

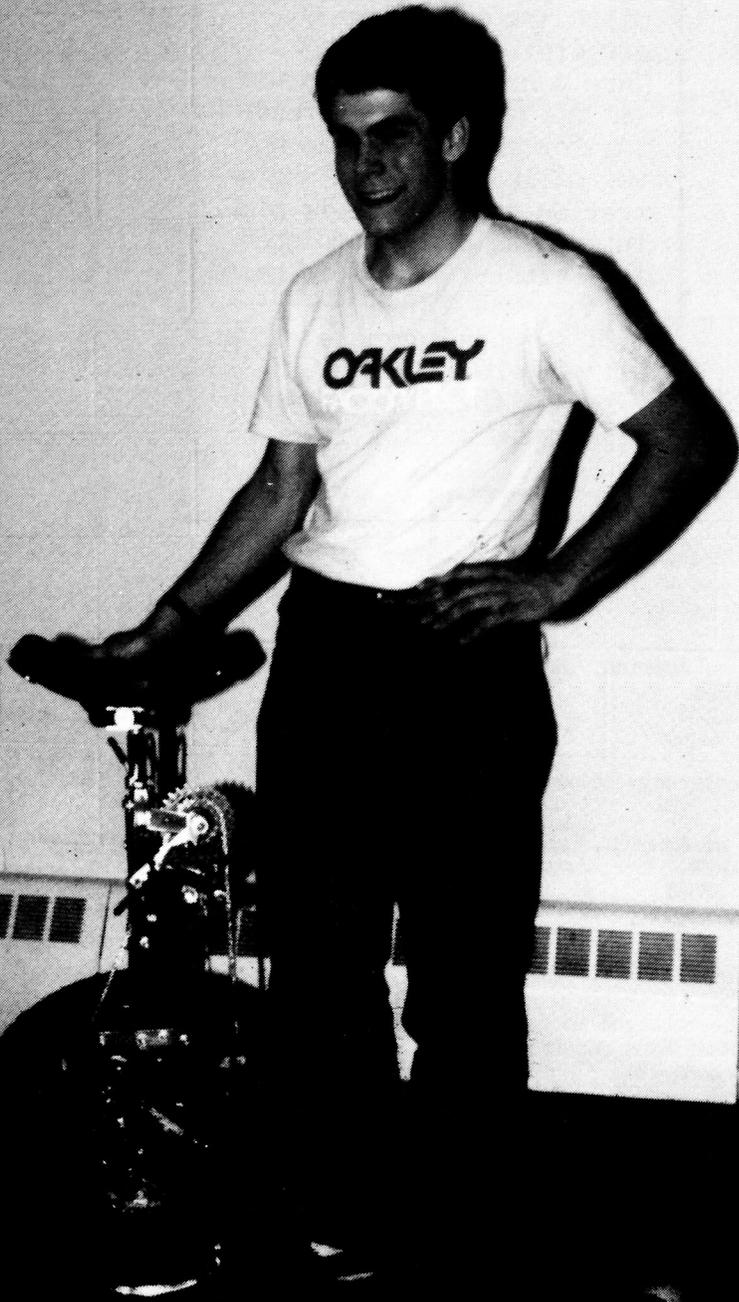


On One Wheel

Volume XV

Number 3

1988/89



OFFICERS
1988 - 89

PRESIDENT
John Foss

VICE-PRESIDENT
Constance Schleck

SECRETARY
Jan Layne

TREASURER
Karen Messamer

MEET DIRECTOR
Seth Granberry

SOCIETY DIRECTORS
Floyd Crandall
James Green
Orland Reynolds

HISTORIAN
Charlotte Fox Rogers

COVER
David Brichford

EDITORIAL STAFF
Carol Brichford
Curt Morgan
Len Salverda

CIRCULATION
Carol Brichford
Karen Messamer
Connie Schleck

WRITERS
see CONTENTS

the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. Aims:

To foster social and athletic interest in and promote the healthy, wholesome sport of unicycling among youth and adults of the country by establishing voluntary standards of performance and sponsoring and overseeing local and national meets.

To disseminate knowledge and information on all phases of the sport to all interested parties throughout the country via a newsletter and information service

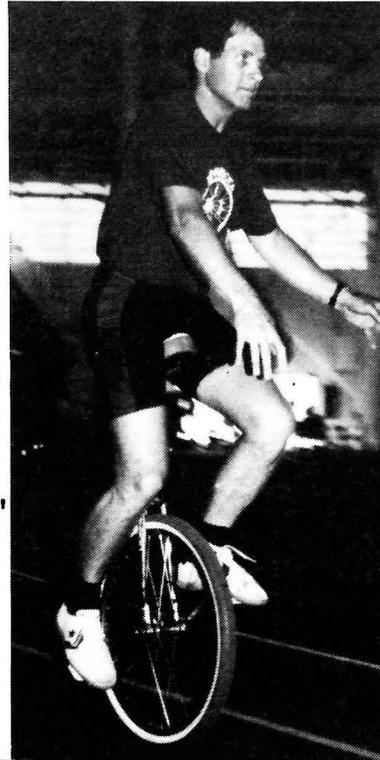
PRESIDENTS EMERITUS

Bernard Crandall
Paul Fox
Brett Shockley
Jan Layne
Tom Miller
Glenn Barnier
Jim Bursell
Kenneth Fuchs
Gordon Mitton
Len Salverda
Seth Granberry

CHARTER MEMBERS

Bernard Crandall
Paul Fox
Nancy Fox
Peter Hangach
Patricia Herron
Bill Jenack
Gordon Kruse
Steve McPeak
Fr. James Moran
Dr. Miles S. Rogers
Charlotte Fox Rogers
Andy Rubel
Dr. Claude Shannon
Jim Smith
Dr. Jack Wiley

ON ONE WHEEL welcomes BILL GILBERTSON, who submitted two camera-ready articles. The first, "Are you going to Nationals?" (in this issue) is MUST reading for anyone who has not yet mailed in an NUM Registration form. Bill is pictured here as he completed the "first-time parent race" at the 1988 NUM.-----> Bill's second article along with CHARLOTTE FOX ROGERS' "Who Was the First Unicyclist?" will appear in Vol XV, No. 4.



ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Cost for camera-ready ads:

full page.....\$40
half page.....\$25
quarter page...\$15

Rights reserved by USA, Inc.

Deadline for Vol XV, No. 4:
August 1, 1989

Send news about yourself or your club; articles about unicyclists, unicycling, or related arts; or previously published material (with written consent for reproduction with credit) to:

Unicycling Society of America, Inc.
ON ONE WHEEL
P.O. Box 40534
Redford, MI 48240

Send all inquiries, membership renewals, merchandise orders, etc. to:

Unicycling Society of America, Inc.
TREASURER
P.O. Box 40534
Redford, MI 48240

Official publication of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. Membership fee of \$10.00 (\$15.00 - foreign) includes four newsletters. Memberships run from October 1 through September 30.

We are not responsible for articles and pictures unless accompanied by a request for their return and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Please include same with any inquiries requiring a reply.

All views expressed in this newsletter are those of the respective authors. They are not necessarily those of members or officers of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc.

Reproduction or use of the material in this newsletter without the express permission of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. is prohibited.

CONTENTS:

COVER by DAVID BRICHFORD
Eighteenth Annual NUM by SETH GRANBERRY, NUM
Director. Schedule, map, registration information..... 3
"Are you going to Nationals?" by BILL GILBERTSON....4-5
Letters from Our Members..... 6
CYCOLOGIST edited by CURT MORGAN
Zen and the Art of Unicycle Maintenance by TOM MILLER
"Wheelie" the Clown . . . by MELODY MOSELLE
Unicycling Brother Timothy . . . by LEVI NEAL
Vanish Van . . . by 'VANISHING' VAN PARSEGHIAN
Grungy Ten-Foot . . . by NATALIE TARRANT
A Few Words from Your President by JOHN FOSS.....15
The Obstacle Course by LEN SALVERDA
(new course for 1989 NUM).....16-17
Cover story by DAVID BRICHFORD.....18
Active Unicycle Clubs.....19
Classified.....19
Calendar and Bits of Current Uni Info.....20

**Eighteenth Annual
National Unicycle Meet
July 28 - 30, 1989
Mobile, Alabama**

at



in



**Eighteenth Annual
National Unicycle Meet
July 28 - 30, 1989
Mobile, Alabama**

University of South Alabama



REGISTRATION FORM along with a check (U.S. currency ONLY) made out to: MOBILE UNICYCLE CLUB - 1989 N.U.M. - should be sent to:

MAIL ONE FORM
per person
registering.

1989 NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET
Janice Maddox - Registrar
6608 Cedar Wood Court
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36695

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO
Call Seth Granberry
1-205-476-8635

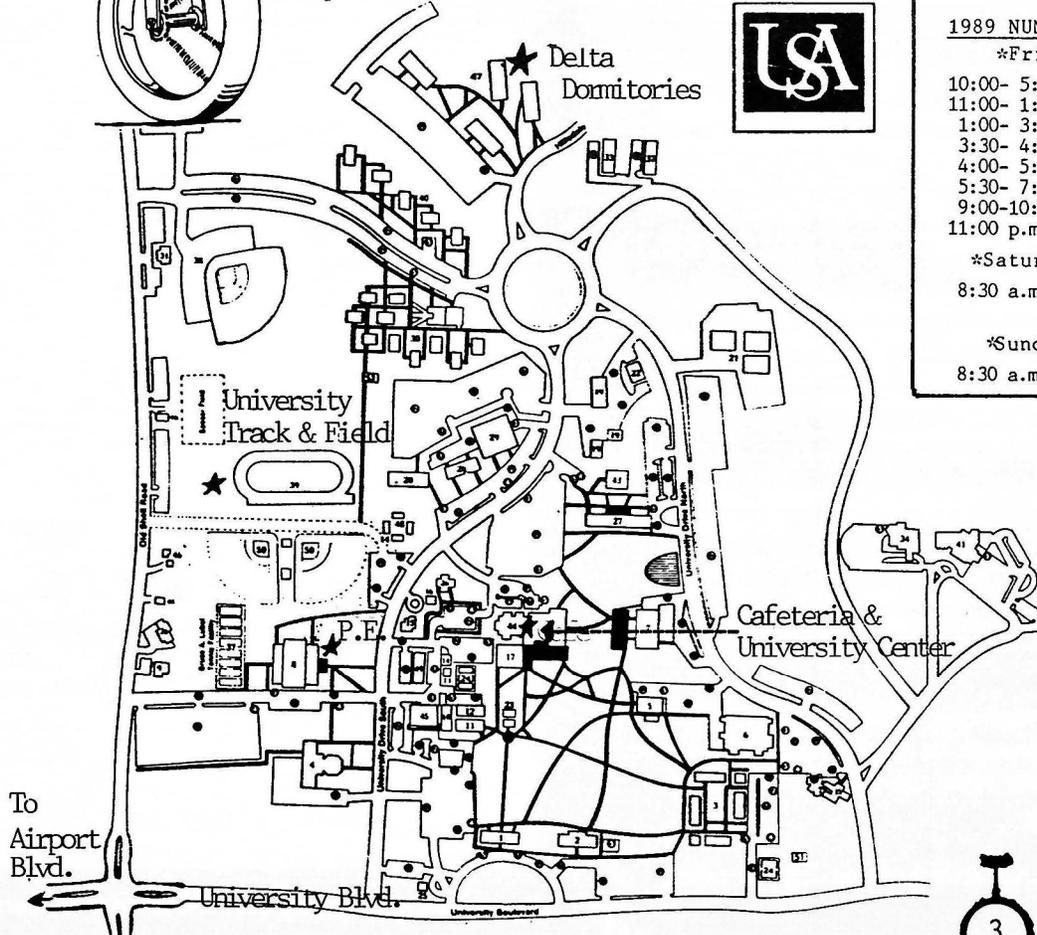
OFF CAMPUS FOOD AND LODGING: Motels are five miles from the campus. Fast Food Restaurants are nearby. CAMPERS & MOTOR HOMES may park in Delta Dorm Parking Lot. (No Electrical or Plumbing hookups available.)

