



William J. (Billy) Kenelly, a sophomore in business from Edmonds, spends his free time driving race cars. Although he believes the sport is dangerous, he says he is fully prepared for the consequences.

Student 'car fanatic' gained first national title at age 8

by Sarah Thomas
Evergreen Staff

Before most kids his age had mastered bicycle riding, William J. (Billy) Kenelly was zooming around in racing cars in Seattle's Paine Field Speedway as a member of the Washington Quarter Midget Racing Association.

Kenelly began racing at the age of 4. And what started out as a weekend hobby for him and his father, soon turned into a rewarding car racing career for Billy.

"I'm a car fanatic, I live and breathe it," said Kenelly, a 20-year-old sophomore from Edmonds, who acquired his first national title at age 8.

Kenelly said the quarter midget club was a family oriented group that raced during April through September with other clubs, up and down the west coast.

His family's involvement lead to his continued interest in the sport. And in 1975, Kenelly secured his second national title in the light modified class in Portland, Or.

In 1977 Kenelly graduated to half midget cars, which used a dirt bike-type, 100cc motor. He raced with these cars for three years, and it was then he set a national track record for the one-tenth oval mile.

Kenelly began to train with full midget cars the same year he turned 15. These cars average about 100 mph and use high powered Volkswagen motors.

"I got my first taste of running with the famous Johnny Parson, Stan Fox, Chuck Gurney, when I was 17," Kenelly said.

"You get that taste of winning and you just don't quit," he said.

By 1972 Kenelly was into sprint cars, and named Rookie of the Year by the Northwest Sprint Car Organization.

"Sprint cars are the most aggressive, most demanding cars there are," Kenelly said, noting all the famous drivers started out this way. "They teach you the fundamentals of driving."

Kenelly said he feels there is no better training than sprint car driving. His ultimate goal is racing formula ones someday, he said.

As part of his training, Kenelly avoids alcohol, saying even occasional weekend beer drinking could dull his reflexes and affect his driving.

"A. J. Foyt has always been my idol, and he always will be. He's the best, and he didn't do it just by money," Kenelly said.

Kenelly, who turned professional at 16, has always been sponsored by his father's company, Kenelly Keys Music and Dance. But he is seeking additional spon-

sorship next season because of the high cost of the sport, he said.

"I'm not in it for the money, right now, I'm just soaking up training," He said, adding he has turned down rides (driving for other people) even though drivers receive half of the winnings.

Kenelly has been racing since he was 18 with the World of Outlaws, an unrecognized racing club. He said the most exciting thing about racing with the Outlaws is the fact he can race with the best with the best equipment.

He said the August through September racing season with the Outlaws is the ultimate training ground for sprint car drivers, since there are no safety specifications on the cars, and safety devices can be removed to allow faster racing speeds. Kenelly thinks racing informally is a good way to build his credentials as a driver. He enjoys racing against veterans, and the spectator-packed stands. He is proud of being so capable at 20. "It lets them know the kid is coming up."

Although the sport is extremely dangerous, Kenelly said drivers should not be in it if they are not fully prepared for the consequences.

"People call me very aggressive on the track, I crash a lot, but you have to crash to find out your limits," he said.

Kenelly said he remembered racing between hay bales instead of retaining walls when he first started out. "We would try to see who would come back with the most hay in their tire rims."

Kenelly, whose home track is the Skagit Speedway, has only been hospitalized once with a broken shoulder as the result of an accident.

"Flipping a car once a night isn't unusual," Kenelly said, who once flipped over a retaining wall into the crowd. As a matter of fact, he said he met his girl friend of three and a half years after he came stumbling and coughing away from a wreck and she offered him a Coke.

Kenelly signed his first autograph at 16, and admits fans have called him on the telephone. One of the most rewarding aspects of the sport, Kenelly says, is the admiration he receives from small children. They often draw pictures of him racing or approach him stary-eyed after a race and ask to sit in his car.

Kenelly recalled a time when he was especially stunned by a younger fan. He entered a McDonald's restaurant in Seattle and met a little boy wearing a T-shirt with his picture on it.

