the Joey Journal

Happy Holidays from the Texas Clown Association

November - December 1998

The Joey Journal

Published Bi-monthly for Members of

The Texas Clown Association, Inc.

Kim TUTTI FRUTTI Oxford, Editor

Letters to the Editor, articles and other related items should be addressed to *The Joey Journal*, 4515 Empress Woods, San Antonio, Texas, 78249. Only letters addressed to the Editor which are signed will be considered for publication. Submissions accompanied by a stamped envelope with return address will be returned after publication. Submitted photographs may be black and white or color prints; please, no slides, copies, or Polaroids. All **advertisements** must be prepaid and camera ready. Back cover - $80; inside back cover and full page - $70; half page - $40; quarter page - $25; business card - $10; Clownified - $5. **Multiple placement discounts on full, half, and quarter page ads are 5% for three editions and 10% for six editions. Payment must be received in advance. Publication deadlines** are the first of January, March, May, July, and August (special convention edition) and November. Reports generated by Microsoft Word and submitted on disk will be greatly appreciated! Editor can be reached by E-mail at OXFORD@UTHSCSA.EDU or fax: 210-567-8893.

Membership and Dues

Regular Membership :	$20.00
Family (each add'l):	10.00
Associate Membership:	15.00
Junior Membership:	10.00
Initiation Fee (each):	5.00

Central membership mailing location: Send all membership questions, dues, renewals, reinstatements, address changes and applications to TCA, Inc., 4902 Colleyville Blvd., Suite 108-313, Colleyville, Texas 76034-3989.

Purpose of the Texas Clown Association

1. To promote, preserve, and improve the profession of clowning.
2. To provide the opportunity to study the art, history, and philosophy of clowning.
3. To educate its members and the general public in the wholesome and clean entertainment that is provided by the profession of clowning.
4. To provide news to the members of all clown events in the state of Texas.

The Texas Clown Association

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Letter from the Editor

Kim TUTTI FRUTTI Oxford

It is hard to believe the TCA convention has come and gone for another year. Why is the anticipation SOOOO long and the fun over so quickly?! The host alley did a really nice job--thanks ya'll! I'm sure you are getting a well deserved rest.

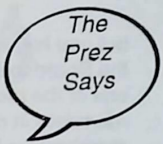
Shocked, speechless, honored, humbled.....these are just a few of the emotions I felt when awarded the Ambassador of Clowning award. I'm not very good at thinking on my feet, so I wasn't able to say the things I would have liked to that night at the banquet. Primarily, that I truly love clowning, enjoy being involved in TCA, and that I love the "family" that it represents. As I tried to say (and not very well), I have been discouraged lately in the efforts to "grow" clowning in the San Antonio area, so this honor is truly a shot in the arm for me and will serve to rejuvenate my weariness! Lastly, I'd like to say thank you to those TCA members that thought enough to nominate me for this award. Words cannot express how that makes me feel.

Please note that TCA has a new address--this is not our doing! Our recent "new" address had to be changed due to a change with the postal service we are using.

I wish you each a special joy during this holiday season and that we all will keep "good will toward men" foremost in our clowning and volunteer efforts at this time.

Bump those noses!

A Word from the President



Thank you to everyone for your show of support at the TCA convention after my election as President. It was great to have the opportunity to talk to the members and get to know more about each of you.

I have to say a big hearty Texas thanks to the Wichita Falls Clown-a-Arounds for a fantastic convention. It was definitely "Groovy and Great in "98". There were great lectures and competitions and just all around fun. Putting on a convention is not an easy task and it takes the support of the whole alley to have things run smoothly. Many thanks to Kathie Jamison and Amy Scully for being C0-Chairs in leading their alley in putting on one outstanding convention.

Hats off and thanks to those former members of the Board of Directors: Pam Cox, Marie Jones, Doris Fletcher, Kathie Jamison and Kim Oxford for a job well done. You will be missed but know that you are still a part of our team. You were always willing to lend a hand and work to continue to make TCA one of the top clown associations and it is muc appreciated. In addition, Welcome to the new members of the Board: Jan Bamberry, June Hinkle, Andy Anderson, Louis Gonzales, and Doyle Simpson. I know that you will bring new ideas and new perspective to the Board that will help us to continue to grow and improve TCA for our members.

The Board's first meeting will be January 16th in San Antonio. It will be a brainstorming session where ideas will be considered and goals set for the coming year. One of the things we will be looking at are the comment sheets from the '98 convention. We will especially be reviewing the comments on the new form of competition. From what I heard at the convention, it was well received, but, there are still a few bugs that need to be worked out. If you did not have the opportunity to complete one of the comment forms

but you have an idea or comments you want to share with the Board, please let your regional director know or write to one of the members of the board. We need the input of the members in order to be successful in providing the membership the education they want in order to become better clowns.

Sixteen years ago, several Texas clowns got together and had a dream to create an organization that would help promote the art of clowning and provide education to its members so that they could become better clowns. As we enter 1999, your Board of Directors wants to continue to work to keep that dream a reality and to continue TCA's status as one of the best clown organizations, but we cannot do this without you, the members, and your support.

I look forward to serving as your President. Bump a nose!

Chandra CHA CHA Luce

Hear Ye, Hear Ye.....

TCA has a new address (yes, AGAIN!!). The place we had our address consolidated with another location, so this is our **NEW** new address:

Texas Clown Association, Inc.
4902 Colleyville Blvd.
Suite 108-313
Colleyville, Texas 76034-3989

A Note from the Ex-Prez

Dear TCA'ers:

I'd like to take this opportunity to say some thank yous.

Thanks to the CLOWN AROUNDS for holding a fine convention. From providing a delightful trip to the dinner theater to using a brand new competition format, their gracious hospitality will be remembered by all the attendees.

