



On One Wheel

Volume XVII Number 2 1990/91



CALENDAR:

MOORE ON RECORDS

by STEVE GORDON

991 INTERNATIONAL JUGGLING ASS'N FESTIVAL

July 16 - 21 * Washington University
St. Louis, Missouri

For more information on IJA membership
or 1991 Festival, write: P.O. Box 3707
Akron, OH 44314

1991 NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET

July 26 - 28 * Chariton, Iowa

Schedule of Events:

July 26: 9:00 a.m. Registration
1:00 Special Events*
4:00 p.m. 800 m. & 1600 m.*

July 27: 9:00 a.m. Racing*
*at Reynolds Field
Parade Competition
around Chariton Square
Unicycling Extravaganza
on Chariton Square

July 28: Artistic Riding Competition
at High School Field House

Registration Form: in this issue

For additional information concerning

Host Family Housing, contact:

Meet Director, VICKY EDWARDS
phone no. (515) 774-8171
or write: 417 S. 8th St.
Chariton, IA 50049

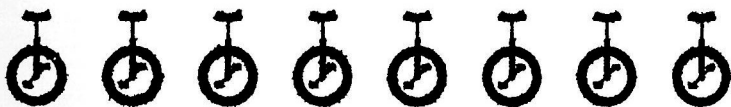
Avoid the \$15.00
late registration
fee and RUSH!!!
the registration
form (in this issue)
to Vicky Edwards.



INTERNATIONAL UNICYCLING EVENT (not UNICON)

August 14 - 18 * Hull, Ontario CANADA

A fascinating event in one of the most
beautiful cities in the world. More
details in the next OOW/CYC.



1990 NUM Results: CORRECTION/CLARIFICATION

CORRECTION: (ed. error) The International
Club Artistic Routine (1st place) was
omitted: PUERTO RICO was awarded 30.5 pts.

CLARIFICATION: Only 1st place names (as
reported by JAN LAYNE) were printed. In
case of a tie, names were listed in **alpha-**
betical order.

I've been learning to ride a unicycle since 1972 when I was 14 years old. (You never really stop learning.) Since then unicycles have played a big role in my life. How big? . . . Well, 66" big . . . at least for starters. Allow me to explain.

In 1980 I set a new world's record for the fastest 100 miles on a unicycle with a time of 11 hours, 50 minutes. Slow as that may seem by today's standards, it was a full hour faster than the previous world record. My record was immediately broken by JACK HALPERN who was doing a 100-mile ride in Japan at virtually the exact time. It was ironic that the previous record had stood unchallenged for years and then, purely coincidentally (neither of us knew about the other's ride) both of us broke the old record simultaneously, with Jack's time being the best. We also didn't know the deadline for entries into the Guinness Book of World Records (GBOWR) and, by a fluke only, my entry got in before the deadline and I was listed in the 1981 edition. A few months after our rides, CATHY FOX beat Jack's time; and the record has since been whittled down to its present time, which is incredibly close to halving the pre-1980 record time of 12 hours 50 minutes.

What does all this have to do with anything? Well, read on . . .

This experience left me with a desire to again be listed in the GBOWR, but I didn't feel capable of setting a new 100-mile record. I had to find another way! Enter DAVE MOORE (of monocycling fame). Dave has a hobby of building replica high wheel bicycles. A mutual friend, MIKE LEEBOLT, sweet-talked Dave into building him a 42" wheel unicycle. Dave built it but he was sure it was too big to be ridden. Mike rode it easily. Then Dave and Mike built a 54" unicycle. Dave didn't think it would be possible to ride that either . . . Mike rode it easily. Then I decided to go for a new record: a 66" unicycle! Dave, Mike and I all worked on it. Dave was starting to believe we could ride anything. This unicycle was christened 'LARGE MARGE' and she was possible to ride (although not easily). She was a new world's record for the largest wheeled unicycle (direct-drive; with no cheating such as chain drive, mechanical linkage, pedal blocks or platform shoes to detract from the pure

form). The GBOWR accepted the record and listed it in their 1988 through 1990 editions. I've become quite proficient at riding LARGE MARGE, to the point of being able to free mount her and ride her in parades. I was back in the GBOWR . . . and I was happy!

Dave Moore, though, was not happy. No new projects? That is a real dilemma for a bonafide "buildaholic." (He hadn't decided to build monocycles yet.) He telephone me and said, "Steve, you've gotta' help me. I have nothing to do! I wanna' build you another unicycle. How big do you want it?"

I decided to go for broke. I'm 72" tall and I thought it would be neat to make a unicycle with a wheel taller than the rider. So I said, "73 inches." That didn't seem much bigger than 66" . . . only a measly 7" bigger in diameter; only 3.5" bigger in the radius which defines the required leg reach. Changing Marge's pedal arms by 1" reduced the leg-reach difference to 2.5" (Pedal blocks and/or platform shoes were already ruled out as detracting from the unicycle's pure form.) When riding Large Marge I felt that I had about 1" of unused toe reach left; so that only left 1.5" of uncertainty regarding being able to reach the pedals at the bottom of the stroke.

In building the 73 incher, Dave and I kept the tolerances as close as we dared in order to reduce the required leg reach by every possible fraction of an inch. Clearance between the top of the wheel and bottom of the seat hovers around 1/4". The seat is 3/16" thick plate welded to the tops of the forks. There is no padding.

When the unicycle was first completed we compared it to Large Marge, and suddenly a 7" diameter difference looked like a lot! Sitting on the 73 incher, the 7" difference felt like too much!! It was put away for 6 months while I tried to get up enough nerve to ride it. I became an expert at coming up with excuses to delay the first ride. The only activity during this time was in regards to the nickname for the 73 incher. It started out as 'Big Ben' but I thought it should be given a feminine name, like ships. 'Big Bertha' was next, but that was vetoed by my wife because it brought back unpleasant memories of her Jr. High School principal. The name we finally settled on is 'IMMENSE HORTENSE'.

In 1989, on an unusually warm January 14th in Moorepark, CA, I was out riding Large Marge (showing off to relatives) and was feeling kind of cocky. I wanted to put on a good show for them . . . and Immense Hortense started to beckon from the back of the garage. I had recently modified the seat slightly (still no padding) and suddenly found myself clean out of excuses. We got Hortense out of the garage (with only a few inches to spare in the doorway) and dusted her off. With the help of my Uncle Richard and a neighbor, I found myself perched atop Hortense (desperately wishing that the seat had some padding) holding onto outstretched hands for support. My legs wouldn't stop shaking and I could feel my heart beat behind my eyeballs.

We went for it! Even though I fell almost immediately, it was enough for me to feel that this was going to work. We tried a few more times and all of a sudden I was riding on my own! I made it about half way down the block when some jerk in a station wagon pulled up beside me to gawk. That spooked me and I bailed off. I missed the seat . . . but it didn't miss me . . . I took a direct hit right on the Achilles tendon. It took about a half hour to walk that one off. Not wanting to end on that note I tried once more and made it the full length of the street - about 75 yards.

This may be the first time anybody has ridden a unicycle who wheel was taller than the rider. Large Marge's 27-month reign as queen of the big wheels was over. Long live IMMENSE HORTENSE!

The GBOWR has since accepted Immense Hortense and included a photograph in their 1990 edition. (It's the very last photograph in the book.)

Stay tuned for the further adventures of Steve and Dave when they are pitted against 'Frankencycle,' the world's largest bicycle.

(ed. note: A previous article by Steve Gordon entitled MONOCYCLES AND MOORE! appeared in OOW, Vol. 14, no. 4, pg. 7. Monocycle enthusiasts may order:

ON ONE WHEEL, Vol. 14, no. 4.....\$2.50
reprint of the article only.....SASE
THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO MONOCYCLES
by Jack Wiley.....\$6.95
plus postage - see order form

1991 NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET - RACING RULES

SCORING:

- 1st place.....8 points
- 2nd place.....6 points
- 3rd place.....4 points
- 4th place.....2 points
- 5th place.....1 point

EVENTS:

- 100 meter
- 200 meter
- 800 meter (age 10 & under)
- 1600 meter (age 11 & up)
- Obstacle Course (diagram below)
- 1 Foot (50 meters)
- Walk the Wheel (10 & under: 10 meters
11 & up: 25 meters)
- Slow Race Forward (10 & under: 12" x 10 meters
11 & up: 6" x 10 meters)
- **Slow Race Backward (10 & under: 24" x 10 meters
11 & up: 12" x 10 meters)
- **Fast Race Backward (**race one only!)

