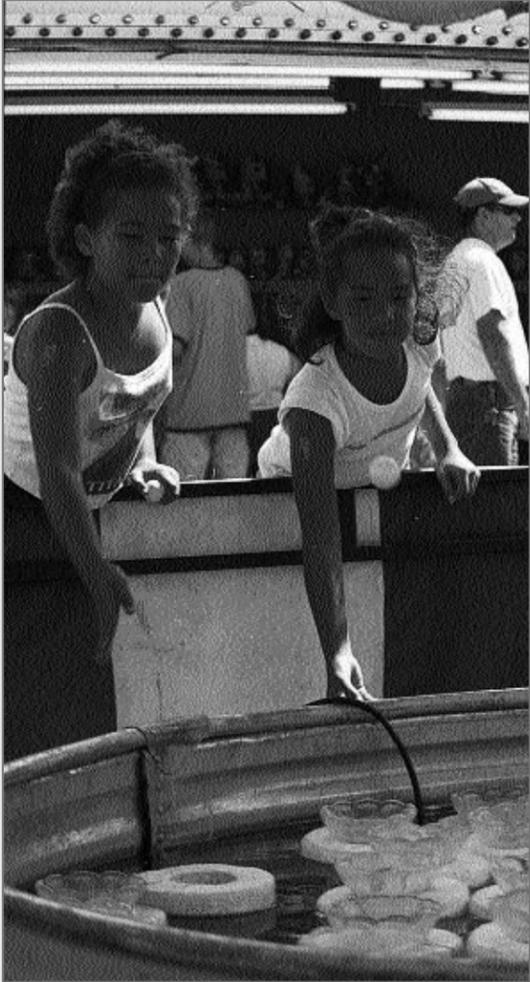


LIBERTY CALL



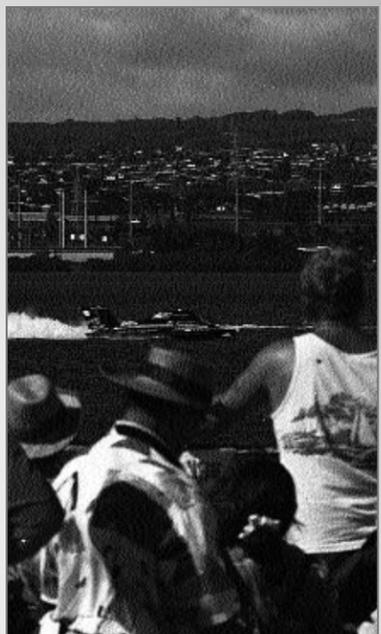
The Miss Budweiser crosses the finish line to win the unlimited hydroplane category at the JN Automotive Hydrofest on Ford Island Sunday. Miss Budweiser averaged over 145mph to win its eighth race of the year.



Team Budweiser douses one another in celebratory champagne after their victory in the unlimited hydroplane category at the JN Automotive Hydrofest. Two girls (left) pitch balls for prizes at the Hydrofest carnival area. The midway carnival included many rides, game booths and attractions for all to enjoy.



Parents and children enjoy the bumper cars during Hydrofest. The Hydrofest weekend proved to be more than a boat race as families came together to enjoy the many different activities and hydroplane racing.



Spectators enjoy one of the many boat races that took place on Ford Island last weekend during Hydrofest '99. Some of the fastest boats in the world competed for the Unlimited Hydroplane Racing Association (UHRA) national title during this Unlimited Hydroplane Thunder Tour.

Photos by
PH2 Chad McNeeley

Hydrofest proves to be more than a race

By JOCS(SW) Phil Eggman
NAVY REGION HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS

You couldn't have asked for a nicer weekend at Pearl Harbor Oct. 9 and 10 when some of the fastest boats in the world competed for the Unlimited Hydroplane Racing Association (UHRA) national title off the coast of historic Ford Island in Hydrofest '99.

Unlimited hydroplanes are the world's fastest boats, capable of speeds up to 200 miles per hour. Hydrofest 1999 at Pearl Harbor was the final stop on the Unlimited Hydroplane Thunder Tour with all racing events held on a 2.5 mile oval racetrack.

Driver Dave Villwock won this year's event. But Hydrofest is more than a race, says organizers.

"It's all about bringing the Navy and the local community together for some exciting fun," said Frank DeSilva, Navy Hawaii's Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) director of marketing.

In addition to the race, Hydrofest offered enter-

tainment, displays and thrills for the whole family, with plenty of food and drink under perfect, rainless skies.

Rear Admiral JohnW. Townes, III, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, emphasized "fun" during his remarks at the Hydrofest opening ceremony.

"It's indeed a pleasure to be at an event that brings our Sailors — and their families — together with thousands of our neighbors from Hawaii's community who are joining us this weekend in a spirit of fun, aloha, ohana and world-class hydroplane racing," Townes said. "Its a great opportunity to meet new friends and enjoy the competition of the world's greatest powerboats and drivers as they bring a little bit of thunder to Pearl Harbor."

"I think this year's Hydrofest was a great success and we are looking forward to putting on next year's event," said DeSilva.

"It will be even better," he added.

This was the 10th annual Hydrofest event held at Ford Island.