

Official publication of the Unicycling Society of America...

# ON ONE WHEEL

Volume XIII No. 1 1987

Quarterly



1986 - 87  
\* OFFICERS \*

PRESIDENT

Len Salverda

VICE-PRESIDENT

Constance Schleck

ACTING SECRETARY

Jan Layne

TREASURER

Terry Layne

DIRECTORS

Floyd Crandall

Seth Granberry

Tom Miller

EDITOR

Carol Brichford

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Floyd Beattie

David Brichford

WRITERS

see "CONTENTS"

FOUNDER MEMBERS

- Bernard Crandall
- Paul Fox
- Nancy Fox
- Peter Hanganoh
- Patricia Harrow
- Bill Janack
- Geordan Kertz
- Steve McPeak
- Fr. J. J. Moran
- Dr. Miles S. Rogers
- Charlotte Fox Rogers
- Andy Rubal
- Dr. Claude Shannon
- Jim Smith
- Dr. Jack Wiley

Send news about yourself, your club, or any other news or articles to be published in the newsletter to:

Unicycling Society of America, Inc.  
ON ONE WHEEL  
P.O. Box 40334  
Redford, Michigan 48240

Send membership inquiries, book and merchandise orders, etc., to:

Unicycling Society of America, Inc.  
Secretary  
P.O. Box 40334  
Redford, Michigan 48240

Official publication of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. Membership fee of \$6 yearly includes four newsletters. For more information and membership application, see order form.

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 an answer.

All views expressed in this newsletter are those of the respective authors. They are not necessarily those of either 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.

# *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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FUTURE FEATURES:** The highlight of the next issue of ON ONE WHEEL will be pictures and write-up of the 1987 NUM! along with the much-promised tips on building giraffe unicycles, "Uni-Cyclone" JOHN FOSS's suggestions for speed riding, a report on the MOBILE UNICYCLE CLUB, and a "let's get acquainted" look at the officers currently leading the Society.

## CONTENTS:

CHRIS MAYES, Free Wheeling Bobby.....cover & 3  
 Juggle-In, Ann Arbor, MI.....3,5,7,9 & 11  
 From and About Our Members.....4  
 Miscellaneous.....5 & 12  
 WHEEL PEOPLE by STEVE GORDON.....6  
 from Dr. ORLAND B. REYNOLDS.....7  
 On Juggling.....8  
 Minutes USA 1986 Annual Meeting.....9  
 Two Book Reviews.....10  
 NELSON SMITH and the WELCH WIDERS.....11  
 Riding in Style and Comfort by FLOYD BEATTIE.12  
 Welcome New Members.....13 & 14  
 CHRISTCHURCH UNICYCLE CLUB by DAVID MARINER...15  
 Calendar & Cartoon by JOHN PULLUM.....16

### INFORMATION ON ADVERTISING IN ON ONE WHEEL

The cost for camera ready ads is: full page . . . \$40.00  
 half page . . . \$25.00  
 quarter page. . \$15.00

The U.S.A., Inc. reserves to right to reject any ads and can not endorse any company or product. All ads must be prepaid.

# COVER:

The picture on the front of this issue of ON ONE WHEEL is of CHRIS MAYES, a "Unicyclin' Bobby" from England. The article, reproduced below with the paper's permission, appeared on the front page of the CHATHAM ROCHESTER AND GILLINGHAM EVENING POST on June 27, 1986.

Chris is one of those devotees who even takes his unicycle with him when vacationing. He has also used it on the job to add a bit of "comic relief" when the situation lends itself.

In the letter that accompanied the picture and article Chris asks, "Are there any policemen in the U.S.A. who also ride a unicycle? If so, perhaps we can make contact." Chris's address is:

20 Norton Grove  
Walderslade  
Chatham Kent  
ENGLAND ME5 980

## CHRIS IS A FREE WHEELING BOBBY DAZZLER

NO, it's not a police cutback to one wheel patrols. Unicycling has been PC Chris Mayes' unusual hobby for the past four years.

"I've always been fascinated by unicycles," said Chris, who is based at Rochester and uses a conventional bicycle for his Strood beat.

When he seriously investigated buying one of the specialist machines, more often seen on stage and in circuses, he found them surprisingly cheap. Now he has two and enjoys the challenge of riding them.

### CLASSES

More strength is needed because each leg pushes against the other to maintain balance, says Chris. But they can be ridden backwards and turn on a sixpence while always leaving the hands free.

Chris, 42, used to run unicycling classes at Strood Youth Centre but they folded when youngsters started dropping out.

Chris said, "I once taught a 13-year-old boy to ride one in an hour, but it isn't easy to pick it up"



### JUGGLE-IN

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

On March 20-21, 1987, PAUL KYPRIE and The Jugglers of Ann Arbor hosted their annual mid-winter Juggle-In. The pictures in the upper right-hand corners of pages 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 were taken by USAm LEONARD LICHWALA. They depict the "rise and fall of the stacking and rotating Quaker Oat Meal box king" and are positioned so you can flip the pages to see the action.

The Juggle-In began at 6:00 p.m. Friday evening with a four-hour conference on advanced novelty juggling skills. These included the box stacking and rotating, hoop rolling, plate and bottle, yo-yos, tops and diablos, rubber band and coin juggling, hats, nesting cups and novel balancing stunts and anything else anyone wanted to demonstrate. USAm PHIL KUDLA was especially impressed by the "rubber band juggling." And what is rubber band juggling? It is the art of turning a simple rubber band into a boomerang through clever finger manipulation.

Saturday was filled with workshops such as interactive juggling (passing), cigar box manipulation and balance, gyroscopic juggling (spinning), multiplex, hat treatment and manipulation, devil sticks, and club swinging.

(continued on page 5, column 2)



## FROM AND ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

- \* A new member, WILLIAM ROBINSON, 4261 Lowell #14, LaMesa, CA, included his card when he sent his application for membership. He owns a business called UNICYCLES UNLIMITED and handles parts and accessories.
- \* Thirteen-year-old GEOFFREY FARISH, 103 Min Lou Circle, Darlington, SC 29532, writes that he has a 24-inch uni which he can ride quite well. He now aspires to owning and riding a six-foot but can not find one in his town. Once he is able to purchase one, he wants some help on mounting techniques. Several years ago JACK HALPERN wrote an article for OOW on free-mounting giraffe unicycles. In it he included the following methods:

RUNNING MOUNT (his own favorite) Tilt the unicycle toward you and hold it by the saddle as you run forward with wheel rolling on the ground. At the proper instant place your left foot on the down pedal and with one jump, mount saddle. Use your inertia to straighten the unicycle. He cautions that timing is extremely important. He finds that catching the bottom pedal early (even before it reaches the down position) is effective.

