

Excess mobile phone use

Dear Annie: Is there such a thing as mobile phone etiquette? I know that I am a dinosaur, but is it OK for someone to be looking at his or her phone for the majority of the time he or she is in the company of someone socially? It feels so lonesome to me. All of my life's conditioning taught me to pay attention to the one I'm with. Now I feel bewildered. — *Bewildered*

Dear Bewildered: The general answer to your question is no, it is not OK for people to be on their phones while in your presence. It is incredibly rude. Barring a few exceptions — doctors, nurses, new moms with baby sitters, and friends who tell you they are expecting a very important phone call and then apologize after they take it — being on or looking at one's phone is way too common these days and completely inexcusable, and you are right to be offended. Next time you are out with a friend who engages

in that type of behavior, ask the same question you asked me. If your friend says you are being a dinosaur and this is the way of the world, then I suggest you find a new person to spend your quality time with face-to-face.

Dear Annie: "How to Give Your Cat a Pill" is a classic, and certainly, for anyone (including me!) who is a cat guardian, it is good for a laugh. That is, until the last line, which involves dumping the cat at an animal shelter. Times have changed, for the better, and it is beyond time to think about rewriting that last line. As a volunteer at an animal shelter for the past decade, I can think of many reasons that line made me very sad. Millions of cats are dumped at animal shelters for trivial reasons or reasons that are actually medical problems. Many of these cats are euthanized because their guardians did not take the time to understand the

problem and help them. These days, more and more people consider animals to be members of the family. You don't dump a member of your family at an animal shelter. Instead, you take the time to figure out what the problem is and how to solve it. There are many organizations, in every community, that are committed to helping keep cats (and other companion animals) in their homes, where they belong. Though I am sure that the closing line was meant to be humorous, being dumped at an animal shelter is deadly serious for millions of cats every year. I hope that you will consider retracting that line and educating your millions of followers about how to help, not hurt, homeless animals in their communities. — *Animal Supporter*

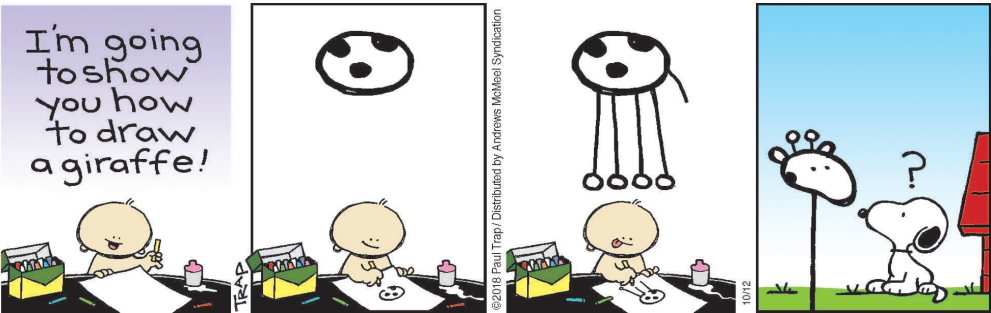
Dear Animal Supporter: Animal homelessness is a serious problem. It's a cause dear to my heart, one I'd never want to trivialize. Perhaps you're right that the last line of that poem could use a rewrite.



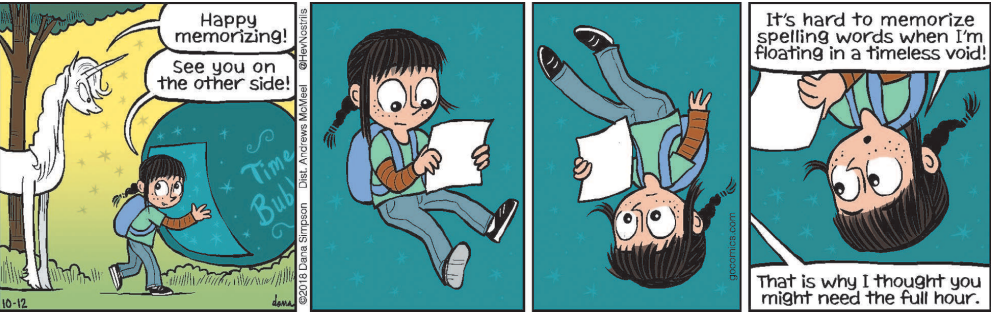
FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