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:

To compete in a USA, Inc. National Meet, an individual **MUST BE** a dues-paying member of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. and abide by their pledge to "uphold the aims and purposes of the USA, Inc. and to render assistance to fellow unicyclists." The USA aims are found on page 2.

CLUB/GROUP RACING COMPETITION:

In addition to individual scoring for racing events, a club/group total will be tallied.

A club/group is composed of a **maximum** of 10 riders.

The club/group leader will identify the list of members representing their club/group for the purpose of recording team point totals. This list may consist of riders from any age group, male or female.

The club/group list must be presented to the NUM organizers prior to the start of the first race. (To mail list, see address on page 3.) No late entries will be allowed.

Team point totals will be kept on these riders only. No substitutions or additions can be made once the racing events have begun.

A team "traveling trophy" will be presented to the club/group scoring the highest number of points. (For scoring, see above.)

**A CLUB will be recognized as a club if it is a current dues-paying member of the USA, Inc. All individual members of the club, must be dues-paying members of the USA, Inc.

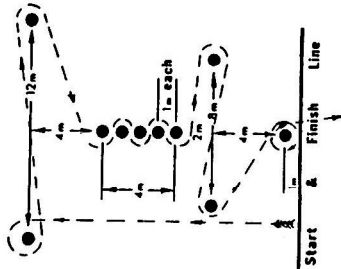
All club participants must be current active members or former active (currently inactive) members of the club for which they will be competing.

**The abbreviated set of 1991 NUM Racing Rules printed here will alert participants to changes planned for the 1991 NUM as well as serve as a guideline for individuals planning regional unicycle meets. For a complete set of racing rules along with a copy of scoring forms: send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

USA, Inc. 1991 Rules
P.O. Box 40534, Bedford, MI 48240

OPTIONAL EVENTS:

- 50 meter - riding and juggling
- 400 meter Relay
- 400 meter Race
- 10 meter Ultimate Wheel



WHEEL SIZE:

The same wheel size must be used by a rider for ALL racing events entered. The maximum wheel size will be:

- 6 & under.....16" wheel
- 7 - 10.....20" wheel
- 11 & up.....24" wheel

AGE CATEGORIES:

- 0- 8 *Age categories may be broken down to
- 9-10 include additional groups using this
- 11-12 basic framework. i.e. 0-8 may be
- 13-14 further divided into 0-6 & 7-8; 9-10
- 15-16 may be separated into 9-year and 10-
- 17-18 year categories. 14 & 15 cannot be
- 19-29 combined. This would not comply with
- 30&up the basic structure.

**Expert Class (new for 1991 NUM)

Further breakdown of age categories will be at the discretion of the Meet Director as determined by the number of entrants competing in each category.

FETY GEAR:

All participants must wear gloves and knee pads in ALL races. In addition to gloves and knee pads, a helmet must be worn in the **Fast Backward Race**.

If you eagerly attend an NUM because of the fringe benefits: people, location and unicycle items, the 1991 NUM was made for YOU! To be raffled at the meet is the pillow-quilt (left) hand quilted by Meet Director **VICKY EDWARDS** in wonderful shades of cream, maroon and navy. (The 42" x 78" quilt folds into a pocket on the back, creating a pillow.) Also to be raffled are unicycle woodcarvings, works of art by a local club. **LEN SALVERDA** (past USA Pres.) called to say he had visited Chariton and the setting is one of the best ever selected for a National Unicycle Meet. So plan to attend the first NUM ever held in IOWA - Don't miss out on the fun and fringes!



VICKY EDWARDS (1991 NUM Director) and **DEANNA RUBLE** (right)

LONGEST CONTINUOUS UNICYCLE PERFORMANCE

by **ALBERTO RUIZ**

December 30, 1990, was the date for (what is believed to be) the longest continuous unicycle performance on record. Held at the Bosque Magico (Magic Forest) in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the performers were: **JOSE ROMAN, JOSE LOPEZ, CHARLIE PEREZ, JAVIER RUIZ, ERNESTO RUIZ, MARGARITA RUIZ, LYDIA BARRETO, ANTHONY HERNANDEZ, RICARDO BADIA** and **GRETCHEN MURATTI**. The task of orchestrating the performance fell to **ALBERTO RUIZ**.

From 7:00 p.m. until 9:40 p.m. no performer left the arena until his substitute began riding. Tricks included during the performing marathon were: coasting, 360's on both standard and 3-wheel unicycles, jumping over 3 adults, 5 riders on 2 unicycle pyramid, 3 on 1 unicycle, sideways wheelwalk and one-foot seat-in-front on the 3-wheeler.

If anyone knows of a longer continuous performance, please write: **Alberto Ruiz**, P.O. Box 6068, Santurce, PR 00914 (with a copy to **ON ONE WHEEL**).

FROM OUR MEMBERS . . .

Few articles have generated more positive response than "HOW TO . . . A Uni Clinic" in the last OOW. For those who asked, the clinic was held in Geneseo, IL (near Chicago).



WANTED: Stories and pictures of clubs and individuals in parade (like **TOM MCKAY** [left] who wears the USA patch on the back of his blue vest in a parade in Calgary, Al. Canada). Mail stories and pictures to: Editor, OOW % USA PO Box.

SEM SEZ: Hints in learning to "Walk the Wheel" First: ride **s*l*o*w*l*y!** Then: put toe at top of wheel near frame and roll foot to the heel parallel to the wheel.



She Was Fired!

Because of Jean Ascher's "Ring of Fire" unicycling stunt (above, performed by 11 year old Lise), city authorities in Kobenhavn, Denmark, fined Jean's Unicycling Circus.

Why? It seems that when Jean first set up the ring, he used large amounts of gasoline-soaked sawdust to ignite the fire. "Often there was so much fire and smoke," writes Jean, "that when a child rode through the hoop, the rider completely disappeared from view. It was rather scary and dreadful, but was a very big tourist attraction and a money collector. It is not so difficult to ride over the ramp if you are brave and not afraid of fire."

Over a period of time, the repeated fires "caused tiles on the street to break - thus the city's fine for repairs. So, we've now added a bowl underneath, for protection."

Jean had a blacksmith make the see-saw "He's never seen a similar device elsewhere and boasts"it's my invention."

cut

Who makes tens of thousands of dollars a year juggling, riding unicycles and performing in comedy clubs coast-to-coast...yet you've never heard of him?

Are there "unicycling groupies?" And what was I doing knocking over drinks and sitting in a lady's lap at a supper club in Ft. Collins, Colorado?

Inquisitive little buggers, aren't you? Well, gather 'round while I satiate your questions.

Firstly, my credentials. My partner, Russ Smith, and I travel 80,000 miles annually throughout the U.S., performing our unicycling, juggling and comedy act in clubs, primarily in Middle America. We're "Elroy Bondo's Juggling Review," and play primarily at dinky little dives off the beaten track. Way off.

by Scott Howard
Lakewood, Colorado

When we first come onstage, we do some balloon sculpting, putting little inflated hats on the half-looped audience. Then, if there's enough headroom, I'll free-mount my giraffe and do some basic tricks on it. Sometimes I'll ride around the tables out in the audience, or dodge around lights on the disco floor, if that's our venue for the evening.

