

Larrikin: A person prone to comedic or outlandish behavior.

**Thursday
July 20, 2006**

Portland Report

Congratulations Juniors!

Nine jugglers from three countries competed last night for the Juniors Championships. The show was directed by Craig Barnes; hosted by Dorothy Finnigan; and judged by Jeff Daymont, Fran Favorini, Viveca Gardiner, Matt Henry, Dan Holzman, Ted Joblin, Darin Marriott, and Ivan Pecel. The judges were wrangled by Arthur Lewbel.

All the competitors gave fine performances, and we'll look forward to seeing more of them, but only three jugglers can take home the 2006 Juniors medals:

Bronze: Billy Watson

Silver: Tony Pezzo

Gold: William Wei-Liang Lin

New Board Elected

Yesterday the membership elected Sandy Brown, Don Lewis, Jerry Martin, and Will Penman Directors. Jerry is returning for a second term, and the others are all new to the board. They join continuing directors Kim Laird, Jim Maxwell, and Bob Neuman.

As one of their first actions, the board elected Kim Laird Chair.

Seniors Finalists Announced

After a full day choosing among 23 (!) potential competitors from around the world, preliminaries judges Sky King, Alan Howard, and Ted Joblin chose eight individual jugglers (representing four countries on three continents) to compete in tonight's Championships:

- Yohei Ota
- Yao-Wen Chang
- Masaki Hirano
- Jason Garfield
- Takashi Hagiwara
- Michael Karas
- Yuki Kojima
- Artem Khomanko

Good luck to all the competitors, and good fortune to the audience. It looks like we're in for a great show!

Volunteer!

Go to the volunteer booth (near the Festival Headquarters table), and sign up for a position. You can juggle for an hour while working security or meet new people at registration, but whatever you do, you'll be a part of the festival and help make it great.

WJF Scholarships

The World Juggling Federation is offering a limited number of scholarships to its upcoming convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 2-6, 2006. Jugglers under age 17 are invited to stop by the WJF table in the gym and audition with balls, clubs, rings, or diabolo anytime Jason Garfield is there. Applicants will be selected on the basis of both ability and potential. Don't be afraid; show him your stuff, and you could win a full festival pass to WJF.

On a Streak

by Dennis Goldstein

Do you enjoy seeing streakers? You might see Bruce Plotz (tonight's band leader) and Melonhead, who have a streak of 20 consecutive IJA festivals each, beginning in 1987 at Akron, Ohio. Rumor has it Andy "DrewBob" Ford has a streak of 28 festivals.

Bill Dietrich is here. He attended the very first IJA festival in 1948 in Jamestown, NY. Ask him to show you a neat photo of himself with other founders. Myron Wilcox has attended 28 festivals.

It will be difficult not to find yourself passing clubs with members of the Fernald family this week. Thirteen Fernalds from all over the country are attending this festival: Chuck (21 festivals), April (4 festivals), Ryan (4), Kelsey (3), Lee (2), John, Larry, and their families and kids. Five adult Fernalds pass clubs.

Juggling Results Posted

Thank you Heather Marriott for directing this year's juggling competitions Tuesday morning. This year was notable for having the first decent weather this event has seen in recent memory. Results are posted by the juggling table.

Here's your chance!

Meet and greet Kumar Pallana, the icon of plate spinning, balancing, and juggling—you'll be able to say you met *the* plate spinner from *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Don't miss his special workshop Thursday at 1. On Saturday, the IJA is awarding him a Lifetime Achievement Award. Rumor is he will perform his plate spinning at Friday's midnight show.

Goodbye Reg Bolton

Reg Bolton was a pioneer in the overlapping fields of circus education, social circus, and circus for youth as well as a much loved and valued member of the larger circus community. He lived and taught in Australia but traveled all over the world teaching, observing, speaking, and supporting. He died over the weekend, probably of a heart attack. He died in bed the night after a gig. He was at home in Kunanurra, Western Australia. Memorials are being planned in Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney, and around the globe.