JUMP MOUNT Have the crank arms horizontal and put your right foot on the wheel-well. Hold the unicycle by the frame and saddle. Straddle over the saddle with one jump with both feet landing on the pedals simultaneously.

Geoffrey would appreciate any other suggestions our members might have. If you write Geoffrey, he will benefit. If you write to ON ONE WHEEL, all the members will benefit!

- \* LEONARD LICHWALA, President of Redford Township Unicycle Club, Inc., took this picture of a stilt-walking clown as he ---> rested against the club's van during a parade in Ann Arbor, MI, on June 26. Unfortunately the young man's exposure to the public in this parade was short-lived. The winds proved too much for him as they literally "blew the man down."

Another entry in that same parade made the front section of THE DETROIT NEWS, July 5. It was the Fred Hill Precision Briefcase Drill Team, a group of 16 navy-blue-suit-and-red-tie businessmen who flawlessly march with their only prop - their briefcase.

The choreography of moving these briefcases both individually and from man to man along the parade route has won this unusual group a number of "best of parade" awards in its brief existence. This certainly proves what a novelty approach and perfection of motion can attain!

- \* LESLIE JOSEPH BORBERLY, Jr. has sent to OOW several articles on riding the ultimate wheel (a unicycle with no frame or saddle). Because of the length and detail of each article, they have not yet appeared. (Your editor does not have the riding knowledge necessary to edit this properly.) If you would like copies of these articles so that you could edit them to be included in a future ON ONE WHEEL, please write to Editor, P.O. Box 40534, Redford, MI 48240.
- \* At the last annual meeting of the U.S.A., Inc. CHARLOTTE FOX ROGERS, 802 Ceredo Ave., West Chester, PA 19382, was elected HISTORIAN of the Unicycling Society of America. If any members have records or information of historical significance, Charlotte would appreciate hearing from you. She will then submit articles to ON ONE WHEEL so that all members can share in what she knows and has learned about both unicycles and their riders from the past.
- \* RICK HUND from Garden City, MI, is the talk of the neighborhood when he mounts his standard unicycle - riding as he cuts the family lawn.





## MISCELLANEOUS

>Congratulations!!! to BOB and JILL FOX for contributing the youngest member of the Society. Little EMMY FOX was born April 23, 1987

>While the directive "Address Correction Requested - Return Postage Guaranteed" on our outer wrapper generally yields a member's corrected address, sometimes an issue is returned with "Address Unknown." This is true of:

JUDY STEEGMAN (Ohio)  
FRANK DRAKE (Indiana)

Does anyone know an address for either of these Society members?

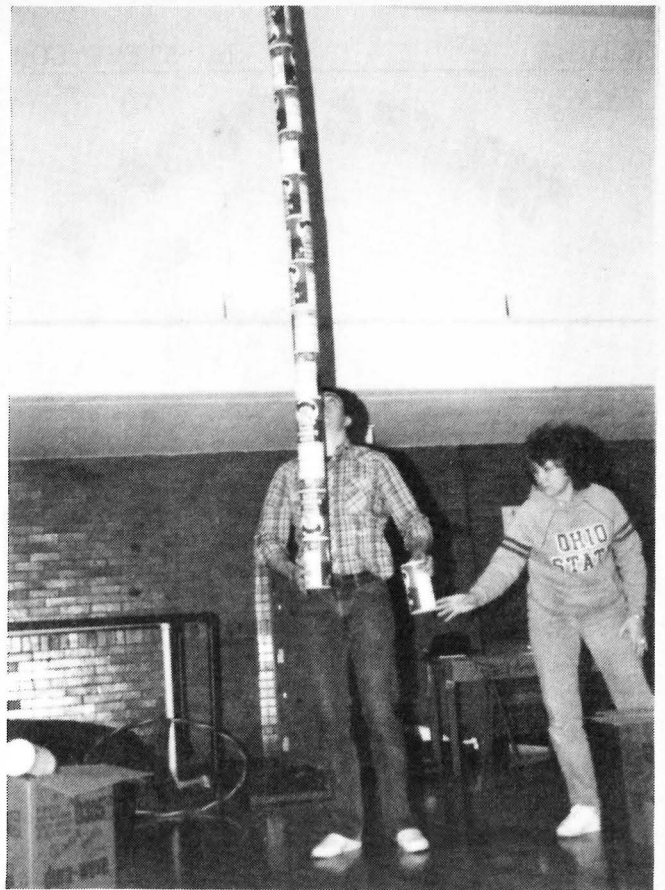
>NELSON L. SMITH, Physical Education Instructor and Assistant Principal at Welch Elementary School in Cincinnati, Ohio, wrote that his "WELCH WIDERS" have appeared on Cincinnati's "Al Schottelkotte's Spotlight Report" of the 6 o'clock TV news (Ch. 9, CBS) and they were featured on CNN (cable) world-wide news last spring. Articles on Mr. Smith's program will be appearing in future issues of ON ONE WHEEL.

He, also, sent his renewal (Have you?). With it he asked if it would be possible to get a lifetime membership for an established fee. It is something that the officers will have to consider. Your Editor recently attended a meeting of an extended "family reunion." The question of lifetime memberships was raised at this meeting, also. The reply by those who had some experience in the area was basically two fold:

- 1) A one-time only lifetime fee does not provide the organization with an on-going source of revenue.
- 2) If an organization fails or dissolves, lifetime memberships present a real problem. They must be paid back prorating the value used against value expected.

Thanks to Mr. Nelson for his suggestion. Hopefully the membership will write their feelings on this.

>The Society received a colorful brochure from "ZAS" a non-profit sports association whose main objective is the promotion of basic cycling, both amateur and professional. Based in Spain, the organization was searching for sponsorships as well as exchange programs for cycling adventures in other countries.