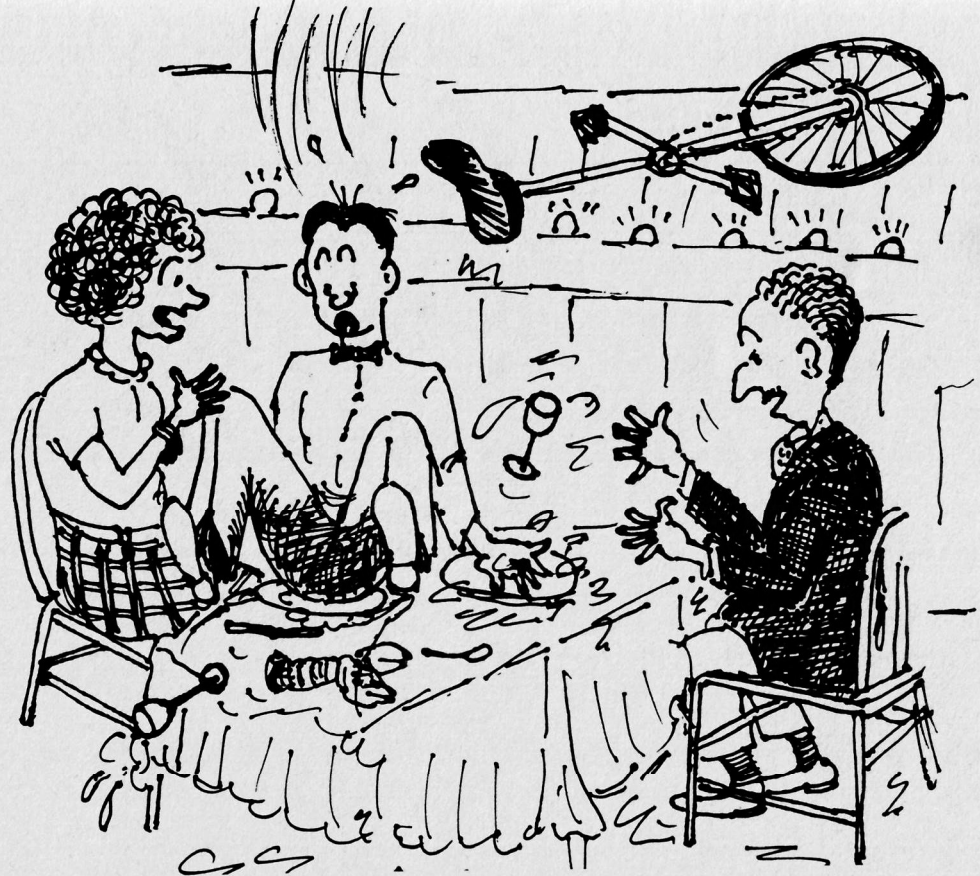
Slip-Sliding Sideways

Once, while free-mounting a borrowed giraffe, I missed the mount and fell sideways. While diners at the stage's edge watched in amused horror, I dashed several drinks to the floor along with a dinner plate or two, ending up in the lap of a startled *femme*.

It's hard to recover from a start like that...but, I clambered back up on the stage and continued as if nothing had happened. In fact, I got a big round of applause at the show's *finale*.

The toilet? It's right onstage

After my unicycling, we go in for a lot of insult comedy. In these little comedy clubs, everyone knows one another, so when we pick on one guy in the audience, his buddies are all highly amused. The fact that they're



Art: Charles
y, Watsonville, CA.

Unicycling, Juggling and Trolling in the Brewski Capitals of the World

also into brewskis and are quite drunk never hurt us either.

There's plenty of sexual innuendo and bathroom humor. We have some clever and sophisticated material, but our audiences don't seem to like it. We step over the line between taste and...whatever!...then step back again.

Lock up your sprocket

We juggle clubs, machetes, tennis rackets, oddball things, on and off unicycles. Are we good? Well, they're replacing the club's neon sign in Springfield, Missouri, shattered when one of our juggling club's took a wrong turn recently. We've not been invited back to the "Bass Fishing Capital of the World," for some reason.

Technically, I'm not a great unicyclist, either. Of course, when your giraffe's sprocket breaks, no one can really be proficient. If you ride a Schwinn giraffe, like I do, my advice is to replace the three bolts which secure the sprocket with hard #8 bolts. They'll stand up to the shredding the factory-supplied bolts seem to get. Wish I'd known that before my bolts left me sitting on a hard concrete sidewalk after an entirely unplanned dismount during a street show a few years back.

Guitar on a giraffe?

Unicycling and juggling groupies, you ask? Sorry to say, the U and J sports aren't like R and R. Not that an under-the-influence Jill won't come up from the audience, onto the stage, and begin checking out the equipment of my partner, right in front of several hundred goggle-eyed spectators in Clarksville, Tennessee...but that's one-in-a-million.

No my evenings are spent entertaining, and my days practicing. At least, that's what I tell my recent bride, Marsha.

They give it away in LA, CA

You'd think the populous East and West Coasts would be good places to make a living, entertaining. However, we've found that there's too much competition on the right and left.

People will work for free just to get the stage time. Result? Comedy clubs there don't pay.

Our strategy has been to build up a circuit of clubs. Then, they'll begin to ask you back. After a few years, a good performer, unknown to most, never been on TV, can still gross six figures, easy. If we can't get the legendary "big break," we'll just have to learn to live on that kind of bread!

Unscripted Patter, Editing Mar U, J, B and K Demo Video

Videotape review of "Joe Juggler Presents: His Instructional Video." Available for \$24.95 from David Van Derveer ("Joe Juggler"), PO Box 266, Earlysville, VA 22936.

What this tape is: a demonstration of a wide range of juggling, unicycling, bullwhip and knife-throwing tricks. With video (and a VCR with slow- and stop-motion), of course, one can view these tricks in a way they can never be seen in person or in still photographs or drawings.

What it is not: a particularly explanatory, lucid or even entertaining tape. David's patter seems to come off the top of his head. Sometimes he tosses in a bit culled from his performing act, but, in my mind, this doesn't meld together well. A shame, since I'll bet his act (Dave has appeared on the same bill with Three-Dog Night and the Kingsmen) is riveting in person.

As a unicyclist, I would like to have seen more time devoted to safety. We are told to watch out for cars while riding in the road(!), but the beginner deserves more. How about a few words

on common unicycling injuries, protective clothing, and loose shoelaces? Also, there's room for more tips on riding those first few yards, and for demos of additional types of free-mounts.

Photographically, this tape is tolerably competent, with some exceptions. At times, the action annoyingly extends beyond the screen. We also see how not to execute split-screen effects. This tape should have left something more on the cutting room floor.

This is a first draft of what could be a reasonable product. David, the video jacket is boffo! Just work on bringing the contents up to the level of the cover. Don't try to do it all in one afternoon. Write a script instead of winging it live. Get a prop man. Cut the gratuitous cuteness. And stop saying "OK" (30 times in the unicycling segment alone)...okay? - Curt Morgan



The Cyclogist is the newsletter of the International Unicycling Federation, Jack Halpern, Pres., Al Hemminger, Sec-Treas, Curt Morgan, Editor.

Currently we are working out of Mainz, West Germany. In interim, direct mail c/o: R. W. Morgan, 3705 South George Mason Dr., Apt 1015 South, Falls Church, VA 22041 USA.

