

Jealousy creeps its way in

Dear Annie: I've never felt so strongly about anyone as I do about my girlfriend, "Angelina." She is warm and funny and makes me want to be my best self every day. The year that we've been dating has been the best of my life.

This is a great change from my previous girlfriend, who was from a well-to-do family and wasn't afraid to flaunt it. She was gorgeous but expected me to worship the ground she walked on because of that. She didn't like spending time with any of my friends. When she told me we couldn't go to my best friend's birthday party — because he's an "idiot," according to her — I decided to end it.

So it's no surprise that I'm thrilled Angelina clicks with my friends. She gets along so well with them, and they all think she's hilarious. I like going out with her and all my buds. I'm proud to show off what an awesome girlfriend I have.

The problem is that I feel as if she's getting along too well with some of them. I trust her (and

them) completely and know I don't have to worry about infidelity. But I can't help but feel a little jealous when, for example, I realize my friends texted her about plans instead of me. When I've "jokingly" brought that up to her, she said it's because I'm bad about texting/calling people back and all my friends know it.

Another example: Recently, I was out of town for work for two weeks, and Angelina went out with my friends a few times. Sometimes I worry that she'll end up connecting better with one of my friends than with me. She and my best friend do click really well. As much as I don't want to be jealous, I feel that green monster sneaking up on me. Should I talk to her and/or my friends, or would I seem crazy? — *Love-Struck*

Dear Love: Your girlfriend loves your friends because she loves you, not the other way around — and don't you forget it. So often, jealousy is a self-fulfilling prophecy. Every

time you indulge such a whim (telling your partner not to spend time with a certain person, asking for validation, etc.), you end up feeling even less secure and more in need of validation. Use positive self-talk ("My wonderful girlfriend loves me," "I love that my girlfriend cares about my friends," "What concrete facts are before me?") rather than positively talking yourself out of a happy relationship. It seems you've found a keeper, and I see no reason to goof things up by letting your insecurity call the shots.

Dear Annie: In responding to a distraught parent who was "Tired and Exhausted" because of her son's addiction, you suggested Al-Anon or Nar-Anon.

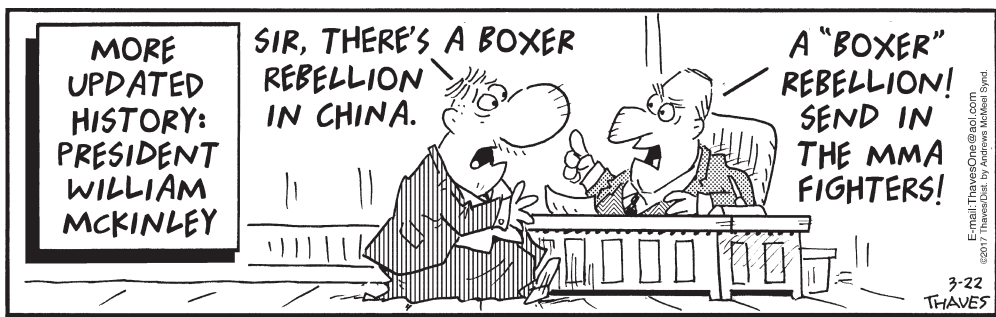
From my experience, another 12-step group has been invaluable: Families Anonymous. As with other 12-step groups, locations can be found online. — *Stepfather of an Addict*

Dear Stepfather: Thank you for recommending this great organization, which is for the friends and family members of those who suffer from addiction. Visit <http://www.familiesanonymous.org> for more information.



