

Addicted to gaming

Dear Annie: Ever since “Pokemon Go” came out, my husband has been spending a lot of time playing it. Sometimes he’s out for eight to 10 hours per day, including during the night, walking around and attempting to find Pokemon for the game.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

“M” is in his early 50s and has been a stay-at-home dad for the past seven years. Our lifestyle is frugal, and having one of us available for the kids’ activities has been useful. However, if a serious and expensive issue were to arise, we would most likely struggle financially.

M is an excellent father. But I struggle with the fact that for the past 1 1/2 years, he’s been spending eight-plus hours each day (including weekends) playing a game. It’s a colossal waste of time, and I’m sick of it.

We’ve had multiple conversations about this. In

the beginning, he said that he’d play until he reached some top level and then scale it down. Well, I suspect the game got modified, because it’s been over 1 1/2

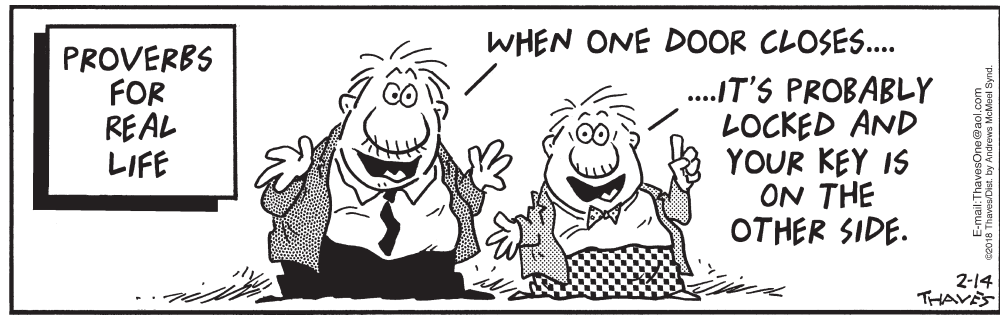
years. A couple of times, he has said that he knows he is addicted and that he won’t play that much anymore. But he still plays, and I don’t think he plans to stop. He knows I don’t like it when he spends so much time on this game but says that many smart people play, too, and that he wants to spend his time how he likes. And he thinks that I should be happy with our life and look elsewhere in my life to explain my unhappiness.

The thought that my husband is on his way to spending several years of his life playing “Pokemon Go” for eight or more hours each day gives me shivers. I’m considering separation or divorce. I would appreciate

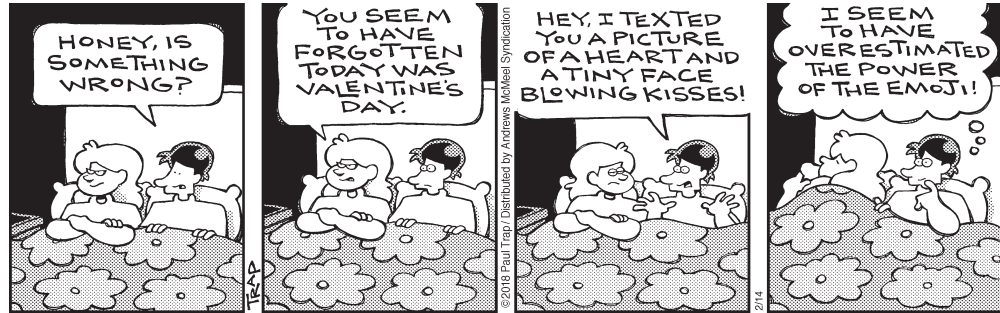
your advice. — *Discouraged in CA*

Dear Discouraged: Your husband is addicted to this game, and there’s no “next level” or “next achievement” that’s going to be enough for him. Limiting his game time to a set amount of time per day isn’t realistic. It would be akin to telling someone with alcoholism to try just having one beer. If he’s going to quit, it will have to be cold turkey — deleting the app and even deleting his account so he’s not able to restore his data. I don’t think he’s ready for that step yet. Though he has admitted he has a problem, he doesn’t seem ready for help. You can implore him to go to counseling or offer to go to couples counseling with him. You might also encourage him to take a self-screening test on the On-Line Gamers Anonymous website (<http://www.olganon.org>). I’d encourage you to also visit the site yourself, as there is an OLG-Anon component for family and friends.