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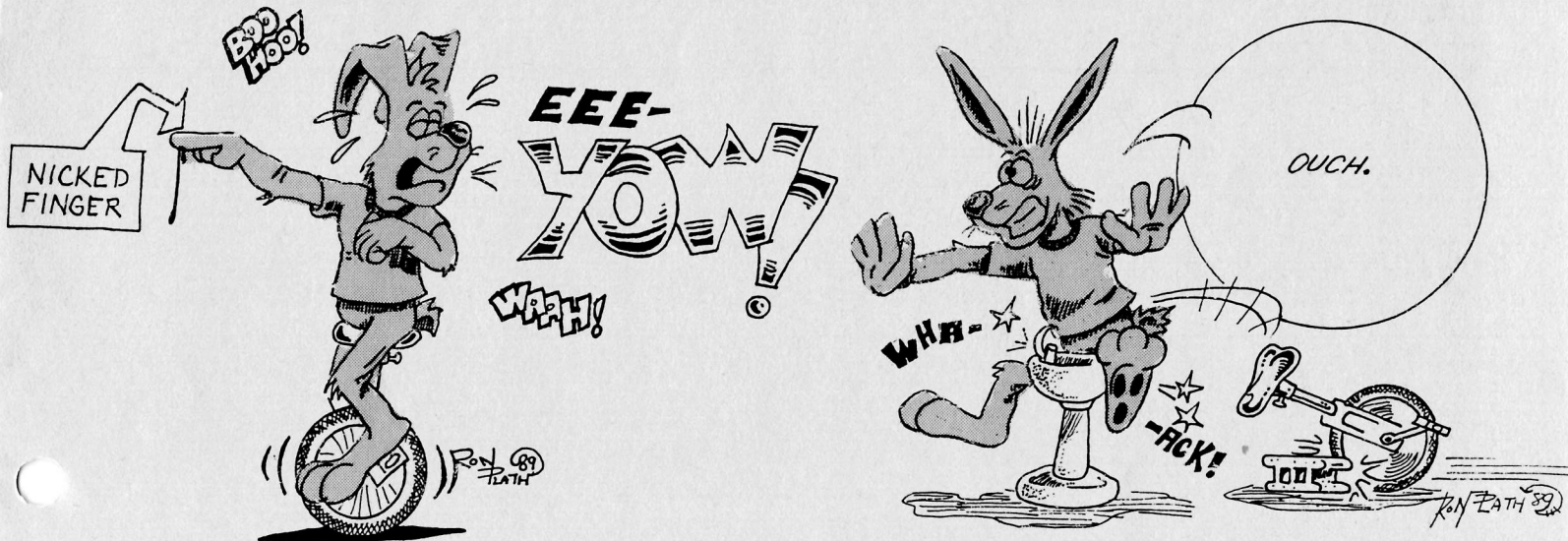
JUGGLER'S World? "Iran a photo of a bare-breasted woman juggling on a unicycle at a nude juggling convention and got one letter of complaint," writes Bill Giduz of Juggler's World. "Also got a lot of compliments...she did have extraordinarily large breasts!" If this is your cuppa', send \$25 to Bill, Box 443, Davidson, NC 28036 for a year's look-see.

It gave me the chills! In an interview in Kaskade, Ernest Montego (who can unicycle while juggling 3 rings, spinning three more, and keep three balls rotating as well) recounted how he first met his brother, Francis Brunn, also a world-famed performer. "Mr. Brunn, (one proper German to another) "I'm your brother!" Ernest said backstage at Las Vegas when he was 27. The European Juggling magazine is yours for \$15 (cash) to Gabi and Paul Keast, Annastr 7, D-6200 Wiesbaden, Germany.

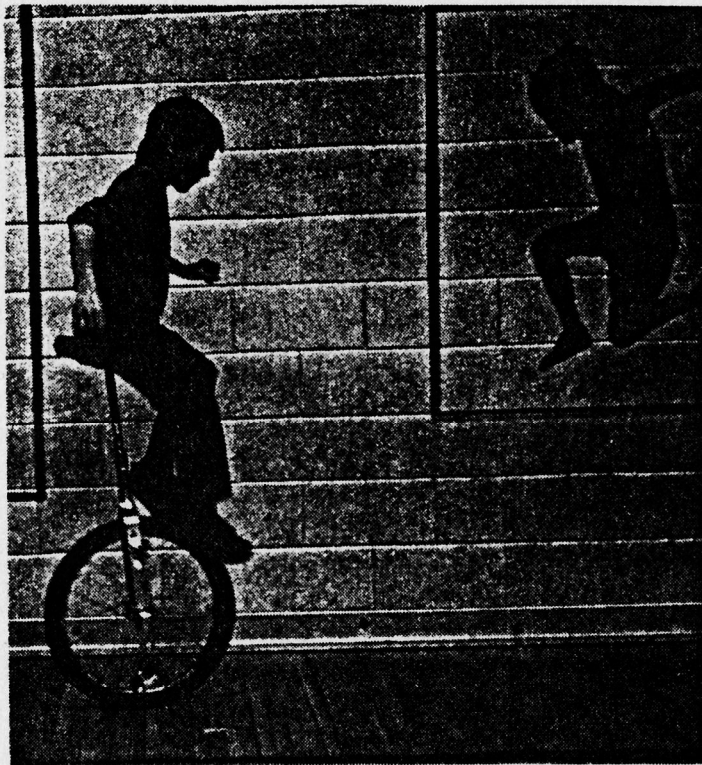
Teaching your chimp to ride a unicycle? Mel Hall suggests welding a pipe to the frame (so you can support him while learning); also, screwing his shoes to the pedals. Lesa Collins writes the best animal training articles in Suspended Animation you'll see (outside of TC). For a year of SA, \$10 to Dale Peterson, 14 Meadow Ridge Drive, Shelton, CT.

by Ron Plath

Fall Down...Go Plath!



Didja' ever notice some riders have a greater tolerance for pain than others?



Where are there 800 organized jugglers and unicyclists performing their routines to the delight of 500,000 applauding spectators annually?

Japan, you guess? In a Moscow Circus recruitment program? Or quite possibly in some hotbed of uni-craziness like Findlay, Ohio, or perhaps Minneapolis?

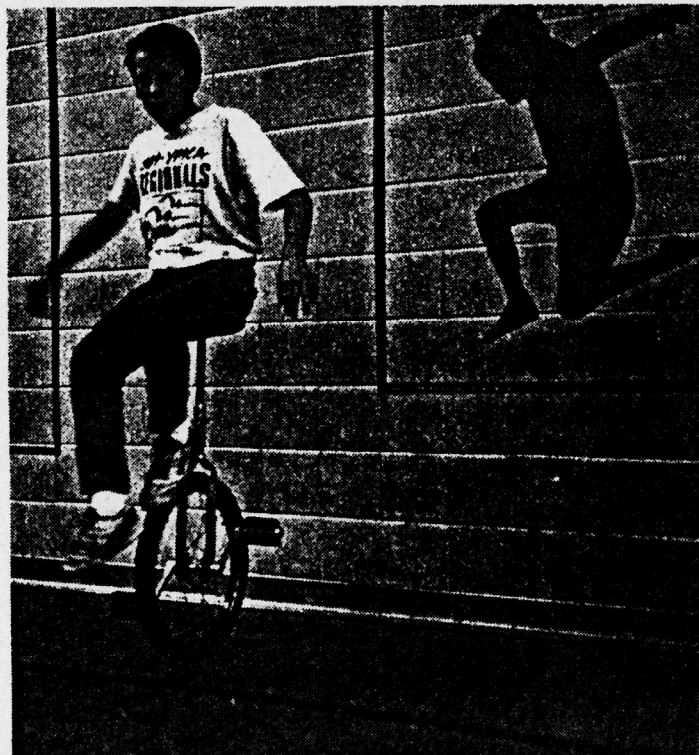
The correct answer, to the surprise of The Cycologist, anyway, is "Seattle, Washington."

That's right, out on the left coast, Bud Turner is coordinating a cast of thousands for the Seattle public schools physical education department.

"We have scores of first-graders alone riding in our program," recounts Bud's wife Susan. "We include juggling and unicycling in with tumbling, 'double-dutch' jump roping, and other baseline group activities."

"One of our second-graders, Mike Warner, has been unicycling just six months. Already, he can walk the wheel and ride as well as most fifth- and sixth-graders. We've also got a very determined young guy, Alkis. He announced one day, 'I'm going to walk the wheel one-footed!' I believe he's got his P.R. up to 20 feet, and he's still improving."

TURNERs: Using the U, J, & D



Collectively performing under the "SCAT" acronym (Sanisao Columbia Acrobatic Teams), the Turner's charges participate many local presentations, as well as in "one or two" parades a year.

Don't Say the "N-A" Word!

Red-blooded Americans 'know' that baseball, basketball and football are the sports we want our kids to be playing. Then, why are the U and J sports being included in Seattle's physical education program?

"Only a certain number kids have the skills to be good basketball players, for example," asserts Bud. "If a child doesn't have the build or the inclination to engage in what have become the primary sports in American, there's no reason they can't excel at one of our alternative sports."

We asked Bud, does this mean juggling and unicycling are for the non-athletes?

"Don't say non-athletic!" Bud urged. "Our alternative sports require athletic skills, too. It's just that they're different skills, requiring dexterity and balance that perhaps aren't as important in the primary sports. Besides, for many kids, being the best unicyclist in their class has been their first chance to excel athletically - and they love it!"