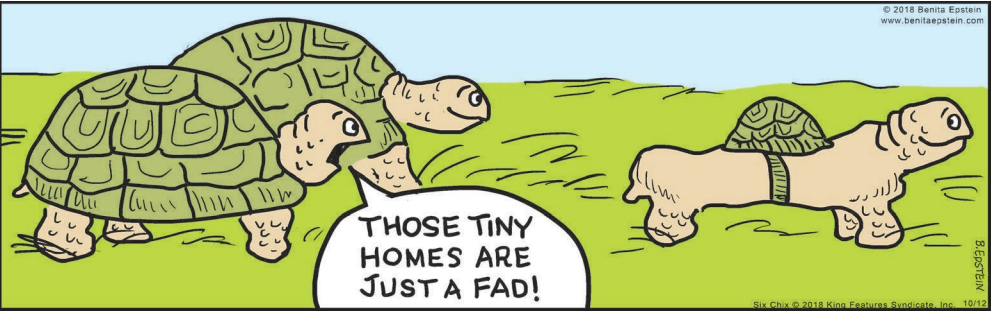
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



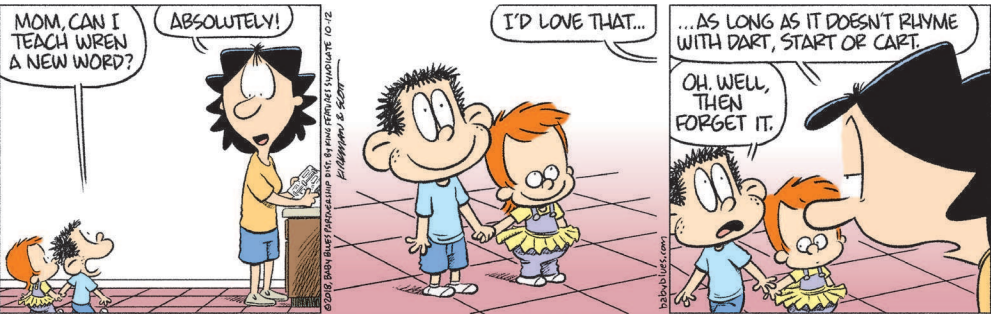
SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You add a dash of humor and stir in some charm. You'll meet those with opposing views, but you'll make your differences a moot point. It's a lucky attitude, and it's the reason you're winning.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Small kindnesses shown to loved ones in daily domestic settings are the mark of a genuinely loving heart. Big gestures that the world can see might seem to matter more, but really they don't.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The biggest obstacle to true love is mistaken identity. It's why you don't assume to know who you're dealing with. You've learned people aren't always who you want them to be. So you learn who they are, and love that person.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your standards are high, and you'll have to put in many hours to bring the vision alive. This has not stopped you from being a playful person. Your creativity will shine.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Even though you love to learn, sometimes you just wish you could get the skills and information you need a lot faster. Maybe you can. Better methods are out there. Investigate.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The ideas just keep coming! This inspiration will continue all through the weekend. One caution — before you go public with your brainchildren, double check to be sure that you are their actual, original parent.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Getting what you wish for — that's tricky business. Pay attention to all that happens during and immediately after you're holding what you want. What's the feeling in your gut saying?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Though you can't handle every piece of minutia about life, you still need to give the impression that you're looking out for your own interests. Anyone doing this for you will be less invested in the outcome than you are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have the power to take hold of your routine and shake it up. The benefit to this (even if you only do it for a day or a few hours) is that you'll see a way to save yourself some trouble and time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Even though you may like what you're doing, this is the moment to think about the projects you'd like to be involved in. Fantasize! What if you could really do anything? The exercise will improve next week's mood and flow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You like knowing that you have a support system and friends that stand behind you. However, you don't actually want them to do this when you don't need it. Don't feel guilty about needing your space right now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You feel somehow healthier and more full of life around a certain person. That's because you actually are. Good relationships change you physically for the better.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 13). You'll impress a VIP this year, and that very important person is you. Really, when you look back 12 months from now, you'll be astounded at your fortitude. Highlights include a risky power play that pays off, a new hobby that grows your mind and a publication or public appearance that helps your career. Scorpio and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 33, 29, 22 and 15.

