

# Gambler always checking phone

**Dear Annie:** I have not seen this problem discussed in your column and would really like your advice on this situation, as it's damaged a 50-year friendship. My buddy Roger has become addicted to gambling. He bets on every sport and is consumed with following his bets on his cellphone. He is always looking down at his phone at any social gathering. Roger even had his phone in his face while his son was giving a heartwarming speech during his other son's wedding. Everyone was standing, but Roger was seated with his phone in his hand, with the screen light shining in his face. Roger always appears to be lost in his thoughts and unaware of anything else around him. It is insulting. A mutual friend suggested an intervention years ago to try to help Roger. I worried that it could drive a wedge between us. The friend passed away, and nothing was said. The final blow was this past weekend. A band we

used to love came to town. It was Roger and his wife's 40th anniversary, and my wife and I treated them to tickets to the show. Roger left his seat just as the show started and spent the whole show outside the auditorium. I know he went to the lobby to check his bets on his phone. His rudeness has existed for years, and it's hard to be around him. Our wives are friends, and I don't want this to affect their relationship. Roger's wife looks the other way, knowing it keeps peace in their home. I fear that Roger will eventually lose everything, and I believe that his gambling addiction is too serious for just a friend to be able to help. I'm at a loss as to what to do. He was my best friend, but now he's a stranger. — *Gambling a Friendship*

**Dear Gambling a Friendship:** Addiction is an all-consuming beast, and I'm sorry to hear about what it's doing to your friend. Sadly, he's not alone. The North Amer-

ican Foundation for Gambling Addiction estimates that about 10 million people in the United States have gambling problems. And according to the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling, compulsion tends to develop more quickly in people who are doing continual forms of gambling, such as online betting. Before calling it quits, it's worth sitting Roger down for a heart-to-heart and expressing your concerns. He most likely won't react well — so prepare yourself for that. But it just might plant a seed somewhere in the back of his mind telling him that he needs help. Whether or not that seed grows is up to him, but it's worth trying to plant it. If he refuses to get help and you feel unhealthy around him, you're not obligated to keep spending time with him. Your wife might encourage his wife to check out support groups for the loved ones of gambling addicts, such as Gam-Anon (<https://www.gam-anon.org>). In fact, you might benefit from attending some meetings of such a group, as well.

## DEAR ANNIE



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## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The way it goes with patterns is that the elements have to repeat at some point. No repetition, no pattern. If things go on too long without repetition, it makes you uncomfortable. But maybe this is just a really involved pattern.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** When you love someone you want that person to be happy even if their happiness doesn't happen with you or as a direct result of anything you've done. Right now another person's happiness might even come as a relief.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Some of the things you've been through now seem a little unbelievable to you. But just because an experience is uncommon doesn't make it less real. The unbelievable things are the best part of your story. Remember them now.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Loss is a regular part of life, though not significantly impactful, as there is always something to be gained, too. You won't notice today's loss, and you'll benefit from what takes its place.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The best part of a long journey will be the first and the last mile. The middle offers challenges and tests, which you'll overcome by remembering why you wanted to do this in the first place.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The saying, "No good deed goes unpunished," may come to mind as your kindness leads you down a complicated path. This is the stuff that makes you a broader, wiser and more knowledgeable person.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** How can you be happier at work? This is the question that will lead you to make a few small adjustments that are the start to what will ultimately lead to more smiles in your lifetime.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Has caring too much ever been a problem for you? Of course. In fact, it's a problem right now. And though it might be impossible not to care at all, it will help you to loosen your grip just a little... then, perhaps, a little more.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Puffy dog eyes are more adorable than spider eyes, though they may be no less dangerous. This is because humans can't help but be disarmed by cuteness — a fact you'll use to your advantage today.

