

The Catch

JUGGLING • NEW CIRCUS • STREET THEATRE

ISSUE 7
MARCH-MAY
1994
VOLUME 1
£1.50

TRUST US
TO BE
THERE
FIRST

Pee Wee
Croissant Neuf
Steve Rawlings

THE BRIGHTON JUGGLING STORE



WE STOCK:

HENRY'S
BEARD
SPOTLIGHT
MISTER BABACHE
DUBÉ
GRIFFINE
SEMCYCLES
D.M.
PASHLEY
GRIMAS
RENEGADE
& MUCH MUCH
MORE!!!

FREE CATALOGUE
AVAILABLE

LARGE SHOP TO
TRY PROPS

WHOLESALE
WE
MANUFACTURE
AND DISTRIBUTE
A RANGE OF
JUGGLING
PRODUCTS AT
VERY
COMPETITIVE
RATES.
CALL OUR
WHOLESALE
COMPANY ON
(0273) 626688.

24 Kensington Gardens, Brighton,
East Sussex, BN1 4AL
Tel: (0273) 696068 Fax: (0273) 679388

*For Juggling, Clowning, Circus
& Street Performance Equipment.*



THE BIG TOP
45 KING STREET, GLASGOW G1 5RA
Telephone: 041 552 7763

ZIPPO'S ACADEMY *of Circus Arts*

ZACA puts circus training where
it should be, on the road with the
circus! Offering an intensive six
months' tuition based with
Zippo's Circus, a real non-animal
circus, touring around
Britain.



Send for a
brochure - write to:

Verena Cornwall, Manager
ZACA, 174 Stockbridge Road,
Winchester, Hants, SO22 6RW, UK
Tel: 0962 868092

Catch

Moorledge Farm Cottage Knowle Hill Chew Magna Bristol BS18 8TL

Four's easy really - let's see if we can do six, then... Our big news is that, as of next issue (out at the beginning of June), we'll be going bi-monthly - that is, putting out six magazines a year rather than four, for those of you who thought that was some kind of sexual peculiarity. If you did, you're probably reading this by mistake anyway. Put it down or pay for it!

It's not 'cos we're greedy, honest, or even that I need still more pages on which to exercise my egocentric word-processor, but really it's because the interest and activity in the British juggling world merits it. Don't let anyone tell you different. For example, if our advertisers were short of cash or things to tell you about we wouldn't be able to afford the increased frequency, but the opposite is true. The juggling boom doesn't seem to be over yet, eh? The number of workshops and conventions is multiplying to the point where we need still more space (or a still-smaller type-size!) to fit three months in detail plus the most important of the upcoming events.

Now we're doing it more often (*fiarr fiarr*), you can expect some change in the look of the magazine, our news and events coverage in particular. News seems to be proliferating, and though not all of it is good - but remember that the crises in No Fit State and Ra-Ra Zoo are really down to government funding policies and not indicative of the level of interest in what these important companies do - the positive stuff is very positive indeed. *Circus Space* moving, *FoolTime* reborn as *Circomedia*, new organisations, new projects, new business, opportunities and possibilities; all marks of increased organisation, maturity and ambition. And all only the beginning of what we can all do when we really apply ourselves.

Of course one reason there's more in the mag is that more of you know we're here, so we get to hear about more events, but I'd put it stronger than that - there has to have been a certain amount of *mutual stimulation* [ooer-sorry, couldn't resist that] - people get to know that there's an easy way to reach loads of jugglers, performers and circus people, and that encourages them to think they can get their dream plan out of the *could-be closet* into reality. We started this magazine with that in mind and I don't think we're being OTT to believe we've achieved some measure (a bushel always sounds nice) of success. And me being smug about increased communication doesn't discharge you from your part of the deal, which is to tell us your plans as early as possible in order that as many people as possible get to find out as much as reasonable (or indeed *unreasonable*, nay, gratuitously *salacious*) as soon as possible.

One more thing while I'm on about the structure of the magazine. You might notice that we've included a smidgin of personal detail along with our devil stick skills workshop - well you'll notice unless all the relevant pages have been torn out for use on the bedroom walls of the Donald Grant fan club, or the cat-litter trays of fans of other eminent juggling authors. We'll be following this pattern in future. While the more personal skills articles - like those from Steve Rawlings and PeeWee this issue - always end up telling you a fair bit (at least between the lines) about their authors, we thought you'd be interested in knowing more about the authors of the 'drier' stuff. Though we don't want to start creating or kowtowing to some sort of circus star-system (as practised in other magazines), we don't want to get all cold and impersonal on you either...

What do you think? Do you applaud the performer or the trick? Is the performer you think you know a stage persona or a real person? Can you get the two mixed up? Are you interested in in-depth chats with famous performers? (are there any?) - I hope not, no-one wants to interview Haggis anyway. ...All this and more probably won't be answered in future issues of *The Catch*. Only more often than before.



ISSUE SEVEN ? MARCH - MAY 1994

The *Catch* is published increasingly often from Moorledge Farm Cottage, Knowle Hill, Chew Magna, Bristol BS16 8TL.

Edited by *Diabolo*, *Catch's* Cradle, c/o the above.

Catch Office, Advertising & Trade Sales, Jan & Stuart Ashman, phone & fax 0275 332655.

Cover Photo by Luke Dannielis

World's foremost juggling cartoonists - Robbie Macintosh & Martin F Bedford.

Designed, set, produced, slaved and raved over, full complement of blood sweat and tears, by Howard Vause, 0225 776515.

Printed by Wiltshires, Bedminster, Bristol.

Cover printed by Sebright, Bristol.

The editor is a mean and nasty critter when in a creative frenzy, and is prone to cutting & binning and cruelly twisting innocent information given the slightest excuse. The only way to obviate his wrath is to get all your information and advertising in as soon as you've thought of it, if not before. The midwife gets called in around Mayday (Mayday!) but we go into labour around the middle of April, say the 15th, so conception on your part has to have been consummated by then, in a circumnavigational kinda way of speaking - or you're going to have to be seriously good at the old chatting-up, to put it mildly. A box of choccs isn't good enough, we want *big money*!

All contributions, artwork and photography remain the copyright of, and are in fact entirely the responsibility of the originators. This goes for ads too. In fact we don't take responsibility for any of this. Let alone this bit.

The *Catch* welcomes contributions, especially photography and cartoons. Many of our regular contributors sent us stuff on spec to start with. Ideas for big articles are better discussed with us, preferably in person, before you go ahead. If you want stuff returned you'd better send an SAE and cross your fingers that we don't lose it in the meantime.

This bit down here is about as serious as it gets. Not very. If you don't like something we said we were probably trying to be funny - write and tell us if it wasn't! And if you find yourself taking these essentially frivolous and ephemeral pursuits (that's why we like 'em!) more seriously than that, maybe you should see a doctor! Unless of course you're Sean Gandini. It's our livelihood too, we just believe in smiling a bit while we're about it.

The *Catch* wouldn't exist without Stuart & Jan & Pip. And if it didn't exist, it would be necessary to invent it. We saved you the trouble.

c o n t e n t s

5-7 CATCH THIS

Learn exciting new skills, travel to exotic places, join some important new organisations, support the fabric of society as we know it; all of this without having to change your hairdo, wear a uniform, or shoot people!

9 CATCHPHRASES

The JTF saves the Children, the BJF saves some money.

10-13 THE CLEANEST SHOW ON EARTH

The Greens on your village green. The true tale of Eco-Freakos *Croissant Neuf* by Sally Howell.

15 COMPERE BEYOND COMPARE

PeeWee, highly-regarded (if not just plain *high*) MC in the area, gives an introduction to introduction.

17 WHO IS THE EDIBLE DORMOUSE?

Juggling with computers? Not a dodgy accountancy practise nor as dangerous and expensive as it sounds, insists *Ken Zetie*.

19-20 WHAT'S YOURS?

A jugglers' Personality Test with *Julian Mount*. Do you have one?

21 STICK DEVILRY

Donald Grant thinks sideways. That explains quite a bit, really.

22-25 ARE YOU STREETWISE?

Steve Rawlings is, and here dispenses wisdom to first-timers treading the cobbles. *Robbie* was watching him do it, and drawing.

27 NOW IS THE WINTER OF OUR TENT

A tale of temperature, tolerance and Trad. Circus, from *Pof!* (our correspondent in the wide open field along with the wraggle taggle gipsies o!)

29 BALLS

Yes it's the time all *Catch* correspondents dread - they blagged the books so *now* they've got to write about them.

31-33 FLASH!

The second *Catch* photographic contest. Leica da new jacket? You Nikon? No Hasselblad, I won it.

33 FEEDS

The *Catch* caption contest - or why so many jugglers were giggling strangely over Christmas. They weren't drunk, just trying out their new jokes on each other. Allegedly.

34 PASSED

And there we were wondering why *Toby Philpott* hadn't written to us yet. Looks like he's been in the library all year digging out odd archive material just to amuse you lucky people.

35 THAI TIME

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to go to Thailand. And juggle a bit. *Ken Farquhar* didn't turn it down.

36-37 DROPS

Apologies a-go-go. Plus - *who teaches the teachers?*

37 CATCH OUT

Life is a cabaret when you're a *Catch* reviewer.

38-39 DROP BACK LINES

Bad jokes, bad publicity, bad reviews, bad organisation, bad poetry - all makes for quite a good letters page.

39 MULTIPLEX

Catch small ads. Not many people advertising their smalls this time.

40-41 CLUBS

Workshops in Worksop? Unis in Unish? Passing in Passenham? Er... not, actually, though we do have *quite a few* others.

43 BUSKER - YOU'RE FIRED!

Yes, but what's the dog called? He's *my* favourite. Cartoon by *Robbie*.

THE UGLY JUGGLING COMPANY

Juggling Circus,
Theatrical Supplies & Books

Visit our shop or use our
fast mail order service.
Free catalogue.

73 WESTGATE ROAD
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
NE1 1SG
ENGLAND
Tel/Fax (091) 232 0297



Tel: (0273) 626688
Fax: (0273) 696068

**DON'T PAY MORE
FOR A
STARTER CLUB!**

The Flourish Club

from 

from **£4.95** each



Our new One Piece club is ideal for jugglers who want to begin club juggling without spending a fortune. They're well balanced and available in a wide range of coloured bodies and decorations.
Available from most juggling shops. Trade enquiries welcome.

convention *Diary*

Feb.27-3rd Liverpool Circus Convention Toxteth Sports Centre, Upper Hill St. L8, (nr. Anglican Cathedral, the big red one!). 10-9, £4. Games, workshops, veggie food, evening show, bar, uni hall, no dogs but giraffes welcome. Info Jo (051) 727 1074, Dom (051) 735 0908.

Mar.2-8 Tasmania Circus Festival. Launceston (?) TAS - contact Tony Rooke, Tasmania Circus Festival, Lone Star Road, Golconda, TAS 7254, tel. (003) 956149.

Mar.4-6 A Foolish Weekend Hazelwood House, Loddiswell, nr. Kingsbridge, South Devon TQ7 4EB. (0548) 821620. ...with the 20-strong *Festival of Fools*, which includes many known circus/performance talents performing extracts from their unique rendition of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* plus other Fools' Gold. Also Circus Skills workshop with flash git Dave Pickens and Tony Stapleton, juggling through movement - dates TBC in March. A lovely place to be, too!

Mar.14-26 Voices Off Festival of Mime, Dance & Physical Theatre, Trinity Theatre & Arts Centre, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells. Includes Peta Lily clowning & physical theatre workshop, Trestle Theatre mask & mime w/s.

Mar.18-20 Clowns' Convention Regis Centre, Bognor Regis. Info. from (0243) 865915.

Mar.25-27 New Zealand Juggling Convention. Hagley College, Christchurch, NZ. \$60. Info on (03) 365 2686 or Chris via Email phill@newmedia.equinox.gen.nz. There will be one big party, Haggis McLeod (who he?), Tim Furst (Flying Karamazov Brothers), Richie Rich and others will be in the area around that time and giving workshops ...and so *that's* what happened to Nick Nickolas! There's also an international busking competition and street performance events in Wellington in Feb./Mar., and even a World Buskers Festival in Christchurch Jan.29-Feb.5. Don't say we don't keep you informed!

Mar.28- Hay-on-Wye Circus Convention and Kids Circus Convention have been cancelled but hope to return next year.

Apr.2 Circus Practitioners Get-Together 10am-late

Apr.2-3 Weekend Conference on Circus for traditional and contemporary circus producers, directors, choreographers, performers, agents and other interested parties *[does that include journalists? -d]*. Hosted by *Ra-Ra Zoo* at Wylsine Grange, Bourn, Cambridgeshire, CB3 7TX. Watch out for Dave Spathaky's attempt on the world plate-spinning record, too!

Apr.8-23 Children's Society April Fun. See *Catchphrases* for details so far.

May 1 London Unicycle Grand Prix Info from *Albert & Friends* 081 741 5471.

May 7 1st Birmingham Circus Convention Ladywood Arts & Leisure Centre (British Convention campsite) Freeth St., Birmingham. £4 before Apr.22, £6 on the day. Cheque payable to Birmingham Circus Convention c/o Kevin Rowe, 52 Gleave Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6JR. Tel. (021) 414 0094.

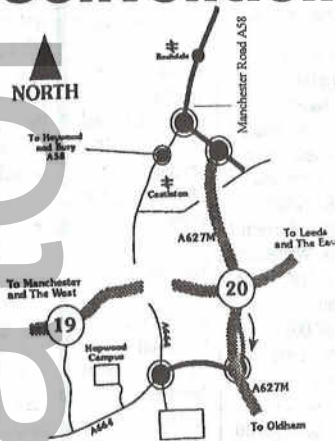
7th British Juggling Convention

Apr.14-17 Hopwood Hall, Manchester

Note that the date has been changed from that listed last issue. 7 miles out of the city in the midst of green & pleasant parkland, 2 miles off the M62, 10 min. by bus from BR Castleton, 15 min. by bus from Central Manchester (destination Middleton).

All you'd expect and more, all on one site (hooray hooray!) apart from aerial at *Skylight Circus* 10 min. away (places limited, book now) and parade & games in the city centre - Saturday, transport provided, dress up (there may be a prize for the most tasteless!), teach some juggling in the morning and perhaps we can go for the 3-ball record - games are at Castlefield Arena. Camping, some 'indoor camping', rooms (£9) and parkup, good cheap veggie/vegan/omnivore nosh, kids facilities up to age 15 & crèche for under-5s, stalls in a prototype of Liverpool Cathedral (!), blatant *Catch* rumour-mongering etc. etc. Workshops are likely to involve the controversial Neil Stammer, Alex Laredo, the 'western' skills man, clown make-up with Arthur Pedlar and perhaps Gerda Saxer (remember Banyoles?). Lee Hayes is reputed to have a protégée who spins balls on unusual parts of her anatomy but frankly we think someone's having us on.

Prices from £18 the weekend in advance (under 16s £9), there's a form enclosed with this issue, whaddya mean you made an aeroplane with it? Financial situation (all that stuff about Leeds you didn't bother to read) means the best thing you could possibly do is *book now* and of course volunteer to steward/workshop/perform/look after the money. If you've lost the form already - you really are on the ball, eh? - grovel to Annual Juggling Convention Ltd., c/o 27 Ashwood Ave., West Didsbury, Manchester, M20 8TB; if you have any daft questions or smart answers ring 061 834 8483 24hrs. You'll also have the opportunity to (re-)join the BJF for an extra £1, see *Catchphrases*. The event is being organised by *North West Circus Network* in association with Manchester *City of Drama*.



time to note for now that it's running twice as long because it coincides with the English leg of the *Le Tour [- de France? these international relations are getting tricky -d]* cycle race, to be marked by much unicycle nonsense and a ridiculous amount of street performance. Info & bookings on tel. (0962) 855334, fax (0962) 849337.

Jul.23-24 Jugglefest III Park Recreation Centre, Horsham, Sussex. *Absolute Balls* 0306 628262

Jul.29-Aug.5 Sidmouth Festival of Folk Arts loads of performers, especially for the kids. But who'd watch a clown when Rory McLeod's on? (0296) 393293.

Aug.2-7 17th European Juggling Convention Hagen, Germany. Somewhere around Dortmund, Deutschland, somewhere between Denmark & Switzerland. A month earlier than usual, let's see if that makes a difference... Two juggling halls, 24-hour access, close-by campsite & rooms (there may be some problem with vans), circus tops, football stadium for the games, swimming pool for skiving, parade, space for big shows, public show(s), parade and thousands of jolly jugglers. Due to the collapse of the European Juggling Economy they'd love you for ever if you register in advance - up till June 30 it'll be 65DM. Their account is called *European Juggling Association - Deutschland*, or *EJA-D*, it's at the *Sparkasse Hagen* (branch 450.500.01), ac. no. 100.117.031. It's easier than it sounds to pay this way - but you've got to write to them and tell them you've done it too. If you've got any workable silly ideas about how to make the convention go better, or if you'd like to volunteer to help, they'd like that a lot - write to *Kultur- und Werbeamt der Stadt Hagen*, c/o Achim Scharlt, Frankfurter Str. 89, Postfach 4249, 58042, or fax on (010 49 from UK) (0 from Germany) 2331 2072400.

Sep.17-25 6th Bristol Juggling and Circus Skills Convention.

May 12-15 8th French Juggling Convention run by *Le Joyeux Nez Rouge* (aaah) 6 Rue Principale, 72110 St. Celerin, France. Tel. (33) 43 29 19 18, fax (33) 43 29 57 63. They were calling this the European Convention but we thought the Germans might object. Ooer.

May 30 Ball Space Convention Bognor Regis Centre (10am-6ish) Workshops, games, indoor and outdoor juggling space incorporating Busker's Carnival with £1,000 prize money. Contact Ian on fax/tel 0243 530110

May 30 Bath Kite Festival More of a serious kites' event than in previous years! Info Andrew 'Ollie' Cromwell, 0860 505033.

Jun.3-5 Bedlam Fair, Bath Street Performance and Circus Convention, not a juggling convention as such but there's bound to be a little going on somewhere... Busking workshops and some of the more arcane circus and performance arts, cabarets, *No Fit State Circus*, *Festival of Fools*, street bands & wandering acts, extra busking spaces, European Acts, Unihockey, Games, camping etc., part of Bath's Fringe Festival so there's *lots* else going on in the city. Price unconfirmed. Ticket Enquiries from April to *Boggle*, 9 Broad Street Bath BA1 5LJ tel (0225) 446685, acts to:

Bath Fringe c/o 103 Walcot Street, Bath BA1 5BW (0225) 427441.

Jun.11-12 Margan Park Kite Festival nr. Port Talbot, South Wales. 600 acre park, does anyone fancy co-ordinating a juggling get-together to go with this very relaxing kite bash? Proceeds to *Save The Children* (see *Catchphrases*), camping £1.50 pd. Details: Steve Gibson, Way on High Kite Workshop (0432) 359999/264206.

Jun.18-19 Hereford Kite & Juggling Festival Dates TBC. Including local jugglers & Youth Circus, same time as Hereford city festival. Details: Steve Gibson, Way on High Kite Workshop (0432) 359999/264206.

Jun.24-26 Glastonbury Festival. Huge circus field and a few jugglers around the place.

Jul.2-3 Wessex Juggling Convention Frome Sports Centre, Somerset.

Jul.2-3 Shrewsbury Juggling Convention a double-header with the town's Kite festival.

Jul.7-10 Hal Fair Winchester. The major fixture on the street performance calendar, the best place to see the best in the country - full hysterical historical article next issue, just

t o u r s

chinese state circus

a new show, a new tour, starts May 12 at Brighton Festival.

gandini juggling project

with the much-discussed 'Neither both and' - (0946) 692422

Feb.26 Rosehill Theatre, Whitehaven

Mar.1 The Place, London.

071 387 0031

8 The Leadmill, Sheffield

(0742) 754500

14-19 Springboard, Nottingham

25 Dalbeattie High School

Apr. Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal, TBC

May 1-2 Oakengates Theatre, Telford (0952) 619020

6-8 Barcelona TBC.

14 Square Chapel Arts Centre, Halifax (0422) 349422

18-22 Moujins, France

25 Quay at Sudbury TBC>

for up-to-date dates ring (0223) 460075

Andrew van Buren & Kim

cabaret style, the works, but superb with it...

on the *Danny La Rue* Show tour!

Feb.22-23 Wallaw Cinema, Blyth, Northumberland.

24 Davenport Theatre, Stockport

25 Municipal hall Colne, Burnley.

26 City hall Salisbury

27 Hippodrome Birmingham

28 Grand Theatre Swansea

Mar.2 Guildhall Southampton

3-5 Kings Theatre, Southsea

Theatre Cannock

11 Bletchley Leisure Centre

12 Lewisham Theatre

13-14 Queens Theatre

Hornchurch Essex

16 City Hall Sheffield.

18 Assembly Hall Derby

19 Leisure centre Welshpool

20 Floral Hall Southport

21-23 Gaiety Theatre Ayr

25 Leas Cliff Hall Folkestone

26 Festival Hall Corby

27 Ashcroft Theatre Croydon

28 Orchard Theatre Dartford

29 Empire Theatre Wisbech.

30-31 New Theatre Hull

Apr. 1 Pavilion Theatre Weymouth

2 Pavilion Theatre Worthing

3 De La Warr Pavilion Bexhill

4-6 Civic Theatre Rotherham

7 Arcadia Theatre Llandudno

8 Gatehouse Theatre Stafford

9 Civic Theatre Guildford

10 The Hawth Crawley.

11 Playhouse, Epsom.

Steve Rawlings

keeps off the street at Jongleurs

Camden: Mar 4-5.

Apr.16, May 6-7

Jongleurs Battersea: Mar.18-19, Apr.8-9, 22-23

Mar.12 Twilight Club Sydenham

13 Greyhound Sydenham

25 The Globe, Fulham

Apr.4 Joe Bananas, Croydon

May 12 Crocodile Club, Brighton.

new organisations

National Association of Street Performers

A national register of street performers sent out to bookers, shopping centres, town councils, etc. (NB. not an agency!), a newsletter with current street affairs, historical articles [sounds familiar - d] and tips on pitches nationwide, and an organisation promoting street entertainment and campaigning for the reform of the obstruction laws [now that would be useful - d]. Founder *Shaky Jake's One Man Band* got nicked for obstruction one time too many, unfortunately failed to beat the local Tory MP last election, and has now hit on this as a means to change the law through financing the defence of key cases. Other NASE officials include the Town Criers of London and Lambeth, Don Partridge (the only one-man-band to ever get a hit single), Professor Des Turner (Punch & Judy man), Grinnigogs, Stuart Fell aka. Taro the Jester, Professor Crump, and The Amazing Magnus the strongman. It costs a tenner to join and hundreds already have; for more info and a form write to J. Arno, 221 Webb Rise, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG1 5QQ. (0438) 364427.

Fairs and Festivals Federation

Unites the alternative side of the outdoor events scene, organisers, traders, performers, welfare services. By the looks of their first meeting the FFF is admirably well-organised and includes most of the key figures. They're working hard on information and member education with particular reference to recent changes in Health & Safety regulations and licensing requirements; other priority topics are relations with the Police and possible future changes in the law relating to outdoor events, with reference also to the problems of undesirable elements, be they dodgy traders, non-paying customers, highly-organised pirate party operators, or just too many people at a small local-scale event. If you're involved in outdoor event organisation, run a sideshow or tent, or regularly trade or perform at anything of the sort, membership could be more than useful. More details from 27 Kells Meend, Berryhill, near Coleford, Gloucestershire, GL16 7AD. Tel. 0594 810091.

National Association of Youth Circus

A conference was held in Leeds in December, convened by Steve Ward of *Circus Zanni*, to share ideas and issues among a group of organisations including *Kent Circus School*, *Rother/Rye Community Circus*, *Hastings Circus School*, *Jackson's Lane Community Circus*, *Belfast Community Circus*, *Circus Eruption*, *Skylight*, *Albert's Instant Circus*, *Circus Space*, and *Zippo's Academy of Circus Arts*. Vincent Wauters came from the *Circus School* in Brussels to tell everyone how much better things are over there, and bring news of the formation of a *European Federation of Circus Schools*. Issues of information, training, standards, regulation and accreditation naturally came up in the meeting - if you're involved in the field those will sound important and exciting - if not, they won't! That's a good guide to whether this new association could be for you - if you feel the name of your organisation fits in the same breath as the above and that you could benefit from the association, write to Steve Ward, 1 Moorgate Rise, Kippax, Leeds LS25 7RG, with details.

g i g guide

Mar. 12-13, 18-20.

Patchwork Circus

Community Show

Cambridge Drama Centre, Covent Garden, Cambridge

CB1 2HR (0223) 322748. 2.30, 7.30, £4.50/£3.50.

6 different acts, still dance, trapeze, UV, etc.

Could be good.

May 31-Jun.2 **Circus & Dance Community Project**

Performance Skyline

Circus & friends. Gracie Fields Theatre and Broadwater Centre, Rochdale.

cabaret

circus space

United House, North Road, London N7 9DP

071 700 0868

8.30-10.30, £6/5, five or six acts a session including:-

Feb.26 2 acts from Berlin's *Circus Gosh*, the unpredictable Chris Lynam, Charmian Hughes.

Mar.12 The superb Paul Morocco and the unlikely Chris Cresswell

Mar.26 End-of-course students doing their darndest, Pete Lawless

White doing what comes unnaturally. Apr.2 Steve Best, raccoon molester.

hullabaloo

Haddon Hall Pub (music room), Bankfield Road, Burley, Leeds 4.

(0532) 789437/775115.

8 for 9, £3.50/2.50, 3 or 4 acts including:

Mar.5 Old Rope String Band, Martin Bigpig

Mar.18 Rachel Henson & Marion Kenny ...luvly.

Apr.2 Circus Unlimited, stickleback plasticus (watch out!)

cosmos

York Arts Centre, Micklegate.

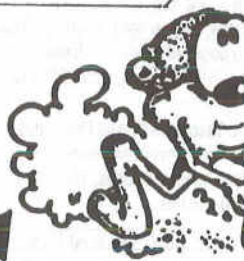
Details (0904) 430472, box office (0904) 627129.

8pm, £6/5. Selection of top performers, and you know you can rely on them for a state-of-the-art UV show to round off the evening.

May 14, Jun.18, Jul.16, Aug.13.

THE BOGGLE JUGGLING SHOP

9, BROAD ST. BATH, BA1 5LJ



THE BOGGLE MAN HOT FOOTING IT TO BUY HIS JUGGLING BARGAINS

Boat loads of circus equipment from the sublime to the ridiculous.

Huge newly painted practice room to try it all out.

Book the Legendary Boggle Brothers for every occasion.

Face painting advise & instruction.

Ludicrously cheap Unicycles.

Special workshop packages of equipment at great prices.

Brand new winter catalogue plus ultra efficient mail order service.

