

She's stealing time

Dear Annie: I don't want to continue to let two of my friends steal my time. One friend is the worst when it comes to this. She calls me at least twice a week. I believe that her husband does everything in the house — cooking, shopping and all the driving — because she has plenty of time to talk on the phone. This friend calls several other people, one after the other. I have told her I am always busy. I have a lot of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I love them and care how they are doing. We call each other for a few minutes. We love to spend time with each other. I live alone. I cook, shop, do volunteer work once a week, read a bunch, watch a little TV, send get-well cards to the sick, see whether they need anything, etc. I have friends where I volunteer. I have friends at church. Time is so valuable. I like my time to count each day. I want to tell her she should call her grandchildren, read a book, watch a little TV. She shouldn't just sit on the phone. I am old — older than she is. I may not be here tomorrow. Is there something wrong with me that I

want my time to count?

It seems this one lady takes a lot of people's time. Doesn't she realize people are busy? I don't want to hear from her twice a week. I just don't. If she needed help or had a problem, I would help. But she just talks aimlessly. I would like to hear from her maybe once a month. Help! — *No State, No Name*

DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear No State, No Name: Our time is our most precious resource, and you're wise to guard yours. But your friend is most likely lonely, so try not to let annoyance eclipse compassion when speaking with her about this issue. In a positive tone, share with her how time-consuming your daily routine, community activities and family relationships are, and let her know you're planning to spend more energy focusing on those things. Tell her you won't be around to talk so often but you'll still be thinking of her and be around if she needs you for anything serious. If she continues to call you just to pass the time, that's all right; you don't have to answer, and you don't have to feel guilty or angry about it, either.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Each and every effort you make is a brick in the monument of your reputation. You don't feel pressured by this (because by now the people around you know you pretty well), but you do take the responsibility seriously.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Things may not be what they seem, but there are certain widely accepted measures of proof that would be hard for reasonable people to deny. This is the stuff you'll be gathering today to make your case.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are those who were never taught good manners, and then there are those who were taught them but, for whatever reason, never learned. Either way, it's a blessing. It gives everyone a chance to practice the virtue of tolerance.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). We run our lives on hypothesis, acting in accordance with our theories about how the world is and should be. When the world doesn't agree, that's when things get really exciting.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There are many communication skills worthy of mastering, but none will have such wide-ranging terrific effects as the skill of choosing the topic of conversation well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're not usually inclined to think of yourself first, but go on; do it. You'll be amazed at whom else you can make smile while following through with what you believe are purely selfish motives.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You refuse to stay home, and you'll never be smugly satisfied that you already know enough — because your understanding of reality keeps changing as you meet new people, learn different new topics and have new experiences.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The mature mind is like a dual processing computer. It can function while running two programs at the same time. Sure, sometimes there's a clash that hangs things up, but you'll be fixing bugs as you go today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The problem you once thought of as insidious now seems like a really fascinating study in how things develop with their own inner logic and wisdom to try to solve the issues they face.

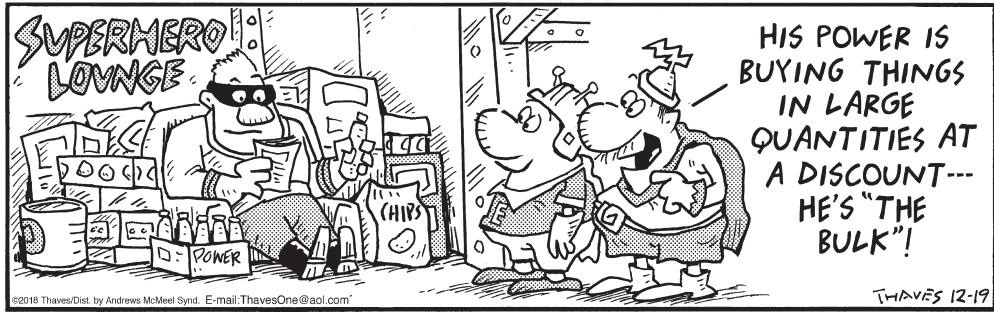
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's you, and then there's your role. You never want to confuse the two or invest your ego in the role instead of in you — because roles come and go, shifting and fading around an eternal part of you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Matters of right and wrong will be quite complicated. Potentially, you could waste many hours arguing over it. Look instead at the spirit of the rules, the tone of things and the overall feeling of an experience.

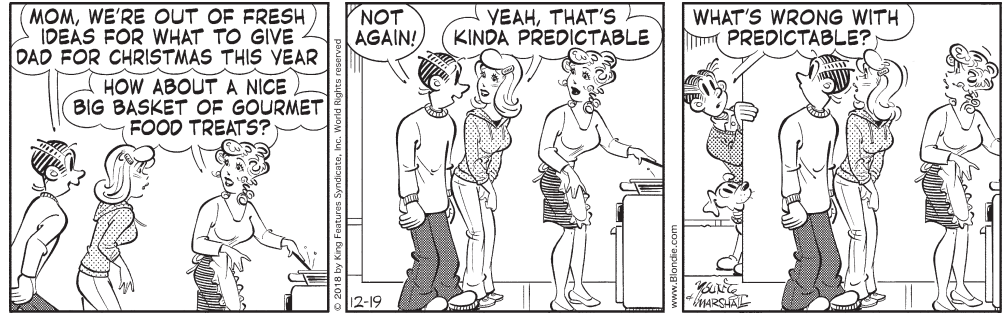
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). An interaction that seems out of joint needs but one quick reset — a powerful snap — to set everything right. Go on and do it. Otherwise, you'll continue, everything rubbing the wrong way, uncomfortable and annoying.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 20). The next three months feature unparalleled liveliness. After that, things settle. The repetition of healthy habits relaxes you into a deep groove. Other highlights include more intense love than you thought your heart was capable of, a special piece of creative work and a string of interviews. Capricorn and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 3, 33, 38 and 14.