LODGING: Rate is based on Two persons in each room - which includes bath, bath towels, wash cloth, sheets, & blanket. (Bring your own pillow and pillow case. ALL ROOMS ARE AIR CONDITIONED. KEY DEPOSIT: \$10.00 (Exact Change only) - Due on arrival - - \$30.00 charge for unreturned keys.

REGISTRATION: From 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday July 28, 1989. The 1989 N.U.M. BEGINS Friday at 1:00 p.m. with Workshops. RACES will begin at 5:30 p.m. Friday July 28, 1989.

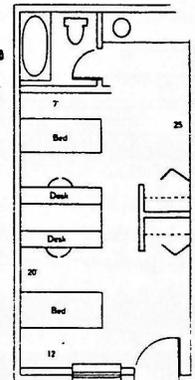
U.S.A., INC. MEMBERSHIP: All Riders MUST be members to participate. If you are not a current member, include a SEPARATE check for \$10.00 (1.00 each additional Family member) - \$15.00 for Foreign Membership - Made out to UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICAN, INC. P.O. BOX 40534, Redford, Michigan 48240.

campus map: Univ. of South Alabama



1989 NUM SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
Friday, July 28	
10:00- 5:00	- Registration
11:00- 1:00	- Lunch
1:00- 3:30	- Workshops
3:30- 4:00	- Judges & timers orientation
4:00- 5:00	- Dinner
5:30- 7:30	- 1600 m & 800 m races
9:00-10:00	- Hospitality
11:00 p.m.	- Lights out
Saturday, July 29	
8:30 a.m.	- Races begin
	- Parade competition
Sunday - July 30	
8:30 a.m.	- Artistic riding competition

DELTA AREA SUITE



To
Airport
Blvd.

University Blvd.



"Are you going to Nationals?"

I looked behind me to see who she was talking to. There was no one there. "Huh... What are Nationals?"

Then Connie Schleck explained that the National Unicycle Meet was the big event in unicycling held every year. The best riders in the country will be there. Most of the Twin Cities Unicycle Club is planning on attending.

My son Brian, age 10, had received a unicycle for Christmas. He had been asking for one for two years after seeing the club perform in a show. I had figured that riding was pretty difficult and was hesitant to buy one. But when Christmas Eve arrived and I hadn't bought him a gift yet, I sprung for it.

Brian learned to ride across the basement before we joined the club. This was our third practice and Brian was having a ball. It was evident that Brian had found his sport. One that he really enjoyed as well as one in which he demonstrated potential.

"We are kind of new at this. A national meet with the countries best riders; wouldn't we be out of place?"

"Not at all." explained Connie. "Everyone is welcome. And everyone has a good time."

We hadn't made our summer vacation plans yet, so I said maybe.

As the weeks passed, Brian's skills improved. The club practiced group skills at each practice and tried to include him as best they could. At the same time, Brian's enthusiasm was spreading to the rest of the family. Mom and Dad were both trying to ride once in a while and brother Kevin, age 8, would try for a few minutes at a time.

Brian's big break came when the Bernards asked him to be Jimmy's partner in a pairs routine. Mary Bernard worked with the boys to choreograph a routine. She also challenged them to learn new skills, "It will be a lot more impressive if you boys can ride one footed and backwards."

Soon the parade season was in full swing. Kevin got tired of watching and started to put more serious effort into learning to ride. I had learned to ride about 50 feet at a time. At one of the parades, John May, said "Come on you're my partner." We held each other up through the entire parade.

At the last parade before nationals, Kevin learned to ride. At the beginning of the parade he couldn't ride without holding on to someone. He rode the last two blocks by himself, grinning all the way.

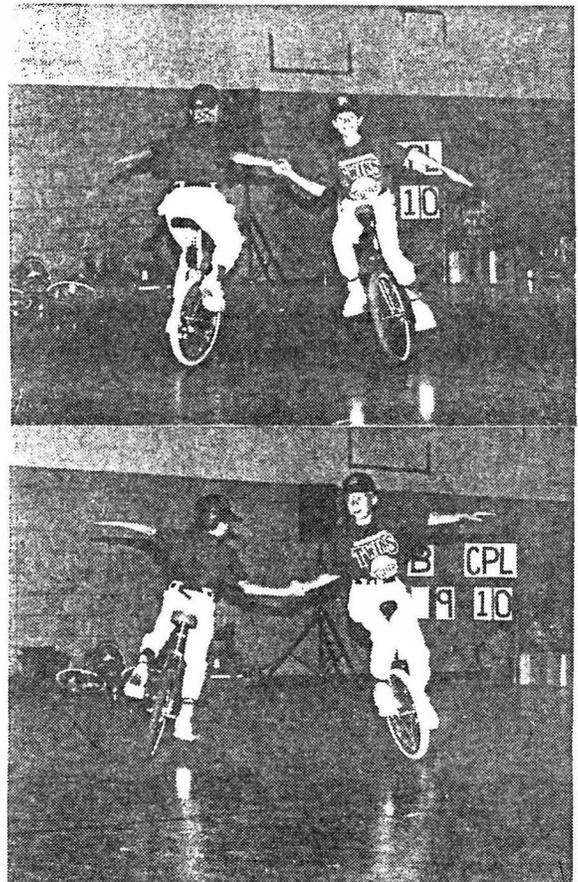
On the drive to Michigan, we stretched our legs by riding our unis at every stop.

The NUM seemed to have something for everyone. There were workshops to improve skills and learn other fun stuff that can be done while unicycling. There was dead serious athletic competition. There was fun competition. There was parade and artistic competition.

Saturday was race day. The first race was the over thirty 1600 meter. I was uncomfortable about not being good enough to ride but my fellow club members cheered me on. My goal was to finish. It did it, but not with a wipeout 50 meters before the finish line. I was trying to go for it and pulled ahead of fellow club member Mel Rupprecht on the last lap, but he easily passed me as I fumbled around trying to remount.

My young son, Kevin, was absolutely refusing to participate and his 800 meter race was fast approaching. He sat and watched as others in his age group started to lineup. Club president, Len Salverda, approached Kevin and somehow persuaded him to try it. Why is it that kids will listen to someone other than their parents? Kevin finished the race grinning ear to ear. He was pretty proud on himself. Kevin entered every other event without being asked. He managed to win a ribbon in the 100 meter because he stayed up while many of the faster kids wiped out.

(Continued on facing page)



Minnesota Twins: Jimmy Bernard & Brian Gilbertson



1988 NUM Club Show Winners - The Twin City Unicycle Club doing the monkey.

They even had a race for my wife, Diane. It was a 200 meter new parent race with assistants. Someone walked along side of her to help hold her up. It was all in good fun.

Sunday was artistic riding day. We were overwhelmed. The riders were awesome. Being new to unicycling, everything looked impressive. It was certainly inspirational. It was hard to imagine all the tricks that could be done on a unicycle. I started taking pictures and couldn't quit. By the time we left, I had shot 9 rolls!

It was pretty exciting watching fellow club members and all the competitors put on their best. Prior to nationals, Brian had tried without success to develop a individual artistic routine. But there was another type individual riding called a standard skills routine. Once we figured out what it was, we encouraged Brian to try it. "Just go out and do what you do in the garage" I told him. He did it and looked pretty good.

Watching Brian and Jimmy perform together in artistic pairs was really exciting. They had worked really hard for this. Now it all had to come together. It did. I had never seen them ride so well. I was one proud dad. After their performance I was so choked up with emotion I could barely talk.

It was time for the premier event, the club and group routines. The TCUC drew first. The performance was first class. With 14 riders that rode the whole time, the performance was most impressive. The newer riders were used very effectively within the routine. After it, I was confident that we would place well. But I was quickly reminded that the other clubs put on impressive shows also.

Award time. The suspense mounted... We were hoping (but didn't really expect) that Brian would place with his standard skills routine, but when they announced 5th and 4th we knew he hadn't. We almost fell out of our seats when they announced his name as Number One!

Similar suspense for the Club routines. I was confident that the TCUC had it. But then I was a pretty inexperienced observer. What did the judges decide? How did they decide? The routines were all unique and quite different from each other. They announced us as Number One. Needless to say the whole team went nuts. We were ecstatic.

This had been an event to remember. We had a great time, met many fine people, and had become unicycle fanatics. It was hard to believe what had happened in just seven months time.

So if some asks you, "Are you going to Nationals?", be ready to say, "You bet."

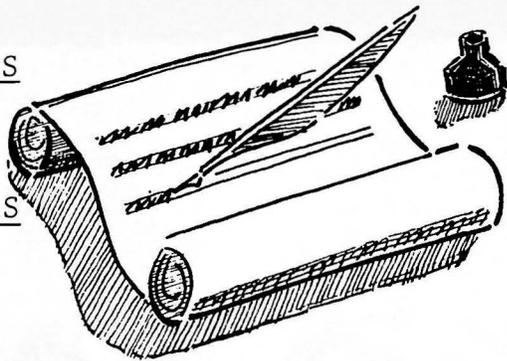
But don't wait to be asked. Send in your registration today. You will have a great time.

Are we going to Nationals this year in Alabama? "You bet."

Bill Gilbertson, TCUC

Bill reports that the whole family is now very involved in unicycling. They now have six unicycles. He was just elected TCUC Club president.

LETTERS
FROM
OUR
MEMBERS



(ed. note: U.S.A. Treasurer KAREN MESSAMER's letter on the back of the renewal form that accompanied Vol. XV, no. 1 provided space for a personal unicycling history and for comments and suggestions. A number of our members took advantage of this space. Following are some of these comments.)

The MILLERS of Findlay, OH (remember BARBARA's excellent articles in back issues) wrote the following, "(We) rode with SMILING FACES in past parades such as: Orange Bowl Parade, 4th of July parades in Atlanta and Washington D.C. and in two World Fairs. We enjoy reading the newsletters and attending NUM's whenever possible. Keep up the good work!"

Brother TIMOTHY DAUENHAUER of the BOYS CLUB OF ST. FRANCIS in Buffalo, NY writes that the Boys Club has a unicycle group and "Our special children love it!" He is looking for a t-shirt for riders on which there is a unicycle. If you can help him with this, write to 102 Seymour St., Buffalo, NY 14210 - and send a copy of your letter to ON ONE WHEEL. (Other riders are interested, also.) We can look forward to receiving some pictures of his group for a future issue of OOW. (see CYCLOGIST)

THORA GILLIGAN also of Findlay, OH (Her husband's article was a highlight of Vol. XV no. 1 and her son's article appeared in Vol. XV no. 2.) sent the following letter: "My son is interested in juggling and when we go to events, it seems there are always jugglers interested in unicycling. They ask for information about unicycling and, therefore, I would like to suggest USA membership information be submitted to the JUGGLERS WORLD magazine." (ed. note: The Editor of the fine IJA publication JW receives every issue of ON ONE WHEEL and your Editor receives JUGGLERS WORLD as a courtesy. A number of USA members learn of our Society through JW. We can hope

that BILL GIDUZ, Editor of JUGGLERS WORLD will include more information in future issues. If members know of other publications where information about USA could be printed, please write to the USA P.O. box with the complete name and address of the organization and publication. Thanks to Mrs. Gilligan for this excellent suggestion.)