Call Fay or Jenny on

0225 446685

courses

Circus Space

United House, North Road, London N7 9DP, tel. 071 700 0868, fax 071 700 2094

Trapeze (swinging, static, flying, doubles), cloudswing, *corde lisse*, tumbling, acro-balance, trampoline, ballet, tightwire, unicycling, and, yes, juggling... Kids courses too. Ring 'em, there's too many! But try these specials - Feb.27 (& Mar.27) Knife Throwing, Whip Cracking and Lasso with *Buffalo Billy Wild* (!). £35.

Mar.5-6 Club swinging for beginners £20.

Mar.7-18 Clown Intensive with *Commotion*. 4 hours an afternoon, weekdays. £175. Playfulness for performers of all persuasions, justifiably popular with the pros.

Mar.13 Three ball juggling convention. £5. No need to book in advance.

19 Mar.19 Introduction to Circus Skills. Plenty of them! £20.

Sep.26-Dec.16 Three Month Foundation Course in Physical Circus Skills. Core hours 10am-12.30pm. £600 or thereabouts. Developing strength stamina, technique, performance - Circus Skills not necessary but be prepared for hard physical training!

Skylight

Broadwater Centre, Smith Street, Rochdale OL16 1HE. Tel. (0706) 50676

Apr.19-Jun.2 Circus Theatre - includes Aerial, Character, Skills, Performance and Tai Chi.

International Summer School - Jun.3-7 The Right Size - Mime, Directing, Slapstick.

10 Traditional Clown - Arthur Pedlar

11 Pyrotechnics

17-19 Trapeze, Marin Magne

20-26 How to be a Stupid - advanced performance with the brilliant Angela de Castro

26 Trick Wire

...and more TBC.

Midland Arts Centre, Birmingham

Cannon Hill Park, Edgbaston, 021 440 3838

Mar.6 Intermediate & advanced DevilStick with Vince Miles

Mar.27 Intermediate & advanced Diabolo with Brendan Broily

Both 11-4, £8.50.

QE theatre

Jacob's Wells Road, Bristol

BS8 1JX. Info. (0225) 834333

Mar.20 'Improvisation for Life' - Paul Z. Jackson, BBC comedy producer and founder of 'Whose line is it anyway'-style impro groups. £30.

Ra-Ra Zoo Courses

Wysing Grange, Born, Cambridgeshire, CB3 7TX. Tel. (0954) 719999, fax (0954) 719009

Mar.28-Apr.1 Introduction to teaching Circus Skills at any level for teachers, youth workers, performers wishing to teach, etc.

Mar.28-Apr.1 (runs concurrently) performing Circus Skills development.

Teaching from many years' experience! Both 10-6 each day. Followed by:

Apr.2-3 Weekend Conference on Circus for traditional and contemporary circus producers, directors, choreographers, performers, agents, etc.

Cosmos Residential Workshops

With Jim Semlyen & Anna Jillings - among British best at fire & UV juggling, club swinging, pole-spinning. Nice places, nice food, pretty nice prices with concessions available.

Apr.29 - May 2, Swindon, Lower Shaw Farm (0793) 771080

May 6-9, Laurieston Hall, Castle Douglas, Galloway, Scotland. (0904) 430472.

Jul.29-31, Monkton Wyld Court, Bridport, Dorset (0297) 60342

...and more on into the autumn.

Gandini Juggling Project Workshops

...explore what everyone's still talking about.

Feb.27 Whitehaven

Mar.14-18 Springboard, Nottingham.

May 1-2 Oakengates Theatre, Telford (0952) 619020

13 Square Chapel Arts Centre, Halifax (0422) 349422

? Pegasus Theatre, Oxford 25 Quay at Sudbury. I.I.I. call 0223 460075

KIDS COURSES

Albert & Friends Hammersmith, London. Info. on 081 741 5471

Mar.28-Apr.1, Apr.5-8 Easter Cavalcade. Music Magic & Mayhem, clowning around May30-Jun.3 Maypoles & Morris.

5-10 yrs., 10.30-4 every day, £55.

school reports

Circmedia

...Is the new Academy of Circus Arts and Physical Theatre to rise from the demise of Fool Time - still with the use of those great buildings! They have put together a brochure for next year's one year course (now available and already attracting applications for audition), and have assembled a good number of patrons and management board from New and Trad. Circus and Theatre. Tutors include Helen Crocker, Bim Mason and Haggis McLeod, special topics over and above the staples of circus and physical theatre include cabaret, dance and movement, storytelling, direct audience contact, injury protection & first aid, Lecoq, Gaullier, mask-work... and the list goes on. More details from 41 Balmoral Road, Bristol BS7 9AX. (0272) 243277. And welcome back.

Zippo's Academy of Circus Arts

Six apprentices spend six months touring with the main Zippo show and a smaller group - listening to lectures; working on their skills and performances, individual and group work, with visiting artists, New and Trad., as well as the Zippo's regulars; taking part in every aspect of Circus operation from rigging the tent to stealing the show. At the end you get the *RSA Diploma in Variety Entertaining* and a showcase in front of potential employers from all fields. It's a hard life, as any of the survivors will tell you (even with fully equipped modern rigs, life on the road is never exactly comfortable) but a learning experience no-one could underestimate - and the results are clearly to be seen in the graduates currently in the main Zippo's show.

This year's course hits the road at the beginning of May (Induction course April), and auditions are taking place throughout the country right now!

Contact Verena Cornwall, Manager, ZACA, 174 Stockbridge Road, Winchester, Hampshire, England SO23 7DA Tel. (0962) 868092, fax (0962) 868097.

More Circus Space

And the good news keeps coming! *Circus Space* have finalised details of their move, scheduled for June, to immense new premises at the former Shoreditch Power Station - Coronet Street, Hackney, London N1. With money from the *Dalston City Challenge* and *The Foundation for Sport and the Arts*, they're fitting the place out as a fitting home for their ever-growing range of courses and more (over 90 hours a week!). Membership still costs a paltry £36 a year. See below for course details.

NEWS...NEWS...

no fit state in a state

NFSC, Britain's only tented touring Circus Theatre company, have not been given a grant by the Welsh Arts Council this year and find themselves plunged into a £10,000 deficit which sure puts my overdraft into perspective. If they can't raise the dosh before rehearsal season starts in earnest it could mean the closure of the company, which (nobody would dispute) would hardly be a step forward for the art-form in this country.

They're re-launching their crisis bonds scam, no, sorry, *scheme*, which works as follows - you send 'em a tenner and they send you ten lucky numbers which get entered into a draw at the annual bond-holders bash (a fairly wild event by all accounts) in October, to which of course you get invited. The draw prizes add up to 10% of the Crisis Bonds fund, currently standing at £5000, so you could win £500. If your Lloyds syndicate collapses in the meantime, you can cash the bonds in between Oct. 1st & Nov. 31st any year. If course the number of karmic Brownie points accrued by being involved in this scheme far outweighs the ever-declining value of the pound in your pocket.

Go on! I've fallen for it already so I don't see why you shouldn't. Send your sacks of sterling to Ali Williams at 166 Habersham Street, Splott, Cardiff, South Glamorgan, CF2 2LE. For more info phone (0222) 488734.

No Ra-Ra

Also stuck in the economic jungle without the bus fare home are *Circus Theatre* pioneers *Ra-Ra Zoo*. The Arts Council have rejected one grant application and postponed a decision on the second, which makes nonsense of their projected touring and development plans. RRZ are never less than stimulating, and have long been the source of some of the most exciting,

entertaining and experimental pieces ever undertaken without a safety net. We'd all miss them if they went under. Donations of whatever denomination and/or letters of support to them at their **new base** - Wysing Grange, Fox Road, Bourn, Cambridgeshire CB3 7TX. Tel. (0954) 719999, fax 719009.

Inter Act

Pan-European interactive multi-media performance project (it says 'ere) on the theme of *PLAY*. To tour in summer/autumn 1994 (each participant to find a venue in their own area); initial meeting (travel expenses available) May 1994. Any physical performance persons (which includes you lot) plus visual artists, musicians, sound/light artists, should send your ideas for the project, plus CV, portfolio, etc., to *The Camembert Collective*, 7 Cecil Street, Lenton, Nottingham. NG7 4DU. Sounds like a nice subsidised cherry to me.

Theatre-Go-Round Croatia tour 1994

Circus-based voluntary theatre project touring refugee camps in Croatia, doing shows and workshops, requires volunteers with skills including juggling, acrobatics, drama, clowning, music, preferably along with some experience of vehicle mechanics (*sounds ominous*) or working with kids. Goes without saying that a sense of commitment, enthusiasm and adventure would come in handy too. Anyone over 18 who feels they might like to be involved is invited to write to Tim Wooliscroft, 72 Pendennis Street, Anfield, Liverpool, L6 5AQ or ring 051 263 6025 for more details. Unsurprisingly they're also after donations of money, equipment, props and whatever - cheques should be made payable to *The Serious Road Trip*, their charity number is 1021945. Piles of the *Catch* might not be too useful I suppose. More on these next issue.

Festival of Fools

...are looking for the loan of tents of all shapes and sizes to help their ambitious twenty-strong performance / street theatre / workshop project get round the country between mid-May and mid-August. Anyone not using their canvas during this period gains twenty new friends and a pair of tickets to their unique rendition of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at a venue of their choice. Tents will be collected by Parceline courtesy of *Butterfingers* so it don't even cost ya nay money. Contact *The Catch* office if this appeals.

Earth Circ '95

Swamp Circus and chums are taking a circus comedy show about tree-planting round Africa, specifically ten sites on the rim of the Sahara, in 1995. Everywhere they go they will be creating a new desert fruit tree plantation and setting up environmental programmes. Show Director Brett Jackson has experience in communicating across language and culture barriers and was trained as an Environmental Biologist. More details next issue - for the moment they're looking for help from Environmental Groups in both Europe and Africa and some advice or assistance regarding funding and film-making. Contact *Earth Circ* c/o 66 Garden Street, Sheffield, S1 4BJ, (0742) 731398.

Llandudno Victorian Extravaganza & Transport Festival

...want some street entertainers (fee and busking) for their festival weekend - Apr.30-May 2. Send details to *Llandudno Heritage Entertainment* co-ordinator, 30 Oxford House, Oxford Road, Llandudno, LL30 1DH, tel. 0492 871393.

Business News

Beard of Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire and *Absolute Balls* of Warrnam, West Sussex, have thrown their hats into the wholesaling ring and their rings across the sea, specifically to promote British-made products throughout Europe. Manufacturers in Britain or retailers in Europe and the rest of the world interested in this should contact *Absolute Balls* on Tel./Fax +44 (0)306 628262 or *Beard* on Tel. +44 (0)422 843672, fax +44 (0)422 845191.

PARROT FASHION
 Performance clothes from L&T DAZE Tel: +44 (0)422 844849 Fax: +44 (0)422 845949



JUGGLING
 EMPORIUM

MAGIC TRICKS
BOOKS
NOVELTIES
STILTS
JUGGLING KITS
UNICYCLES

FREE Juggling lessons, 6 yrs to 106

The Arcade, Market St. Colne, Lancs.
(0282) 860735 (opp. Whittakers ironmongers)

MUSHYPEA
JUGGLING CO.
MANCHESTER'S JUGGLING SHOP

now distributing
ACRYLIC BALLS

23 BROWN STREET (OFF MARKET STREET)
 MANCHESTER M2 1DA TELEPHONE: 061 834 6195

Helping others to help ourselves?

Big news - the Juggling Trade Federation have chosen The Children's Society as their charity to support this year. This is more important than it perhaps sounds, because in turn the Children's Society have chosen juggling as the theme for their mega country-wide April Fun campaign. This will be a major national event, not only great fun to join in with, but also indirectly a great advertisement for juggling as an activity and everyone in it - all the way down to local workshops and, um, shopping shops.

There's a grand opening event in Covent Garden on April 8th including the *Jester of the Year* contest, which was won last year out of an enormous field of - ahem - five contenders by our old pal Taro, aka. Stuart Fell. He'd be embarrassed if he won it again, so some more of you'd better enter this time. There will also be attempts at various juggling world records. The launch event runs from 12-2pm and includes well-known jugglers (?) Bill Oddie, Jo Brand and Sandi Toksvig.

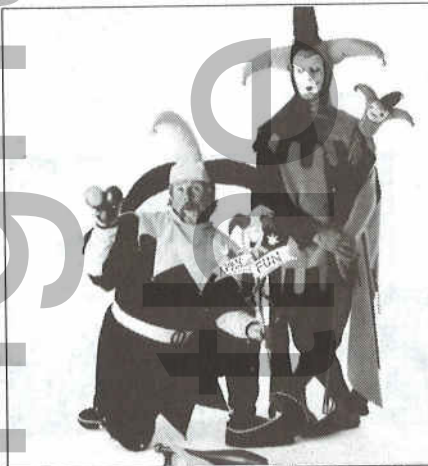
Then from April 9-23, the whole of the country will be urged to catch 'The Juggle Bug'. Events suggested include charity learn to juggle sessions for the uninitiated, sponsored jugglethons for the already (or newly-) skilled, and general sponsored collective silliness. Individuals and workshops should be prepared to be approached by local event organisers - or pre-empt that by approaching them or organising your own event! Ideas and April Fun Jester Packs are available from The Children's Society at Freepost WC1X 0BR, retailers can get more information from the JTF c/o Sally Bateman, Minford, New House Lane, Salfords, Surrey, RH1 5RA.

The Children's Society, as if you didn't know, spends £21 million a year throughout the country, helping children, on their own or in their families, living on the streets or in deprived estates, the disabled, those with special needs and victims of abuse, young offenders and drug users, even those caught up in distressing legal proceedings over custody, etc.

The JTF will be featuring the Children's Society on their mammoth 30,000 juggling poster campaign, and JTF manufacturing members will be donating equipment to projects and to fund-raising appeal events, and organising free workshops for the charity's projects. JTF shops will all be carrying a Children's Society collecting box and maybe even the April Fun juggle kits and jester hats. Everyone will be going loopy thinking of publicity and fund-raising events we can all enjoy and involve as many members of the public in the fun as we can.

So far we've only been informed about a few of the events and only those planned for the SouthWest, but by the time you read this many more will have been put into action. Your local JTF retailer will have been informed about events in your area later in March. So, just for a start:-

Apr. 9 **Juggling Extravaganza** 10-4, Beechwood Place Shopping Centre, Cheltenham.



Well known juggler (?) Bill Oddie and friend

Apr. 9 **Juggle Fun Day** 9.30-4.15, The Galleries, Broadmead, Bristol. Workshops, displays, Jugglethon.

Apr. 16 **Juggle Fun Event** 9.30-4, Green Lane Shopping Centre, Barnstaple.

Apr. 23 **Sponsored Jugglethon** 10-4, Brunel Plaza Shopping Centre, Swindon.

BJF & EJA count the cost

The BJF have met to discuss what happens after the Leeds disaster (see last issue). Well, we'd all like to know where we go next (figuratively speaking). The Feb. 22 meeting in Newcastle decided to let the British Convention money go to supplement the European Juggling Association's funds, to pay off some of the loss of the Leeds Euro Convention saga. It was written off as a learning process and a lesson about communication between convention organisers in the UK.

The fact that the Manchester British Convention has the disadvantage of having no money to work with doesn't seem to bother them, but they do need your money (pre-registration) and support as the British Convention is a non-profit event with any surplus going to help set up the fun in '95. It's time to start again and re-invent the ring, which may not be a bad thing.

You will have the chance to join the BJF or renew your membership at the Manchester Convention. The BJF need members for their charitable status, and your money will help safeguard the future of British Juggling Conventions for the next three years and beyond. The Manchester Convention organisers were not aware that £1 of the British Convention ticket price has usually been used in this way, had not budgeted for it, and thus could not guarantee the money. So it has to be extra!

If you have any strong opinions about the actions and decisions taken by others on your behalf then you can tell us; better still attend the relevant business meetings or be more active in the way things are run.

The BJF's AGM is being held on Saturday 16th April at 6.30 in Hopwood Hall, Manchester. Perhaps you should be there. Perhaps we all should.

The Catch Committee.

catch this unicycle

Just when you were getting the hang of the British Unicycle Hockey Tournament League, it's gone and changed - from June it is to be split into as many regional leagues as there are teams for (at least ten per league) - a good move for both time and travel expenses. The top two teams from each league go through to the national championships held each British Unicycle Convention. Will any teams anywhere who haven't been in communion with the Rev. Jellyhead, and, for that matter, anyone foolhardy [ahem! I mean dedicated] enough to do the admin. to run a regional league, get onto the aforementioned gent (without falling straight off again) at 6b Milner Square London N1 1TL, 071-700-6529.

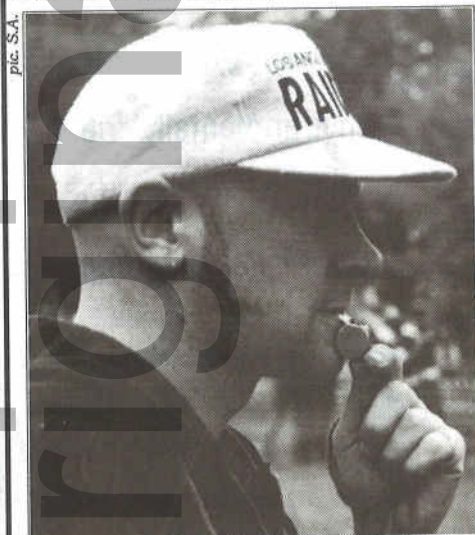
Tournament scoring rules have been defined as follows - 1 point to each team entering a tournament, 1 point per win, ½ point for a draw [moines a point - hey! even I could get a placing this way! - d]. Teams that have so far only played at championships and conventions have fallen off the bottom of the table for the moment.

Current champions under this rule are *Freaks Unlimited A*, with *Lunis* trailing not far behind. But this could all change as early as Feb. 27th - The Cheltenham & Gloucester Tournament which you've already missed your chance to enter but you can still go and watch, at Bishops Cleeve Sports Centre, Two Hedges Road, Cheltenham from 1-6pm. More details, should you need them, from Jon (0242) 521483 or Geoff (0242) 519832.

But don't despair - all the UniHoc you can stomach and more will be on the menu at The Second British Unicycle Convention 21-22 May 1994, Hastings, East Sussex.

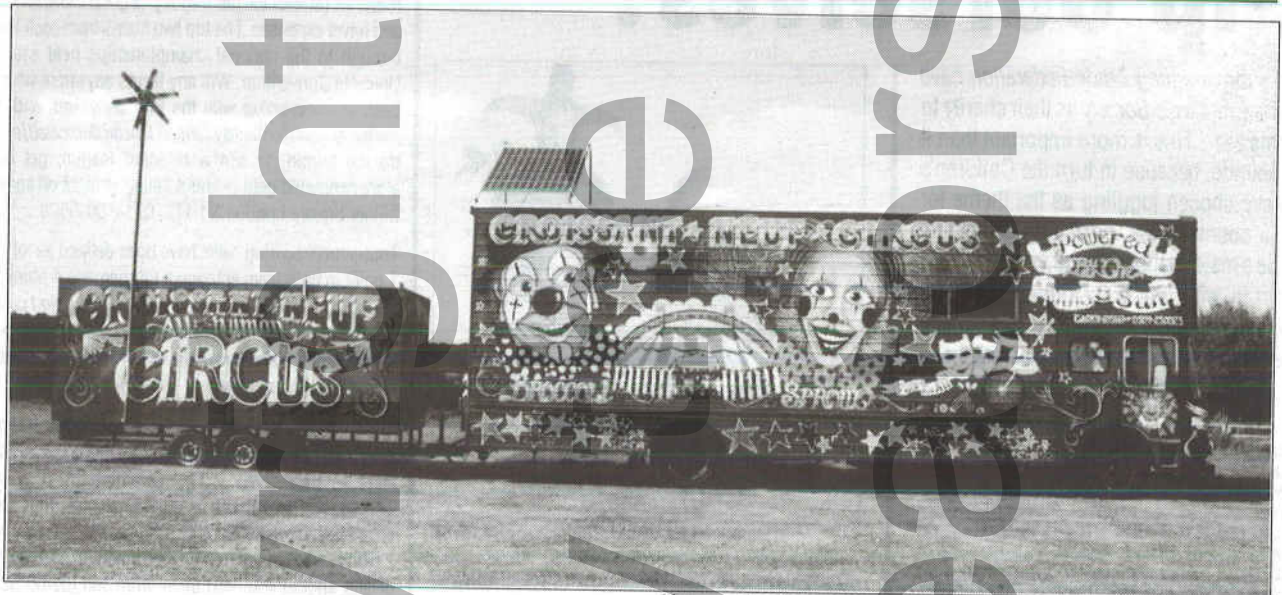
...which will include a world record unicycle chain attempt, Uni tug-o-war, uni basketball, races and other games (including uni ice hockey, a very worrying thought), a parade by the sea, a public show on the Saturday night, stalls, and workshops on a head-spinning rage of unilateral topics including Ultimate Wheel, and Uni meets tightrope and walking globe, from the likes of Sammy Hellwig (Cologne Unicycle School) and Uri Abrahams (Semicycle). It's only £7 in advance (bargain!) from Andy Dinsdale, Woodcote Cottage, Peter James Lane, Fairlight, Hastings, Sussex, TN35 4AH. Enclose a SAE, won't you.

Otherwise Lee Jellyhead is a fount of information of varying degrees of usefulness (all the teams on computer, plastic inserts for engraving trophies [wat?...]) Stop laughing at the back there - his last communication ends on this charming note: "Be there or be a juggler!"



"Who's the Bastard in the Black?" - Lee Jellyhead

GREEN CIRCUS



Shame about the diesel - Croissant Neuf ready to hit the road

DREAM

"So what! - Where are the lions?"

A good question, and one that **Sally Howell** and **Andy Hope** have spent the last eight years answering as they tour the country with their unique environmentally-friendly show and rig. Here Sally gives the explanation she's spent all that time working out.

It wasn't always like this. There was a time when plate spinning meant an accident in the kitchen and 'The Dropalots' was something that you caught at a free festival (yes that's what I thought when I met them too - dj) ...

It all started way back, such a long way back ... New Year 1986. Andy and I met at a commune in East Anglia, fell over heels in love and made beautiful music together (oooooer!). Along with four other budding musicians we formed a bluegrass band - 'Stan's Last Custard' and an Irish combo 'The Chaos Ceilidh Band' who toured local pubs and clubs all over the Eastern Counties. In the Spring a tatty ex-hire marquee was bought for £200 by the six of us, and we hit the road with two buses, a truck, a showman's wagon, a van and a caravan. We did Folk Festivals, Carnivals and Steam Rallies with our Music/Cabaret and Cafe.

COMET TRUE

What with playing lots of music, running a cafe (of which the speciality was Croissants!!!!) and having 33% of our entourage heavily pregnant, circus skills played a relatively small part in the entertainments offered by Croissant Neuf in this first year, although some members were picking things up pretty fast by the end of the season. By the end of February we had expanded to six and two small halves.

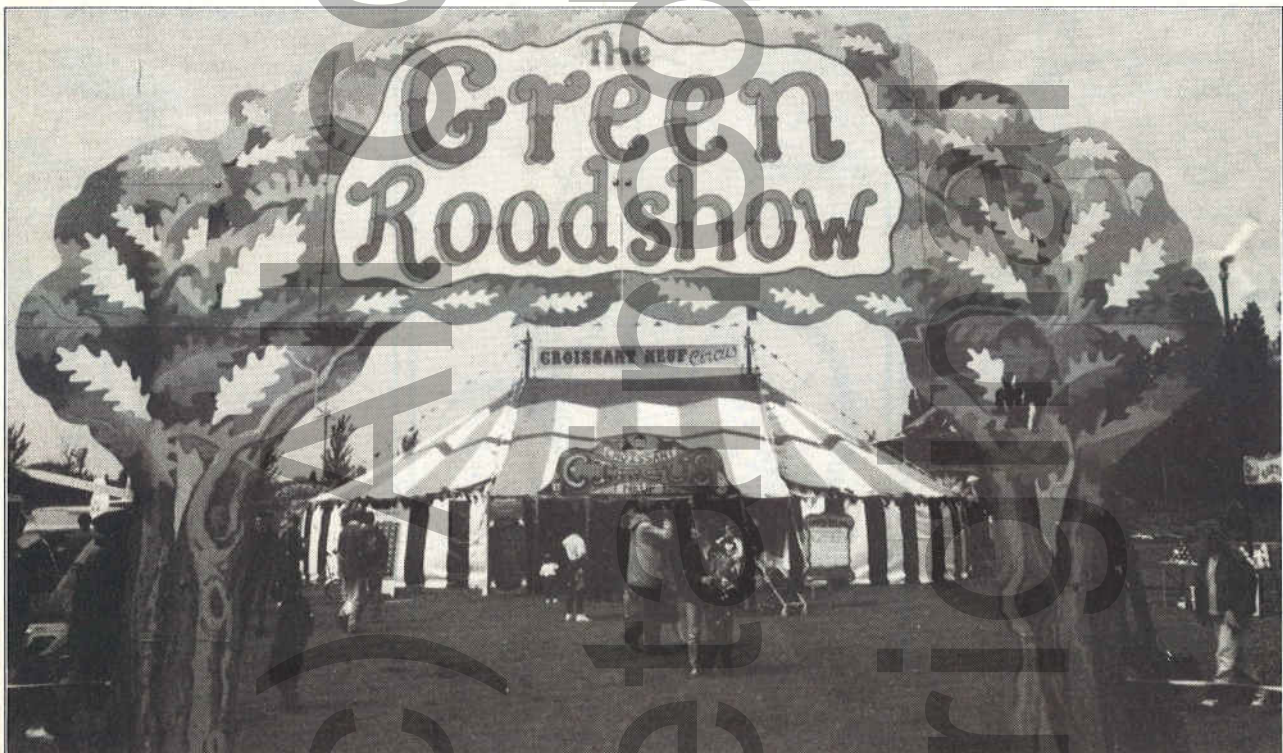
1987 - this was the year we all learnt to Juggle/Clown/Stilt-walk/Diablo/Unicycle and be generally silly and, lo and behold, C.N. Circus (non-animal, naturally) was truly born. More Rallies, Carnivals and Festivals followed so we decided to get serious and painted all of our vehicles matching colours, Maroon and Cream. Very striking they were too. In December, Neuflet 3 arrived....(Hey Girls! Sally's advice to all fertile women reading this is "Master your skills BEFORE having kids and setting up a circus!!!!!!")

*"Master your skills BEFORE
having kids and
setting up a circus!!!!!!"*

1988 - Sadly, for a variety of personal reasons *[oooh! do tell!! - dj]*, four original members split to go their own ways, leaving Andy and I with BIG nail-biting decision - Do we pack it in now? Or do we GO FOR IT?

Yes - we went for it and bravely (some said foolishly) spent the last of our money on a new round Top (designed by ourselves), and went off looking for new artistes. In fact, we didn't have to look any further than Fool Time - the Bristol Circus School - where we were doing some part time courses; here we met an excellent juggling duo - Mop and Drop, also known as George and Margo - purveyors of naughty night-time cabaret, and a young lad called Lindsay Hurd, who performed slack-rope routines and other impressive feats with his partner Rachel Henson (Yes THE Rachel Henson). The new show worked well and followed a traditional format - Intro/Ringmistress/Act/Ringmistress/Act etc. - with Clown Entrées and running gags in between.