Nerdy Jugglers?

Similarly, the Turners occasionally find that "complete nerds" make the best jugglers...though, more often, "it's the kid who works and practices the most."

"Wait!" The Cycologist protested. "You tell me not to say 'non-athletic,' and you go around calling them 'nerds.' I mean, the parents of these kids are out building 747's and Boeing bombers and such!"

"By 'nerds,' we mean, kids who've just not had success doing practically anything else," Susan explains, backpedalling somewhat. "But then, they discover juggling. It might be the first time they've ever managed to do something a bit out of the ordinary."

"We had one girl, couldn't throw a single beanbag up and catch it with any regularity. (Now, that's a nerd! - Ed). Anyway, after some instruction, she came running up to me, saying excitedly, 'I can juggle three!'" The lesson here is, "If a student is not doing well, it's up to the teacher to incorporate learning strategies that will benefit the child," Susan summarizes.

Another motivating factor is the chart of "all-time leaders," for such non-Olympic events as: number of clubs thrown, number of feet traveled wheel-walking a unicycle, and similar feats of athleticism seldom seen in sport page headlines.

It's Crackers, or Crack-Up

Unicycle teaching techniques are like Korean kim che: there seem to be as many recipes as there are cooks! Many boil down to: Ride, fall down, try again 'till you quit falling down.

With ten years spent teaching thousands of school-children to ride, the Turners have devised the "Ritz Cracker" approach to unicycle instruction.

"The single most important point here is, put your weight on your unicycle seat, not on your pedals," Bud advises. "Our kids start out flanked by spotters. These spotters walk alongside the learner, but are instructed to stop walking if the rider begins to put his weight on their hands, and not on his unicycle." Also, the wannabe unicyclist is told to extend his arms out, to improve balance.

"Pretend that there are crackers between your feet and your pedals,' we tell them. We want them to put minimum pressure on the pedals, maximum pressure on the seat. 'Don't crush the crackers!,' we urge."

How successful is the 'Ritz' method? Well, the Turners frequently find that Seattle schoolchildren are riding (with spotters walking alongside, assisting in his balance) in 5-to-10 minutes. "Some are riding the length of the gym, unassisted, in under an hour," Susan adds.

Seattle schoolkids learn to ride on 20" Schwinn's and 16" Miyatas. "For the first-graders, we lower the

Sports to help "N-A's" build self-esteem

"An inter-scholastic district competition is scheduled next week," Susan relates. "The first year we scheduled this, there were only two or three competitors, not exactly world-class. This year, there'll be ten or 12 events going on at once. The walk-the-wheel-city record - 1083 feet! - is definitely in jeopardy, since the old champion has moved away. Record-breakers will put their names up on our wall chart, which is also challenges the kids to 'be all they can be.'"

Another motivator, apparently, is - the fun of it all! "We'll have them riding in formation, then blast the pop song 'Monster Mash' over the loud-speakers. The kids dance, idle and rock their unis to the beat," Bud relates.

Learning the Ropes

"Double-dutch" may be two dating couples splitting the cost of a night out to you, but in the Pacific Northwest, it's a major minor sport of elaborate jump-roping stunts. D-D, naturally, is another in the Turner's arsenal of 'alternative' sports for nerds.

Jump-roping skills even cross over to unicycling. "We have kids who can turn 'double-enders,'" Susan reports. "That's skipping rope on a unicycle; the rope passes under the wheel twice during one jump." Nerds not need apply!

seats all the way down on the 16-inchers, as low as they'll go." A solid hour is probably too much concentrated unicycling or juggling, the Turners have found. Instead, after playing volleyball or tennis for most of a period, the class will break for a spot of unicycling or juggling.

"We're trying to get unicycling and juggling away from the usual image of a performer on the street-corner with a hat on the sidewalk, hustling for a buck," Bud summarizes. "Instead, we'd see these very individualistic sports as a means of improving coordination, agility and, eventually, self-esteem."

The Turners have authored several texts outlining their strategy of using unicycling and other "alternative sports" as a vehicle for "improved movement skills and development of a positive self-image." *Alternative Sports and Games* (\$11.20 ppd.) and *Elementary Physical Education* (\$8.95 ppd) are available from Ginn Press, 160 Gould St., Needham Heights, MA 02194. *P.E. Teacher's Skill-by-Skill Activities Program* (\$24.95 ppd) is distributed by Parker Publishing Co., Rt 59 at Brookhill Dr., West Nyack, NY 10095. All books can be ordered by mail.

Put your best foot forward while riding

SDRAWNKCAB

If you haven't yet mastered the skill of riding backwards on your uni, this article is for you. (Folks named Abrahams can skip right on over to the next page...or *planet*.)

Unicycling in reverse seems to be so much harder than learning the normal forward progress. Why be it?

Not to belabor the obvious, but your entire body is oriented toward activities in front of your face (we overlook a few contrary functions momentarily, for the sake of simplicity). Your eyes, arms, hands, legs: all were designed for awareness, reaction and locomotion while advancing, not retreating.

Look Before You Leap On

So, backwards riding can be construed as going against the natural order of things. For the backstroking rider, therefore, a few precautions are in order.

Before engaging in reverse gear, do your body a favor: visually inspect the field of play. This may be your last chance to do so before suddenly cracking open a pecan (and your cranium), or recycling a bottle in a way the EPA never envisioned.

A Seldom-Tried Stunt

A short personal anecdote may be illustrate my point.

My folks pulled into town one day while I was still a backwards Neanderthal, so to speak. Wishing to show off a bit, I set up shop on the vacant stretch of pavement nearby.

Soon, a crowd gathered 'round, to take in my act. I circled, figure-eighted, and idled to their amazement and appreciation. But, I saved my best stunt for last: the seldom attempted, and even less frequently completed, "backwards ride over a bicycle parked supine on the ground."

Yes, one of the awe-struck spectators had left this two-wheeler on the pavement behind me (or, in front of my behind...*whatever*). I was too busy showboating to see it. The upshot was a badly sprained wrist, with even more damage to my bruised ego.



What the Doctor Ordered

Dr. Orland Reynolds tells me that he favored practicing near a school, when he was learning to ride backwards. Why? The reflection from the schoolhouse windows gave him advance warning, whenever his flank was in danger of being overtaken by unidentified objects. *Very cute, Orland!*

Aristade Abrahams has a more straight-forward suggestion. "First, get the feeling of leaning backwards. Normally, you don't walk, run or ride in reverse. Try running backwards for 50 yards or so. When you are comfortable with that, then try it on you uni. When you are riding and feel you are about to fall, try to reverse and go forwards."

Jeff Plake, of Wichita Falls, Texas, adds, "Try to focus your attention. Push your feet against the pedals. I pretended that I had my feet strapped to the pedals. I *didn't* actually strap them, of course, but I imagined that they were."

Running for Cover

Because your body is better able to recover from a spill while motoring forward, falls while exiting tend to be more, *uh, exciting*, than normal.

Your eyes can't see, your joints all seem to function contrarily, and your arms can't break the fall (tho' your fall *can* break the arms), when you suddenly disembark from a uni in reverse.

I'm a brave little soldier boy, but after three or four bruised hipbones, anklebones, and headbones, I found that some protective clothing was the order of the day.

First, dust off that helmet. Also, put on gloves and maybe even kneepads. The most useful protection I found was padded shorts, the type sold in sporting stores for softball players. I bought two pair, one large, the other medium, and wore them both. Yes, at the *same* time: in some military quarters, this is known by its initials, CYA. If you learn like I do (from dumb mistakes), *don't* make another one and leave your bod defenseless.

Take the '8' Train

After I'd lost some skin, but gained some confidence, I attempted to do rearward figure eights. But, I had nothing to guide my backward progress. After a lot of figure-fours, nines, and nothings, I turned my practice area into a N.Y. subway car. I spray-painted an '8' on the concrete. You could say I put 2 + 2 together.