The site of Ann Arbor's Juggle-In was the Chippewa Racquet Club. The two adjacent indoor tennis courts provided adequate space for both scheduled and impromptu workshops, individual and group practice, and just looking. And there was plenty to see! If you tired of activities on the courts, you could climb the stairs to the balcony, purchase a snack, and enjoy the video tapes on juggling.

Included in the workshop schedule were unicycling skills, both beginning and advanced. Two USAs lead these: CAROL BAHORICH (advanced) and BRET DUNN (pictured) ↓



# WHEEL PEOPLE



## 1976-1986

WHEEL PEOPLE celebrated its 10th anniversary in December, 1986. The club, based in Pasadena, California, specializes in Uni-Hockey, which is street hockey played on unicycles. (For a full description of the game, see the article in the Winter, 1980, U.S.A. NEWSLETTER.) Although Uni-Hockey is our primary interest (with juggling on unicycles a close second), we also participate in group rides, parades, and shows. To celebrate our decade of Uni-Hockey playing, we've made a special team T-shirt (above photo). Rumor has it that the drawing depicts our own DON GRAY, aka "The Wall."

Our recent activities have included:

- >Unicycling behind the Olympic torch carrier (OK, not so recent)
- >Being the subject of an article in the LOS ANGELES TIMES (August, 1986)
- >Performing for the kick-off of the McDonalds Diabetes Bike-a-thon (September, 1986)
- >Riding in two parades - 25 miles apart - that started at the same time on July 4, 1986! To accomplish this, we got to the first parade 3 hours early in order to be near the front, then when we finished that parade, we piled into cars and (at 55 mph, of course) drove to the next parade which we crashed about two-thirds of the way through.

We've also started a new unicycling tradition: WHEEL PEOPLE bridegrooms must carry their brides across an imaginary threshold while unicycling. In the past 16 months two of our riders have upheld this tradition.

Another major milestone occurred on October 7, 1986, when "Uni-Hocker" JACK LORRELL celebrated his 70th birthday. Jack, a founding member of WHEEL PEOPLE, will be the team's first septogenarian player. He has been riding unicycles for 20 years and is not only the oldest player, he may also be the most resilient. Two years ago, while skiing, Jack broke his leg in two places. He spent seven weeks in the hospital in traction. Within a few months he was riding bicycles again; and just a year after his accident, he was back playing Uni-Hockey. Then last spring Jack fell during a Uni-Hockey game and broke his nose (the first serious injury any player has ever had). A mere month later he was back playing again. We all look up to Jack and admire him - and look forward to riding with him on his 100th birthday!!



<---JACK LORRELL, age 70, serves as an intrepid goalie during a WHEEL PEOPLE Uni-Hockey game.

Along with this article and pictures, Steve also made this suggestion for the next NUM, regional unicycle meet, or fun diversion at a group practice:

What about trying a two-person "Blind Obstacle Course." One person (the unicycle rider) would be blindfolded; the other person would not be blindfolded and would not be on a unicycle. This person would verbally "guide" the rider through the obstacle course.

He goes on to say that WHEEL PEOPLE have never done this through the obstacle course but they have had a rider close his eyes while another person verbally directs the rider around parked cars. Steve says that it's a lot of fun, and it often results in the "blind" rider laughing so hard he falls over. He adds that it's a way to allow non-riders to participate in an event.



from Dr. ORLAND B. REYNOLDS

(1986 recipient of the BILL JENACK  
MEMORIAL AWARD)

I want to thank the Society for conferring upon me the Bill Jenack Memorial Trophy. I feel very honored by the award, especially since Bill Jenack was a very dear friend to me as he was to many unicyclists who remember him. So his name on the trophy has a deep significance to me. Thanks also to WONDERWHEELS and the MILES S. ROGERS family, whose contribution established the award.

Receiving the award has caused me to reflect a bit about my role and my feelings as a unicyclist. While unicycling is a marvelous art and sport for children and young adults, many good riders seem to give it up or cut back as they get older. Even among people who appreciate or admire the skill involved, there seems to be an attitude that a unicycle is a child's toy and, as such, not suited to the dignity of adulthood. I find this attitude difficult to understand. Quite a few times, as I was riding by, someone has shouted, "You're too old to be doing that!" I wish I had a better reply than just, "Oh, am I now?" A similar attitude about bicycling was very common a few years ago, but this has changed a lot in the last twenty years or so. Let's hope it will for unicycling, too.

Anyway, if you're still agile, you shouldn't be too old to learn to ride or to enhance your skills as long as you don't have unreasonable expectations - such as, for example, doing some of the things you've seen SEM ABRAHAMS, JOHN FOSS, or FLOYD CRANDALL do. The person who has been the most surprised by some of the things I've learned to do is myself. I hope that my example will encourage a few others to "stay on top" until irreversible decrepitude mandates otherwise. I feel the same way about rope spinning, of course. If I can do it, certainly others could too. My only special aptitude is that I have a great time doing it. There aren't all that many sports that are as suitable and safe for your whole life as unicycle riding - and certainly few that are as much fun. It's also great to see unicyclists combining their riding skills with other skills like juggling, rope spinning, hula hooping, soap bubbles, bagpipe playing, or whatever else their ingenuity can come up with.



## REFLECTIONS ON WORLD UNICON II

by Dr. ORLAND B. REYNOLDS

(Since most Society members will be reading this issue of OOW about the time unicyclists from around the world will be converging on Tokyo, Japan, for World Unicon III, it seems appropriate to print these reflections on last year's event written by Dr. Reynolds shortly after his return from Long Island.)

Although we experienced some difficulties in finding the place (The maps and instructions arrived after the Reynolds had left their home for their trip to the NUM and Unicon II.), once we were there, however, the facilities were great! Unicon II was somewhat more international in character (than the NUM) with strong representation from Japan, Puerto Rico, Holland, etc. Perhaps this difference was not all that great since these groups have frequently attend our NUMs. JAMES GREEN brought a van load of young riders from Detroit; but, in general, there were fewer groups of young riders in the competitions. A few other nice features of the Unicon were air conditioned rooms, air conditioned gym (This was great for both the riders and the audience.), a barbecue dinner on Saturday, and a public show on Sunday evening.



## ON JUGGLING

(it's not as easy as it looks)

How many times have you watched as a unicyclist (on a standard, giraffe, or ultimate wheel) rocked or rode intricate patterns all the while keeping afloat numerous objects such as balls, bags, clubs, etc? Looked easy, didn't it? Well, it's not!