1989 - Business must be getting better!! A new centre section was ordered for the tent, extending it to its current size of 19m x 16m. We splashed out on our first full colour publicity brochure, built new three-tier seating, a new ring fence, ring mat, backdrop, screens, bunting, signs etc. and... PHEW! Er I mean WOW ...and YEAH... C.N. is starting to look the biz!



Gateway to a Greener World. Croissant Neuf on site.

For the widest selection of British and imported Balls, Clubs, Diabolos, Devilsticks, Walking Globes, Make-Up, Books, Videos, Stilts, Unicycles, and a whole lot more - 'phone, write or fax to Britain's original juggling equipment supplier



by Ned age 7

Butterfingers

11A Church
Farm
Corston
BATH
BA2 9EX

telephone: 0225 874759

fax: 0225 874353



ZERO G juggling co.

Retail and Mail Order
equipment, supplies
and Unicycles in
North Wales

Find us at -
The Victoria Centre
Mostyn Street
Llandudno
Gwynedd

- or send S.A.E. for price list
tel. **0492 514039**

as seen on T.V.

FUN WHEELS

"THE EASY WAY TO LEARN
UNICYCLING"

LEISURE
GO!
TOYS ON THE MOVE!

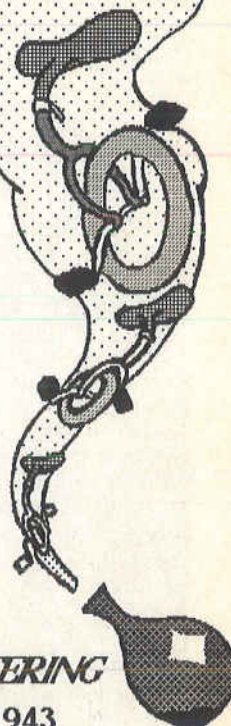


FOR FULL CATALOGUE &
PRICES INCLUDING OUR
NEW "ROCKET BALL" LINE
CONTACT:

L.G. MARKETING LTD,
64 LEICESTER ROAD, SALFORD,
MANCHESTER M7 4AR ENGLAND

TEL: 061 708 9090 FAX: 061 792 0098

Let Your Genius out
on a
RINGMASTER!



DM ENGINEERING

☎ (0202) 471943

1990 - We now have 6,500 tons of equipment all packed onto a small ex-army lorry. And I am expecting my third child... SO... overdraft, here we come! We bought a large Removals Van and converted it into a Motor-home - we also bought a new 16ft trailer for the Tent and equipment to travel in. By now we had our first Wind Turbine and Solar Panel to run all the electrics in the truck - Hey! Why stop there? Why not run the whole show on Renewable Energy... because, lets face it, using renewable energy is one of the best ways we can provide a sustainable safe, clean world for our children to inherit.

1991 - Toured the UK with our newly painted Circus Rig and three children.... Parenthood-Juggling-Parenthood-Entertaining-Nappies-Administration-Breastfeeding-Tent Erection-Sleepless Nights... Welcome to the land of the living dead! I begin dreaming of those long hot summer festival days when I had not got a care in the world... OOPS! SORRY. Back to business:- This year we worked with all sorts of famous circus artistes, Junction Jugglers, Skate Naked, Ralph Leslie, the Elastic Man - to name but a few - and put together our own custom built lighting and P.A. system, all run by our own Wind Turbine and Solar Panels - highly efficient, self sufficient, clean and GREEN.

1992 - Another full season with the Junction Jugglers, Claire Mop and Pippa Tee on the team - we focused mainly on local authority bookings and found organisers particularly keen on the environmental aspects of our outfit. Alongside the other fourteen bookings at county shows etc., Andy and I also took on the task of Co-ordinating the *Alternative Technology Field* at the *Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts*.

1993 - Our most successful year to date, on tour from May through to October with hardly a break - AT LAST... We seem to be having our cake and eating it - but let's not get too complacent - you're only as good as your last show in this business, and come the day when the telephone stops ringing - it's back to Insurance Saleswoman for me!!!

Croissant Neuf has prospered by following three basic rules :-

1. Arrive on time
2. Do a good job
3. Bugger off when you've finished.

Up to now we've never had any funding or sponsorship preferring to plough all our profits every year back into the Circus. Andy and I survived the winters by performing in schools, shopping centres, promoting in exhibitions and (of course!) busking, although lately most of the winter is taken up with admin. Still, we enjoy what we do and do what we enjoy.

1994 - is looking good so far for us - we will be working with Roger Drop, Claire Mop, Junction Jugglers, Anna Jillings and Steve Mills in the coming season. We also have a new and exciting venture called *THE GREEN ROADSHOW*. This is a totally new, unique show (in the best traditions of British Showmanship) (aah! you mean exaggerating? - d!) involving over twenty people. It is a blend of entertainment and environmental education based in, and out front of, the Circus Top, and housed in several new small exhibition tents around a central arena. We will have displays of Alternative Technology, Sustainable Living, Permaculture, Electric Vehicles (cars and bikes), Recycling, Ethical Investment, Animal Welfare, Woodland Crafts, plus various Green-themed entertainments - Clown Shows, Theatre Shows, Recycling Shows, workshops, music - all powered by the Wind and the Sun!! We have a new 300 watt 12v stereo P.A. (paid for by our first-ever grant). The whole thing can be seen in all its glory at this year's Glastonbury Festival, where we will be presenting a much enlarged *Green Roadshow* occupying over 1½ acres. We intend to take this 'mobile Green Field' on tour and present it at Shows, Galas, Carnivals and Fayres all over the country. We think we've created A NEW LOOK TO AN OLD ART!!

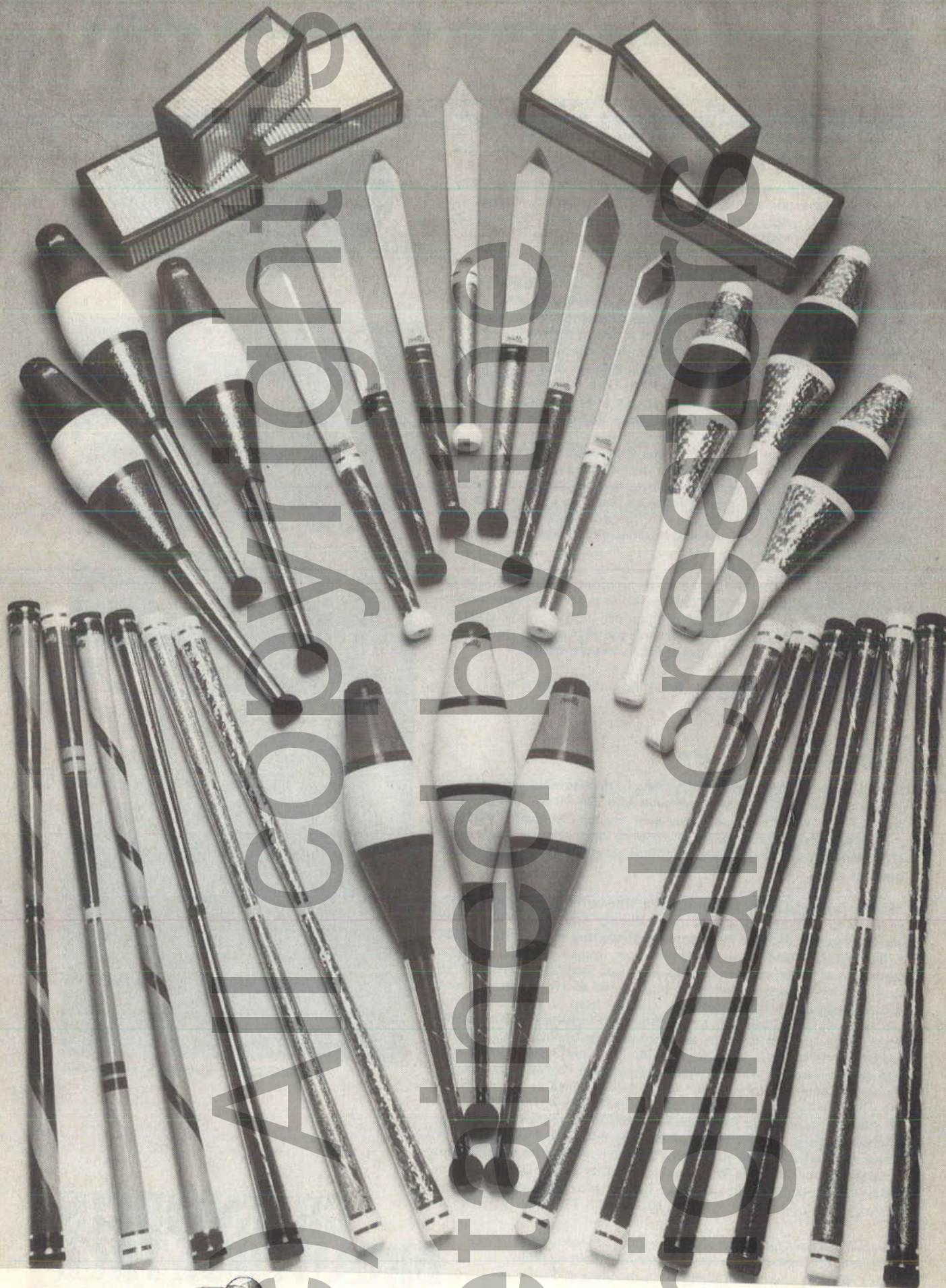
Croissant Neuf Circus are always looking for talented artistes, particularly those with an Environmentally-themed show. If you are one, or know of one, call us on 0831 405661.

"Hey! Why stop there?
Why not run the
whole show on
Renewable Energy..."



Moonlight Serenade, Neuflet talent spotted.

**GREEN CIRCUS
DREAM COME TRUE**



FREAKS
UNLIMITED

57 Park Street, Bristol BS1 5NU, England.
Tel: (0272) 250368 ~ Fax: (0272) 297337.

Retail, Mail Order & Wholesale enquiries welcome.



GETTING DRUNK & SHOUTING

Hello, and welcome... to a short article on compère-ing, or is it *comparing*? ...shit, I can't even spell it. Let's face it though, it's hardly about *spelling*, is it?

The compère - that's the one who has to keep a grip, while all the acts come on, strut their stuff, get off... and then get pissed, to return half an hour later (half an hour to get pissed, that's Juggling Conventions) to heckle the person who had previously given them such a rousing intro. Only joking!!

To Compère at conventions is very different than in clubs or universities. The Leeds audiences were very relaxed and up for a fun, late nite, interactive time. It was easy to relate to them. In fact my main task was to relate to the audience, so as to move the evening along for the benefit of the other performers.

The compère's job, simply put, is to get the audience happy and excited; once this is achieved he should start introducing the acts. Essentially, you're the warm up for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd... *ad infinitum* acts. If an act fails, it's up to you to pick up the rotten fruit and turn it back into a tropically intoxicating punch. That's a bit like turning Liebfraumilch into wine.

It seems that compère-ing is an unpopular job. Personally, I love it. I think people get put off because you have to split your act into as many parts as there are acts. I get over this by encouraging the audience to heckle. That way I can improvise all the way through and have a lot of spontaneous fun with an unsuspecting audience. Main thing though is to gauge the feeling in the crowd, feed off the vibes (bloody hippy) and try not to be funnier than the main acts. Apart from crap acts - you *can* be funnier than them. You can try.

Things don't always go to plan. At a University once, I was just stepping on stage in a bizarre tartan suit. Before I'd even got on stage a bloke shouted "You Wanker" (very constructive heckle that!). I thought this a little unfair and emptied his pint on the floor with a little quip to boot. It was obviously a crap quip or even a quip crap. Nobody laughed, not then, not later. With one spontaneous move, I'd alienated them completely. Luckily I didn't give a toss.

On another occasion in Paris, I was incessantly heckled by one man; on and on he went. I used a wanker detector on him (he scored a full ten), I took the piss in my own amicable way, but still he went on. Fortunately he was pretty much bald all over. I asked the audience for complete silence and told them they were going to hear a sound that wasn't to be heard very often. I jumped off stage, stepped over to the bald geezer, licked my fingers, called him a slaphead and slapped his forehead. Aaaah, the full resonance of hand on shiny glistening dome! There was a moments hesitation - then Monsieur 'slaphead' started to laugh, and the audience followed, Phew!

Hopefully, somebody will find encouragement to give it a go. Conventions are a good place to try out, because everything's so relaxed. Get up, give it a go and don't worry about failing. *Adios Amigos!!!*

No, of course that's not what it's all about. That's what the audience is doing, and that's why you need a good compère to keep the show moving. And PeeWee is rapidly making himself a name for being just that. And for getting drunk and shouting. This is his story. Don't do this at home, kids.

PeeWee: Legless Again.

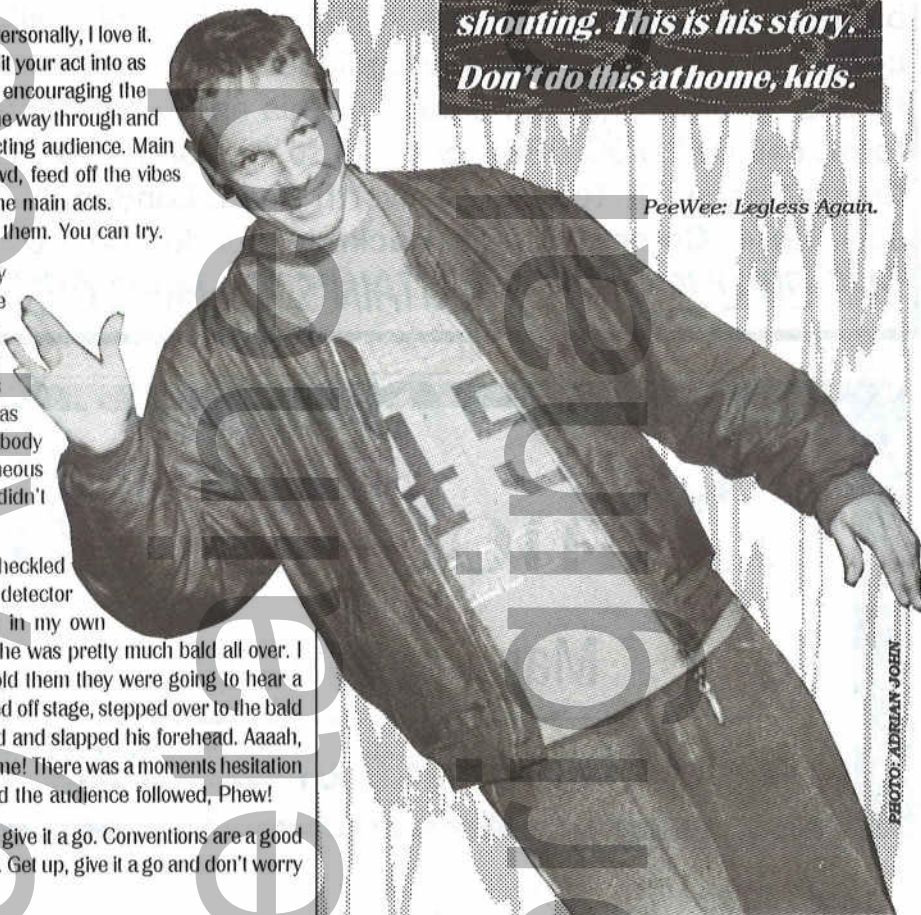


PHOTO: ADRIAN JOHN

CLUB JUGGLING AND PASSING

the video

*Haggis
drops his
balls and
picks up
some Fish.*

*The NEW Club
Juggling video -
excellent for anyone
just starting off
with clubs as well
as those who
are ready to
begin passing -*

*59 minutes
of fun
and
colour -
starring the
inimitable
Haggis
McLeod.*

*Distributed by
Butterfingers and
available from all
good Juggling
shops - only
£12.50.
r.r.p.*

PHYSICAL CIRCUS SKILLS THREE MONTH FOUNDATION COURSE AT THE "NEW" CIRCUS SPACE

SEPTEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 16 1994

This is *the* course for those who are interested in developing their acrobatic and aerial skills. Flying and static trapeze, acrobatic tumbling, acrobatic balance, trampoline and wire will be taught. This will be the first intensive course to run in the superbly equipped building The Circus Space is moving in to this Summer. For full details of this and other courses, and an application form, call 071 700 0868 or write to Gideon Reeve, Course Administrator, The Circus Space, United House, North Road, London, N7 9DP. New address from July 1994: Coronet Street, Hackney, London N1 - 071 613 4141

THE CIRCUS SPACE - BRITAIN'S PREMIER CENTRE FOR CIRCUS ARTS

Simon the Juggler

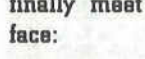
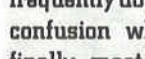
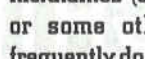
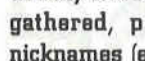
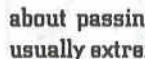
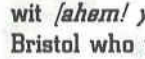
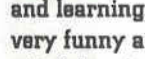
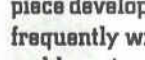
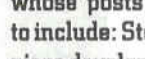
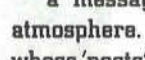
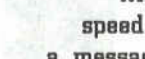
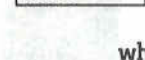
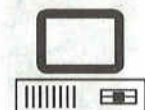
Manufacturer of Quality Balls

telephone or fax 0602 399166

The micro-chips with everything revolution hasn't left juggling behind - for example, the computer on which **The Catch** is edited can juggle more balls than I can, courtesy of a programme called Jugglepro - here, certified non-nerd **Ken Zetie** tells you how to pass and catch (juggling messages, not yet clubs) anywhere in the world.

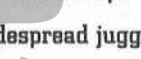
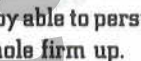
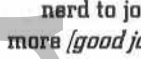
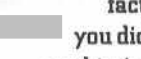
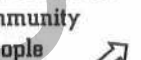
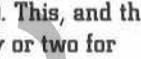
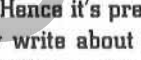
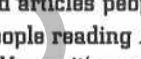
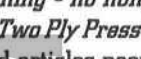
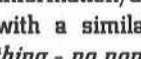
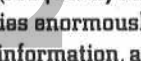
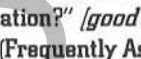
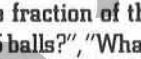
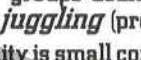
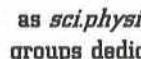
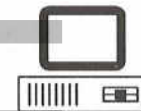
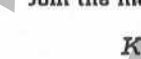
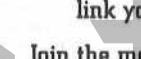
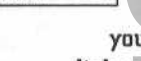
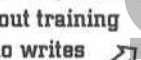
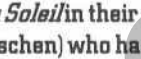
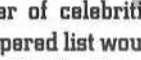
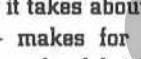
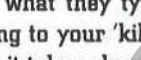
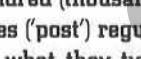
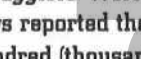
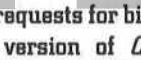
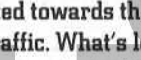
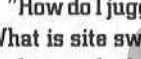
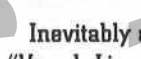
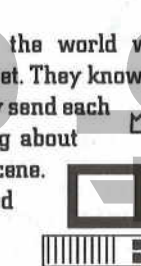
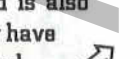
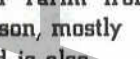
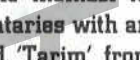
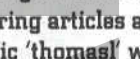
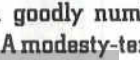
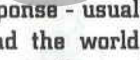
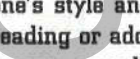
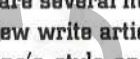
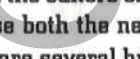
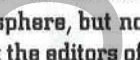
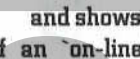
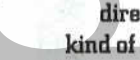
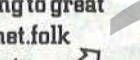
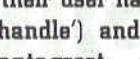
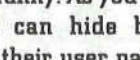
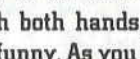
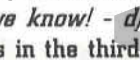
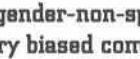
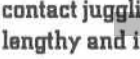
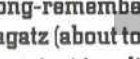
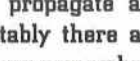
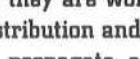
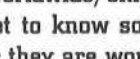
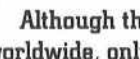
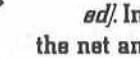
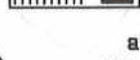
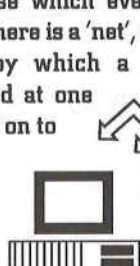
Get Rec'd!

Imagine a group of people all around the world who communicate regularly but may never meet. They know each other's views, likes and dislikes. They send each other messages reviewing shows, talking about new tricks, discussing the whole juggling scene. What you have is *Usenet* (sometimes called *Network News*), an anarchic network of communicating computers. There is no central machine, no co-ordinating database which everyone logs into. Rather, there is a 'net', an agreed system by which a message generated at one machine is passed on to others, who in turn pass it on, until the web has covered the world in



is no central machine, no co-ordinating database which everyone logs into. Rather, there is a 'net', an agreed system by which a message generated at one machine is passed on to others, who in turn pass it on, until the web has covered the world in

Although there are several hundred (thousand?) people reading *rec.juggling* worldwide, only a few write articles ('post') regularly. Hence it's pretty easy to get to know someone's style and what they typically write about (and whether they are worth reading or adding to your 'kill' list!). This, and the speed of distribution and response - usually it takes about a day or two for a message to propagate around the world - makes for a community atmosphere. Inevitably there are a goodly number of celebrities, people whose 'posts' are long-remembered. A modesty-tempered list would have to include: Steve Ragatz (about to tour with *Cirque du Soleil* in their new piece developed by contact juggling king Michael Moschen) who has frequently written lengthy and inspiring articles about training and learning; the gender-non-specific 'thomas' who writes very funny and very biased commentaries with an acid wit (*ahem! yes, we know! - d*) and 'Tarim' from Bristol who writes in the third person, mostly about passing with both hands, and is also usually extremely funny. As you may have gathered, people can hide behind nicknames (either their user name or some other 'handle') and frequently do, leading to great confusion when net.folk finally meet face to face:



a kind of electronic Burke's Barrage.

The Usenet is divided in thousands of 'newsgroups', arranged hierarchically in groups and subgroups, with the structure reflected in the name, and levels denoted by dots. Although it is primarily for academic correspondence and debate (with groups such as *sci.physics* and *comp.lang.fortran*) there exist a number of groups dedicated to lighter recreational items, amongst them *rec.juggling* (pronounced "wreck-dot-juggling"). The *rec.juggling* community is small compared to many groups, generating about 20 to 30 messages a day.

Inevitably a large fraction of these cover the same ground again and again - "How do I juggle 4/5 balls?", "What fuels are good for torches/firebreathing?", "What is site swap notation?" (*good question - ignorant ed*); new users are directed towards the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) list to cut down this kind of traffic. What's left varies enormously but includes reviews of events and shows, requests for bizarre information, and lots of talk on tricks - kind of an 'on-line' version of *Catch* with a similar friendly and informal atmosphere, but no Diabolo! (*jolly good thing - no nonsense anti-interjection ed*). In fact the editors of *Jugglers' World* and *Two Ply Press* both regularly read the net and use both the news reported there and articles people write.

Although there are several hundred (thousand?) people reading *rec.juggling* worldwide, only a few write articles ('post') regularly. Hence it's pretty easy to get to know someone's style and what they typically write about (and whether they are worth reading or adding to your 'kill' list!). This, and the speed of distribution and response - usually it takes about a day or two for a message to propagate around the world - makes for a community atmosphere. Inevitably there are a goodly number of celebrities, people whose 'posts' are long-remembered. A modesty-tempered list would have to include: Steve Ragatz (about to tour with *Cirque du Soleil* in their new piece developed by contact juggling king Michael Moschen) who has frequently written lengthy and inspiring articles about training and learning; the gender-non-specific 'thomas' who writes very funny and very biased commentaries with an acid wit (*ahem! yes, we know! - d*) and 'Tarim' from Bristol who writes in the third person, mostly about passing with both hands, and is also usually extremely funny. As you may have gathered, people can hide behind nicknames (either their user name or some other 'handle') and frequently do, leading to great confusion when net.folk finally meet face to face:

Other: "Who are you?"

Me: "Ken Zetie"

A.N.Other: "Who?"

Do you ever post?"

Me: "AKA The Edible Dormouse"

A.N.Other: "Ah! You're The Edible Dormouse!"

Me: "Sigh".

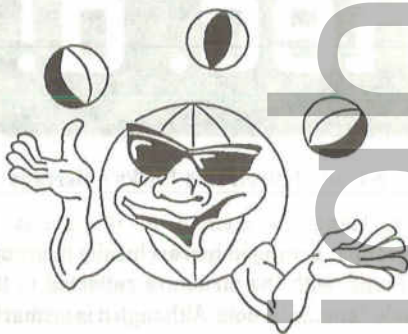
At the EJC at Leeds this year was one of the largest non-electronic gatherings of *rec.jugglers*, some of whom are pretty well-known already. In fact, someone you know may well be a *rec.juggler* and you didn't even suspect it. You don't have to be a computer nerd to join in - you don't even need to be at university any more (*good job too - ignorant ed. again*). For a small subscription you can link your own PC up to the net and get full electronic mail (Email) and Usenet access through one of several companies. Alternatively you may be able to persuade your boss to shell out the subscription fee and link your whole firm up.

Join the most widespread juggling club in the world!

Ken Zetie (Email address: ZETIE@VAX.OX.AC.UK)

Come and visit our New Shop!
NOW OPEN at
 12, THE HORNET, CHICHESTER,
 WEST SUSSEX, PO 19 4JG
 FAX/PHONE:- 0243 530110

BALL



SPACE

LOADS OF JUGGLING SPACE,
 NEW U.V. ROOM
 AND OUR OWN PUB!

AND OFFER A FULL COME AND
 WHOLESALE SERVICE HAVE A PLAY!
 ON A LARGE
 RANGE OF PROPS

KASKADE

EUROPÄISCHE JONGLIERZEITSCHRIFT
 EUROPEAN JUGGLING MAGAZINE



Kaskade captures the exciting mood of European juggling, with comprehensive coverage of conventions, meetings and workshops, as well as a candid look at controversial issues behind this harmonious circus art. Plus: Interviews, reviews, practical tips, ...

For a year's subscription (4 issues), send a cheque for £8.50 to:

GABI & PAUL KEAST - ANNASTR.7
 W-6200 WIESBADEN - GERMANY

CATCH 22 MILL'S M*A*S*H



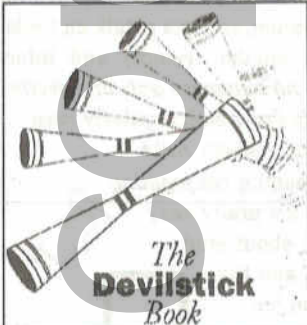
WINNING HAND
 FOR '94

SPOTLIGHT

WG PLEIN 406 1054 SH AMSTERDAM

INT + 31.20..6125345
 FAX ..6834003

The first and only book totally dedicated to devilsticks. How to get going, keep going, body tricks, single handstick, chopsticks, two devilsticks, balancing, fancy tricks, kick-ups, double chopsticks, partner work and onto even three devilsticks. One hundred pages, sixty illustrations, and all you ever need to know about devilsticking.