Thank you to the TCA Members who traveled to Wichita Falls to participate in the festivities. Without you, in spite of the Host Alley's best preparations, there would not have been a convention.

Thanks to the instructors and the vendors. They regaled us with their wisdom, shared their clown expertise and brought us a wide variety of excellent products.

Thanks to outgoing Board Members Pam Cox, Doris Fletcher, Kathie Jamison, Marie Jones and Kim Oxford for their hard work.

Thanks to incoming Board Members Andy Anderson, Jan Bamberry, Louis Gonzales and June Hinkle, we look forward to their involvement in the coming year.

Thanks to Board Members Susan Borg, Carmalee Boyd, Sharon Dueitt, Linda Green, Chandra Luce, Ernie Priest, Doyle Simpson and Joe Turman who will continue their tenure with the Board.

Thanks to TEJAS CLOWN ALLEY for their spirited presentation inviting us to meet in Mesquite for the 1999 convention.

Finally, I want to thank the entire membership for electing me to the presidency, supporting me during my term of office and allowing me the pleasure of serving TCA.

Mary Ann CITRONELLA Beck

Special Thoughts and Wishes

Linda ROLY POLY Green has been undergoing the second part of her cancer treatment since TCA. She is now at home and doing well. It was pretty rough but she continues to have a model attitude and be a great example for all of us.

Vern POGO King underwent surgery at M.D. Anderson on November 4th for prostate cancer. Keep him in your thoughts and drop him a card.

Please remember Sharon SHERRY BERRY Dueitt too—both of her parents are ill and live long distance from her, making it difficult on her trying to look after them.

If you know anyone who needs special thoughts and wishes or have updates on those mentioned previously, please let the editor know: 210-493-7798.

CALENDAR

January 22-23, 1999 - Joey to the World-5 Gospel Clown Convention, Houston, Texas. Call Ralph Dewey at (281) 479-2759 for more information! (See ad this issue!)

February 19-21, 1999 – Clown Camp on the Road, Clear Lake, Texas. Nassau Bay Hilton Hotel (281) – 333-9300. For more info, call Kenny BOBO Price, (281) – 478-6216.

TCA '98 Competition Results!!

Balloons

Single balloons:

1 place Missy SNAZI Dunbar – *Astronaut*
2 place Margaret MAGGIE THE MAGICAL CLOWN Clauder – *Scorpion*
3 place Mary SUGAR PLUM Lostak - *Toucon*
tied Joel STRAWS Rubert – *Baseball player*

Multiple Balloons:

1 place Joel STRAWS Rubert - *Wylie Coyote on Acme Rocket chasing Road Runner*
2 place Mary SUGAR PLUM Lostak - *Tigger*
3 place Voncille DIMPLE Sims – *Early Bird*
tied Margaret MAGGIE THE MAGICAL CLOWN Clauder – *Mother Goose*

Balloon Arrangement:

1 place Joel STRAWS Rubert – *Looney Tunes*
2 place Margaret MAGGIE THE MAGICAL CLOWN Clauder – *Winnin the Pooh*
3place Mary SUGAR PLUM Lostak – *PePe LePew/Penelope*

Make-up

Juniors:

"1" rating Timi PENELOPE POT BLOSSOM Murphy

Seniors:

"1" rating Kay KLYNKY Veale-Henry
"2" rating Newell SURE SHOT Barker
Donna SWEETIE Matthews

Character:

"1" rating Margaret MAGGIE THE MAGICAL CLOWN Clauder – Scarecrow
Donna KATY-MAE Weber – Country Girl

"2" rating	Kay TOODLES Reed – Astronaut
	Rick PUMPER Thomas – Fireman
	Cyrus DIGGER Wagner – Nurse
	Paul SPRINKLER Ward – Fireman

Tramp/hobo:

"2" rating	David PROFESSOR PITTS Pitts
	John MR. B Sheffield
	Phyllis DAISY Sheffiield
"3" rating	Toby TOBY JO Hendricks

Whiteface:

"1" rating	Becky SKEETER Plaster
"2" rating	Diane DYNAMO Anderson
	Donna DOLLY Costello
	Linda GREENIE Green
	Mary STARLIGHT Morris
	Voncille DIMPLE Sims
	Teri HAPPY HEARTS Stokes
	Trisha Stokes
	Janie Kay RUFFLES Tenorio
"3" rating	Jeanne CE CE Williams

Auguste :

"1" rating	Aurora BEBOP Krause
"2" rating	Matt MAXWELL T Betz
	Pam JALAPENO PEPPER Cox
	Debbie Etson
	Ruth TEDDY BEAR Van Noy
"3" rating	Marcy TWINKLE STARR Poland
	David STAR Rosser

Skits

Single Skits:

1 place	Aurora BEBOP Krause- *Garage Sale*
2 place	Lisa TWINKLES Ezell - *The Dream*
3 place	Margaret MAGGIE THE MAGICAL CLOWN Clauder - *A Sticky Situation*

Group Skits:

1 place *The Rock Solid Safety Team* – Paul SPRINKLER Ward and Mike BLAZE Heard

2 place *I'm Not Here* – Brenda FLOWER Marshall and Kay TOODLES Reed

3 place *Banana Bandana* – Rhea SWEET PEA Anderson and Andy SMILEY Anderson

Paradeability

Single:

1 place Linda GREENIE Green – *Chain Letter*

2 place Marti IDOODY CLAIRE DELOONEY Murphy – *Long Arm of the Law*

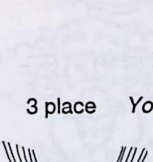
3 place Kim COWBELLE Oxford – *Texas Wildflowers*

Group:

