

# Gifts cause for discomfort

**Dear Annie:** My 94-year-old mother has had a sweetheart for about eight years. "John" is 97, is almost blind and deaf, depends heavily on his walker and has begun showing signs of mental confusion. His two sons care for him. Their circumstances appear to be modest.

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

John is smitten with my mom and has recently started giving her money. First it was \$70, which she used to buy some blouses; then it was \$100, "for pants." Yesterday he gave her \$200. (I have not been present during these interactions, but Mom has shown me the money.) John insists that these gifts must be kept secret from his sons. I am uncomfortable with keeping the secret and the money and am afraid there will be more coming down the pike. I do not want to betray his trust by telling his sons. My concerns are that this may be money that the family needs, that sneaking money to my mom creates an unhealthy atmosphere and that John may not be able-minded enough to make such decisions.

Mom does not want the money, but John is insistent. What do you think? — *Concerned Daughter*

**Dear Concerned Daughter:** For John, this isn't about the gifts; it's about the giving. He wants his partner to feel cherished. So perhaps your mom could let her benevolent beau know all the ways he makes her feel special that don't involve money. He'll rely less on material things to express his love if he realizes that simply holding her hand makes her feel like a million bucks.

**Dear Annie:** I used to date this guy, and I ended up blocking his phone number. When we were seeing each other, he would only see me once every week or two. He only answered my messages or phone calls sometimes. We usually met late at night, and he would always make me leave his house early in the morning for some reason. I really miss him, and I think that we would really make each other happy if we were in a serious relationship. But he doesn't seem to be ready to open up with me or

be serious with me. I slept with some other people while we were seeing each other, and I believe he was with other women then, too. He never does admit to it.

I believe that he has major feelings for me because I can feel our chemistry together. I know he sounds horrible, but I really think that he loves me. I have cried over him these past weeks, and I feel really sad that we are no longer talking. Should I continue moving on without him or try to pursue being with him if he ever does get in touch with me again? I will never call or message him again unless maybe he contacts me. — *Curious for Advice*

**Dear Curious for Advice:** You blocked his number for a reason. It's time to block it again. I know you're looking for love and companionship, but you won't find it in him. Move on, even if you don't quite want to yet. Being single is so much better than being in a relationship with someone who doesn't appreciate you. Keep yourself open for someone who is thrilled to spend time with you. Don't give another day of your life to a man who only gives you his nights.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Solitude can be healing, though some people will go to great lengths to avoid it. That's because they mistake being alone for being lonely. Loneliness is not a number; rather, it's a lack of connection.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Some will lower their inhibitions through chemicals to free themselves to be more social. The chemicals are unnecessary and could be harmful. Lower your inhibitions through a mindset or through dancing instead.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Attention isn't the goal for you today. There are many situations in which you don't want to be the smooth one, the one that everyone wants to impress or date or befriend. You've got good reasons for wanting to go under the radar.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Distance is a funny thing for you now. In some ways you'll feel more influential and important to people who are far away from you than you will to those at an arm's length.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The real message will be smuggled into a conversation via the social acceptable message, the small talk, the expected banter. Listen for it. You don't necessarily have to address it now, but definitely make note of this underlying truth.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Your analyzing mind has solved many problems for you and helped you excel in many areas of life. That said, it's not the right mind to heal emotional wounds. Employ your heart and body to that task.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Today you're like a jazz musician. You know your piece too well to play it note for note. The solid melody at the core of your day will have many embellishments and tangents to keep it fresh.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Narrow the gap between your idea of where you are now and your idea of where you want to be. "Your idea" is the operative phrase here. Perception of a place isn't the place. Geography remains; ideas change instantaneously.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** There's a person who, lately, tends to put a twist in the mood to enable a downward spiral. Perhaps this character is unavoidable, though you can plan ahead and put up emotional armor, including a shield made of good humor.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Psychologists call the fruitless preoccupation with what went wrong "rumination." This mode of critical thinking invariably makes us feel worse. Awareness is the anecdote. Instead of analyzing, accept. Instead of doing, be.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Old patterns feel comfortable, but that feeling of familiarity doesn't make them any truer. Repetition fosters belief, but that doesn't make the belief right. Figure out what's good and correct before you repeat it.

