



Man Overboard

A "sailor" becomes a "man overboard" as the fleet of Connecticut River Raft Race (Courant Photo by Richard Bergen).

Raft Racers Ignore Post-Race Downpour

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wearing a bright yellow Raft Race official T-shirt, "blessed the fleet" at the beginning of the race praising the committee for its "super handling of the race" and warning the racers in mothering tones to be careful of the currents.

Later on the island located opposite the shores of Essex, Mrs. Wallace said, "It's a great thing and I don't think it should be ruined by a small group of people who for some reason don't like it."

"I certainly don't like it and that's no secret," commented Essex First Selectman Richard Riggio, as his car crept through heavy traffic in the community's downtown section Saturday afternoon.

Main Street residents and some merchants earlier voiced strong objections to the race's affect on their property and business and Riggio unsuccessfully attempted to have the race halted.

Riggio made no secret of his delight in the downpour. "It'll cool them off over there," he said pointing in the direction of Nott Island "and maybe send them home early."

But the festivities, which included music by five rock and roll bands, and a seemingly endless supply of beer

and food, appeared in no danger of breaking up just because of the rain.

While raft crews parted, losers' talk centered on how to streamline their unusual crafts so they could capture the winner's flag from "Rubber Lips" next year.

Carr, Ford to Play In Stokes Benefit

MONTICELLO, N.Y. (UPI) — M.L. Carr and Chris Ford, former Detroit Pistons teammates now playing for the Boston Celtics, have agreed to participate in the 21st annual Maurice Stokes All-Pro Benefit Basketball Game on Aug. 14.

Joining the two for the game are Charlie Criss and Armond Hill of the Atlanta Hawks and 1979 first round draft picks Jim Spanarkel of Philadelphia out Duke University, and James Bailey of Seattle, former Rutgers star.

The game will be played at Kutsher's.