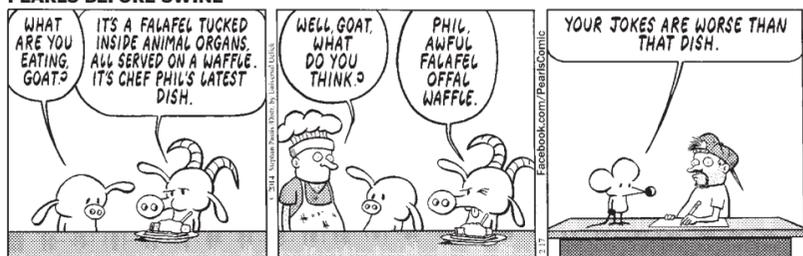
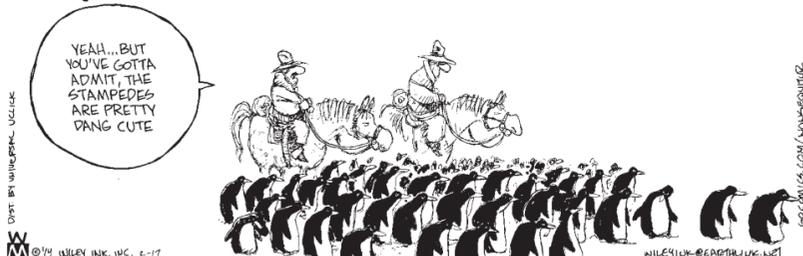


PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



NON SEQUITUR



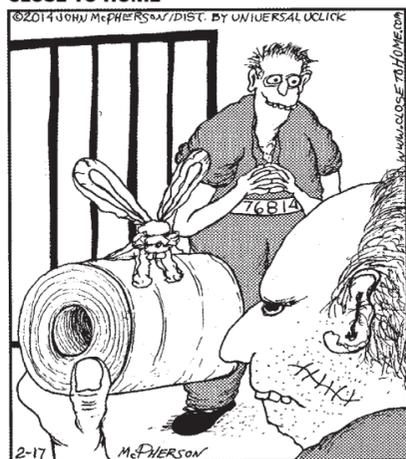
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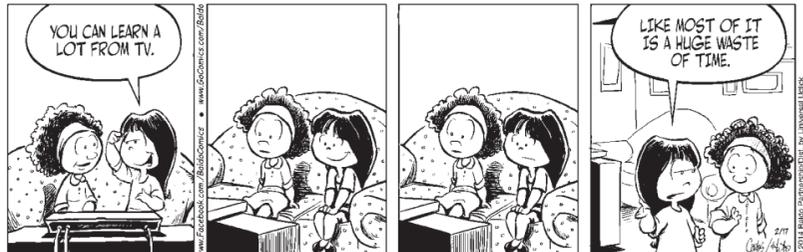
CLOSE TO HOME



DENNIS THE MENACE



BALDO



CLASSIC GET FUZZY



PICKLES



FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING

By JOHN MACINTYRE
For The Register-Guard

58 Percentage of Americans who dream about winning the lottery at least a few times a year, though a person is more likely to hit a deer in Hawaii or get struck by an asteroid.

10: Percentage of Americans who claim to think about it on a daily basis.

— Source: YouGov

CRYPTOQUOTE

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CSTXWSVST, NYD GBWW MSUVBX
VS XY MDX YT VN QMSIXPIWSQ,
RYU B ZPOS CUYGT TYX YTNW
CUPN, ADX PWVYQX AWBTF BT
XZS QSUOBIS YR VN IYDTXUN.
— CSYUCS GPQZBTCXYT
Saturday's Cryptoquote: IT'S DIFFICULT TO THINK ANYTHING BUT PLEASANT THOUGHTS WHILE EATING A HOMEGROWN TOMATO. — LEWIS GRIZZARD

Eugene Ballet's show a feast for eyes and ears

By GWEN CURRAN
For The Register-Guard

The Eugene Ballet Company presented a most romantic Valentine with performances this past weekend at the Hult Center with "Scheherazade and Bolero."

Brian McWhorter and Orchestra NEXT provided professional-level accompaniment for the dancers of the world-class ballet company.

Melissa Bobick, a former EBC dancer and now dance professor at Mercyhurst University in Pennsylvania, choreographed the lovely and lyrical ode to love, "Idyll for Eight."

With string music by Leos Janacek and gracious costumes by Toni Pimble, this five-part ballet was easy on the eyes and ears. If love be the subject of ballet, play on.

The company flowed through a series of dances.

First, a lively andante with eight constantly moving bodies and spectacular lifts. This continued with the allegro quintet, then quartet.

Everything slowed down for the love adagio with Mark Tucker and Heather Wallace. Their magnetism sent shivers through the hall as their amor gripped both the couple and the audience.

The moderato conclusion brought all eight dancers (Takeru Anzai, Mitchell Gill, Victoria Harvey, Reed Souther, Suzanne Haag, Danielle Tolmie, Tucker and Wallace) to the stage to the delight of the appreciative audience. "Idyll for Eight" is a true vision of the skill and charisma of the Eugene Ballet Company.

Pimble's 1992 "Two's Company" was danced divinely by Yoshie Oshima and guest artists Preston Swovelin and Jeff Wolfe. With music by Dvorak, this was another dance treat from cupid's bow.

