

Boing! Reporter leaps at chance to take plunge

BY TODD NATENBERG
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Call it masochistic. Call it a death wish. Call it wanting to experience all life has to offer, even if it means taking it to the edge. But it's one of those things I've always wanted to do.

I've been jetskiing, white-water rafting and parasailing. They seemed like a thrill at the time, but after all was said and done, whoop-dee-doo.

But bungee jumping — I thought there was no way that could disappoint.

I was right. When I finally decided my time had come to test the strength of a large rubber band, I called my brother, Greg, to see if he wanted to join me in my test of fate. (Actually, I thought that if I were going to die, I wanted some family company.)

He wasn't sure about taking the plunge himself, but offered — at the least — to videotape the historic event. He even brought along his wife and my 2-year-old niece.

Since I would be coming from work, we decided to meet at the ap-

pointed place, Arlington International Racecourse, which earlier this summer was the site of the John Hersey High School carnival that highlighted this latest craze.

As I approached the jumping site, I kept thinking to myself what a wimp Greg was being. Rubber band, shmubber band. Hey, they work for stacks of paper. Why not the human body? No big deal.

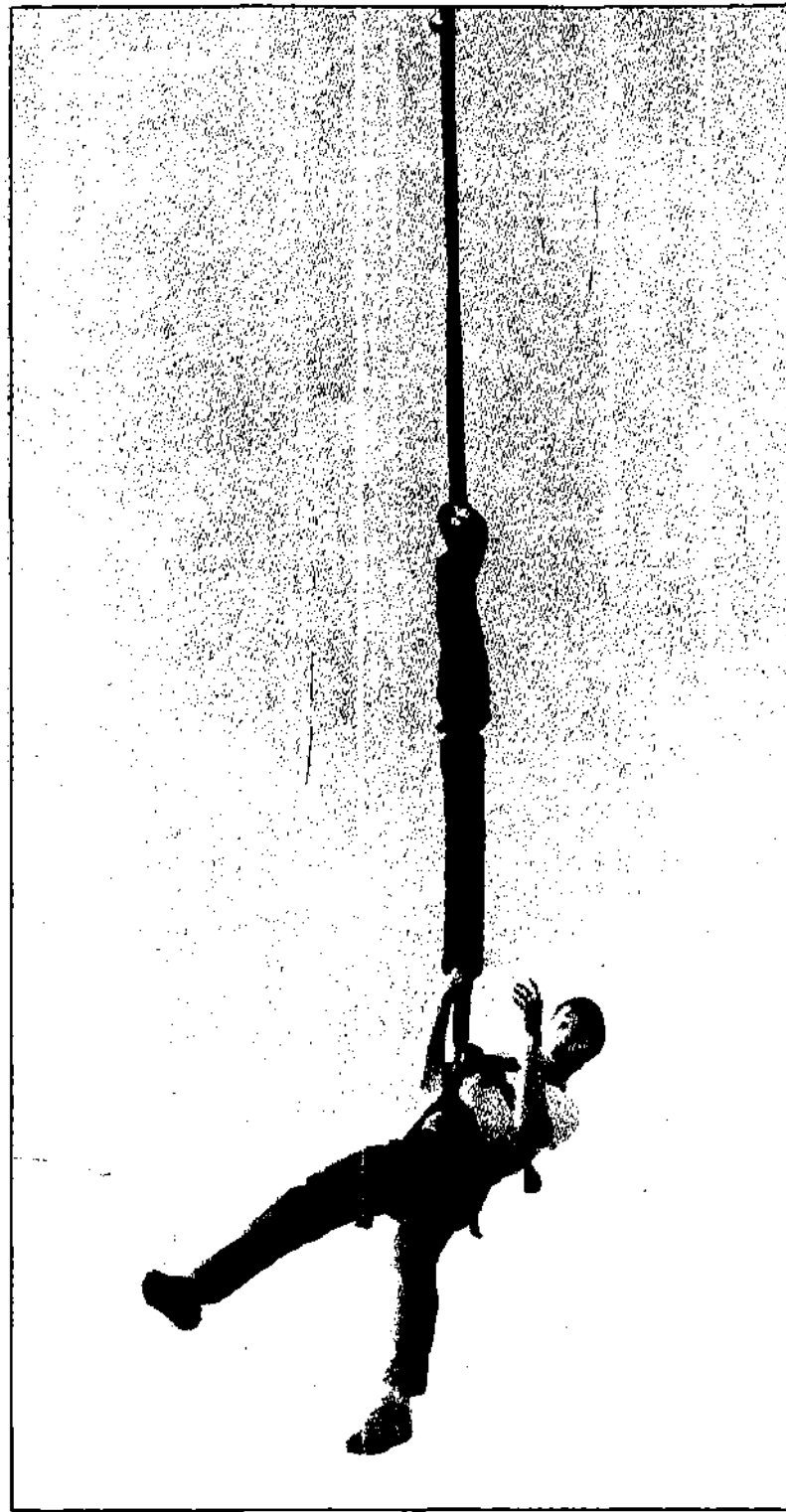
Then I looked up, and there it was: the crane. Gulp.

