

More than just up in the air

by Doreen Foutz
Assistant News Editor

He can be found in the Reed Commons tossing large objects into the air. He loves to exhibit his talent in hopes of recruiting others to join him.

Jeff Bach, also known as "Jeff the Juggler," isn't quite sure what inspired him to become a juggler, "I used to say it was boredom,

but I don't think it was boredom...it just seemed to catch on...making it more difficult is a lot of fun just to see how many objects I can get up to," Bach said.

Entertaining may have fueled his interest in juggling, "One thing that might have pushed me into juggling was that I wanted to be in some form of

entertainment. I'm sure you've seen Steve Martin movies...he was a professional juggler before that; he juggled at Disney World," Bach said.

When juggling at school, Bach usually has company. Bill Dietrich, a veteran juggler, often joins Bach in the Commons. "He showed me a whole bunch of different patterns, and now we teach each other patterns," Bach said.

Bach and Dietrich are willing to help aspiring jugglers learn the techniques. "Pick up some things and give it a shot," Bach said.

No one has ever found out what they're capable of without an attempt, "Usually when I do shows or acts anywhere and people ask me 'Can you do this?'...I work on it...now knives and fire are easy. I do just three machetes, but four torches. Fire is fun," Bach said.

Bach, a 21-year old 08 English Creative Writing major, is hoping to graduate next December.

Juggling is central to several aspects of Bach's life, one of which is school, "My thesis is basically centered around juggling. It is centered around applying aspects of juggling to life, which would be multiple things in balance. There are so many things going on. Basically life is a juggling act as a metaphor," Bach said.



Photo courtesy of Nicholas Traub

WILLING TO HELP aspiring jugglers learn techniques, "Jeff the Juggler" often juggles with veteran juggler Bill Dietrich.

Originally from Millcreek, Bach currently resides at home. He lived on campus for three years before moving back home.

"I was trying to decide if living on campus was affecting my grades--it affected my roommates--each semester someone new learned how to juggle," said Bach.

Juggling has taken Bach to Las Vegas to the International Juggling Convention. According to Bach, this is where the art of juggling is passed on. Bach has attended the convention, which draws anywhere from 200-2000

people from all over the world, for the past few years. At this convention Bach has juggled with people from Korea, Sweden, and Australia.

Bach plans on juggling in the future, "Immediately after I get out of school I would like to try juggling for a year...I'd like to try cruise ships," Bach said.

Although Bach continues to improve his juggling, he still has not reached his final goals, "I plan on reaching them this year, objectwise, and getting up to nine," Bach said.

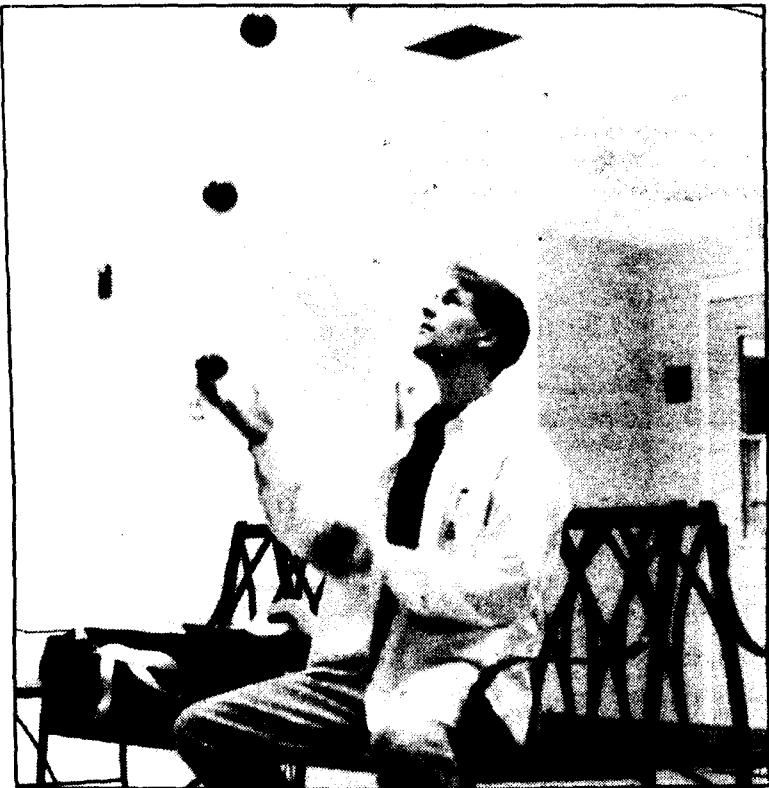


Photo courtesy of Nicholas Traub

FIRE IS FUN... or at least according senior Jeff Bach. Bach can often be seen oncampus throwing things around.

