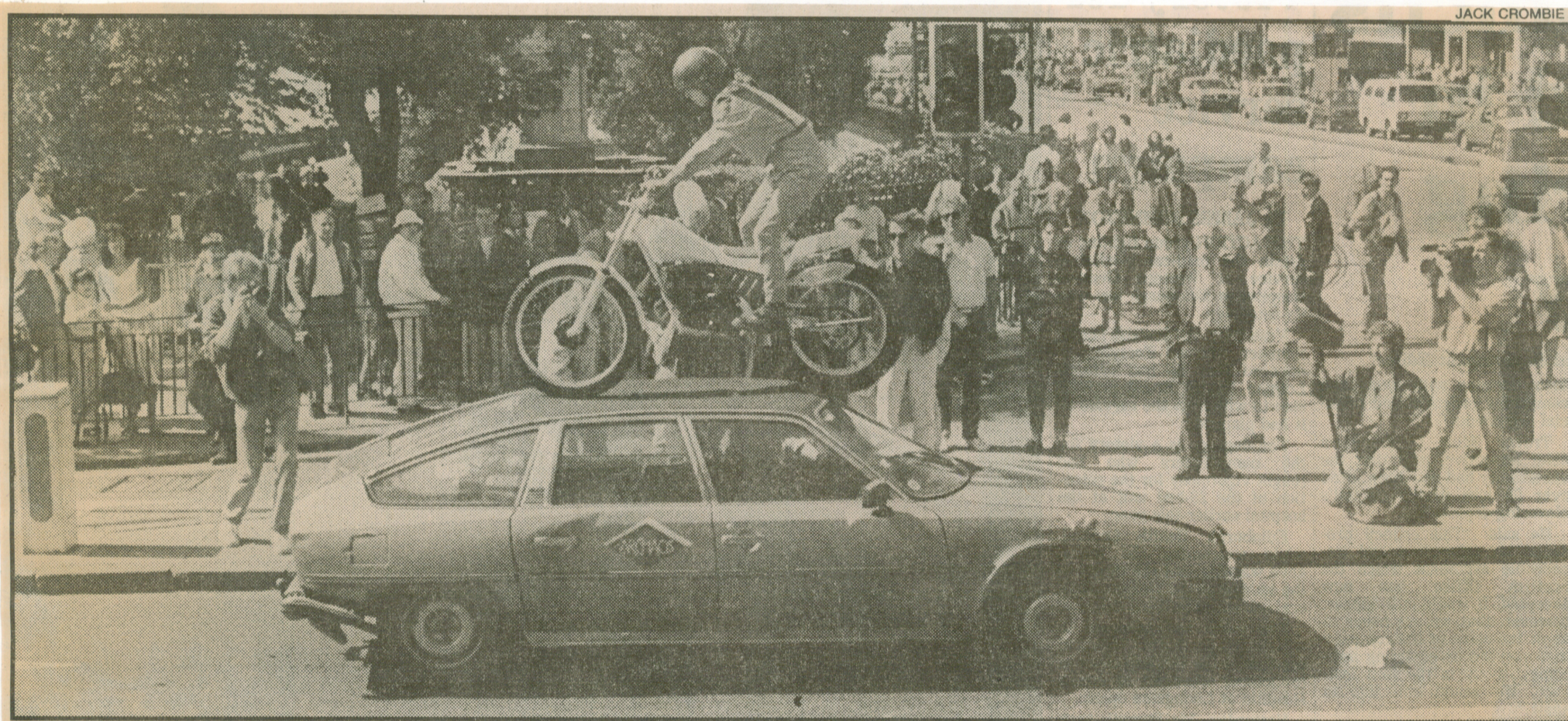


THE SCOTSMAN

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JACK CROMBIE

A CIRCUS which has rapidly established itself as a colourful and controversial part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe showed no signs of moderating its act when it hit the streets yesterday.

The French Alternative Circus, Archaos — which has a reputation for danger, featuring chainsaws and motorcycles — brought gasps of amazement from passers-by in Princes Street during a dare-devil publicity stunt.

A motorcyclist, Stephan Depont, drove his machine over the top of a car driven by the circus manager Pirrot Bidom at the foot of the Mound. The incident was over in seconds as Mr Depont quickly disappeared with his bike in a van.

Police said later they had heard about the stunt but were not taking any action.

The circus has raised the concern of the district council over the use of chainsaws in performances at Leith Links. It was in the news last week when one of its members, Sarah Sankey, 23, plunged 30 ft to the ground from a trapeze.