Kenelly is majoring in business here. He said he feels an education is important to his future, even though he could make a career of race car driving.

He did not attend college in Seattle because he was afraid he would spend too much time working on his car.

Gay Awareness

Survey's cited cost was unrealistic

by Joe Hudon
Evergreen Staff

When the ASWSU senators voted to appropriate \$500 to handle a telephone survey of undergraduate students to poll their opinion on granting the Gay People's Alliance Committee standing, they were off by a long shot.

Chuck Kenlan (Dist. 1) told senators at their weekly meeting Wednesday that \$500 would pay for the entire package of having the Social Research Center conduct the survey. The quote was based on one dollar per interview.

John Tarnai, assistant director of the Social Research Center, said yesterday that the rock bottom amount to pay for such a survey would be \$1,800. "Our lowest price would be around four dollars per interview for on-campus," Tarnai said.

He said that the cost included a wide variety of things such as wages for the interviewers, computer time, supervisors and the cost to develop non-biased questions.

Randy Rosman (Dist. 7) said that evidently there had been some miscommunication along the line.

He said that somehow the Senate would have to revamp the way they would conduct the survey.

"We could find an ASWSU committee which would volunteer to make the telephone survey, however, the people we get will have to be professional and unbiased," Rosman said.

Steven Bay (Dist. 5) said that in his district there is no need for a survey. "My district is so small (450 persons) that I can go door to door and ask my constituents how they feel. I have a group that are physically active, athletic people or religious, and they don't have any use for gays on campus," Bay said.

Marc Burns (At Large) said that if the Senate was going to pay \$500 for a survey, it might as well give it to the GPA. He also felt that a lot of people would be forced into making an opinion if they were to conduct the survey.

"I think a lot of people are indifferent on the subject," Burns said. He added that some of the senators may be "covering their rear ends" for election time with the use of this survey.

Joe Guerra (At Large) said the survey was a very important part of the decision the senators would make concerning the GPA.

"Student input should not be the basis by which we make our final decision, but it should play a very important role," Guerra said.

Alex MacMath, co-president for the GPA, said he felt it would be an excellent idea for the senators to conduct the survey themselves. He said that with proper supervision the senators could gain a lot of knowledge by participating in the survey itself.

Regents were not wrong in secretly raising salary

The state attorney general has issued an opinion which exonerates the university's Board of Regents from any wrong doing when they secretly raised President Glenn Terrell's salary in an executive session last summer.

Ken Eikenberry, state attorney general ruled Wednesday the state's Open Public Meetings act was "gray" on the issue, but that the law did not prohibit the discussion and subsequent vote on the issue in so called "executive sessions."

Eikenberry's ruling was requested by Sen. Phil Talmadge (D-Seattle) and came in the wake of a statewide uproar at the discovery by an Evergreen reporter that the Board of Regents had granted Terrell a more than \$17,000 raise last July.

But, Sally Savage, the attorney general's representative here and the lawyer for the board, said the opinion still leaves room for clarification by the state legislature.

Savage, who had not seen a final copy of the opinion but, had seen a draft, indicated the opinion depends on similar laws in other states, states where court rulings on the issue have been made.

"The opinion is based on precedent from other states, specifically California and Illinois, which have ruled that discussion of salaries and rulings on them in closed session is legal.

She did indicate though, that the Eikenberry's ruling did indicate the need for legislative clarification on the issue.

Both Savage and regents President R.D. "Dan" Leary said they anticipate the legislature will take action on the issue before the regents have to make any further salary considerations.

"It is something the legislature needs to consider and I think they will do that this session. There is a lot of support for legislation to clear up the law, and I would certainly support it," Leary said.

He indicated that he thought the bill would allow state agencies to deliberate the merits of a salary raise in private session but would require the vote on the issue to be held in public session.

If the legislation is not passed this session, Leary said he would urge the Regents to follow this principle anyway.

"I will always ask that that is what we do, as long as I am involved with the board."

Several press organizations and legislators are expected to push strongly for the legislation in Olympia.