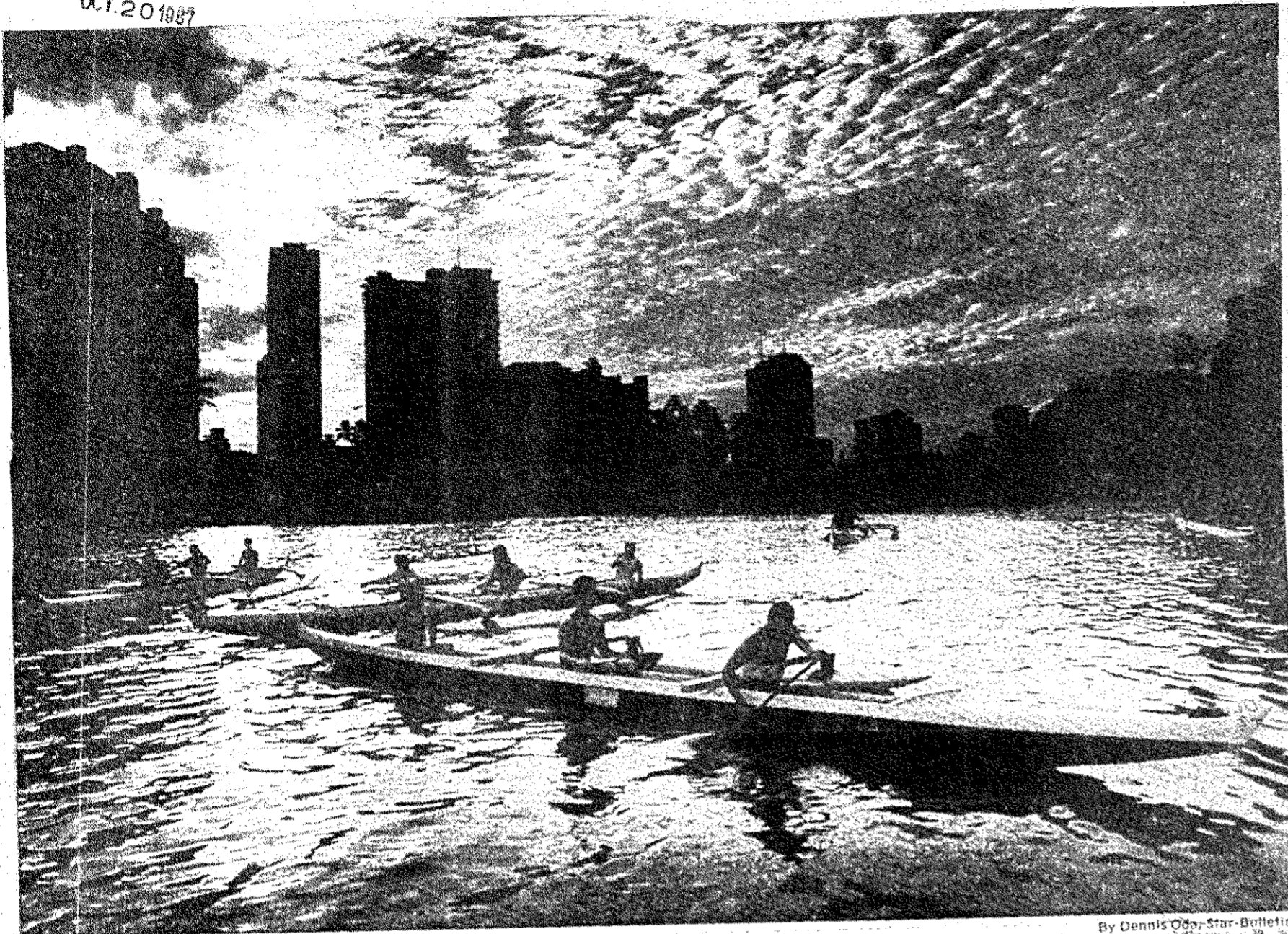


OCT. 20 1987



By Dennis O'Garra, Star-Bulletin

ALA WAI CANAL—A calm after the final race of the Hawaiian Canoe & Kayak Championships on Sunday.

Ala Wai: Troubled waters

By Jack Wyatt

Special to The Star-Bulletin

A discarded plastic container bobbed along the course during last Sunday's Hawaiian Canoe & Kayak races on the Ala Wai Canal. Floating debris entangled an Olympic kayak as a visitor from Tahiti was hard at practice. A fish wallowed belly up and bloated in a stagnant pool near the McCully Bridge finish.