A class held in the Fellowship Hall of a church and taught by USAm's DAVE BRICHFORD and KEN KRACAT spurred a number of us to venture out and see what it was all about. The class consisted of all ages. The youngest was USAm MATT SMITH, who (after just one lesson) was able to cause quite a stir in the halls of his school as he bounced three tennis balls off the locker doors. There were a number of us who are in the "senior citizen" age bracket. One of these, the church choir director and organist, was fulfilling a burning desire that she had fostered since preschool days when she went to the circus, was fascinated by a juggling clown, and vowed to learn the art herself some day.

I arrived with three juggling cubes and a used copy of JUGGLING FOR THE COMPLETE KLUTZ, a book recommended in the latest issue of MODERN MATURITY, a publication of the American Association of Retired Persons. Fortunately there were several class members who were equally inept. But what made the class so fascinating was the talent that arrived! When people show up with 36" long duffel bags filled to overflowing with balls, clubs, pots and pans, etc., you know they are not beginners. Perhaps my progress would have been more swift had I not taken regular time out to watch the talent around me. Seven balls up or down was not unusual. And there was club passing all the time.

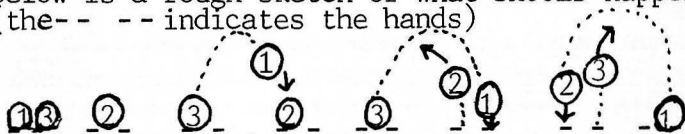
What did I learn? That juggling is hard for a person who was always the last to be chosen for any game that involved any degree of athletic ability. But persistence leads to success. (That's a lot of persistence and not much success!) For those USAm's who have yet to attempt this art, here are some tips from one who knows all the pitfalls:

1) Begin with one object. Stand relaxed (over a bed or couch reduces the need to bend so far for pick-ups) with elbows near your body and hands at waist height. Toss the single ball or bag from the center of your hand (not the finger tips) in an arc as wide as your body and as high as your eyes. Toss

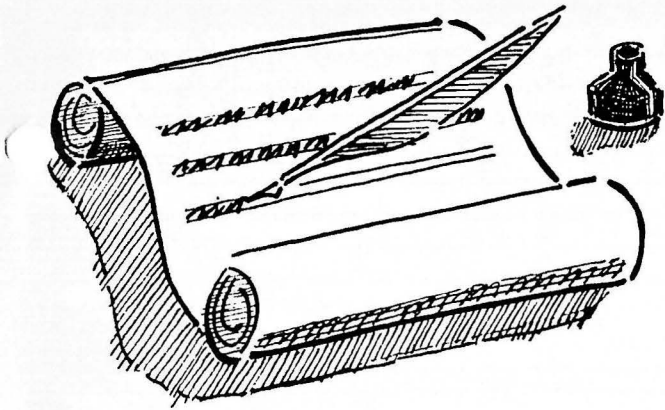
back and forth - right hand to left and then back. Toss as if there were a wall in front of you. In fact, stand in front of a wall if you are having trouble with control.

2) You are now ready for two objects. hold one in the palm of each hand. Toss the first ball as you have been doing . . . BUT since the second hand is already holding a ball, you must get rid of that one first before making the catch. The proper time to toss the second ball is when the first one goes through the upper arc and begins its downward path. Then, in a single motion, you should toss the second ball and prepare to catch the first. It's getting a little more complicated, isn't it? Do not - and this is important - DO NOT go beyond this step until you can handle two balls back and forth, back and forth, with complete control. Now do you see why it was suggested to practice over a bed or table? Sure, the books may say RELAX! But when you realize that first ball is head-toward your hand - AND THE SECOND BALL IS STILL THERE - there's a moment of panic. The second ball is heaved anywhere and everywhere as you prepare to catch ball #1. Actually the throw should be to the inside of the path of ball #1 and timed to be when that ball is about 6 inches from your hand. Keep trying. (It will become an easy, comfortable thing to do. Practice a while - and then rest.

3) Are you feeling pretty confident with two balls? OK. Let's move on to three. As soon as you pick up the three balls - two in one hand and one in the other - you realize this is a whole new ball game! It feels different. But the rules are exactly the same as in step 2 above. Ball #1 is tossed (this is the outer ball in the hand holding the two balls). This ball (#1) makes its arc toward the second hand where the exchange takes place as before. Ball #2 leaves the palm on an inward track where ball #3 awaits departure. It takes an unbelievable amount of concentration, doesn't it? Below is a rough sketch of what SHOULD happen. (the-- -- indicates the hands)



4) This step (they tell me) is to make one additional toss. And, at last, your career as a juggler is begun. For additional information, problem solving, etc., refer to books in your library or order from USA. There is still a good supply of THE ART OF JUGGLING.



MINUTES - U.S.A., INC. ANNUAL MEETING  
JULY 26, 1986

The last annual meeting of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. was held at Bowling Green University, Bowling Green, Ohio, on Saturday July 26 following the racing and parade awards at the National Unicycle Meet.

JAN LAYNE, President, opened the meeting. Minutes were read and a Treasurer's report given. The floor was opened for new business.

CHARLOTTE FOX ROGERS requested a means to prevent clubs from using the same name. JOHN FOSS made the motion that a unicycle club with a minimum of five members could register their club name with the USA by taking a membership out in the club's name. CONNIE SCHLECK seconded. The motion failed and will be tabled to be discussed at a later time.

Jan announced that CHARLOTTE FOX ROGERS had been appointed historian for the Society. JOHN FOSS, SEM ABRAHAMS, FLOYD CRANDELL, SETH GRANBERRY, and FRANK BIRDSSELL will work on new levels of achievement for unicyclists.

A motion was made by JOHN FOSS to require knee pads and gloves at National Unicycle Meets. The motion was seconded but failed by a majority of votes against it.

A new slate of officers for 1987 was approved. The officers are: President, LEN SALVERDA; Vice-President, CONNIE SCHLECK; Secretary, none; Treasurer, TERRY LAYNE; new Director, FLOYD CRANDALL.