PAUL GRIMSHAW (Farmington Hills, MI) writes that for a long time he has been interested in the history of antique and classic bikes. (The REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB was on the same bill as Paul and a friend many years ago. Paul was riding a pennyfarthing at the time.) Paul has been working for Schwinn's Bicycle Museum in Chicago. (Perhaps he could submit an article to OOW on unicycling history.)

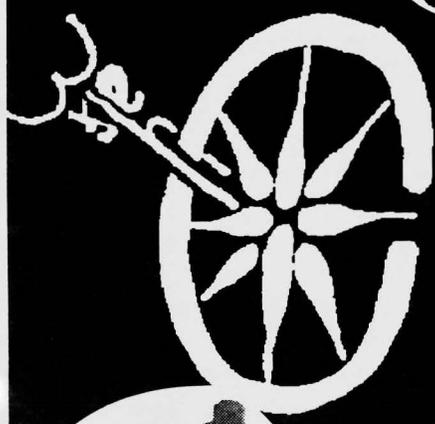
An early member of USA, KEN BRITTON, learned about the Society through BILL JENACK. Ken writes that Canandaigua, NY has had a very mild winter. This has permitted him (at the age of 74) to ride a mile a day on many days throughout November, December and January. He also notes that since July 15, 1968, he has jogged a total of 21,740 miles!! (He jogged a total of 938 miles in 1988.) Ken also felt that we put the wrong year on XV, no. 1. (ed. note: The USA fiscal year runs from October to October. Therefore, the first issue in a volume is dated a year earlier than the other three. volumes should be identified by both of the years. i.e. 1988-89.)

MARK CRANK wrote that he learned of the USA from the International Jugglers Ass'n. It is, therefore, not surprising that his associated interests are juggling and knife and hatchet throwing. So, you members in the St. Charles, MO area, watch out!

Dr. JAMES BURKE (Creve Coeur, MO) wrote that his first order of business is to learn to ride. (Any member who would like to write some tips for the adult beginning rider, please send them to USA, PO Box 40534, Redford, MI 48240.)

As an introduction to an article for a future OOW, EDWARD MOFFAT wrote that he has a unicycle class of eight students and sent a picture that appeared on the front page of THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR showing him riding. He writes, "(I) like to ride long distance - between 25 and 50 miles a day. Hope to send photo's later."

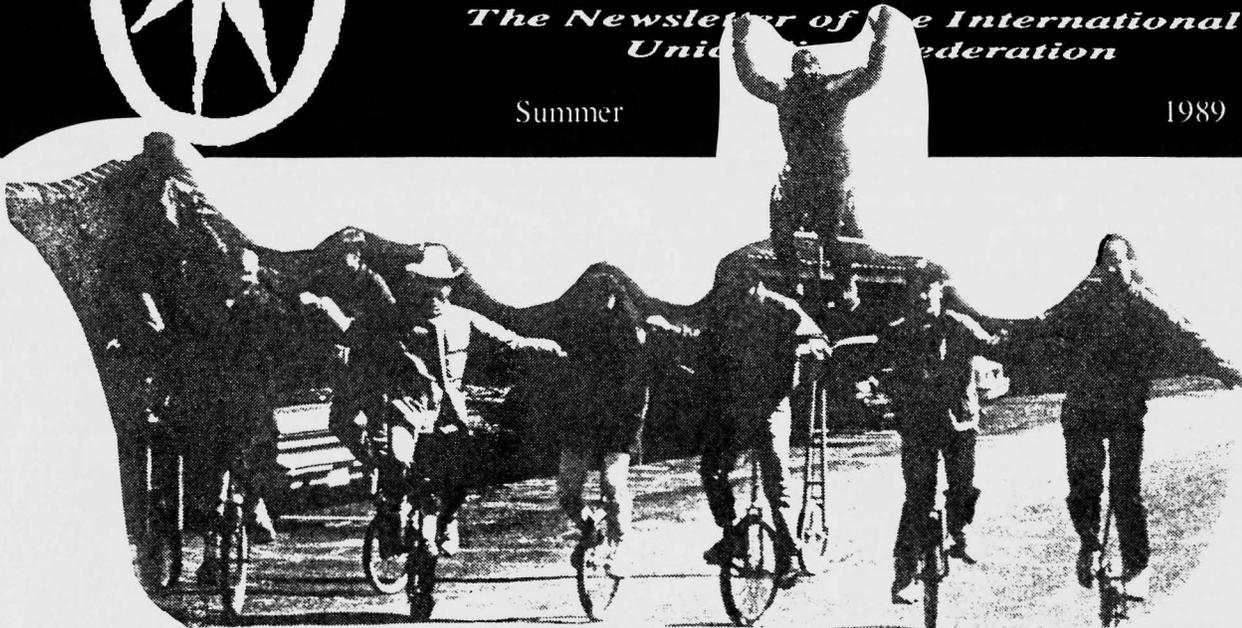
If your comments are not on this page, watch for them in future issues of ON ONE WHEEL! Thanks! to each of you - from your Editor.

UNICYCLIST

*The Newsletter of the International
Unicyclist Federation*

Summer 1989



Does this look like the 1989 *Midwest Juggling Arts Festival* to you? Y'know, at Ann Arbor, MI, March 17-19th? You coulda *fooled* (from left) Carl Schenk, Stephanie Sauer, Jim Beals, Aristade Abrahams, Carol Bahorich, Jean-Guy Beardry, Tom Miller, Dave Henley and Owen Smith, caught above doing a fly-by on an assortment of unis, most fresh out of Tom's school bus. Earlier, they juggled green objects on St. Pat's Day, *worshipped* the Flying Karamozov Bros. on Saturday, and made like couch potatoes on Sunday watching instant-replays of their *shenanigans* the previous two days. **Up Top**, Carol had a *problem* - the seat kept riding along the pavement; Owen stacked three unis and tripled his riding pleasure; and someone in a letterjacket from **Cripple High** did things on a uni *in person* which I can't even describe *in English*. Could that be Chuck Marquette? *Nah*, he was killed in that fall...wasn't he?

Zen and the Art of Unicycle Maintenance

Workin', breathin' and snortin' unis, like I do, sharpens your sense of hearing. It's a little-known fact, but true nonetheless. Why, just today, the Beatles came over my AM-FM, bleating something about "Chains of Love." Must have inspired me to write this issue's column.

When is the last time you took a good gander at your uni chain? I can hear your answers coming thru the ether (thanks to my enhanced hearing). "When it broke", "When I caught my pants cuff," and "When it jumped the sprocket" seem to be the popular tunes of choice.

Doncha' know, but your uni chain will benefit from some TLC, no unlike some of your more animate acquaintances.

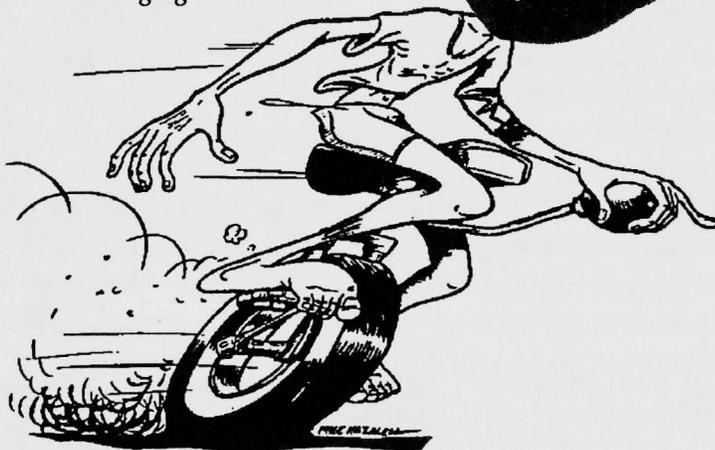
Power to the People - Via Chains

Fust off, uni chains are under *extreme* tension. Unlike their cousins on two-wheelers, your chain absorbs the entire shock of your balancing antics, whereas a bike essentially just transmits power, leaving the support of the rider to the frame and all those extra wheels which clutter up this peculiar means of transport.

Take a moment to peer down the length of the chain. Do the links line up (more or less) in a straight line, remindin' you of the Radio City Music Hall "Rockettes" chorus line, or do they wander about like a driver headed for the drunk tank?

Like a Rolling Stone

On the cheaper grade of uni-sickles I'm seeing lately, there's a drift toward using inferior chains. With good quality chain going for \$5-\$6 a box, and seeing hows it takes two boxes for the average giraffe, someone is out cutting corners on these unis, not on the street or sidewalk, like you or me, but right there in the factories! Quality today just is not like it usta be, in the days of yore. Bob Dylan had a melody for it: "The Times They Are A Chain'ging."



As small and stowable as your one-wheeler is, there's no excuse for leaving it out in the elements, doin' battle with Mother Nature. It's true that bike chains are built to take abuse from Mom, as opposed to industrial-grade chainery, which spends a comfortable life indoors (listening to the Cheers chirping about "Black Denim Trousers and Uni-cycle Boots," for all I know).

In spite of its heavy-metal sounding name, industrial grade chain is definitely inferior to bike chain, which will hold up much better to the abuse I see you street-racers dishing out to my uni units.

Park your one-wheeler in enough snowdrifts, and metal fatigue deep-down will soon start knockin' at your front door. I know your inclination is to say, 'Hey, no one's gonna steal it,' but stifle that sound. Put a hook on the ceiling somewhere and give your wheel some room in the inn at night..

King Kong Pogo

Didja' hear the one about the 300-pound unicyclist? (Yeah, I make up some of this stuff, but this one is for real). Anyway, this bozo jumps his uni up and down so much, he must think its a pogo stick. This NFL reject even bends the cranks and arms on Semcycles, the *brute*. Needless to say, he also goes through chains like Uzi-cycles go through school yards.

by
Tom
Miller

But, I digress where I should egress. If you're singing "Un-chained Melody" along with the Righteous Brothers more than you'd like, consider installing a larger sprocket. It'll put less stress on your chains, and, incidentally, will hold it out away from the frame.

Sex and the Double Giraffe

Here at the Unicycle Factory in Indiana, I get a lot of questions. Some I refer directly to the Kinsey

Pg 2, The Cycologist, Summer 89

(Zen, continued from page 2)

Institute, down the road a piece in Bloomington, others I field right here at 2711 N. Apperson in Kokomo.

For instance, I'm sometimes queried, what does the Doctor of Cycology think about double-chained unis? The theory is, when one chain breaks, the other will keep you from augering a hole in the pavement (also known as "pulling a Chuck Marquette"). But, take a moment to take a quick quiz. When one of the two chains does break, it wraps itself around:

- the other chain
- your ankles
- the sprocket

Tension on the Chain Gang

The correct answer, of course, is (d), all of the above. Your punishment is to sing two verses of "Unchain My Heart" with Ray Charles, then skip back to the beginning of my article and read it all over again. Try not to move your lips so much this time when you read.

Anyway, it's a *real headache* to keep the tension on both chains equally tight. Spending life "Working on the Chain Gang" with Sam Cooke would probably be more fun. Somehow, it's so *much* easier to keep one chain equally tight with itself, than two chains with each other. Why, I don't know, it's one off those unsolved mysteries of the universe (get it? Uni-verse? Ah, why I bother). It's this doctor's opinion that you gotta be mechanically capable of dealing with two chains, which, unless your name's Len Salverda, you're *not*.

