

CAPITAL TIMES

Vol. 25, No. 6

Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg

December 7, 1990

Students construct all-terrain vehicle

Marshall Walters
Capital Times Staff

Have you heard about it? Perhaps you've seen it. It's the all-terrain vehicle designed and built by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE).

Every year a group of PSH engineering students build a car and travel to Montreal, Canada. They compete in a number of events to test the capabilities of the car. This year's invention travels north in May of 1991.

The tests in the upcoming Montreal competition include safety considerations like braking distance and the strength of the role cage. The acceleration and weight pull are also tested.

The car will race on three separate courses. First, it competes in an Enduro-type race over land and water. Second, the car is timed in a mad-dash through a large mudpit. Then finally, the car runs through an obstacle course.

Before competing, the car must meet a set of requirements, including an \$1800 limit to the construction costs of the car and a specific engine, an eight horsepower Briggs and Stratton gas-powered engine.

Kyle King, an SAE member who



Man vs. Nature. Kyle King, an SAE member, steers last year's all-terrain vehicle through some rugged turf.

Photo by Marshall Walters

specializes in the engine, says they plan to augment the car's top-end speed to about 30 mph.

This year's buggy will be equipped with a four wheel independent suspension, a grade better than the front-

wheel independent straight rear axel on last year's model.

Earlier this semester, SAE traveled with last year's model to race in Maryland. The group came in sixth place, though the race was just for fun.

Soldiers spend Christmas in desert

Pat Byers
Capital Times Staff

For the thousands of American troops stationed in Saudi Arabia, the holiday season will be spent inside a tent, tank, or foxhole rather than next to a fireplace or Christmas tree. The smell of pine will be replaced by burned gunpowder and their white bearded gentleman isn't Santa Claus but Uncle Sam and a grinch like Saddam Hussein.

Will America's eyes be feasting on the usual Christmas programming this year or the horrific sights of war? Is war inevitable by Christmas? Hussein and a few choice congressmen think so. But President Bush and PSH professor Dana Sadarananda believe not.

Sadarananda, a military history professor, honestly believes that we are not going to experience a war by Christmas.

"Unless it is on the high seas or by some unforeseen accident, I feel very strongly that if Saddam Hussein were to attack, he would have done so already," Sadarananda said. He gives reasons why an American offensive will not be launched.

"Politically, the Saudis won't allow it, unless they change their mind. And secondly, we just don't have the numbers to compete," he said.

At this writing 400,000 American troops have been deployed to the middle east. The Iraqi military has over one million soldiers with combat experience, (the war with Iran). A military draft would help but the President and the American people won't support it.

"Generally speaking, a 3-1 superiority over your opponent is necessary," Sadarananda said. "The Iraqis would have no difficulty in attaining the front if they wish to attack."

As far as the "waiting game" is concerned Sadarananda said Hussein has a few things leaning in his favor.

Hussein realizes that this is an election year in America and nothing will happen until after the elections, Sadarananda said. Since people are lining up to support Bush, Hussein sees cracks developing within the political solidarity in America.

Sadarananda said, "Historically, America has very little patience in a

Penn State promotes diversity

Victoria Cuscino
Capital Times Staff

Many Penn State Harrisburg students grew up in relatively close-knit, mainstream circles. Often Americans have little contact with people from other countries, racial minorities, the physically challenged--the people who compose the full picture of American life.

More and more, the university insists, students should understand and experience diversity as part of the college curriculum.

The University Senate Committee on Undergraduate Instruction has proposed a cultural diversity requirement, and a Capital College committee is currently studying the issue.

The requirements would promote the understanding of racial, religious, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, and global perspectives.

The requirements would not necessarily entail additional credit loads or courses. Discussions of diversity would be integrated into existing courses.

Penn State President Joab Thomas said, "The education of the 1990s must provide students with the tools to live in a quickly changing future."

In a letter to the university community, he said there is "no better preparation for the future than for our young people to learn to find value in the differences among us, to appreciate the diverse backgrounds we all bring to this institution, and to help others find value in that diversity."

Diversity, according to a statement from the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Instruction, encompasses varieties of race, religion, ethnicity, gender and global perspective.

The focus on diversity partly responds

to America's changing work force, said Joan Swetz, international student advisor. By the year 2000, there will be more females and other minorities entering the workforce, so that white males will actually constitute a minority.

"If we are going to work with these people, we need to know how they think and feel and whether we agree," Swetz said.

"Exploring diversity leads to new and exciting things," Swetz said. "If you cannot relocate geographically, there is a chance to vicariously get a taste of it right in Middletown."

A variety of races, ethnic groups, religions, genders, sexual orientations and global perspectives wander Olmsted's halls everyday and go seemingly unnoticed by many.

See Diversity on 2

See Desert Christmas on 4