

KINEMATICS

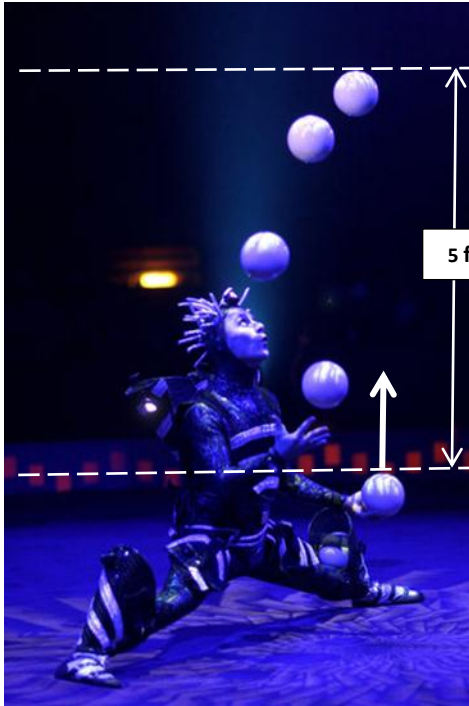
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By Laurel Graeber . Send Dr Cise an e-mail on how you used this application.

CIRCUS REVIEW

Rodent in a Roadster and Other Spectacles in a One-Ring Realm^{By}



The juggler Dmitry Chernov in "Dream Big."

QUESTIONS: (a) Find the initial velocity (in ft/s) at which this juggler tossed this ball up? Do in the English system. $g = 32 \text{ ft/s}^2$. (b) How much time did it take the ball to rise up the 5 ft and stop? (c) What was the average velocity of the ball as it rose the five feet to the top and stopped? (d) How much time did it take the ball to fall back down the 5 feet? (e) What was the final speed of the ball after falling 5 feet?

HINTS: Use some of the five kinematic equations for uniform linear acceleration.

ANSWERS: (a) 17.89 ft./s , (b) 0.56 s , (c) 8.95 ft/s
(d) 0.56 s , (e) -17.89 ft./s

This South American creature looks like a streamlined woodchuck. It can grow to more than four feet long and weigh over 100 pounds, making it the world's largest rodent. Bob, a member of that illustrious species, is now appearing in the Big Apple Circus, along with Percy, a [crested porcupine](#), the biggest rodent in Africa.

I thought that perhaps this one-ring circus, which has never had lions or tigers, was laying its own claim to exotic wildlife. Or maybe Bob and Percy relate to this year's theme, "Dream Big." If you can't offer big cats, why not go with really big rodents? Some of those dreams evoke outsize awe and suspense. The members of the Shandong Acrobatic Troupe may miss an occasional landing, but they achieve so much else — like jumping rope while in the form of a human pyramid — that it hardly matters. Yet "Dream Big" retains Big Apple's signature intimacy. Children grow wide-eyed as the beautiful Arabian horses in "Galloping Graces," an act led by the trainer Jenny Vidbel, lean over the ring's edge and breathe gently on their upturned faces. And some performers go into the crowd, like Barry Lubin, who, in his final season as [the clown Grandma](#), selects an adult for comic lessons in swigging and spewing water.

Young audience members get turns in the spotlight too, though it isn't hard to guess that one is a plant. I won't reveal her performance, except to say that it's extraordinary. She's 10 and tiny, but clearly she's been dreaming big.

The Big Apple Circus runs through Jan. 8 at Damrosch Park, 62nd Street between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues, Lincoln Center; (888) 541-3750, bigapplecircus.org.