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

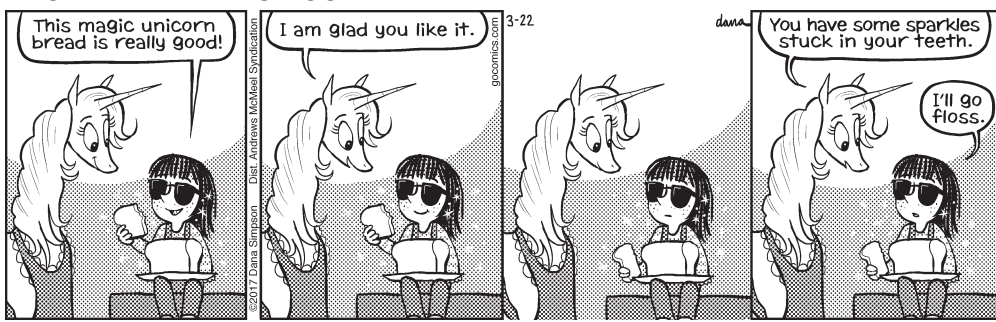
FRANK AND ERNEST



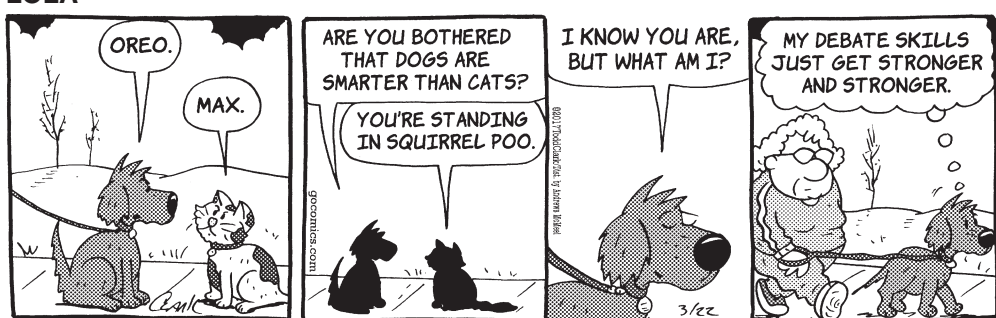
THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



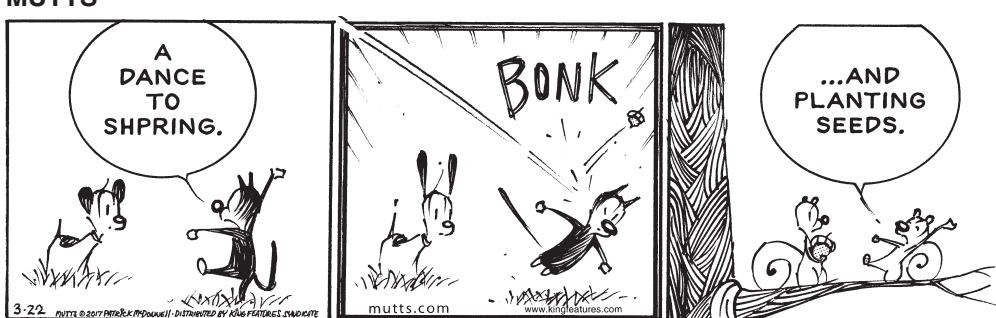
LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The spirit of adventure is rather obviously alive in you. You'll raise eyebrows and get other kinds of attention from people who wish they had the guts to take on life the way you do today!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't get to choose your family, your colleagues or your neighbors. When you can be friends with someone who also happens to be a person you didn't choose, it really feels like the universe is on your side.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll make something interesting happen socially, something that no one was expecting. Because of you, the other person feels empowered to take a risk. This is getting good.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If one person is calling all the shots, no matter how brilliant this person may be, the situation will not be as stable as a scene with a few diverse leaders who can balance one another.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There is magic in your writing. You can really use it today in a number of possible directions. Writing things down can make them more real, easier to let go of or harder to forget.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You can't be completely known, because you're not one definitive way. Different environments and people pull out new sides of you. Today it will feel like you're deciding who to be with every little choice you make.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). No one likes to be criticized, but right now you really want to know you've been seen, that others are trying to understand what you do. If they

have a critical opinion, it will ultimately inform and help you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The events you'll deal in today may only be important to the players involved. Outsiders wouldn't understand. There's a good feeling attached to knowing you are on the inside.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There will be a great level of complexity to your dealings. There will be rules to follow, stated and unspoken. The more sensitive you are to the latter kind, the less you'll have to abide by the former kind.