Todd Strong

£7.95

1993 Reprint out now

Available from your local juggling or bookshop or directly from

The Ugly Juggling
 Company

73 Westgate Road
 Newcastle upon Tyne
 NE1 1SG
 England

Tel/Fax: 091 232 0297

Please add £1.50 P+P throughout Europe
 VISA • MASTERCARD • UK BANK or
 EUROCHEQUE accepted
 Trade Enquiries Welcome



JUGGLERS!

THE MOST ATTRACTIVE JUGGLING SHOP IS IN BARCELONA

If your legs lead you to Barcelona... and you arrive with your hands empty, don't worry in our shop you will supply of everything you need!

Visit our shop or use our fast mail order service.

Ramón y Cajal 87, 08024 Barcelona (Spain), tel. (34) 3 - 213 40 98, fax (34) 3 - 210 72 97.



YOU WILL
 FIND THE
 BEST
 JUGGLING
 EQUIPMENT
 SELECTION.
 BOOKS AND
 MANY
 THEATER
 ACCESSORIES.

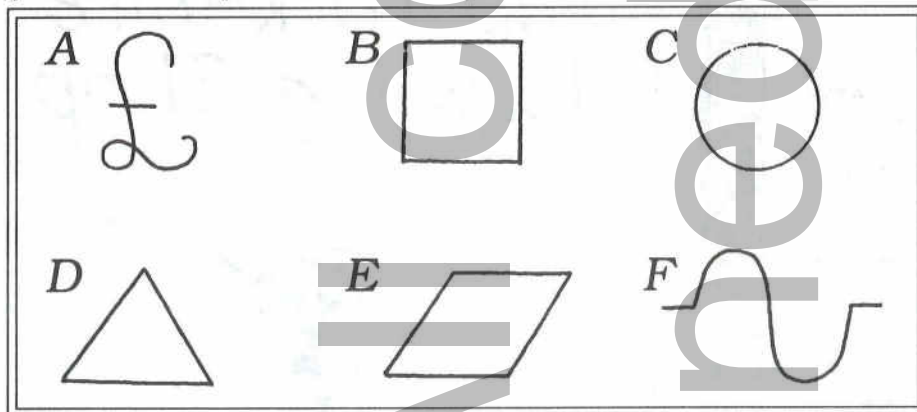
& Attitude & Aptitude

Over 50% of British businesses now use some form of personality or psychometric testing, either in the selection of new employees or to appraise existing staff. So **Julian Mount**, working Juggler and Management Consultant, has done one for you lot. Hope you appreciate you could have paid him £50 an hour for this.



With this test, you can discover which role in the business of juggling you are most suited to. And it couldn't be simpler. First choose the shape below that most appeals to you. Make it an instinctive choice; don't think about it for too long. Then look at the end of this article and find the corresponding profile name (e.g. - *Performer*). Finally read your personality profile (and any of the others you fancy too!)

If you end up with a profile that you are not happy with, remember - a wise man once told me: "If you don't like what you've got; change what you're doing!" Good Luck! So go on... choose a shape:



Now look at the end of this article and find the corresponding profile name. Then find and read your own profile below

HOBBY JUGGLER

Hobby Jugglers got their Thuds for Christmas or their birthday. They sat on a shelf or in a cupboard for a few months (the Thuds, that is, not them) until one day the Hobby Juggler was out somewhere and saw someone else juggling quite well with some balls that looked just like theirs. So they went home, fed the cat, then began a search for the Thuds which they remember putting

somewhere safe. Eventually they found them, and now, 150 years later, they can juggle. They juggle best when no one is looking at them! They can do most of the tricks on their 'More Balls Than Most' instruction sheet, maybe a few more that someone has taught them. The thought of performing in public at once both intrigues and horrifies them. If they ask: "How do you do that?" of a Technician (see below), they will listen, watch, shake their heads in disbelief and go back to their best trick in a corner somewhere.

A Hobby Juggler's favourite question is: "How long have you been juggling, then?" Most of them want a unicycle and a few of these know what a unicycle is.

TECHNICIAN

Technicians enjoy the challenge, stimulation and pressure of juggling as a competitive sports activity. They constantly strive towards more and more complex tricks, faster routines and an ever-increasing number of balls, rings, clubs, knives, torches or whatever. Knowledge and ability to a Technician is power! They come up and ask you if you can do a particular trick - they don't necessarily want to say: "Well I can do it!", the question seems to address some internal need to get the measure of every

juggler in their area. They *love* to show you how to do one of the tricks they have mastered. Their tuition is peppered with phrases like: "This is the easy bit", "Can you do this?", "Go on, try it", "Then it's just a question of..." and: "After you've got this one it's very easy to do this one!" When they start passing, watch out! They'll be trying such complex stuff that bystanders will be in mortal danger. Warp-speed juggling equipment will be flying from impossible angles and is usually going nowhere. They'll recommend you buy one of those books that is made up of complicated diagrams which make even the three ball cascade look like the specification for that computer in 2001.

Technicians don't often understand that Your Average Punter doesn't even think about the difference between a trick that took a day to master and a trick that took four-and-a-half years to master. Technicians want to perform and believe they can do it. Some of them can! Most price themselves out of the market, though, by costing out how much time they've invested, how complicated their best trick is, and then multiplying that by the maximum number of balls they can juggle and sticking a £ sign in front.

PERFORMER

Performers like to perform. Doesn't matter particularly if there's no audience either! A performer juggles with appropriate facial expression and fluidity of body movement to complement the trick or routine that they are currently doing. They probably have special clothes which they wear for juggling (if not a complete costume). They have a large range of equipment and understand very well that exactly the same trick with different props looks completely different to Your Average Punter. A performer can make a simple routine look elegant and complex at the same time. They don't go for numbers; they go for style (and leave the "impressive stuff" to the Technicians).

It's usually a performer Your Average Punter will end up watching when he or she stumbles into the local workshop by mistake ("Oi mate, do they still 'ave ban's on 'ere then?"). A true performer will juggle any place any time and especially if someone starts talking to them about juggling. The conversation is quite likely to turn that way anyway as the Performer loves to 'juggletalk' - not to show off, but because they genuinely like to. They will probably have at least three routines all worked out, with appropriate music recorded on special cassettes. They may be thinking of, or be actively engaged in, making a video of their work - although they may not have the slightest idea what to do with it when it's finished.

Ask a performer how to do a trick and you'll probably get a blank look. This is because they are *at one* with the balls, (rings, clubs, knives, torches or whatever) and have difficulty in separating in their heads what they can do, what they can't do, and a giant purple elephant!

PROMOTER

A promoter is someone who has people they want to entertain. They know what juggling is and what it looks like (because they have asked Your Average Punter). They believe that all *performance artistes* are sensitive people who have devoted much of their life to learning, practising and perfecting their particular art. People like this deserve spe-

cial treatment and great respect. But juggling's just throwing a few things around and clowning at children's parties, isn't it? So none of the foregoing applies.

Common phrases include: "Do you do children's parties?" "Do you do children's parties?" "Do you do children's parties?" "You charge *how* much?" and "I'll think about it and call you back".

AGENT

Agents often work on behalf of Promoters. They've seen it all. Done it all too. They used to be 'on the road' themselves once and will gladly tell you all about it at the drop of a Dubé XXL. Now they drive a desk, a telephone, and (if they have more than normal pretension) a fax machine too. You can often tell how in touch with reality they are by what they write on the contract. "Julian Mount. Dressed as clown. Perform a juggling show. Liaise with organiser," and so on. It's a bit like saying: "Breathe in. Wait. Then breathe out". It's good advice, it's just that you're likely to do it anyway (because if you don't you're not likely to last long).

Beware: Good Agents are perfectly capable of convincing you that a particular gig is *just* the one that you have been working towards ever since you started performing.

YOUR AVERAGE PUNTER

Your Average Punter has seen jugglers on *The Paul Daniels Magic Show* and sometimes *Record Breakers*. They'll delight in telling you (often when you're in the middle of a really impressive routine which calls for split-second timing and total concentration) that they saw this bloke on the telly who was juggling 26 balls for 120 minutes. Your Average Punter's idea of the best joke in the world is: "Bet you can't do n!" (where n = one more object than you're juggling with at present). He or she thinks it's hilarious when a juggler drops something, and that juggling is a registered charity staffed by people who don't need money to live or who have proper day jobs from where they get the money to finance their entertainment of others. The three ball cascade, Mills' Mess, Rubinstein's Revenge, Burke's Barrage, Mount's Megaton Momentum [*what might that be, Julian? - d*] and what that tall chap does with a basket ball are all equally impressive (and are all equal) to Your Average Punter.

One day, in a flash of creativity, Your Average Punter may find him or herself holding three balls. Suddenly their pupils may dilate, their breathing become quicker and - FLASH! - before you know it, Your Average Punter has turned into a Hobby Juggler (and we all know about *them*!)

KEY TO PROFILES

A - Agent

B - Your Average Punter

C - Promoter

D - Technician

E - Hobby Juggler

F - Performer

NOT JUST A JUGGLING STORE
NOT JUST A HEAD SHOP


AVALON CRAFTS,
CLOTHING
JEWELLERY
& JUGGLING

"There's nothing else
quite like it!"

73 Fawcett Road,
Southsea,
Hants

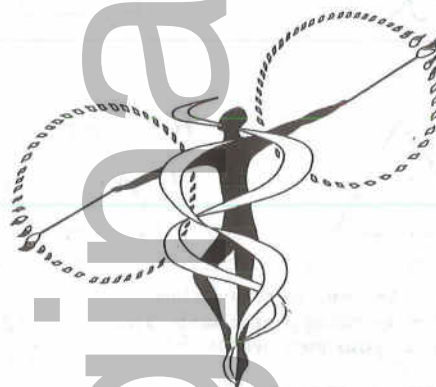
Telephone: 0705 293673

J.T.F.
MEMBER



FIREDANCE

The Yorkshire
Juggling Shop



Granary Wharf, Canal Basin,
Leeds LS1 4BR
Telephone (0532) 444449

Run out of things to do with your devil-stick?
Donald Grant has some suggestions.
From the letters page you might
suspect some other people
have ideas involving Donald
and devil
sticks too.

New Places to stick it

Name: Donald Grant

Age: 22 (just a slip of a lad)

Occupation in Real Life: Juggler, Honestly.

Local Juggling Haunt: The Tollcross Juggling Club in Edinburgh

History: When I was 15, I had a boring job checking tickets on a golf course, so to pass the time I taught myself about ten tricks with golf balls and how to balance a 7-iron on my chin.

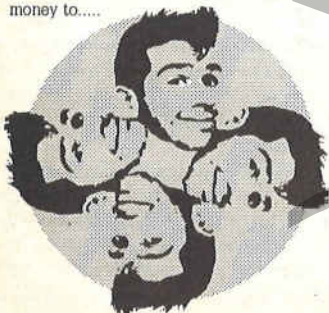
First Performance: The Glasgow Streetbiz Festival in 1989:

I did my handful of three ball tricks, ate the apple (oh yes!), spun records on my fingers and balanced a 12-foot pine beam on my head. I sucked big time, earned a pittance but loved every minute of it and, contrary to popular belief, I have been getting better ever since....

Influences: That first year in Glasgow some of the **Archaeos** crew came through from the Edinburgh Festival, and Oli Groszler just melted my brain. He was the first real juggler I'd ever met and he was just so slick. The next year I met Robert Nelson (the Butterfly Man), talked to him and watched him perform without knowing who he was! His control of a huge crowd with his endless flow of banter and abuse was just awe inspiring to someone who had just bought his first set of Spotlight one-piece clubs (and I got charged £50 for them by a bastard magic shop!). I saw Sean Gandini doing a solid seven balls with the Florists; the crowd just clapped politely whilst I had a fit, unable to believe that they couldn't see that this man was performing miracles! Pearse Halfpenny got me interested in diabolo when I was down in London a few years ago. Bruce from Edinburgh keeps me practising constantly. Oh Yes, and Guy Heathcote is God. Period.

Claims to fame: Three diabolo books (complete edition out soon, plug, plug) and I also nearly fell out of the first floor window of the London Circus Space whilst trying to do a twisting double somersault on a trampoline with an old skateboard attached to my feet. (It was during the Cabaret 2 video footage is available!)

Greetings to: The Tollcross Drinking Posse, "Evil" Miles, The Ugliers, The Bruised Fruits (Oh No, not...), everyone at Circus Space, Stewart (my sponsor), Brendan, Guy and anyone else whom I owe a drink/free book/money to....



Unlike most previous skills articles in *The Catch*, the purpose of this piece is not simply to give you a couple of new tricks to tuck under your belt. That's the problem with most juggling books (hell, I should know!), they teach individual moves in a way that automatically creates a 'trick list' mentality - after learning page 22, you move right on to conquer page 23, progression is always presented in an ever-forwards, ever-more-difficult manner. Hopefully, this article will help you to think sideways (maybe even backwards) for a change, and illustrate how simple moves plus your own imagination can be just as effective as even the most difficult of skills....

So to start with, let's take an intermediate skill which is not commonly seen: the trap. To make trapping moves easier, hold your handsticks about 4" up their length - this should also make normal tapping easier to control too.

There you go! Two nice moves which can be learned in an hour and perfected in a week or so. Now use your brain: think about all the combinations possible using just these two moves:

- i) outside trap (left) - half/full flip - outside trap (right)
- ii) outside trap (left) - half/full flip - inside trap (left)
- iii) inside trap (left) - half/full flip - inside trap (right)

PLUS the reverse of all these moves.

This, of course, is only the beginning: the trap is an important move as it not only provides a moment of stability (a rare thing in devil-sticking) but also a controlled grip of the prop.

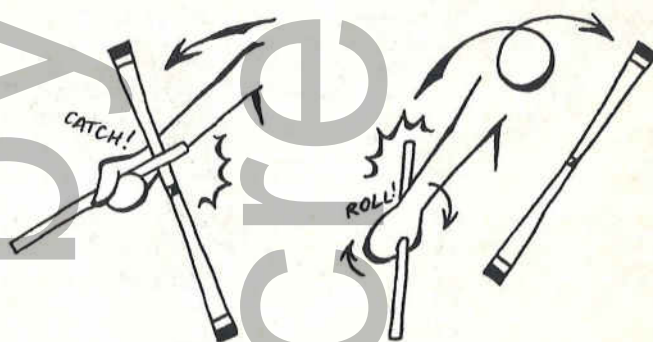
The opportunities this creates are infinite.

A few suggestions....

- i) body placements (wot? jargon-free d)
- ii) throws around the body
- iii) controlled high tosses
- iv) Curl - drop - kick up
- v) flourishes/throws/placements with your spare handstick
- vi) traps with both handsticks in one hand
- vii) traps to get into/out of other moves such as buzz saws or propellers

Hopefully, after reading this, you won't go away and learn each suggestion on the list. With a bit of luck you'll try a few, learn a few, fail at a few and come up with your own variations. The important thing to remember is that your imagination is as important as your co-ordination, and that six hours of brain work can often provide something far more valuable than six days of page by page practice. Enjoy yourselves.

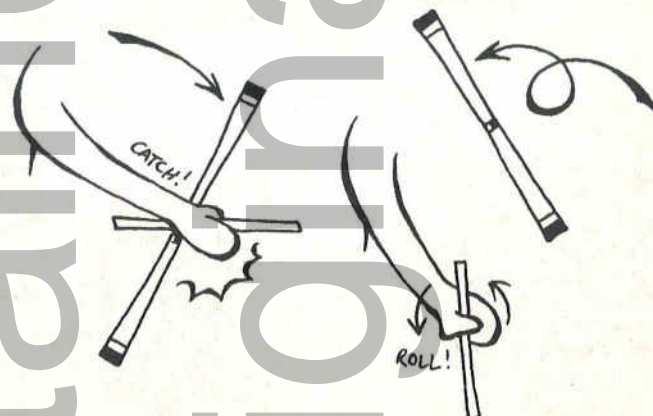
OUTSIDE TRAP



- 1) Using the spare 4" of handstick, trap the centrestick [the devil-stick itself] against your wrist or palm, whichever is more comfortable.

- 2) Roll your wrist inwards, releasing the centrestick and allowing it to flip back into the pattern.

INSIDE TRAP



- 1) Reach across your body to catch the centrestick backhanded against your wrist/palm.

- 2) Roll your wrist outwards, releasing the centrestick and allowing it to flip back across.

YOUR STARTER FOR 10P

In the spirit of our glorious government, we're all getting basic and coveting our neighbour's passing partner - um, no, we're encouraging self-starting businesses and a return to the traditional values of performance - out on the streets (dude) in true Victorian Values style (here's a guinea for you, my man) - excuse for another article on the dos and don'ts of street performance for beginners and others, courtesy of Steve Rawlings, who's done a few shows in his time (from the pavement to the Palladium isn't that far), illustrated by our man on the bench with the gallon of scrumpy, Robbie.

So... congratulations! You've finally decided to start doing shows and make your living by Juggling. Your friends are winding you up, the neighbours are pointing and your parents would rather you were stacking shelves at Sainsburys; you've got a few good routines together and a bag of props and it's time to try performing. So where do you go?

Well, first of all you have to go somewhere and learn your trade. No matter how good your juggling is, your first shows will be embarrassingly bad. Don't be put off. Whatever you do don't march into one of the best



venues around announcing your big arrival in showbiz; it's hard to get beer stains out of your costume and in a few years time when you are good you'll have a hard job persuading them to let you back in.

But you do need to perform as much as possible, to learn what works for audiences, what doesn't, and what works for you. Performing tends to spark off ideas, some of which

will work and most of which won't, but the point is you're out there and you're doing it. It also gives you a push to practice harder when you see the results in terms of better shows. Don't wait for that one more big trick that will bowl the audience over, just get out there and do it - there will *always* be that one more trick you have to get.

In the old days of Vaudeville the bad acts used to open the show and, as they got better, move on up the bill. Nowadays, sadly, these opportunities no longer exist. Doing free or cheap shows at local fairs and fêtes is always a good idea - no one expects



when you arrived, their attitude will be that they didn't want to watch and that you just did your show at them; it's almost impossible to create a good atmosphere this way and you won't make much money either. Once you've got a few people forward, get them to stand close together so that the people behind can't see and have to join the group to watch. Then get your faithful few to clap, scream, shout and cheer for as loud and long as you can. This routine is used by almost everyone, probably because it works better than anything else. Curiosity brings people over and a crowd builds a bigger crowd - but don't leave it too long to begin your show or people will start to drift away.

Now that you're actually getting on and doing something, here are a few points to bear in mind. Don't keep repeating your

too much and it's all valuable experience - but the only real way to get in regular shows is as a street performer. I can think of quite a few well-known acts and TV personalities who came up this way, so it does work, although there is still a slight stigma attached to it.

So you've found yourself a regular street pitch and you're going to perform. There are a few things you need to think of. First of all before you gather a crowd you must look like a performer - wear something different from what you would wear normally. Some of the things you'll be saying and doing will not be acceptable to people if you don't look like a performer. If you grab a child off someone to spin a ball on their finger, Daddy will probably deck you first and ask questions later. And if it looks like it's going to take ten pence to feed you, that's what you'll get in the hat.

To gather your first few people, run around, make some noise, wave props about and place them in pretty patterns, make loud theatrical announcements, create interest and basically let people know that something is happening and that it's worth watching. Whistles are commonly used at the moment, but bear in mind that if you're too loud you can annoy the shopkeepers and residents which can in extreme cases lead to the closing down of a pitch.

Once you've got your first few people, try and get them to come forward to you. When you're asking them to move forward, move back yourself as it makes them feel they have space to come in and watch comfortably. If they do, it means they've made a commitment to watch or at least give you a chance to prove yourself, and if you're any good they will normally stay and pay at the end. If you're just working to a bunch of people who were already there



favourite moves with different props as it will become boring and repetitive. Try and mix skill routines with bits of business, whether it be comedy, clowning, magic or whatever. If everything you pick up you juggle, you become too predictable and boring. People would rather laugh than watch skills, but if you can mix both you are onto a winner.

Try and avoid the "And now" syndrome, make the routines run smoothly into one another without having to announce each bit. Be confident, an audience can smell uncertainty from 200 yards. If you're pleased with a trick, show it. People like to see you push and succeed. If a trick isn't working after two or three attempts, move on to something else. You can always come back to it later, or even use it as a running gag until it does work. If a drop doesn't bother you, it won't bother your audience. The crowd don't know your show and will probably think you meant to drop if you cover it well enough.

The average audience has the attention span of a daffodil, if you're not constantly impressing or amusing, you'll lose them. If someone comes out with a funny heckle, go with it and let them get the laugh. You don't have to put everyone down and the crowd will like you for it. Even on stage, as a speciality act you will suffer far more heckling and abuse than any comic, it's just the way it is, so learn to deal with it and stay in control if possible. If the police stop you from performing, move on and try somewhere else. Arguing won't help you and it will only give them a worse attitude for the next performer who comes along. The average punter wouldn't know a five ball Mills' Mess from three ball snatches and would probably be more impressed by the latter. So if you're going to get technical be sure to build the trick properly and let them know how difficult it is.

When talking, project your voice. Speak from your diaphragm, not your throat. Street performers often need to do two or



NEW

Shaun Clark's

Cigar Box of Tricks

£9.95

CIRCUSTUFF PUBLICATIONS

DIABOLO STICK £5
GRINDS AND SUICIDES

DIABOLO 2: CRAZY CRADLES AND BAFFLING BODY MOVES £5

TWO HOT TO HANDLE £7.50

techniques for multiple diabolo

Ask your regular supplier for Circustuff books or buy them direct from Circustuff. Prices inc P&P in Europe

COMING SOON:

"The Book of Club Swinging" by Ben Richter, "Stuff Your BeanBags" - the Circustuff Video (honest!), and books on hat tricks, club finesse, and more ...

Circustuff. 83 Uist Rd, Pitcoudie, Glenrothes, Fife, KY7 6RE. (0592) 744392



CIRCOMEDIA

Academy of Circus Arts & Physical Theatre

CIRCUS SKILLS FOR THE 21st CENTURY

One year intensive course in circus related skills from September 1994, using the former premises and teachers of Fool Time.

The course combines skill training with rhythm, movement, performance and creative work for comedy and physical theatre. The skills include tumbling, acro-balance, juggling, equilibristics, and aerial work, including swinging trapeze.

For further information send S.A.E. to:

CIRCOMEDIA,

Academy of Circus Arts & Physical Theatre,
41 Balmoral Road, Bristol, BS7 9AX

FLIGHTLINE FOR SPORT BOOMERANGS



INDOORS / OUTDOORS

WOOD / POLYPROPYLENE / CARBON-FIBRE

BEGINNERS / COMPETITION

SPINNING KITE

Available from good shops or mail order

FLIGHTLINE

WATTON

NORFOLK

ENGLAND

IP25 6EL

TRADE
ENQUIRIES
WELCOME

ACCESS/UISR

PHONE **0953 - 333900** FAX

Welcome To Dreamland Sport

YORKSHIRES NEWEST JUGGLING SHOP



AT 16 MARKET STREET (NEXT TO THE EXCHANGE RD) BRADFORD, BD1 1LH TEL 024 727132

WORKSHOPS, WHOLESALE,
★ MAIL ORDER, RETAIL ★
★ CHECK IT OUT ★

8 OUT OF 10 JUGGLERS SAY

THEY PREFER IT!

0274 727132

PLAYING WITH FIRE, 16 MARKET STREET,
BRADFORD, WEST YORKSHIRE BD1 1LH

Catch

YOUR STARTER FOR IOP... CONTINUED



three shows a day and if you're not projecting properly you'll soon lose your voice.

When getting a volunteer, nine out of ten will come out if asked. If they're looking like they might not come, try talking to them, explain what you want them for and that you won't embarrass them - once they're out, you can always tell them you were lying! Piling on the pressure by getting the crowd to applaud or slow hand clap can also push them into volunteering. If they still refuse to help you must leave them and get someone else. It's always difficult getting another volunteer after a refusal, but a good way is diving into the crowd pretending to get someone from the back of the crowd turning and pushing someone into the square from behind. By the time they've realised what's going on it's too late. The ideal volunteer will be somewhere between the shy and the extrovert. They'll take a joke but won't try and take the show away from you. Whatever you do, don't get the crowd loudmouth out in the misguided belief that you can control him. Believe me, he will make your life hell and drag your show down the pan. He's also probably drunk - so avoid him like the plague.

You may find it's easier to start as part of a group until you've built up the confidence to go solo, for a couple of reasons. Firstly because a group can do a fair show without needing the kind of technical ability and strength of personality you need as a solo, and secondly, if you're dying on your arse it will be a lot easier doing it with friends than sloping off on your own to the sound of your own feet.

Don't diversify too much. Pick a few props and excel at them. It is impossible to be original to begin with, so try some of the more common routines i.e. three knives, apple eating, five foot uni & two volunteers

etc. [no! no! Steve! think what you're encouraging! -d], and once you've got going, slowly work in your own stuff - you'll get more work and respect if you're different. There'll always be people claiming they invented apple eating or whatever. They are small minded and insecure and lying outrageously, so ignore them. Anyway - I invented apple eating, so there!

Try and find a character that suits you. If you see a big guy with an aggressive character do a storming show and you are a small thin guy, it doesn't mean that this character can work for you. Street entertainers have huge egos and won't talk to you unless you've got a good show already. Don't let this get to you, and try and be better with people yourself!

