

To toss around ideas

Jugglers jam in 'lift'

The growing community of area jugglers will have a chance to toss around a few ideas along with other things during the Second Annual Eugene Juggler's Convention beginning noon Saturday at the Jefferson Elevator.

The sport of juggling has seen a rise in popularity here during the last few years largely because of the efforts of a small group of dedicated enthusiasts. One of them, Tom Dewart, teaches classes in juggling at Lane Community College after starting to learn three years ago.

"At first I just wasn't interested," explains Dewart, "but I was living with these two guys who had a black-light and day-glo tennis

balls all over the floor."

Not long after that Dewart decided there might be a demand for someone to teach others how to juggle.

Story and Photo
By PERRY GASKILL
Of the Emerald

"I was out in the quadrangle at LCC one day juggling balls when someone said why don't you start a class?"

Dewart believes it's easy for almost anyone to learn how to juggle if they are willing to practice and are given some basic instruction.

"Anybody that can throw and catch a ball can be a good juggler and once learned, the art of juggling is never lost or forgotten", he says. Juggling balls is the most basic form of juggling and a lacrosse ball or 'dog' ball is the proper equipment. A good juggling ball is something that partially closes one's hand as it hits."

About 75 jugglers are expected to attend Saturday's convention and many have advanced far beyond the basic stage of juggling three balls with two hands.

As a juggler's ability increases, there comes a tendency to increase or vary the type of objects juggled and to employ various auxiliary equipment such as unicycles and balance boards in order to heighten the relative difficulty.

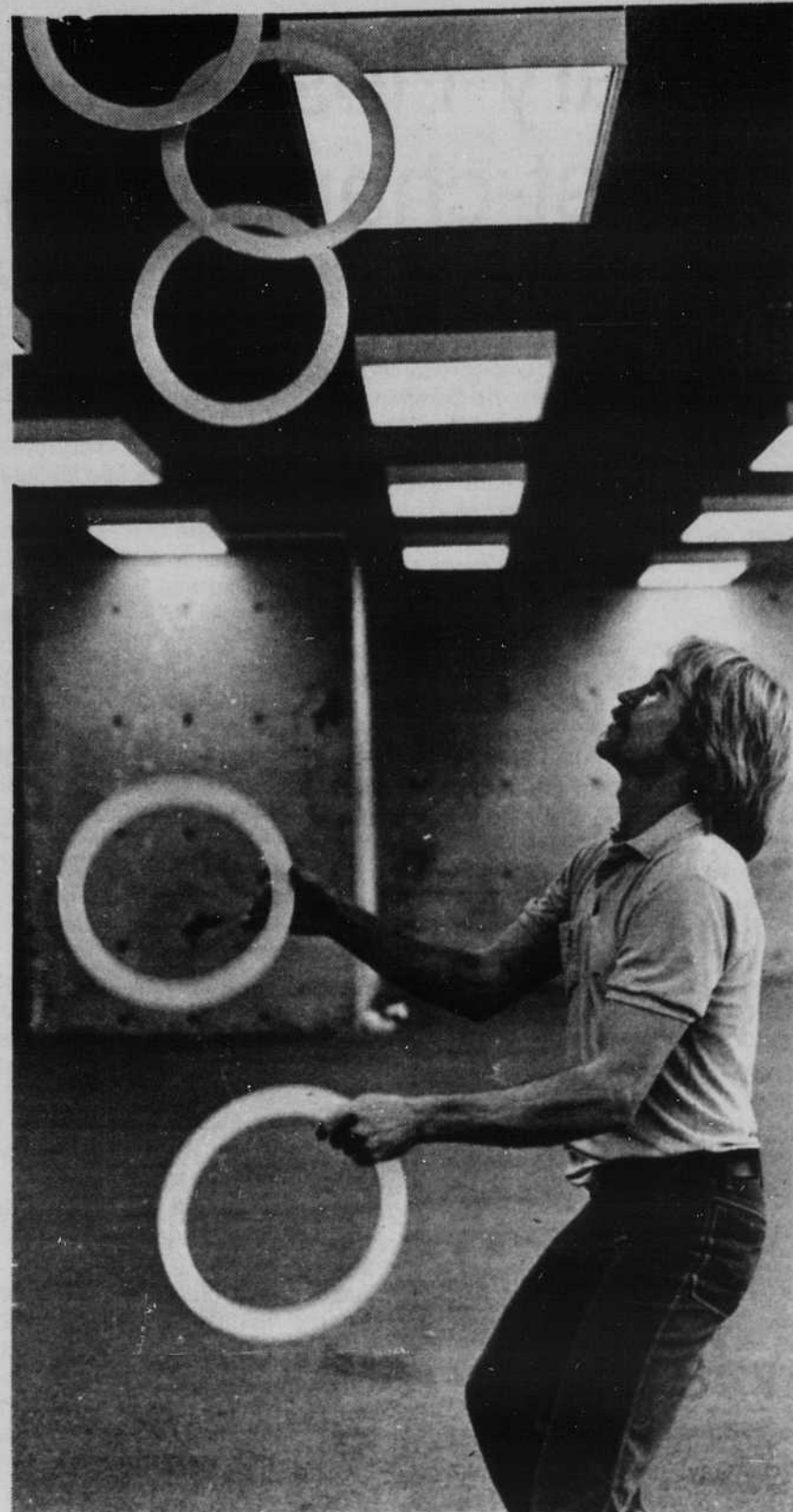
Although the convention is intended as a friendly get-together or what Dewart refers to as a "jam session," many of the jugglers will compete against each other in "time trials" during which the participants try to see how long they can keep their various objects in motion. Such competition is a natural part of a sport that is becoming more and more organized.