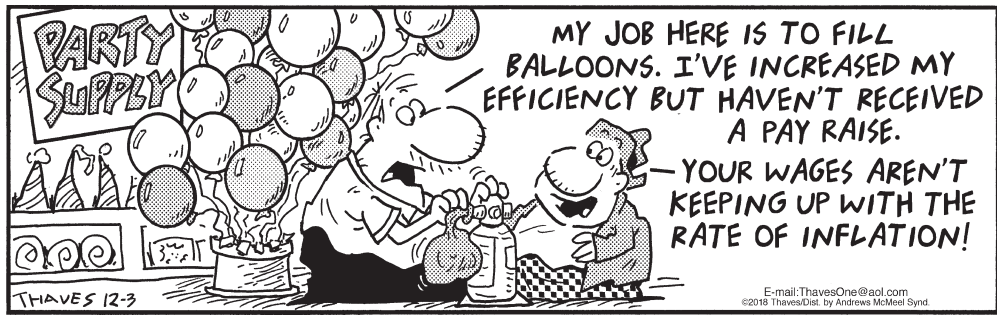
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Each person is a subject to be learned. It takes time, objectivity and focus. It takes seeing someone in many different kinds of scenarios. To learn a person is to love a person.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You'll come across those whose relationship with the truth is tenuous at best. Maybe half of what they say is real, but which half? Take the whole expression as metaphor and you may just understand it all.

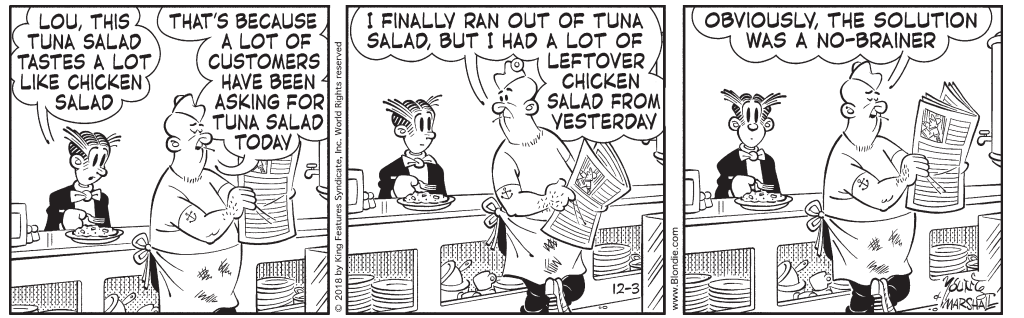
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You want to fulfill the requests of people you like, but it's not always possible or practical to do so in the long run. Consider the bigger picture before committing to something you might later regret.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 4).** Your appreciation of beauty could inspire you to travel or to take personal and emotional risks that you will never forget. The great loveliness you witness will be richly rewarding. Other glories of this solar return will include a wad of money you sock away, a brush with fame and a legendary comedy of errors. Libra and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 20, 4, 44 and 18.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



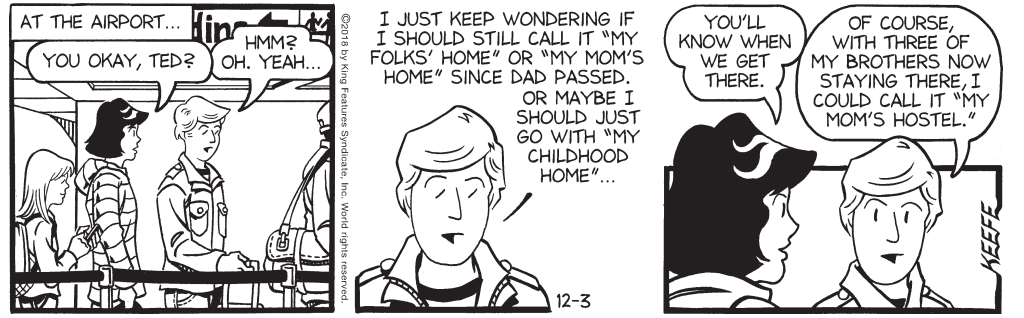
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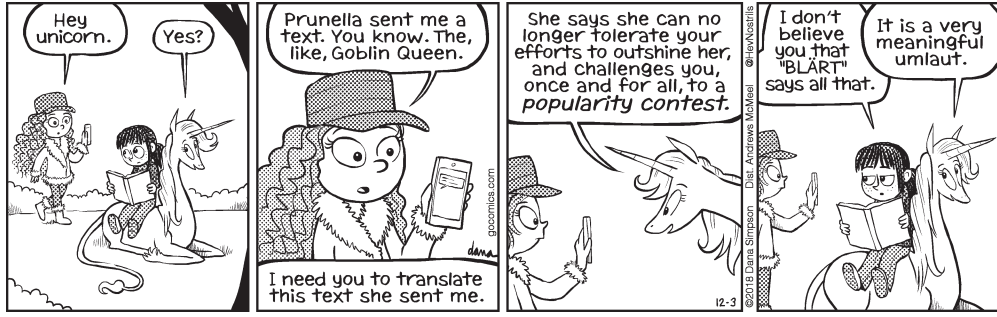
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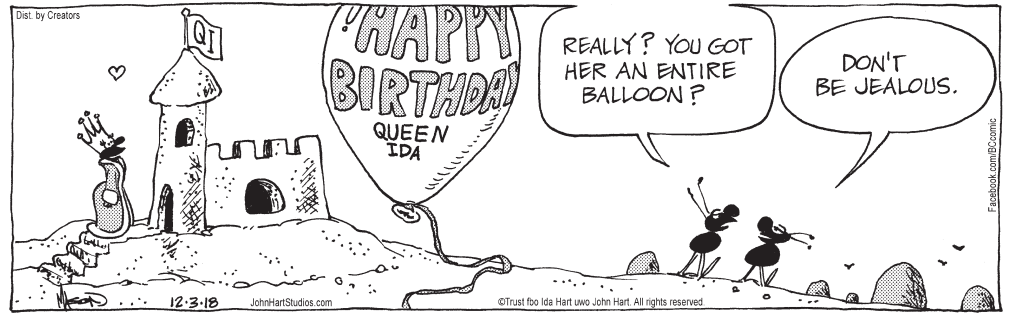
## SALLY FORTH



## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



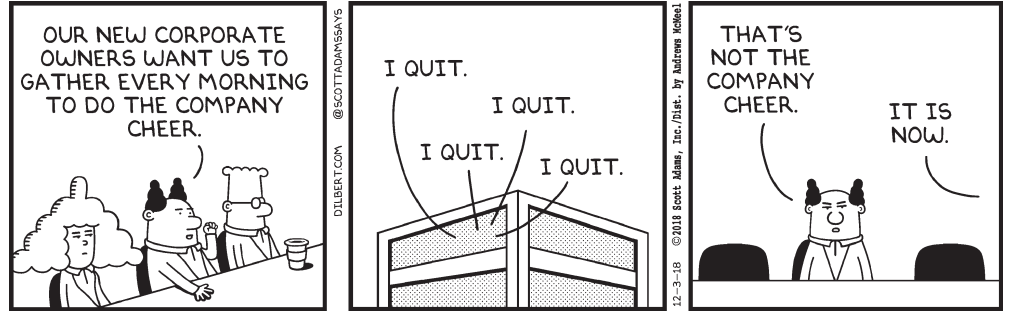
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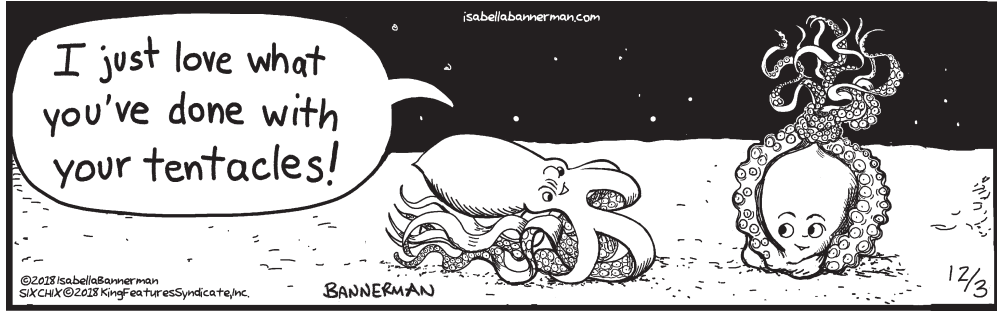
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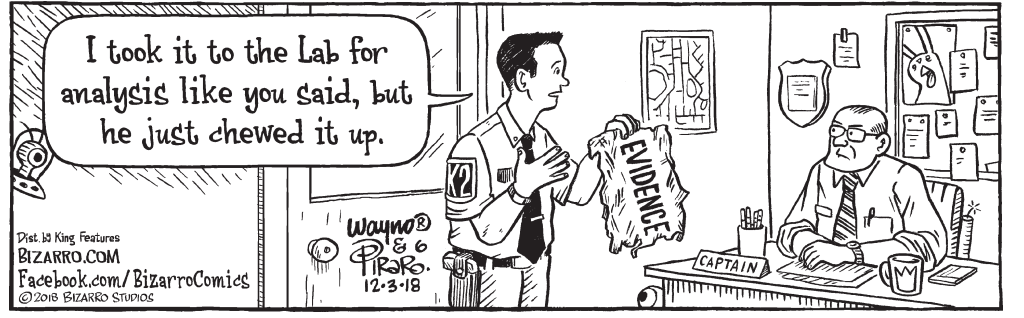
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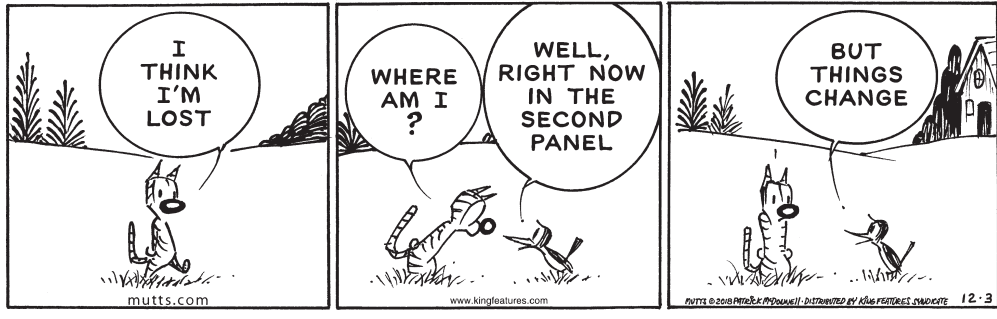
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## BIZARRO