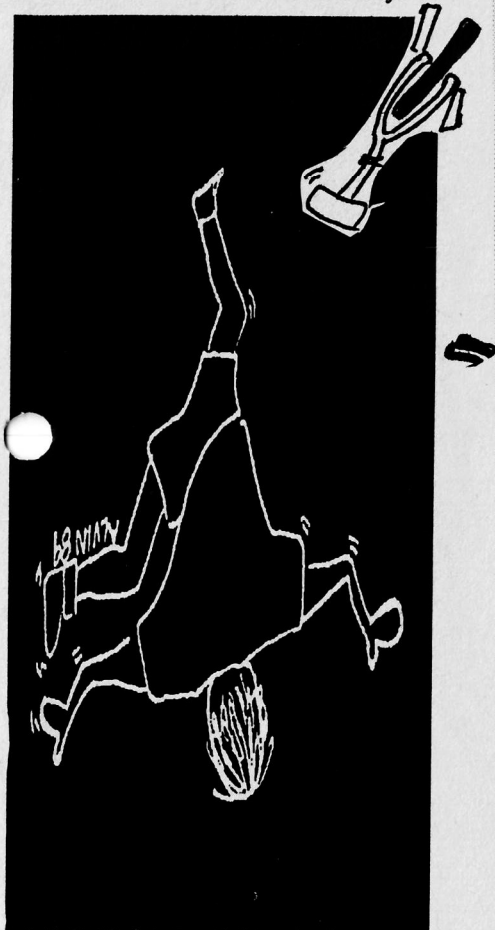
When I get it into my head that I'll learn something, I tend to go at it with

single-minded vengeance. Thus, while training to ride *thataway* (vs. the more common *thisaway*), I did it almost exclusively. I *never* went forward.

What fall was I setting myself up for? Here's your clue: *the pedals.*

I'm NOT Jack

Give up? Well, by riding only South on a North-facing unicycle, I almost found a new way to "go West." I slowly but unknowingly unscrewed by pedals from their cranks as I rode. Tom Miller will tell you that normal forward progress serves to tighten this connection...but I never did any.



You can picture it now: one sunny afternoon, as I wheeled sdrawkcab, not one, but *both*, pedals *simultaneously*, became unglued. Maybe John Foss could have recovered and coasted to a graceful halt.

I've ridden with John Foss. John Foss is a friend of mine. And, believe me, *I'm no Jack Foss.*

I think I went out and bought my padded softball pants the very next day.

by Melody Moselle

Perhaps the most famous unicycling troupe of all time was the WonderWheels. Begun in Carson, California in the late '60's, it was continued when founders Miles and Charlotte Fox Rogers moved to Cerritos a few years later. Before they disbanded in the mid 1970's, they performed in scores of parades with elaborate costumes, the likes of which won't be seen again soon.

"What was it like growing up as a WonderWheel?" was the question I asked Valerie Schiano, daughter of Miles and Charlotte. Was it the glowing point of light in her growing-up years, or was it just a real hassle?

"It was a bit of both," said Valerie, reflectively. "It was second nature to us, just part of being a family. We got to think it wasn't that unusual to be in a parade practically every weekend.

"Dad started WW when we were in Carson, California, in the late '60's. We were one of two white families on our block. No one had any money then. WW was a way of getting us neighborhood kids out of Carson, to travel and see the world."

And travel the WW and the Miles' did. "We went to Baja California, Canada several times, all over the Southwest, really. Whenever we went on vacation, we took our

have some pictures of her in the rain here in Chapel Hill, finally conquering the wheel. Goes to show you can learn at practically any age."

Unicycling once proved to be perhaps the financial saviour of the Schiano household.

"It was in 1983 in Tucson, Arizona. My husband, Allen, was in graduate school (wending his way toward an eventual PhD degree in astronomy and astrophysics), I had one part-time job, and, not having much of an income at the time, we were having trouble with the bills.



Valerie Schiano: Confessions of a Teen-Age WonderWheel

unicycles. We got to see that it's a big wild world out there."

"Today, all the mothers have jobs. No one has time for the elaborate costumes and acts that Mom and Dad did back then, or can handle the insurance problems that we didn't have to."

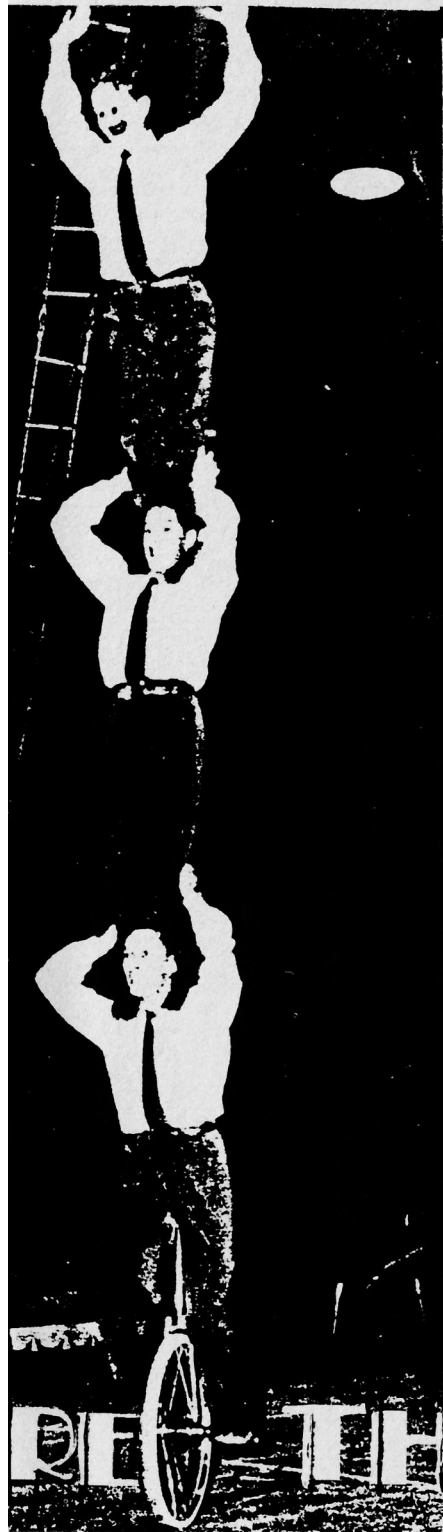
Valerie revealed a secret about Charlotte that may not be widely known. "While she ran WW, she couldn't actually ride a uni herself. She first tried when she was about 30, but gave up. Later, in her 60's, she finally learned to ride. In fact, we

"I heard about an opening at Chuck E. Cheese's, the kid's pizza and game parlour chain. Now, you just didn't apply for a job there, you auditioned for it.

"I racked my brain: what could I do a bit out of the ordinary? Then it hit me, I'll ride my unicycle and play my flute!"

The job was hers! "I rode around playing while kids were running around all over the place. It was pretty hectic! But, it did help pay the bills."

- Brad Spencer



Goetsche Brothers demonstrate how they peeked in many a 2nd-story window, bringing numerous adulterers to justice. Catch the visual pun in the headline?

The first unicyclists I ever saw who made the audience believe they were watching the Rockettes on one wheel, were the Schrettos, so realistic were their dancing moves on a 'cycle. They performed in the Ringling-Barnum circus center ring before WWII.

Later, there were the Goetches, who may have actually pre-dated the Schrettos with great dance feats. Although not a unicyclist, Count Leroy should be mentioned here; he did a great tap-dance routine on a high table wearing roller skates. And the Great Juvely did an act climaxing with a girl balancing on her head on the topmost of four soccer balls 'tween her head and Juvely's head. Talk about getting two heads together!

I personally met Walter Schretto at the Lake Shore Gym in Chicago, while I was visiting with my friend (and juggling legend) Bobby May. I practiced at the Gym, where, for many years, hundreds of circus, vaudeville, fair, and night-club performers gathered and practiced.

Walter was the one who handled the then-ultimate Super-Tall giraffe, a 14-footer. He predated Steve McPeak and his 20-footer on high-wires at Las Vegas.

Rushing for the border

In the early '50's, the Machedo Sisters did an excellent 'cycling act. Interestingly, their parents always rushed north across the US-Mexico

border so their children would be born in Texas, and thus claim US citizenship.