"Around here," says Dewart, "it's now a lot more common than anywhere else in the state, but when I started you could count the number of jugglers around with one hand. Even so, there are still no real professional jugglers in town."

One of the few people in Eugene who approaches that status is Gary Calder, a performer with the New Mime Circus. Calder describes himself as a "semi-professional" and specializes in juggling either five clubs or six rings. He is candid about the difficulties of trying to make money juggling and can explain its appeal both as an artist and an entertainer:

"It depends on how the individual uses it. Performing is a whole different aspect of juggling, and there you have to deal with the lights and people and nerves. There are a lot of showmen around but some people get into the art aspect of it."

"There is a certain rhythm when everything works well and it takes a long time to build up consistency. Part of the appeal is that it is



No double ring ceremonies for this guy. Gary Calder, a performer with the New Mime Circus, is one of a handful of Eugene jugglers who have reached the skill level of a professional.

a bit primordial; people have been doing it for ages.

"It increases your self-conception by making you extend beyond yourself. With some people it's beautiful to watch, almost like watching a runner when everything is working so well."

Many jugglers also work well together and some have gone so far as to join an organization known as the International Jugglers Association. The 30th annual convention of the IJA will be dur-

ing July this year in Wilmington, Del. Tom Dewart will attend and hopes Eugene will be accepted as the site for the convention in 1978.

Much will depend on public reaction to the event on Saturday. Dewart and others are making every effort to attract as much entertainment as possible for spectators and will not charge admission.

If all goes as well as planned, it's hard to see how they can drop the ball in Delaware.

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'Potlatch' returns for artists

By ROBIN SMITH
Of the Emerald

Architecture students will attempt to revive an annual spring tradition on the Oregon coast this weekend.

The "Potlatch," a celebration that originated among native Indian tribes, will be held Saturday as an opportunity for students, faculty and practicing architects to meet one another in an atmosphere different from their regular classes.

"We hope to reinstitute this

tradition in an effort to bring together different departments within the School of Architecture and Allied Arts," says Randy Knill, head of the student chapter of the American Institute of Architects, which is sponsoring the event.

Although it is planned as a day-long celebration, it will be extended to Sunday for those who choose to camp out overnight.

The last Potlatch was in 1972, and — according to Knill — there has been no attempt to organize the event since because "things had gotten so out of hand, with a lot of people not associated with the spirit or Potlatch showing up."

The spirit of the Potlatch is running high in Lawrence Hall, however, and organizers are hoping for a day of feasting and creativity in the sand dunes. Participants are asked to bring along building materials, plaster for casting, sculpture tools, clay, musical instruments, drawing pads, pencils and paints — along with their imagination, energy and friends.

In past Potlatches, an assortment of driftwood shelters, sand

sculptures, totems, tents and air-filled (pneumatic) structures were constructed, and prizes awarded for the most captivating.

Traditional Potlatch medallions are on sale now for \$3 on the second floor of Lawrence Hall, and will admit one person to the Potlatch, where a "feast" will be provided by a local commercial fisherman.

Maps to the site, located approximately five miles south of Florence in the sand dunes, are included with the purchase of a medallion — also on sale at the site. Kilns will be available for those interested in making pottery. Students from all departments in the University are invited to participate.

Knill says she views the celebration as a release from the pressure of upcoming reviews and finals. "Maybe students will feel so guilty about taking a little time off that they'll work twice as hard when they get back," Knill ventured.

For more information about the Potlatch, call Knill, 345-5556.

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