Pardon My Grease

I prescribe a good quality lubricant for your chain. I currently use Tri-Flow brand, but any WD-40 oil, which evaporates quickly and leaves a temporary thin film of protection against moisture and acid rain (the unrecognized unicyclist's nemises), is probably OK. Use too heavy an oil, and it'll attract dirt and grit and crud up practically *every* moving part on your uni.

Whether you keep your chains tight or loose is a matter of personal opinion, in my opinion. Don't make 'em so tight they bind the bearings, or so loose they jump off the sprocket, or, worse, introduce a delay in your balancing. The latter can be *moderately* critical, I've found after extensive experimentation, when you are riding your giraffe one-footed, juggling five clubs...and spinning a ball on your free foot.

Now, an X-Chain'ge of \$\$\$

This concludes your office visit today. The next time you hear Perry Como worming his way into your earholes with "Find a Wheel," hopefully you're now a little more prepared. By the way, are you *sure* your visit is covered by Medicare? Please show your liver spots to my nurse on the way out. NEXT!

Send us your classified ads for uni-related gear - we'll run 'em *free* as space permits. Deadline for Fall issue is 1 August.

Stay on Top...

...of your Uni and of Uni News by reading The Cycologist! For subscriptions, write A.E. Hemminger, 16152 Kinloch, Redford, MI 48240 USA.

In the Fall 89 issue, *don't miss:*

- complete Mobile AL NUM coverage (with simultaneous translation from the Southern!)
- an update on the British bobbie who *rules* Greater London from atop the bonnet of a uni
- fool-proof ways of free-mounting your giraffe, including *incredible* pix of Sem, Carol and Stephanie showing you *how to*
- Jack Halpern on Japanese unicycling superstars
- plus more Zen from the Gnome of Kokomo, Ken Woods' Unicycles of Yesteryear, and the articles Carol Brichford said you were *too young* to read (you'll be older then, right?), including "Riding Sdrawkcb" with really crude drawings by "Alvin" (get your flashlights ready!).

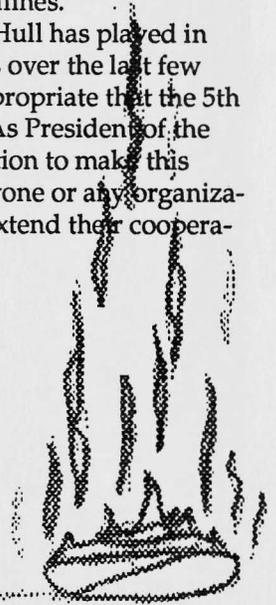
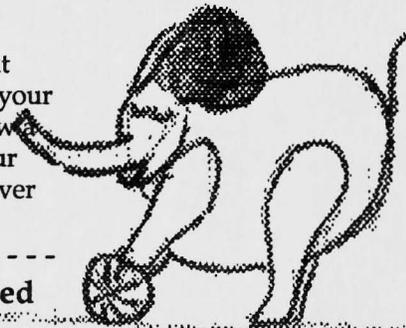


'Toon by Neal

Go To Hull!

Jack Halpern, President of the International Unicycling Federation, recently announced that the Fifth International Unicycle Championships (UNICON V) will be held in Hull, Canada in the summer of 1990. The proclamation was greeted with considerable joy by the Cycologist's writer of headlines.

"In view of the active role that Hull has played in international unicycling activities over the last few years," Jack stated, "it is most appropriate that the 5th convention be held in that city. As President of the IUF, I shall offer my full cooperation to make this event a reality, and hope that anyone or any organization that is in a position to help extend their cooperation and support (will do so)."



Tension on the High Wire

"Wheelie" the Clown Falls to 'Death' Lives to Laugh and Smile About It

by Melody Moselle
Cycologist Staff Reporter

"Dad's Dead!!"

Your 10-year-old may never have the occasion to utter this chilling phrase...but then, you're not Willet Miller, of Clermont, Iowa.

Willet was an all-too-typical American corn-fed fatbody back in the summer of 1974, tipping the scales at 225 pounds spread unevenly on his 5'11" frame.

After joining a Shrine Clown Unit that year, he bought his first uni as a 46th birthday present for himself. Admittedly, learning to ride the wheel in mid-life was a challenge, one Willet met well enough to ride with the Shriners in a parade three short months later.

"I have a tendency to attack

"The trick of riding those old-time bikes is getting started," reports "Wheelie." "You have to lean left when you pedal right, and vice-versa. Once you get some steam up, it's a bit easier."

Willet had yet another unusual vehicle crafted from an old Amish wagon wheel - it's now his 48" unicycle.

"The wheel is so heavy -- about 75 pounds -- that it's really hard to control. Once I lost control and jumped off.

told me 'some friend you are!'"

A Backyard Tightrope

Finally, Willet approached "his lifelong dream" of tight wire walking.

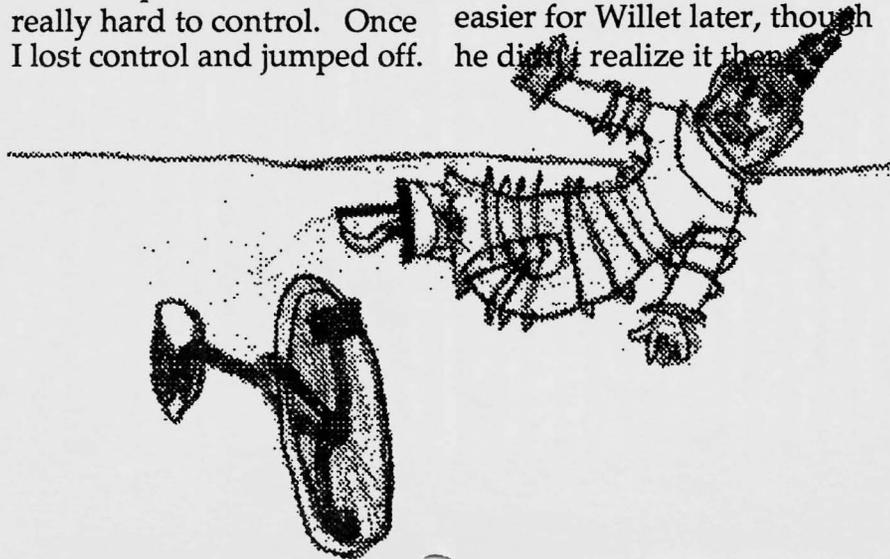
To this end, he erected a 10-foot high tightrope in his backyard, and mastered this new skill too. "I was pressed for money at the time, and the 1/2" cable was half the price of 5/8", so I went with the smaller size." The larger cable would have made life easier for Willet later, though he didn't realize it then.

was surprised when he decided on another stunt: riding the wire on a unicycle. Keep in mind that we are talking about a middle-aged insurance agent, *not* a lithe and youthful athlete!

Fit to a 'V'

Willet took a standard 20" uni, and "had a body shop fill the rim with body putty. Then, they ground out a 'V' to fit the 1/2' cable. It worked pretty good...until the putty began to chip. One day, the putty chipped off in one spot. "One moment, I was riding the wire, calling out, 'Hey, Dave' to my boy, who was watching me. Suddenly, *I lost it!*"

"My back landed directly on an upright pedal, after a the fall from 10 feet. The pain -- I broke three ribs -- was *excruciating*, and I've broken bones before in other non-cycling accidents. I



any new venture, and probably tried too many things," Willet recalls. "I also took up juggling, rolla-bolls, devil sticks, plate spinning and balloon sculpturing as well".

"While putting his skills on display with the Shriner's benefit-for-charity parades from Winnipeg to Pensacola, Willet picked up his performing name -- "Wheelie" -- and dropped 55 lbs. while working his way into shape.

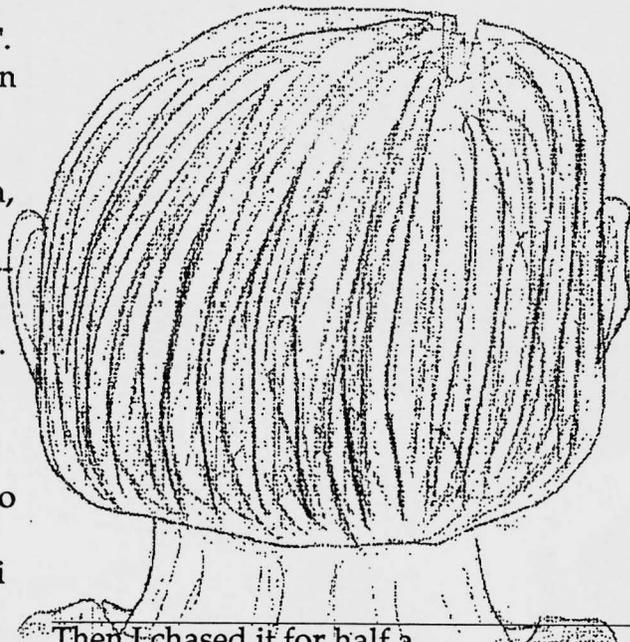
The Fuss is Okay

"Once I had a plane to catch, at O'Hare Airport in Chicago. I was in a hurry, so I rode right through the terminal building on my uni and in full clown regalia. What *excitement!* Clerks ignored their customers, leaving their counters to come out and greet me!" One gets the impression that Willet didn't mind the fuss *one bit*.

Wheelie's Bonecrusher

To no one's surprise, Willet next ordered an old-fashioned bicycle, called an "ordinary" or "bonecrusher", from a machine shop in Ohio ten years ago, for \$375.

Drawings by Neal Morgan, Garland, TX, age 12.



Then I chased it for half a block as its momentum carried it down the street. I hate to think of the harm it could have done to some innocent bystander!"

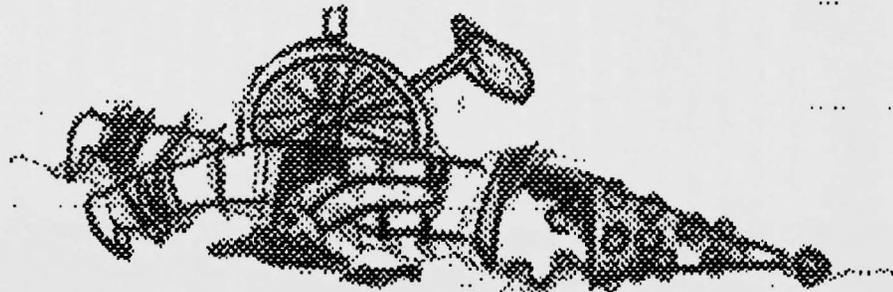
A Near Miss...This Time

Once, harm did come close to Willet. "I had two six-foot giraffes, and a friend who'd done me a favor expressed an interest in it...so I gave him one, the one with the sticky chain, as I recall.

The first time out on it, my friend fell very badly, busted himself up, and was laid up for weeks. Afterward, he

"Learning to walk the wire with a balance bar wasn't all that hard," he recalls, modestly. "I think anyone with average balance can learn it in 10 or 15 minutes. It's really *quite* simple, with the balance bar, of course."

No one who knew Willet



completely knocked my breath out. As I lay there in agony, I heard my son rush into the house, telling my wife, Lois, that I was *dead!*

Broke Ribs a 2nd Time

While reports of Willet's death (like Twain's) were premature, there was some substance in his boy's utterance.

