

Eugene entertained by 4 days of juggling

Jugglers hold 31st annual convention

By GLEN OZONWOOD
Of the Emerald

The last month has been a hip one for Eugene. The Dead concert at Autzen kicked it off, the Rainbow Family gathered just south of here and weekend before last the counter-culture descended on Veneta for the 8th Annual Country Fair. Thursday, the jugglers came to town.

More than 300 jugglers showed up at the 31st Annual Convention of the International Jugglers Association (IJA). The organizer of

the meeting, Tom Dewart, says the timing of the event just happened.

"The thing has been in the planning for more than a year. I had no idea those other things would be happening."

But Dewart says jugglers were apparent at area events.

"For the first time ever there was prop makers at the (Country) Fair. There were people selling juggling clubs and bean-bag juggling balls."

This was the first time the con-

vention had been held North of San Jose but Dewart says it's not unusual for the annual meeting to happen West of the Mississippi.

"It changes around. I expect it to be on the East Coast in 1979 and back on the West Coast in 1980."

A number of the jugglers stayed in dorms at the University during the four-day convention, most of which took place at the Valley River Inn. There was a party at Alton Baker Park, a public performance at Sheldon High, a parade to the Saturday Market and championship competition at the Inn. But Thursday night, Dewart warned against letting the schedule become intimidating.

"The main purpose of the convention is to have fun. We have a calculated schedule this year but in the long run there's a lot of flexibility in it."

Dewart was convention co-chairman on the IJA's Board of Directors. He says it's easy to join.

"All they ask is that the person be interested in juggling. There's no grading system. You don't even have to juggle to join the IJA."

Dewart travelled to the IJA convention last year to make a presentation for the next to happen in Eugene. His proposal was accepted, bringing the convention to the home town of upwards of 40 IJA members, the most of any city in the country.

"There's a lot of other things going on that help juggling. A lot of



Photos by Greg Gawfowski

Costumes are a part of juggling and this performer was ready. Saturday he joined a collection of those attending the IJA's 31st annual convention and paraded from the University to Saturday Market.



To highlight the convention held last week at the Valley River Inn a group of jugglers paraded Saturday from the University to Saturday Market. The dorms provided lodging for many of those at the four-day event.

dance, music, mime, theater. And Eugene is a college town, drawing a lot of young people. It's an excellent opportunity to pick up on the art."

Dewart teaches juggling at Lane Community College and estimates he's had over 175 students. He says those students have in turn turned their friends on to juggling, giving its popularity a mushrooming growth.

"When I first learned how to juggle, you would count the

number of jugglers in Eugene on one hand. Now everyone does it."

The local popularity of juggling catches some by surprise.

"A lot of people come into Eugene and have never seen a juggler before. Local people don't think much when they see someone walking down the street juggling three balls. It's a casual kind of thing. But for someone not from an area where juggling is popular, it's a big deal."

Handbook tells youth how to deal with cops

By DAVID GROBER
Of the Emerald

Can a cop bust a young person for blocking the sidewalk?

What happens to someone busted dealing drugs?

Why is it that 16-year-olds can smoke, but can't legally buy

cigarettes until the age of 18?

Questions covering 19 areas of young people's legal rights and responsibilities, including abortion, hitchhiking, truancy and police harassment, are discussed in "Youth and the Law," a handbook prepared by the Eugene Commission on the Rights of Youth.

Don Chalmers, director of the ASUO Office of Student Advocacy

and head of the youth commission, presented copies of the handbook to representatives of the Eugene Police Department and School District 4-J Friday.

Chalmers calls the handbook "a productive outgrowth" of complaints his commission has handled concerning police harassment of young people loitering in the downtown mall.

Emphasizing that the situation

is "very much improved" from last year, he sees the handbook, based on Eugene teenagers' most asked questions, as a sign of "various segments of the community working with each other."

Police Chief Pierre Brooks supports the handbook's content and intent. "An excellent job, and very fair," he says. "I'd like to see 20,000 (copies) go to the schools."

Only 2,000 copies have been printed so far. According to Chalmers, Lane County is financing an additional 3,000 copies, and any agency is welcome to reproduce the book on a non-profit basis.

Chief Brooks offered one criticism of the handbook: its 8 1/2 x 11" format. Were they reduced to pocket size, he suggests, policemen could carry them to hand out to young people instead of citations.

Although the handbook is designed to increase public awareness of a young person's legal standing under Oregon Law, Chalmers cautioned that it should not be considered a substitute for seeking legal advice.

Copies of "Youth and the Law" are available in the City Manager's Office through the Human Rights staff.

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