

ST. 22/11/92

# Short Circuits

LONDON (Reuter-Kyodo) Britain's clowns say they have been slapped in the face by one of the country's best-known circus managers, and it's no joke.

Clowns International, which represents 400 British clowns, says it will picket the Cottle Circus against manager Gerry Cottle's plan to hire an American female clown, Danice Payne, at a time when two-thirds of its members are jobless.

Two clowns, Silly Sam and Little Sam, packed their trunks and said goodbye to Cottle's circus last week in protest over the new act.

"I have worked very hard for him for four years and have had thousands of people in stitches," Silly Sam, real name Dan Cowley, said.

Cottle, a former clown himself, said the issue has got out of proportion. He complained that he had been left with only one funny man for his touring show.

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FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (UPI-Kyodo) A cocker spaniel searching for snacks narrowly escaped with his life after turning on a stove and triggering a housefire.

Owner Mark Leszczynski told firefighters he and a guest left his apartment late at night Nov. 13 to go to a bar.

In his absence, his 2 1/2-year-old dog Tito decided to climb onto the stove, apparently in search of a treat. Tito

used a burner control knob for a foothold, and he turned the burner on to a medium-high setting. The dog, in his quest for food, had knocked over some kitchen towels, which quickly ignited. The fire then spread to some cookbooks.

"He has a never-ending appetite," Leszczynski told the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel. "I had just reprimanded him for going into my guest's suitcase and getting some Halloween candy."

Four fire engines and 16 firefighters arrived at 1:15 a.m., and firefighter Bill Mock discovered Tito lying inside the front door. Mock carried the animal outside to paramedics, who performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation and administered oxygen.

"He was absolutely in shock and very disoriented," veterinarian Dorian Colorado said. "He and I spent a very long night. He was treated for smoke inhalation."

Despite being temporarily homeless and facing \$9,000 worth of damage, Leszczynski said he was happy Tito survived.

"He was my number one concern," he said. "I'm a big-time animal lover."