It was a combination Eiffel Tower, John Hancock Center, and Sears Tower all in one. And I was going to jump off it? It had to be 1,000 feet up. (Actually, it was only 200, but I had already begun my freakout period.)

It didn't look like what I had imagined. It was this long, long, metal pole sticking out in the air, with some basket hanging down from it, attached by some sort of wire.

It seemed like the kind of thing your high school teacher should be using to measure angles for a planet — kind of a gigantic compass or protractor.

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Reporter Todd Natenberg takes the plunge — and lives to tell about it.

Daily Herald Photo/Daniel White

Industry still debating bungee safety

BY STEVE WARMER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Don't misunderstand Ted Kaliski, a 78-year-old retired tool-and-die designer: He's no adrenalin junkie aching for a quick fix.

It's just that he's always regretted forgoing the chance years ago to sky dive, and he decided to try the next best way to free fall: bungee jumping.

"I'm not a daredevil — don't get

me wrong," Kaliski says.

So a few weeks ago, tethered to a bungee cord, he leapt off a platform suspended high in the sky from a crane in Bridgeview, only to be yanked back by the cord before splatting into the ground.

The Burbank resident says he wouldn't even mind repeating the feat.

Thousands of Americans have

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Art and music

Jugglers and puppets, singers and musicians it's all there for free at this weekend's Elgin Fine Arts Festival. The downtown Civic Center Plaza between the municipal building and Hemmens Auditorium will be alive with the sights and sounds of the arts.

Today from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday until 6 p.m., The American Association of University Women presents Art Showcase. This juried show and sale features a variety of media and artists from throughout the region. The entertainment tent today features medieval and Renaissance performances by the Burgundian Consort, ragtime favorites by the Chicago Saxophone Quartet and vocal selections by the Elgin Choral Union. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and Sunday.

Children's entertainment, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., includes Folksongs and Foolery, juggler Kevin Adair and arts and crafts classes. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. The city center is located between Routes 31 and 25, between Highland and North streets. Call 931-5900 for specific directions or 931-5613 for recorded festival information.

The real corn fest

The DeKalb Corn Fest is set for this weekend. Honest-to-goodness Illinois sweet corn and free entertainment highlight this annual shindig that celebrates the local harvest and the return to campus by students at Northern Illinois University.

Free activities today and Sunday include a carnival, fine art show, children's entertainment and continuous stage shows. Today's entertainers include Austin City Limits at noon, the Duke Quartet jazz at 2 p.m. and the Deadbeats, a Grateful Dead tribute, at 6 p.m. Sunday's entertainment includes John Kay and Steppenwolf at 2:30 p.m. and Koko Taylor blues at 4:30 p.m. Festival hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. today and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. Call (815) 756-6306.

