

# Getting rid of junk calls

**Dear Annie:** For the past few months, my phone has just about exploded with calls from telemarketers and scammers. I am at my wits' end! No, robot, I'm not past due on my bank payments. I don't want a free stay at your beach resort in Panama. And I'm not going to send money to you to "protect" my identity. These people have gotten so good that they're even manipulating numbers to look like ones of relatives, with up to four of the same digits. There are more implications than my being annoyed every time I step out of my office and answer only to hear a scammer's voice on the other end. I feel my privacy is invaded, and as a small-business owner, I have to answer every call, as it may be a client or vendor. One day, I put an unknown number straight to voicemail twice, and it turned out to be work-related. Needless to say, I was embarrassed, and she was peeved.

**DEAR ANNIE**



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

Is what these companies are doing even legal? And is there any technology available to help quiet my phone lines? I find the notion of paying for that kind of service

to be pretty ridiculous, but I'm not sure what else to do. I also wonder whether any of your other readers have experience with this and/or advice. — *Don't Like This Robot Dance*

**Dear Don't Like This Robot Dance:**

It's not just you. In the first month of this year alone, Americans received 2.9 billion robocalls. Pre-recorded sales calls are illegal unless a company has your written permission to contact you that way. The Federal Communications Commission receives more than 300,000 complaints about robocalls every month. Visit <http://ftc.gov/complaint> to add your voice to the deafening chorus. You can also contact your congressional representatives about the problem, with the hope that they pass better legislation to address this problem or bolster existing legislation so that it can be better enforced.

But if you'd like a quicker fix, consider using an app such as YouMail, RoboKiller or Truecaller, which help block robocalls to smartphones. Just be aware that these apps might also block robo-

calls that are actually legitimate, such as appointment reminders.

**Dear Annie:** For years, my husband has celebrated his birthday with cake and company. Many times, I have taken my husband and several family members and friends out to a restaurant to have a birthday party for him. However, he never seems to plan anything for my birthday. This past year, I had major orthopedic surgery, and he used that as an excuse for not planning anything again. No card, cake or best wishes; of course, no apology, either. I am tired of the one-sided plans and would just like to forget to do anything for his birthday coming up later this month. I just don't want to be that miserable. I can't seem to get him to see how hurt my feelings are. I'm looking for happier celebrations. — *Birthday Non-Celebrations*

**Dear Birthday Non-Celebrations:**

Have you tried telling your husband how you feel? Because though you can drop all the hints in the world, there's no guarantee he'll pick them up. And you'll just grow even more frustrated. So be direct. Let him know that it's important to you to commemorate birthdays and that it means a lot to you that he do something.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** New people are opportunities. You may find yourself pretending you're someone different, which can be fun. Who knows; maybe some of what you try on will suit you well and become part of your standard "wardrobe."

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** If you wait for someone to tell you what to do, you'll be lower than you could be. This is great for concert tickets with arena seating but not much else. Take charge.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Be strong and flexible of mind. Think of all you can do with a dollar, with an hour, with the position you have. Don't settle for the first idea that comes to mind, because idea five or 12 or 322 could be a better one.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Remind your people that they need what you contribute. There's a cool way to do this. Maybe it's best accomplished by disappearing for a while. It's not a game. People will be better for what they appreciate.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** If you see the path from here to there you can then work your way along it. If you don't see the path, you could work just as hard, but who knows where you'll wind up. It doesn't have to be a well-worn path, just one that arrives.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** It is far easier and better to solve a problem that people already know they have than to try to get people to identify something in their normal, everyday life as problematic.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Business people aren't the only ones who set prices. You set prices all of the time without even realizing it. For instance, you're always projecting your

worth and letting people know what it takes to be part of your world.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Do you feel like you're being watched? You are. Someone is sizing you up, in fact — observing how you interact with your friends and the world in general. They like what they see.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Today your personal life will soar through clear and sunny skies. It's a fine time to acknowledge and thank the crew that's been keeping you on course.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Those who grew up with nothing often see the accumulation of items as wealth, whereas those who grew up with an abundance of things often see minimalism as freedom. Your own views on materialism are changing.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Misery loves company, but he doesn't match your outfit, so leave him at home. Your company will embrace you wholeheartedly. Upon your return home you'll find that misery, neglected, has taken leave.

