Novel twist in design contest

By Lee Morinck

Part 1: The Idea

2.70 Introduction to Design Phone: 155-4511
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Introduction to the design process in engineering, assessing the creative approach. The brainstorming and concept generation, visual thinking and graphical communication, design analysis and optimization.

W. C. Flowers, N. H. Cook

"Well, Nate, it's that time of year again, got any ideas?" Associate Professor Woodie Flowers placed his coffee cup precisely in the center of his saucer and peered at his friend.

Professor Nathan Cook, his friend, looked up. "Hmmm," he began, "as a matter of fact...." "What do you think of Woodie, is that a real challenge if you ever saw one?" "It's Woodie's problem, interrogating his fingers, "I think it's an excellent idea, I just hope it's not too difficult for them. This is the most advanced objective we've aimed for in quite a few years of 2.70." "Oh, they can handle it," answered Professor Cook nonchalantly. "It should be very interesting, I can't wait till next fall, I'd like to see what this contest is all about.

Part 2: The Set-up

"One week till the Head of the Charles," I thought to myself, while I stood on the Boston side dock of the MIT boathouse. I adjusted my megaphone and talked to my crew. "Count off from the bow when you're on all eight and propelling our white bullet upriver.

The six stern oars squared perpendicular for a split second then submerged, providing a quick start for the sprint.

By the time we reached Tang Hall we, ready to go, or were we? I looked ahead to plan a clear course, "Row!"

The Harvard coxswains kept racing. A silver, gleaming hydrofoil drove deep into the leading shell's bow. An aluminum claw clamped down on a gunwale of the second shell and broke it off. A pressure-sensitive yolk was struck by an oar and blew up, sending pieces of our oar-blade all over the river. With 65 little machines slumbering every which way on three crew shells the confusion increased rapidly.

A submerged Coke bottle smashed off the rudder of one boat while an "I" beam of similar design dismantled another's.

"I don't believe it," said the bow man. "I don't believe it," said the two man. "I don't believe it," said the three, four, five, six and eight men. "Uh, ah, yah," I said.

The six stern oars squared perpendicular for a split second then submerged, providing a quick start for the sprint.

As the eight rowers counted down I got into the stern seat and placed my hands over the steering handle. "Eight," said the stroke seat rower to me.

"Leonetti's walk with me," I shouted. We pushed out of the dock and slowly drifted away.

"Six to six row, stern six, Ready, All." I looked ahead to plan a clear course, "Row!"

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"I don't believe it," said the bow man. "I don't believe it," said the two man. "I don't believe it," said the three, four, five, six and eight men. "Uh, ah, yah," I said.

A red, white, and blue hydrofoil drove deep into the leading shell's bow. An aluminum claw clamped down on a gunwale of the second shell and broke it off. A pressure-sensitive yolk was struck by an oar and blew up, sending pieces of our oar-blade all over the river. With 65 little machines slumbering every which way on three crew shells the confusion increased rapidly.

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