

Evening News

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NEWS

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Can you help the circus?

WANTED: Forty cars, for the wrecking of.

All old bangers, jalopies, bad starters and clapped-out Cortinas gratefully received.

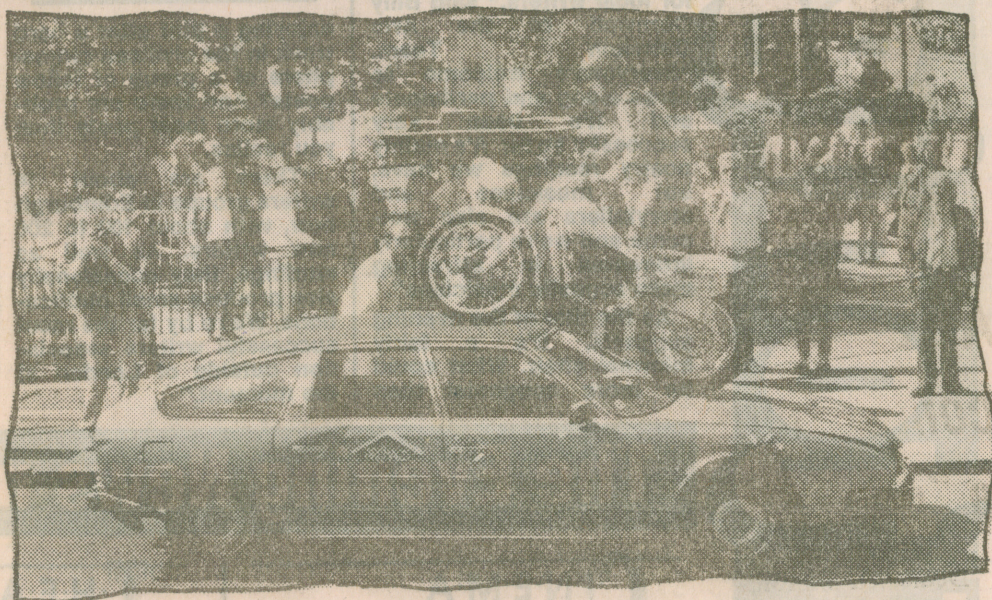
The appeal is going out to long-suffering Edinburgh motorists from a zany, Capital-bound French circus who smash up, set fire to and drop cars from great heights into the ring as part of their act.

Archaos were the popular success of last year's Fringe and have just been snapped up by Festival bosses for their return. They will perform as part of the main event in a giant tent on Leith Links.

Pierrot, the company's majordomo, reckons they will need 40 cars to see them through their three-week Edinburgh residence and some dates in Glasgow.

"We hope to be able to get the bulk of them from a local scrap-metal firm at a discount price," says publicist Mark Borkowski.

"But if any motorist has a car that has reached the end of the road we would be



A car stunt in the city centre last year was used to advertise the circus Archaos.

by AIDAN SMITH

delighted to take it off their hands.

"But we don't want any insurance jobs, so if you're already thinking of letting us spirit away your old motor so you might be able to wangle a new one, you had better dream up some other wheeze!"

Archaos had safety officials gasping last year when they declared their intention to juggle chainsaws. In the end, the stunt was toned down.

In the space of two weeks in Barcelona recently, five performers were injured. The casualty list reads: Female human torch (fourth-degree burns); escapologist (broken ankle);

trapeze girl (dislodged vertebrae); clown (broken collar bone); and another clown (injured back).

Mr Borkowski says this is "the norm" and assures Edinburgh audiences everything will be all right on the night, come August 11.

■ Firms or individuals wanting to donate cars should contact him on 071 323 1108.