Modern-day jesters

Will Bosley, 19, left, a sophomore from Harrisburg, Pa, majoring in theater and Matt Carleton, 20, a sophomore from Delaware majoring in mechanical engineering, take time Thursday to practice juggling on the Oval. Both are members of the OSU Juggling Club.
Arthur Bohrem found an unusual way to keep his juggling skills sharp yesterday. The Ohio State University junior from Clayton, Ohio, juggled knives on The Oval at OSU. Bohrem helped found the "Juggling Nuts of OSU" club last year. It now has 25 members.
‘Juggling Nuts’ preserve ancient art form

By Scott Kendrick
Lantern arts writer

They may not be the strongest or most athletic guys on campus, and there aren’t any groupies knocking down their doors, but they are in fact athletes, experts at one of the hardest sports to master, the art of juggling.

They are the Juggling Nuts of OSU, a sports group born about a year ago.

“It’s an organization dedicated to the preservation of an ancient and honorable art,” member Andy Weibel, a junior from Claremont, Calif., said.

To avoid adverse weather conditions, Matt Carleton, a junior from Delaware who is vice-president and a founder of the group and others who had been meeting on the Oval to juggle decided to start the club. In the fall of 1990 they became an official sports club and moved into the more favorable juggling climate inside Larkins Hall, Carleton said.

“It’s impossible to juggle outside in the winter, and there are no problems with wind inside,” Carleton said.

Some of the founding members were in a similar group at Delaware Hayes High School, Noah Cowan, a sophomore from Delaware who is president of the group, said.

The club meets every Wednesday to share tricks and work on routines, which include juggling rings, clubs, balls, knives and flaming torches, Cowan said. In one routine, two jugglers toss six machetes over someone escaping from a straitjacket, he said.

“It gives me a chance to work with other people. I’ve learned a lot because we’ve got some people in here who are really good,” Arthur Bohren, a junior from Clayton, said.

“I get to practice with people at my own level of expertise.”

Bohren said his association with the club landed him his first juggling job, performing at the OSU Renaissance Festival last year.

Brad Huelman, a freshman from Cincinnati, said he joined the group because he enjoyed the idea of performing team routines.

“This is the first time I’ve ever juggled with a group,” Huelman said. “I’d never known anybody that juggled back in high school.”

The Juggling Nuts have a roster of 15 members who perform at varying levels, ranging from beginner to those who have almost 10 years of juggling experience.

Last year, the group performed in St. John Arena at halftime of two men’s basketball games, Cowan said.

They performed in the homecoming parade on Oct. 25, and they’d like to perform in a men’s basketball game this year, Cowan said.

Cowan said he wants the group to do more shows.

“Money isn’t the interest,” he said. “Getting a feel for the stage is, and besides, it’s a lot of fun.”

Cowan also wants more

Andy Weibel and Chris Smith, Juggling Nuts, perform in the Homecoming Parade.

experienced performers to visit this year to help the club. The Juggling Nuts are trying to become an affiliate member of the International Jugglers Association in order to get more contacts with better jugglers, Cowan said.

The club is always looking for new members, and there are no prerequisites for anybody who wants to join, Cowan said.

“We’re trying to get as many new members as possible, so that in a couple of years there will be some people to take over the leadership and responsibility,” Cowan said.