

Circus emphasizes fun but not 'sexism'

When the Pickle Family Circus comes to town, it arrives without elephants, big tops or brass bands.

"We don't have little ladies prancing around in sexist costumes on tired animals," explains Sandy Counts, the tightrope walker for the circus.

Instead, when the circus visits the Community Center for the Performing Arts on Wednesday and Thursday, it will rely on a lot of "physical comedy" — set to the tunes of its six-piece jazz band — in its one-ring circus. The effect, says Count, is much like the European circuses that traveled around the continent at the turn of the century.

"People really feel like it's their circus," Counts says. "We interact with the audience. Everyone can see."

The circus is the brainchild of the San Francisco Mime Troup. The 20-member circus, which consists of jugglers, acrobats, clowns and a tightrope walker, emphasizes fun in its Northwest tours.

"We're not into danger," Counts says — the tightrope is only seven feet off the ground.

This is the third year for the circus's Eugene stop, but until it can find a community sponsor, the fate of future visits is uncertain.

The local sponsor for the past two years was the Eugene Parks and Recreation Department, but Counts says the department "doesn't have the wide range of community support we're looking for."

Although the circus usually performs outside during the daytime for audiences of 1,000 or more, Counts says the circus agreed to perform at the WOW Hall because the members liked the community involvement at the center and think Eugeneans will enjoy the circus.

"It's funny, because Eugene is the only place we haven't done real well at in the past. It seems like the type of place that would really enjoy the circus," says Counts.



Photo courtesy of Pickle Family Circus

Mr. Sniff (Geoff Hoyle) and Ms. Wombat (Andrea Snow) exchange furtive glances during a scene for the Pickle Family Circus. The circus will perform at the

WOW Hall Wednesday and Thursday at 7 and 9 p.m. Advance tickets cost \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children under 12 and senior citizens.

Advance tickets for the circus, which shows at 7 and 9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday in the WOW Hall, at the corner of West Eighth Avenue and Lincoln Street, are available at the EMU Main Desk. Prices are

\$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children under 12 and senior citizens. Tickets on the day of the show are available at the CCPA box office and cost 50 cents more. For more information call 687-2746.

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Burning complaints get action from air pollution authority

By PHIL LEMMAN
Of the Emerald

During the field burning season, people in Eugene often take for granted that some smoke will come down the valley and cloud visibility, making eyes water and throats scratchy.

But there is someone to complain to.

The Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority urges people with air quality complaints to notify its office. Marty Douglass, LRAPA public information representative, stresses that "complaints are followed up and not simply shuffled away into a file cabinet...It is extremely important that citizens realize their complaints do have an impact and are not simply discarded." Douglass adds that the agency makes every effort to personally follow up as many complaints as possible.

LRAPA investigates complaints about general air quality, industrial smoke, open burning, excessive auto and train emissions, road dust and odor.

It also takes field and slash burning complaints and forwards them to the appropriate agencies.

Douglass says specific source complaints receive an immediate and specific follow-up. The only exception to this rule, he adds, is when a serious smoke intrusion hits the metropolitan area and complaints are too numerous to handle individually. In these cases, the complaints are transcribed and forwarded to the appropriate agency.

LRAPA offers a 24-hour record-a-phone complaint line at 343-6351. Weekday complaints are received in the LRAPA office at 686-7618 during normal office hours.

The City of Eugene is planning action to try to minimize smoke intrusions and complaints.

Gov. Victor Atiyeh issued an unprecedented executive order last Tuesday to temporarily suspend the current 50,000 acre limit in order to allow up to 180,000 acres to be burned. Atiyeh instructed the state Environmental Quality Commis-

sion "to implement smoke management controls using the most advanced techniques, including those proven successful during the 1978 burning season."

City officials say certain assurances for air quality in Eugene given by the governor last week were missing in his order. They will now appear before the EQC, which will make the rules governing implementation of Atiyeh's order, asking it to reinstate stricter rules that were in force during the 1978 burning season.

The city had a voice in the making of the 1978 rules, which led to a "clean" burning season. These rules were relaxed, city officials say, by changes made this year to regulate the current burning season.

The city is disputing rule changes that increase permissible moisture and relative humidity limits, allow burning on "south priority" acreage close to Eugene on north winds and change field lighting techniques.

The EQC will meet to determine if additional rules need to be made or if some present rules need to be dropped. EQC spokesperson Dave Gemma says the EQC staff is satisfied that present rules comply with the governor's order.

Eugene officials have said they will take their case to court again if the EQC fails to adopt rules that will adequately protect air quality in the Eugene area. An earlier, similar effort by the city resulted in the present 50,000 acre limit.

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