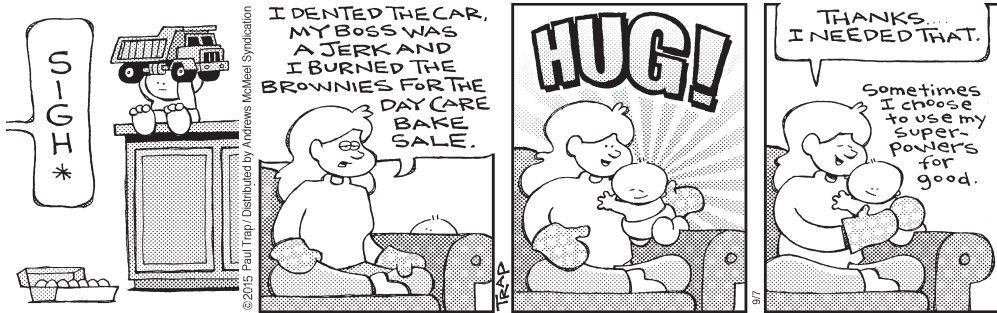
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Thinking is not all there is to conscious experience. Today a cosmic perk will come without any effort on your behalf. Your senses will be naturally more engaged, and your intuition will be keen.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 8).** This solar return raises the tone you bring to your life events, which will serve you in the moment and beyond. Memories are not flat, linear representations, but 3D snapshots of everything, including your mood. Love and joy spill over through the end of your year. Shrewd business leads to lucrative deals in February. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 2, 16, 50 and 27.