LEN SALVERDA advised that the next National Unicycle Meet will be the last weekend of July at Bethal College, located north of St. Paul, Minnesota.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joyce Layne*  
Joyce Layne, Secretary



HIGHLIGHTS FROM PAST U.S.A. MEETINGS

September 22, 1985:

It was at this meeting that the creation of a backdrop for artistic riding competition was implemented. It was, also, decided that the board on which the Slow Race could be run was a way to eliminate some of the problems that have been faced in the past with that particular race.

January 26, 1986:

JAN LAYNE announced the basic information about the 1986 NUM. She also said that each participating club will be expected to have two judges in the artistic judging area at 9:00 a.m. Sun. of the NUM. If a club failed to do this, substitute judges would be appointed by the meet director. She also said that there would be no "Professional Class" in the racing competition. A proposal for cooperation between the IUF and USA was read and discussed. A price schedule for ads in ON ONE WHEEL was determined: \$2.00 for up to 12 words plus name and phone number. Additional words for these classified ads would cost \$.10 each. Business ads would cost \$40.00 for a full page; \$25.00 for ½ page; \$15.00 for ¼ page. USA would reserve the right to accept or reject ads and would not endorse any product.

## TWO BOOK REVIEWS

Some time ago the USA, Inc. received two books in the mail from the continent. Both books are from ROLAND WEISE, a USA member who lives in East Berlin. A language instructor indicated that the books were in Russian, but your Editor has been unable to find anyone who could help in even a minimal translation. Following this review, these books will be turned over to AL HEMMINGER, Secretary of the International Unicycling Federation, who might have greater sources for an in-depth translation.

### **ТЕХНИК ВЕЛОСИДЕСТА**

The first, a paper-back, is on bicycle racing. This appears to be a very scientific tome which includes diagrams of the proper skeleton form of all parts of the body when riding correctly. Additional diagrams show in detail the muscles that are involved when riding. Suggested body-strengthening exercises are also included along with scientific formulae, apparently guidelines for the vehicle itself. A number of pages are devoted to graphs and scientific testing devices.

### **ЭКВИЛИБРИСТИКА**

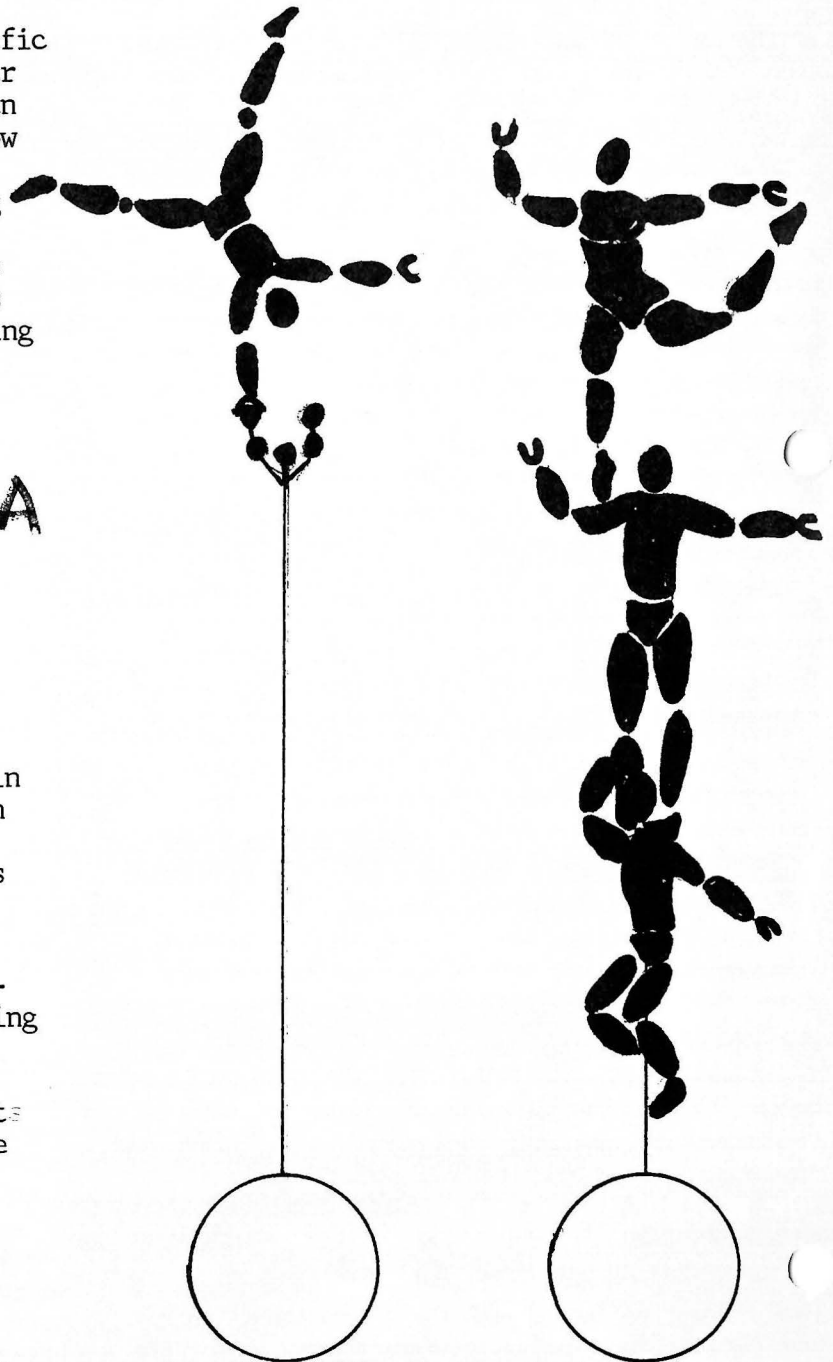
The second book - a hard cover - is about circus arts in general. It contains sketches of gymnastic tricks - from start to finish. The sketches are so detailed that the print is not as necessary as it is with the first book.

There are seven pages on unicycle riding in addition to two photos showing a young man who appears to be juggling what could be cups and saucers as he catches them on his head while riding a six or seven-foot giraffe.

The sketches in the unicycle section indicate different ways to free-mount (a running mount, holding the tire, from a ladder, and the dominant foot on the back pedal techniques). Other sketches show dismounts from a giraffe (dropping to the rear while holding the seat), rocking and one-foot riding on a chain-drive. The sketches also suggest simple couple riding techniques on giraffes (side by side holding shoulders and in a circle, both going forward while holding shoulders).