"There was *no relief* from the pain: breathing, standing, sitting, all were agonizing. At one point, the ribs were mending OK...but I rolled over in bed and broke them again. This was *worse* pain than the original fall.

Analyzing the Risk

Has Willet ridden the high-wire in the 10 years since?

"I'd like to," he says. "I got the uni out recently, the one I had the fall on. I still walk the wire. I'm not a quitter by nature, but the close call of being paralyzed for life just doesn't seem worth the risk. So, I haven't ridden it since."

Unicycling Brother Timothy Seeks Audience With Buffalo, NY, 'Life-Buffered' Youngsters

by Levi Neal

Cyclogist Religious Editor

For many unicyclists, riding their wheel can be nearly a *religious* experience.

But Brother Timothy S. Dauenhauer, Order of Franciscans, has taken this approach to new heights. Following the Big Brother/Big Sister approach, Tim and his assisting Franciscans offer adult companionship and guidance to the "fatherless and unwanted, the handicapped, homeless children and the poor" of their community.

One means to this end is his unicycle club, at 102 Seymour St.

Friar's Eyes are Shining

About two years ago, the then-53-year-old friar's eyes spotted a unicycle, pronounced it to be "something different," and proceeded to learn to ride (if not master) a one-wheeler.

"It took me several months to learn," confesses the Brother, "but then, I didn't do it on a regular basis. Today, I can ride it for distances and do some basic maneuvers, but still can't do the fancier things, like ride backwards. While I'm not so good, I love it anyway."

Putting his new-found skills to use, he introduced the sport to his charges. No strong-arm tactics were necessary.

"Everyone wants to learn it now," beams Tim. "We have only four standard unicycles, and no giraffes just yet. We are building up our club slowly. We hope to have two more cycles shortly.

"Our best rider is Mattie, the youngest of a family of 24 brothers and sisters. While he's not been riding long, he can idle, do circles and such, and go for good distance.

"Just today, we had three new children learning in the parking lot. Later this Spring, we're going to start two blind kids on unis. Right now, we're teaching them to ride bikes. These are kids 9, 10, 11 years

old, who have never even ridden a bike," marvels the friar.

Only One Failed Learner

Tim uses a novel approach to unicycle training: the tyro rider is supported by other learners on skateboards. "Periodically, they all switch off, so everyone gets some

riding time."

The only apparent riding failure thus far is none other than Brother Michael, one of Tim's younger Franciscan assistants, who has yet to get the hang of unicycling.

Kind Attention for Once

To show off his kids' skills, Brother Timothy takes them around to local parks and malls to practice. "Other kids, strangers to us, come up and tell our kids how nice they are doing, how lucky they are: it's a *real kick* for them!" For Tim's "prematurely life-buffered children," this attention apparently has a terrific ego-boosting effect.

For a scrounger who treats his young flock to Burger Kings regularly, because he talked the company into springing for unlimited free coupons for burgers and fries, Brother Tim has been less than successful with unicycles.

"I get them from a local bike shop, paying good money for them. If I could just find a few unis that are collecting dust in someone's garage, it would be wonderful!

Tim looks forward to the day a national unicycling meet is held within driving distance of Buffalo.

"Our kids would really get excited about going to a big uni meet," enthuses Tim.

What would be *good* news for "special" kids in Buffalo might be *bad* news for other uni cyclists.

You club directors out there, take heed. One day soon, you'll wake up and look who's on your schedule: *Notre Dame!*

Our Attorney Insisted We Include

The Cyclogist is the official news letter of the International Unicycling Federation, Inc. Jack Halpern, Pres. A.E.Hemminger, Sec-Treas. Curt Morgan, Editor, 5109 Vera Cruz Dr., Garland, TX 75043 USA (214) 270-9332. Is this issue protected by US copyright laws, and is reproduction in whole or in part prohibited except with prior written permission? You betcha'.



Artwork by Adrian Goad, Tenr Tech

Our Man in Mongolia

Vanish Van Meets Charlie Chan; Wins 'Great' Roller Derby

by 'Vanishing' Van Parseghian

San Jose, California

What's 1500 miles long, is the only man-made object visible from outer space with the naked eye, and, incidentally, is a "Great" place to unicycle?

Need a hint? Well, to get there, my good buddy Steve Dressler and I, both 26 at the time, steamed for four days on an ocean liner toward Shanghai some two years ago. We used the time to practice riding on the spacious deck, while the natives did their ritualistic morning exercises around us.

So diligently did we ride that I strained the ligaments in my left knee. Did I say "ride"? Shoot, I could *hardly walk*! A fellow passenger, a Chinese physician, gave me acupuncture treatments twice a day while we sailed onward toward our unicycling destination.

Two Billion Armpits

Once on terra firma, our first problem was slipping past customs. Bicycles are *strictly* rationed in China, requiring a license. We gave our first uni-cycle performance to the uni-formed officials. It won them over and they let us pass unharmed.

Next, we rode thru crowded city streets filled, it seemed, with *all* one-billion Chinamen. Bus drivers stopped to let their passengers gawk. People on bikes followed us relentlessly.

We traveled north by slow, crowded trains. We continued practicing (about four hours a day) by riding up and down the aisles. Getting food on the trains was a *real problem*: we learned later there are special trains for us picky foreigners, who actually *expect* three regular meals a day.

Arriving at the capital, Beijing, we fell in with the Beijing Acrobatic Show. While practicing with the acrobats, we learned that they begin their training when they are *four*, and devote eight hours daily to improving their skills. Their unis are hand-made, and pass down thru generations. Uni-cycle riding is unknown in China, *except* as performed on stage by professionals.

We Risk Chinese Water Torture

Changing to another mode of transport, we took a two-hour taxi ride to our final destination (have you guessed it yet?). Many friends had told us we would never make it...but here we were: at the Great Wall of China!

To our knowledge, no one had ever ridden a uni on the Great Wall. Would we be allowed past the watchful guards and let on to the Wall with our wheels? Our palms were sweaty, the ligaments in my knee ached, and our unwashed bodies offended the unwary. Did we *dare*?

Of course we dared! We quickly walked thru the gate in the Wall for tourists, holding our unis upside

down and close to our bodies, to mask their true identities. Our hearts beat *feverishly* as we sauntered oh-so-casually past the guards, onto the Wall, and on down the path until we were safely out of their eyesight.

Riding the Wave, uh, Wall

Headily, we began our ride! We rode for miles over rough terrain, not surprising since the Wall, often stormed by armies invading from Mongolia, is hundreds of years old.

The Wall is 25 feet tall, on average, giving us a strong incentive to stay in control of our vehicles. The stone construction, often eroded, made riding difficult and dangerous.

Wire service photographers (who we'd carefully alerted earlier), snapped pictures of our stunt. Life Magazine later bought copies, and others

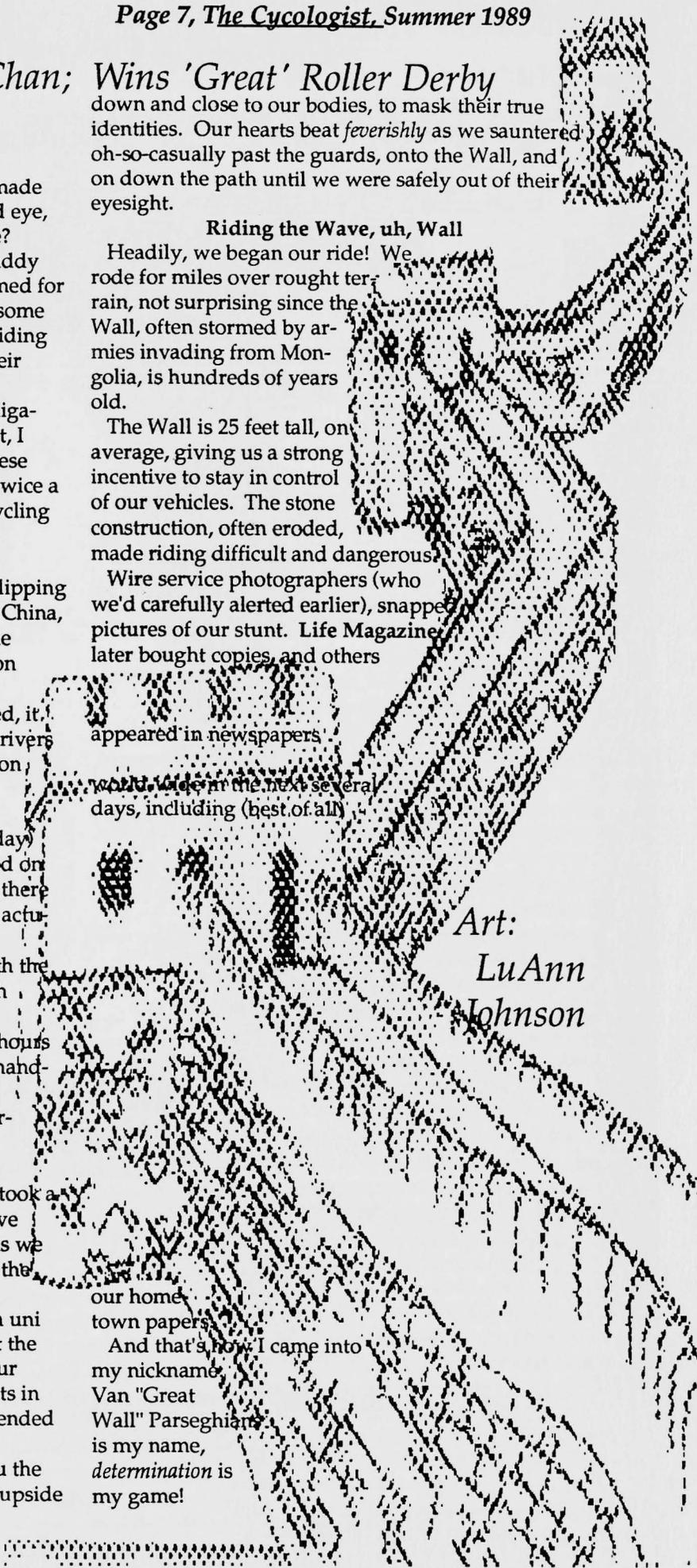
appeared in newspapers

world-wide in the next several days, including (best of all)

our hometown papers

And that's how I came into my nickname: Van "Great Wall" Parseghian is my name, *determination* is my game!

Art:
LuAnn
Johnson



Grungy Ten-Foot Man-Eating Yike Spoils Champion Spellers Appetite

by Natalie Tarrant
Kerrville, TX

Acrophobia: the fear of heights; vertigo. The most common image that appears in one's mind is that of a person hanging from his or her fingertips at the top of a tall building, peering down at death.

Imagine a person being retained ten feet in the air above an asphalt driveway with no support but a seat, on a pole, atop a rolling wheel. Aha! Picture a unicyclist riding a monstrous machine ten feet above the pavement.

