



Class Juggler

David Tabatsky of Canton demonstrated his considerable talents for Professor Francelia Butler's children's literature class Tuesday. During his per-

formance, entitled "Sex Roles and Circles," Tabatsky juggled bowling pins, balls, scarves and flaming sticks. (Chronicle photos by Harold Hanka)

Tabatsky juggles sex roles for children's literature class

By PATRICK THIBODEAU
Staff Writer

STORRS--About 250 University of Connecticut students watched the old mixed in with the new Tuesday.

They were watching, or more precisely participating in David Tabatsky's unique way of merging classical juggling forms with contemporary observations of sex roles and communications.

Tabatsky's brand of humor ranged from the unprintable to the perceptive, but it wasn't so much the humor alone that was imaginative, it was the way he combined it with other theatrical forms.

"If I lead an awful life, who cares?" Tabatsky asked. "But if I lead an upright life, so what?"

"When things in life are up in the air, will they fall down?"

"To demonstrate that very point," he said, "Here is an illustration of some dangerous and daring juggling."

Tabatsky dons an old-fashioned aviator hat and goggles and proceeds to juggle several colored scarfs as if to illustrate to the students while things may be up in the air from time to time, their perceived impact is often greater than their actual impact, something analogous to a feather falling on stone.

Tabatsky then moves onto examples of daring and dangerous juggling while standing on a board balanced on a barrel. He adds to the humorous tension by adding that the juggling will be performed "while simultaneously thinking very distracting thoughts."

Tabatsky worked to bring the audience into the performance, by surveying their priorities and relating them to acts of balancing.

"What are our nine priorities in life?"

he asked. The students, keeping with the mood, cited drugs, sex, rock 'n' roll and help as their first four, while Tabatsky attempted to "balance all these different priorities" by using nine different boxes, each representing a priority.

Following the performance, Tabatsky said he "tries to get across a sense of play" to the audience, while shaping a perspective of themes concerning corporate America, sexism and life in general.

"The trick is subliminal," he said.

His performance, entitled "Sex Roles and Circles," was part of professor Francelia Butler's children literature class.

Tabatsky, a Canton resident, performs at the Rocking Horse Cafe in Hartford on Saturdays and will be performing at The Old Place Theatre in Hartford.