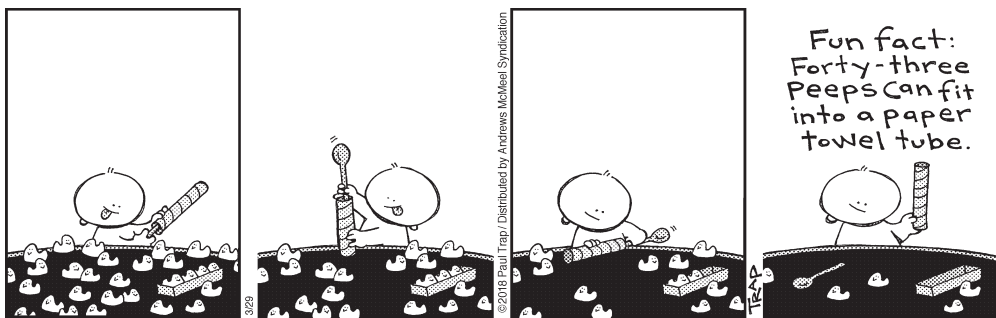
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Someone close to you may be feeling like the side dish to your main course. Maybe it's true. Some dishes are better as complements. Less is demanded of them. Anyway, you'll do what you can to make everyone feel important.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 30).** Get serious about developing and employing your talent. You'll earn a stellar reputation, and you'll bank on it before this time next year. Focus on documenting your work in April. The extra effort you make to stand out in a good way will earn you critical acclaim. You'll spend many hours building a very special relationship. Virgo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 15, 29, 4 and 13.