Confessions of a judge

By Andrew Conway

I was a bit taken aback when Dan Holzman asked me to judge the individual prop competition, but I decided that though I am nowhere near the technical level of any of the competitors, I have watched and tried to do enough juggling with enough different props over the years, that I could do a good enough job of judging the difficulty of pretty much anything. Well, four out of five isn't bad. As it turns out, with diabolo, I'm not qualified to tell the difference between insanely difficult and almost impossible, and all eleven of the competitors in the diabolo competition had a routine that was either one or the other.

The cigar box competition was easy enough. Nicholas Flair was a clear winner, with a difficult routine that was performed in a stylish and exciting manner. His was perhaps the most professional presentation of any of the competitors in any competition. Each of the five judges got to award points on a scale of one to ten, with half for technique and half for performance. "Performance" was not very well defined, but the consensus among the judges was that it meant the way the tricks were presented, including choreography, posture and how cleanly the routine was performed but did not include stuff that was extraneous to the tricks, like costume. Half a point is deducted by each judge for every two drops.

There were three entrants for the devil stick competition, two with genuine devil sticks and one with a flower stick. Before the competition some of the judges were uncertain how to rate devil stick against flower stick, but we decided that since flower stick was easier for many tricks, doing the same routine with both props would score more technical points for the devil stick. As it turned out, Yohei Ota's superb, original and technically difficult routine with devil stick was followed by Aaron Young's superb, original and technically difficult routine with a flower stick. I gave them each a 4 for performance and a 5 for technique, but Aaron had two drops in his routine, so he end up with an 8.5 from me while Yohei Ota got 9. As it turned out, those two drops made all the difference, as there were only 1.2 points difference between the two acts when the five judges scores were totalled. Both acts were wonderful, and I hope we'll see them back for a rematch next year.

The three-club competition was won by Takashi Kikyo. It was also a fairly even competition. There was only a one-point spread between the highest and lowest scores I awarded.

Kevin Axtell won the three-ball competition. Second place could not have been closer. The judges scores were tied between Will Penman and Komei Aoki. When that happens the judges vote for who should come second, and Will won

by three votes to two. Personally I voted for Komei Aoki, as I loved his performance, which went through a sudden change from deadpan to high energy as his music changed. Any of the three acts could have won, and the other competitors were not far behind.

Okay, on to the diabolo. There were eleven acts from (I think) four countries, with most of the competitors coming from Japan or Taiwan. The technical standard was astonishingly high. This was perhaps the best diabolo competition ever, and certainly the best ever seen in America. Excalibur moves (in which the axis of the diabolo is vertical) were all the rage, as well as ceiling-high duicides and a bunch of stuff for which I just don't have the vocabulary. The Chinese tradition of female diabolists was well represented by the Taipei Physical Education College, and they received a special award from the judges, as well as first and third places for Chen Tzy Yin and Chaing Shu Hui. Tatsanori Seito from Japan took second place.

As I said earlier, I found it difficult to judge the technique involved in the acts (except for listening to the noises coming from Matt Hall, who was one of the other judges) but I think my scoring on performance was good, and I can still count drops. Still, that's why we have five judges in an event, and I don't think anyone would complain about the final result.

Thanks to everyone who competed. There is nobody in the competitions who did not put on a great routine. I think the individual prop DVD is going to be a hot item in the IJA store come Christmas. If I had to suggest improvements for next year, Dan, perhaps you could have printed guidelines for judges, including an accurate definition of performance points, and if you ever have another diabolo competition like that you might want to consider having a couple of specialist diabolo judges to award technique points and let the rest of the judges award performance points only.

Portlandia

(Official City Song)
by Marc C. Miller

Old town, downtown, fountains and lights,
The Willamette reflecting our city at night
From bridges, nightspots in neighborhoods, too.
Together, we grow in love and respect for you.

Hours, days, weeks at a time,
Holiday weekends, time to unwind.
From winter's reign through summer's fall,
The lady of seasons belongs to us all.

Portlandia

Gazing upon the busy streets,
Reflecting the mountain's history
Through her eyes,
She fills me with pride.

Source: PortlandOnline.com.