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Concrete Canoe Takes On Ohio River

The old stories about concrete overshoes may become a thing of the past because of advancements made in the construction materials industry. Some concrete can float! At least that's what the students from Cincinnati Technical College's civil engineering technology program are hoping.

This Thursday (August 23) at 9:00 a.m. the students will be launching a five hundred pound, seventeen foot concrete cargo canoe at Cincinnati's Public Landing.

The project, according to John E. Hubbard, coordinator of CTC's civil construction program, reflects the advanced state-of-the-art in concrete technology.

The basic concrete is made from a blend of portland cement and fly ash to which steel fibers are added to provide shell resistance against flexure. The gunwales are dressed with a special epoxy impregnated mortar and a super plasticizer is added to provide fluidity for placement.

The canoe also contains two foamed polyurethane flotation tanks sized so that the canoe will float when completely immersed in water.

CTC's plastic technology students provided the construction mold. They built the same canoe from a plastic compound.

The plastics students launched their canoe in the College's swimming pool while the concrete canoe will be christened in the Ohio River and that, according to Hubbard, is the real test.

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