## MUTTS



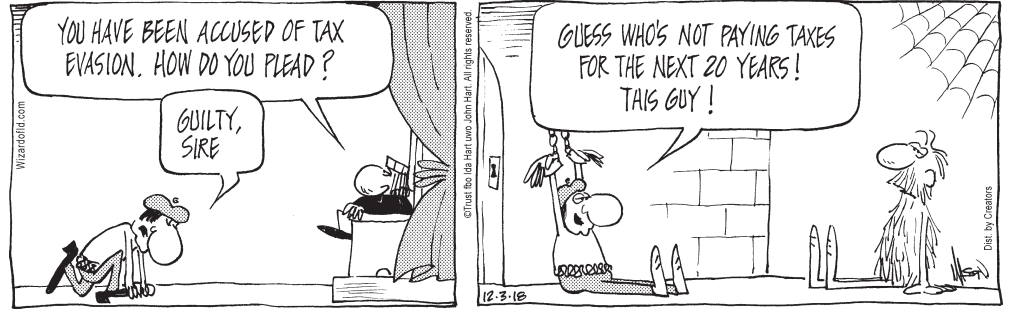
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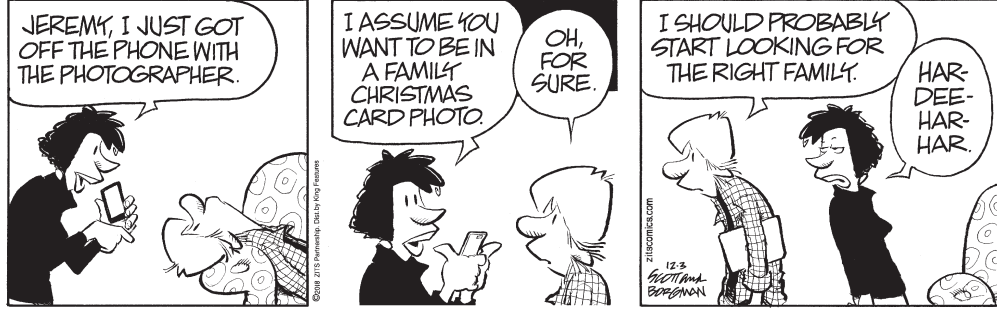
## BABY BLUES



## WIZARD OF ID



## ZITS



## ROSE IS ROSE

