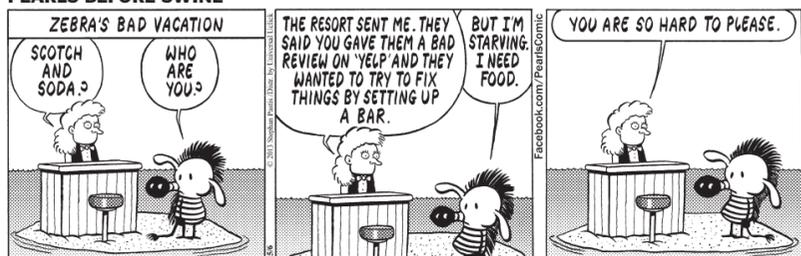


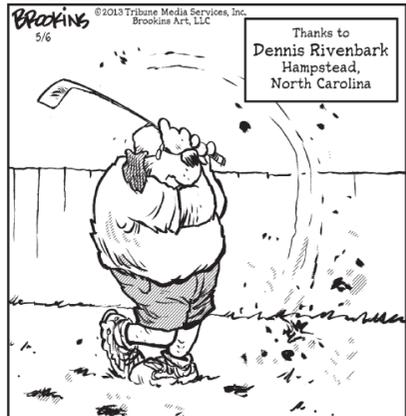
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



NON SEQUITUR



PLUGGERS



Some pluggers get their chipping practice in and aerate their yards... one divot at a time.

BIZARRO



CLOSE TO HOME



DENNIS THE MENACE



BALDO



CLASSIC GET FUZZY



PICKLES



FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING

By JOHN MACINTYRE For The Register-Guard

4 Percentage of employers who expect their workers to wear a business suit.  
43: Percentage of employers who report having a business casual environment.  
33: Percentage who allow jeans.  
21: Percentage where workers wear a uniform.

— Source: CareerBuilder.com

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.

T GPSSTKR FLK XTSAF GPM  
T KZKS HTAAKR. NLKM T  
FKJJ FLTA FQ GI WLTJRSKM,  
FLKI BEAF PVQEF FLSQN EO.  
— VPSVPSPVVEAL

Saturday's Cryptoquote: ALWAYS DO RIGHT. THIS WILL GRATIFY SOME PEOPLE AND ASTONISH THE REST. — MARK TWAIN

DANCE REVIEW

'Pride and Prejudice' jazz ballet delights

By GWEN CURRAN For The Register-Guard

What would Jane Austen have felt about her "darling child" — "Pride and Prejudice" — being moved from England of the 1800s to Paris of the 1920s? I am not sure, but I do know that Ballet Fantastique's audience on Friday night at the Hult Center loved it.

Most of the characters from the novel are still on stage in "Pride and Prejudice: A Parisian Jazz Ballet" — though the Bennets have become the Bennette family.

Elijah Labay (courtesy of Northwest Dance Project) danced the aloof romantic hero Darcy with great dignity and charisma. Labay seems able to immerse himself in a variety of characters with technical ease and superb acting. Here, he balanced the careless snobbishness of the landed gentry well with his underlying passion for Ashley Bontrager's Elizabeth Bennette through creative choreography by Donna and Hannah Bontrager.

Alanna Fisher, Ashley Bontrager and Leanne Mizzoni danced the roles of the remaining Bennette sisters. Mr. Bingley was well portrayed by Justin Feimster. The handsome and charming George Wickham was superbly danced by guest artist, Ernesto Lea Place, whom I hope we will see more of in future productions.

Adam Goldthwaite, in his role as Vicar Collins, was the narrator for the ballet. With old style oratory, superb comic timing, and delightful dancing, Goldthwaite was a marvelous connector between the original tale and the inventive retelling by the Bontragers.

The Gerry Rempel Jazz Syndicate was a perfect choice for this fusion of old and new. In fact, the live jazz contributed greatly to the evening's success. Rempel wrote two original pieces

for "Pride and Prejudice: A Parisian Jazz Ballet." His "Les Etoiles" served as the overture to both acts and reflected the Gypsy Jazz nuances of the era. "Le Moulin Bleu," which was somewhat risqué, plunged us into the Paris Cabaret scene in Act Two.

"Kitchen Sink Boogie" by pianist Gus Russell was the vehicle for energetic choreography in Act One. Additional arrangements of music by Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday and Sidney Bechet gave a flavorful blend to the 1920s scene. Fabulous musicians included John Polese on trumpet and accordion, Bruce Cole on drums, Byron Case on bass, Scott Mitchell playing a mean alto sax, and Merlin Showalter on congas. Susanna Meyer's perfect French vocals felt real. Amy Hackenschmidt's soulful voice was perfect.