Ravel's well-known "Bolero" was also choreographed by Pimble. Red and black costumes and stylized Spanish dance movements with echoes of the

bull ring continuously built the sexual tension until the explosive end.

Incredible lifts, leaps, jumps, plus solo and group work was stunning to watch.

Bravo to Wallace, Tucker, Anzai, Haag, Harvey, Gill, Souther, Tolmie, as well as fellow dancers Cory Betts, Ali Paige Block, Marilyn Brady, Isaac Jones, Beth Maslinoff, Emma McGirr, Elizabeth Mick, Mirell Sork, Sarah Stockwell and Harmony Wallace.

The hanging rectangular blocks and the superb lighting added to the mystique of this classic piece. Another winner for Eugene Ballet.

"Scheherazade," choreographed for Oregon Ballet Theatre in 1990 by Dennis Spaight (restaged by Jennifer Martin) with Rimsky-Korsakov's music played expertly with Orchestra NEXT, was an extravaganza of color, movement, costume, sets and story.

Oshima danced "Scheherazade" with sensuous elegance. And Swovelin was perfect as her lover, The Golden Slave, shielding her unsuccessfully from the larger than life Sultan, danced by Tucker.

The costumes by Ric Young, plus the sets by Henk Pandar, felt as if we were in a parallel universe of Cirque du Soleil.

The warriors (Betts, Gill, Jones, Souther, Antonio Anacan, Xander Berenstein, Jesse Griffin) appeared like large blue and silver marionettes who magically stepped downstage.

The harem girls (Block, Harvey, McGirr, Mick, Sork, Stockwell, Tolmie, Harmony Wallace, Noel Leonard and Paige Robinson) in pleated skirts and sparkling tops swirled and snaked about the stage.

Haag, Maslinoff, Anzai and Wolfe were spectacular as exotic slave dancers. A visual feast.

Gwen Curran of Eugene reviews dance for The Register-Guard.

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

By EUGENIA LAST

Happy Feb. 17 birthday: Procrastination won't get the results you are looking for. Align yourself with the doers. Put your intuition to work for you and size up the best possible way to get the results that will buy you greater freedom. Your numbers are 5, 8, 19, 26, 35, 44, 48.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Concentrate on your future, not on your past. Make changes based on what's important to you and how you want to move forward personally. ★★★

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Helping others can be rewarding as long as you aren't being taken for granted. Draw the line if anyone is too demanding. Your time and expertise are valuable. ★★★★★

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Think before making a decision that will alter your status. Mixing business with pleasure will not play out in your favor. ★★

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Use your imagination coupled with your expertise and you will find a way to improve your relationships as well as your home environment. ★★★★★

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't fear change or what others think of you. Move in the direction that offers guidance and a better future. Take better care of your mental, physical and financial wellness. ★★★

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep an open mind and go the extra mile. What you do to help others as well as to ensure that you are living up to your expectations, integrity and stan-

dards will determine who stands by your side and respects you. ★★★

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Network, ask questions and use your intuitive intelligence in order to make the best choice. A contract will bring you financial gains. ★★★

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may face opposition, but don't get coerced into doing something for the wrong reasons. Get your facts straight from the source before you jump into action. ★★★

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't allow an emotional encounter with someone to ruin your plans. An honest answer may not be easy to deliver, but it will help you reach your destination quicker. ★★

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A financial, contractual or legal matter will turn in your favor. Don't leave any stone unturned. A calm, calculated response will lead to victory. ★★★★★

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may have an unusual way of doing or seeing things, but it's your innovative ideas and unique way of following through that will help you reach your goals. ★★★

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Reconsider your connection to the people around you and look for a way to collaborate in order to reach a common goal. A change in attitude regarding children or friendships will bring you closer to the people you love the most. ★★★

Birthday baby: You are intuitive, productive and trendy. You are helpful and considerate.

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DR. ROACH

Knee surgery isn't cure-all

Dear Dr. Roach: I suffered a severe torn meniscus at age 67. I reached a point where I could no longer walk. Six weeks of physical therapy was recommended. I decided to consult another physician. I had arthroscopic surgery about a week later. My surgery started about 11 a.m. and I walked out of the hospital unaided and without a cane or crutches about two hours later. The only residual effect was a stiff knee joint, which took several weeks to alleviate through home exercise. It was sore, but with consistent exercise I overcame it without a single pain reliever. I highly recommend to get this fixed and get on with your life!

— J.W.

of people who were over 60 years old and underwent the surgery, only to need a knee replacement within a year because the arthroscopy was a complete failure. As is my case, the knee gets worse after the surgery because most of the cartilage was removed. From what I see, arthroscopy is overused and not a good solution for 50 percent of the patients it is done on.

— J.G.

Dear J.G. And: While most people will do well after surgery for torn meniscus, not everyone will have the ideal result J.W. had, and only a few will do as poorly as J.G. A paper was published last December that looked at degenerative tears in the meniscus. In the study, surgery did not improve recovery time, strongly suggesting that surgery is not needed in most people with degenerative meniscus injury. And, as J.G. noted, it does increase the risk for arthritis later on.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters. Readers should send questions by e-mail to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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