The final page of sketches in this section indicate the method for mounting a second man on the shoulders of the giraffe rider. A portable ladder is used as the second man steps on the thigh of the rider. He then sits on the shoulders of the rider, later rising to a standing position. When standing the rider grips the calf of the man standing on his shoulders. This is the only time the arms of both men are not outstretched and parallel.

Two unicycling sketches on the inside cover of this book may be more fancy than fact. Here is a facsimile for your amusement and/or amazement:





## MORE ABOUT NELSON SMITH AND THE

### WELCH WIDERS

(Unfortunately, a number of our Society members are interested in beginning unicycle clubs. The following story is about one man with a similar dream . . . and what he did about it.)

WELCH WIDERS? What is it? How did it get started? (from a booklet mailed to the Society by Mr. Nelson Smith)

In 1971, Nelson Smith saw the Hamilton Mini-Circus perform on unicycles. He was impressed with the self-confidence these performers exhibited. He decided to try to learn to ride a unicycle so he could teach some of his students at Pleasant Run Elementary in Northwest Local School District (Cincinnati, Ohio). He was given a unicycle; and at 30 years of age, he attacked this difficult skill.

After he could ride up and down the street where he lived, he thought it was time to try teaching the children at his school. He had already supplemented his physical education classes with a "Gym Club" which was made up of 120-180 students who were permitted to stay after school to work on more advanced stunts. He asked these students to raise

(their hands if they would like to learn to ride the unicycle. All their hands shot up. "But," he said, "I only have this one unicycle. What can we do?" Three or four students raised their hands and told of a neighbor or relative who had a unicycle. So, he started with five unicycles and each day helped those who wanted to learn how to ride.

The students today still use the same method of sharing the unicycle. One student mounts it while two others hold an arm out on either side offering support to the rider. They take turns riding; every five minutes a spotter becomes a rider. So in a fifteen-minute interval, each member of the "team" had had the opportunity to ride for five minutes. This method teaches patience and pride in the accomplishments of others.

The first year yielded about six riders who displayed their skill at the annual Gym Club show. The upcoming years brought as many as 180 students wanting to learn how to ride the unicycle. Unicycle riding was limited to fifth and sixth graders in order to limit the number and because the younger students were too short to reach the pedals.

The riders mastered making sharp turns, riding backwards, over a teeter-totter and jug-

O  
O  
P  
S  
!



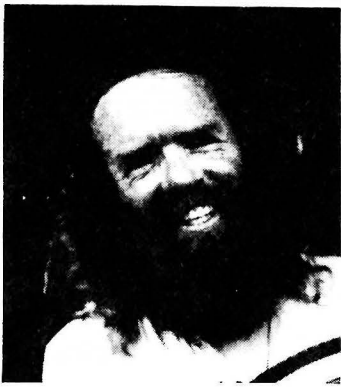
gling while riding.

Beginning riders were not encouraged to immediately purchase their own unicycle. But once a student began to ride well, he was encouraged, not only to purchase his own unicycle, but to bring it to practice for others to use. Now that the program has proved itself, the school has purchased unicycles so borrowing from others is no longer necessary.

Mr. Smith developed different skill levels with a card indicating the level attained. He wrote recently that this program added an advanced level and card called "Super Stars." This was influenced by ON ONE WHEEL in stimulating even more difficult skills

The group now performs separately from the Gym Club both in the school district and in the community (see "Miscellaneous" elsewhere in this issue). In January, 1986, 1,023 students had earned felt patches and cards through the program.

Mr. Smith's wife, Peggy, has also begun a unicycle group in the school where she teaches. Both feel that there are many fringe benefits in learning to ride. "If a child, through perseverance, shows himself he can conquer a seemingly impossible stunt, then he can feel more confident in other difficult tasks in life!"



RIDING IN  
STYLE . . .  
AND . . . .  
COMFORT  
 by  
 FLOYD BEATTIE

After a long workout or parade, most unicyclists will have a feeling that can more accurately be described as pain rather than as elation. This does not have to be.

A starting point to comfortable riding is the selection of clothing that one wears. Unicyclists need an outfit that has padding to prevent chaffing by the constant rubbing of the leg against the saddle. Bicycle shorts, skinsuits, or tri-suits all come with a chamois especially designed to help prevent this. Bike shorts will allow for better adoption into a riding outfit. Skin-suits are perhaps better suited towards racing because they fit like a second skin. Their downfall is that they are very restrictive for arm movements. This makes juggling and some other tricks difficult. Tri-suits, designed for triathletes, are sleeveless, one-piece outfits. For racing, they offer no protection on the shoulders; but they are good for juggling, jumping rope, and the like. For practice, all unicyclists should be using one of these three. In parades and performances, an outfit built around one of these would be desirable. If this is not possible, try to figure out how to adapt the outfit so that at least a chamois can be put in it. The best commercially available clothing for a unicyclist will be found at your local bike store. If they do not have riding shorts or skinsuits in stock, look through their catalogues.

All saddles that I have tried have left something to be desired in the comfort range. My suggestions should be considered as just things to try, not as definite cure-alls. (If any of these minor changes would work for everyone, the manufacturers would have probably made the saddles this way by now.)

First, decide what is uncomfortable about the saddle. If the saddle is a Cycle-Pro metal variety that gets bent out of shape

because of dropping, replace it with something better. If the seat rubs, think about padding or cushioning it. A sheepskin saddle cover can go a long way towards making a saddle more comfortable. (a note here: It also widens the saddle, making it harder to go fast and definitely affecting artistic riders by making the seat slide around more under the rider.) Both my Miyata and Schwinn seats tended to cut into the circulation of blood to my legs. By rounding off the seat using putty epoxy, then covering that with the original foam, I had a much improved seat. (Make sure that you can still get the seat cover on.)

If long rides are planned, the comfort might be influenced as much by the seat height as by anything else. Make sure that the saddle is properly adjusted.

Riding with comfort is more than just an escape from pain. If the ride is painless, you can ride harder and practice longer. You can smile easier at parades and enjoy the sport of unicycling more. It will cause you to become a better rider. So, why suffer any longer?

(FLOYD BEATTIE, a regular contributor to ON ONE WHEEL, has set many records for his unicycle riding.)