1 place *Titanic* - Patti PATTICAKE Gilbert, Shirley CURLY Q Hickman, June CRICKET Hinkle, Ricky WHO ME Lane, Lynn PICKLES Lane, Barbara JEEPERS Moore, Becky SKEETER Plaster, Ernie NOT YET Priest, Janie Kay RUFFLES Tenorio

2 place *Drill Team* – Patty SHORT CAKES Cummings, Joyce KEEDO Dowell, Missy SNAZI Dunbar, Lisa TWINKLES Ezell, Sue HOT DOG Gortemiller, Rolf POOKIE Kerr, Christie LOUELLA McNeill, Mary STARLIGHT Morris, Mauri BINKIE Norris, Teri HAPPY HEARTS Stokes, Donna KATY-MAE Weber

3 place *You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby* – Margaret MAGGIE THE MAGICAL CLOWN Clauder and Michelle KOOKIE Feigenbaum



Spark Plug Award - Brenda FLOWER Marshall - For recruiting 13 new members to TCA!

Ambassador of Clowning for 1998 – Kim TUTTI FRUTTI Oxford

Congratulations to all the winners!

Much thanks to Ernie Priest, Vice President, and numerous others that contributed to the compilation of the above list!

Joey To The World-5 Gospel Clown Convention

Come join Brenda "Flower" Marshall, J.T. "Bubba" Sikes, "Chagy" the Clown, Tricky Ricky Henson, Steve Kissell, One Way Street, Ralph Dewey & friends for Christian fellowship, fun, instructional classes & skits. The convention will be held at:

Sagemont Church (Youth Building) Dates: January 22nd (6PM)
11600 Hughes Road January 23rd (7:30AM)
Houston, Texas

Pre-registration before Jan. 9th, 1999 is $10.
After 1/9/99 or at the door it will be $15.
For details, options or a registration form, call Ralph Dewey at (281) 479-2759 or write to the Mail Center at:

Joey To The World
1202 Wildwood Dr.
Deer Park, TX 77536

A LITTLE LIGHT HUMOR AND A FEW DEEP THOUGHTS

At The Wedding

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life," her mother tried to explain, keeping it simple. The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why's the groom wearing black?"

If you could kick the person responsible for most of your troubles, you would not be able to sit down for six months. Unknown.

Mr. Lee was terribly overweight, so his doctor put him in a diet; "I want you to eat regularly for 2 days, then skip a day, and repeat this procedure for 2 weeks. The next time I see you, you'll have lost at least 5 pounds."
When Mr. Lee returned, he shocked the doctor by losing nearly 60 pounds. "Why, that's amazing!" the doctor said, "Did you follow my instructions?" Mr. Lee nodded. "I'll tell you though, I thought I was going to drop dead that 3rd day."
"From hunger, you mean?"
"No, from skipping."

A new litter of kittens...

A three-year-old boy went with his dad to see a new litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, "There were two boy kittens and two girl kittens."
"How did you know that?" his mother asked.
"Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied.
"I think it's printed on the bottom."

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible and with fascination, he looked at the old pages as he turned them. Then something fell out of the Bible and he picked up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that has been pressed in between pages.
"Momma, look what I found", the boy called out.
"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice he answered:"I think it's Adam's suit!" (*Thanks to Christie McNeill for this one!)*

A group of chess enthusiasts had checked into a hotel, and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?", they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

In the Spotlight!

Two of our TCA clowns have been appointed to serve in COAI offices that were not filled during recent elections. They are Christie LOUELLA McNeill and Danny LANKY Kollaja! Way to go!

Christie is the new South Central Regional Vice President. This region includes Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. Her role in this position is to promote COAI in the region, represent the region at the COAI board meetings, and to help individuals and alleys in the region. Christie lives in Houston and has clowned for about thirteen years. She has held various positions in Cheerful Clown Alley #166. In addition, she has served on the TCA board, most recently as our vice president prior to Ernie Priest. She has won numerous make-up and skit competition awards at both the state and national level.

Danny is assuming the position of the Director of Conventions. Danny lives in Corpus Christi and is president of The Clown Alley #23. He has served on the COAI board before in the capacity of South Central Regional Vice President and as Director of Regional and Alley Support. He chaired the 1987 COAI convention and has been active in TCA over the years, chairing the 1997 TCA convention. Danny is a specialist in stage, corporate and night club clowning.

Looks like we are well represented nationally! If you have any concerns about COAI, contact either one of them and they will be glad to hear your thoughts.

It rocks, it amazes, it teaches kids positive values--and it's packing them in.....

A Circus Like No Other

by Michael Ryan

There were moments during the Ayak Brothers' act when I could barely bring myself to look. Swinging back and forth on a trapeze, holding on to each other only with their feet, they would brush the 50 foot ceiling, then swing back at top speed to the other side of the tent. With no net and a hard floor five stories below, they brought me and other members of the audience to the edge of our seats. "Sure, it's very dangerous," Rodney van Reenen, one of the Ayak Brothers, told me. "You have to be very careful. But on the other hand, we really enjoy it."

The Ayak Brothers (ayak is a Turkish word meaning "feet-to-feet," which Rodney learned on a trip to Turkey) were schoolmates in a black township in South Africa. Rodney and his partner, Ivan Solomons, used their skills to flee apartheid. When a British circus came to town, they auditioned, and both men soon were touring Europe. But when I found them, they were in Atlanta, touring the U.S. with the UniverSoul Circus, a troupe like none that they--or anyone else--had ever seen before.

"We were looking for something family-oriented," said Cedric walker, who founded UniverSoul with Cal Dupree in 1993. Dupree and Walker had been producing plays about issues affecting the African-American community. "We did plays about mothers on crack and teenagers in the street culture," said Walker. "We noticed kids were leaving their families [when the plays ended] at 11 o'clock at night. We saw a real void in daytime entertainment suited for families."