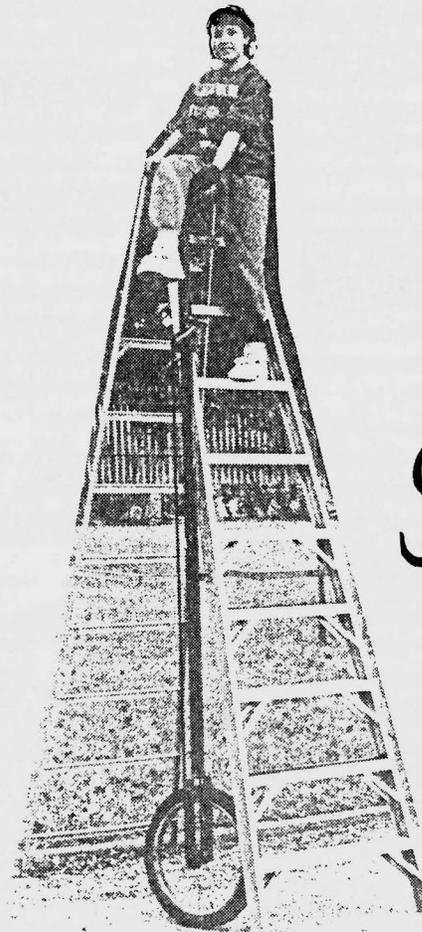
My Ladder to Heaven

My Dad got in touch with a man who had once owned a small circus and had some *really tall* unicycles for sale. Dad purchased a 10' cycle as an experimental yike. You must understand that unicycling is a favorite hobby and a pastime in our family. When the new challenging unicycle arrived, we all decided that it was too worn out to keep, but an agreement was reached that a picture of me atop this thing would surely satisfy our devouring hunger to ride it.

As I climbed our highest step-ladder, my fright became more and more apparent. I soon found out that 10' is much, *much* higher when you are looking down at it, rather than up. Dad was supporting the yike and simultaneously giving me the confidence I lacked. I was finally able to refrain from shaking long enough to get started.

I mounted while Dad continued to hold up the cycle and then I signalled for him to let go so that I might better be able to achieve this feat.

After Dad let go of the monstrosity, he raced over to pick up his camera. Mom was also awaiting the performance with the video camera.



Natalie Tarrant, author of this article, will compete in the National Spelling Bee Finals in Washington, DC May 31st, having correctly spelled such words as "pyelitis" and "minium" at the San Antonio Bee in April. Kids! Send *your* unistories to **Junior Uni-Verse**: we'll print the best one every issue!

Are you a fast-draw artist? The Cyclogist needs illustrators (cain'tcha tell?). Write or call for your first (and, perhaps, last) assignment! Call Curt, (214)-270-9332.

After a short ride, I began to lose my balance. I started plummeting down, acquiring speed as I tumbled toward the driveway. As I hit the ground, I *collapsed* to my hands and knees on the asphalt, and at the same time, I uttered a sigh of relief. *Phew...* I was so relieved.

The impact of my feet against the hard surface did leave me with some pain, but I was *proud* of my accomplishment, and Dad and Mom got some *super* pictures.

A couple of weeks later, Dad showed me an article he had seen in a unicycling newsletter about a man who fell from a 8' unicycle and broke three bones in his foot. I felt *extremely* fortunate! I must say, it was a "once in a lifetime experience." I'll never try it again--*ever!*

Spokes Speak

To the Editor:

My good friend and pen-pal, Andy Cotter of Minnesota (who I met through uni riding, by the way), wrote this list of unicycle wipeouts and sent me a copy. In the last issue of The Cyclogist, you asked for input on a number of topics, including unicycle injuries. Although this may not be exactly what you were looking for, I thought it was funny enough to pass on to you.

Dawn Blacketer
Peru, Indiana

"Top ten Unicycle Wipeouts"

1. Unforeseen dismount
 2. Total Loss of control
 3. Body surfaces on Ground (i.e., knee, chest, face, pride)
 4. Bruising to ankles, shins, and groin (see level 8).
 5. Open wound
 6. Torn muscle/injury to joints
 7. Profuse bleeding
 8. Disabling "dismount"
 9. Broken Bone
 10. Hospitalization
- Modifiers:
+1 for skidding
+1 for multiple collisions
-1 for landing on soft surface
-1 for successful dive-roll

Thanks Dawn and Andy! Sounds like you've been around the block once or twice...on a uni! -- Ed.

Hello, I'm John Foss, member #810, since 1980. I'm your President for 1988-'89. As a performer, I'm also known as The Uni-Cyclone. I am Senior Field Instructor for the National Circus Project, a division of Circus Education Specialists, Inc. C.E.S. is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, much like the USA, Inc. Its purpose is to preserve and promote the traditional circus arts through education and entertainment. This company was started by the son of the USA's founder, JeanPaul Jenack; and by the end of this summer we will have done programs for over half a million kids in the Northeastern United States. We teach unicycling as often as we can.

Here is a brief history of my involvement in unicycling:

- In 1979 I learned to ride at age 17
- In 1980 I joined the Redford Township Unicycle Club and rode in dozens of parades and performances during the five years I lived in the area.
- I also attended my first NUM in 1980 and was amazed to see how far people would travel just to ride unicycles together!
- Throughout the next year I practiced hard and from 1981 on I have won most of the races
- In 1982 I became Editor of the NEWSLETTER which I changed to ON ONE WHEEL
- In 1984 I resigned the Editorship to become Editor of the IUF UNICYCLING
- In 1982 I volunteered to be U.S. representative to IUF with Kenneth Fuchs. I began and served on the IUF Rules Committee where I helped to develop rules now in use for international unicycling competition.
- In 1982, '83, and '86 I attended training courses in artistic bicycling in West Germany and was entered as the U.S. representative of that sport in the World Championships. During those years I also attended the West German Unicycle Competitions.
- I have won the following events: NUM Open Class in 1982, '83, '85, '86, '88; World Champion Individual Freestyle in 1986, '87, '88; Pairs World Champion in 1984; undefeated in ALL competition Walk the Wheel races ever entered; World Racing Champion in 1987, '88; current World Champion in Compulsory, Standard Skill, Freestyle and Racing. I hold current records for most of the standard racing events, including the Guinness 100 meter sprint (1989 GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS)
- In 1985 I started the Long Island Unicyclists Club

I am the second President in USA history to be free of the burden of organizing a National Unicycle Meet. This should allow me time to do more of what a President can do for an organization. My goal is to educate and motivate the unicyclists of the country (including you members), mostly by writing things at my typewriter and making phone calls. I also motivate people by making public appearances in the New York area and by performing often - presenting the unicycle as a fun skill that can be learned by anybody who wants to. Most people in the U.S. don't know that the USA exists. Changing this should be the first step in massive growth of unicycling as a sport. To do this, we need people writing press releases and getting publicity for the things they do every day (riding unicycles!). This is one of the areas discussed in a seven-page President's Report which was mailed to all USA officers. If you would like a copy of this report, please send a S.A.S.E. with 45¢ postage to: John Foss - 9B Harrison Ave. - Glen Cove, NY 11542

Or, if you want to be otherwise educated or motivated, please give your President a call at: (516) 671-7651. (11:00 p.m. until midnight [not after] is the best time.)

Other items covered in the President's Report were: the new obstacle course (see the article by Len Salverda and the diagram in this issue), the occasional delay in new members receiving their first newsletter, the suggested new member handbook, getting people to be better newsletter contributors, USA/IUF merger, free classified ads for used unicycles, creating new officer positions to spread out the work, Nomination Committee to find NUM hosts two years in advance, videotaping the NUM for sale, NUM meeting at NUM to save USA meeting for USA business (you have to be there), how to make press releases and get publicity.

A lot of good things are happening with and for our organization; and some really good, energetic work is being done. For many years we have been dealing with the problem of lack of energy or output by our officers. Some of us do more than we have the time to do, and others could do more! All of us are volunteers and do not receive any compensation for our labors. I encourage ALL MEMBERS to carry out ideas, if you think they are good; write to our Editor; host the next NUM or a local meet in your area. We are all in the same boat - officers AND members. This is a volunteer organization and you don't have to be an officer to make great things happen! Make unicycling more accessible in your area. Get your local paper to do an article about you or your group. Make sure people in your area know how to get help with their unicycles. Have the unicycling movement in your area start with YOU!!!

I am fortunate to be President in the year that the USA and IUF join forces to produce a better, more informative, and on-time newsletter! Congratulation to all involved for taking the bold and productive step. Members in the USA get the best of both worlds (world news, in English), and overseas members get to continue to receive a newsletter as well. Remember, if your area is not being covered, it's because nobody wrote about it and sent it in. Our Editors are receivers only. They cannot go out and get the news like a newspaper. It's up to us to provide it.

I wish many happy days of unicycling for all of you this summer. As a USA member, I hope you will share your skills and knowledge with all you meet, then write to us to tell about it! To those of you who will be attending the 1989 NUM in Mobile, I'm looking forward to seeing you there in person. Stay on top!



THE OBSTACLE COURSE

by Len Salverda

The Obstacle Course has been designed to test the rider's ability to accelerate, decelerate, and turn the unicycle to the right and left quickly. Timing is started when the rider moves from the starting position, and finished when the rider crosses the finish line. Cones may be hit, but not knocked over. Each rider will be allowed two attempts only, with the best time being final. The official cone size for the NUMs was established as 18" high with a 12" by 12" base.

The original Obstacle Course used measurements of FEET and was used up until 1985 or 1986. Since then METERS have been used and is now considered to be the standard measuring unit used. The record set in 1981 by Floyd Crandall of 18.95 was on a course measured in FEET. Because the METRIC dimensions in use on today's course makes the total distance ridden longer, the old record is apparently unbreakable. Incidentally, the longest recorded time for the course was set in 1987 by Karen Messamer with a time of 2:25.41.

The obstacle course as presently used has some drawbacks that could be easily corrected.

The first problem, is that the starting line and finish line are at different locations. This forces the timer to change locations for every ride. If they were in the same location, timing would be simplified. Also, as times improve and become more competitive, an electronic timer could be used. It would be easier to set up and monitor if the start and finish were in the same location.

The second, and main problem that I have found, is that the size of the course is too large. Our club, as do many clubs, practice in a gym the size of a basketball court. With the present dimensions, it is impossible to set up a regulation course in this space, and therefore our club does not practice the course in the winter months. In looking for a site for the 1987 NUM I personally inspected several college campus sites. All of the outdoor tracks had a paved oval of some sort in the center of the track. None were large enough to set up the obstacle course with regulation dimensions. I believe over the years that many of the NUM courses had to be altered a bit to fit the course into the space available.

The third item is not a problem but an observation. The course offers a full circle to the right at the end. There are no full circles to the left. A 3/4 circle to the left could be built into a slightly different layout.

All of these items could be solved with some changes in dimensions and format. First, the 2 outer cones on the start (now at 16 meters apart) would have to be moved closer together. The cones after the "S" turns (now at 8 Meters) would be increased to the same as the first 2 cones. Both sets of cones would use the same (suggest 12 meters) dimensions. The 2 dimensions of 8 meters each, parallel to the "S" cones would have to be shortened (suggest 4 meters each) to fit the space available. The finish line would also become the starting line. The course would start on the left side of the last cone with the rider going the full length of the course and making a 3/4 turn to the left around the first cone. The rest of the course would be unchanged. The total distance ridden, along with the first straightaway, will be only slightly shorter. The proposed course is almost identical to the original course in total length. For clarity study the drawings.

The question is "How large is the practice facility of most clubs or unicyclists?" After much discussion and measuring, I have a new proposal to offer the officers and members of the Unicycle Society of America. The dimensions used were selected on the merits of simplicity in set up, while keeping conformity with past dimensions. It should fit into all but the smallest practice facilities used by most unicycle riders. (ed note: This course has been adopted-with a minor change- and will be used at the 1989 NUM.)