\*\*\*\*\*

>Recently the Society received a request for membership information from BOB PALMER, a member of the team called the FLYING DEBRIS. Bob Palmer and his partner, JAMES O'SHEA advertise that they do professional comedy juggling. Their letterhead says, "Trust us, we're jugglers."

>DAVID BRICHFORD's cartoon of the "world's first powered unicycle" in the last issue of ON ONE WHEEL was a far cry from STEVEN K. ROBERTS, the "high-tech nomad" who is "computing" across America in his "Winnebiko II." It contains 5 computers, 36 gears, 2 wheels, 136 feet of zippers, an electronic compass, 2 solar panels, a ham radio station, 108 square feet of tent space, a motion-sensitive security system, more than a million bytes of memory and 25 meg of disk, 3 modems, over 30 circuit boards, 84 spokes, a speech synthesizer, hydraulic and disc brakes, a tiny TV set, shortwave radio, telephone access via autopatch, a pressurized water supply, packet data communication, digital test equipment, air horns, etc., etc., etc. You can read about him in copies of COMPUTING ACROSS AMERICA.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

Because we have added over 50 new members since the last membership roster was printed (XIII, No. 2) and because one of the most asked question is "Are there any unicyclists in my area?", your Editor is including a list of these new members in this issue. The organization of this list is alphabetically by state.

Adam Kenyon	Box 371	Cordova	ALASKA	99574
Bubba Hicks	1806 Colonial Oaks Dr.	Mobile	ALABAMA	36618
Nita Kelley (Lee & Jason)	2262 Clubhouse Road	Mobile		36605
Randy Tharp	4251 Spring Valley Dr.	Mobile		36609
David Board	8109 Holm Oak Way	Citrus Heights	CALIFORNIA	95610
Amy & Kelly Hoffman	9525 Itchy Acres Road	Roseville		95661
Dan & Dave Huebner	3438 Centinela Ave. No. 2	MarVista		90066
Eric Kinnoin	6830 Duggan Way	Orangevale		95662
Barbara Lee (Kenny & Dave)	6351 Naranja Way	Orangevale		95662
Marmalade Productions (Mary Struthers)	1645 Filbert St.	SanFrancisco		94123
William Robinson, Jr.	4216 Lowell St. Apt. #14	LaMesa		92041
Jason & Mark Sanctuary	8705 Central Ave.	Orangevale		95662
Christy Wofford	6725 Itchy Acres Road	Loomis		95650
William C. Caspar, Jr.	5108 Cathedral Ave. NW	Washington	D.C.	20016
Robin Smallwood Ebony Rodwell	2315 Lincoln Rd., NE #306	Washington		20002
David Bostock	309 S. Royal Poinciana Blvd. #204	Miama Springs	FLORIDA	33166
Joanne & Dawna Romanik	6861 West 16 Dr.	Hialeah		33014
Glenn Thomas	7140 Granada Blvd.	Miramar		33023
The Edwards Family	417 S. 8th St.	Chariton	IOWA	50049
Rich Porter	2352 Hawthorne Ct.	Bettendorf		52722
David LeBoeuf	155 Grande St.	Nouma,	LOUISIANA	70360
David E. Ficke	6148 Springhill Terr. #102	Greenbelt	MARYLAND	20770
John Zenter	1514 Eastway	GlenBurnie		21061
Martin Feldman	Boston Univ. School of Medicine 80 E. Concord St.	Boston	MASSACHUSETTS	02118
Joris Newman	19 Greenbogh Ave.	Cambridge		02139
Warren Severs	P.O. Box A-2022	New Bedford		02741
John Balbach	3989 Penberton	Ann Arbor	MICHIGAN	48105
Lyle Putnam	6433 Samrick, NE	Belmont		49306
Aaron Quillman	6484 Nodine Lane	West Bloomfield		48033
Dennis Vasilopoulos	250 Hurst	Troy		48098
Andrew Cotter	2684 Sumas Ridge	White Bear Lake	MINNESOTA	55110
James Daigle	10826 Buchanan St. NE	Blame		55434
Kelly Dyrhaug	1883 E. Nebraska	St. Paul		55119
Ben Furuseth	5055 Drew Ave. S.	Minneapolis		55410
Dale Gunderson	2540 Millwood St.	Roseville		55113
Robert Herndon	1600 S. 6th St. #B703	Minneapolis		55454
Ben Hyman	1821 - 15th Ave. SE Apt 313	St. Cloud		56301
David Kuta	319 Edgcumbe Dr.	Mahtomedi		55115
Scott Pajerski	5140 Brighton Lane	New Brighton		55112
Jay Rupprecht	Rt. 4 - Box 161A	Isanti		55040
Bruce Keene	1623 West Central	Middouls	MONTANA	59801



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!! Cont'd

Randy Bernhardt	Rt. #2, Box 556	Claremont	NORTH CAROLINA	28610
Earl K. Joy II	Much-A-Do Rd.	New Durham	NEW HAMPSHIRE	03855
John Joy	R.F.D. #1, Box 18	Woodville		03785
Todd P. Velten, Jr.	34 - 20 Parsons Blvd. Apt #IV	Flushing	NEW YORK	11354
Jack Royer	1935 Salem Pkwy.	Westlake	OHIO	44145
Marc Ward	902 N. 1st St.	Jenks	OKLAHOMA	74037
Kelly Mark	3600 SE 144th	Portland	OREGON	97236
William Schake	R.D. #2	Butler	PENNSYLVANIA	16001
Soren Petersen	520 East Tyler	Richardson	TEXAS	75081
Tim Abel	3811 - 113th St. SE	Everett	WASHINGTON	98208
Fred McCall	22622 - 114th Ave. SE	Kent		98031
Christopher Mayes	20 Norton Grove - Walderslade	Chatam, Kent	ENGLAND	ME5 9BQ
Philip Graham Wise	The Comptons, Parbrook	Billingshurst		RH14 9ET
		West Sussex		
Mount Lawley Campus	55816 (Serials Librarian)			
WA College of Adv. Education	- 2 Bradford St.	Mt. Lawley, WA	AUSTRALIA	6050

\*\*\*\*\* Members who joined after this list was compiled are:

