

# FEATURE...

## UNIVENTS SPONSORS ENTERTAINMENT

The University of North Carolina at Asheville is kicking off its second semester with a variety of entertainment for the students and community to enjoy. The Student Government Association and the University Committee for Cultural and Special Events have joined forces to plan a semester of diverse activities in an attempt to broaden the scope of entertainment provided by both of the organizations.

On Thursday, January 25 and Friday, January 26, Chris Bliss, nationally acclaimed juggler and the Chuckey-Doak Joke and Juggling Company will present two evenings of exciting Cabaret entertainment. When is a juggler not a juggler? Whenever Chris Bliss performs "Music for your Eyes."

More than a variety or novelty act, Bliss is an artist in Space. Combining selected pieces of

contemporary music, special lighting effects, and his phenomenal juggling ability, Chris Bliss creates a human light show--improvisational, dynamic and visually stunning. He has revolutionized an ancient craft, refining it into kaleidoscopes of lights.

When is a juggler not just another juggler? When he is also a teacher and an innovator.

Ever since Chris Bliss has been performing he has been a dedicated teacher of his craft. He has taught thousands how to juggle, from deaf high school students to disadvantaged youngsters to college residents (and more than a few musicians and tennis players). Each finds his/her own value: concentration, coordination, relaxation, accomplishment, entertainment. And many find a new awareness of juggling as a valid modern discipline--which is enjoyable to learn.

But it is Bliss's innovations in performance that have made him a major force in juggling's growing respect and popularity. His use of music and lights to

transfer juggling into a magical art of expressive motion is the most significant innovation in juggling's recent history. It was this new concept which led to Bliss's warm reception on the music club and concert circuit--winning a new audience for juggling which had previously thought it to be a traditional rather than a current art form. When Chris and the Midnight Special production staff collaborated on a three-segment mini-series for that show (aired in April and May of 1978), juggling became a successful vehicle for the presentation of video art, resulting in a unique, impressionistic video-music experience. This was the first time any kind of juggling had been explored and offered to a national television audience in serial form. Three months later Chris was to Toronto, this time to tape two classical music interpretations for the top-rated Canadian variety show--"Stars on Ice" (to be aired during the 1978-79 season). More ground-breaking innovations, Chris Bliss is working to expand the horizons of his art. When is a juggler more than a juggler? When he'll set one of

his balls on fire for a laugh?

Chris Bliss does not have a standard juggling pattern. He does have a flair for imaginative stand-up comedy. He constantly plays off the audience's expectations of a "juggler", using them as a springboard into observations about our expectations in other areas. With routines ranging from superstar parody (selling his album and reflecting on encores and juggling groupies) to deft satire on the latest in liberation and human potential movements, Chris is rapidly gaining respect as a comedian in addition to his other talents. But you're still wondering "Does he really set one of his balls on fire?" What else could a routine title "Great Ball of Fire" be? Road Company to perform at UNC-A's Lipinsky Center. The Road Company, an improvisational theatrical troupe from Johnson City, Tenn., will visit the campus of the University of North Carolina at Asheville on Friday, January 26, to perform a program of satire, improvisation, and mountain music entitled The Chuckey-Doak Joke and Juggling Company Presents and Evening of Cabaret.

The six-member company, which has been working in Southern Appalachia for nearly five years, presents a series of satirical skits on such subjects as feminism, nuclear pollution, sports, and television. Music is provided by Road Company music director Sonny Morris, a Bristol, Tennessee guitarist/vocalist who has performed with recording artist Dave Loggins and has performed in such notable New York clubs as the Village Vanguard and Fold City.

The Road Company performs their cabaret material regularly at Johnson City's famed Down Home Pickin' Parlor. Johnson City Press Chronicle reviewer Robert Wilson wrote after a Down Home performance the "...saying the Road Company is Upper East Tennessee's foremost theatrical group is an understatement. No other really comes close."

BY DALE SAUNDERS

# UNIVENTS PRESENTS

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MIME

*Chris Bliss*  
Juggling

**Chuckey Doke**  
Joke & Juggling Co.

and

and

FRIDAY  
JANUARY 19, 1979  
2:00 to 5:00

JANUARY 25, 1979

JANUARY 26, 1979

Carol Belk Theatre  
Workshop

8:00 p.m.

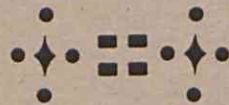
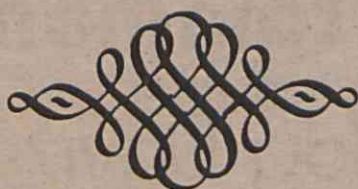
8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY

JANUARY 20, 1979  
8:00 p.m.  
COFFEEHOUSE

Lipinski  
Student  
Center

Lipinski  
STUDENT  
Center



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