Dupree and Walker brainstormed for months. Then one day Dupree said: "Hey, man, let's do a circus!" Walker was immediately interested. Determined to create a circus featuring people of color, they did research in libraries and interviewed circus pros. "The circus just wasn't relevant to people in the inner city," Walker explained. "We set out to

create an art form and a cultural expression that can be appreciated by all audiences."

"We visited all the different circuses to get a feel for them," said Dupree. "At first, we saw no people of color at most of the circuses. But when we expanded our search, we were amazed by how many there were."

Walker and Dupree realized they needed consistent excellence to bring in audiences. So, with the help of an agent and word-of-mouth, they started searching the world for top circus artists. "We needed acts that would bring out the oohs and the aahs," said Dupree.

Early on, UniverSoul signed Pa-Mela Hernandez, a renowned aerialist who recently had left the Ringling Brothers circus. "UniverSoul was coming from the spirit and the soul," she said.

The Ayak Brothers, recruited by an agent in France, were among the first foreign acts. In France they also found Monique Angeon, who had trained her lions to jump through fiery hoops, do acrobatics and salute. From Colombia, they recruited The Willy Family, a high-wire act of six men who ride bikes 40 feet in the air.

For Angeon, working with fellow artists of color is like a dream come true. "In Europe, typically, there are few black people in circuses," she said. "Here I love the ambiance." Margo Lewis, who turns elephants into graceful dancers, agreed: "This is all my people. It's a really good feeling."

With just one ring and 2100 seats, UniverSoul is far more intimate than the three-ring circuses that play huge arenas. "Here I can see the audience, I can touch them," said Lea Abiera, a clown.

When I visited the UniverSoul Circus in Atlanta, one of the 16 cities it will visit in a 10 month U.S. tour this year, the audience was diverse. (For a schedule, call 1-800-316-7439). Although most of the ticket-holders were African-American, there were significant numbers of white, Latino, and Asian patrons.

Zander "Zeke" Charles, the ringmaster's soulful sidekick, warmed up the audience by dancing and shaking hands. Then hip-hop music heralded the arrival of the ringmaster, a role Cal Dupree reserved for himself. The recorded music, which included gospel and soul, kept up its driving beat throughout the show, which lasted about two hours. The

tent almost rocked from he swaying, dancing, and clapping of the audience. At the UniverSoul Circus, *everybody* gets down. "Being part of this is what grabs them," Dupree said.

There is probably no other ringmaster in America who exhorts children to love their families, to study and to pray. "Once we have the kids captivated, we can bring spiritual and positive values into play," Dupree noted.

UniverSoul has four major corporate sponsors, and its owners are looking for even more acts. "Our future is to become one of the greatest circuses in the world," Dupree said.

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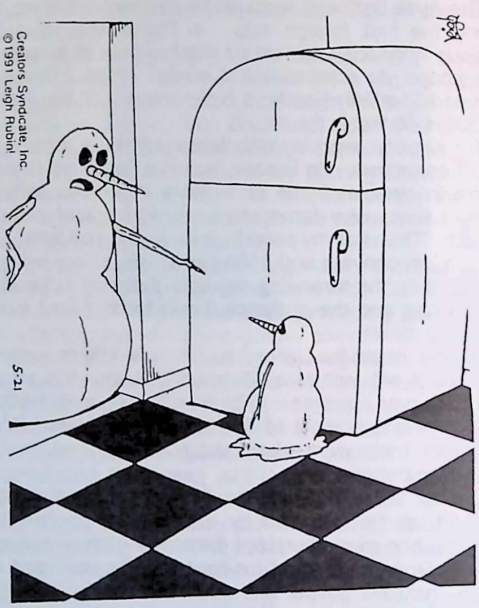


"Frosty! How many times have I told you never to play outside the refrigerator?"

Vounteering

The holiday season is typically one of giving and that of course, includes giving of our time. Volunteering is something that many of us as clowns do regularly throughout the year. The following is an excerpt from a publication, non-clown related:

"We all struggle to balance the demands of our careers, the needs of our families, and the endless string of tedious little chores that keep life going. Like Sisyphus forever rolling the boulder up the mountain, we have clothes to wash, lawns to mow, groceries to buy, and meals to prepare. We sometimes fear that one additional commitment might just bring the whole melange crashing down.

Nonetheless, there are many compelling reasons to make volunteering part of our lives—not the least of which is the sense of personal fulfillment we gain by giving of our time, and ourselves. There is a deep satisfaction in connecting with others in a meaningful way, while contributing to something bigger than we are. We are granted a rare opportunity to expend energy in a direct expression of our personal values." (*Karen Jacobs)*

The following two stories were sent to me via e-mail and represent, I think, the spirit of volunteerism and what we can contribute in doing so. (Be sure to have your tissues ready—these are tear producing!). I received the first one from several of you—Mike Stephens and Ernie Priest.

WORTH THE RISK

A number of years ago (1983-1987), I had the opportunity to play the character of Ronald McDonald for the McDonald's Corporation. My marketplace covered most of Arizona and a portion of Southern California. One of our standard events was "Ronald Day." One day each month, we visited as many of the community hospitals as possible, bringing a little happiness into a place where no one ever looks forward to going.

I was very proud to be able to make a difference for children and adults who were experiencing some "down time." The warmth and gratification I would receive stayed with me for weeks. I loved the project, McDonald's loved the project, the kids and adults loved it and so did the nursing and hospital staffs.