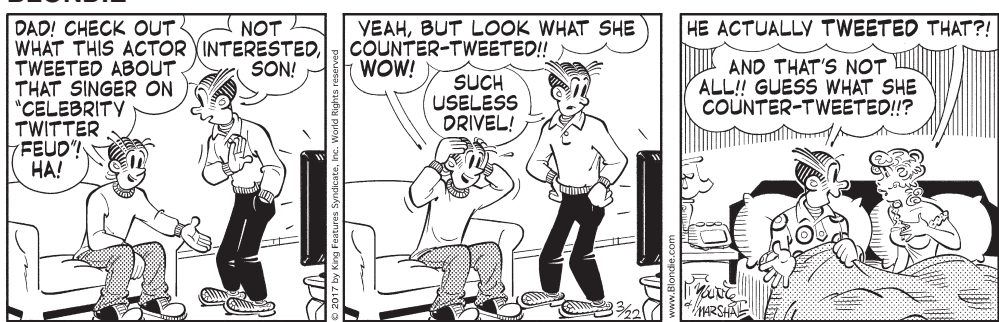
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may not be in the mood to "be yourself" today, and if you want to be someone else for a while instead, you'll find a way to do this playfully and ethically.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Destroying someone's illusions is just as damaging as destroying personal property. To respect a person is to respect the mythology that the person lives within.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's pleasure in work and work in pleasure. Right now it will be easier for you to extract the joy from difficult endeavors than it will for you to take the difficulty out of joyful endeavors.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 23). It's not enough to know. This year you'll act on what you know and greatly benefit from this, too. Sometimes it's better to live through it than think through it. Love will surprise and change you in April. May is for reconnecting relationships and healing family karma. August brings a financial breakthrough. Gemini and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 14, 33, 38 and 27.

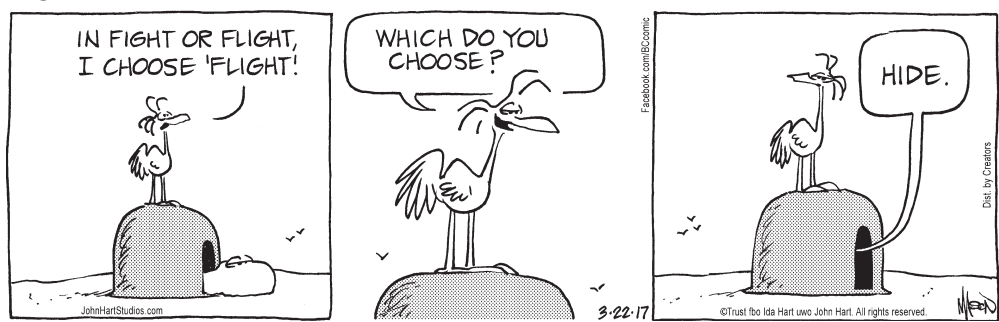
BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



B.C.



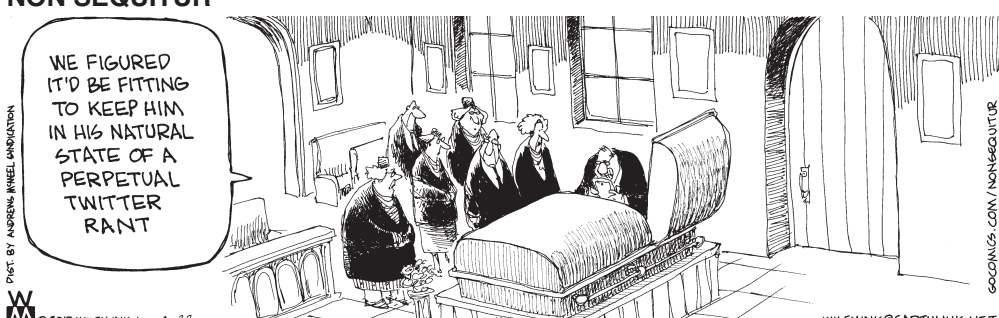
DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