"These waters look more troubled than those in the Persian Gulf," said paddler Harrison Enriquez of San

Francisco. "Perfect water for paddling — that is, unless you happen to fall in." California kayaker Sharon Attlesay said.

Ala Wai Canal, that 2½-mile stretch of murky water that flows ever so slowly from Kahahulu Avenue to Magic Island, is considered by many Hawaii's most neglected waterway.

"Let's face it," State Department of Health's Paul Aki said, "the primary purpose for Ala Wai is for drainage. It takes care of the runoff from

Manoa and Palolo streams, plus all the nearby storm drains."

Because of its polluted waters, Aki says Ala Wai is unfit for wading, swimming and splashing around. "Depending on the rain in the mountains, the degree of runoff into Ala Wai changes from day to day. Right now the pollution is high," he said.

Aki, who says his department tests Ala Wai waters monthly for severity of pollution, simply confirmed what local paddlers have known for years. "That if the paddler doesn't take a good bath or shower after each Ala

Wai workout, that person is in deep health trouble.

According to veteran paddler Tommy Connor, "Ala Wai paddlers with open sores are almost sure to get that sore infected. Almost every paddler I know has come down with some degree of staph (staphylococcus)." At least 10 island canoe clubs, totaling more than 1,000 paddlers, call Ala Wai Canal home.

State Rep. Fred Hemmings, a veteran Outrigger Canoe Club surfer and paddler, believes that Ala Wai can

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OCT 26 1987



Don Chapman

A TILLA THE MON: Willie Hawthorne, former Outrigger Canoe Club paddler, back for a visit from L.A., says the most obvious result from last week's stock market meltdown is "Yuppies are suddenly an endangered species. I've never seen so many BMWs for sale" . . . **Suzy Koga**, daughter of former politico **Scotty Koga** and wife **Ruth**, gave up her successful career as a S.F. stockbroker BTC (Before The



Flack

Crash), opting for her first love — showbiz. These days, she's personal mgr. for big-draw singer **Roberta Flack**. . . It was **Maile Meyer** of the Bishop Museum Press who noticed that somebody has altered the orange hand telling pedestrians not to cross East-West Center Road so that it appears to be a flashing *shaka* sign. Maile would notice — she and attorney husband **Michael Broderick** even had a *shaka* on their wedding invitations. . . Yup, that was attorney **Martin Wolff** getting out of his car to help push a family's stalled auto in the middle of the intersection of King-South-Kapiolani during rush hour □ □ □

DIS AND DOT: Just in case El Nino creates another hurricane a la Hurricane Iwa in 1982, the Nat'l Weather Service is ready with some

possible names. Let's hope this is the last time any of us hear about **Uleki**, **Wila** and **Aka** in a meteorological sense. . . If you can't say anything nice, zip yer lip dept.: If the Rainbow football team played as well as UH music prof **Laurance Paxton** sang the "Star-Spangled Banner," we'd have mashed BYU by 30 points. No question, it was the absolute best rendering of our national anthem I've ever heard in 30 plus years of attending ballgames, many of them as a sports writer. Major chickenskin. . . Very "in" in Kailua: Folks bring in glass or plexiglass salad bowls to **Bunny Hardy** and **Myra Wakukawa** at Koolau Farmers-Kailua Rd. and they create fabulous plant environments. But it's only B.Y.O. Bowl. . . Where are they now dept.: After two years in Texas, **Jewelle Yamada**, former Foodland PR dir., is back in town to work on Westin hotel accounts. . . Then there is **Stan Rossi**, who is back after 10 years away to become operations mgr. for Tony Roma's. . . The trick to making orange and black pasta for Halloween at Bact's-Waikiki Trade Center — carrots and squid ink (color, not flavoring) □ □ □

OUT THE OTHER: The **Punaluu Punster** came out of his chair cheering while watching most recent "St. Elsewhere." Show's

writers worked in a surreal lyric from a **Neil Young** song as a psychiatrist was talking to his patient about a dream: "You were riding a silver spaceship through the yellow haze of the sun?" And the patient replies: "I was kneeling, I was young" . . . **Dick Howard** got his World Series tickets, no problem. Alas, the tickets were for games in San Francisco's Candlestick Park. . . Food for that dept.: If you have children, maybe you've also noticed subtle changes in the names of certain cereals since you were a kid. Sugar Pops are now "Corn Pops" and