Festival organizers originally set the event for Aug. 22-23 but changed the date after sending out promotional materials.

Critters great and small

Live hawks, owls, reptiles and mammals take center stage at Spring Brook Nature Center in Itasca Sunday. The annual open house features animal talks, crafts, animal games and more. All these family activities are free. Food and T-shirts will be available

See HAPPENINGS on Page 2

DON McCUE LINCOLN MERCURY

"When Average Isn't Good Enough"


'92 Mercury GRAND MARQUIS
33 Marquis to Choose From!



Was \$22,806
Don McCue Disc. \$3,191
Factory Rebate \$750
Lincoln Mercury Merkur Owner Loyalty Rebate \$1,000
Total \$17,744

- Drivers Air Bag
- Power Windows & Locks
- AM/FM Cassette
- 6 Way Power Drivers Seat
- Rear Window Defogger
- Illuminated Entry
- Luxury Light Group
- Tinted Glass
- Tilt Steering Column
- Digital Clock
- Child Proof Door Locks
- Radial Spoke Wheel Covers
- Air Conditioning
- Instrumental Wipers
- Front & Rear Foglights
- Much, Much More


'92 Mercury COUGAR
29 Cougars to Choose From!



Was \$18,802
Don McCue Disc. \$2,907
Factory Rebate \$1,500
Total \$14,395

- Air Conditioning
- AM/FM Cassette
- Instrumental Wipers
- Power Windows
- Tinted Glass
- Power Mirrors
- Tilt Steering Wheel
- Speed Control
- 8 Way Power Drivers Seat
- Dual Aluminum Wheels
- Power Lock Group
- Leather Wrapped Wheel
- Dual Window Outlets
- Rear Defogger
- Light Group
- Digital Clock
- Tilt Steering Wheel
- Speed Control
- Much, Much More


'92 Lincoln TOWN CAR EXECUTIVE SERIES
38 Town Cars to Choose From!



Was \$31,801
Don McCue Disc. \$5,906
Factory Rebate \$2,000
Total \$23,895

- Anti-Lock Brakes
- Dual Air Bags
- V8 Engine
- Automatic
- Tilt Steering Column
- Speed Control
- 8 Way Power Drivers Seat
- Auto Air Conditioning
- Instrumental Wipers
- AM/FM Stereo Cassette
- Premium Sound System
- Power Windows
- Speed Control
- Power Lock Group
- Power Windows & Locks
- Rear Defogger
- Much, Much More!


'92 Mercury CONTINENTAL
35 Continentals to Choose From!



Was \$34,883
Don McCue Disc. \$7,913
Factory Rebate \$2,000
Total \$24,970

- Anti-Lock Brakes
- Dual Air Bags
- Automatic
- AM/FM Cassette
- Tilt Steering Column
- Speed Control
- 8 Way Power Drivers Seat
- Auto Air Conditioning
- Power Windows & Locks
- Rear Defogger
- Keyless Barbed Entry
- Leather Window Sheeting
- Automatic Headlamp System
- Aluminum Spoke Wheels
- 8 Way Power Pass. Seat
- Dual Illuminated View Mirrors
- Power Door Locks
- Much, Much More!

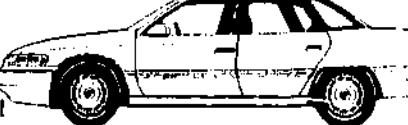
'92 Mercury TOPAZ
27 Topaz to Choose From!



Was \$12,295
Don McCue Disc. \$2,600
Factory Rebate \$500
1st. Time Buyer \$400
Total \$9,795

- Electronic Fuel Injection
- Interval Wipers
- AM/FM Cassette
- Digital Clock
- Dual Power Mirrors
- Tinted Glass
- Tachometer
- Air Conditioning
- Spoke Aluminum Wheels
- Rear Window Outlets
- Electric Door Release
- Electric Fuel Door Release
- Luggage Rack
- Light Group
- Front Center Armrest
- Much, Much More!

