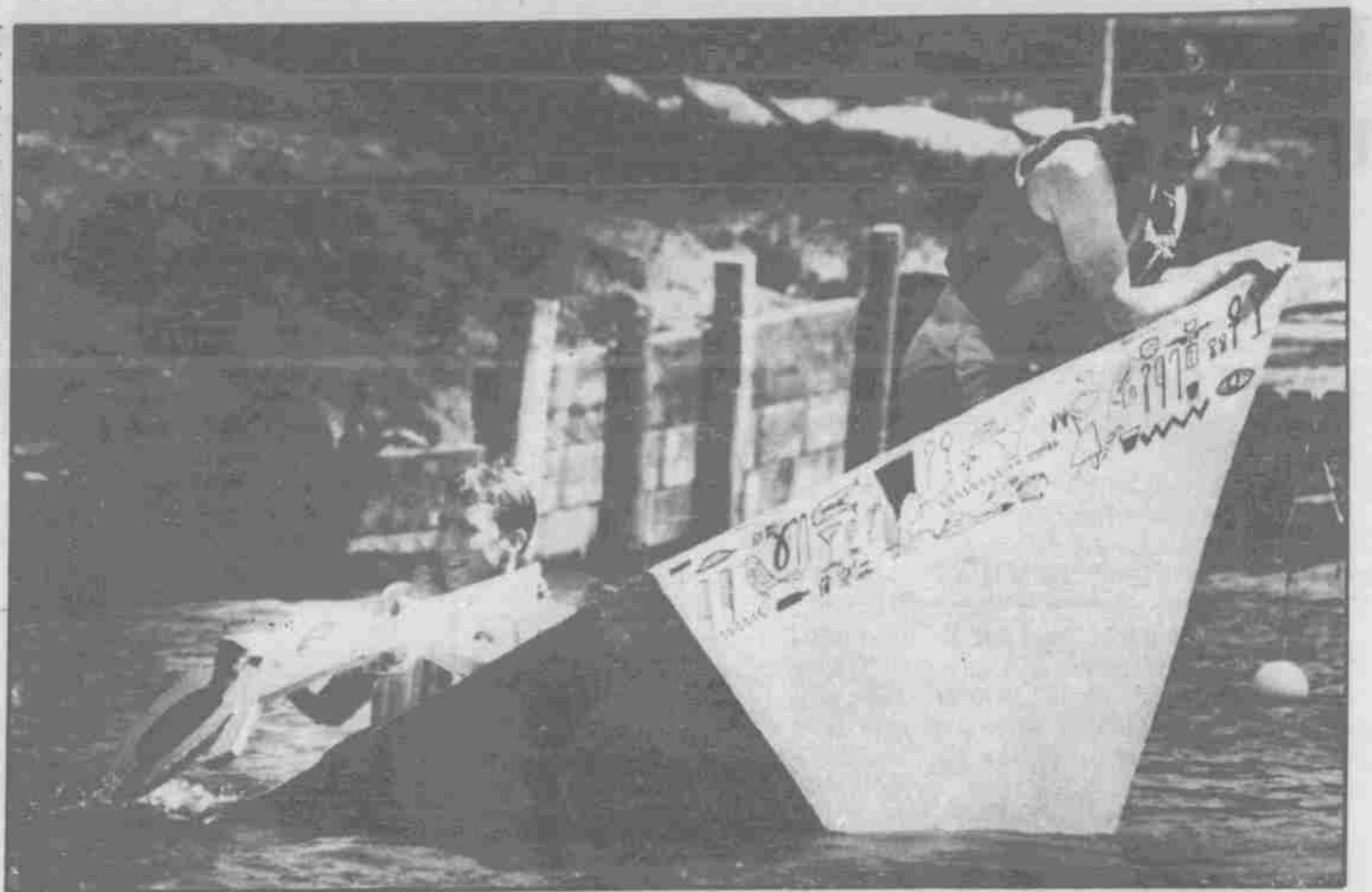


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Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Two architecture students take to the water Saturday at the Cardboard Classic Regatta on Pine Lake. Their paper pyramid was one of about 20 cardboard boats constructed for the final project in Architecture 236.

Students-turned-sailors test designs in first Cardboard Classic Regatta

By Ann Lowe
Staff Reporter

Cardboard boats? Dinghy idea, but some UNL architecture students proved Saturday that wet cardboard floats — and even makes a seaworthy ship.

About 35 students took to rough waters on Lincoln's Pine Lake in the Cardboard Classic Regatta. They were testing their final projects for Architecture 236 — honest-to-goodness boats made of boxes, cartons and cardboard.

The ships took unusual shapes. There were, among others, a banana split, a Washington Monument, a Starship

Enterprise and a Manhattan Island — complete with scale-model skyscrapers. Professor Scott Wieskamp said the only requirements were that the boats be made of cardboard and they held at least one person.

"Everybody has this pre-conceived idea of what a boat looks like," Wieskamp said. He said architecture students need to give up old notions and create ideas of their own. The boat project seemed to be a good exercise, he said.

The students had the assignment for about three weeks. They drew up plans and submitted scale models to Wieskamp. Then they took over a lab in the 501 Building and started to work on their cardboard craft.

"They've spent some all-nighters in the last week or two," Wieskamp said.

They spent a lot of money, too — as much as \$150 for one boat, he said.

About 100 students, parents and friends gathered at the home of Al and Mary Sperry, 6241 Eastshore Dr., to watch the regatta. Some students were still tinkering with their boats — taping and caulking seams, adding paint, making sure their vessels were water-tight.

Then the races began. With cheers from the crowd and blasts of an air horn, the boats were launched two-at-a-time from the Sperry's pier. The course seemed easy enough — just once around a buoy about 50 feet out. But heavy winds and unforeseen design problems caused trouble for a few of the sailors. Some boats were blown backward; others tipped or sprang leaks. Some boaters gave up their cardboard oars and paddled by hand. Others abandoned ship and jumped into three feet of cold water to push their boats to the finish.

Some had better luck. Kian Shamloo and Dan Reinhardt had the winning time of 1:05 in their Loch Ness Monster. Mike Harvey and Jeff Sellentin came in second on the U.S.S. Manhattan with 1:22. Brent Luetchen and Dan Mullin took third with 1:53 on the Iceberg.

Wieskamp said the race results won't affect the students' grades.

"They've all put in a lot of work," he said. "They'll all probably get pretty good grades."

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