There were two restrictions placed on me during a visit. First, I could not go anywhere in the hospital without McDonald's personnel (my handlers) as well as hospital personnel. That way, if I were to walk into a room and frighten a child, there was someone there to address the issue immediately. And second, I could not physically touch anyone within the hospital. They did not want me transferring germs from one patient to another. I understood why they had this "don't touch" rule, but I didn't like it. I believe that touching is the most honest form of communication we will ever know. Printed and spoken word can lie; it is impossible to lie with a warm hug. Breaking either of these rules, I was told, meant I could lose my job.

Toward the end of my fourth year of "Ronald Days," as I was heading down a hallway after a long day in grease paint and on my way home, I heard a little voice. "Ronald, Ronald." I stopped. The soft little voice was coming through a half-opened door. I pushed the door open and saw a young boy, about five years old, lying in his dad's arms, hooked up to more medical equipment than I had ever seen. Mom was on the other side, along with Grandma, Grandpa and a nurse tending to the equipment. I knew by the feeling in the room that the situation was grave. I asked the little boy his name---he told me it was Billy--- and I did a few simple magic tricks for him. As I stepped back to say good-bye, I asked Billy if there was anything else I could do for him. "Ronald, would you hold me?"

Such a simple request. But what ran through my mind was that if I touched him, I could lose my job. So I told Billy I could not do that right now, but I suggested that he and I color a picture. Upon completing a wonderful piece of art that we were both very proud of, Billy again asked me to hold him. By this time my heart was screaming "yes!" But my mind was screaming louder. "No! You are going to lose your job!" This second time that Billy asked me, I had to ponder why I could not grant the simple request of a little boy who probably

would not be going home. I asked myself why was I being logically and emotionally torn apart by I had never seen before and probably would never see again.

"Hold me." It was such a simple request, and yet ... I searched for any reasonable response that would allow me to leave. I could not come up with a single one. It took me a moment to realize that in this situation, losing my job may not be the disaster I feared. Was losing my job the worst thing in the world? Did I have enough self-belief that if I did lose my job, I would be able to pick up and start again? The answer was a loud, bold affirming "Yes!" I could pick up and start again. So what was the risk? Just that if I lost my job, it probably would not be long before I would lose first my car, then my home...and to be honest with you, I really liked those things. But I realized that at the end of my life, the car would have no value and neither would the house. The only things that had steadfast value were experiences. Once I reminded myself that the real reason I was there was to bring a little happiness to an unhappy environment, I realized that I really faced no risk at all.

I sent Mom, Dad, Grandma and Grandpa out of the room, and my two McDonald's escorts out to the van. The nurse tending the medical equipment stayed, but Billy asked her to stand and face the corner. Then I picked up this little wonder of a human being. He was so frail and so scared. We laughed and cried for 45 minutes, and talked about the things that worried him. Billy was afraid that his little brother might get lost coming home from kindergarten next year, without Billy to show him the way. He worried that his dog wouldn't get another bone because Billy had hidden the bones in the house before going back to the hospital, and now he couldn't remember where he put them. These are problems to a little boy who knows he is not going home.

On my way out of the room, with tear streaked makeup running down my neck, I gave Mom and Dad my real name and phone number (another automatic dismissal for Ronald McDonald, but I figured that I was gone and had nothing to lose), and said if there was anything the McDonald's Corporation or I could do, to give me a call and consider it done. Less than 48 hours later, I received a phone call from Billy's mom. She informed me that Billyhad passed away. She and her husband simply wanted to thank me for making

a difference in their little boy's life. Billy's mom told me that shortly after I left the room, Billy looked at her and said, "Momma, I don't care anymore if I see Santa this year because I was held by Ronald McDonald." Sometimes we must do what is right for the moment, regardless of the perceived risk. Only experiences have value, and the one biggest reason people limit their experiences is because of the risk involved.

For the record, McDonald's did find out about Billy and me, but given the circumstances, permitted me to retain my job. I continued as Ronald for another year before leaving the corporation to share the story of Billy and how important it is to take risks. (by Jeff McMullen)

This next one was sent by Margaret Clauder and shows the impact that even ONE of us can have when we set our minds and energy to something.

RUN, PATTI, RUN

At a young and tender age, Patti Wilson was told by her doctor that she was an epileptic. Her father, Jim Wilson, is a morning jogger. One day she smiled through her teenage braces and said, "Daddy what I'd really love to do is run with you every day, but I'm afraid I'll have a seizure."

Her father told her, "If you do, I know how to handle it so Let's start running!"

That's just what they did every day. It was a wonderful experience for them to share and there were no seizures at all while she was running. After a few weeks, she told her father, "Daddy, what I'd really love to do is break the world's long- distance running record for women."

Her father checked the Guiness Book of World Records and found that the farthest any woman had run was 80 miles. As a freshman in high school, Patti announced, "I'm going to run from Orange County up to San Francisco." (A distance of 400 miles.) As a sophomore, she went on, "I'm going to run to Portland, Oregon." (Over 1,500 miles.) "As a junior I'll run to St. Louis." (About 2,000 miles.) "As a senior I'll run to the White House." (More than 3,000 miles away.)

In view of her handicap, Patti was as ambitious as she was enthusiastic, but she said she looked at the handicap of

being an epileptic as simply "an inconvenience." She focused not on what she had lost, but on what she had left.

That year she completed her run to San Francisco wearing a T-shirt that read, "I love Epileptics." Her dad ran every mile at her side, and her mom, a nurse, followed in a motor home behind them in case anything went wrong.

In her sophomore year Patti's classmates got behind her. They built a giant poster that read, "Run, Patti, Run!" (This has since become her motto and the title of a book she has written.) On her second marathon, en route to Portland, she fractured a bone in her foot. A doctor told her she had to stop her run. He said, "I've got to put a cast on your ankle so that you don't sustain permanent damage."