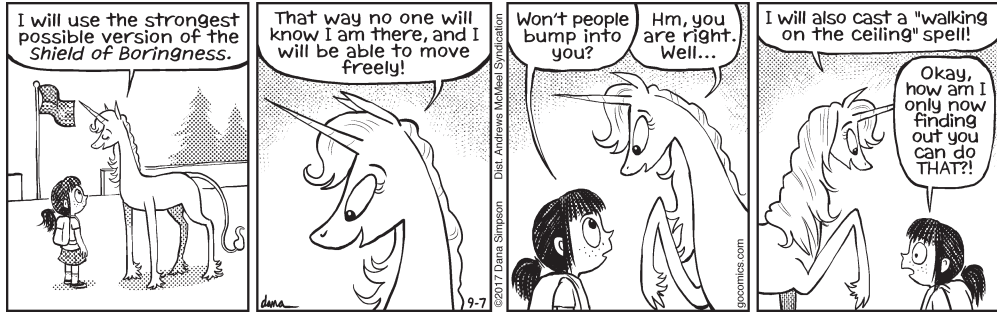
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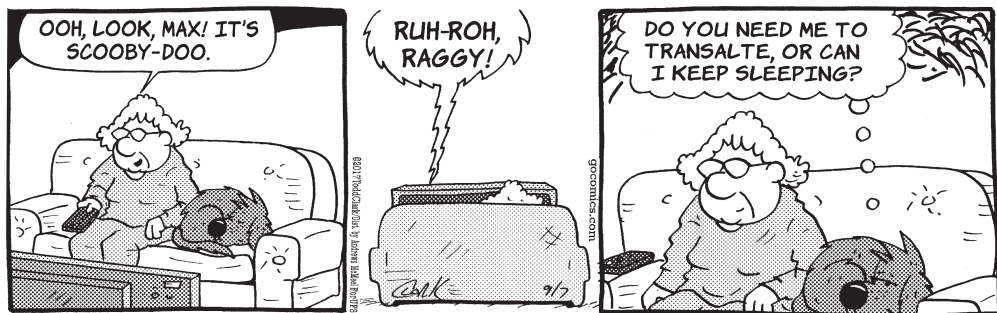
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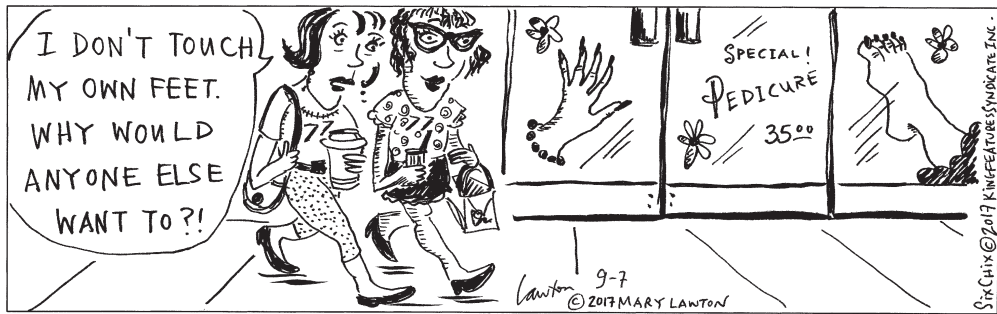
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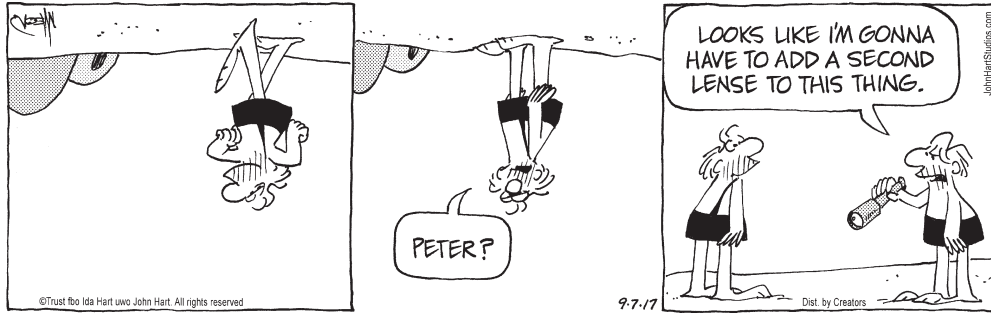
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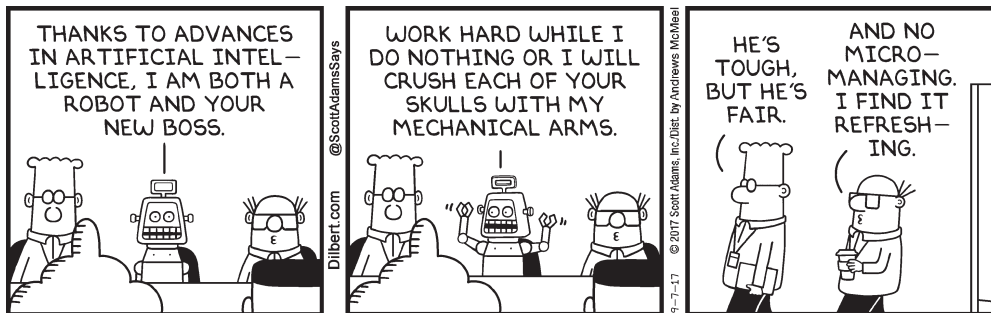
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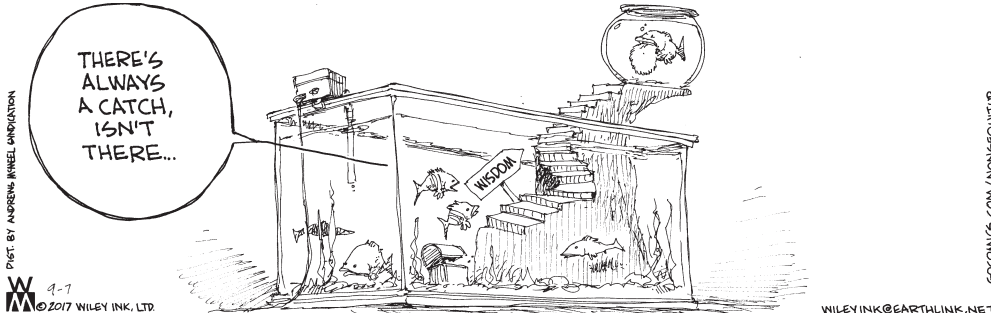
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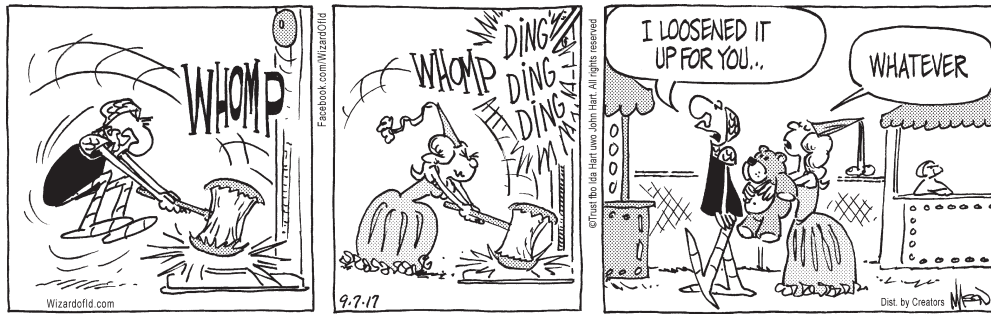
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