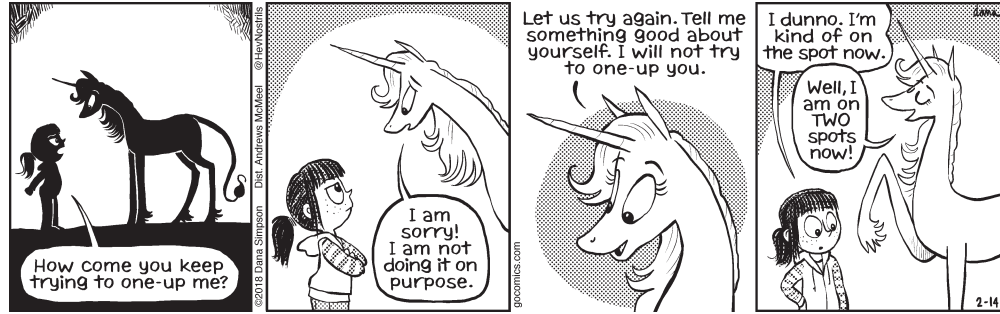
FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



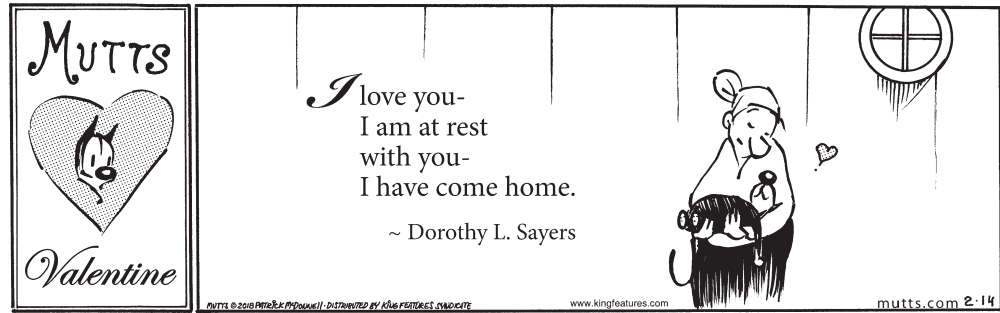
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SIX CHIX



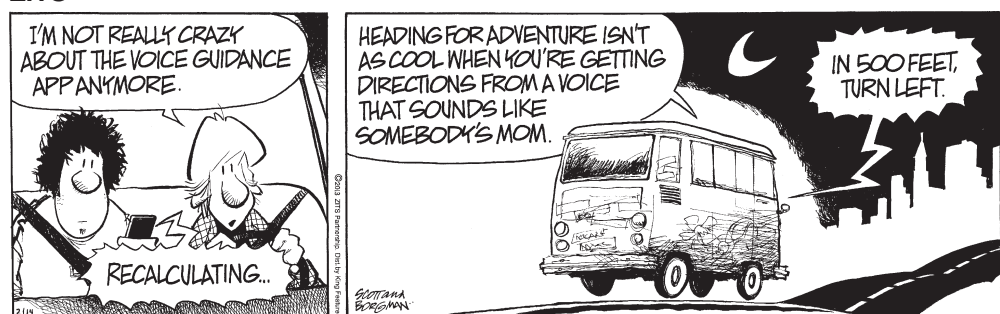
MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Though generations before you did things a certain way and the principles they used to get through life are still relevant today, modern problems require you to build on that foundation. You'll acquire new tools in the weeks to come.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The best way to predict what happens next is still the same as always: Make it happen. Today's work may be a bit rushed, but it's still remarkable and generous if not as polished as it might have been had you more time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The antidote to selfishness is publicity. Most would avoid the shame of being called out for putting one's own interests before the interests of loved ones, teammates or the group — unless, of course, selfishness is the cultural norm.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Is any creature on the earth built for empathy? It could be argued that empathy plays against individual survival instincts. It's definitely not the first instinct of humankind, yet it's definitely required for the survival of our species.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't wait until life forces you to sprint. Just sprint to energize things. Just sprint to prove that you can. No one can sprint for the whole of the race, but a good marathon runner builds the occasional sprint into the overall plan.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're going to do the brave thing — not because you have less to lose (if you had nothing to lose, it wouldn't be brave) but because you realize more than the others do that your action is what's sorely needed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The situation will trigger your competitive instincts. Suddenly it will be important to dress, talk and move like the winner.

Much of this will come naturally to you, although some degree of study may also be involved.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You won't be satisfied with just any result. You want your work to be artful and useful, or you'd rather not turn it in at all. The thing is, you're not the best judge of this today. Just turn it in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The omens warn against selling your future for today's quick fix, and yet fixing something quickly doesn't always spell trouble in the future. So examine your options from a long-term perspective, and do your best.