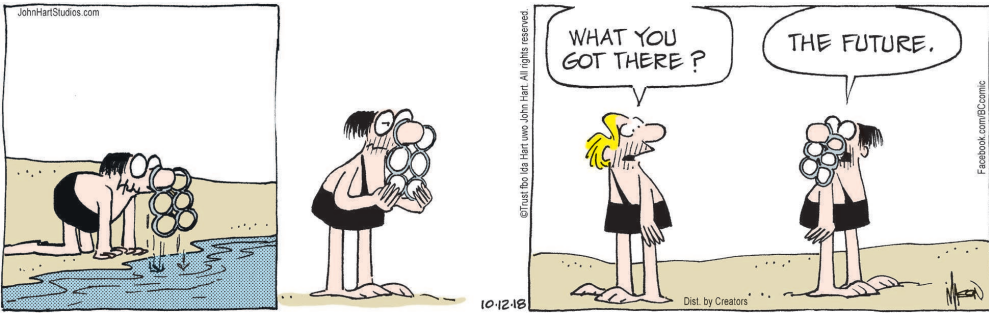
BLONDIE



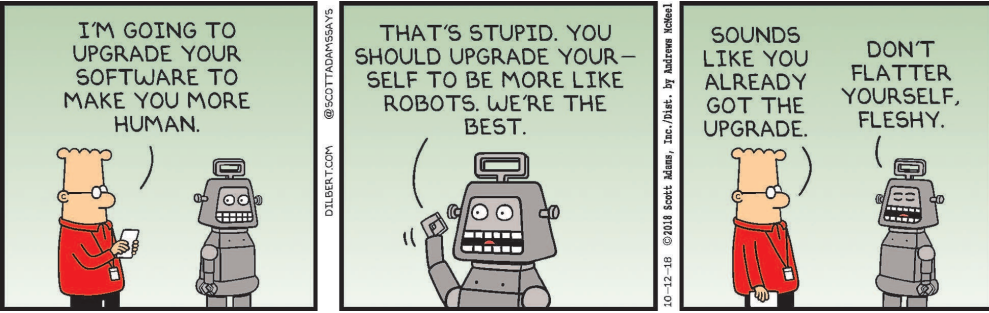
SALLY FORTH



B.C.



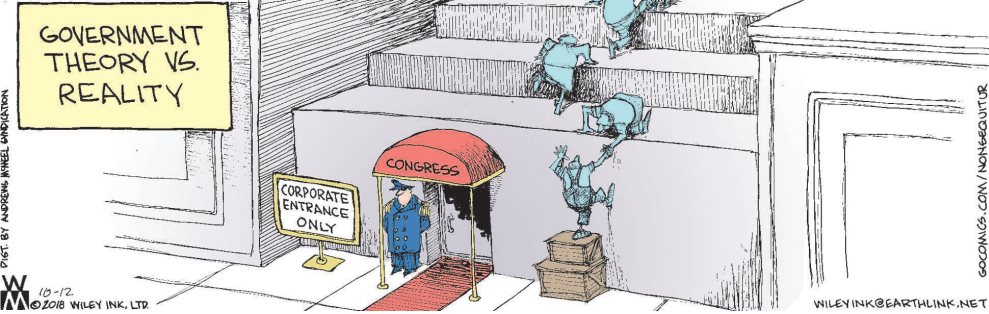
DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