'92 Mercury SABLE GS 4-DOOR
45 Sables to Choose From!




Was \$18,927
Don McCue Disc. \$3,032
Factory Rebate \$1,500
1st. Time Buyer \$400
Total \$14,795

- Drivers Air Bag
- Automatic
- AM/FM Cassette
- Air Conditioning
- Interval Wipers
- Speed Control
- Tinted Glass
- Child Proof Door Locks
- Tilt Steering Column
- Power Mirrors
- 6 Way Power Driver Seat
- Power Windows & Locks
- Speed Control
- Cast Aluminum Wheels
- Rear Defogger
- Light Group
- Accent Paint Stripes
- Much, Much More!

USED CARS AT ST. CHARLES (ACROSS FROM PHOENIX RUN RESORT)
1000 S. NORTH AVENUE (RT. 64) ST. CHARLES (708) 584-6200

'92 Mercury Grand Marquis LS \$19,995	'88 Mercury Grand Marquis LS \$4,995	'88 Lincoln Town Car \$9,995	'87 Ford Escort LX 4-Door \$2,995	'91 Buick Regal 2-Dr. Custom \$10,995
'88 Pontiac Grand Prix LE 4-Door \$6,995	'86 Mercury Grand Marquis LS \$4,995	'82 Honda Prelude 2-Dr \$2,995	'89 Ford Conversion Van \$12,995	'89 Cadillac Sedan DeVille \$9,995
'90 Ford Crown Victoria LX \$11,995	'88 Buick Wildcat 4-Dr. \$3,995	'88 Dodge Omni 4-Door \$2,995	'89 Mercury Grand Marquis LS \$9,995	'90 Mercury Grand Marquis LS \$11,995
'91 Oldsmobile Silhouette \$16,995	'86 Pontiac Bonneville LE \$4,995	'91 Lincoln Continental \$18,995	'88 Chrysler 5th Ave. \$4,995	'91 Ford Tempo GL \$7,995

When "AVERAGE" isn't good enough



Mercury Lincoln

USED CARS AT BARRINGTON (ON ROUTE 14, 1 MILE WEST OF ROUTE 59)
660 W. Northwest Hwy. (Rt. 14) Barrington (708) 382-5600

'89 Honda Accord LX \$10,400	'88 Ford Fairlane \$5,300	'90 Honda Civic \$7,800	'86 Cadillac DeVille \$16,900	'90 Mercury Colony Park LS \$12,600
'91 Ford Explorer Sport \$14,900	'88 Mercury Topaz \$5,200	'88 Buick LeSabre T-Type \$7,400	'88 Lincoln Town Car Signature \$9,900	'89 Mercury Sable LE \$8,800
'90 Lincoln Continental Signature \$16,900	'89 Mercury Tracer \$4,500	'89 Mercury Cougar \$9,900	'86 Chevy Suburban \$4,900	'89 Pontiac Grand Prix \$8,600
'92 Mercury Grand Marquis \$16,900	'90 Ford Crown Victoria \$9,900	'88 Buick Century \$6,200	'89 Ford Probe \$5,800	'86 Cadillac Fleetwood \$6,400

*Barrington a 35 mo. closed-end lease, plus 1st. monthly payment, taxes and a refundable security deposit of A16375 B1450 C1453 D1300 E1300 F1175 and 11000 cash reduction due at lease inception. Mileage allowance 45,000 mi. 11¢ per mi. excess. Lessee responsible for maintenance & repairs. Purchase option as to A16375 B1450 C1453 D1300 E1300 F1175 and 11000. A applicable incentives applied. *Used car tax fee & \$40 doc. fee. All applicable incentives applied. **When approved by Ford Motor Credit. Conditions apply. See dealer for details.