FRANK AND ERNEST



BLONDIE



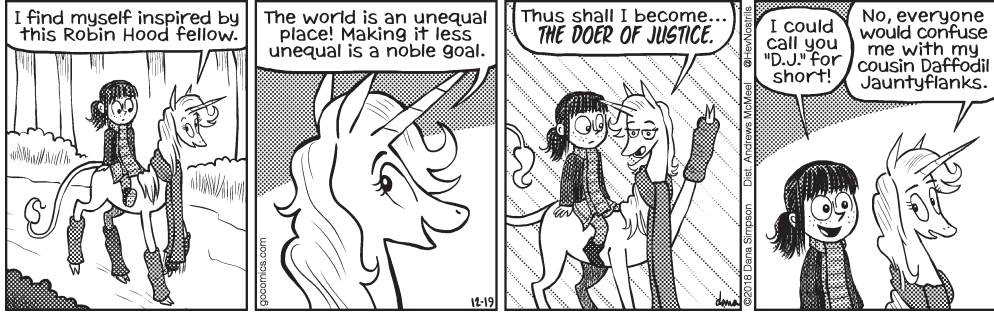
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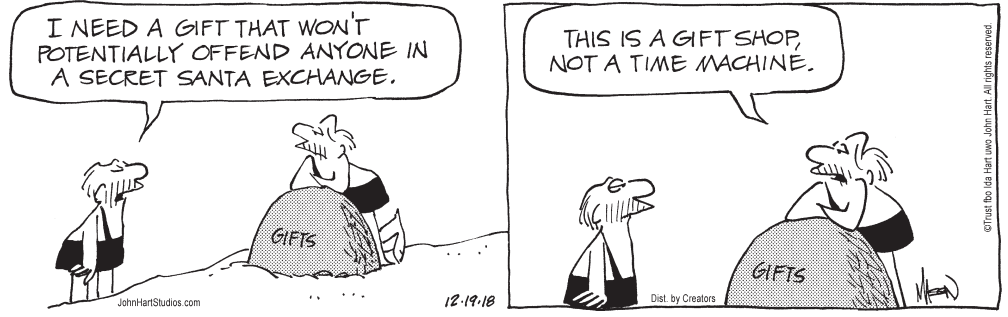
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PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



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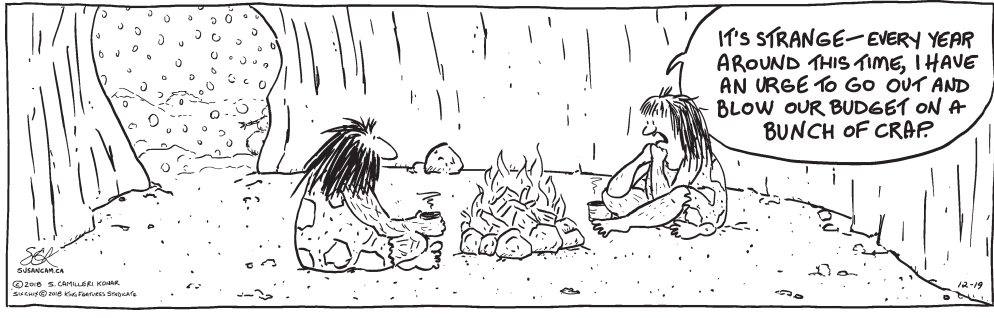
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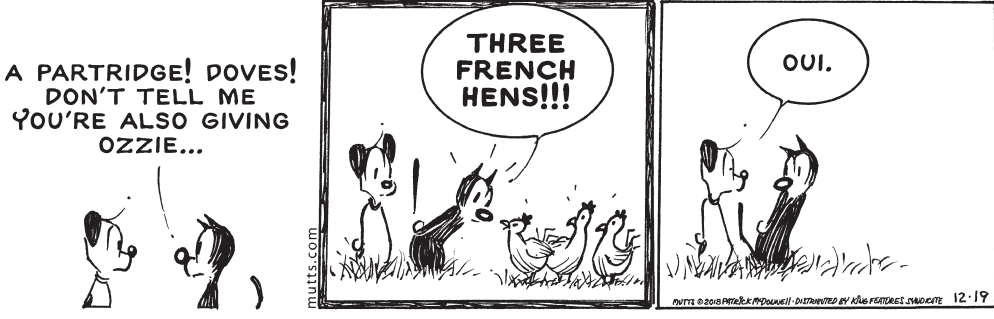
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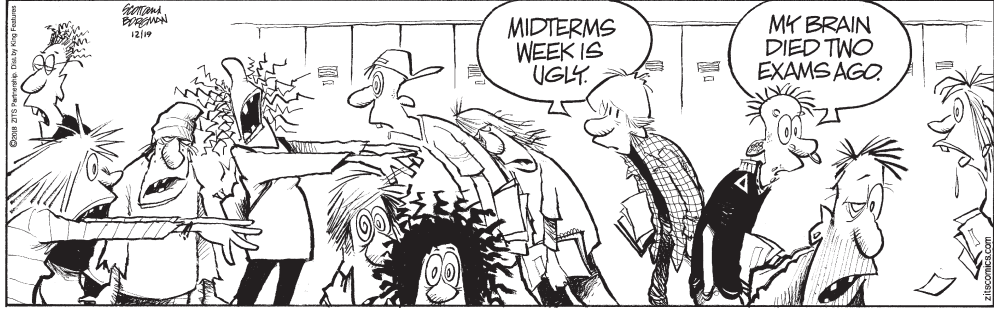
BABY BLUES



WIZARD OF ID



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ROSE IS ROSE