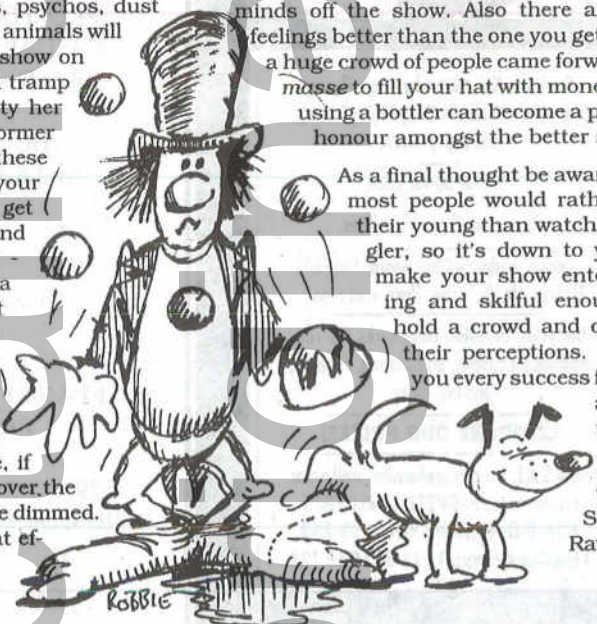
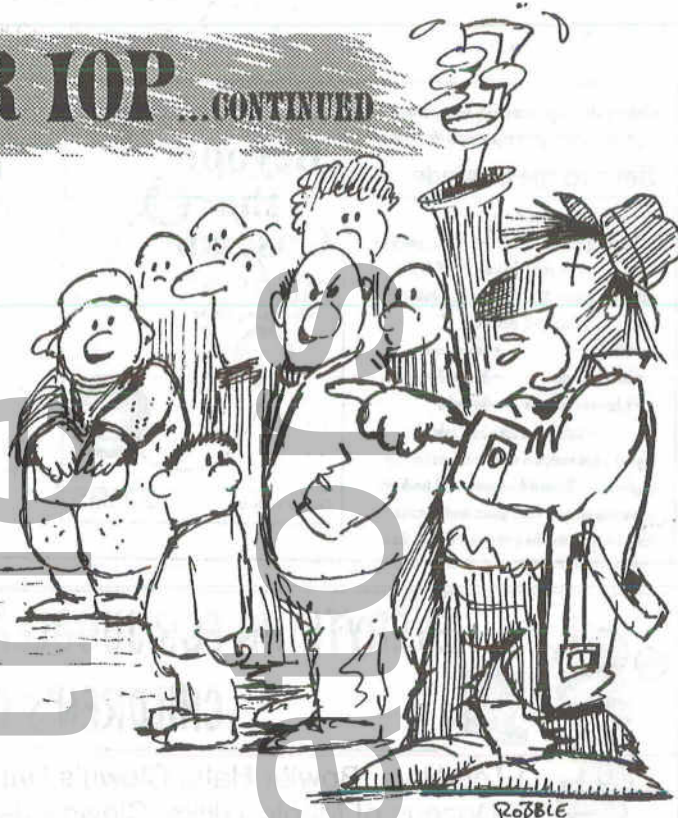
Street shows constantly suffer from interference. Tramps, lunatics, psychos, dust carts, mounted police and animals will all threaten to ruin your show on occasion. I've even seen a tramp lift up her mac and empty her bowels right behind a performer [aah! a critic! -d]. All of these situations can be used to your advantage. Learn how to get laughs from these events, and remember what you did each time you introduce a raving drunk as your agent the crowd will think you just made the line up and applaud accordingly. You should take this even to the extreme of watching the weather. For example, if you see a cloud about to cover the sun, ask for the lights to be dimmed. I've seen this done to great effect.

It's always best to finish a street show on a high routine that raises you above the crowd, as this will make your routine visible to the maximum amount of people, many of whom will pay. Instead of just the normal first three rows of the crowd. This is why the giraffe routine is so popular amongst street performers.

For your first few shows I recommend you use a bottler, someone who goes around your crowd with a hat asking for donations on your behalf - when you start people will tend to watch for about five or ten minutes, then move on, and you need to catch them before they leave. As a rule bottlers get quarter of the take. As you get better and can pull large packed crowds, bottlers can be a disadvantage as they split the crowd up by trying to get through them to collect money, and destroy the focus by taking people's minds off the show. Also there are few feelings better than the one you get when a huge crowd of people came forward en masse to fill your hat with money. Not using a bottler can become a point of honour amongst the better acts.

As a final thought be aware that most people would rather eat their young than watch a juggler, so it's down to you to make your show entertaining and skilful enough to hold a crowd and change their perceptions. I wish you every success in your adventure.

Best wishes,
Steve Rawlings



Whether you're a beginner or a fairly accomplished 3-ball juggler, you probably get the urge every so often to go...

Beyond the Cascade

This book will take you there.

By following its step-by-step instructions, you'll go beyond - way beyond - the basic 3-Ball Cascade pattern and learn 88 of the classiest 3-ball tricks known to juggling kind, including

- Mills' Mess
- Cloned Chops
- Burke's Barrage
- The Long Throw
- Rubenstein's Revenge
- The Snake
- and 82 other classic 3-ball tricks

A good 3-ball routine is an essential part of any juggling act. 'Beyond the Cascade' will teach you a dazzling array of tricks guaranteed to make your 3-ball routine the centrepiece of your show.

Beyond the Cascade

Step-by-Step Guides to 88 Classic 3-Ball Juggling Tricks

George Gillson

£7.95

New edition 1993 out now.
Available from your local juggling or bookshop or directly from

The Ugly Juggling Company

73 Westgate Road
Newcastle Upon Tyne

NE1 1SG

England

Tel/Fax: 091 232 0297

Please add £1.50 P+P throughout Europe

VISA • MASTERCARD • UK BANK or

EUROCHEQUE accepted

Trade enquires welcome



JUGGLING JEWELLERY

• High Quality Hand Made Silver
• Unicycles, Clubs and Clowns all as pendants, earrings and brooches etc.
• These unique items are ideal for gifts or presentations.

• Trade enquiries welcome. For brochure and details Tel: N.K.J. 0425 613405.

JUGGLEMANIA



EVERYTHING FOR JUGGLERS, STREET PERFORMERS & CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINERS

Top Hats, Bowler Hats, Clown's Hats, Clown's noses, Squirted Bow Ties, Dozens of Magic Tricks, Clown's Jackets, Waistcoats, Rubber Chickens, Puppets, Squirted Flowers, Large Stage Props, Caveman Clubs etc. etc. PLUS of course a huge range of Juggling Equipment & Unicycles.



CARRIAGE FREE MAIL ORDER*



Jugglemania, 119 Chiltern Drive, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 8LS.

Tel: 081-390 6855 • Fax: 081-399 0653.

* U.K. Only.



Dual Line Stunt Kites by: High Flyers, Skynasaur, Aircrafts U.K., Highly Strung, and many more.

Flexifoil power kites.

Revolution Squad-line Kites.

Juggling equipment by: Beard, Spotlight, Henrys, Mr. Babache, Flare, and others.

Unicycles, Diabolos, Devil-sticks, Yo-Yos, Modelling Balloons, Boomerang, Frisbees, and lots more.

COMPARE OUR PRICES!

Send S.A.E. for comprehensive mail order catalogue to: **PERPETUAL MOTION**
127-9 Devonshire street S3 7SB
Telephone/Fax: 0742 671946 (24

FLARE

MANUFACTURERS OF JUGGLING EQUIPMENT FOR BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND CASUAL JUGGLERS AT REASONABLE PRICES.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL ENQUIRIES WELCOME

SEND S.A.E. FOR CURRENT PRICE LIST TO:

FLARE FLUORESCENT PRODUCTS

29, MOOR OAKS ROAD, BROOMHILL, SHEFFIELD S10 1BX ENGLAND

TEL: 0742 671946

WESSEX JUGGLING CONVENTION

Frome, Somerset

10a.m. July 2nd -4p.m. July 3rd

Unicycle Grand Prix, Juggling and acrobatics halls (we've got clever halls in Wessex), amazing stone amphitheatre for the show, workshops on everything from blowing bubbles to flying kites. Loads of childrens' activities as part of the family fun day.

Camping and catering on site. Advance booking essential.

£10.00 for a great week-end.

Details from:

Malcomb Lloyd,
Frome College,
Bath Road, Frome, Somerset
BA11 2HQ

Telephone: 0373 452018

The Cold and the Cold Shoulder



m about to crave your indulgence, gentle reader, and all that, tho' how am I supposed to know how gentle you might be?? You might be a psychotic axe-murderer for all I know, about to rain blows upon my innocent, aching head

for daring to do anything so frankly poncey as to crave your indulgence.

I think I should be allowed to crave a bit of indulgence here and there. Particularly here. After a whole season of hard graft, sodden weather, and twice-daily performances with pointy-spikes and sharp objects, your body falls apart from the sudden shock of having sod all to do. The paraffin I've imbibed is sitting there at the bottom of my lungs, and the only way to hold this thing at bay is to never actually stop fire-blowing. Which means that one day I'll simply drown. Which is marginally better than chemical pneumonia. Maybe.

Someone did ask me once where we go to in Winter. Reminds me of an old Music Hall song, that... People are so often surprised to find that circuses have Winter quarters, as though they thought that we simply drove on and on, like a whole wagon-train of ancient mariners, waiting for the Spring to come so that we could once more build up the tent and light up the pay-box. Bit surreal, that...

Winter is the time when trad. circus pulls into quarters, and takes a long hard look at itself. Trucks need to be repaired, up-graded, overhauled, serviced, painted, traded-in for better ones... Equipment needs checking too, and repairs made. Caging needs to be checked over very carefully for any wear or damage - the animals are safe on a farm for Winter. Also, the show must change. If it is to follow the same route next year it must be different enough to encourage the punters in again. Many remember us from previous years, and look forward to seeing us again, but they don't want to be bored silly, watching the same show they saw last year. The tent needs attention too. Most of them only

last two or three seasons before they start to look scruffy, so an old tent can be revamped and sold on to a smaller show, while a new one is made. Now you know where to get your own Big Top!

We need to make money, too. There is always a rent, or mortgage to pay, and everyone still has to eat. Scrap metal, tat, rags and bones, are all valid sources of readies, though the profit is small. Scrap trailers (caravans) aren't bad either, if you know who to deal with. Some people will pay Peter to school their horses, or to give riding lessons. Stud fees come in pretty handy, too - not only from horse breeders, but also from zoos. Zoos may not necessarily like circuses, but they need the 'services' - if you'll forgive the pun - of our boy beasties from time to time simply because their own collections are 'static' and are therefore in danger of becoming inbred. If the gene pool becomes too stagnant to remain viable, then extinction is the only result. TV advertising companies pay good money for the animals to make an appearance. Jolly's baboons have even appeared in a pop video. Nice work if you can get it and all that, but not reliable as a source of income. Also, the current interest in circus arts generally (why you're reading this article!) gives rise to opportunities with workshops and classes.

Generally though, Winter is a bit lean - said the mistress of understatement. Actually we're all skint, on our uppers, stoney, and waiting for Spring. If you're lucky, you get a stage show. Some circuses take a Winter show round, playing halls... some performers get Panto somewhere, or - though this is less likely nowadays - perform their own stage show.

Me? I've just finished a half-season tour as the front end of a dragon. Well you take what you can get, don'tcha? I've also written a brand new fire act which is so spectacular, I can't afford the props for at least another season! Ho-hum...

I've been thinking rather a lot too, recently - which is probably a bad thing. That's



It's a bit cold in a tent in winter, so the more sensible circus folk go and hide away somewhere warm for the duration. This even includes our own correspondent in that world, Mlle. Poff of the fiery tongue. Being a bit of a peace-and-love-ist, if not exactly a new age traveller, she falls to wondering why all bits of circus don't get on like, er, a tent on fire. And then, ever the generous one, she tells you.



The Cold and the Cold Shoulder

what comes of being pneumonic (or even pneumatic) - every time I stop working, odd, random thoughts pop into my head, and then pop out again. And then I remember them, and tell someone - Peter, usually - and we argue the point intelligently, and he usually wins because he's cleverer than me.

Did you know, for instance, that in France they call New Circus 'Spectacle'? It's a good name for it, and a lot more accurate - 'circus' being an equestrian term, as it happens. In fact, why don't I just come over all fish-wifey and tell you about why the old men of Trad. Circus get a tad tetchy with the New Circus movement? (Not that I'm one to gossip, but...)

Normally I sort of bumble along, with a dozy smile and a live-and-let-live *bonhomie* towards the rest of mankind, and it would never occur to me to ask specifically why one group of travelling folk had misgivings about another. I mean, a *Didekai* will never willingly share a site with a *Rom*, or a Showman, or a New Age Traveller... The hierarchy and caste systems among individual groups of travelling people is so complex anyway that it goes without saying that the different groups rarely mix. However, just this once, I did. The showmen are an easy-going lot mostly, and don't so much mind if you're from a fairground or a circus. Circus and New Circus trade freely, too, so I couldn't understand the resentment during the season.

"First off" says Peter, "is they call themselves 'circus'. And they're not". He went on to explain - proving the point with dictionaries, even! - that a circus show is one which involves horses, and although you can have a show with more animals than just horses, as soon as you have one with none at all, so far as the trad. showmen can see, it ceases to be a circus. They feel that their toes are being trodden on somewhat, by people who are unfamiliar with travelling traditions. It's all to do with good manners, respect, and all that. Most people seem to have a bit of *nous* about the Romany traditions, and what's considered taboo and all that - but showmen feel just as strongly about some things, so maybe 'Spectacle' is a more appropriate name for the 'new' shows.

The other thing pissing off the trad. men is the trendy funding currently taking place. In France, both trad. Circus and *Spectacle* receive Government grant money. In Britain, only the New Circus gets any dosh - and then, to be fair, not a lot. Neither is it consistent. Basically, it is very difficult for anyone in this country to get proper recognition and/or funding from the Arts estab-

lishment - but at least New Circus gets some help. There was one week last season when a well-known New Circus and ourselves were playing neighbouring towns in Powys. We had paid for our ground, while they were being paid by the council to be on theirs - and they still charged the same seat prices as we did. I know that Zippo's and No Fit State appreciate the difficulties of tenting, and are largely respected by the trad. men - but they think you're having a bit of an easy time of it, chaps!

Harking back to hierarchy for a moment, I met some of the most extraordinarily old-fashioned luvviesque snobbery I've seen in years this winter. *Smart's* new show pulled out very late this season (like two-thirds through it), and were still out when everyone else was safely gathered in. A mate of mine who I'd worked with on *Circus Sierra* had gone to *Smarts* in Spring but as a technician rather than performing. We were all excited - *Smart's* closed twenty years ago, and we wanted to see what young Gary would come up with, bearing in mind his family's reputation. It turned out to be a trad. show, but with no cage act, no exotic animals - dogs and horses only. A real *back to basics*, with emphasis on human skills. Anyway, I ran into one of their jugglers, and asked if he knew my friend. He looked confused. I explained that he was a technician. He explained that he was an artiste, and didn't have anything to do with "staff". Perhaps it's time he tried talking to a few "staff" - he might find that they're quite talented too. Bloody snob.

Last but not least - and this one really did make me laugh - was an old showman's final comment. "It's not", he said, as we sat on the trailer steps in the sunshine, "that I mind 'em havin' a go - good luck to 'em! - but 'ave you seen the state of 'em? Them lads as bought our old ring-mat were nice enough, but they looked a right state with them dread-locks they wear..." He's a Rom - and he'll tolerate anyone so long as they're not scruffy!

PS: Does anyone else think the new walking globes are dangerous? The ones used in trad. circus are twice as big and have a textured surface for more grip. Most of the plastic ones are dead smooth, dead little, get used in public halls with hard floors, are exceedingly difficult to master and make it very easy to break something - and they cost more! The old style globes seem to be out of production and are getting rare, so if any globe manufacturers out there fancy taking some advice from the trad. folks, they could maybe produce a good safe globe and sell a few to them. Or even just sell more.



**DO YOU NEED
A CATALOGUE?
STATIONERY?
PRICE LISTS?
ADS? etc ...**

...The list could go on
and on. So a new DTP

service for the
juggling and circus-

related industry has been

launched. Competitive prices
and original design created
by a juggler for jugglers.

Give Bo at ARK PUBLISHING a
call on **0736 762942**, or drop
me a line for more details.

WOODFORD RED LANE ROSUDGEON
TEL. FAX. MOBILE 0736 762942
PERNANCE CORNWALL TR20 9PU

WAY ON HIGH KITE WORKSHOP

3 Capuchin Yard
Church Street
Hereford
HR1 2LR

Tel: 0432 264206 or 359999

What? Another Kite Shop?

Well No, we like to think we're
a bit different!!!

Well, for a start we stock the
DARK STAR Stunter made by
CLOUD NINE KITES!!

So, why not send us an SAE
for details about how this
Kite can change your life!

(O.K. so we can exaggerate!)

Oh yeh, we do YO-YOS and

Boomerangs as well!!



BALLS - BOOKS, VIDS, ETCETERAS

Club Passing - A Juggler's Guide to Social Interaction, Part 1.

Simon Schofield, Jonny Popper, Brendan Brolly, Brendan Polly (well that's what it says), Scott Tomlinson (illustrator). £7.50

This is the first in a series of long-overdue books on passing. The authors are highly-skilled passing practitioners, and the book shows their experience in passing on their knowledge. It is very well-written with clear and encouraging descriptions, and the simple outline illustrations are mostly very clear (illustrating juggling on paper is not easy!).

Passing clubs is the reason many of us start juggling; this book not only teaches you how to begin, but leads you through tricks and passing patterns to become a very competent club passer. I would also recommend it to workshop organisers, to avoid the "who starts with four clubs, then?" questions which take up so much precious juggling time! And if you are already juggling seven clubs and learning left/right hand patterns - don't despair! We've got Part 2 to look forward to... more wonderfully original ideas - some of which might even work! (you never know with Brendan -d)

This is a really human book, which shares the skills - and the joys - of club passing. Buy it!

Pippa Tee.

(Dear Simon and Brendan. Will this do? Hope I get a mention in the next one... and can I order a copy now? - PT)

[was this the one Pip got a pattern named after her in, then? -d]

YoYo

Stuart Fell.
Video £13.50

This Video gift pack comes complete with yoyo, constant background music, and a yoyo rap you certainly won't forget! Although originally aimed at children it soon becomes obvious that the skills are just as fun and challenging for the adult child, and the price and technology used for some yoyos now shows that it needn't be treated as a mere toy.

In his own humorous and often zany style, Stuart takes you through forty-five minutes of amazing tricks using slow motion closeups, interesting and useful facts, and tips that really work.

Lisa age nine - "It was excellent, you can learn a trick in a few minutes and he makes it fun". Steph liked the way he winked at the end of each trick (but we weren't quite so sure).

From the simplest trick to the more advanced - learn the tightrope, around the world, walking the dog - there is something for everyone; 'how to hold a yoyo' and 'winding it up properly' gives an essential base to work from. As Stuart says, it takes five minutes to learn but a lifetime to master.

The JSA

Club Juggling and Passing

Video Starring Haggis McLeod
£12.50

Yes it's in the shops now! 'The Return of Haggis' or 'Haggis II' - the sequel to 'The Complete Teach Yourself Juggling Kit'. Hag has found a bit more to err... complete the complete range! The first video teaches juggling with balls, this one is aimed at the beginner who wants to progress to clubs and that great social activity - passing.

It is a must for the three ball juggler. Haggis fills workshops all over the country, but with the slow motion replays this video gives teaching, passing, and club tricks, a new dimension. From holding and throwing one club, to the more advanced five club pattern; Haggis includes detailed descriptions on tricks such as: under the leg; back crosses; chin roll and balance; flourishes; kick ups and chops.

The camera tricks and presentation is superb with some interesting camera angles in the 'back to basics' club passing with the Catch's own Pippa Tee [strategy - be in as many other people's books and vids first before getting your own on the market -d]. Tricks illustrated include: flats, tomahawk, shoulder throw and slapovers.

Pick-ups are taught by the gentlemen jugglers, Rod and John, who also strut some impressive juggling at the end. The whole video is peppered with HOT TIPS from the skillful and famous, some of it filmed at the European convention at Leeds; you can learn about RSI posture - with a close up of Hag's crotch - and see a who's who of jugglers playing volley club.

Highly recommended, colourful and fun, state of the art club juggling workshop, and I am REALLY not bitter because I wasn't asked to appear in it. By the way Hag you owe me for not mentioning your sweaty armpits.

SA

Hat Juggling

Andy Head.

Video. \$29.95 from PO Box 367, Monee, IL 60449 USA ...or try your local juggling emporium - someone should be importing it, shouldn't they?

I like this video a lot. It's probably because I have been attempting to master the hat for a while now and this was just what I needed.

Andy Head is a very slick hat juggler. OK, forget the fact he has won several awards in the States, just watch the way he moves - the hat loves him. It's not a high-tech presentation with loads of gizmos or flash backdrops, and slow motion replays would have been useful, but it is packed with very informative stuff from a person who knows his subject.

Andy talks about his role models; Chris Kremo, Charlie Chaplin and the great George Carl, gives advice on the type of hat to use and how to treat it to make those spins easier. The workshop sessions are very detailed and teach rolls, spins, flipping, removal, placement and replacement, with some tips on comedy and performance.

"When I perform I like to think the hat is alive," says Andy who explains the prop as like a ball (you can roll it), like a club (you can flip it), and like a ring because you can spin it. An under-rated prop which I am sure is going to become popular. Put this video on, it will suit you.

SA

Fools rush in - A call to Christian clowning

Roly Bain
Marshall Pickering £3.99

Roly Bain will be familiar to some from his time at 'Foottime', and as a founder member of Holy Fools, a network for those interested in 'clown ministry'. He is an Anglican priest with some interesting views on how the Church should see itself. It seems to have started with his first college sermon taking 'Jesus as Clown - the Jester, the Truth-teller' as his subject, which became a thesis, a way of life, and now a book.

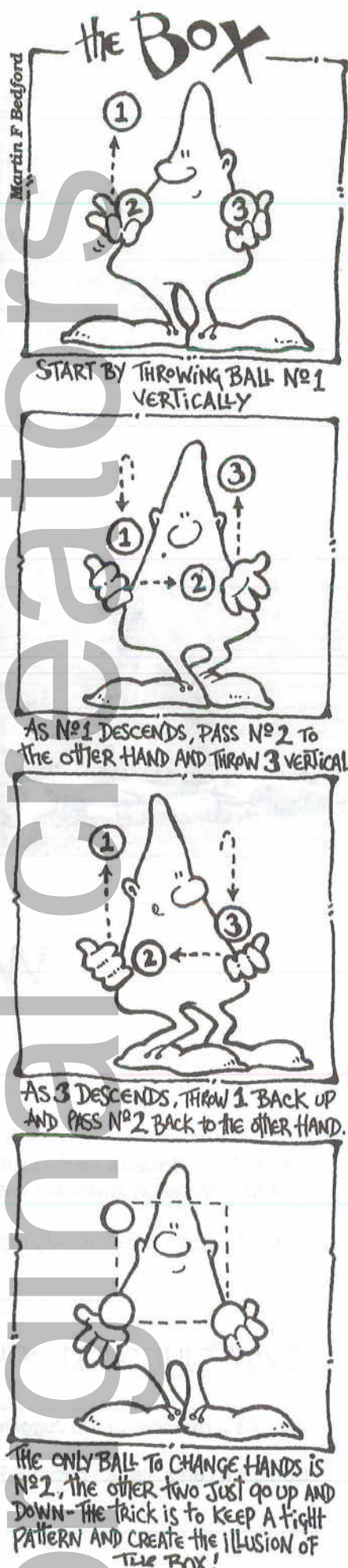
I am not a practising Christian, although I would attempt to live by many loosely Christian ethics, and would not normally read this book! Having said that, it is well-written, entertaining, informative and sweeps the reader along with its enthusiasm. Only at the end did I remember that I have never found clowns funny... which is where the essence of Roly's book falls down for me - but not necessarily for anyone else!

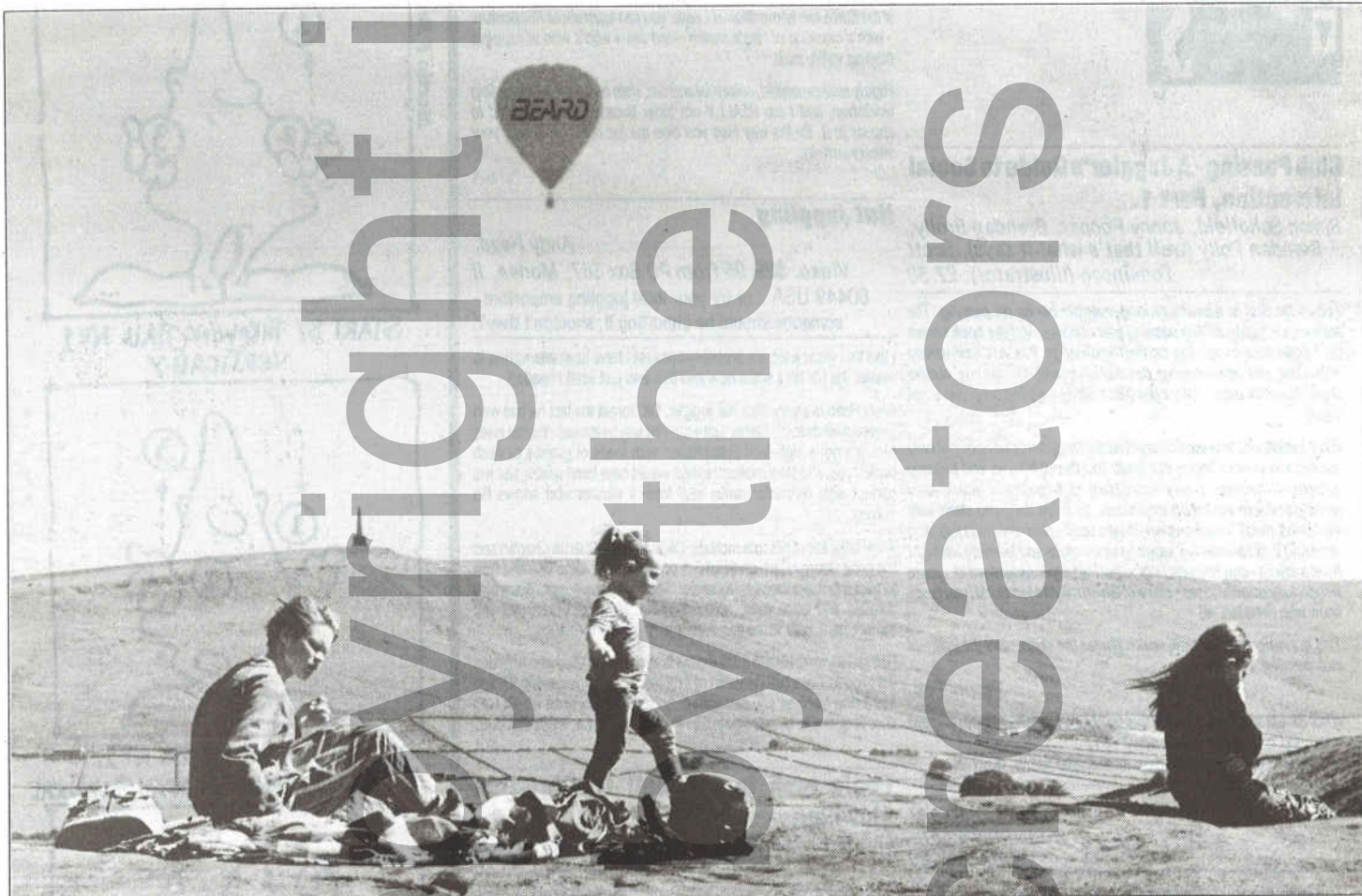
The various types of clown are neatly described, suggestions are given for different costume and make-up for routines, skills including one of the best written explanations of how to juggle (there are no diagrams), and performance tips which apply to all - "If you do something that's supposed to be funny but you're not quite sure, you can be quite sure that other people won't be too sure either!"

