

Animals have their day at second free New Zoo

Welcomes may come from snakes that slither around visitors' shoulders and from winking birds of prey, while cats and dogs will greet individuals who have more of a liking for domestic animals.

Eugene's first New Zoo was set up for a day at the Amazon Village Community Center last November, and brought a crowd of about 450 people to visit about 50 animals and their caretakers and owners.

Bob Beisser, zoo planner and coordinator, is sharing his love for animals once again, and community members are invited to attend the second Amazon New Zoo April 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Beisser will sponsor the free event in conjunction with the Eugene Parks and Recreation Department and Oregon Herpetological Society (with members who share an interest in reptiles and amphibians).

"The idea behind the New Zoo is education and awareness of wildlife conservation issues. And it's for the community, by the community," Beisser says.

"We're looking for anybody with interest and/or animals," he adds.

Beisser is presently producing a television series about wildlife. "I've always just liked wildlife and animals," says Beisser, whose home animal farm is made up of two corn snakes and a rat colony.

For more information contact Beisser at 342-8169 or program supervisor Kim Davidson at the Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hilyard St., 687-5373.

Felines flood the fairgrounds

Attention, cat lovers! The Oregon Feline Fanciers of Eugene are holding their annual cat show Saturday and Sunday at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

Between noon and 1 p.m. both days, participants can register at the Auditorium building for \$4 "purr" cat and owner.

Mixed breeds are welcome, and will be included in a "mini" show for household pets. However, cats with fungi, fleas or ear mites are not welcome. A veterinarian will check all cats before the show.

Cats will be shown from 1-6 p.m. Saturday, and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The costs for attending the show are \$1.50 for adults, 75 cents for senior citizens and children ages 6 through 12. Children under 6 years old will be admitted for free.

For more information, call Linda Brown, the show manager, at 689-1540.



Emerald file photos

Diploma peddler convicted

By Bill Schaller
Of the Emerald

A Grants Pass man accused of selling fake college diplomas was sentenced to 120 hours of community service after pleading guilty to federal mail fraud charges in a Eugene courtroom Thursday.

Dennis Everett Gunter sold about 2,500 fake college diplomas through a number of advertisements, said prosecuting attorney Tom Coffin. Gunter's arrest was part of an FBI investigation called "Dipscam," which originated in North Carolina.

U.S. District Judge James Burns said that by giving Gunter a community service sentence instead of a prison term, Gunter could see the "seriousness of his crime" and the state could save needed prison space.

Coffin said there were two classes of victims who had to be protected from this type of fraud: universities where graduation certificates were being duplicated without authorization, and the

people who might be potentially victimized by those who use the fake diplomas.

Gunter's business records showed that he had sold the diplomas for \$39.95 to people in most U.S. states, and in some foreign countries.

Though "Dipscam" originated in North Carolina, the trial was held in Oregon when Gunter decided to forgo prosecution in North Carolina and plead guilty.

Stephen Heiser, Gunter's attorney, said the crime was not as serious as the prosecution made it out to be. Employers would check an applicant's credentials through a reliable source instead of assuming the applicant's diploma was legitimate, he said.

"Has anyone ever asked you to show your diploma when you applied for a job?" asked Heiser. "If they asked you where you went to school they would check with the registrar, unless they were naive."

'Major' conference planned

One of the nation's most "colorful" and "flamboyant" trial lawyers, Gerry Spence, will speak at the University School of Law during the third annual Western Public Interest Conference Saturday.

Spence, a Wyoming lawyer, successfully sued the Kerr-McGee Corp. for \$10 million for alleged negligence in the 1974 death of employee Karen Silkwood, according to law professor John Bonine.

Spence will speak to conference participants at 4:30 p.m. in Room 129 of the law school.

Bonine said he expects about 200 participants at the conference. "It's a major conference, drawing lawyers from all over the na-

tion," he said.

There will be five conference seminars: how to conduct environmental trials, Indian rights and environmental protection, pesticides and the law, ocean and coastal concerns and citizen participation and the law.

The conference is free to the public, but attorneys will be charged \$20. Participants can register in the main lobby of the law school at 8:00 a.m. Saturday.

Derrick Bell, law school dean, will open the conference with a welcoming address at 8:30 a.m. The conference will end with a Latin-American dinner at 5:30 p.m. at the Wesley Center, across Kincaid Street from the law school.

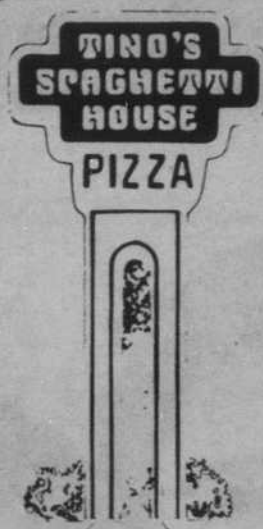
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