Howard

Sugar Smacks have become "Honey Smacks." Doesn't that make you feel healthier? . . . Artist **Robert Nelson** — and his painting of Florida manatees — recently helped raise \$10,000 during a 3-hr. reception for the Save the Manatee group in Florida. . . The **Swing Out Sister** song "Breakout" isn't popular only at the Oahu Community Correctional Center — it's No. 1 on the 92FM top 30. . . Doojay **Michael Qseng** of 93FM took pal **Sam Shenkus**, Ala Moana Center marketing dir., for birthday dinner at Nick's Fishmkt. where co-owner **Randy Shoch** gifted Sam with a goldfish in a Nick's brandy snifter. Sam was so taken with it, she spent a bunch at Petland-AMC □ □ □

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serve both, as a drainage canal and as a major recreational water-sports site. "Ala Wai does need a higher degree of government awareness, plus it has to be cleaned up," he said.

The 60-year-old Ala Wai is controlled by at least five government agencies: The State's Department of Land and Natural Resources has a hand in the Ala Wai's use; the State's Harbor Department cites wayward boaters; the Health Department monitors its pollution; the City's Parks and Recreation controls the shoreside facilities, while the City's Public Works Department, as noted in the past, has used Ala Wai as a sewage dumping ground.

"Discharging sewage should never happen again," said Public Works official Alex Ho, "that (dis-

charge) came a few years back as a result of a severe power outage. It was either discharge the sewage into the canal or have it back up in the nearby hotels and homes. We now have a standby generator ready to be fired up in event of an emergency."

Water sports enthusiast John Clark of Kailua, like Hemmings, is optimistic about Ala Wai's recreational future. "It definitely needs a good cleaning and perhaps even to be dredged," he said. Clark also stated that anyone found dumping debris in its waters should be prosecuted.

Last weekend's paddling sprints, the first major Ala Wai Canal regatta in 40 years, drew 200 participants, plus a seawall lined with spectators. "Perfect waters for Olympic flat water kayak training," coach Billy Whitford said.

Gardner Brown, a long time canoe booster and head of Oahu's Na Opio high school paddling program, says more canoe clubs than ever look to use Ala Wai protected waters. "Our high school paddlers may hold races on the canal this season," he said.

Brown envisions a series of architect-designed canoe clubhouses spaced along the mauka side of Ala Wai, from the McCully Bridge to the Waikiki-Kapahulu Branch Library.

"It wouldn't take much work, just the clearing away of some brush and the construction," he said. Brown's major concerns are the controversies surrounding the proposed Ala Wai Canal bridge and the nearby golf course convention center. "After those issues are settled then we can try to find which government agency is going to clean up the canal," he said.

OCT. 22 1987

HawaiiBeat



By Terry Luke, Star-Bulletin

Walter Guild, at the Outrigger Canoe Club

This guy deserves a breather

When the rush is over, I'm going to have a nervous breakdown. I earned it. I deserve it. And no one is going to take it away from me.

If the above message is not posted somewhere in The Fiberglass Shop, it should be. It epitomizes what the shop's owner — Walter Guild — has been going through.

After training for, and winning, the recent 40.8-mile Molokai Hoe outrigger canoe race with his Outrigger Canoe Club teammates, Guild jumped right in with coordinating last weekend's first Hawaiian Canoe & Kayak Championships. He also built the four three-man outriggers used in the event and did commentating for Channel 9's live, two-hour broadcast.

Thirty-one and single — "How could you be married with my lifestyle?" he laughed — Guild should be ready for a break. But he can't take one.

He and his Ewa Beach workers have an order for 90 canoe-olas for Chris Hemminger's new Westin Kauai Resort. And that's in addition to building the golf carts.

Guild's life in the fast lane has been a commute from Kaimuki to Ewa Beach and back to Outrigger Canoe Club for paddling. "We finally put a phone in the truck," he said.

"It was worse during regatta season. I helped coach our 18 boys crew. They worked out on the Ala Wai at 6:30 in the morning."

On the back burner for now is fine-tuning a new clamp-on rigging for outriggers that could cut the lashing process by 30 minutes.

And then there's next year's World Sprints here. Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association officials were so impressed with Guild's new stiletto canoe that they'd like him to make 20-25 six-man Hawaiian class racers and 20-25 one-man outriggers.

Breakdown time? "Not yet," said Guild, "but I can't wait for the weekend. I love motorcycles and racing them. That has been the carrot at the end of all this."

"And this coming weekend, I get to ride my motorcycle."

Cindy Lutz, Star-Bulletin writer