The main content is however, the extension of the first analogy; Jesus and therefore God as the Clown, teasing with riddles and parables, always asking 'Why?' and making us question too. Roly points to the absurdities in Christianity; how a King rode on an ass, the pomposity of a bishop in his finery who has forgotten how to laugh. Even the Crucifixion is seen as a sick joke, with the last laugh going to God with the Resurrection. Too much for you? Well, try the Fool and the King metaphor, playing with status. Both are essential to the other, and swap high and low status throughout their relationship. The Fool acts as a reminder of real values, truth through play and laughter. Roly sees this play aspect as essential to the Church becoming alive again, the ability to laugh at itself as vital proof of the place it should hold in our lives - we seem to be able to poke the most fun at the things we hold most dear.

And there I shall stop as this is moving rapidly away from juggling and circus skills! It's that sort of book - gently and humorously leading you into deeper matters...

Pippa Tee





wherever you go

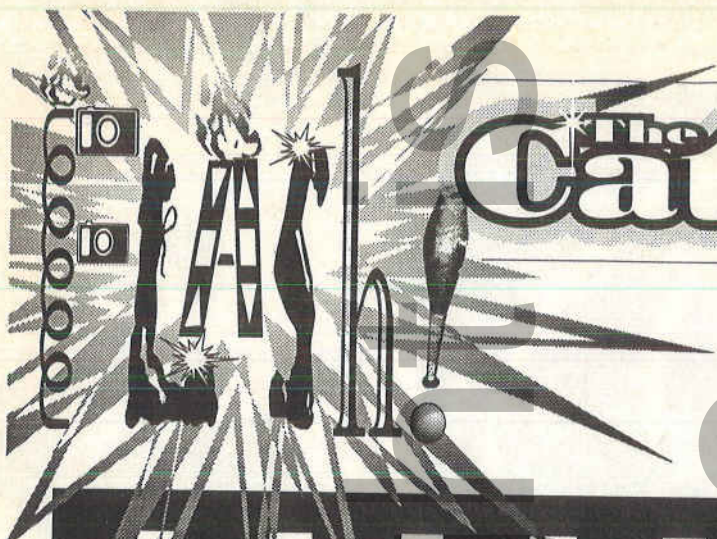
Beard (and Radical Fish) juggling equipment is available in the U.S.A., Germany, France, Spain, Holland, Norway, Australia, New Zealand

and of course at all good juggling retailers throughout the U.K.

BEARD juggling equipment - hand built in the U.K.

*Beard is a member of the **Juggling Trade Federation**, your assurance of the best service for jugglers.*

Dealership enquiries for Beard & Radical Fish products - Tel: +44 (0)422 843672 Fax: +44 (0)422 845191



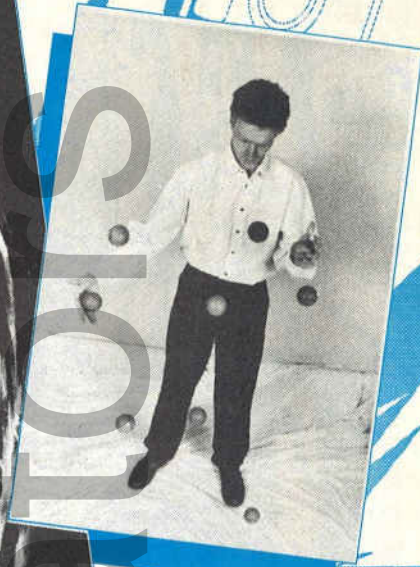
The Catch PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

You utter bastards, you wicked wicked people, you... you... Words fail me. I had this one all sussed out. Up to a month ago hardly anyone had entered this year's photo competition, and it would have been easy, so easy... just nick another one of Adrian John's pics, not credit him for it (as usual), claim it was mine - none of you would have been any the wiser, and I have *certain information* on Mr. AJ that would shut him up if he got shirty - and that lovely *Lazy Daze* photographer's jacket all them flashing colours and funny pockets, it would have been mine... all mine, I tell you! I'd taken to sneaking into *The Catch* cupboard late at night and trying it on... it suits me wonderfully, I'll have you know...



And then you went and spoilt it all at the last minute. More entries than last year. And darn good ones too. You'd have been bound to notice if I'd fixed it. You'd have wanted to know why *yours* didn't win anything. I can brazen most things out, but... I wouldn't have been able to be seen in that jacket in public, and that was the point, really. So best wishes to winner **MIKE BRIDGE** - 'The Uncle, Edinburgh '93' who snaps up the prize... and I'll just have to put the advertising rates up so I can buy one too. Yah boo and I hate you all.

- diabolio



*clockwise
(from top left):*

Mike Bridge

*Kamina
Walton*

Zoë Jelley

Andy Rockall



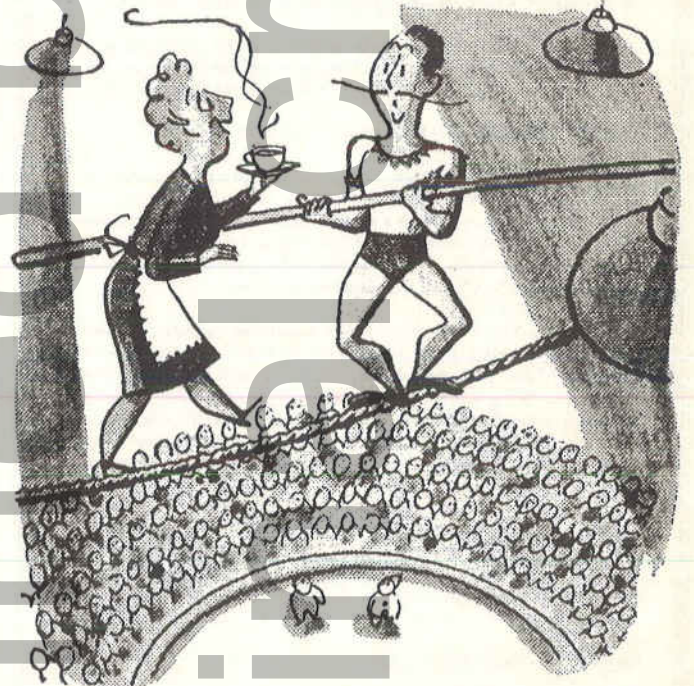
FEEDS...FEEDS...FEEDS

A runaway success! Definitely on the right track! So many wanted to express their sense of humour - first class! A little too much tunnel vision, many trains of thought ran along the same track [oh stop it! - d] - leaves, privatisation [ooh! political! - d], the channel tunnel, George Stephenson, common tricks and [ahem!] Donald Grant - so only original ideas or absolutely classic renditions of the obvious gags stayed out of the recycling bin for very long. After a few strained funny-bones we awarded first prize to "I say! What a coincidence!" (DD, Edinburgh, one of a consistently dalt selection), who wins the coveted Freaks Unlimited juggling knives; second prize (Freaks' new unbreakable Acrobat Clubs) goes to "OK, we've got it moving. Can somebody start making "Chuff Chuff" noises" (Eugene Bruce, Potters Bar); and third (a Freaks Unlimited Devilstick) to "It was a good job they put us in the caption competition, we wouldn't have stood a chance in the photographic one" (Sparkie, Glasgow).

Other chuff chuff chortles came from Rob Yeates, Bournemouth ("Whilst the attendant wasn't looking, all members of Diabolo Addicts Anonymous were having a 'quickie' out the window"); DG Fish (who?) of File ("Everyone cheered heartily as they left Professor Tomkinson's cigar box powered hovercraft standing at the starting line") and a certain Stewart Hutton, also, strangely, of File ("As Donald's ego began to fill the train, other diabolists were forced to the window for air").

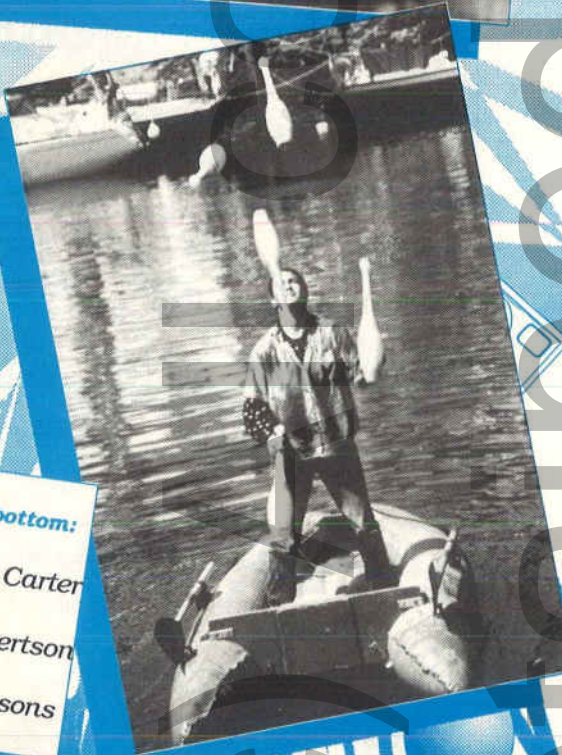
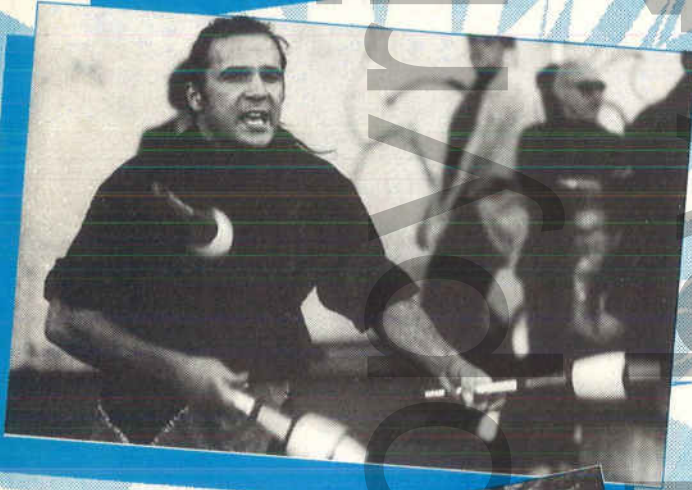
Dishonourable mentions for the following, all a couple of bogies short of a buffet-car - John Crosby of Jersey (that famous Channel Islands sense of humour!) "Holmes was aghast: Moriarty really had succeeded in tampering with the BF cheese and tomato sarnies"; Sandie Phillips of Dunmow "New Wool Marketing Board initiative - Well-entertained sheep produce softer wool"; Lewis Towns of Foulsham "Now to put an end to those bloody YoYo thingies, I thought the large solid brick tunnel as the train steamed into view"; David Forrest of Bury St. Edmunds "These diabolists really do keep the dinosaurs off the track"; and last but not etc., our winner DD (Donald's Dad?) for "I was aghast, Tomkins really had produced stronger spaghetti."

Someone from Cascadia in High Wycombe whose writing I can't read gets a special mention (very special) for a bewildering selection of tokens, and as for whoever it was sent the chilli pepper or the envelope full of crushed cornflakes... You're mad, you are. And we love it!



And for our next trick... Study this cartoon, also from Punch but an ad., dated 1949, eavesdrop on the conversation, and drop us a line. Answers, accompanied by a suitable bribe, to the Catch office by April 15th, are in to win one of three sets of the complete works of Circustuff, Britain's leading juggling publisher (apart from us): the three diabolo books by Donald Grant (who?) and Guy Heathcote, Shaun Clark's 'Cigar Box of Tricks', Ben Richter's 'Book of Club Swinging', and maybe something even hotter off the presses. You've read the reviews, I'm surprised you lived without them this long. The books will be personally defaced by the authors (all eminent juggling megastars) as long as they've learned joined-up writing in the meantime. The first prize winner also gets an unbelievably exclusive Circustuff T-shirt, featuring artwork from the books, otherwise available only to Circustuff authors.

FEEDS...FEEDS...FEEDS



top to bottom:

Stuart Carter

M. Robertson

Vic Parsons

PASSED

ARCHIVE ANTICS WITH TOBY PHILPOTT

I was vaguely aware that there had been a juggling craze at the turn of the century, but I always assumed that it was mostly toys - like diabolos and yo-yos - and that proper juggling (sorry Donald!) was not included. But, reading 'Renoir, My Father' by Jean Renoir (the filmmaker, about his father the painter) and found that he - the painter - was juggling for his arthritis in 1897!

p310 "He believed in ball games. He had always liked juggling as an amusement, so he began practising every morning for ten minutes before going off to his studio. "The clumsier you are, the more good it does you. When you miss, you have to stoop to pick up the ball, and make any number of movements to get it if it rolls under the furniture." He would juggle with three little leather balls, about two and a half inches in diameter, of the kind used by children in the old days for such games as ball-and-tambourine, ball-and-shield, ball-and-hunter and so on. Whenever he had the chance he would play battledore and shuttlecock. Tennis seemed too complicated for him: "You have to go to a special place to play, and a set time. I prefer my three inexpensive balls, which I can take when I feel like it."

p311 "Each year his face became more emaciated, his hands more twisted. One morning he decided to give up the three balls, at which he had been so expert. He was no longer able to pick them up. He threw them as far away as he could, saying in an irritated tone, "The devil take it, I'm going gaga!" He had to fall back on the game of bilboquet, played with a ball and peg, "just like the one Henry III used in Alexandre Dumas!" He also tried juggling with a small log. He asked our coal and wood dealer to cut one for him very evenly, about eight inches long and two inches thick. He scraped it with a knife himself and sandpapered it till it was perfectly smooth. He would toss it into the air, making it turn round and round, and catch it adroitly, being careful to change hands from time to time. "One paints with one's hands," he would say. And in this way his fight to save his hands went on."

Note how casually the bean-bag is mentioned (own up - who thought we had invented it in the Seventies?) And what are those ancient children's games? There seems to be little desire to explain how he came by this skill, it's all treated as relatively unsurprising and commonplace.

And now - for those of you who are interested in the likely origins of juggling in the East - and for those who are dubious about the 'mystification' of juggling - I offer this quotation from a book about Zen:

Zen and Zen Classics - R H Blyth 1964 (Vol. 2, p47)

"After Seppo became famous, he opened his own temple, and the monks attending were about 1500. He used to meet people with his three wooden balls, and when a monk came to be taught he would roll them out. We are reminded here of W C Fields, the drunkard/acrobat/humorist. Fields would use his hat. Seppo his three balls. Both were teachers, teachers of Zen. I have learned from both."

Seppo lived to be 86, it seems (822 - 908 on the Christian Calendar). He must have known something. It was interesting to see that the translator appears unaware of Field's early career as a juggler (and his pratfalls are mostly done by stunt men - he may have been drunk but he wasn't stupid). Equally interesting is that he is specific about three and about rolling - are his translations accurate? If they are, then Seppo was certainly juggling in some form, even if only (only!) rolling three round and round in the hand - not too easy with wooden balls.

I haven't been able to get any more information about Seppo (he would have fitted into the Marx Brothers, no problem), apart from one more quote from R H Blyth, who this time seems to have tried rolling a ball about himself, to get the feel of the thing, and drifted off into a contact dance dream:

Zen and Zen Classics (Vol. 2, p42)

"One day...Seppo rolled along a wooden ball. Gensha went after it and put it back in its original place.

To roll a ball is to see the ballness of the ball, its woodenness; and the woodenness, the levelness of the floor; the roundness of the earth, its pathfulness; the desire of the ball to roll, the desire to stop rolling. But beside this spontaneous wilfulness of nature there is the thoughtful control, the orderliness, the infinite finality of man.

In these two, which would work together undivided yet always separately, as in Seppo and Gensha, is seen Universal Activity, the Buddha Nature, Godhead."



ALL WHOLESALE ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO
34 COWLEY ROAD, OXFORD, ENGLAND
TELEPHONE 0865-200678 FAX 0865 200670

Dear retailers, We have brought out some wonderful new items at great prices.

NEW
GIANT
DIABOLO

NEW VERY
DEADLY LOOKING
KNIVES

NEW
SILCON
BALLS

NEW
ODDBALL
STREET TORCH

IMPROVED
ODDBALL JUMBO
DIABOLO

NEW
PROFILED
SWINGING TORCH

100% HEMP BEANBAGS
FILLED WITH HEMP SEEDS
WITH A LABEL PRINTED IN HEMP INK
PRESENTED IN A PRESENTATION BOX
WITH A PICTURE OF
A MARIJUANA LEAF ON IT

BEARD

OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTORS OF

SPOTLIGHT

Jonglerie
Diffusion

Dubé

32 TYPES
OF BEANBAG

FULL DX RANGE

13 TYPES OF DIABOLO

UNICYCLES GAIRORE
BEST RANGE IN LONDON!

30 TYPES OF
CLUBS

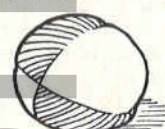
Shops at:

323 Upper Street, Islington, London
5 minutes from Angel Tube
tel: 071 354 5660

2 Camden Lock Place, Camden Lock,
3 minutes from Camden Tube
tel: 071 284 2460

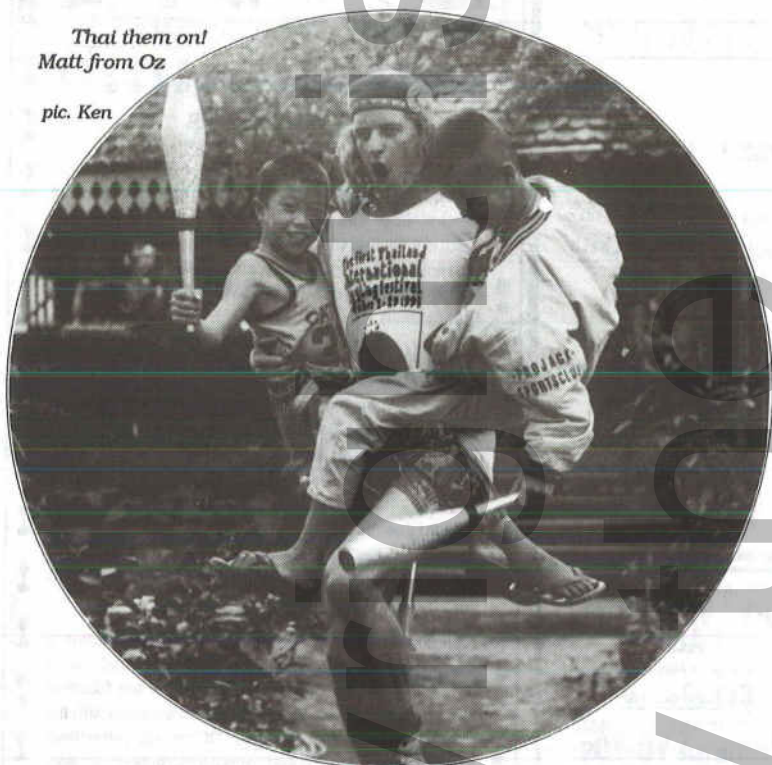
34 Cowley Road Oxford
Tel: 0865-200678 Fax 0865-200670

& NOW
Happy
Juggling!



That them on!
Matt from Oz

pic. Ken



Back in November, when the subject of the Thailand Convention came up, we were in a quandary, I can tell you. The last exotic destination, Bognor, diabolo went himself, but we had a magazine to put out, and, well, the fax bills of editing a mag from Bangkok were a little off-putting. But there was this young fellow *Ken Farquhar* nosing around, making the tea and that. Thought we'd send him to join the juggling jet-set (*H McLeod* and others with nothing better to do). Seems to have turned his head somewhat. Last we heard he was muttering about depletion of creative juices and would we send him to Hawaii to recover. Anything to oblige. The following account has been censored to protect those of impressionable years. Pity. The stories about Lee Hayes were particularly picturesque.

The ultimate convention?

An all-expenses-paid trip as *The Catch's* correspondent at the Thailand festival was a dream come true. What better way to spend the winter than to juggle in paradise, eat strange food, and sample the local herb. Wow! I might even have time to enjoy myself on this assignment! Unfortunately, now it comes to writing. I feel like the location photographer who has to explain to the editor why the last ten shots of every film are at nightclubs and out of focus...

Turning a good idea into a festival was down to the aptly named *SERIOUS FUN COMMITTEE* whose energy and enthusiasm transformed a toss in an exotic park (*pardon? - d*) with a few shows into a major newsworthy event. The convention was split between Bangkok and the *golden triangle* border town of Mai Sai - a gruelling 16-hour journey north on a bus... thank heavens for the sponsorship deal with Singa Beer! (*my my, you did have it hard you poor lambs - d*)

The Thais, in general numbed from the invasion of Western tourists, warmed to this particular raiding party of forty international jugglers. They were often bemused at the break with normal social behaviour associated with an impromptu street show, but reacted with curious appreciative smiles. Many didn't know what to make of the intruders, customs officials in particular were a little confused with Joel Salem's eight Australian milk crates and six huge razor-sharp cane knives...

I don't really want to give a blow-by-blow account of the festival (*couldn't, more like - d*), so here are some of the highlights I can remember.

Show in the slums, Bangkok. Juggling for God
It appears part of the festival is linked with fund-raising for a religious charity who have projects educating children in the slums of Bangkok. Our driver, a missionary, can't remember how to get to the venue, though he assures us he has lived here for ten years. He should get out more.

The stars of the show were John Junior the '70s Rock'n'Roll legend (a puppet) and Robin (a dope fiend) from Holland! John was only out of his box for a few moments while Robin was out of his for the whole of the festival. The stage was invaded by 250 adoring fans. It took about fifteen minutes of shouting and screaming - the language didn't matter - to get the kids to sit down.

Convention officially starts.

The convention officially started with a dawn workshop in Lupini Park where thousands of people meet for their daily *Tai Chi*. At 8am, no matter what they were doing, everyone stops frozen in time, holding the same position like the men from *U.N.C.L.E.*, while the national anthem is played. We ended up outside the King's palace with a spontaneous *juggling on an elephant* workshop and fire show!

Getting around. Or not.

In Bangkok the pace was extremely slow, probably due to the everlasting traffic jams which plague the city - with 600 new cars on the road every day! Even the festival double-decker (aptly named Kana-Bus), with stylish air-conditioned rock'n'roll megastar appeal, got lost in the gridlock; the driver was eventually contacted via the city radio station. Already late and having moved 800 metres in two hours, performers for a show in the Bangkok theatre were put on the back of a lunatic motorcycle taxis service.

With a plethora of performers in a confined space the journey north was a cross between a late-night renegade stage and the secret cabaret. Or an out-of-club experience... but I do remember the *jugglers rap*, combining the farting sounds of a didgeridoo, the burps of the accompanying jugglestruck choir, and Dane-T "when I get to seven it'll be heaven" Neils.

Mai Sai highlights

In Mai Sai we were greeted by ten Spanish jugglers who, unable to deal with the city, had headed north before the convention started. The border town was a lot more relaxed, a green jungle environment, although we were warned it was a lot colder. This became a recurring joke - obviously the committee had not sampled the delights of the British weather.

We did a show for one of the organisations set up in Mai Sai to help misplaced children (Burmese or Thai) who are under threat from prostitute merchants, and from the Burmese army who use the children as human minesweepers. They couldn't believe all these jugglers had come from all over the world to perform for them.

A day trip to Burma gave us the opportunity for some Renegade shows to the hill tribes. In the desperate heat of the midday sun and in the true spirit of international co-operation, the Brit/Oz group of Patrick Pom and Joel Salem wooed the crowds with daring acrobatics. In return they were rewarded with a pleasant journey to a Burmese 'Healing Centre' (a euphemism I expect - d)

Our festival should have coincided with the festival of Loy Kratong and a lunar eclipse at 12.30am. Unfortunately the planetary data was from a Kiwi diary. But we did get an hour onstage at the main celebrations. The stage was huge, with a catwalk; performers entered by a golden tunnel. There was so much noise from competing activities going on around that all the Thai acts were either ignored or drowned out. But for the hour the jugglers were on stage everything changed, the entire focus was on them. Unfortunately it was like playing a soccer stadium, and lacked the intimacy of the previous shows.

The festival was undoubtedly a unique experience for all who came into contact with it. A new word was even introduced into the Thai vocabulary - *Jog-ga-ling*. So if you're pissed off street performing with magic disappearing crowds, then pack your bags, eat your anorexic dog, and head east.

THREE · THREE · TEN 3-3-10 JUGGLING

* SPOTLIGHT RAINBOW CLUB * - £15.00 each

A beautifully constructed juggling club with a coloured body (available in six colours) and silver handle.

* SPOTLIGHT RAINBOW EUROPEAN * - £16.00 each

As above only the body is decorated with metallic sections giving it a traditional european appearance.

3-3-10 HEAD OFFICE: 48 / 49 LOVEDAY STREET, BIRMINGHAM B4 6NR
TEL: 021-359 6200 FAX: 021-359 5779

NEW QUALITY CLUBS FOR '94

* SPOTLIGHT RAINBOW CIRCUS * - £16.00 each

Still the same club only with added "circus feel" by having the body decorated with metallic stripes. Flashy !!!

These clubs are now available from your local juggling shop or direct from ourselves.
Call us now on 021 359 6200

CIRCUS WORKSHOPS • FETES & FUN DAYS
TOYS • GIFTS • PUPPETS
• JUGGLING EQUIPMENT FOR SALE •



CIRCUS SCENE

ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS:
CATHY on (0734) 795011

Holme Grange Craft Centre, Heathlands,
Wokingham, Berks RG11 3AW
Home Telephone: (0734) 734030



STUART FELL'S HOW TO YO-YO VIDEO GIFT PACK

INCLUDES A FREE YO-YO
£13.50 incl. P.&P

LONG SPINNING BALL BEARING
YOMEGA YO-YOS

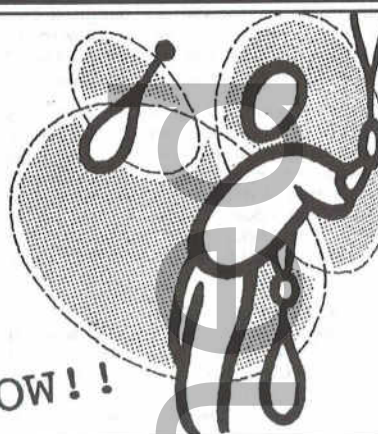
RAIDER without HOLSTER £24 incl. p.&p.
RAIDER with LEATHER HOLSTER £29 incl. p.&p.

THE HOW-TO YO-YO BOOK: **WORLD ON A STRING**
by HELENE ZEIGER - THE BEST BOOK EVER WRITTEN
ON YO-YO LORE and TRICKS. £7.50 incl. P.&P.

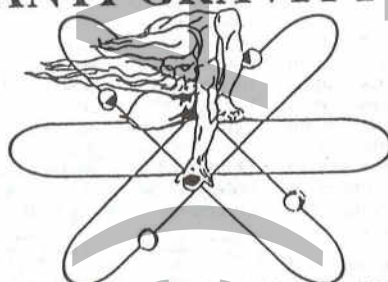
SEND CHEQUE or POSTAL ORDER payable to:
**STUART FELL, 88 ATTIMORE ROAD,
WELLYN GARDEN CITY,
HERTS, AL8 6LP, ENGLAND**
Tel/Fax: (0707) 335435

Club Passing A jugglers guide to social interaction

OUT NOW!!