Margo Machedo did a single out of the Lake Shore Gym; sometimes, I was her prop-man for TV broadcasts or theater performances. She used a low unicycle with unattached handlebar front wheel as an opener, a 5 1/2

footer for plate-spinning and juggling, a 7 1/2 footer for another stunt, and closed using maracas in a torrid Mexican dance on a nine-footer.

Unpolished Act

Some places Margo worked had highly-polished floors, so she had a prop to help her deal with them. She used a huge thin rubber mat, pebbled on one side. It was black and about 16 feet around. This gave her a secure footing for her unicycle act, no matter what the actual floor conditions were like.

Originally, she travelled about with her props in a van. Later, she used a cute, tiny sportscar and an equally tiny trailer made to carry her 'cycles. Her giraffes were double chained, and could be dismantled into short pieces for transporting and reassembly.

High Uni, High Danger

Margo's giraffe was the tallest I personally ever tried to ride. Normally, I rode five- and seven-footers, which I always mounted from a platform or ladder. I did this to heighten the perceived element of danger. If I dismounted from a giraffe by hopping off, folks would say, "Oh, he could have gotten off anytime." But, if I carefully used a ladder, they would think, "Goodness, supposed he'd lost his balance up there...!"

THESE OLDE-TYME STUNTS

You first laid eyes on Forrest Hobbs, former vaudevillian and 'cyclist, now of Ramah, NM, in the Spring Cyclogist as he toyed with his lasso. Today, he's the issue's guest Yesteryear Unicyclist.

UNICYCLE SPEED RECORDS

World Records, March, 1991, Compiled by John Foss

These are the fastest times recorded at competitions of the IUF, USA and JUA. All unicycles had max. 24" wheels with min. 127mm (5") crank arms. These are overall records, regardless of rider age, which ranges in these records from about 12 to 36!

Event	Sex	Time	Rider	Year	Location	Comment
100m	M	15.02	Tomomi Saisho	87	Tokyo, Japan	
100m	F	13.60	Shigeru Koike	90	Tokyo, Japan	electronic timing
200m	F	33.95	Becky Edwards	89	Mobile, Alabama	
200m	M	29.91	John Foss	86	Bowling Green, OH	
400m	F	1:04.81	Tomomi Saisho	87	Tokyo, Japan	
400m	M	58.49	Tadamasa Takagi	90	Tokyo, Japan	
800m	F	2:41.48	Hiromi Futamura	84	Syracuse, NY	for riders 0-12
800m	M	2:21.91	Floyd Beattie	90	Findlay, Ohio	and 30+ only
1500m	F	4:36.30	Tomomi Saisho	87	Tokyo, Japan	IUF
1500m	M	4:23.02	Alfredo Martinez	88	Puerto Rico	distance
1600m	F	4:58.67	Becky Edwards	90	Findlay, Ohio	USA
1600m	M	4:46.44	Dustin Kelm	89	Mobile, Alabama	distance
10km	F	33:35.00	Mariko Sasaki	90	Hokkaido, Japan	JUA
10km	M	32:05.00	Nobutaka Gotoh	87	Hokkaido, Japan	event
Marathon (42.195km)	F	2:30.28	Risa Shohhuku	89	Nagano, Japan	24"
	M	2:20.32	Tadamasa Takagi	89	Nagano, Japan	wheels!!
50m One Foot	F	9.84	Risa Shohhuku	88	Puerto Rico	
50m One Foot	M	7.98	John Foss	88	Puerto Rico	
50m Backward	F	12.36	Mika Nakamaru	84	Syracuse, NY	
50m Backward	M	9.64	John Foss	84	Syracuse, NY	
50m Juggling	F	11.50	Carol Bahorich	89	Mobile, Alabama	non-bouncing
50m Juggling	M	8.10	John Foss	84	Syracuse, NY	objects
30m Wheel Walk	F	10.79	Mika Nakamaru	87	Tokyo, Japan	international
30m Wheel Walk	M	8.95	John Foss	87	Tokyo, Japan	distance
25m Wheel Walk	F	12.93	Amy Edwards	90	Findlay, Ohio	USA
25m Wheel Walk	M	7.63	John Foss	90	Findlay, Ohio	distance
25m Ultimate	F	7.70	Becca Mura	90	Findlay, Ohio	crank
25m Ultimate	M	6.86	Dustin Kelm	89	Mobile, Alabama	arms?

Event	Sex	Time	Rider	Year	Location	Comment
10m Ultimate	F	4.43	Monica Busch	87	St. Paul, MN	
10m Ultimate	M	3.85	Dustin Kelm	87	St. Paul, MN	
10m Wheel Walk	F	4.36	Mika Nakamaru	84	Syracuse, NY	now for 0-10 riders only
10m Wheel Walk	M	3.57	John Foss	84	Syracuse, NY	
Slow 10m x 15cm	F	18.25	Satomi Takahashi	88	Puerto Rico	
Slow 10m x 15cm	M	40.00	Sem Abrahams	86	Bowling Green, OH	
Slow 10m Bkwd.	F	15.25	Constance Cotter	89	Mobile, Alabama	30cm width board
Slow 10m Bkwd.	M	30.83	Dale Granberry	90	Findlay, Ohio	
Lg. Obst. Course	F	24.63	Kathy Brooks	86	Bowling Green, OH	IUF and old USA size
Lg. Obst. Course	M	20.27	John Foss	84	Syracuse, NY	
Sm. Obst. Course	F	24.81	Carol Bahorich	90	Findlay, Ohio	new USA size in '89
Sm. Obst. Course	M	20.03	John Foss	89	Mobile, Alabama	
4x100m Relay	F	1:08.53	"Japan B" (Toshimi Ishii, Mika Nakamaru, Nami Oohata, Risa Shohhuku)	88	Puerto Rico	
4x100m Relay	M	1:02.49	"Puerto Rico A" (Josué Barreto, José Lopez, Alfredo Martínez, José Román)	88	Puerto Rico	

INDOOR SPEED RECORDS

Indoor records are set on a 200 meter track, which is usually located indoors. Due to the additional curves in races of 200m and longer, separate indoor records for these events are kept.

Event	Sex	Time	Rider	Year	Location	Comment
200m	F	35.71	Michele Layne	85	Ypsilanti, MI	
200m	M	30.86	John Foss	88	Ypsilanti, MI	
400m	F	1:14.80	Trisha Thompson	84	Syracuse, NY	
400m	M	1:07.61	John Foss	84	Syracuse, NY	
800m	F	2:41.48	Hiromi Futamura	84	Syracuse, NY	overall record!
800m	M	2:43.00	Yoshiaki Handa	84	Syracuse, NY	
1600m	F	5:25.26	Constance Cotter	88	Ypsilanti, MI	
1600m	M	4:52.41	John Foss	88	Ypsilanti, MI	

(ed. note: The Society is fortunate to have dedicated members who are willing to spend the time and effort to compile records that will serve as the unicycling standard. Thanks! to **JOHN FOSS** for these International Records and to **KAREN MESSAMER**, whose NUM "Best Times" appeared in **ON ONE WHEEL**, Vol. XVI, no. 2, page 6.)

USA has sold the last of its stock of the popular pins and charms (pictured here). The Society is unable to locate the original source - or any other! If you know anyone who can provide the same (or a similar) item, please write to: USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 40534; Redford, MI





MATCHMAKER!! MATCHMAKER!!



Regularly the USA, Inc. receives letters asking, "Where can I find a good used unicycle?"

TOM MILLER, owner of **THE UNICYCLE FACTORY**, has been making a list of used equipment that people have for sale . . . and he is willing to serve as a "Matchmaker."

By calling Tom at: **(317) 452-2692** you can:

- 1) List any unicycles you want to sell, or
- 2) Get the names of people wishing to sell the kind of unicycle you want

Tom will serve as a "Matchmaker" only. All negotiations will be done between buyer and seller. The only thing that Tom asks for this service is that the seller contact him when a unicycle has found a new home so that it may be removed from his list.

Why is **TOM MILLER** taking the time and effort to do this? Because he lives by the aims of the USA and knows he can "promote the healthy, wholesome sport of unicycling" by taking unused unicycles out of garages and basements and getting them back on the sidewalks and gym floors.