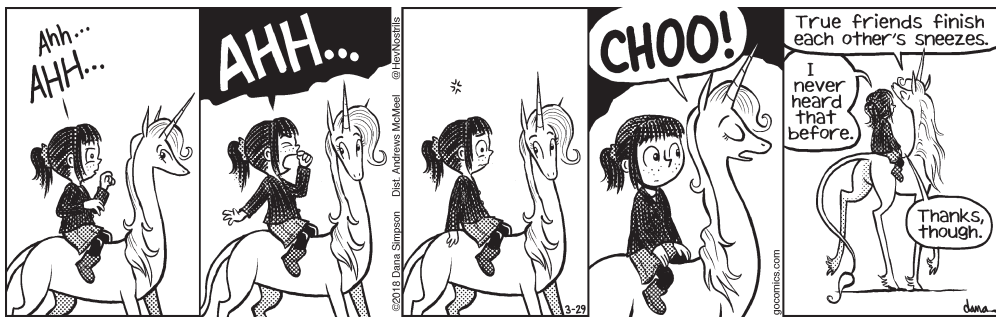
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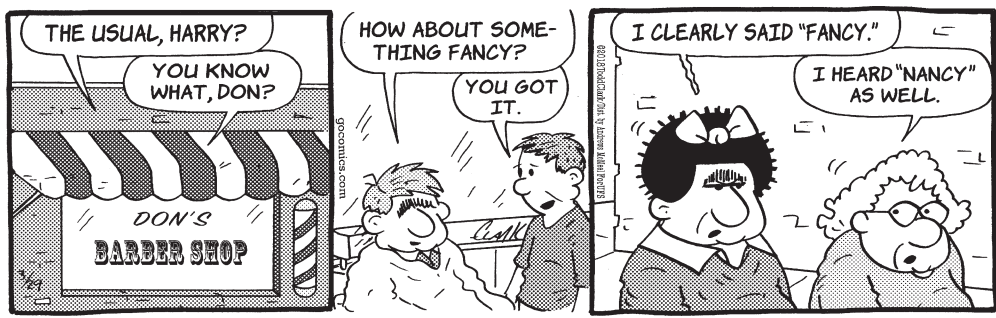
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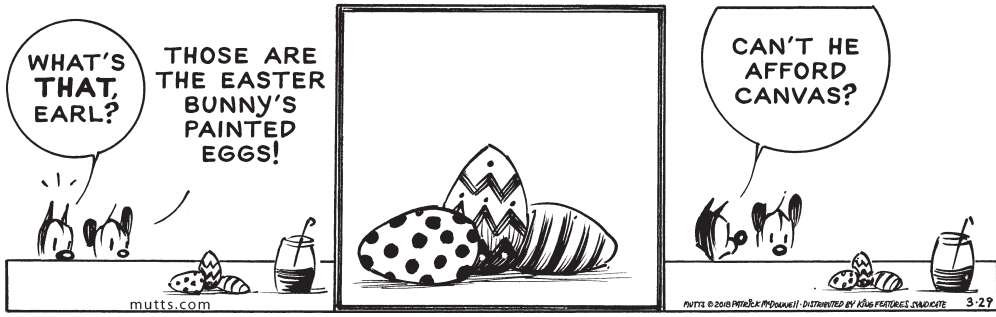
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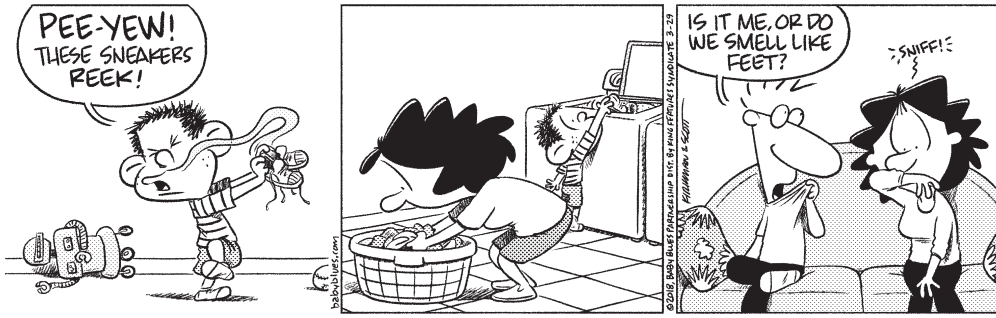
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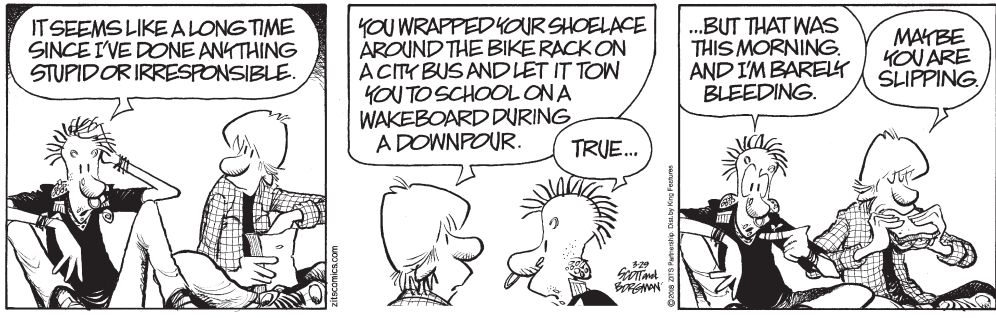
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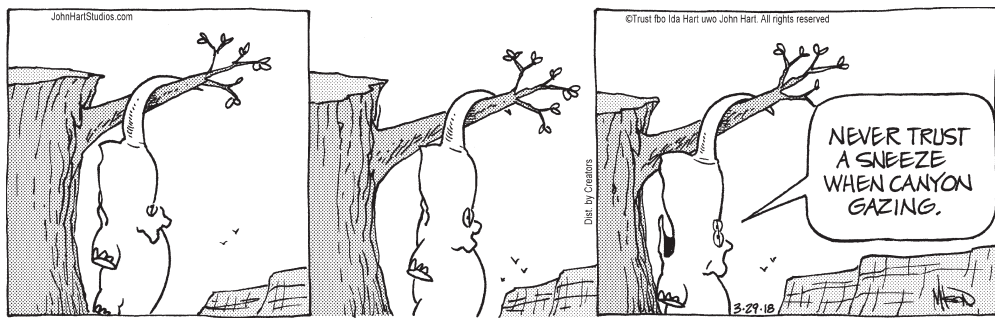
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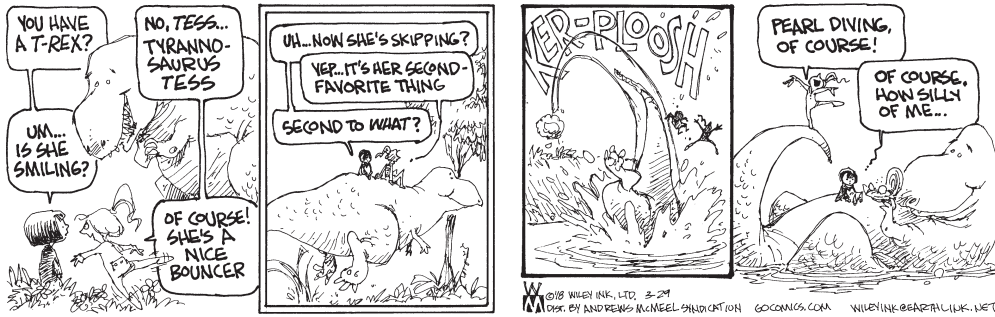
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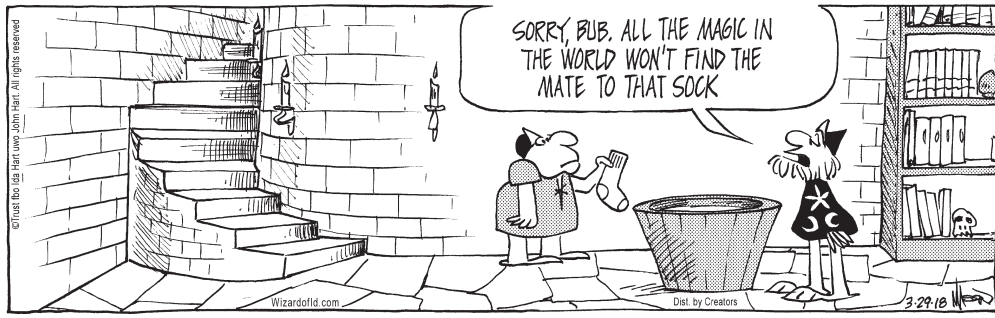
**BIZARRO**



**NON SEQUITUR**



**WIZARD OF ID**



**ROSE IS ROSE**