To effectively select new dimensions for the obstacle course, METERS were used to compare the distances between the different courses. In calculating the total distance of the courses I assumed that the distance ridden around the cones would be the same for each course so I only figured the straight distances between the cones. I added the 1/4 circle gained in the first turn on the proposed course at .5 meter radius. Study these distances for comparison:

COURSE	METERS	FEET
Original	64.97	213.15
Present	70.76	232.16
Proposed	65.54	215.03

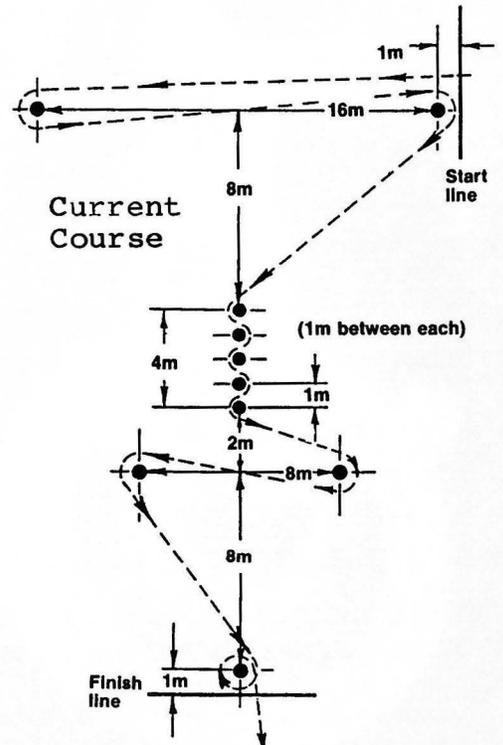
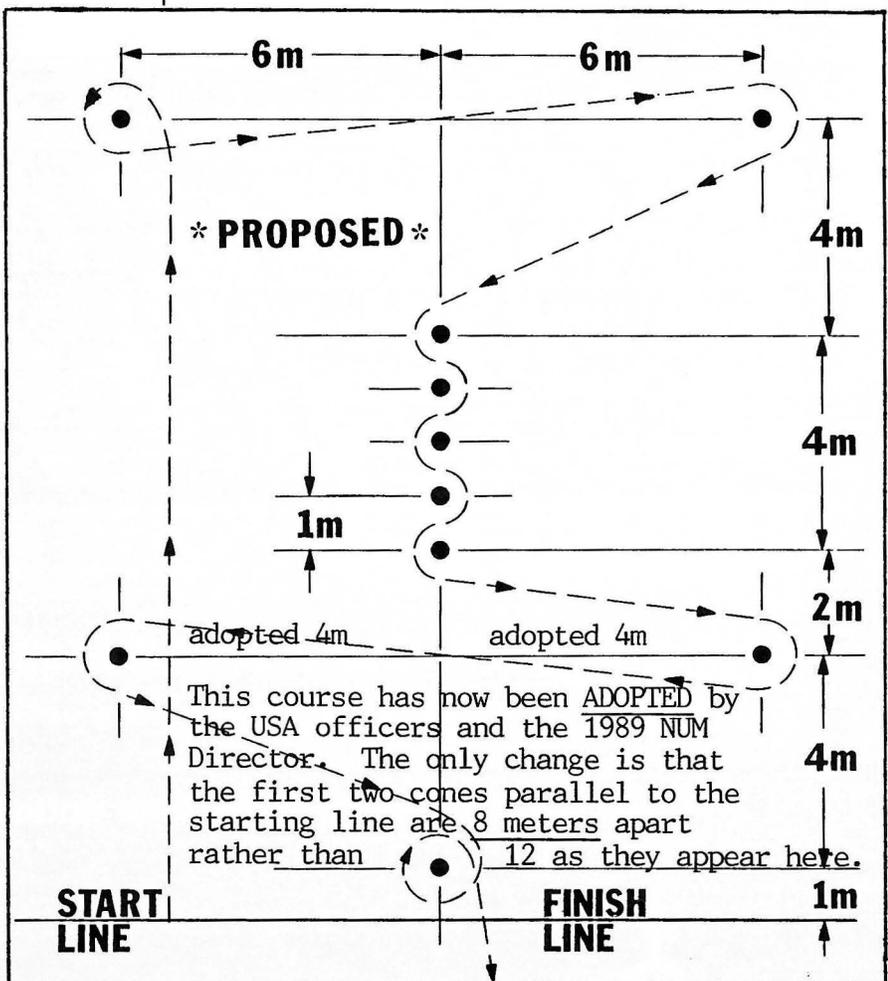
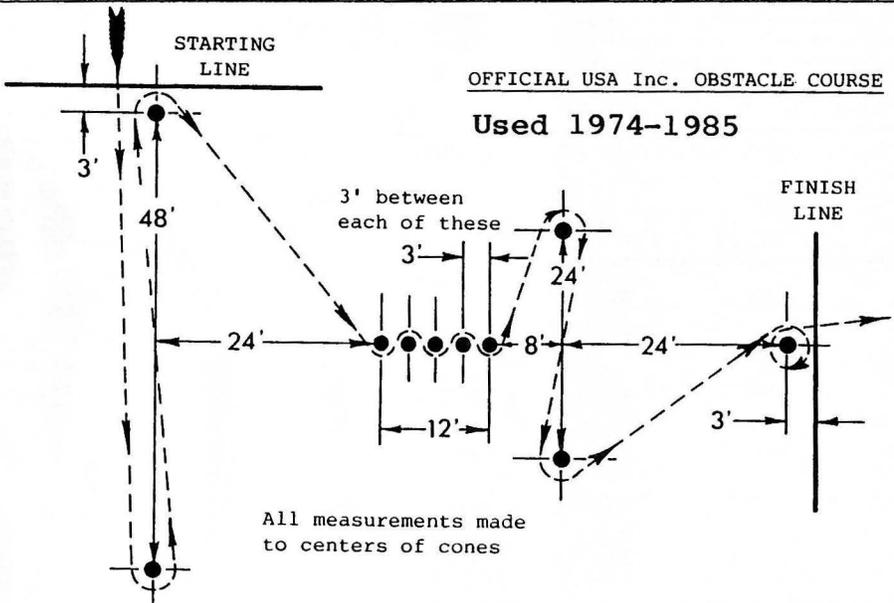
OBSTACLE COURSE SET UP
by Len Salverda

The standard cone size is 18" high with a 12" x 12" base. They can be bumped but not knocked down.

To set up the obstacle course you must have a metric tape measure. I couldn't find anything that measured in meters so I marked my 100' tape in meters, on top and bottom. The conversion formulas available were "METERS x 3.2809 = FEET" and "FEET x .3048 = METERS".

The conversions follow:
METERS = FEET&INCHES

1=.....3'	3&3/8"
2=.....6'	6&3/4"
3=.....9'	10&1/8"
4=.....13'	1&1/2"
5=.....16'	4&7/8"
6=.....19'	8&1/4"
7=.....22'	11&5/8"
8=.....26'	2&15/16"
9=.....29'	6&1/4"
10=.....32'	9&11/16"
11=.....36'	1&1/16"
12=.....39'	4&7/16"
13=.....42'	7&13/16"
14=.....45'	11&3/16"
15=.....49'	2&9/16"
16=.....52'	5&15/16"
17=.....55'	9&5/16"
18=.....59'	11/16"
19=.....62'	4&1/16"
20=.....65'	7&3/8"
21=.....68'	10&3/4"
22=.....72'	2&1/8"
23=.....75'	5&1/2"
24=.....78'	8&7/8"
25=.....82'	1/4"
26=.....85'	3&5/8"
27=.....88'	7"
28=.....91'	10&3/8"
29=.....95'	1&3/4"
30=.....98'	5&1/8"



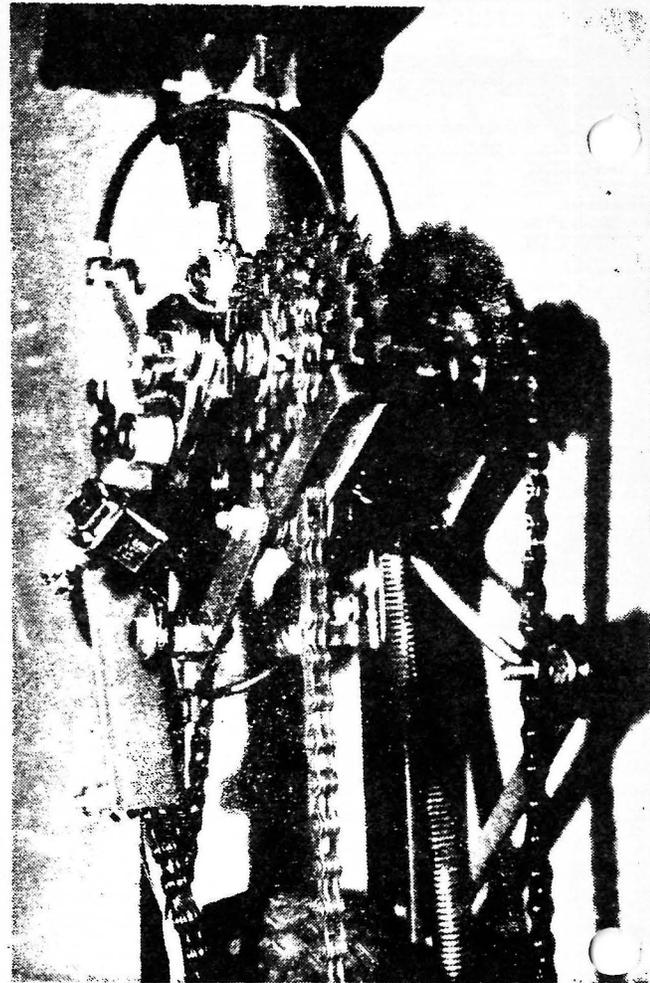
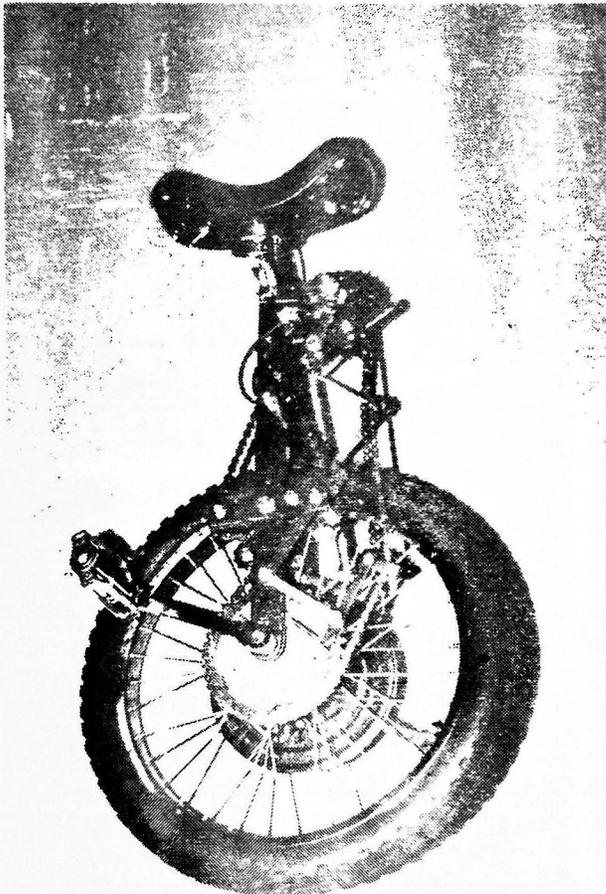
See Vol. 10, No. 4 (1983) for tips on riding the obstacle course by JOHN FOSS

COVER:

If you've been riding unicycles for some time - and even if you haven't - the idea of a multiple-speed unicycle probably has occurred to you. Maybe you didn't know where to start, or didn't have the parts, or just didn't have the time. But for some reason, you didn't build one. Well, somebody has: a high school senior from Dearborn, Michigan, MARK JACKSON has designed and built a 5-speed unicycle.