"Doc, you don't understand," she said. "This isn't just a whim of mine, it's a magnificent obsession! I'm not just doing it for me, I'm doing it to break the chains on the brains that limit so many others. Isn't there a way I can keep running?" He gave her one option. He could wrap it in adhesive instead of putting it in a cast. He warned her that it would be incredibly painful, and told her, "It will blister." She told the doctor to wrap it up.

She finished the run to Portland, completing her last mile with the governor of Oregon. You may have seen the headlines: "Super Runner, Patti Wilson Ends Marathon For Epilepsy On Her 17th Birthday."

After four months of almost continuous running from West Coast to the East Coast, Patti arrived in Washington and shook the hand of the President of the United States. She told him, "I wanted people to know that epileptics are normal human beings with normal lives."

I told this story at one of my seminars not long ago, and afterward a big teary-eyed man came up to me, stuck out his big meaty hand and said, "Mark, my name is Jim Wilson. You were talking about my daughter, Patti." Because of her noble efforts, he told me enough money had been raised to open up 19 multi- million-dollar epileptic centers around the country.

If Patti Wilson can do so much with so little, what can you do to outperform yourself in a state of total wellness?

By Mark V. Hansen from Chicken Soup for the Soul
Copyright 1993 by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen

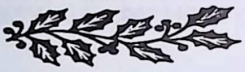
SPEAK OUT!

Do you have an opinion or thought you'd like to voice or share with the membership? This column will be available for just that.

I have read several letters to the Joey Journal about changing the dates of our convention. I agree whole heartedly with this idea. October is one of the busiest months in clowning and as of today I have booked $450.00 worth of business for the weekend of the convention. My dilemma is, do I give those jobs away and go to convention or do I do the jobs myself and miss convention, a really big decision for me as I am Single and Self-employed.
At the many conventions I have attended, I have done workshops and had dealers' tables, this give me the revenue I would otherwise miss. I feel August is a good month for the convention because is so hot for parties as we can attest to this year, also the children are out of school, we could get lots more juniors joining T.C.A. I am sure Mother's take their children out of school for the convention. (Not a good idea). If we started August 2000 we would not miss a convention, if we started January we would miss a year as it will be too soon after October 1999 convention.

Thank you for letting me voice my opinion and if I don't see you this year I will definitely see you next year at Mesquite as our Alley Tejas is hosting the convention and I do have a workshop and dealers table. I do miss the conventions as I have always taken a great part in them. Please consider this request.

Love in Clowning.
Grenda "Poppins" Walton
T.C.A. Member 245.



Area Reports

Area reports are written and submitted by the Regional/Area Directors, who gather news, information, activities, accomplishments, etc., of the TCA alleys in their region to share with the rest of the TCA membership.

Panhandle Area Report
by Doyle ARDEE Simpson

The joeys of Classic Clowns and Cotton Country Clowns appreciate the work of the members of the Clown Arounds in hosting the TCA Convention, a job well done.

Classic Clowns have been busy at several fall festivals including the festival in Canyon, TX. Two members attended and competed in various events at the TCA Convention.

Cotton Country Clowns celebrated National Clown Week in Lubbock, during National Night Out August 4, 1998. The Clapp Park Neighborhood Association sponsored the event. It was estimated that over 300 people were in attendance. Six adult clowns and two jr. joeys kept busy making balloon sculptures, doing face painting and meeting & greeting. The mayor of Lubbock, Windy Sitton, made a brief stop and read a proclamation, proclaiming National Clown Week as Aug. 1-7, 1998 in Lubbock, TX. Prior to the reading of the proclamation she received a red nose, which was placed on her nose during the reading of the proclamation. Alley members have been busy at birthday parties, fall festivals, schools, and gospel events. Eight members attended the TCA convention.
Again, thanks to the Clown Arounds for a great convention.

N. Central Area Report
by Andy SMILEY Anderson

I would like to take this time to tell the Wichita Falls Clown Arounds what a great time we had at this year's TCA Convention. Thanks for all the hard work that your group put into the convention. The ones of you that missed this year's convention missed a wonderful time. From the looks of the Clown Arounds newsletter, they are not going to slow down now. November and December are going to be busy times also.

Happy Tymes and Cowtown Clowns were well represented at convention. I won't try to mention each one because I'll forget someone and I would not want to do that. Both Happy Tymes and Cowtown are going to be busy with events in November and December. Until next time, bump a nose and keep clowning.

N. East Area Report
by Susan DUBBLE BUBBLE Borg

News from the Sidesplitters.....

We have applied for a charter to be an official TCA alley!! Hip Hip Hooray!!! We will be holding elections in December (right before the Christmas party) and we will accept nominations in November for 1999 officers. We did our first real alley "gig" at the library and have other projects in the works. Primarily, we are meeting, learning new stuff, and learning more about each other. A good time was had by all of us lucky enough to attend the convention and we came home with several awards in make-up/character competition, balloons, and in group skits.

News from Tejas Klown Club.....

On 8-29-98, six of our members taught face painting and balloons to the members of the Lion's Club Shadow Children.

On Labor Day, we had a large group –9 clowns plus family and friends—show up to help with the Garland Parade. The Caring Clown workshop ----what an evening. Thirty folks were in attendance—we covered the basics of clown types and some history, plus good info and ideas regarding make-up and costuming, slight of hand tricks, balloon sculpting and more! Convention committees are already working on the line up of instructors and vendors for the 1999 event of the year! More to follow later.

News from the Circle of Clowns of Plano.....
We had a clown seminar in September. We had about 20 in attendance and covered magic, ballooning, make-up demos, birthday party stuff, and more. We had our booth at the Plano Balloon Fest—and boy was it hot, but we managed to make lots of kids happy. We were hot and exhausted by the end of the second day. TCA convention came and three members managed to attend. We learned a lot, bought a lot, renewed a lot of friendships, and met a lot of new friends. (the lots were brought to you from Lotta Buttons!)