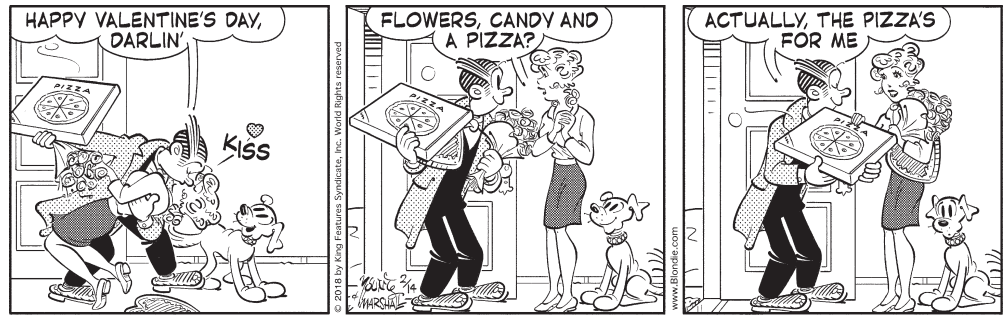
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In general, your life is easier when you make fewer promises. However, everything you do sets up an expectation. The promises are implicit. And every one you keep builds trust that you'll keep them in the future, too.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). How you imagine yourself will define your position. What one person considers a position of weakness another may consider a position of strength.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As you climb the mountain to get a better view you make yourself more conspicuous to those below. This may not be your aim, but you should be aware that the beauty and knowledge you seek will make you more influential.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 15). You seek clarity, and you'll find it. You'll understand where your power lies and how to use it. This will manifest in a much less serious way than it sounds: Delight and enjoyment will open as many doors for you as hard work and study. Trust yourself, and believe the forces are working to lift you and let you fly. Aries and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 20, 22, 1 and 17.

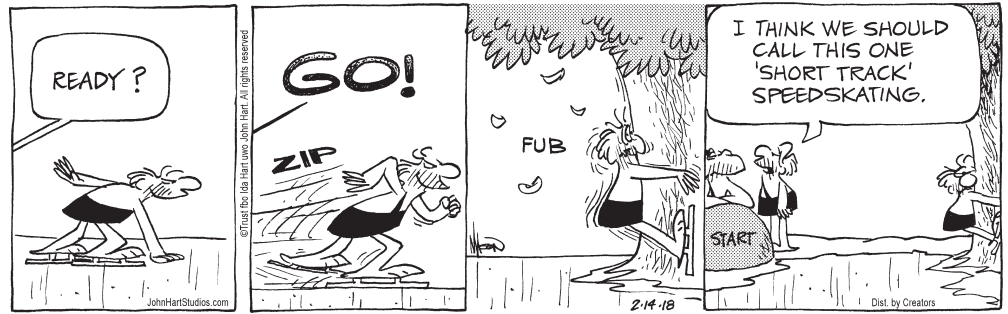
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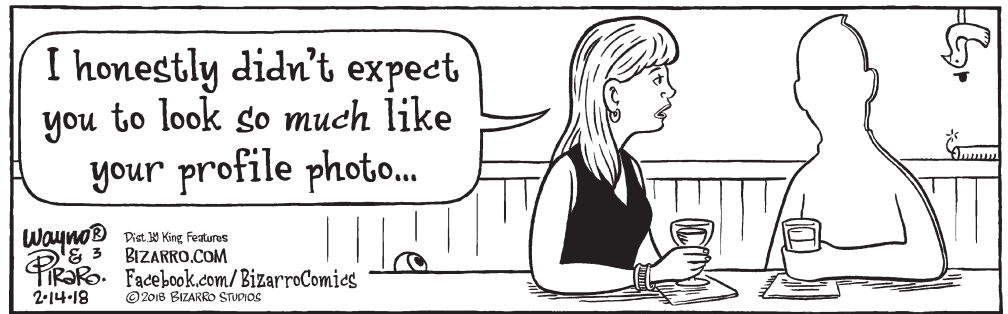
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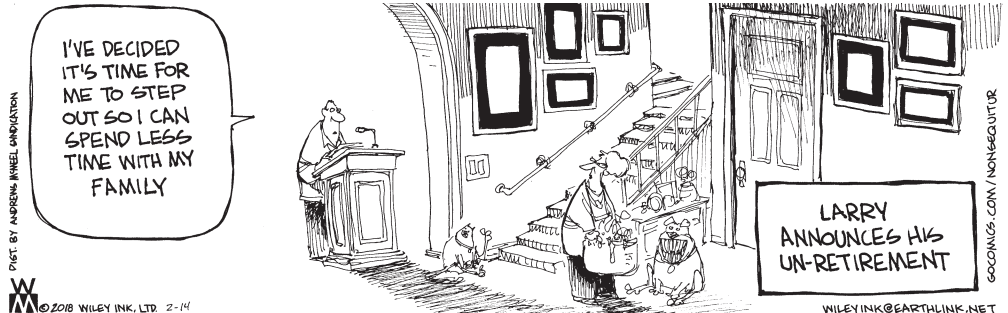
DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