The Bontrager choreographic team broke from classical ballet as much as from Jane Austen's original novel. Although the female dancers were on point, rhythms plus arm and hand movements in the style of the 1920s were used. They incorporated popular social dances of the day, such as the Charleston, the Black bottom, the Shimmy, the Castle Walk and the Grizzly Bear.

Costumes were well designed by Donna Marisa Bontrager, Allison Ditson, Kitsch-22/Alillahallah. Sets by Ida and Ken Pfeiffer and Carley Irwin also were well done. Lighting by Dan Charter with Mollie Clevidence was excellent.

Ballet Fantastique set out to tell in ballet a much-loved novel, with a playful battle between pride and passion in a time of shifting societal expectations, especially for women. They reached their goal.

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

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

By EUGENIA LAST

**Happy May 6 birthday:** You'll have the drive and tenacity to reach your goals. Plan your actions and execute them with vigor. Make your demands and offer your services, loyalty and commitment to whomever you want in your life personally or professionally. Your numbers are 5, 9, 16, 27, 35, 39, 47.

**Aries** (March 21-April 19): You may want a little more excitement in your life, but first things first. Get your responsibilities taken care of. It's how you handle the people around you that will count. ★★

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20): Broaden your horizons. Taking a course or business trip will help open up new opportunities. Share your insight and plans for the future with a partner and you will come up with a great plan. ★★

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20): You may be forced to deal with institutions, large corporations or secret matters that require your urgent attention. ★★

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22): Help others or volunteer your services for a worthy cause. Don't let your personal opinions interfere with what needs to be done. ★★

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22): A change will do you good. Whether you travel to a new location or sign up to participate in something that intrigues you, it will lower your stress. ★★

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Share your time and expertise with people you enjoy being with. A short trip

that will add to your knowledge or bring you the opportunity to meet new acquaintances will be successful. Avoid an impulsive purchase or decision. ★★

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be drawn to unusual pastimes and people. You may want to change your lifestyle, but before you do, consider the cost involved and the opposition you will face. ★★

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A partnership will help you open up creatively. An offer you receive will be too good to turn down. A change in status and reputation is apparent. ★★

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A sudden change of plans will benefit you at home and in your personal life. Don't hesitate to say what's on your mind. ★★

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can pick and choose, so slow down and don't allow anyone the chance to pressure or push you into something you feel uncertain about. ★★

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone you get along with or who owes you a favor will have something to offer. Discuss your plans and you'll find a way to combine your plans. ★★

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20): Investments based on long-term plans or ideas should be brought to the forefront. Negotiate what you want. A promise will lead to greater security and stability. ★★

**Birthday baby:** You are helpful, honest and steadfast. You are reliable and responsible.

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DR. ROACH

Seeking source of ear pain

**Dear Dr. Roach:** Please help me. I've visited my allergist, the ear-nose-throat specialist and my own internist. None of them has ever heard of my problem and don't know how to help me.

Starting in 1990, every couple of months I would get an awful pain on one of my ears if I had been lying on it during the night. I went to an ear-nose-throat specialist then, who did not know what to make of it.

The pain is so intense that it wakes me. It is not inside the ear but around the edges of the entrance to it. It is so painful that I can't touch it. The only thing that will make it go away is when I stand up. Within 30 minutes, it is gone. I even tested it by massaging behind the ear (once I could bear to touch it), and it seemed to make the pain go away faster. The ENT said my ears are healthy. I am very much afraid that the day will come when I will no longer be able to lie down in my bed to go to sleep.

I just had an MRA done, and the reading shows no "growths," according to my doctor's office.

This ear pain, however, is starting to affect my daily living.

— L.T.

**Dear L.T.:** I wonder if you have relapsing polychondritis. "Relapsing" means that it comes and goes, and "polychondritis" means there's inflammation of different cartilage in the body. The firm, flexible tissue in the ears is cartilage, as is the firm tissue in your nose and your windpipe. Relapsing polychondritis is a rare disease, often with a long delay in diagnosis due to its rarity and intermittent nature. It can affect just one or two areas, but it also can affect joints and critical organs.

It appears to be an autoimmune disease, one in which the body's defense system attacks its own cartilage. Usually, there is some redness or swelling of the cartilage.

Treatment varies with severity of the disease. Sometimes anti-inflammatories work wonders; other times, people need very powerful immune-suppression drugs. A rheumatologist is most likely to be familiar with this condition.

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

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