



Tiny top

There's nothing like a circus — especially a free one.

Bringing a fast-paced show full of magic, clowning, perfectly-timed humor and a menagerie of performing animals, the Royal Lichtenstein Quarter-Ring Circus delighted noon-time audience members in the EMU Ballroom Thursday.

This was the circus' seventh annual performance at the University — a performance that has become a "standing event," according to Shelly Ferguson of the Cultural Forum.

The show opened with clown magic and "mentalism" while troupe members Jim Jackson and Mitch Kincannon, and Director Nick Weber proceeded to entertain with an hour-long program of fire-eating, juggling and mini-plays.

Animal stunts, skits, juggling, escapes, monologues, fire-eating and an occasional aside to the growing crowd of University students characterized the event.

Weber introduced and then shamed one troupe member, Suzy, his wooly monkey from "the mislaiden jungles of Los Angeles." Suzy

exchanged peanuts with an audience member and was chastized by her owner for not shaving under her arms: "What would Anita Bryant say?"

Weber claims to be one of the few bearded fire-eaters in the country: "And if things don't go well, there will be fewer of us."

Later Jackson did an escape routine with chains, locks and a man-size mail bag. Weber compared the stunt with the human experience "getting into trouble" (being placed in chains and locks), and "getting out of trouble," escaping.

Weber organized the circus in 1971 in California. Kincannon joined the show two years ago and Jackson started last year. The circus plays mainly to colleges, and occasionally shopping centers around the country.

Photos by
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