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Little top



Photos by David W. Zahn

It had only one small ring, three performers, a couple of trained dogs and an independent-minded cat billed as "wild animals", but what the Royal Lichtenstein Circus lacked in size it made up in enthusiasm.

The show, called the world's smallest quarter-ring circus, made its annual appearance Wednesday in the EMU courtyard before an overflowing crowd of students, professors and excited little kids.

The performers proved their talents in a variety of circus skills as they juggled, jumped and joked their way around the tiny ring, shooting one-liners at the audience between fast-paced tricks and pranks.



clinic furor

Director answers lumberman's charges

By MIKE RUST
Of the Emerald

Opponents of the University's Environmental Law Clinic stepped up their attack against the clinic Wednesday, drawing a quick response from clinic supporters.

Eugene lumberman Aaron Jones claimed that documents obtained by the Foundation for Oregon Research and Education under the Freedom of Information Act show that the National Wildlife Federation has "veto power over the protests, appeals and litigations initiated and handled by the law school environmental clinic."

However, at a Wednesday afternoon press conference, clinic co-director John Bonine described Jones' accusation as "a lie." The University law professor says the documents used by

Jones dealt with old proposals that were never enacted.

Bonine also spoke out against charges Jones made against the clinic to local labor officials.

Lane County Labor Council leader Irv Fletcher made available to the clinic a list of 18 timber sales and land-management programs that were supposedly opposed by the law clinic.

Bonine said the law clinic had never heard of half of the timber sales that allegedly produced protests from them. In another case involving an Alsea Land Management Program, the appeal had been made by a timber company.

In a case involving a Bureau of Land Management timber-sale plan in the Coos Bay district, Bonine said a student had testified independently. The clinic was not involved.

Jones charged that Bonine's salary is half-paid by the National Wildlife Federation and that Pacific Northwest Resources Clinic co-director Terence Thatcher's salary is entirely subsidized by the Federation.

"This is completely false," Bonine said. "My salary is entirely paid for by the University of Oregon. It's a half-truth because he's talking about half my salary, but it's a half-lie."

Bonine disputed Jones' contention that the clinic and the Federation were damaging the state's economy by attempting to eliminate the timber supply to mills.

Bonine pointed out that in current litigation in Idaho, the clinic is protecting salmon runs the coastal economy depends on.

"This clinic has never caused cancellation of a single timber sale. Period. Paragraph," he said.

Only three lawsuits have been filed by the clinic in five years, Bonine said.

A press release issued at the time of Jones' press conference charges that there are only three environmental law clinics in the United States, all sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation. However, Bonine displayed catalog listings from nine schools with law school-operated environmental law clinics.

The University's environmental law clinic is also "entirely independent," Thatcher said. The clinic "makes no commitment to serve any particular clients," he added.

Clinic standing challenged in Idaho suit

By GREG WASSON
Of the Emerald

SALEM — The University's Environmental Law Clinic may be violating an Oregon statute if it continues to represent an Idaho wilderness group in a suit against the federal government, an Idaho timber firm claims.

The firm, Evergreen Forest Products, Inc., claims the clinic is acting as a plaintiff — not as representing attorneys — in a suit challenging government plans to allow substantial logging in a portion of the Snake River drainage area.

The drainage area is an important salmon spawning area.

Evergreen has asked the Idaho Federal District Court to declare the clinic, along with the Idaho Wilderness Foundation, as the real party of interest in the suit.

And if the clinic is ruled a plaintiff, it could be violating an Oregon statute that requires any litigation brought in the name of the state, with a few exceptions, be brought by the state attorney general's office.

A district court judge dismissed the original suit Jan. 28, ruling that the foundation represented by the law clinic had not claimed sufficient injury to justify bringing the suit. In the same ruling, the court refused a motion to strike the claim that the clinic could not be considered a plaintiff in the case, leaving the door open for further litigation.

The foundation now has 12 days to refile an amended complaint against the government to block the planned logging. The foundation also will have to argue

before the court that the clinic is not the real plaintiff.

However, opponents of the clinic, such as Wilson Hulley, executive director of the Foundation for Oregon Research and Education, have been heralding the court's refusal to strike as a major victory. Hulley said what the ruling means is that when the amended complaint is filed, the University will have to be listed as a plaintiff.

Assistant Attorney General Jerry Casby disagrees.

Casby admits that the court refused to strike the defense that the University is the real party.

"But that doesn't mean that the defense is granted. The ruling of the court is 'no, I won't do that as a matter of law,' but

that doesn't mean he won't do it later," Casby says. "Any denial of this type can't be read as an affirmative."

Even if the clinic is considered a plaintiff in the suit, Casby said that won't automatically mean the University is violating state statutes.

"That's a judgment that will have to be made when it occurs," he said. "Again, there is so much in this area of civil procedure that depends totally on the context in which the order is made. I just don't know what the effect of that will be."

If the judge does eventually rule that the clinic is the real party of interest, John Bonine, co-director of the clinic, promises to appeal the decision to the federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.