News from Mid-Cities Alley #85.....
We had a group picture made at our Sept. meeting—WOW—38 clowns made it from their regular daily grind to be in make-up. It turned out terrific!!!!! We greeted five families in Sept. and 13 in October for the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Nominations for 1999 officers will be held in Nov. and elections will take place in December. We have many events coming up in Dec.---the time of year for extra joy!!!

To all clowns in the DFW area: We are invited to come and share the day and fun. There is a special event on December 12th at Texas Lil's in Justin, Texas, from noon to four. About 1000 kids will be on hand to receive gifts and a fun day at a Dude Ranch through the Children 2000 Foundation and Texas Lil's. For more info and directions,

please call 1-800-545-8455 and ask for Jennifer Vilagran or call me, Dubble Bubble for more info.

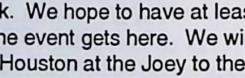
West Area Report
by Carmalee JITTERBUG Boyd

OOPs Alley clowns of the Permian Basin had a grand time at the groovy and great TCA convention in Wichita Falls last month. We had a grand total of nine members attending the conference with Big Spring, Midland and Odessa taking home trophies ranging from paradeability to balloon sculpture to costume and makeup. Great job done by a great bunch of clowns.

OOPs Alley is presently in the process of electing a new slate of officers for the coming year in addition to staying quite busy with the Halloween season. GREENIE and her group of young teen clowns entertained at the First Baptist Church of Midland Halloween and KLYNKY entertained at the First Baptist Church of Odessa. JITTERBUG and Magic by Harlan (Rhoades) worked the Fall Fest Halloween Festival at Fannin Elementary school in Midland, rain and all.

November 14th is the date of the food drive sponsored by Albertson Food Stores of Midland and Odessa and OOPs Alley clowns will be working at both cities ' stores with walk arounds to encourage donations of canned food and entertain the folks attending the event. We hope this will be a huge success as this is getting to be the time of the year when food supplies in the good bands are at a minimum and food is desperately needed for the holidays. Wish us well.

AT this time we have four registered for the Balloon Jam by T. Meyers of Austin scheduled in February. They are Carmalee Boyd and grandson, Jason, Steve Hooper and daughter, Brook. We hope to have at least a couple of others before the event gets here. We will also be represented in Houston at the Joey to the World rally in January. Bump a nose.....



Central Area Report
by Louis PAPA LOUIE Gonzales

At the TCA convention this year, there where only 4 clowns from alley #19 who attended. Maybe we can do better next year! Congratulations Kim TUTTI FRUTTI Oxford! She was honored with the TCA Ambassador of Clowning Award for 1998 and also won 3rd place in single paradeability. Also, Aurora BOBOP Krause won 1st. place in single skit and scored the highest category in Auguste Make-up Divison!

Alley #19 is holding officer elections in December and working on guest speakers for the months of January and March.

No reports received from any clowns in other parts of the Central area.

Place call, write or E-mail me so I can report something in YOUR Joey Journal!

S. East Area Report
by June CRICKET Hinkle

If you missed attending the 1998 TCA convention in Wichita Falls you missed one of the best ever. I was elected your S. East area director and look forward to working with all of my fellow clowns in this area. Let me know of any news that you would like to share in this area report.

SPACE CITY ALLEY news:
Who was the resplendently beautiful "lady" donning the blue wig doing a skit with DAISY at the convention in Wichita Falls? Could that have been MR B.? (YOU GO, GIRL!) Kay TOODLES Reed also attended, competed and won MEDALS. The election for new members for 1999 was held in October and Kay TOODLES Reed - President, Kenny BOBO Price - Vice President, Betty KAY KAY Price -

Secretary, Jan MELODY Harmon - Treasurer, Peggy YOYO Leslie - Gig Coordinator, Judy PENS Rogers - Member-at-large. Many thanks to Ralph Dewey for stepping in for Brenda Marshall at the October meeting. Brenda had car trouble in route and had to return home. The alley is already making plans for Clown Camp on the Road February 19, 20 and 21, 1999 at the Hilton on NASA Road One. Look for more information in next issue.

COASTAL CONFETTI CLOWNS news:
This alley has been very busy. Some of their gigs have been a church bazaar, a revival and even a family reunion, three other non-profit gigs and have three church gigs and one nursing home gig for the month of October. They are considering a membership drive for January. We wish them success.

MONTGOMERY CLOWNS news:
Several of the members attended the convention. The alley is making final preparations for the Tomball Parade in November. Their election for the 1999 officers will be held at their November meeting.

CHEERFUL CLOWN ALLEY news:
Cheerful had 45 members at the convention. Many clowns participated in competition. Some of us even won! (Look for more on winners elsewhere in the Journal.)
The hippie theme party was wonderful. If our mothers could have seen how some of us dressed for the occasion -- well I don' t want to think about it!
Our clowns really came out for the "Wings Over Houston" special air show and "Make a Wish" in October. We got rained on several times but we had a great time.
Our annual picnic will be November 7th. Once again, Jack HEY CLOWN Blasingame has offered the use of "Buy-Owe" Villa on Chocolate Bayou. Thanks, HEY CLOWN!
Election will be held at the November meeting for the 1999 officers. Our Holiday/Awards Banquet is December 4th.

Come and enjoy a traditional holiday dinner, entertainment, awards and door prizes.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

South Area Report
by Joe JO-EEE Turman

No report received.

Editor's note: Hey all you clowns in the South area!!! What's happening?!!! Haven't heard from you in a while and to my knowledge, none of you were at TCA (?)—let us hear from you! At least a peep so we know you are still there!