In the spring of 1988 Mark began to work on an answer to a question that had been in the back of his mind for about a year. He was wondering what the best way would be to increase the speed of his unicycle. He compared his unicycle to a bicycle and decided some kind of gearing would be required. He also decided, early on, that this unicycle would be based on a standard-size uni and not a giraffe. This would complicate things because it required that the cranks and axle travel at a different speed than the hub and wheel surrounding them. Mark realized that he needed to use as many standard bike parts as possible since he did not have access to a machine shop.

Initially Mark spent a lot of time at the drawing board - three months, in fact - before he started any construction. It was suggested that he try a 3-speed hub but he ruled that out because a unicycle must be direct drive and that would not allow the gearing mechanism to shift. Mark decided a 5-gear cluster would work but would require a special device to keep the chain taut at all times. Mark selected a hub from a coaster-brake bicycle for the uni wheel. This allowed for a set of bearings - from a snowmobile - inside the hub, between it and the axle and then another set mounted on the frame similar to a standard unicycle. The 5-speed cluster allowed a rider to ride with gear ratios that range from 1-to-1, riding a 20", to 2.8-to-1, riding a 60" big wheel. The drive mechanism starts with a standard sprocket attached to the right crank driving a chain which runs up to a 13-tooth cog. This cog is attached to a spindle which runs through 2 bearings, spans the frame and has the 5-gear cluster welded to its other end. A second chain then runs from the cluster through the derailleur basket and the chain tensioning device to the drive cog attached to the left side of the hub. Simple, right? Actually, seeing this unicycle in person requires a guided tour to understand how it works.



The uni's derailleur is a standard bike part; however, the chain tensioning device is not. It consists of the second drive chain, 2 gear wheels - 1 stationary and the other which is connected to a short length of chain. This chain runs around a third gear wheel up and adjacent to a locking lever to a cable. The cable loops from the top left side of the frame to the top right side and is then connected to a long spring. The way this operates is: when slack occurs in the second drive chain, the spring mentioned above pulls on the short chain which, in turn, pulls out the slack in the drive chain. The locking lever ratchets to a higher position on the short chain and retains this until manually released.

Mark was able to use many standard bike parts, however, some had to be made and milled by hand. The frame was assembled by bolting together various sizes of bar stock steel. The axle was made from 5/8" round steel. It required some hand filing for it to just fit through the bearings and for it to accept crank pins. The drive cog, on the left side of the wheel (because of its size) required a connecting metal plate to attach it to a fitting which was welded to the hub. This plate took 2 tries as the first one was not perfectly round and the chain tension changed as the wheel rotated. In addition to these items, various levers were made for the chain tensioning device and a basket for the derailleur.

Mark and his unicycle have been a hit whenever they have made an appearance at a Redford Township Unicycle Club practice, Redford Jugglers' meetings or at the RTUC sponsored "Mini-Meet." He says he has a few refinements in mind for the future including another lever that would allow a limited amount of chain slack to permit upshifting while riding. Currently all shifting must be done off of the uni.

The 5-speed unicycle is Mark's only current idea for a unique unicycle; however, he has designed a kind of electronic transmission for a 3-speed bike which would automatically shift gears.

After graduation Mark plans to attend Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn and, as you might guess, enroll in a pre-engineering curriculum.

Cover, photographs & story by DAVID BRICHFORD

ACTIVE UNICYCLE CLUBS

Last year your Editor wrote to 27 unicycle clubs, the names of which were supplied by LEN SALVERDA and SEITH GRANBERRY. The following responded either through that direct contact or through the request in OOW:

BALLS CREEK P.E. CLUB
Balls Creek Elementary School
RT. 2, Box 566
Newton, NC 28658
Contact: Randy Bernhardt

CHARITON UNICYCLISTS
417 South 8th
Chariton, IA 50049
Contact: Dave or Vicky Edwards

DETROIT 4-H UNILIGHTS UNICYCLE CLUB
P. O. Box 13625
Detroit, MI 48213
Contact: James Green

KINGWOOD UNICYCLE CLUB
301 S. Price St.
Kingwood, WV 26537
Contact: Dr. Paul A. Getty

LONG ISLAND UNICYCLISTS
67 Lion Lane
Westbury, NY 11590
Contact: John Foss

MOBILE UNICYCLE CLUB
3204 Desire St.
Mobile, AL 36606
Contact: Seth Granberry

NORTHGATE UNICYCLE CLUB
767 Buckingham Ct.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
Contact: Ray Abraham

ORLANDO ONE WHEELERS
1416 Francis Road
Orlando, FL 32806
Contact: Art Van Zandt

**OAK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
EXHIBITIONAL ACTIVITIES CLUB**
5004 Sideburn Road
Fairfax, VA 22032
Contact: Jim Moyer

PRINGLE'S UNICYCLES
17400 NW 82 Ct.
Hialeah, FL 33015
Contact: George Pringle

REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB, Inc.
P.O. Box 40732
Redford, MI 48240
Contact: Ed Winters

SMILING FACES 4-H UNICYCLE CLUB
217 Huron Road
Findlay, OH 45840
Contact: Nancy E. Young

TORONTO UNICYCLISTS
246 Blantyre Avenue
Scarborough, Ontario CANADA M1N 2S1
Contact: Mike Rocks

TORONTO UNICYCLISTS UNICYCLE HOCKEY CLUB
71 Jasper Avenue
Toronto, Ontario CANADA M6N 2N2
Contact: Darren Bedford

UNICYCLING FEDERATION OF EARTH
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50013
Contact: Dave Fritts

'WHEEL PEOPLE' UNICYCLE HOCKEY CLUB
6940 Estepa Drive
Tujunga, CA 91042
Contact: Hal Gordon

WOOD ONE WHEELERS 4-H UNICYCLE CLUB
P.O. Box 1031
Bowling Green, OH 43402
Contact: Jan Layne

If you have an active unicycle club not listed here, please write NOW! to:

U.S.A., Inc. Editor
P.O. Box 40534
Redford, MI 48240

SEMICYCLE™

• SHOWS • WORKSHOPS • EQUIPMENT SALES

NEW!!
SQUEEZ-ITS™ IN MANY COLORS

SEMICYCLE™ UNICYCLES 20" & 24"	\$ 175.00
SQUEEZ-ITS™	\$ 6.00
TORCHES (large diameter)	\$ 21.00
Plastic spinning plates (blue or red)	\$ 8.00
ABS spinning rings (43 cm diameter)	\$ 9.00
SEMICYCLE T-shirt	\$ 9.00
SEMICYCLE™ 6' chain driven uni	\$ 325.00
w/ double chain	\$ 350.00

Prices do not include postage and handling (\$4.00 min. charge).
Michigan residents add 4% sales tax.

**1989 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS OF UNICYCLING
CANCELLED DUE TO BACKING OUT OF SPONSORS**

Teresa & Sem	SEM ABRAHAMS ENGINEERING
P.O. Box 40353	P.O. BOX 1675
Redford, MI 48240	3600 BR MAARSSSEN
U.S.A.	HOLLAND
313-537-8175	03465-70563



FOR SALE: USA UNICYCLE TEAM PATCHES
1 3/4" x 4 1/2". Used by riders at
UNICONS in Japan & Puerto Rico.
\$2.00 ea. or 6 for \$10.00. John Foss
9B Harrison Ave., Glen Cove, NY 11542

YOUR AD COULD GO HERE. There is a
great demand for good used unicycles.
Read "A Few Words from Your President"
in this issue for a suggestion on
how to satisfy this need in future
issues of ON ONE WHEEL.

Additional comments on unicycle clubs:

Directors of clubs that were very active in the past may not be functioning in that same manner now. However, these directors are eager to help the beginner or ride with a more skilled unicyclist. Such is the case with Dr. Miles and Charlotte Fox Rogers (USA Historian). Anyone in the West Chester (PA) area is invited to contact them at 802 Ceredo Ave.

And David Goldman (SKOKIE CYCLISTS) wrote, "As for the Skokie Cyclists . . . The Club was always a figment of my imagination. I was always the only member! However, I would like people to identify Skokie as having a Club and, consequently, contact me. . . People are probably more likely to contact a Club than an individual."

CALENDAR:

NATIONAL BIKE MONTH KICK-OFF - Washington D.C. * May 2 * part of a nationwide promotion of safer bicycling - League of Americal Wheelmen

ROUND TOWER RALLY - Copenhagen, Denmark * May 27 * contact: Jean Ascher, Rentemestervej 24, 2400Kobenhavn NV, Copenhagen, DENMARK, ph 01-85 42 06

CENTRAL PARK CIRCUS FESTIVAL 1989 - New York City * June 10 * sponsored by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. For further information call John Foss (516) 671 7651.

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL JUGGLERS ASS'N, INC. - Loyola College - Baltimore, MD * July 17 - 23 * membership info: Box 29, Kernmore, NY 14217

1989 NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET - Mobile, AL * July 28 - 30 * registration form separate with this issue - MAIL REGISTRATION TO: Janice Maddox, 6608 Cedar Wood Ct., Mobile AL 36695. Early registrations will receive confirmation packet. Minor rule changes: obstacle course (see article-this issue), age brackets, award system. For further info: Seth Granberry, NUM Director, 3204 Desire St., Mobile, AL 36606 (205) 476-8635

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN UNICYCLING - The Netherlands - canceled due to lack of sponsorship funds.

HULL INTERNATIONAL BICYCLE FESTIVAL - Hull, Quebec, Canada * August 4 - 6 * (site of the 1990 UNICON) The Unicycle Federation of the Outaouais sponsoring (6th consecutive year) Uniball 89 (basketball played on Unicycles), also International Unicross Race, unicycle workshops, etc. Contact: Daniel Pelletier, 120 Mutchmore St. Hull, P.Q. Canada J8y 3I7

12th EUROPEAN JUGGLING FESTIVAL - Maastricht, Holland * Aug. 31 - Sept. 3 * Contact: Lee Hayes, W. G. Plein 423, 1054 SH Amsterdam, The Netherlands

ANNUAL PURDUE UNIVERSITY JUGGLING CLUB CONVENTION * Sept., 1989 * Contact: Jerry Kalke, 400 N. River Rd.-Apt. 1430, W. Lafayette, IN 47906

ANNUAL MINI-MEET (sponsored by The Redford Township Unicycle Club, Inc.) * Sept. 16 * Madonna College, Livonia, MI. Contact: Ed Winters (313) 591-0815

GOOD NEWS! Jack Wiley has revised and expanded his book, HOW TO RIDE A UNICYCLE. If you are having trouble learning, this may be the help you need! Order this and other helpful books from the ORDER FORM.

UNICYCLING IN THE NEWS! CYCLIST (June, '89) has a color photo of USAm STEVE GORDON riding "Immense Hortense," a unicycle with a 73" wheel. New Guinness Record for Steve and builder Dave Moore! READER'S DIGEST (Mar., '89)"A Parisian Love Affair" mentions that a clown named Coin-Coin rode down the 363 steps from the first platform on the Eiffel tower on a uni! Did you notice the unicycle in NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC (June '89) used to illustrate "Animation" in the article "Images for the Computer Age."