- Paul Jones - 1812 Lancaster Rd. - Birmingham, AL 35209 \* Paul wrote that he is a 77-year-old unicyclist who is the #1 tennis player in Alabama in the 75-80 classification
- Edward Moffat - Grossherzog-Friedrichstrasse #110 - 6600 Saarbrucken, West Germany \* Edward is a professional juggler who uses his unicycle for dancing
- Manuel O'Janguren - Institut de Mathematiques - Université de Lausanne CH-1015 Lausanne - SWITZERLAND \* Manuel uses his unicycle for transportation and recreation and is particularly interested in unicycling history
- B. J. Watkins - 385 Freeman Bridge Road - Marietta, SC 29661 \* This father-son team is interested in unicycle construction as well as starting a club
- Christopher Watkins - 381 Freeman Bridge Rd. " " " "
- George Ritchey - 2100 Fair Park Ave. #306 - Eagle Rock, CA 90041
- Aaron Kropifko - 17130 9th Ave., N. - Plymouth, MN 55447
- Thomas H. Belcher - 17130 9th Ave., N. - Plymouth, MN 55447
- Jay Hayes - 1214 Cherry Laurel - Norman, OK 73072 \* Jay learned about the USA through TOM MILLER and The Unicycle Factory
- Mike Rocks - 246 Blantyre Ave. - Scarborough, Ontario CANADA M1N 2S1 \* Mike heard about USA from a friend, DARREN BEDFORD

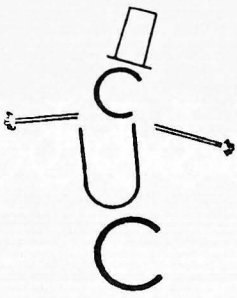
\*\*\*\*\*

In the February, 1987, issue of DIVERSION magazine, your Editor found a picture of "pedal powered flight" advertising a booklet entitled "How to Get from the Airport to the City." sketch on right ---->

Do you remember the English contest that resulted in successful pedal-powered flight a few years ago?



# Christchurch Unicycle Club



DAVID MARINER (owner of D M Engineering in Dorset, England) and his wife Lynn founded the CHRISTCHURCH UNICYCLE CLUB and David sent the following article about the group.



The Club has about a dozen regular members; the ages spread from eight to fifteen. When the Club started in 1984, we had about seven or eight fourteen-year-old boys. But now girls have joined and we now have slightly more girls than boys. Most of the youngsters stay with the Club for about two years.

My wife, Lynn, and I run the Club with several of the children's parents acting as helpers. Practice sessions are every other Saturday morning at our local Scout hut.

The Club has no funds other than what the children earn at fetes and charity stalls during the summer.

The special unicycles ('giraffes,' multi-wheelers, etc.) are all owned by D.M. Engineering and are really samples or leftover orders. The Club is well provided for from this point of view! However, most of the children have standard or one of our 'Ringmaster' unicycles of their own. My firm also provides all the props.

During the summer we put on unicycle shows. The children demonstrate their unicycle skills to music and their parents help in many ways. We all enjoy it very much. After our little shows we usually find we have some new members who gather round and try one of the children's unicycles.

David has ordered the USA Achievement Level patches which he awards his riders during the spring Skill Contest. For more information about David and D.M. Engineering, see USA NSLR Volume 5, No. 3.



**ON ONE WHEEL**

# CALENDAR:

4th ANNUAL VERMONT FOOL'S FEST \* July 24 - July 26 \* Montpelier, Vermont - for further information: Cathy Quigley, P.O. Box 1085, Montpelier, VT 05602

NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET \* July 24 - July 26 \* Bethel College & Seminary, St. Paul, MN - sanctioned by U.S.A., Inc. - sponsored by Twin City Unicycle Club - for further information: Len Salverda, 5899 N. Lexington, Shoreview, MN

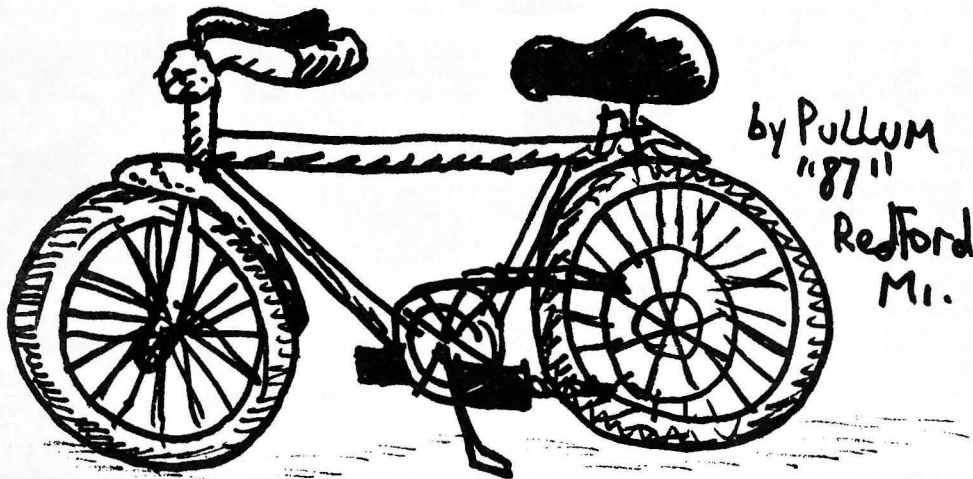
UNICON III \* August 1 - August 2 \* sanctioned by International Unicycling Federation - sponsored by Japan Unicycling Club - for further information: Jack Halpern 3-8-104 3-Chome Nira, Nira-Shi, Saitama, Japan

HULL INTERNATIONAL BICYCLE FESTIVAL \* August 4 - August 11 \* Hull, Quebec, Canada - the highlight for unicyclists will be the Uniball Tournament in addition to unicycle tour of places of interest in Quebec, track and obstacle races, unicycle and juggling workshop, a picnic for participants and closing evening activities - for further information: Piere Ouhaime, 39 Leduc, Hull, Quebec, Canada J8X 3A3 - ph. (819) 595-9168

CLOWNFEST '87 \* September 25, 26, 27 \* workshops, competition, awards - Berkeley-Carteret Hotel - for further information: "Clownfest" c/o 240 Swimming River Rd., Colts Neck, New Jersey 07722

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you JOHN PULLUM ("Duddles") for the cartoon below!



" JUST THINK OF A BICYCLE AS  
A SIAMese TWIN UNICYCLE "