TEXAS CLOWN ASSOCIATION, INC
TREASURER'S REPORT
7/1/98 to 9/30/98

INCOME:	
Annual Dues:	2135.00
JJ Ads	130.00
Interest earned from CD Maturity	1969.36
Total Income	$4234.36

EXPENSES:	
Bad Checks	30.00
Bank Charges	5.00
Board Member Expense	500.00
Editor Expense	300.00
Mailing	337.86
Printing & Copying	1157.53
Miscellaneous	80.65
Supplies	17.12
Total Expenses	$2428.16

Previous Balance:	$5485.80
Income	4234.36
Expense	(2428.16)
Current Balance:	$7292.00

CD Balance: $10000.00

CD Matured on 9/9/98. Interested rolled into checking acct. Renewed CD for 1 year.

TEXAS CLOWN ASSOCIATION, INC
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 25, 1998

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Texas Clown Association, Inc (TCA) was held Saturday, April 25, 1998 and was called to order at 10:30 a.m. in San Antonio, TX.

Board members present were: Mary Ann Beck, Ernest Priest, Sharon Dueitt, Chandra Luce, Linda Green, Kathie Jamison, Doris Fletcher, and Kim Oxford. Received proxies from Pam Cox, Susan Borg, Carmalee Boyd, Marie Jones and Joe Turman. President Mary Ann Beck announced a quorum.

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed by Board members and corrections made. President Beck asked for a motion to accep the minutes as corrected. On a motion made by Ernest Priest, seconded by Linda Green and carried unanimously, the Board accepted the minutes as corrected.

Treasurer Chandra Luce presented the quarterly financial report. On a motion made by Ernest Priest, seconded by Doris Fletcher and carried unanimously, the Board accepted the Treasurer's report for audit. The CD rollover and the amount to rollover were tabled till the July meeting.

A suggestion was made for TCA to look into a PO BOX mail service that would forward the mail upon request. People who travel a lot use such a service and find it efficient. This would allow TCA to have one permanent address for everything. Linda Green volunteered to look into the cost.

Kathie Jamison gave a report on the upcoming convention. A tentative schedule was presented. The skit competition will be held at the Backdoor Theater. The projected budget looks in order. Everything is on schedule and looks good.

A discussion was held regarding the changes in makeup competition. Plans are to have the competition rules and notices all setup by the July Board meeting.

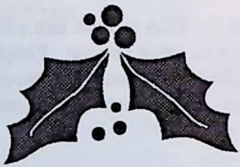
A discussion was held concerning a convention package to be sent to the alleys for submitting bids to host a TCA convention. This would allow the alleys to know what is required and it might encourage alleys to think about hosting a convention.

The next board meeting will be Saturday, July 18, 1998 at 1:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on a motion made by Ernest Priest, seconded by Linda Green and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Dueitt, Secretary
Texas Clown Association



JOEL'S MAGIC AND CLOWN SUPPLIES

6003 DUXBURY
HOUSTON, TX 77035
(713)723-2255
email: straws@swbell.net

ITEM	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
APPEARING CANE	_____	30.00	____
BAFFLING BRIEFS	_____	15.00	____
BALL TO BUNNY	_____	8.50	____
BLANK COLORING BOOK	_____	6.00	____
BLOOMING BOUQUET	_____	30.00	____
BONGO HAT, CLOWN	_____	18.00	____
BREAKAWAY WAND	_____	7.50	____
BUBBLE SILK	_____	10.00	____
CARDTRICK, LOONYTUNES	_____	6.00	____
CHANGE BAG W/ZIPPER	_____	38.00	____
CHANGE BAG, MINI	_____	24.00	____
CHINESE STICKS	_____	7.00	____
COLOR CHANGE SHOELACES	_____	10.00	____
DOVE PAN	_____	48.00	____
FOAM WORD, FUN	_____	6.00	____
FOAM WORD, MORE	_____	6.00	____
FOAM WORD, TIME	_____	6.00	____
FOAM WORD, NOTHING	_____	6.00	____
FOAM WORD, SOMETHING	_____	6.00	____
GROWING BALL OUTDONE	_____	9.00	____
HAT TEARS, CHRISTMAS	_____	10.50	____
HAT TEARS, CLOWN	_____	10.00	____
ITTY BITTY CYLINDER	_____	30.00	____
JUGGLING SCARVES	_____	9.00	____
MAGIC COLORING BOOK	_____	8.00	____
MENTAL FLOSS	_____	5.00	____
MIRACLE BUBBLES	_____	12.50	____
NEEDLE THRU BALLOON	_____	10.00	____
OODLES OF BUBBLES	_____	12.00	____
(blows hundreds of little bubbles with one blow, sold out at convention)			
OODLES OF BUBBLES, REFILL	_____	6.00	____
SILKS, 9"	_____	2.50	____
STICKERS, I HUGD A CLWN (1000/ROLL)	_____	20.00	____
THUMBTIP BLENDO	_____	7.00	____
THUMBTIP, LADIES	_____	2.50	____
THUMBTIP, MENS	_____	3.00	____
"TIDE" IN THE MIDDLE	_____	4.00	____
VANISHING CRAYONS	_____	9.00	____
VIDEO, SELF WORKING MAGIC	_____	20.00	____

SUB-TOTAL _____

Plus 4.00 shipping _____

TOTAL _____

minimum order $10.00 plus shipping

please allow 2-3 weeks for shipping

remember 'STRAWS' is available for workshops and lectures

Hey All You Joeys!

TCA has a new address:

Texas Clown Association, Inc.
4902 Colleyville Blvd.
Suite 108-313
Colleyville, Texas 76034-3989