THE ANTI-GRAVITY SHOP



15a Gillygate, York. (0904) 631696
JUGGLING EQUIPMENT, KITES, AIR TOYS.



Drops - CONTROV CORNER

Teaching teachers

We live in dark and dangerous times. Even the hallowed world of juggling is not free from the ever growing constraints of this Government. Somewhere in Britain there is a dimly-lit room with anonymous shadowy figures who are deciding my future.... and possibly yours. I am not talking about MI5 or MI6, but NVQs - National Vocational Qualifications.

In case you didn't know, NVQs are being developed for a whole range of arts and sciences in order to award accreditation for teachers. Nothing too sinister in that. I agree... But take a look at how it's happening and what it's going to mean on a practical level. NVQs are being developed to enable 'official accreditation for circus skills teachers'. This means that if I were to go on a course (which I guarantee will not be cheap) then I would be more 'qualified' to teach than I am now, from having worked in the field and gained ten years experience running circus workshops.

I am not against progress and I am strongly in favour of establishing safe, effective working practices. What I object to is that decisions are being made about the future of circus in this country without broad consultation with the existing teachers and students. Of course, committees have to be limited in size and cannot include every opinion, but there surely has to be a forum for debating the issues involved here. By denying the debate, the Powers who are deciding on NVQs are denying valuable input and experience from the many people out in the field.

How do we know that these NVQs are going to produce good teachers of circus workshops? For me, the key ingredient to successful teaching is a combination of joy and enthusiasm, level of skill possessed by the teacher, ability to communicate, and an understanding of what Circus is all about. Will trainee teachers be taught how to be performers first in order to know what it is they are teaching?

I have attended courses designed to turn community workers into circus teachers which have failed completely, due to the course leader's inability to master any of the skills they were supposed to be teaching. I have worked with a number of children recently who have started out hating juggling because they have experienced some very poor teaching. So I understand the need for good standards to exist - but how do I know that this is what we will get from the new NVQs?

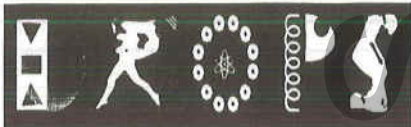
If I were to be cynical about all this, then I would say that NVQs are being developed by the existing Circus schools to drum up more business for themselves, a nice bit of creative marketing, with the criteria for the course being what's easiest for the schools to stage with one eye on profit margins.

Of course, I'm not that cynical, but I am throwing down the gauntlet to Circus Space, Skylight and the rest, to see if it's not too late for a bit of consultation. At the very least you owe us an explanation.

A. L. Ellis

Controversialists not controversial shock

We approached *The Circus Madness Campaign*, an organisation dedicated to exposing the alleged cruelty to animals of modern traditional circuses, for a contribution to this column. They haven't responded. You can draw your own conclusions from that.



DROPS - APOLLO-JEEZ

In tribute to the Government's drive for a return to Medieval values, diabolically endorses the morality of the prince bishops - do what you like as long as you confess, grovel a little, say a few pious words and slip a few crowns to endow some religious foundation (I favour *The Little Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence*). Then do it again.

The following were victims of unaccountable computer errors and slips of the word-processor. So whatever we made you think about them, you'd better forget it *right now*. Who said *too late*?

Adrian John, the *Catch* official Leeds location photographer, for missing his credit off *all* those excellent photos from the convention. It's 'cos I've got this deep-seated pathological hatred of people with talent. There's some good bits of Freud about the condition. Maybe then you'd feel sorry for me.

Martin Bedford for saying his convention was happening on the Sunday morning too... and to **All the Sheffield convention-goers** who fell for it. I didn't think anyone in their right minds got up that early on a Sunday anyway.

Thomas for getting his (gender non-specific) name wrong and not printing the whole 365-page rambling stream-of-consciousness letter-t'-yer-mates epic in its full unexpurgated, er, make that *idiosyncratically stylish*, glory. And apologies for apologising! Long live the socialist 'stone' juggling republic of Albion!

Anyone who thinks we owe them a T-Shirt. We haven't got any, and the geezer's not printing any more for some reason. We paid him, honest. New ones currently in the pipeline, and not before time. Mine niffs a bit by now.

Phil Gardener of Zero-G for being more than necessarily dense at some unearthly hour of the morning and so getting his contribution to the 100 foot chimney in-joke cycle completely wrong.

The EJA for encouraging people to contact them, and not providing an address. That's 'cos we didn't have one either. Oops! Try c/o Lee Hayes, Jodenbreestr. 24-1, 1011 NK Amsterdam, Netherlands. Tel. 31 20 6239487, Fax 31 20 6203570.

Neil Hope-Collins for getting his name wrong. I think *Hop-Collins* is a jolly nice name, actually. And congratulations! Perhaps you can call the baby that.

Brendan Brolly for ignoring all his contributions in favour of some snotty Scots kid. If you send us a pretty pin-up of yourself, Brendan, we'll give you the star treatment next issue.

Anyone who wanted to know what the real caption was. 'Cos we're not telling you, 'cos it's really boring and we wouldn't waste the space on it. Mind you wasting space here apologising kinda negates that bit.

All those people who thought they'd paid up for a year... fooled you! send us some more money! or you won't get to read any more apologies!

Anyone who wanted to read the Up in the Air accounts - they're even more boring than the admin. stuff we *do* print.

The ink-tappers of the Patagonian Plateau - all their patient work with the mighty 600' Inky Blackwood trees gets wasted on inanities like this.



Circus Space Cabaret

17th December

Do you feel like a day out in the big city, you'd like to see a show... For God's sake don't even think about the West End, but sample a Circus Space Cabaret night, quick, at its present location - even if it's just to say you were there.

Circus Space has a friendly air circulating around its maze of corridors and rooms; the performance area is

big enough to swing aerial and stage acts, but still retains an intimate feeling for the audience. Grab yourself some good food, a beer, a pink chair, and enjoy some of the best entertainers on the circuit.

Stompy was our compere with some interesting character stuff, like the shell suited unstreetwise techno nerd, as well as his now famous lotus jump. A brave (or was it stupid) business-suited VIP/guest (well it was London) left early to go home to his G&T. If you are reading this Sir - you call people that if they wear a suit and talk posh - here's a tip... leave during an act using a tape and not while the compere is on. Lucky sod Stompy, he was a gift.

Twenty 'kids' from Circus Space bounced on like a scene from *"Fame"* and created a sort of circus disco (I know you aren't supposed to call things discos now, but that's what it was, OK?). They are the result of a three-month course and obviously enjoyed it. When we say kids we are talking tongue in cheek here, but in the UK we don't get 'em young all the time. The skills were new but a lot of energy carried it through. They did show what could be done at the venue, loads of room for trampoline, trapeze and tightrope. Where can you buy hot pants these days anyway?

I suppose I could have stayed at home and watched the telly. You sometimes get some good stuff on, the adverts are quite good; a lot of work and talent goes into them, but most of the evening has to be filled with less expensive pap devoid of any entertainment. Not everyone who has talent finds themselves on the electronic stage or a household name. Kevin Brooking and Rachel Ponsonby don't have their own quiz show so you have to make the effort to go and see them... Go! They don't say much, but the relationship between each other and the audience is special. Kevin can make you laugh just by sticking his finger in his ear, by balancing a ball on his finger, or playing a trumpet with no fingers. Rachel seems to look down her nose at Kevin, plays two tin whistles with her nose, and plays a trombone from the hip... Kevin's!

Emile's juggling act is in the more traditional music hall style. Hat skills are becoming popular; it was also good to see a cane and a spinning ball in the routine. Slick club juggling followed with balances, four and five clubs, then a humorous cigar box set finished off with a ten box chin balance. A bit different with a lot of skill; more work on the character would just polish it off.

Juliette Hardy has learnt trapeze at Circus Space and will surely become one of its finest ambassadors. This was her performing debut and - I know it's an old cliché - "I don't know much about it but I know what I like", she was superb. I sort of feel I should know the names for the moves she was doing, swinging high above the bent necks of a wide-eyed crowd, but I don't. All I can say is, as we held our breath, she caught herself on some of the smallest bits of her body and dangled with great grace and poise. A trapeze artiste should have a surprise finish I guess, and Juliette was no exception. I think you should take a day out in the big city to see it.



New Swinger in Town:
Juliette Hardy at Circus Space...

PHOTO: ROBERT EVANS

Hullabaloo Cabaret

Leeds

Before I go any further I must say that this review is biased. The cabaret was on my birthday and I knew half the people in it. Taking that into account, it was brilliant.

The Hullabaloo cabarets have been going on for at least three years now and always have a fair mix of acts. There's usually at least one circus act in there somewhere. This one featured two, *Le La Les* and *Cosmos*. I won't go into too much depth, mainly because my recollection is a bit hazy (especially towards the end), but never mind.

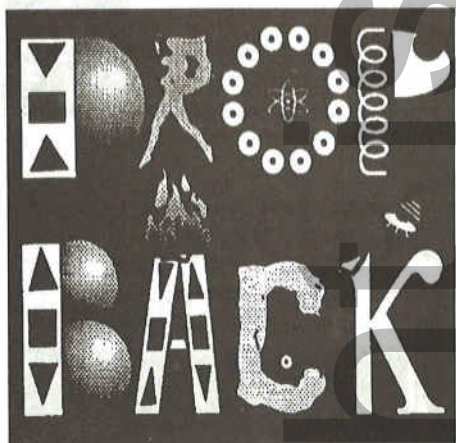
First on was Marjory, a 'safety expert'. She was followed by Oliver Double. The non-circus acts can be a bit hit-and-miss sometimes, normally more hit than miss though. This time it was one of each.

Mark from *Le La Les* is a brilliant acrobat and has a wonderful stage persona. I've seen their show about five times now but I still enjoy it. *Cosmos* were *Cosmos* and did their usual very professional show with a few new touches. For those who don't know, *Cosmos* are Anna Jillings (soon to be famous author) and Jim Semlyen, and they're fab.

Anyway, I'm wittering. The Hullabaloo cabarets are nearly always brilliant. If you can, go along to one. You won't regret it.

Brendan Brolly

The JSA



Kiwi Fruitcakes

Haggis McLeod suggested I send you this newspaper extract. He is over here at the moment blowing the Kiwis away with his juggling skills.

The story also made the local news that night. All traffic was stopped at a major intersection and a huge crowd gathered - it looked like The Beatles/U2 rooftop concerts! Great fun was had by all and the firemen really didn't mind - they saw the funny side of it all.

Garry Nevin,

3 Up Down Under Juggling Co., New Zealand.

JUGGLER CAUSES FIRE CALL-OUT

(The Press, Christchurch NZ, 8-1-94)

A promotion for a central Christchurch juggling shop attracted more than the usual turnout yesterday when two fire appliances arrived. The Fire Service had dispatched the appliances after receiving a call alerting them to a fire on the top floor of a Cashel Street building where "people were waving their arms about". A closer inspection revealed a juggler on the building's veranda performing with fire torches.

The juggler, Garry Nevin, said he had staged the entertainment to promote his and his partner's shop moving to the Cashel Street building. "I heard the sirens and looked up to see the fire engines and thought, 'not here, it can't be!' But the engines stopped, the guys looked up and they weren't smiling," he said. However the fire-fighters left happy saying he could carry on.

No risk was posed to the building because water was on hand and the veranda on which he was standing had a steel roof. Another person was on the ground to ensure no-one on the footpath was at risk if a torch fell over the edge.

Seasonal offer - Free juggling balls!

Thanks to a change in the weather (which is extremely rare in Portsmouth on the sunny south coast) you can now enjoy free-zing juggling balls. You can make snowballs to whatever size you want and whatever density you want. Believe me, they are good. If you drop one, what the heck, make another. If you drop them all, you've got snowballs at all.

When you have mesmerised the local kids with your juggling skills - you can pelt them whilst they are still staring at you, saying "wicked", "Yeooo", or "that's brill, mister" - surely "Cool" would be more appropriate. One piece of advice - don't make yellow snow juggling balls!

Anyway, ggogt tto gggo as llll'm fffreezing ccccol!

Pete Rayner,
Portsmouth

Leeds 0, Corby 3.

Leeds '93 convention - we were lucky enough to attend the British convention that was held on the same site, otherwise we would never have found the European, due to poor sign-posting, and we were only travelling from Birmingham, not another country.

How can spending £26,888.88 on the Peking Opera performers be

Write to **Diabolo** Catch's Cradle, c/o
Moorledge Farm Cottage, Knowle Hill,
Chew Magna, Bristol BS18 8TL

justified? It is no wonder that the convention made a loss - how much would it have cost to get Gatto or another world-class juggler to do some shows and workshops?

If you want to attend a great convention we recommend Corby, although this is only a one day event. It is well organised and signposted. Having been to all three of them, I can tell you that they just keep getting better each year. The halls are plenty big enough for all of the jugglers and workshops, which are well organised and run on time.

It's a great fun-filled day, which ends with a jam-packed show, that this year only over-ran by one hour, which is pretty good by juggling standards [!-d]. We are looking forward to this year's, and hope to attend many more.

Nog, Clare and Joe, Drop-alot Juggling Troupe.

oh no! no sooner does one lot of 'dropalots' dissolve, then another spontaneously arises in another part of the country. Mushrooms don't come into it!

The old jokes are the good ones!

The thudding of dropped juggling balls may irritate your neighbours. Another good way is to throw diabolos at their greenhouse.

Could you please settle a personal dispute?

I think that the small diabolo by Henry's is pronounced Kolibri. But my friend is convinced that it's kolibri.

Last night I had a dream that I could juggle five clubs, seven balls, and was regarded as one of Europe's best jugglers. Imagine my surprise when I woke up and found that I was!

Haggis McLeod (well sort of)
David Drakeford

You had to be there (II)

Know anyone from Corby who can teach me to make paper aeroplanes?

Anna, Bedford
P.S. Sorry my aim was so bad.

this letter came on a rather fetching origami effort!

Another satisfied reader (?)

Dear Someone hiding behind the name Diabolo (sic).

Twice now you have sent me apologising letters before I have seen the article in *The Catch* to which they refer, neither time did you contact me to verify the article or print my reaction. I think your attacks on people who are pushing forward and doing good new work is boring. I bet you don't print this one.

Yours sincerely,

Dave Spithaky
Artist Director, Ra Ra Zoo

What else could we do?

A Juggling Writer Writes...

I really enjoy Donald Grant's regular diabolo workshops in your

pages. Is there any chance of the *Catch* serialising one or more of his books in your pages for all those who haven't bought his many books yet?

Yours sincerely
Brendan Brolly.

you fail to realise it's actually a plot to prevent people buying Donald's books - we get him to tell us all the good tricks first. Now if your tricks actually worked... Readers please note - we will in fact be running lots by BB next issue!

Scrounger! (I)

In issue 6 you mention a *Catch Out* reviewer badge, which has intrigued me to find out what it is, and if I can get one. I go to lots of circus and juggling related things and hope to go to even more next year, as I will be trading in Circus equipment, if all goes well. Hopefully one day I will have my own shop, but until then its market stalls and stalls anywhere for me & a bit of mail order for good measure.

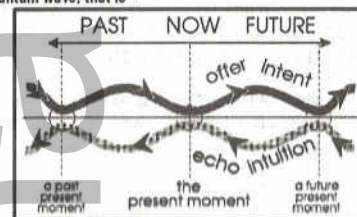
So go on send me some details on the badge thingy. I hope to hear from you soon.

Steve Tuesday,
Darlington

P.S. *The Catch* is wicked and getting better

On Juggler Time

According to John G Cramer's interpretation of quantum theory, every observation - every act of conscious awareness - sends out both a wave towards the future and a wave towards the past. A quantum wave, that is -



The juggler's left hand is the past and his right hand is the future. In the centre is the *nowpoint*, the present moment. The three ball cascade pattern in motion mimics, in physical microcosm, the quantum waves - with the balls as the 'packets' of information carried by them.

Every time we perform a conscious act we inform a quantum wave that links us to relevant past experience (memory), and another that sets off into the future, looking for somewhere to create a consequence. 'The better the throw, the easier the catch' - whether the juggle is with balls or life!

Mich Swain

On Juggler Time (II)

Excuse me... (if you're doing it again)

Somebody about three weeks ago asked for a pair of fluorescent silver socks and was well annoyed when we didn't have them. Someone came in just a minute asking for "Alta Capallino"... What-ever that is!!!

I'm only mentioned in Dec-Feb issue twice, it's disgusting. I remember when I was mentioned on almost every page!! It's outrageous!! Are you being kind to me or is that it, am I out, is this the end?!!

Congratulations on issue 6 of "The Catch", this is the first issue I've read, and I thought the articles were excellent.

(i) I thought it was a shame we couldn't fit in all of the thomasi bit (ahem! so did she!) tho' other readers found it too long and rambling. What's possible on a medium with (almost) unlimited space and limited (very specified) readership doesn't always suit the magazine format, I'm afraid. (ii) We include prices when we know them, honest. Some of our reviewers do tend to forget that ordinary people have to pay for books. (iii) As this page shows, we have a huge age-range of readers, and we try to make as

*Helz Reardon,
Organized Kayoss*

stolen clubs ! ? never again !

GRAVITY LOCK

Newton discovered it.
Now we've found it !

Gravity Lock is a Unique technological innovation made in the UK...and it could give you the Ultimate in P.P.S. **PERSONAL PROP SECURITY.**

How does it work —

We install our incredible **GRAVOTRON** on your club and give you a personalised magnetic key. Lock your clubs and leave them anywhere — they'll never leave that spot!

MAKES JUGGLING IMPOSSIBLE by Neutralising the clubs Gravity Fields.

NO hideous **RADIOACTIVE** side-effects.

Catch the Club Thief!
He'll DROP himself right in it !

For prices and catalogue: GL UK Ltd, c/o The Catch, Box No. 001.

Jules, Cardiff

*Martin,
Stufl'n Nonsense*

*confused Doug,
Edinburgh*

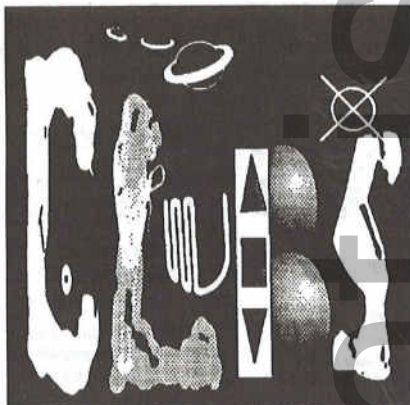
PS. too much Donald Grant in your next issue.

CLASSIFIED ADS...CLASSIFIED ADS...CLASSIFIED ADS

MULTIPLEX - CLASSIFIED ADS

<p>ADS. UNDER £50 - FREE. ADS. OVER £50 are £10 FOR 50 WORDS.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CONTACT CATCH OFFICE</p> <p>Ball Space juggling co. have now opened their new shop at 12 The Hornet, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 4JG, tel./fax 0243 530110. Iain would like to thank Steve & Colin from <i>Absolute Balls</i> for their continuing support.</p> <p>Fire Diabolos All stainless steel construction. Sprung dent-proof design. Renewable fire club style wicks. Excellent spin and balance. The new <i>Nesbitt Fire Diabolo</i> will soon be available from <i>Innovation Incorporated</i>, 33 Leighton Rd., Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 6BD, tel. (0242) 522805. Fire batons also available to order.</p> <p>Juggling Expenses - plane tickets? international consultants? fleets of buses? Send for the latest "How To..." guide, price not confirmed (deductable). Box 3000.</p>	 <p>Cartoonists! - get famous! get ripped off! get plagiarised in other magazines! send material to <i>The Catch</i> and we'll claim we never had it then print it with the wrong credit.</p> <p>Unicycling Helmet For maximum safety, try the <i>Jellyhead</i>! Unique appearance, loved by all, bounces off all obstacles, no feeling whatsoever. Box o.</p> <p>Feeling bunged up? Having trouble passing your clubs? For rapid relief get '<i>Club Passing - A Juggler's Guide to Social Interaction</i>'. Scientifically proven to get things flowing. Available from all good retailers now!!!</p> <p>WANTED - 12' long x 8'8" wide. Heavy curtains to aid blackout in Art Centre. tel: 0225 421700 - Tad.</p>
---	--

CLASSIFIED ADS...CLASSIFIED ADS...CLASSIFIED ADS



Clubbing with *The Catch* is such a civilised occupation, especially in contrast to the club recommendations in other magazines. Entrance charges are considerably below £6, drinks very reasonably priced, the only bouncers are rubber, and, best of all, there's none of that dreadfully loud music that mucks up my 5 pattern. The floor show might be a bit limited, but then who's to say that teenagers waving their arms in the air is much more of an artistic statement? I just can't understand why my comrades from Mixmag, The Pink Paper, and iD didn't last out the evening. They wouldn't even have been forced to stay out all night like usually happens...

Most workshops charge, often just to cover hall hire costs. When we know how much, we've put it in. You're advised to contact student clubs in advance, as some of them aren't allowed to admit non-students. If the government changes Student Union regulations they won't be allowed to have them at all, full stop!

SOUTH WEST

BARNSTAPLE

Trinity Church Hall
Thursdays 6-10 £1.50/£1
Adam & Juliet 0271 78760

BATH

Walcot Village Hall,
Mondays 7.30 £1
Tad 0249 716149

BOURNEMOUTH

Bournemouth Centre for Community Arts,
Boscombe
Wednesdays 7.30-9.30
Mike Chalkley 0202 518030

BOURNEMOUTH

East Cliff Church, Holdenhurst Road
(near BR station)
Tuesdays 7-10 £1.50
Luke / Geoff, Ocean Kites, 0202 301280

CHEL TENHAM

The Youth Centre
Sunday 6-9
Andy Clay 0452 862605

DORCHESTER

Tuesday, 7.30 usually
Skidzle street circus, Alan 0300 321071

EXETER

University Circus Skills, Devonshire House
Tuesdays 8-10

FROME

F.A.H.A. Playschemes and workshops in schools
Vicky Taylor 0373 452018

GLOUCESTER

St. James' Church Hall, Upton Street
Tuesday 8-10
Jon 0242 521483 Geoff 0242 519832

ILFRACOMBE

The Lantern Great Hall
Wednesday 7.45-9.30, £1
Helz, Organised Kayaks, 0271 864653

LEIGH ON MENDIP

Memorial Hall
Wednesday 7.30-10, £1.
Pippa 0749 840107

LISKEARD

Caradon Juggling Posse, Guildhall,
Thursday 7.30-9.30

NAILSEA

Blue Flame pub, Westend.
Friday Evenings in summertime. Free!
Di 0934 838802

NEWTON ABBOT

Up for Grabs, Creative Arts Centre, Knowles Hill School
Thursday termtime 7-9
Richard 0364 652446

PENZANCE

Branwells Mill, Station Road
Saturday 10.30-5.30 Beginners in morning,
advanced afternoon
Bo or Mike, Ark Juggling shop, 0736 330750

PLYMOUTH

Ballard Centre
Friday 6-8, £2.50
Fumballs Juggling Shop 0752 255808

SENNEN (West Cornwall)

Community Centre

Friday 7-9, £1

Bo or Mike, 0736 330750

STREET Somersel

Fiasco Productions Crispin Hall
Wednesday 7-9
Hannah 0460 240082

STROUD

Saint Matthew's Church Hall, Cainscross
2nd & 4th Tuesday 7-9 £1/50p
Ian/Julie 0453 756213

SWINDON

Fumbles Juggling Club, Clifton Street Social Hall
Thursday 7.30-9.30. 50p
Steve 0793 432860

TAUNTON

Bishop Fox's School
Wednesday 7-10
Sally 0823 275459

TOTNES

St. John's Church Hall, Bridge Town
Friday 7-8.30 kids 8.30-10 adults. £1.50/£1
Caroline 0384 73125

WEYMOUTH

Weymouth College
Lunchtimes during termtime
John MacDonald, 0305 208839

BRISTOL

Dab Hands, Horfield

Tuesday 7-9
Mike Gibbons 0272 692145

Juggle Fever, Bishopston Community Centre

Tuesday 7.30-9.30, under-14s accompanied
Sean Welling 0272 602365

Shambles, Mangotsfield

Soundwell Technical College
Monday 6.30-8.30
Claire 0272 615529

University Circusoc, S.U. Building, Queens Road

Termtime Sunday 2.30-7ish,
Wednesday 7.30-10ish

U.W.E. Juggling Club, Redland

Termtime, Wednesday 5-7
Diana 0934 838802

acrobatics -

Bristol Hawks Gymnastics, Roman Road, Lower Easton

2 hr sessions Wednesday & Sunday 11-1
£4.50

Sports Acrobatics Friday 6.30-8.0272 737481 / 855363

SOUTH EAST

BRIGHTON

Kemptown Pier
Monday 7.30-9.30 "drop in", Wednesday 8-10
"drop in" + workshops, Sunday 2-4 beginners
Tal, Andy, Mr Fizzbang 0273 739216, Tim 0273 690737

BRIGHTON

Queens Park Road Day Nursery
Tuesday 7.30-9.30 £2 if you've got it, £1.50 else.

CANTERBURY

University
Wednesday Evening
Contact S.U.