Thanks, Tom!



USA ENTERS THE COMPUTER AGE . . . with a computer of its own!

Thanks to the generosity of **DAWN ROGERS HORN**, the USA, Inc. now owns a computer! This IBM-PC (with printer) will soon be put into use to augment or replace personal (or company) equipment now being used by USA officers.

It will also be an invaluable asset at future National Unicycle Meets. With proper programming, membership status and record times will be easy to check. With further expertise, it may be used to simplify the NUM paperwork.

Thank you, **DAWN ROGERS HORN**, for your generous donation to the Society!

VIDEO REVIEW by . . . Al Hemminger

ROUGH TERRAIN UNICYCLING - 21:53 minutes - narrated and demonstrated by GEORGE PECK.

Anyone who has ever dreamed of unicycling in the wilds will be entertained or spurred into action by this video. George's accomplished skills (of only a few years) take him through the rough terrain of Alaska. Be it sticks and stones or logs and boulders, his daily exercises are well demonstrated over the mountains, valleys and streams that are readily available to him.

This well-narrated video includes safety and construction features which are necessary for this sport. It opens up to others the world of fun and exercise which is enjoyed daily by George; who, at age 50, serves as the Town Magistrate when he isn't riding around the countryside.

A copy of this home video (VHS) is available by sending \$15.00 (which includes postage and handling) to:

**THE UNICYCLE FACTORY
2711 N. Apperson
Kokomo, IN 46901**

*** Add \$7.50 for foreign Air Mail ***

New! Unicyclist's Hotline!

John Foss, (516) 796-8762

(call before 11:00 pm Eastern Time)

This is not a 900 number, this is not a toll-free number, this is not a "party line". This is an immediate source of unicycle information! It is being offered by John Foss as a service to fellow unicyclists. If you need information about where to find a unicycle or parts, about how to learn a trick (such as how to ride), or want up-to-date info. on upcoming unicycle events, John Foss is going to "stay on top" of these subjects to help you.

NOTE: This is a public service. You pay for the call, and if John is not in he cannot call you back, unless you leave a message for him to call you collect. His answering machine is always on. If you leave a message, you can also leave a time when you will try calling back. John lives on the East coast, and will not take your calls after 11:00 pm there, so be nice. This hotline is an experiment, and he is interested to see how it works; so call!

Get Involved in the New Rulebook !!

The USA Standing Committee on Rules and Standards is preparing an ambitious new rulebook for unicycle competitions. This new rulebook will be much larger and more detailed than anything previously used. The committee members have been communicating by mail since December, and as of April, already over **100 pages** of mail have been exchanged!

At the USA General Membership Meeting this summer, those present will be voting on whether to accept this new rulebook and use it to govern our NUMs from 1992 onward. It will be designed to aid in the running of unicycle meets of all sizes, down to small local meets, and to make it easier for competition organizers to put their events together.

Get your own copy !!

If you want to know the details of what you will be voting on, send for a copy of the Rulebook Proposal now. Send \$2.50 to the Unicycling Society of America Rulebook, P.O. Box 40534, Redford, MI 48240. The charge is to cover the costs of copying and mailing. The version you receive may undergo some changes before the NUM, because the Rulebook Committee is still putting on finishing touches. This Rulebook will be too large to include in ON ONE WHEEL, and if you want to study it, you'll have to send for a copy! The proposal contains some ideas which are brand new. None of them are whims. All new ideas have undergone **LONG** discussion by the Committee before they were determined to be good ones. The Committee feels that they will add to the success of our sport, and our meets. Please help the Rulebook Committee by voting for the new USA Rulebook at the NUM!

AMERICA'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS WANTS . . .

YOU!! or videos you have taken of humorous antics "on one wheel." Does anyone have "Lenny the Loon" from the Minneapolis NUM (complete with swim fins and an eccentric wheel)? Or did you take a video of **SARA COLLETT**, who at age four performed like a professional at the 1990 NUM?

The USA received a call recently from the staff of this popular TV program requesting any videos members might have that would add a new dimension to the show. If you have a tape you think they would enjoy, mail it to:

AMERICA'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS
P.O. Box 4333
Hollywood, CA 90078

**** Be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped mailing envelope if you want the tape returned.

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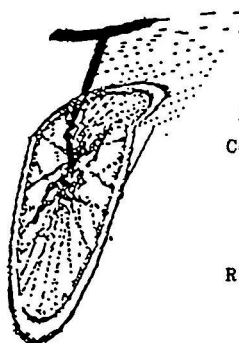
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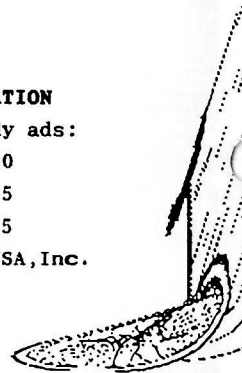
Cost for camera-ready ads:

Full page.....\$40

Half page.....\$25

Quarter page...\$15

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SCHWINN GIRAFFES FOR SALE !!

The ever-popular Schwinn 6' Giraffe, which has been out of production since 1983. Since then, it has been sought, in used form, for its sturdy, clean design. The National Circus Project (NY) has discovered a school which is no longer using theirs, and they are now available for sale. If you want one of the 5 remaining, contact John Foss. Price: around \$200.

ALSO FOR SALE: DeFelice Recumbent bicycle (used). Steel Frame. Only \$200. A recumbent bicycle is one on which the rider reclines on a comfy seat, with the pedals out in front of him and rides in style, more aerodynamically than on a standard "bike". Yes, it has two wheels.

John Foss
20 Turn Lane
Levittown, NY 11756
(516) 796-8762

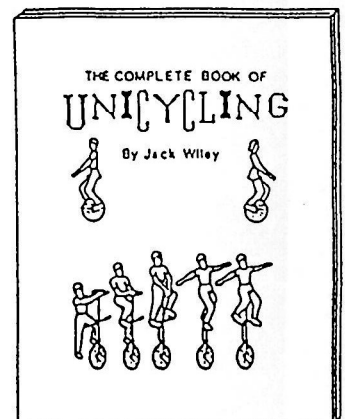
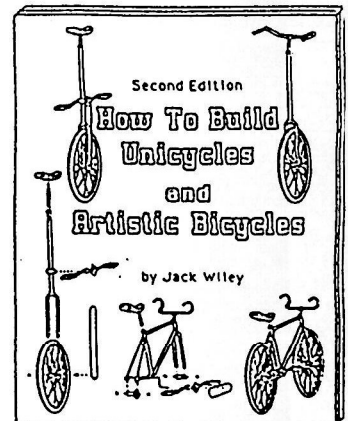
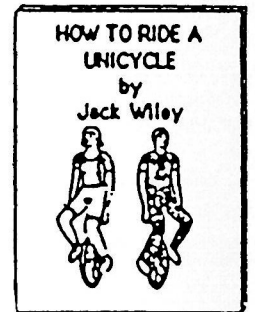
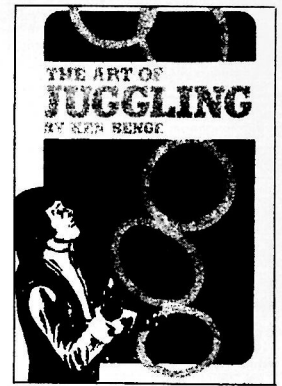
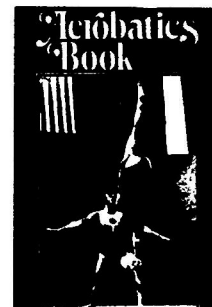
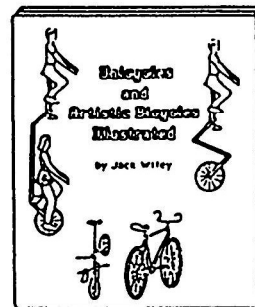
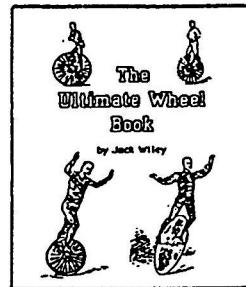
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