



On One Wheel

Volume XVI

Number 2

1989/90



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

The delightful photos of the 1989 NUM used in this issue were taken by **TOM LLOYD**. This was Tom's first experience at an NUM and he was never seen without a smile on his face and a camera in front of it. If **YOU** have never come to a National Unicycle Meet, do yourself a favor. Fill out the 1990 NUM registration form and mail it soon!



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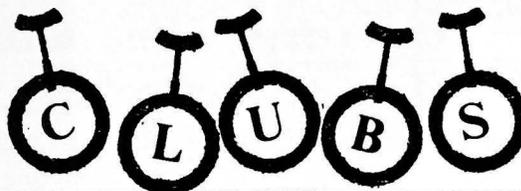
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CYCOLOGIST

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COVER:



WOW!!! A chance to be on a national t.v. program! Every kid's dream!!

It all started last summer (1989) when I was in a talent show. The host requested a video tape and said Disney Productions had asked him to look for unusual acts. Since I was the only unicycle act he's had in 30 years, he thought they might be interested.

A month later a producer from the Mickey Mouse Club Show called. They wanted **ME!** to come do the show and to be inducted into the "Hall of Fame." During the interview I told her that my sisters, **BECKY** and **KATIE**, rode, too. So they made plans for all of us to do the show.

I appeared by myself in a 90-second routine. Then the 3 of us did another 90-second routine together on giraffe unicycles.

It was exciting! We got to meet the Mouseketeers, to see how they make a program, and the new M.G.M. Theme Park. One Mouseketeer even rides a unicycle. We all got "Mickey" trophies.

See you at the 1990 NUM,
AMY EDWARDS

(This picture and the one on the cover show Amy (right) and her sisters holding the "Mickey" trophies awarded them at the induction.)



The REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB, Inc.
in parade formation at the 1989 NUM

picture by: **TOM LLOYD**



REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB

by **CHRISTIAN MARCILLO**

The Redford Township Unicycle Club performed in numerous parades last year. This year the Club is looking forward to another prosperous year with many newcomers and opportunities to entertain communities with parades and performances.

The Club also has a new practice routine. In the winter the Club meets every other Saturday for two hours in a church school gymnasium. The members are now grouped into squads according to unicycling ability. (Each squad has riders of all ability levels.) In the squad the IUF Skill Levels are emphasized one practice and proper riding of special equipment, the next. Each practice ends with basketball games or relay races (i.e. riding with a cotton ball on a spoon, while bouncing a ball, etc.)

The Club hopes to further improve the performance level and to give more value to the practices with this new idea.



I'm afraid the **PENN STATE** and **WHIRL WHEELS** Unicycle Clubs are 8-year-old history. That's when I left (PA). I am in Vernal, UT now and am anxiously awaiting the day when these two (see picture) do their own riding. Paul (4) does ride a bike without training wheels and Katie (2) loved posing on me (with her hands held out pretty) while I rode in a local talent show. I also feel it is appropriate to ride my wooden 42" buggy wheel in the Annual Pioneer Day Parade. If anyone has a used 12" unicycle for sale, please let me know. As far as interesting places to ride . . . I am looking forward to trying out the slickrock bike trails in Moab, UT.

Stay on top, **SALLY (WHITE) WACKOWSKI**
1936 E. 1375 S.
Vernal, UT 84078

PS When Paul and Katie were babies, I pushed them in a stroller while riding my unicycle.

W*E*L*C*O*M*E - to three new clubs:

BRIAN CAMPBELL recently formed the **WAYNE SOCIETY OF UNICYCLISTS**. They now have 3 members and are looking for a few more unicyclists to join. If any USAm lives near Wayne, PA, Brian would enjoy hearing from you. His address is:

516 W. Wayne Ave.
Wayne, PA 19087

Rudolph Elementary School

5200 2nd St. NW

Washington, DC 20011

has a unicycle club taught by Sylvia Gwathmey. There are now 9 riders in the Club - and the Club owns 11 unicycles! One of the members, Chris (better known as **PINTO**), wrote to USA so that this Club would be added to the growing list of active clubs across the country and around the world.

VECTIS UNICYCLE UNIVERSITY was begun a little over a year ago by **STUART E. ALLBRIGHTON** in England. In addition to unicycling, Club members also learn skills like tight rope walking, stilt walking and juggling.

Stuart, who is a new member of USA, is also a member of the British Unicycle Federation.

He is encouraging his Club members to successfully complete the IUF Skill Levels and he reports that some of his riders could pass Level V. However, he wondered if he would qualify as a Skill Level judge. (ed. note: The IUF Skill Levels tape and the printed rules that accompany it make it possible for riders to correctly perform each skill and for others to judge it accurately.)

Vectis Unicycle University has given demonstrations at various events in the area. Why is the Club called "University?" Because of the "Uni. . ." of course. You may contact Stuart at:
121 Sandown Road, Lake,
Isle of Wight, England PO36 9JY

THE SUPERCYCLES is now in its second generation of leadership. Begun 19 years ago by **PATRICIA HANDS**, the Club is now directed by Patricia's daughter, **TRICIA HANDS DEERING**. More on this active Club in the next **ON ONE WHEEL**.

Has **YOUR** club been mentioned in **OOW**? Was your club pictured in the newspaper? Do you have snapshots of club members when they were practicing? **OOW** editor needs more pictures. Black and white reproduce best and newspapers must give permission to reproduce pictures they have used. But, please, send in **YOUR** story about **YOUR** club and, please, include pictures!



Meet the HUTCHINSON ONE WHEELERS (HOW), now a little over one year old. We started out with 5 members in July, 1988, and by the end of 1989 we had 24 active unicyclists.

We attribute our success in growth to a number of things: mostly the excellent support from our parents. We recruit by participating in shows and parades whenever we have the opportunity. Some of

our shows have been at the elementary schools, church festivals, local company's employees Christmas party, local school district variety show, 4-H Club, and for a senior citizen's group.

We enjoyed participating in 8 parades this past summer. Many of our younger riders anticipate the day when they can ride the chain-driven unicycles with the 'bigger' kids. We allow anyone to ride a chain-driven unicycle in a parade once the unicyclist can idle 10 times with both feet and ride backward 10 meters. The crowd always enjoys when our giraffe riders twirl around the 'cops.'

Hutchinson One Wheelers is a HUGE family. All parents help and discipline any children, and all 'kids' (any rider - from 6 to over 50) grab any convenient shoulder when they need help learning something new. Each new young rider learns to ride with one experienced teacher on one side and their parent on the other side. This involves the parents right away and teaches them some of the skills involved in riding a unicycle.

We have had 2 family pot lucks and 2 Christmas Popcorn and Movies (unicycling movies, of course) parties. We have a yearly Awards Banquet, held in May, where Level Patches are handed out to those who earned a new level.

The Hutchinson One Wheelers started out learning how to ride unicycles by using the HOW Club uni (donated to us by the TWIN CITY UNICYCLE CLUB) and old

'learner' unicycles owned by ROXANNE SLADEK and CONSTANCE COTTER, (USA V-P). After mastering the one wheel, many of our members joined together to purchase over 15 unicycles from The Unicycle Factory.

In Hutchinson, unicyclists and other community people consider unicycles as sports vehicles rather than toys. We think that unicycling is an acquired skill that takes practice (the more, the better). Letting people try unicycling whenever possible allows them to appreciate the skill and practice that it takes to ride.

As a group we practice weekly for 90 minutes indoors in the winter for which we pay \$1.00 each for rental. In the summer we practice outside in the parking lot of the local recreational center (where the riders swim after a hard practice).

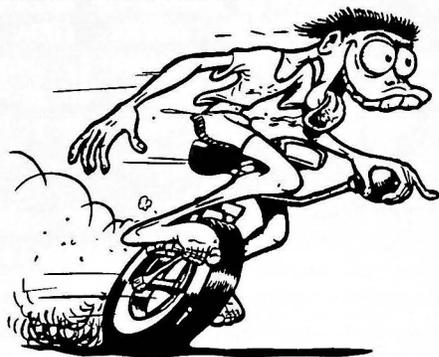
We have a few methods for making money for the various needs of the Club. The Hutchinson One Wheelers receive donations for participating in parades. One of the local grocery stores gave us a percentage of the profits from selling 'brats' and pop during a day that we manned the stand. Our ongoing method for making money is by saving our pop cans and selling the aluminum to a local recycler.

Hutchinson One Wheelers have had only a taste of unicycling competition. Last summer we hosted a regional meet with races and artistic competition. One of the highlights of the racing was when DUSTIN KELM (MINNESOTA UNICYCLE TEAM) finished the obstacle course by crashing his unicycle and executing 2 rolls before coming to a stop. In February, 1990, all unicyclists from Hutchinson are looking forward to the Regional Meet hosted by the TWIN CITY UNICYCLE CLUB in conjunction with the St. Paul Winter Carnival.

Our major goal for the summer is to save enough money for all Hutchinson One Wheelers to attend the National Unicycle Meet in July so we can meet other unicyclists from around the country during competition.

Any suggestions for money making would be appreciated.

by: HOW Parent Support Team



The Unicycle Factory

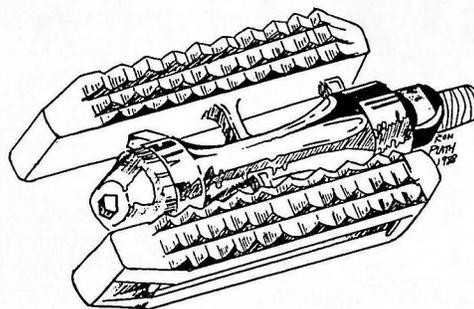
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Rubber Ended Pedals are designed so that no metal parts touch the ground, ideal for gym floors. Also the Pedal has adjustable bearings for slop-free use.

1/2"	White	\$21.00
1/2"	Black	\$16.00
9/16"	White	\$16.00
9/16"	Black	\$16.00

Prices and availability always subject to change, and prices don't include shipping and handling.



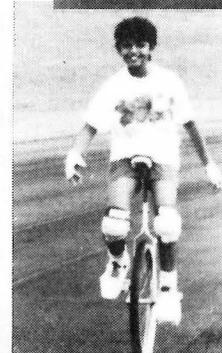
I KNOW I'M FAST, BUT AM I FAST ENOUGH?

pictures by: TOM LLOYD

USA Treasurer, **KAREN MESSAMER** (whose article appears in this issue), went back through the National Unicycle Meet records from 1973 through 1988 and determined the best time for each event. So that riders can know what speed they must attain to be competitive at the 1990 NUM, the record times are printed here - but only for the years 1986-1988. These times are for a track measured in meters. Prior to that the tracks were measured in yards and the times would not be comparable. If you want a copy of the complete records (including names), send a S.A.S.E. to: USA, PO Box 40534, Redford, MI 48240.



	100m	200m	800m	1600m	obstacle	1 ft. 50 m.	walk 10/25m
Girls							
0-8	23.68	53.63	3:01		36.68	19.62	
9-10	22.02	45.16	2:58		30.84	15.68	12.24
11-12	20.23	41.95		5:91	27.22	13.66	19.78
13-14	19.29	38.02		5:27	25.73	12.40	18.18
15-16	18.15	41.78		5:34	25.65	12.46	18.32
17-18	20.52	42.84		6:30	26.83	13.30	22.41
19+	18.50	35.84		5:26	21.86	12.15	13.34
Boys							
0-8	26.17	49.20	3:26		31.14	23.59	
9-10	23.94	49.52	3:22		29.82	16.20	
11-12	20.20	41.49		6:19	26.44	13.61	22.00
13-14	17.67	34.74		5:15	24.16	10.31	16.82
15-16	16.24	34.11		5:02	24.52	9.70	10.37
17-18	15.61	32.70		4:56	22.37	10.08	13.28
19+	14.18	29.91		4:52	20.83	8.76	8.36



the Crocologist

Spring 1990.



Artist: Lisa Markus

When you pluck juggling clubs off the floor, ever dream that you're really giving a croc a hand-out? Perhaps that crossed Bryan Boshart's mind when the Houston resident showboated at the Denton/Dallas Juggle-and-Unicycling-In last Sept. For more dreams come true...see the CenterPage (Pg 4-5).



In Your Nightmares!

Inside the Jaws

of The Crocologist:

Fell 10 stories...survived!	Pg 8
Fell 100's of feet...lived!	Pg 7
'Safe' Juggling w/Yellow Roses:	Pg 4
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Letter from Mother Russia	Pg 8
The Uni Pedlar..on Pedals:	Pg 6
Broken Mirror = Bad Luck:	Pg 3
... and more more more!	

Palo Alto Incognito

PALO ALTO, CA. Recently, a competing publication - The New York Times, in fact - ran an article on how the city fathers of this town were working to make it "bicycle friendly."

The Cycologist has made additional inquiries: perhaps TC could discover the true cycling situation in Silicon Valley. Herewith is the story the Times chose to *ignore*.

Miniature Unicyclists?

"Sorry to report that the incidence of unicycle activity in our area is *miniature*," replied Eric Hjertberg of Wheelsmith, Inc., a bicycle shop at 225 Hamilton Ave. "There are several riders who make themselves *conspicuous* by riding around the central business districts, but we are unaware of any other organized activity," the purveyor of cycling gear to the U.S. Olympic team concluded.

Hell's Angels on One Wheel?

Conspicuous? Unicyclists? *Naaah!* What could the one-wheelers be doing in PA, CA? Streaking Main Street? Juggling books at City Hall? Visions of unorganized unicyclists flaunting all semblance of propriety and civilized mores springs to mind; the illo (right) depicts our brain frame.

The 'phone went "*jingle jangle*;" PA taxpayer, graphics artist - and out-of-the-closet unicyclist - Amanda Kovattana lifted the receiver. It was the TC, calling long-distance from Dallas.

'Yellow Journalism,' Cries Thai

"Actually, I don't commute to work on my uni," the dark-haired Thai/Brit confesses, "in spite of that article in the Times-Tribune. The Star got it wrong, too." How disappointing, coming from a

supermarket tabloid, too.

"I do keep it around the office, then run errands on it downtown, mostly," Amanda says. "*Must* watch out for the cops. Got two tickets on my uni, one for jaywalking and one for obstructing the sidewalk." Whoa! That's right up there with obstructing justice, AK!

Bike: Not a Siamese Unicycle

"Learning to ride a unicycle *isn't* at all like a bike," the Palo Alto Medical Foundation employee analyzes. "It's exactly the *opposite*. It should be ridden just like walking. When you walk each step stops you from falling down, the same is true on a unicycle."

C'mon: Be a Pen Pal

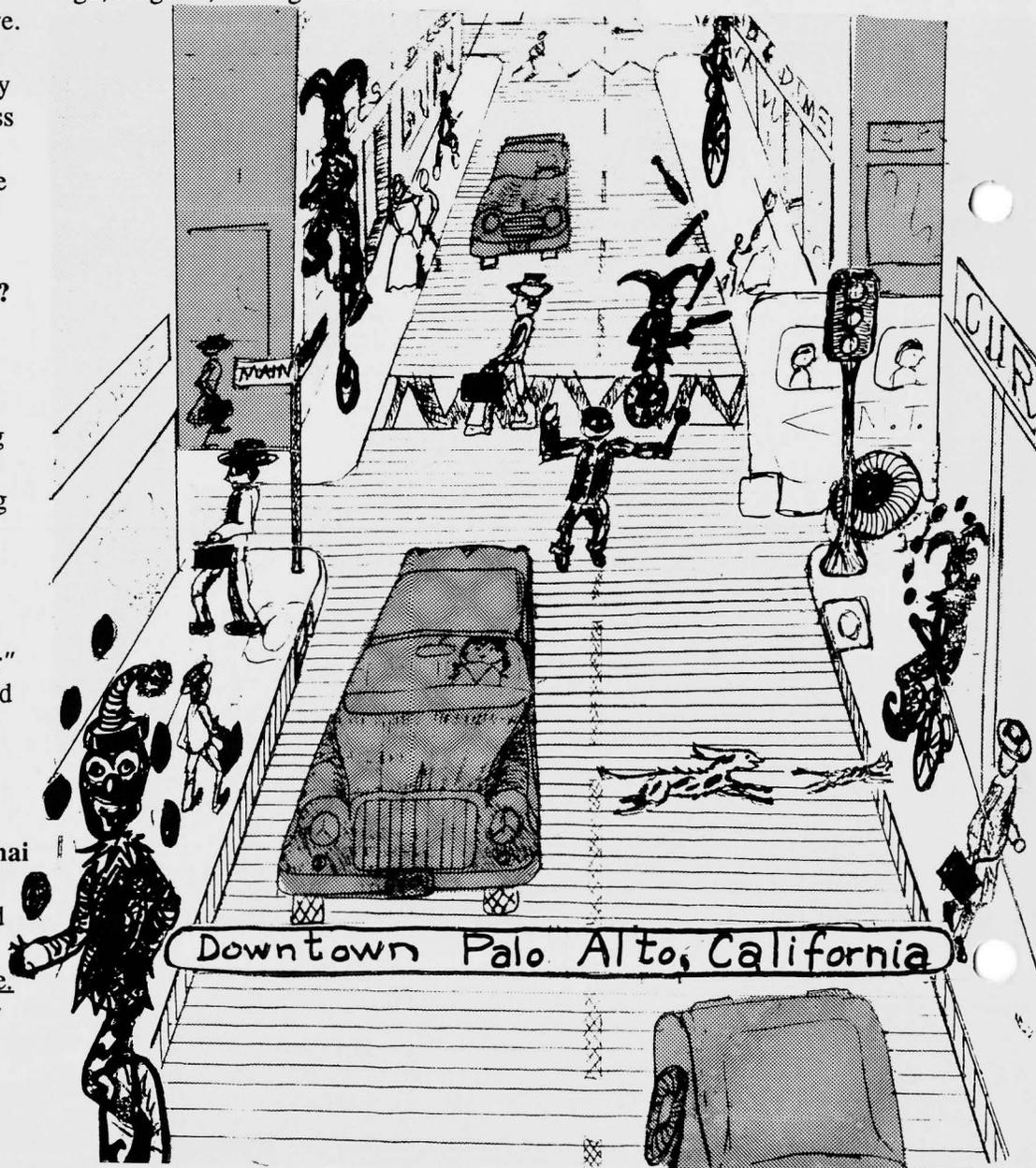
Amanda learned to ride 13 years ago, at age 17, reading "The 12

Easy Steps to Learning How to Ride a Unicycle," and practicing 8 hours a day for a week. "A little determination is *all* it takes," she claims.

Meanwhile, fame - if not fortune - continue to pursue our Amanda. She's considered - briefly - a marriage proposal (from a non-juggling journalist in North Carolina), been interviewed on radio and TV, and received an inquiry from a convicted felon, (return address: the penitentiary); She "didn't write him back."

Why not, Amanda? Maybe he only rode his uni on the Palo Alto sidewalks once too often. You two could have a lot in common.

- Curt Morgan



The Re-Appearance of Vanishing Van

Ride a Unicycle, Go to Jail -- It's the Law!

by "Vanishing" Van Parseghian
San Jose, California

Four *Vatos* (Spanish slang for "dudes") left San Jose, California, one Friday recently, expecting to meet up with Fleet 20 in San Felipe for a raging week-end. We had been practicing our unicycle skills for the past year, anticipating this one event.

Steve "Slim" Dressler, Glen Sagel, James Mackey and I carefully loaded four unis in the trunk, and three giraffes on a roof-rack on top. Without forgetting the *vital* ice chest full of frothy refreshment, we were ready to head on out.

Busted Glass, Busted Riders

Arriving at the Miramar bar just across the California border in Mexico, we slept off the effects of our trip, gorged on seafood at George's, and giggled like kids on a holiday as we advanced on the famous (or, I should say, infamous) Miramar, an establishment of the anti-establishment, where it would take more than a couple' *crazed* fun-seekers on unicycles to even turn a head.

Alas! On the way over, we got separated, and Glen, in the midst of a one-footed backward spin, put the wammy on an intruding parked truck's rear-view mirror. Cursing more over the spilled Corona than the damaged truck, he continued on his way.

Sgt. Pancho Gets His Man

Steve, James and I were ahead of reckless Glen, at the Miramar rocking with the band. But, as the music stopped, we were ordered off our unicycles and *uncerimoniously* handcuffed by three semi-uniformed officers. In a bar where motorcycles are frequently gunned down the aisles, we were *shocked* to find that unicycle-riding apparently was judged a more serious offense.

We were collared because a uni rider had been spotted breaking the mirror...and we were the likeliest - *if innocent* - suspects!



Artwork: Pollie Bowden

Do Not Collect \$200

At the jail, we anted up \$20 for the broken mirror, which the sergeant behind the desk periodically fondled and spoke to lovingly, in Spanish.

Did we find ourselves on the next bus back to the good ole USA, as the sergeant had promised? *Get serious!* No, the next stop on our evening's agenda was night court, something different from the TV show, and *without* Judge Harry Stone, presiding.

Hey...Western Union!

Our fine was another \$20, quoted in Yankee dollars, please, not your ordinary worthless pesos, if you *don't* mind. Well, we didn't *have* another sawbuck, so the authorities kindly released one of us (it was me, Vanishing Van: do you supposed they would have chosen someone else, had they known my true nickname? The odds are good).

I was set free with the sole purpose of rounding up some cash...while James and Slim stayed put in the clink, looking cool but sweatin' hard.

Back at the Miramar, breathless, I was able to raise the ransom from startled and sympathetic fleet members. Back to the San Flipe dungeon once again, where money changed hands. The three of us, now free, felt like we'd gotten a last-minute pardon from the Governor, *only better*.

Served the Time, Paid the Fine

Nerves shaken but holding up under the strain OK, we cornered the culprit, Glen, guilty of the high crime of mirror-busting for which we, not he, served the time and paid the fine. We found him hiding under a beached fishing boat behind thebar. He had wisely decided that the Hispanic Gestapo would not be a friendly to him as they were to us.

The next day, things were back to normal, and our Saturday night uni-riding performance knocked the audience dead. As we were leaving San Felipe on Sunday, we were not sure if we would ever return. The words kept ringing in our ears, "*Ride a unicycle, go to jail: It's the law!*"

Desire 'Safe Juggling,' Lovely Ladies Learning Unicy

Nowhere Else But 'Baja Oklahoma' (that's 'Texas' to you Yankees)

by Melody Moselle
Cycologist Feature Editor

Not bad...for a juggler!

Kevin Holman (right) of Norman, OK, took his first joy ride on an 8 foot giraffe, and we had a hard time getting him to come down off a natural high. Every performer at the Dallas Juggling Club's meeting last September dropped their clubs - and their jaws - when Kevin took a turn around the floor, idling, tooling backwards, and one-footing it as you see here.

Kevin performs with the group "Darn Good and Funny" at International Juggling Association conventions, with Karen and Paul Pharriss. If they're not on "Saturday Night Live," maybe "Wednesday Morning Taped" should book 'em. *Wow andHa-ha!*

The "Kwenzels" (Kevin and Wanda Wenzel, compressed; pictured below): if they could just suspend Wanda's halo with a bit more finesse, they'd be ready for Prime Time Up High. Kevin keeps the Devil at bay juggling knives so sharp they'll cut warm butter. Now, levitate and radiate, Wanda.

The "Texas Juggling Festival,"

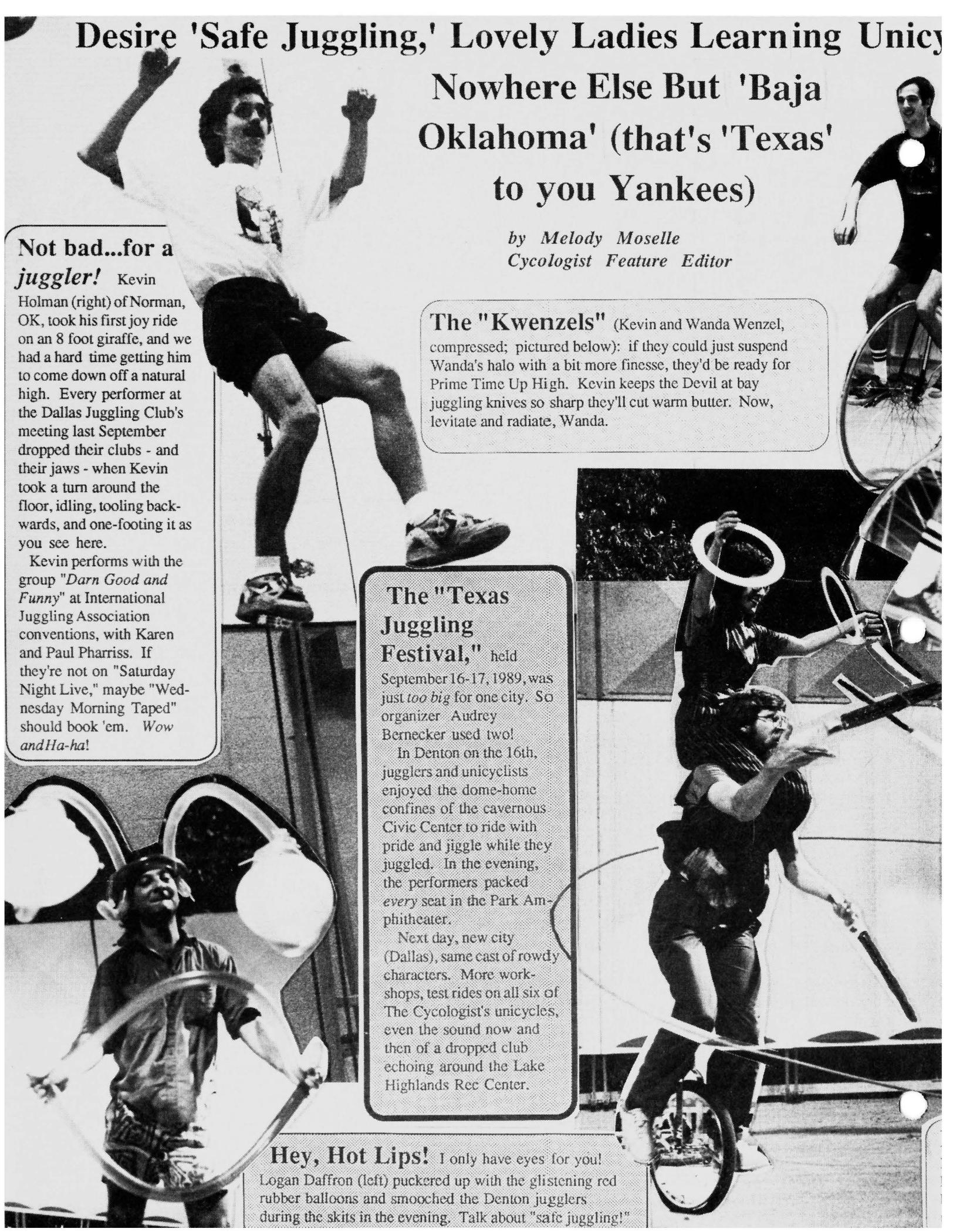
held September 16-17, 1989, was just *too big* for one city. So organizer Audrey Bernecker used two!

In Denton on the 16th, jugglers and unicyclists enjoyed the dome-home confines of the cavernous Civic Center to ride with pride and jiggle while they juggled. In the evening, the performers packed *every* seat in the Park Amphitheater.

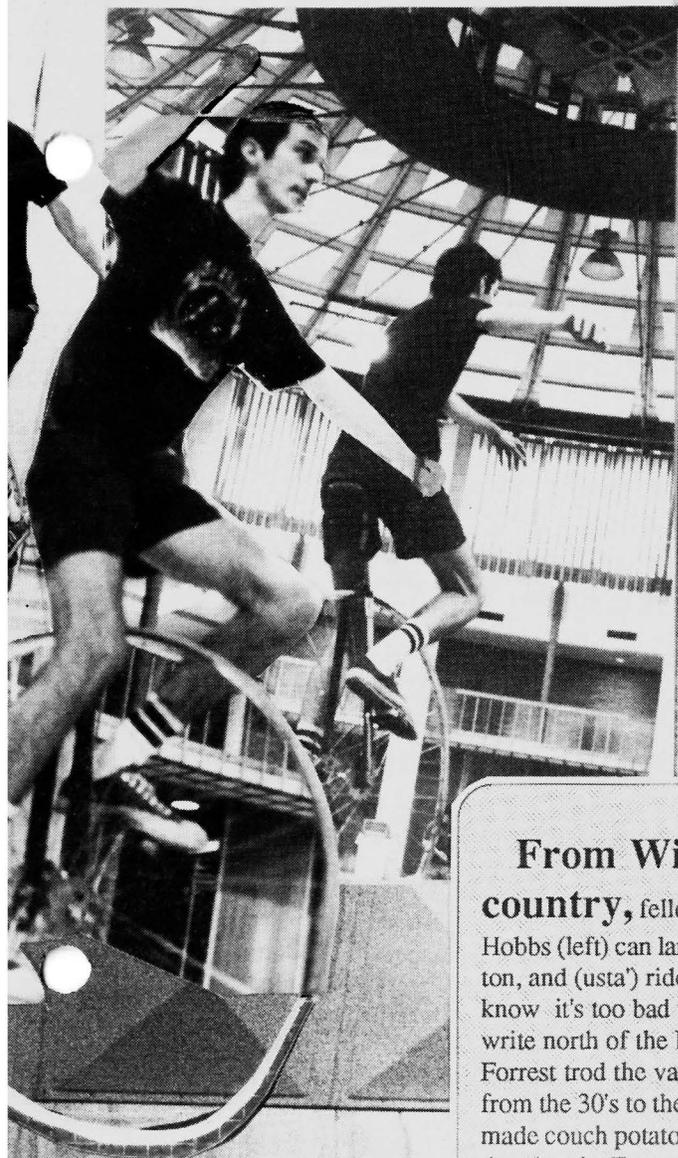
Next day, new city (Dallas), same cast of rowdy characters. More workshops, test rides on all six of The Cycologist's unicycles, even the sound now and then of a dropped club echoing around the Lake Highlands Rec Center.

Hey, Hot Lips!

I only have eyes for you! Logan Daffron (left) puckered up with the glistening red rubber balloons and smooched the Denton jugglers during the skits in the evening. Talk about "safe juggling!"

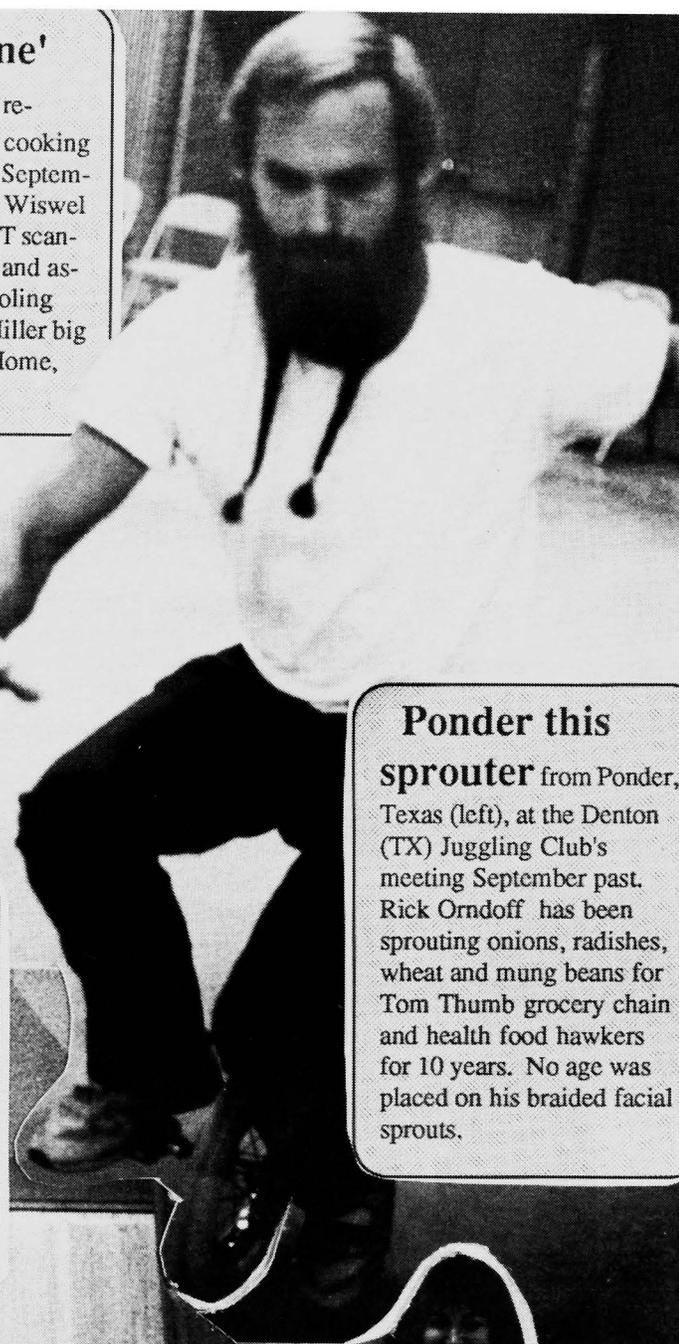


cling, Heavenly Bodies?



'Dome Home'

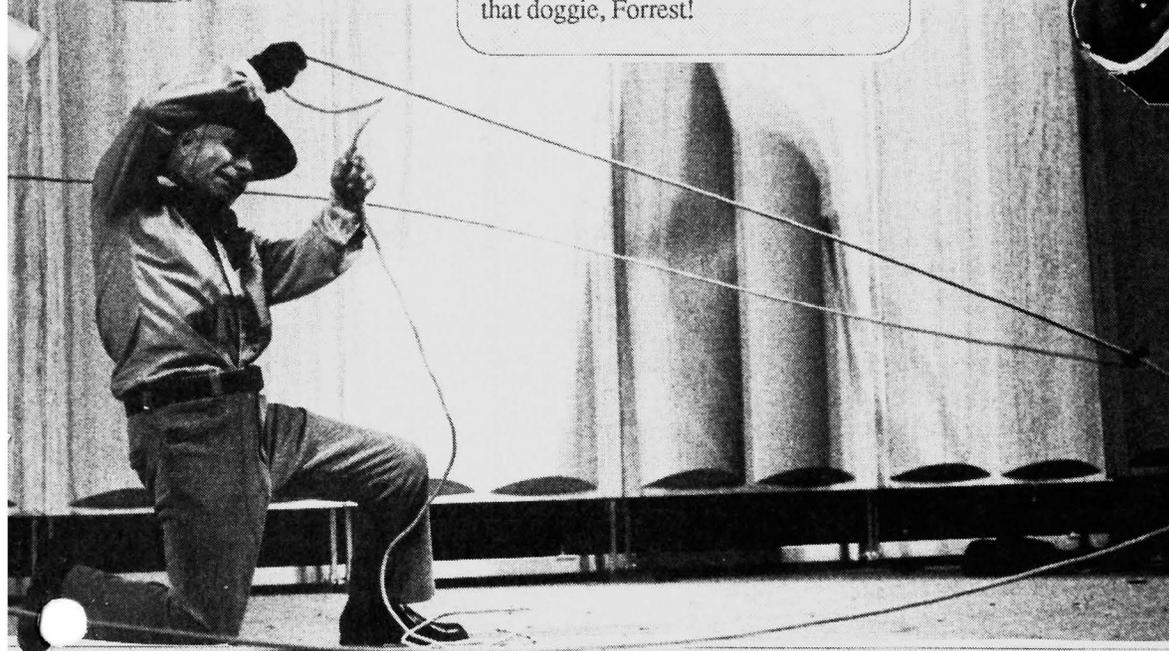
Unicycling re-
placed down home cooking
in Denton, TX, last Septem-
ber. Austin's Steve Wiswel
(left) programs CAT scan-
ners in FORTTRAN and as-
sembly when not tooling
along on his Tom Miller big
wheel. Hook 'em Home,
Steve!



Ponder this
sprouter from Ponder,
Texas (left), at the Denton
(TX) Juggling Club's
meeting September past.
Rick Orndoff has been
sprouting onions, radishes,
wheat and mung beans for
Tom Thumb grocery chain
and health food hawkers
for 10 years. No age was
placed on his braided facial
sprouts.

From Will Rogers

country, fellow Okie Forrest
Hobbs (left) can lariat a cow, juggle a
ton, and (usta) ride unis. (We Texans
know it's too bad they can't read and
write north of the Red River).
Forrest trod the vaudeville circuit
from the 30's to the 50's, before TV
made couch potatoes of us all. Rope
that doggie, Forrest!



's tough work helping folks like Daniele
orris (pictured right, embracing a lucky pillar), Josh and
lar Cosimo and Mom Deborah learn to ride unicycles,
t someone's gotta make the sacrifice. They always seem
need a helping hand *here* and gentle support *there*.

"Why are we here?", echoed the teen-aged Pilar at the
Denton meeting. "I'll tell you why. 'Cause Mom wanted to
come and see the jugglers, but she didn't want to come
alone!" Let the record show that at this point Mom Cosimo
gaped an embarrassed giggle.

Ready for lesson number *two*, Daniele?

Zen and the Art of Unicycle Maintenance

To Lay Rubber, Ride on Rubber Leave Rat-Traps to Havahart

by Tom Miller, Kokomo, Indiana

All you pedal-pushers out there: when's the last time you seriously reconsidered your unicycle pedal purchase? Yeah? *In your dreams!*

The style of pedals I like to push (read that anyway you want) are "SR Rubber End." The rubber projects out beyond the end of the pedal. Translated, this means, when you take a tumble off your wheel, you may die, but at least your heirs are left with a unicycle with functioning pedals.

While the "Union Rubber Block" pedals I shill for are cheaper, their metal ends don't bounce back like rubber. They do have reflectors, meaning mean-minded pick-up truck drivers can zero in on you, night or day.

Speaking of which: have you ever noticed that, 9 times in 10, the drivers who hassle you, when you're on your uni, are in pick-ups? Those lovely lulus who backfire loudly as they sneak up on your giraffe from behind? Those ya-hoo retardards who change lanes, just to challenge you to a game of head-on chicken? For these scum of the road, I turn my other cheek - the ones normally on my seat.

Spurns Rat-traps, Uses Bare Teeth Instead

Back to the matter at hand. From the Mind of Miyata comes the new "Miyata Plastic White" pedal. It's too soon to say if it'll stand up to the stand-up antics of the likes of Bill Karbo, but the initial road-test results are promising. It looks like a "Rubber Block" pedal, translated into virgin white plastic.

George Pringle - you know, the mean-looking suntanned Floridian phys-ed teacher who was the model for the DI in the movie "Full Metal Jacket" - likes rat-trap pedals.

These pedals, made for bikes and BMX-ers, have projecting metal points which grip George's boots. I believe he actually rides these bare-footed in private, just doesn't want to show off in public. Must check his rat-traps, next time we meet, for signs of A-positive corpuscles.

That's What He Said

Taking the same approach, Curt Morgan rides on BMX-style rat-trap pedals, with jogging shoes with small cleats. Claims the cleats and the metal pedals make for traction you never have to question, beating Velcro-based pedal-and-shoe arrangements all to heck. (*Is that what he said?*) In fact, you can't slide your shoes off the pedals in an emergency landing, you must lift them off.

Curt has even considered somehow custom-molding a shoe to his pedals. I tell him, a guy who dismounts from my school-bus-yellow giraffe by landing directly on his buns has other things to worry about, first.

The Cyclogist usta' ride on ordinary rectangular metal bike pedals, but no more. When he put his heavy pedal to the metal, he found they lacked true mettle, warping on impact. Sometimes they even got a screw loose (appropriate for Curt, methinks).

For the ultimate in traction, there's always bike-type toe-clips. On bikes, the theory is, you get traction on the upstroke, as well as the down. For unis, is this as important?



You may die, but heirs have functioning pedals

The average bikin' bozo cranks at about 90 RPMs; the unicyclist's tachometer red-lines at about 120, while when the likes of Frank Crandall was threatening four and one-half minute miles on 24-inchers, that works out to a mind-blurring 190 revs. At least, that's what the Man in the black-and-white blinking and beeping van clocked him at.

If You Fall, It's OK...If No One Saw You

So, the long and short of this little foray into quantum physics is, I can't see toe-clips being useful to unicyclists. On the flip side, I have seen bike riders actually topple right on over, when they were unable to disengage their foot from their toe-clip at a stop sign. *Embarrassing, wot?*

Bike shops also peddle a final bit of high-tech wizardry: the combination pedal with an interlocking shoe. Distance riders *might* want look into this. *Avenir* makes one such system, but we're talking \$100+ here. To disengage, you must give your shoe a twist. I can't see this happening on a uni in time to avoid a rather clumsy dismount, myself. And I speak from experience - I'm still only 50-60% after my pointy-toes, bent knees bail-out off my 12 footer last June.

Checking in with a Five-Hat-Kicker-Upper

I double-checked my pedal round-up with Ray Wold, the Ringling Clown College unicycle instructor. Does he agree with the Gnome of Kokomo, or does he like a pedal system un-gnome to me?

"When I buy a uni, I consider it as a whole," the San Diego unicyclist and juggling performer reported. "So, I use whatever pedal comes with it. Right now, I'm riding Semcycles. So, I use the standard pedal they ship with it."

Wrapping it up: when a better rat-trap is made, the world will flock to my door. Until then, zip with Zen and ride with pride on "SR Rubber Ends."

Ken Woods' Yesteryear Unicycles

Circus Acrobat Uses His Skill To Escape Hindenburg Inferno



(While Ben Dova, the subject of the following story, was not a unicyclist, he did work with Ken Woods in various productions in the 1930's. Ken writes: "Ben Dova left us for the Big-Top in the sky some years ago. I will attempt to reconstruct the news item as I recall it. It received considerable play in the newspapers at the time as one of the few that escaped. It featured his ability for self-survival and was exceedingly dramatic." Cycologist readers over the age of 60 will recall that the year-old Hindenburg caught fire and burned while attempting to land in the U.S.

Lakehurst, NJ, 1937 - European circus star, **Ben Dova**, returning from his native Germany, executing remarkable presence and coolness of mind, escaped certain death from the fiery inferno of the burning Hindenburg in the last seconds of its ill-fated life.

Racing to the forward control gondola, he grabbed a line from a supply locker, securing it to a control fixture, swiftly rappelling himself downward. Part way in his descent, the rope burned through, precipitating him to the ground. (From whence cometh the expression, 'to reach the end of one's rope?' - Ed)

Members of the ground crew saved his life when they were able to drag him away seconds before the descending, burning hulk landed on the spot where he fell.

He is hospitalized with burns on his face and hands and a possible broken ankle. Ben Dova was last seen in this country while touring with the immensely popular Olsen & Johnson comedy revue, "Hellzapoppin'."

Ken adds: Hellzapoppin' also featured **Paul Gordon** and his artistic tandem act. Paul would come on stage riding in the rearmost seat, what appeared to be a normal four seat tandem. Then, he would muscle it into a 'wheelie' position, then advance upwards seat by seat, doing a turn about the stage in each seat.

Putting a sensational finish to his act, he went up over the handlebars, riding on the absolute head, like a giant giraffe. That brought down the house.

Another act popular at this time was the seven **Schrettos**, an Italian family specializing in giraffe acrobatics - seven whirling giraffes all at once moving about the stage in flowing motion with rapidity and grace.

One of their "bits" had several of the male members get the giraffe to lean forward at an incredible angle and race to the side curtain and catch it at the last possible instant.

Drawing by : Mary Seder
Livonia, MI



I enjoyed the cartoon of myself taking out the chandelier (Fall '89). Very clever, thank you. Please feel no compunction about slighting me in the publication...it is gratifying to be even thought of after all these years. You have opened a door on the past and let me relive many cherished and almost forgotten memories.

Ken Woods
Minneapolis, MN

The artist was "Alvin," a teen-age Texas unicyclist who likes word-play...but lusts for 60's muscle cars. Once our collage-prepper, she's now a college-prepper. Looks like we'll have to hunt up art talent elsewhere; any volunteers out there? - Ed.

You're interested

in some articles and pictures about unicycling in Finland. At present, I am doing a book about different circus arts and a short Finnish circus history. I got from Jack Wiley the permission to use his books as references. I'm very busy now, but after *Midnight Summer* I can write you a little story about unicycling in Finland.

Markku Aulanko
Sasi, Finland

Midnight Summer has come and gone, and your circus book should be completed by now, Markku. You know, it's finished... it's history. Now, our readers are demanding your 'little story.' I'm sure they'll Lapp up pyyora purkamassa! - Ed.

I'm booked with 800 shows through 1991. In my show, I jump off the stage; sometimes this is a 3-foot jump. I even busted a Sem cycle axle; Sem replaced it free of charge.

My new prop is a set of steps with lights on the side. Every time I jump on a step, the step's light turns on. We are hooking a keyboard up to it. I got the idea after seeing the movie "Big."

"Jugglin'" Jeff Plake
Wichita Falls, TX

Baritone Jeff missed a jump last month, is now booked in 800 shows with the London Boys' Choir. "You cain't always get what you wa'ant..." - Ed.

I only did unicycling as a recreational hobby, but did professional trampoline, gymnastic, and acrobatic acts for many years in my younger days (D.O.B.: 1914!).

I'm over here in the Soviet Union with the USA Sports Acrobatic team for a World Cup competition. Will try to run into some unicycle acts in the Soviet circuses in our travels.

George Nissen
Moscow, USSR

To hell with glasnost, George! Whump them Rooskies! - Ed.

I try here in Germany to make the unicycling public as a sport. My unischool works really well and goes ahead. In this summer I was trying to make a record for the Guinness Book of Records. I started with my uni on a windsurfing board, but sorry it worked only 3 seconds...but nobody has done it before. Okay, you believe it took a lot of time of training. Anyway, it was my first try and I never want to stop.

Sammy Hellwig
Koln, West Germany

Is that you on our cover drawing, Sammy? Yeah, we knew him well. Ran a unicycling school in Germany. Lived a full life, right up to that fateful day he went out unicycling and got eviscerated by a crocodile. Watch for our Memorial Tribute to Sammy in the Summer Cyclogist!

To Hull...And Back!

Indirectly, we hear that the UNICON V unicycling world championship meet, originally scheduled for Hull, Canada, this summer, and announced in the Summer 1989 Cyclogist, has been canceled.

Advertisements

Policeman (to Reverend out riding a unicycle): "You're riding with no hands. That's a \$50 fine."
Minister: "You're making a mistake, my son. The Lord is guiding me."
Cop: "What! Two people on a cycle? That makes \$100!" Only in Kaskade, the European Juggling magazine. For the English edition (airmailed), per year, send \$15 in cash to: Gabi and Paul Keast, Annastr. 7, D-6200 Wiesbaden, West Germany. Also available in German (bei luftpost).

Rudy Horn kicked up 10 saucers and 10 cups from his foot to his head while rocking on a giraffe unicycle! This tid-bit brought to you by Juggler's World. Membership in IJA is \$25/ year to : Bill Giduz, Box 443, Davidson, NC 28036.

Bet the cups were only half-full - Ed.

What rag tests juggling balls with drops off 10 story buildings, tells you how to train man-eating tigers, and awards gift certificates for "finding the most hidden errors"? Stumped? Send \$10 for a year of Suspended Animation to Dale Peterson, 14 Meadow Ridge Drive, Shelton, CT 06484, then, rethink your answer.

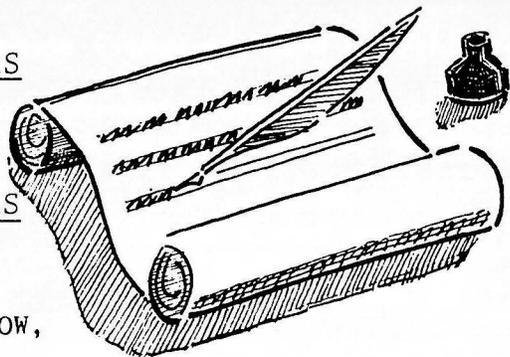
Unicycle Factory "Mad Unicyclist" white tee-shirts (blue design) available in children's M and L, adults' S, M & L for \$12 ppd: Curt Morgan (address directly below).

The Cyclogist is the newsletter of the International Unicycling Federation, Jack Halpern, Pres., Al Hemminger, Sec-Treas, Curt Morgan, Editor, 5109 Vera Cruz Dr., Garland, TX 75043 USA. Subscriptions: \$15/yr (\$25/foreign). © Copyright 1990 IUF.

Editors emeritus:
Jack Wiley,
John Foss.



LETTERS
FROM
OUR
MEMBERS



Dear OOW,

Bob and I got started wheeling a couple of years ago and things have gotten totally out of hand. First it was 'hug-a-wall,' then that wonderful (or terrible) rush of not being able to touch the wall and remaining upright, then slowly, ever/so/slowly, being able to go about anywhere without falling down (a lot), then the "I'm pretty darn good" phase blown completely out of the water by a demonstration by 2-time "National Champ" **FRANK BIRDSALL**.

We are now to the point of forming a club. If you have a good name that you didn't use when you started your club, please write to us. Having done several parades and one demonstration, we have decided to admit that we are in desperate need of something that resembles a routine, or an act - something that at least looks planned!!

There is a parade coming up Father's Day weekend in our beautiful little town, and this year's theme is CIRCUS. Anyone who would like to tune up their parade skills is welcome to participate, but you've got to help us get our act together. Please send suggestions, letters and/or video tapes to:

Bob Graham	Bob Kuhns
329 N. Russell Ave.	R.F.D. #4
Geneseo, IL 61254	Geneseo, IL 61254

... If you do not live near Geneseo but are interested in sharing in a 'Circus Theme' venture, USA received a request from Gay Campbell. She is in charge of a "Drug and Alcohol Free Party" following the prom on May 19. She would like posters or any suggestions that would make this event a memorable one. You may write to her at:

7751 S. Ash Court
Littleton, Colorado 80122



Howdy,

And greetins from Hell's Canyon, North America's deepest gorge.

A pleasure to hear of your organization. I've just purchased another standard Schwinn unicycle (24" wheel) to replace one stolen a few tears ago. I guess that explains how I came to hear of your folks.

I first started riding unicycles at the suggestion of an occupational therapist after a motor cycle accident 13 years ago. It's been strictly a recreational pursuit, though for a while it was my primary transportation.

After a unicycle race held as part of a 'criterion' (I placed 2nd - though there were only 2 entries. I had him by 100 yds when my shoelace became entangled in the pedal.), I purchased a giraffe model which I still own.

Unfortunately, there's no place to ride the tall cycle here. The nearest pavement is more than 30 miles away. Heck, the nearest road is 7 miles and it's only open three to four months a year. Anyway, on my other unicycle I used to do a bit of x-country riding before it was stolen (when I lived in town), so I finally decided to purchase a replacement. I was shocked to see that the price had more than doubled (especially when I now earn less than 1/10 of what I used to), but the will to ride was stronger than my budget.

Anyway, I'm now in training to make what, to my knowledge, will be the first unicycle ride through Hell's Canyon. The intention of this ride is to elevate the status of unicycles from a novelty to a viable form of back-country transportation.

... Should you like more information on my upcoming ride, I'll be happy to provide it. (ed. note: Yes! We would.)

from: Edward F. Waters "Mud"
Sheep Creek - Snake River Rt.
Lewiston, ID 83501

(ed. note: Must reading for "Mud" and other x-country unicycle devotees is the article by George Peck in **CYCOLOGIST**, Winter, '89 - OOW XVI, no. 1)



DON BURSELL writes:

I thought I'd drop a line to let all unicycling friends know where I've been hiding out these last few years and what's been happening.

I was married in July, 1988, to someone I met while working in CA doing the CIRCUS FANTASY project at Disneyland. Before marrying and moving to MN, I did a short tour with CARDEN BROTHERS CIRCUS (doing unicycling and clowning) but left there because of allergy problems.

In MN I tried to live the usual bland life of regular work: I taught drivers' training to high schoolers (mistake), I worked at an art supply store for 4 months (why?), and then found great work in a Christian book store where they gave me all the time off I needed to continue performing.

But this wasn't enough! I wanted to perform full time and church friends kept suggesting that I put together a program that combined performing and ministry. But we never got around to doing that.

And then . . . along came two friends my wife and I had met at Disney. Ned and Joan Way came through Minneapolis with their kids' ministry program and gave us a call asking if we would like to see their show. We were intrigued! Here was a couple doing exactly what we had dreamed of! We saw all of their performances and then learned that they were searching for a couple with whom they could perform for a while and then, eventually, go out on their own.

Everything in our lives directed my wife and me to accept this offer. On the biggest step of faith we've ever dared take, we packed our belongings and put them in storage. We got all of our props together and whatever clothing we thought we might need, packed our van and headed for FL.

We now live in Orange City, FL and our program is called CIRCUS UNIQUE. We use unicycling, juggling, magic illusions, unsupported ladder balancing (thanks to TOM MILLER [see Tom's ad in this issue]), and we are working on some foot juggling. Our program is designed for churches to draw people from their neighborhoods to church using the circus theme and at the same time give these people an

opportunity to hear the Gospel message.

Debbie and I would enjoy hearing from our USA friends. Please drop us a line at:

CIRCUS UNIQUE
Don and Debbie Bursell
P.O. Box 540535
Orlando, Florida 32854



Did you know that . . . JOHN FOSS (former USA Pres. and OOW Ed.) and GREG MILSTEIN are preparing for a performing tour in Russia. It is hoped that their experiences there will be shared with USAmS through the pages of OOW.



Perserverance is the byword for most budding unicyclists and BILL RECKLING says it all in his letter:

As a recent owner of a unicycle I have experienced a bruised ego and bruised limbs. My personality forbids me to give up but it does allow me to ask for some help. Do you have any books, videos . . .? (Indeed, we do. See the order form.)

Bill Reckling
16 Edwards St. - Apt. 2E
Roslyn Heights, NY 11577

* * * * *



USAmS of long standing will remember the "Good Idea" light bulb that BILL JENACK used to fill a small space and highlight a worthy idea. OOW has permission from SEM and TERESA ABRAHAMS to use some of their riding tips in a similar fashion. Look for these in future issues. They will be highlighted with the SEMCYCLE logo and the term: 'Sem sez'.

Our first 'Sem sez' is: Juggling while riding/idling requires first for you to be able to ride/idle without the use of your arms. So if there is a problem here, the thing to do is to practice riding/idling with your arms crossed. ed. note: If you need some help with juggling skills, there are a number of excellent videos available through:

International Jugglers Assn. Inc.
Box 29
Kenmore, New York 14217

LAUNCHING A UNICYCLING PROGRAM

by Karen Messamer

I have presented an educational seminar on the topics of unicycling and juggling at the Iowa State Physical Education Convention for several years. Most recently, in October 1989. My presentation on HOW to implement the units of juggling and unicycling in a school's physical education curriculum and the possibilities once the units are in place, was warmly received with great interest by physical educators across the state of Iowa. I gave a 50 minute presentation. The first 15 minutes I devoted to how to begin a juggling unit. The remainder of the time was used to introduce the unicycling program. Contained in the unicycling presentation was:

1) The high visibility of unicycling and the successes the Chariton Unicyclists have enjoyed. Excellent local coverage as well as state-wide coverage. Twice our program appeared on the cover of the Des Moines Register with a colored photo accompanied by a staff written article. Appearances on all 3 major T.V. stations in our area. National coverage in OOW, on the cover of Vol. XIII, #4.

2) Assurance that accidents are a rarity and nothing other than a few bruises or scrapes was experienced over my 12 years of teaching. One child, who broke an arm engaging in another activity, participated when unicycling was being taught and learned to ride while his arm was in a cast.

3) The unicycling reunion meet that was held with all 210 former riders invited. In excess of 70 riders participated. We held a police escorted parade around the town square to kick off the meet which was held at the school's track. The local bicycle shop donated a unicycle for a "must be present to win" drawing. All unicyclists attending the meet were eligible for the drawing. Each of the 3 banks in town donated a \$75 savings bond. These were given to the person earning the high point total for each of the three age categories. Cash awards were given for 2nd place winners and Pizza Hut donated pizzas for the 3rd place finishers. Ribbons were awarded for 1st through 5th place in each event in each age category. Participation ribbons were given to all who did not earn a place ribbon in any event during the meet. Chariton's High School Student Council paid for the ribbons and mailings. A trophy was donated and given to the overall high point scorer of the meet.

4) Things the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. provides that are helpful for the beginner. TIDBITS FOR BEGINNERS and the LEVELS VIDEO

which demonstrates the 10 Achievement Levels.

5) I shared the notebook that I had compiled, "A DECADE OF UNICYCLING IN CHARITON," which was an overview of a videotape that I created and donated to the Chariton Public Library upon leaving the Chariton Community. This project netted a FINE Award which is recognition for excellence in education, a Community Betterment Award presented by the Governor of Iowa, and a Governor's Good Neighbor Award which was for my contribution in working with the youth of Chariton in the unicycling program. So you can see that this type of an activity develops considerable community pride as well as an appreciation for the instructor. You have made yourself accountable in the eyes of the public!

6) I reviewed the packet of instructional materials that I gave to each participant. The contents of which were:

...I began the unicycling unit in Chariton in 1977 with 4 unicycles. Presently the Chariton Community School District owns 20 standard Schwinn unicycles and 2 Schwinn giraffe unicycles. Currently, I am launching a new program in Des Moines at Christ the King School with four 20" Miyata unicycles with quick releases. Prior to this year, I always taught the unit in the fall outside. I am currently teaching the unit in the gym.

...The unit is taught for 5-30 minute class periods. Each student is given an opportunity to take a unicycle home to practice for 3 days.

...I begin teaching unicycling to 3rd graders. ...Concepts, Objectives, Learning Activities, and Evaluation Procedures are listed in Educational terms. You can go home and plug it in to your already existing curriculum.

..."I GUESS I SHOULD'VE WORN SHORTS!" bulletin board idea.



...launching con't

...A CYCLE GRAM is given to all students who learn to ride the length of the gym unassisted. They are also given a unicycle bear pin.

CYCLE GRAM

TO: _____

FROM: _____



...Students are given a take-home project to do with their family. Constructing a unicycle out of two paper clips. (USA, Inc. Newsletter 1-76) Students come back with the greatest creations!

...I listed the various types and prices of unicycles I am familiar with that are of good quality. I emphasize NOT to purchase a unicycle through a department store. I tell my opinion of the plus and minus features of each brand of unicycle. Most notably with my current experience, the 20" Schwinn versus the 20" Miyata:

...USA, INC. Order Form

- 7) I narrated a 10 minute video to give them an idea of the possibilities they can do with a unicycling unit in their physical education curriculum. The video contained 1 minute clips of the following material:
- ...Parade riding
 - ...Unicycle Meet events
 - ...Basketball on unicycles
 - ...An artistic unicycling routine
 - ...A Wedding On Wheels
 - ...Segments of our unicycling program that were televised
 - ...Me wishing all of the physical educators across the state of Iowa a "Happy Halloween" as I rode down the street in my witch costume explaining that, "This witch prefers a unicycle to a broom stick!"
 - ...John Foss's routine at the 1988 NUM
 - ...Sem and Teresa Abrahams visit to Chariton
 - ...The 3 unicycling Edwards Sisters being inducted into the MICKEY MOUSE HALL OF FAME in Orlando, Florida. Aired November 17, 1989.

SWIB Industries
4810 Venture Rd.
Lisle, IL 60532

Button #3

Minimum Order: 100



SCHWINN

MIYATA

Seat:	comfortable, no end cap protector	comfortable, end cap protector
Pedals:	metal ends, can mar floor	plastic, won't mar floor
Seat post:	must remove bolt to adjust bolt holes give increments for making height adjustments	quick release makes adjustments a breeze numbered increment markings
Tires:	black, can mar gym floor	blue, will not mar gym floor but will not last as long as black
Frame:	chrome, will not chip shorter so younger students can reach pedals	painted blue, can chip an inch or two taller
Availability:	when purchased from a local dealer you have easy access to parts and repairs	not locally sold in our area parts and repairs will be handled by mail

* When purchasing unicycles you need to consider: What age are the students you'll be teaching? Will you be using the cycles mostly indoors or outdoors? Price you're willing to pay. Who will do repairs? Class size.

...Copy of the 10 Achievement Skill Levels as endorsed by the USA, INC. (Vol. XIV #2, 1988) and where to order the LEVELS VIDEO that demonstrates the 10 levels.

8) I introduced the unit to the participants as I would to my physical education students. I begin by teaching them a basic concept of balance which is that the larger the base of

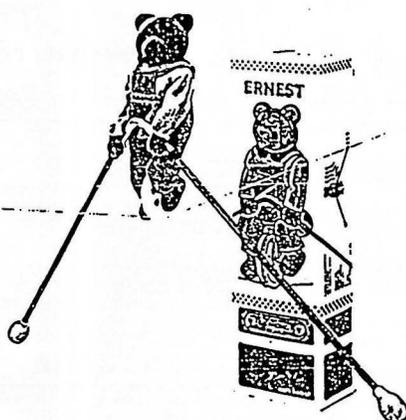
...launching con't

support, the less effort required to maintain balance. The smaller the base of support, the more effort required to maintain balance.

<u>QUESTION</u>	<u>RESPONSE</u>	<u>BASE OF SUPPORT</u>	<u>CHART</u>
"What was the first cycle you ever learned to ride?"	TRICYCLE	TRIANGLE	
"What was the next cycle you learned to ride?"	BICYCLE	LINE	
"What is the next cycle you will be learning to ride?"	UNICYCLE	POINT	

- 9) Explain the basics of learning to ride a unicycle and safety tips.
- 10) The seminar participants form groups of 3 people, with one rider and two spotters.
- 11) Participants practice riding the unicycles.
- 12) As I'm moving around the group providing assistance, I answer questions asked by the participants.
- 13) There was enthusiastic interest expressed in implementing unicycling in other physical education curriculums across the state. The cost of launching the program was said to be the main obstacle for most school districts.

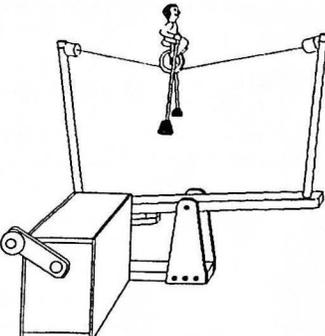
- 14) I went home and applied for a grant to our State Physical Education Association to purchase a fleet of 8 unicycles to make available for 3 weeks at a stretch to any school district requesting to implement the unicycling unit. In addition to providing the unicycles, I will provide an instructional video and a teaching packet for the physical education teacher to assist him/her in teaching the unit.
- 15) I am patiently waiting until January 1, 1990 for the verdict to my request for the grant. My fingers are crossed!



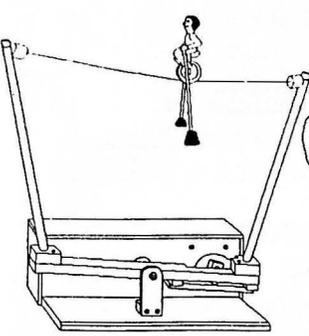
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NOW AVAILABLE—
Ernest® the Balancing Bear, the original Schylling version. Bear rides unicycle on string, pedalling away. Complete with balancing poles and string to ride on. Order yours today!

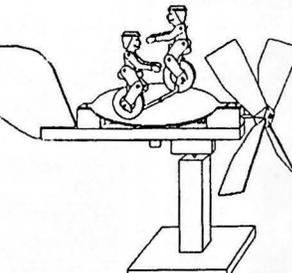
#1251 \$19.95



Crank Tightrope Unicyclist—Turn the crank and unicyclist rides on string.
#610 \$6.95



Motorized tightrope Unicyclist—Performs automatically when motor is running.
#710 \$6.95



Circling Unicyclists Whirligig—Wind powered, unicyclists ride in circle.
#520 \$6.95

NEW FROM SOLIPAZ... PlanBooks with full-size patterns and step-by-step instructions for making animated unicycle whirligigs, toys, displays, and decorations. Catalog \$1.00, free with order. Numbers 610 and 710 include plans for tightrope unicycle with clown rider, or use with Ernest the Balancing Bear. Order one PlanBook for \$6.95, two for \$12.00, and all three for \$15.00. Add \$2.00 for shipping. Send check or money order to:

SOLIPAZ, P.O. Box 366, Lodi, CA 95241