CHELMSFORD

The Y's Jugglers, YMCA
Tuesday 8-10 £1
John Hawkins 0245 263526

CHICHESTER

Girls' High School
Thursday 7-9 £1
Ball Space, Ian/Steve 0243 788052

CHERTSEY

Less Stress workshop, Saint Anne's Hall,
Guildford Street
Tuesday 7.30-10
Graham 0932 222063

CRAWLEY

Thursday 7.30-10, £1
Up for Grabs Sally / Nigel 0293 786143

EASTBOURNE

Central Methodist Church Hall, Langney Road.
Tuesday 7-10 £2

HASTINGS

Scout Hall, Croft Road.
Friday 7-9.30
Besco Circus, Andy 0424 813144,
Derek 0424 431698, Sian 0424 431214
HUG Unicycle Hockey
Sunday 10-12, phone Andy or Derek for venue

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Boxmoor Art Centre, Saint John's Road
Thursday 8-10, Sunday 2-4, £1.50
0442 64048

HIGH WYCOMBE

Cascadia,
Bucks College of Higher Education (f)
Monday 7-10
Adrian 0494 537656

HORSHAM

North Heath Lane Hall
Monday 8.15-10.15 Juggling,
circus & performance skills
Park Recreation Centre
Dave / Steve 0403 273466

ISLE OF WIGHT

Cowes Youth Centre Gym
Sunday 6-9 £1
Phil o'Neil 0983 294929

LEWES

Circus Pipsqueak Youth Circus (8+)
Dr. Colin 0273 813464

NEWBURY

Newbury New Circus, Waterside Centre
Monday 7-9.30
Gunther Schwarz 0635 41269

OXFORD

East Oxford Community Centre
Wednesday 7-9, Sunday 7-9, £1
Jason 0865 63441

OXTEAD

Sunday 6-9
Up for Grabs, Nigel & Sally 0293 786143

PORTSMOUTH

Priory School
Wednesday 6.30-9.30
Martin 0705 293 673

REDHILL

Tuesday 8-10 £1.50
Up for Grabs Sally / Nigel 0293 786143

READING

Sun Street
Monday 7-10
Pete 0734 660430

SAINT ALBANS

Allsorts Circus, Youth Office, Alma Road
Tuesday 7.30-10, £1
Dez Paradise 0727 855375

SOUTHAMPTON

Ilchen College, Bitterne
Wednesday 6.30-9.30 (Termtime)
Steve Kelsall 0703 315414

SOUTHEND

Balmoral Community Centre,
Salisbury Avenue
Monday 7.30-9.30 £1

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Camden Centre, Market Square
Monday 7.30-9.30
Kevin 0622 831918

WHITSTABLE

Saint Peter's Hall, Cromwell Road
Thursday, children 6.30-7.30 50p,
adults 7.30-9.30, £1.
Tina/Steve 0227 772241

WORTHING

United Reformed Church, Shelley Road
Monday 6.30-9.30
Stew & Pumpkin 0903 232755

YATTENDON

Thursdays 7.30-9.30, £1.
Barney 0635 201546

LONDON

CENTRAL

Colombo Street Sports Centre, SE1
Sunday 12-5 (£2.20-£4),
Thursday 7-9.30 (£1.20-£2.60)
Phil 081 801 9859, Centre 071 261 1658

CENTRAL

Jugglers Arms, Leathermarket Street SE1
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays 7,
Saturdays 12 & 2
More Balls Than Most 071 357 7707

CENTRAL

University College, Carol Marx Hall, Hurlly Street WC1
Monday in termtime 4.30-7
Adam 071 346 0074 Ste3void 071 700 5292

NORTH

Circus Space, 39-41 North Road N7,
Caledonian Road Tube.
Tuesday 7-10, £3 Juggling Workshop & Class
Sunday 2.30-5.30 beginners £2/1.
Practice sessions Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11-5, £2/1
Sunday 7-10, £3 All-skills mixed workshop
Courses and classes and one-off workshops in just about everything regularly available.
See *Catch This* and/or ring for more details.
Circus Space 071 700 0868

NORTH

Jackson's Lane Community Circus,
Community Centre, Archway Road N6.
Thursday 8.30-10.30 £3/£2.50
Bar & restaurant!

NORTH WEST

Kingsgate Community Centre,
Kingsgate Road NW6
Thursday 6.30-9.30
Fizzie Lizzie 071 723 3877

SOUTH

Grove Community Hall, Tooting SW17
Wednesday 7-9, £2/hour.

All circus skills, equipment provided.
Screw & Shirelle 081 672 2575.

SOUTH-WEST

Saint Paul's Church, Hammersmith
Monday 7.30-9.30
Albert & Friends 081 741 5471

CROYDON

Croydon Parish Hall
Tuesday 8.15-10.30 £2
Keith Wood 081 669 9685

EAST MOLESEY

Vine Hall, Vine Road
Thursday 7-10
Juggling & Molesey Maniacs UniHockey, £1.50
Steve 081 398 7390

ROMFORD

Rhythm & Balls, Century Youth House
Monday 7-9.30, 50p
Chris Irving 0708 751656

WATFORD

Youth & Community Centre, Lower High Street
Wednesday 8-10
Youth Arts Centre, Grosvenor Road
Friday 7.30
Justin/Tom/Michelle 0923 817663

WEALDSTONE

Skandar Circus, Scout hall, Claremont Road
Tuesday 8-10
Adrian/Jane 081 861 0919

WIMBLEDON

Kings College Sports Hall
Tuesday 7-8, termtime only
Andy Moore 081 947 9311

UNICYCLES & UNI HOCKEY

Trinity Centre, 119 East India Dock Road, Poplar
Wednesday 7.30-10, £1.50
Jon 071 987 1794, Lunis 071 700 6529

EAST ANGLIA

BURY SAINT EDMUNDS

Bury Fumblers, Saint John's Hall, Saint John's Street.
Tuesday - 7.30-9.30 £1

CAMBRIDGE

Patchwork Circus.
Victoria Road Community Centre,
Tuesday 8-9.30
Drama Centre, Covent Garden, Sunday 6-8 (all levels 14+) 5-6 (beginners), Thursday 4.30-5.30 Youth Circus (8-14).
Richard Green 0223 302596, Simon Smoleskis 0223 410138

DEREHAM (nr. Norwich)

Justso James 0263 732888

NORWICH

David 0603 738964, Will 0953 860460

IN THE MIDDLE

BEDFORD

Bedford Circus Ring, Cauldwell Community Centre, Allthorpe Street
Thursday 7.30-9.30
0234 328322

CANNOCK

Youth Centre, Avon Road
Tuesday 6.30-8.30 Adults £1.50, kids £1
Richard Potter, Cannock Kites 0543 573177 / 271563

**CHESTER**

Ballistic Juggling Club, Northgate Arena,
Victoria Road
Monday 8.15-10.15, £2/1.50
Aiden 0244 340789 (day) 383475 (not)

CORBY

Youth Centre, Cottingham Road
Monday 7-9
Balls Up, Gary or Andy 0536 63786

COVENTRY

Saint Peter's Centre, Charles Street
Wednesday 7-9.30
Circus Palava 0203 448276

DERBY

Saint Helen's House, King Street
Thursday 7-9.30, £1, 50p under 16s
Andrew Vass 0332 369581

DUDLEY

Triple Trouble, Saint Michael's School,
Rowley Regis
Monday 7-9
Steve 0562 861113

EVESHAM

Wallace House Community Centre, Oat Street
Monday 7-9 £1.50/1
Matt 0386 421693

HEREFORD

Percival Hall JT Owens Street
Thursday 6.30-7.30 (kids) 7.30-9 (adults) £1
Pete 0432 760350

KIDDERMINSTER

Youth House
Thursday 7-9 (under 14s 6-7)
UV room and gear available!
Steve 0562 861113

LEICESTER

De Montfort University Juggling Club,
City Site S.U.
Tuesday 6.30-9ish
0533 555576

LINCOLN

Croft Street Community Centre
Monday at 7
Polly Porter's Kite & Juggling shop
Tuesday at 7
Fred Porter 0522 544611

LUTON

Mad Hatter Circus, Chapel Langley,
Russel Street
Tuesday 7-9 £1
Dunc 0582 484167 Margaret 0582 508269

LYE (near Stourbridge)

Wollscote Primary School
Tuesday 7-10, £1.50
Dave @ The Juggling Shop, 021 643 6545

MILTON KEYNES

Great Linford Memorial Hall
Wednesday 7-10, £1.50
Jugglers Anonymous, Graham 0908 210264

NORTHAMPTON

Drop Shop Juggling Clubs
Bective Middle School, Kingsthorpe
Sunday 5-7.30
Nene Centre, Bedford Road.
Tuesdays 6.30-9
Lawrence or Vicky 0327 36600

NOTTINGHAM

Portland School, Westwick Road, Bilborough
Wednesday 7-10
Tony 0602 708177, Barry 0602 283080

PELSALL

Sheffield Community School
Wednesday 7-9, Adults £2, Kids £1
Richard Potter, Cannock Kites 0543 573177 /
271563

SHEFFIELD

Upshot Circus Arts, t.b.a.
Shaun 0742 662638

SHEFFIELD

University Juggling Club
Wednesday 6-9, Sunday 4-6
Flying Teapots, Rick 0742 663546

SHREWSBURY

Jugglespace, Artescape, 5 Belmont
Thursday 7.30-10 £1.20 (80p under 16)
Mel 0743 363989

STOURBRIDGE

Crystal Leisure Centre
Sunday 3.15-5.15
Matt at Juggling Junction, 0384 897474/891609

WORCESTER

City Youth Centre, Spring Grove
Wednesday 7.30-9.30, £1.50/£1
Sharon or John, 0905 23347

BIRMINGHAM**CASTLE VALE**

School & Leisure Centre, Farnborough Road
Thursday evenings
021 747 6226

EDGBASTON

Midlands Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park
Adults Sunday 6.30-8, Children Wednesday
4.30-6, £3.30
James Miller 021 443 4783

HARBOURNE

Martineau Centre
Wednesday 7.30-9
£2.10, 90p concs.
James Miller 021 443 4783

LADYWOOD

Arts Centre, Freeth Street
Dave 3.3.10 021 359 6200

PERRY BAR

B Block Hall, University of Central England
Gravity gets you down, Monday 5-7 termtime
Sam c/o SU

BOURNEVILLE

Bournville College
Thursday 7.30
Raymond 021 440 0784

MANCHESTER**CENTRE**

Polytechnic Gym, All Saints' Building,
Oxford Road.
Friday 7-9, termtime.

EAST

Levenshulme Community Circus, Chapel Street
Monday 6.30-8
Spurley High School, Gorton, Thursday 7-9
Liz 061 224 4901

CHEADLE HULME

Adult centre, Woods Lane
Wednesday 7-9
Isabelle Duncan 061 485 7201

CHORLTON

Quirkus, Saint Werburgh's Parish Hall
Monday Juniors 7-8, Adults 8-10
Ric, Clare 061 881 0506

CRUMPSALL

Mushy Pea Juggling Co. workshop
Saint Matthew and Saint Mary's Church Hall
Thursday 6-8

SALFORD

Circus & Juggling Club, University Sports Hall
Friday 5-7 termtime, £3 a year!
Mark / Joe 061 708 9250

STOCKPORT

Stockport Community Circus, Pulse Young
People's Centre,
Wednesday 4-7
Olive 0457 837371

WITHINGTON

Manchester Community Circus
Sunday 3.30-7
Jo 061 226 2393

WORSLEY

Beesley Green Hall, Green Leach Lane
Monday 7.30-9.30
Matt 061 794 0595

NORTH**BIRKENHEAD**

Charing Cross Youth Centre
Sunday 12-5
Ann, Small Top Circus, 051 653 3519

BLACKPOOL

Lytham Sain Annes Old School,
Beauclerk Road
Tuesday 6.30-8.30, Free!
Phil 0253 731143

BOLTON

Higher Education Centre
Friday Evening
Zebra cards 0204 22220

BRADFORD

Manningham Sports Centre
Friday 5.30-7.30
Ann 0274 480022

BRADFORD

Saltire Methodist Church Hall, Titus Street
Simon 0274 532287.

CLITHEROE

Roefields Leisure Centre
Wednesday
Brian Waterhouse 0200 29860

COCKERMOUTH

Juggling Club, Christchurch Rooms
Tuesday 7.30
Dave 0900 822867

COLNE

The Old School, Exchange Street
Tuesday 7-9 £1.50/£1 (kids)
0282 860735 (shop)

CREWE

Screwballs, Ludford Street Family Centre,
off Badger Avenue
Sunday 6-9

DARLINGTON

Community Circus, Drama Centre, Trinity Road.
Thursday 7.30-9.30 £1/50p
Hannah or Matt 0325 361633

DURHAM

University Circus Club, Duneim House,
New Elvet
Thursday Evenings in termtime, all welcome

HARROGATE

Juggle Alert, Saint John's Ambulance' Hall,
Starbeck
Saturday 6.30-9
Pete 0423 889125, Keith 0423 507097

HEBDEN BRIDGE

The Ground Floor Centre, Holme Street
Wednesday 7.15-9.30
Circus Factory Studio, Old Town, t.b.a.
Tony Webber 0422 842072

HULL

Splat Circus, Room 8, S.U. Building
Termtime, Tuesday 7.15
Sam Rowe 0482 445586

KENDAL

Tuesday & Wednesday
Jem Hulbert 0229 581485

LANCASTER

University, Minor Hall (juggling) sports hall
(unis)
other details t.b.c.
contact S.U. on 0524 65201

LEEDS

Hullabaloo Community Circus, Woodhouse
Community Centre
Wednesday 6.30-8.30
Ali 0532 770121

LEEDS

Unicycle Hockey, venue t.b.c.
Mike 0532 435491 (work number)

LIVERPOOL

Tossports, Community Arts Resource Centre,
Cornwallis Hall, L1
Wednesday 7-10 £1.50
(tuition available first half, £2)

LIVERPOOL

Toxth Sports Centre, Upper Hill Street
8-10, Thursday. Contribution to costs.
Max Lovius and others 051 727 1074

LIVERPOOL

University Juggling Club, Mountford Hall
Monday 7-10
051 420 7064

MACCLESFIELD

Tytherington School
Thursday 7-9 termtime
Contact Borough Council

MIDDLESBROUGH

The Pandemaniacs, Saint Mary's Centre,
Corporation Road.
Thursday 6-8, £1.50 (concs £1)
Bob Parker 0642 262869 days.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Dockray House (formerly West End Boys Club!)
Sutherland Avenue.
Thursday 8-10, £1
Simon, Ugly Juggling Co., 091 232 0297

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Unicycle Hockey, Leazes Park
Wednesday at 7
Alex 091 261 5128 or the Uglys

PONTEFRAC

Carnegie Centre,
Minsthorpe Community College, South Elmsall
Tuesday 7.30
0977 644141

PRESTON

University of Central Lancashire
Wednesday 6-9, everyone welcome
Ili S.U.

ROCHDALE

The Broadwater Centre, Smith Street
Adults Monday 7-9, Children Tuesday &
Wednesday at 4
Skylight Circus in Education, Noreen & Jim
0706 50676.

STOCKPORT

Priesthall Recreation Centre, Heaton Moor.
Tuesday 5-7 (children) 7-9 (adults)
Bzercus - Moni 061 256 1838

WHITBY

The Church House, Flowergate
Saturdays 2-4, £1.50/£1
Vicky 0947 601727

WIDNES

Jugglers 'R' Us, Ditton Community Centre
051 420 7064

WIRRAL

Charring Cross Youth Centre, Birkenhead.
Sunday 12-5
Ann, Wirral Community Circus 051 924 1927

YORK

Cosmos Juggling Club, Priory Street Centre
Tuesday 7-9, £1.50 (£1 conc.)
Jim or Anna 0904 430472

SCOTLAND**GLASGOW**

Ashley Street Community Education Centre,
Woodlands G4
Thursday 7-9
Mark Segal 041 332 7769

GLASGOW

Woodside Halls, Clardion Street,
Saint George's Cross
Tuesday 7-9
Co-motion, Maryhill Community Central Halls
Wednesday 7.30-9.30
Brian 041 946 0341

GLASGOW

University Juggling Club
Meets in QM Union, University Gardens
Most Tuesdays 7-9, Membership £2
OMU 041 339 9784

EDINBURGH

Tollcross Community Centre
Monday 7-9
Angelo 031 447 7862

SHETLAND ISLES

Sandwick Junior High School
Saturday 10.30-12
Gary Worrall 09505 501 / 0595 2114

STIRLING

Balls Up Club, University
Contact Noeleen Breen, S.U.

SKYE

Braes Community Hall
Saturday 11-1
Dave Patfield 047 062 377

WALES**NORTH WALES**

Bagillt Community Centre
Tuesday 8-10, £1.50 including tea!
Mike or Gail, 0745 560785

MID WALES

Rockpark Hotel Games Room, Llandidrod Wells
Wednesday 6-7 (7-12 yrs.) 13-adult 7.15-9
Chris 0597 824300, Jerry 0831 581070

ABERYSTWYTH

Studio, Arts Centre
Tuesday 7-10
Oily, 20 Marine Terrace.

CAMARTHEN

Queen Elizabeth Cambria School
Termtime, Thursday 6.30-9.30
Netty 0570 480022, Pippa 0239 77292

LLANDUDNO

John Bright School
Tuesday 8-10
Phil 0492 875656

SWANSEA

Juggular, Dynevor School, Mansell Street
Wednesday 7-9.30, £2/£1, first week free
Sam 0792 470546

SWANSEA

Ditwin Llewelyn School, Cocketts
Monday 7-9, Integrated Youth Circus
Phill Burton, 0792 466231

WALES ON ONE WHEEL

CARDIFF
CUT, East Moors Community Centre,
Sanguhar Street, Splot
Friday 6.30-9, £1
BARRY
Barry Leisure Centre
Mondays, fortnightly from 30th November,
£1.50, concs £1, spectators 20p!
I.f.i. on both - Russell Wells (UKUF) 0446
740520

IRELAND**BELFAST**

Belfast Community Circus School,
Crescent Arts centre, University Road
Contact 0232 236007 / 248861

GALWAY

Butterfingers Eire, Eyre Square Centre
Workshops most weeks
Toby Shears (010 353) (0)91 63596

MAYNOOTH

c/o Student's Union, Saint Patrick's College,
Morgan Gilbert.

CHANNEL ISLANDS**ALDERNEY**

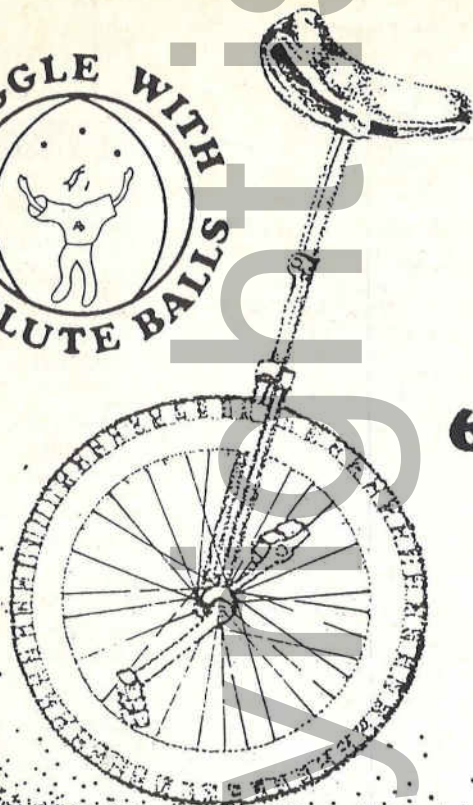
Masonic Hall, Alderney
Wednesday 7-8
Moir 0481 822246

JERSEY

Wesley Grove Church Hall, Saint Helier
Tuesday 7.30-9.30, £1
Lisa 0534 285160, Suzi 0534 285008



Absolute Balls Ltd.



A complete range of Juggling and Circus skills based equipment, Unicycles, Boomerangs, Clothing and much more! in our Shop at:

**61 Broadwick Street,
London W1V 1FU**

Tel: 071 437 0985

Fax: 071 437 0986

JUGGLERS ACROBATS CLOWNS CABARET PERFORMERS

Performers Public Liability Insurance

JOHN TERRIBLE Insurance Brokers can offer performers a Personal Public Liability for:-

£65.00 p.a.- £1 Million indemnity limit
£85.00 p.a.- £2 Million indemnity limit

As there are few restrictions on the type of act, the policy can cover artists from the Circus, Street Performers and Cabaret through to the Stage and Television.

JOHN TERRIBLE INSURANCE BROKERS are specialists in the area of performance related insurances.

For further information contact:

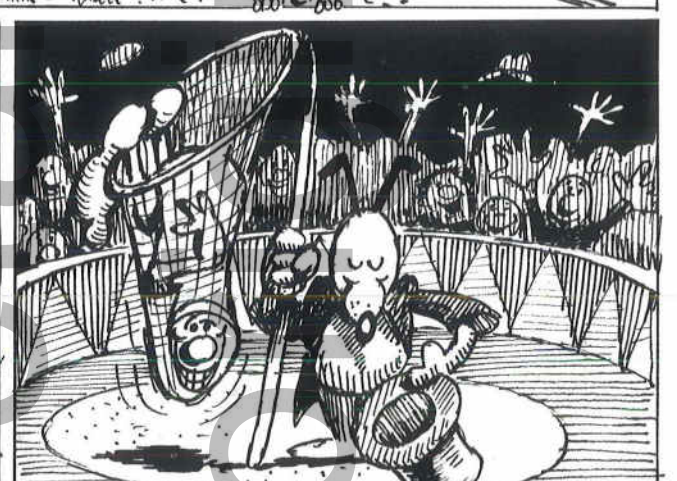
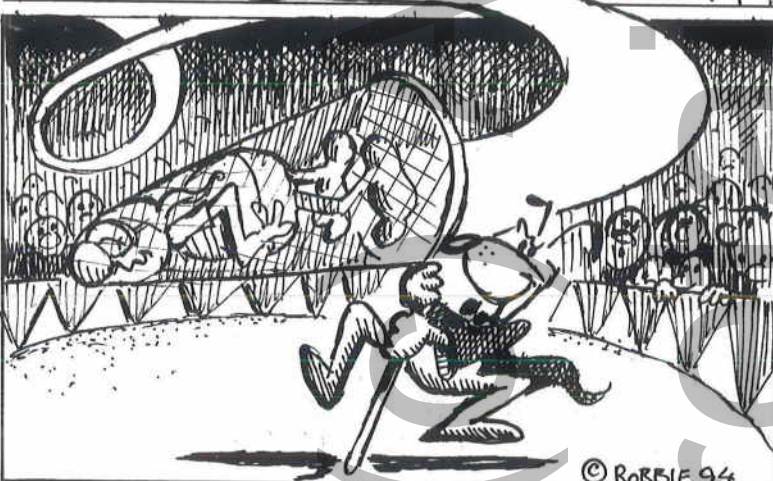
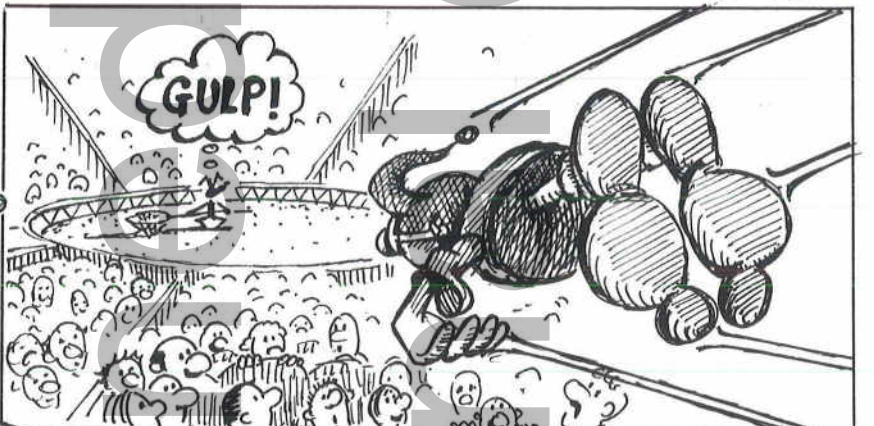
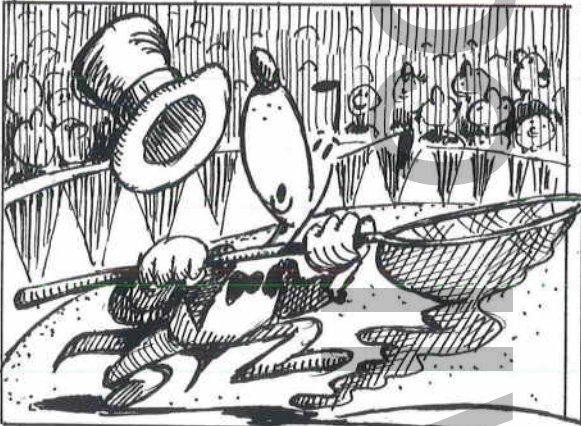
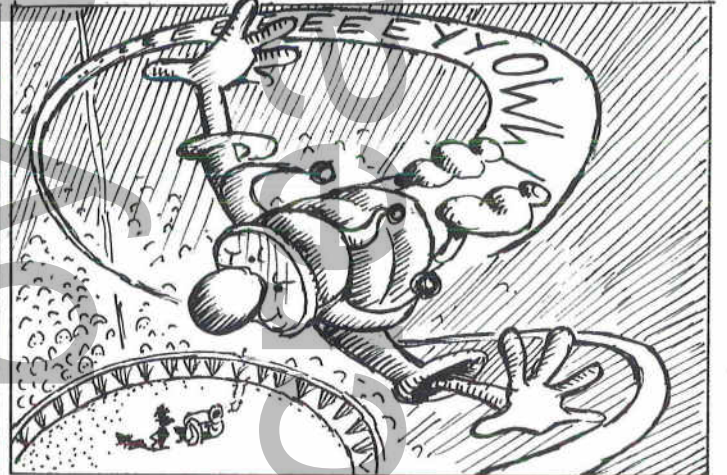
**JOHN TERRIBLE
INSURANCE BROKERS**

The Royal Colonnade, 14 Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5RH

Tel: (0272) 211806. Fax: (0272) 256080



BUSKER GET'S FIRED UP





RUBBER CHICKEN JUGGLING CO LTD



Here to fill your every **BURNING** desire -
for specialists fire information, products and prices.

Contact: THE RUBBER CHICKENS
at Hebron House, Sion Road, Bristol BS3 3BD
or telephone 0823 322213 fax: 0272 631770
Discounts for **DRIVESHARE**. Trade inquiries also welcome.



NOW BI-MONTHLY!! That's 6, yes 6 Issues a year! Subscribe NOW...

THE CATCH SUBSCRIPTION FORM:

A Years Subscription Please for THE CATCH, for the following 6 issues; starting with:

Issue 8 (June-July) Issue 9 (Aug-Sept) Issue 10 (Oct-Nov) Issue 11 (Dec-Jan) Issue 12 (Feb-March) Issue 13 (April-May)

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Subscription price: £9.00 (Inc.. Post & Packaging) Overseas Subscription £15.00

Send Postal Order or Cheque (payable to THE CATCH) to:

**THE CATCH,
MOORLEDGE FARM COTTAGE,
KNOWLE HILL,
CHEW MAGNA,
BRISTOL BS18 8TL**

**NB Back-issues of
THE CATCH #1 to #7
are still available at £1.50 each.
Contact our office.**

(Please print)

Your Name:

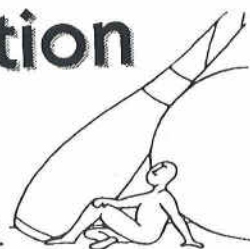
Address:

Date:

Signed:

7th British Juggling Convention

H o p w o o d H a l l
M a n c h e s t e r
1 4 t h - 1 7 t h . A p r i l . 1 9 9 4



I would like to pre-register for the following days

(please fill in number of people per day, and include all names and addresses on a separate sheet of paper)

Adults all days	@	£18.00	=
Under 16's all days	@	£9.00	=
Friday	Adults @	£8.00	=
.....	Under 16's @	£4.00	=
Saturday	Adults @	£10.00	=
.....	Under 16's @	£10.00	=
Sunday	Adults @	£5.00	=
.....	Under 16's @	£2.50	=

Type of accommodation, room / van / camping (delete as necessary)

There are twin-bed rooms available at £9.00 per person

I require rooms for people for nights

I enclose a cheque for the total amount of £
made payable to: ANNUAL JUGGLING CONVENTION LTD.

Creche required for (number) children aged

I will require car permits. I want to use Aerial Facility

I can offer help in (tick)

Stewarding

Performing/Workshops (incl. details)

Name

Address

..... Post Code

Telephone

Please return this form to:

**Annual Juggling Convention Ltd.
c/o 27 Ashwood Avenue
West Didsbury,
Manchester,
M20 8TB**



CENTRAL
MANCHESTER
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION