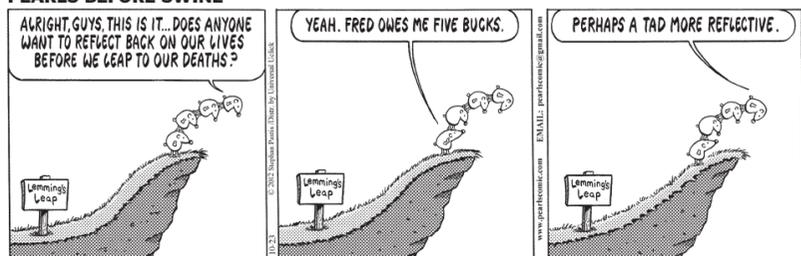


PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



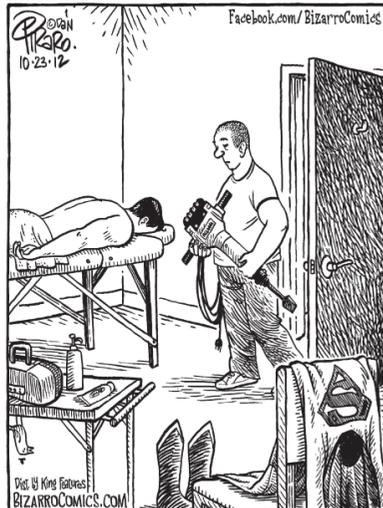
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PLUGGERS



BIZARRO



CLOSE TO HOME



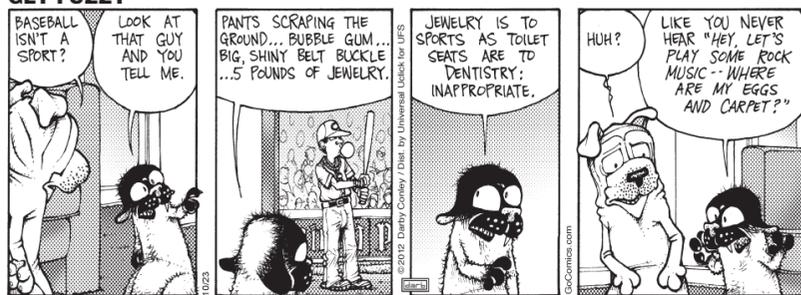
DENNIS THE MENACE



BALDO



GET FUZZY



PICKLES



DANCE REVIEW

Ballet Fantastique excels in its visit to the big top

By GWEN CURRAN
For The Register-Guard

This past weekend the circus came to town. Well, not exactly the circus, but rather Ballet Fantastique's "Cirque de la Lune."

This chamber ballet company continues to surprise and delight its growing audience. Saturday night's premiere at the Hult Center's Soreng Theater did not disappoint. With choreography by the mother-daughter team of Donna and Hannah Bontrager, three live bands and international circus artist Raymond Silos, Ballet Fantastique performed to a sold-out house.

The 1930s American circus has always been fascinating. When the circus train pulled into town, people put away their Depression worries, bought a 50-cent ticket and hurried into the big tent to enjoy the magic and thrill of performance.

Like a three-ring circus, the Ballet Fantastique audience had to choose where to direct its attention — exquisite dancers, musicians or aerialist?

We watched the rehearsal interactions between the performers. Love, joy, disappointment and daring all appeared during this two-hour performance. The Bontragers' exceptional choreography was revealed in every dancer's splendid turn and step.

Hannah Bontrager opened the evening as Simone, dancing with two suitcases while dreaming of adventure. She meets a gypsy, danced alluringly by newcomer Caitlin Christopher. As the circus sets up Simone is drawn to magician Ansel, well danced by guest artist Silos.

In the second scene, Adam Haaga, as the imposing ringmaster, toys with the performers. Simone (Hannah Bontrager) returns to audition as a dancer.

Scene three shows shy Yvette (Kristen Wessel) dancing her dream solo. Romeo (Justin Feimster) flirts, but his

girlfriend, Estrella (Leanne Mizzone), is jealous and Yvette scorns him.

Camille Morgenstern and Kelsey Kelley were charming as the circus extras.

In the next scene Gaspard (Haaga) and Ashley Bontrager (Hannah's sister), as the lion tamer, dance a beautiful love duet with stunning lifts.

None of this would have dazzled without the exceptional music groups that included original music by Troupe Carnivale, Betty and The Boy and Mood Area 52. Their singing and playing provided the needed glue to cement the show together.

All the songs, except two by Mood Area 52, were by Michael Roderick, backed up by James West, Zee Zublin, Jeremiah Harris, Billy Barnet and Amy Danziger.

Bretna Jaeger and Josh Harvey provided all the songs for Betty and The Boy. Other musicians included Michelle Whitlock, Nanci McDonald and Jon Conlon.

Troupe Carnivale's songs were written by Jackie and Jason Cowsill. Players in the troupe included the Cowsills, Don Elkington, Whitney Houlton, Stephan Andresen, Torrey Newhart, Charlie La Mothe and Sam Hunt.

In Act II, Amazing Ansel, played by Silos, excited the audience with his daredevil trapeze work. Bravo!

Noemi (Christopher) blindfolded Romeo (Feimster) for Estrella's (Mizzone) charming duet.

Silos again entranced the house — first with his amazing wheel work and then with his red fabric aerial work. Even more so when Hannah Bontrager, as Simone, joined him. The audience erupted with gasps and cheering, coming to its feet at the end for several well-deserved curtain calls.

The circus lives!

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

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

By EUGENIA LAST

Happy Oct. 23 birthday: Emotions will be difficult to control, especially where money matters are concerned. You will need to use your contacts coupled with a little charm to help maintain your current status quo. Your numbers are 2, 16, 23, 28, 31, 36, 47.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Get serious about your financial relationships with personal or business partners. Collect what's owed to you and pay off any debts you've incurred. ★★★★★

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Nothing will be clear if you refuse to ask questions. Emotional matters will escalate and a reluctance to give you the help you require will cause setbacks. Take note of anyone using pressure to manipulate a situation you face. ★★

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Tread carefully in social settings. Refrain from making physical changes with the potential to turn out badly. Focus on what you can do to help the underdog or how you can improve your most important relationships. Underspend and overwork and you'll excel. ★★★★★

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Network until you get what you want. Your insight and ability to touch others with your plans and knowledge will in turn lead to interesting options that will help you improve your personal lifestyle and surroundings. Love is in the stars. ★★★

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Pick your words carefully. Not everyone will be eager to follow your lead. The less pressure you put on others, the better. Focus more on making self-improvements. ★★

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Explore new avenues. Follow your basic instincts, and try your hand at something you've always wanted to do.

Don't let mishaps at home hold you back. A financial gain can be made if you can separate your funds from someone who tends to overspend. ★★

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expand your knowledge, add to your skills and most of all, take care of matters that pertain to children, close friends or a partner who has been jerking you around. Straight communication will lead to answers and solutions. ★★★★★

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Bickering will be a waste of time. Emotional issues will continue to escalate if you don't put your foot down and make a decision regarding whoever is disrupting your life. ★★

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep what you are doing low-key. The less you discuss your personal life, the better. Someone you least expect will try to force you into an argument that is based on false information. Make alterations at home to improve your situation. ★★★★★

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look over personal deals, contracts and investments. You can make changes that are better suited to the economic climate if you think matters through and make your moves based on your future needs. ★★

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Avoid travel or dealing with people from foreign backgrounds. You aren't likely to get the satisfaction you want or get promises fulfilled. Financial limitations are apparent if you take on additional responsibilities. ★★★

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): There is money to be made if you invest in something you feel comfortable pursuing. Contracts, settlements and pending legal matters can be dealt with efficiently. ★★

Birthday baby: You are inventive, unique and attract attention. You are unpredictable.

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FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING

By JOHN MACINTYRE
For The Register-Guard

41 In millions, the estimated number in 2011 of potential trick-or-treaters — children between the of ages 5 and 14 — across the United States.

115: In millions, the number of occupied housing units across the nation in 2011 — all potential stops for trick-or-treaters.

— Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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.

NUGN'A PUGN ECGF FBMC

GDBLINA NB — FCNNQIK G

XCEABI YC PUGN UC ECGFFR

QA. — VQD DBEEQABI

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SOMETIMES THE HEART SEES WHAT IS INVISIBLE TO THE EYE. — H. JACKSON BROWN, JR.

DR. DONOHUE/DR. ROACH

Excess skin after weight loss

Dear Drs. Donohue and Roach: My son had bariatric surgery three years ago, and lost almost 200 pounds.

He diligently follows the recommended exercises and a healthy diet, and has not regained any of the weight he lost.

However, the problem he has now is the excessive skin that cannot contract any further and hangs in large, uncomfortable pouches on his inner thighs, arms, neck, etc.

What can he do? My son's health care plan will not cover "cosmetic surgery," and he cannot afford it on his own. With the serious problem of obesity in the U.S. and so many doctors speaking out for weight-control surgery, surely someone has addressed this problem.

—M.Z.

Dear M.Z.: Thank you for raising this important point. Unfortunately, I don't have an answer for you. The surgery to remove this excess skin is not easy, and the surgeons who do these procedures certainly have a right to be paid.

In the United States' dysfunctional health care system, the surgery is almost never covered by insurance.

However, people should be made aware of this complication before having the surgery. Your son should take comfort in the benefits he's gained from losing 200 pounds.

Dr. Donohue and Dr. Roach are unable to answer individual letters. Write to them at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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