Comet visible with naked eye

by Jennifer V. Colvin
Editor in Chief

Whew did you feel that? That was Comet Hyakutake making its pass only 10 million miles from Earth.

Brighter than Comet Halley of 1985-86, Comet Hyakutake was discovered January 30 by astronomer Yuji Hyakutake. Unless it fades considerably, this comet should be the brightest to

pass by Earth since Comet West in 1976.

The most exciting thing about Comet Hyakutake is that it should be visible to the naked eye every clear, dark night of late March through April.

But seeing this comet is not like watching a meteor shoot across the sky. Instead, for many hours each night it will appear as a little glowing cloud with a slightly brighter core and perhaps

a dim tail.

If you are in the mood for star gazing, take a walk outside tonight around 11:00 p.m. Face east and find the brightest star in the sky. Hold your fist out at arm's length in front of you and look past it one fist-width below Arcturus (the brightest star in the sky), you should see the comet's

Sky Gazers Alert!

To the right is a picture of Comet Hyakutake which was discovered January 30.

The left map shows the path of the comet as it makes its way across the sky throughout late March into late April.

To see the comet, look into the east sky and find the brightest star. Hold your fist out at arms length and a fist-width below the star is the head of the comet.

Comet Hyakutake



ESO 1-m Schmidt telescope
ESO La Silla Observatory

head. If there is any tail visible, it will extend to the right.

If you want a better view, bring along some binoculars.

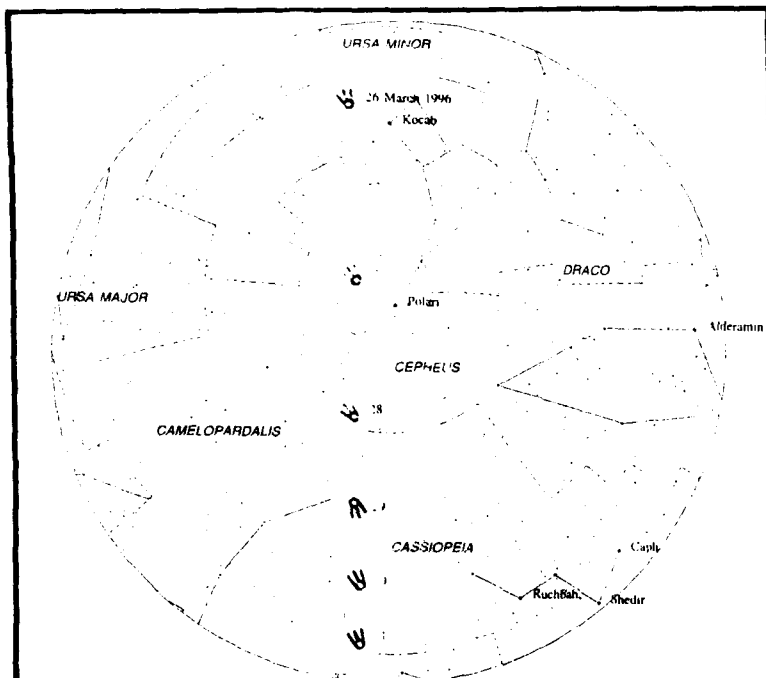
If tonight isn't clear enough to find it, the comet will be visible all night in the north on March 25.

After dark Monday night, examine the sky and about two fist-widths left of the Big Dipper's handle, the comet should appear. By midnight, the comet will be about two fist-widths directly below the center of the Big Dipper.

If you try a telescope, be sure to use its lowest magnification because it will show only a part of the comet at once.

Also, any interested star gazers should attend Behrend's own Dr. Roger Knacke's lecture "Great Comets Approaching" Thursday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. in Science 101.

In addition, a week of comet observing sessions beginning Monday, March 25 and ending Friday, March 29 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. will be open to everyone.



Path of Comet Hyakutake (1996): Comet Group, Astronomy Department, University of Maryland, College Park.