

# Many unwanted invitations

**Dear Annie:** I read your column in my local paper, and you seem to respond in an unbiased manner, so I am turning to you for advice.

Over the past few months, I have received invitations to a 1-year-old's birthday party, a graduation and a wedding reception (not the wedding). In each case, the inviter was an acquaintance whom I know casually. I don't consider any of them to be a close friend, especially the graduate, whom I am "friends" with on social media but haven't seen or spoken to in over a year and a half.

All of the invitations were sent electronically. I am wondering whether the new world of technology has cheapened the tradition of celebrations. I can't help but feel that the invitations were not sincere and I was just included on mass lists of invitees gathered from social media. Receiving them has made me feel used, in a way.

I do not plan on attending any of the events. The dilemma I am facing is whether to send gifts. I was always taught that if I receive an invitation to an event, I should give a present even if I am unable to attend.

However, I am confused about what is expected in situations such as these.

I want to do the right thing but not feel taken advantage of.

**Dear Unsure:** An invitation is not an obligation. That goes for both gifts and attendance. You should worry about buying a gift only if you're going to attend, and you should attend only if you truly care to. If not, sending your regrets and best wishes is more than sufficient.

**Dear Annie:** How do I tell a guy I just started dating that I can't stand his mustache? First of all, it is not attractive at all. Then there is the matter of how, when he kisses me, it feels like sharp spikes going into my skin. I have dated and kissed other guys with mus-

taches and did not feel the same discomfort, so I'm not sure what the deal is.

I like him and enjoy his company. I don't want to hurt his feelings. What can I do? — *'Stache-Scratched*

**Dear 'Stache-Scratched:** Speak up in behalf of your upper lip. After all, it would be hurtful to your new boyfriend if you wriggled away whenever he went in for a kiss and he didn't know why. There are plenty of remedies he could try — such as trimming less often and softening it with conditioner or coconut oil — short of shaving his mustache. Although you'd prefer he just shave it because you don't like the way it looks, that's not your call. To insist that a partner change his or her appearance is to be controlling. You can politely make your feelings known. (For example, you could say, "I would love to see you without a mustache. I bet you'd look even handsomer.") But ultimately, it's up to him. Who knows? With time, the mustache might actually grow on you.

## DEAR ANNIE

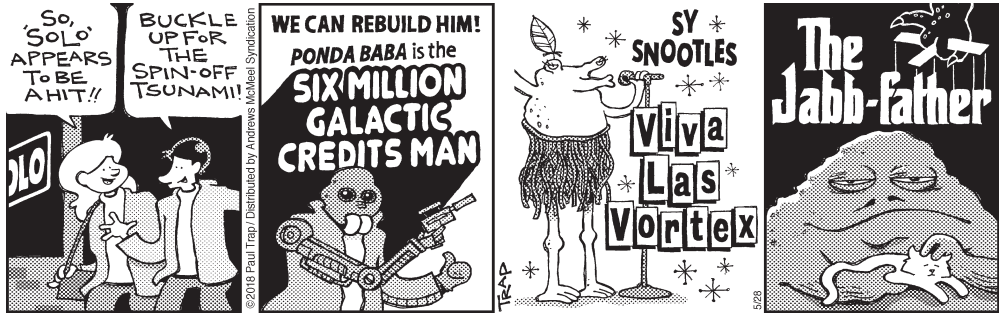


Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

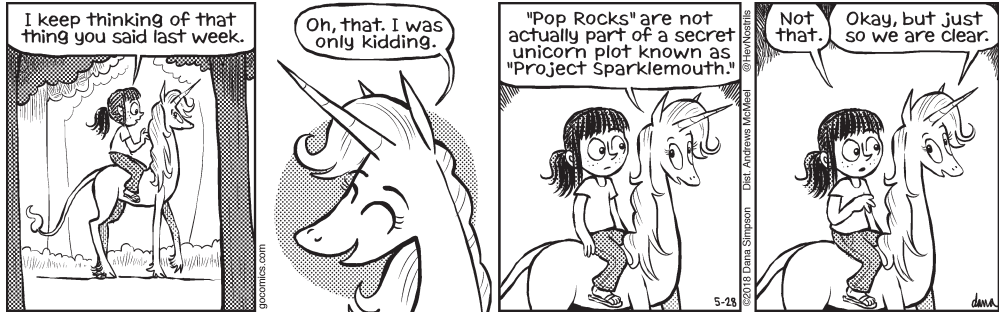
## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



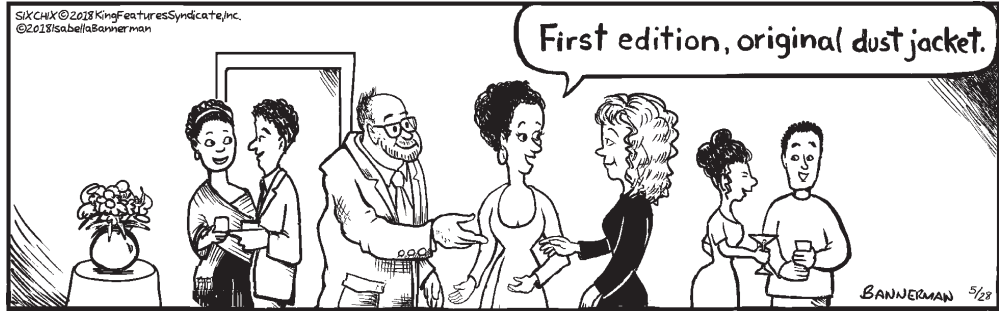
## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



## LOLA



## SIX CHIX



## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** In situations in which one person's preference or opinion is tacitly understood to carry more weight than everyone else's — enough! This is getting old! You might dismantle the unjust power structure by simply refusing to take part in it.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You'll invest your attention and hours in what makes you happy. It's a great strategy. You can't go wrong with this — not in the long term, and not over the course of this day.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** What good is it to feel another person's pain unless one is also moved to help relieve it? Your compassion hits you like a call to action today, and this could significantly alter your original plans.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Technically, discoveries are made by those who got there first, though they are often credited to those who got there loudest, most powerfully and with great support. Question of the day: How important is it to stake your claim?

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You'll get together with people who happen to be in a different mood than you are. So, whose mood prevails? Do both meet somewhere in the middle? Hopefully, the better mood will lift the other.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Work fast so you can play slow, or at least play without distraction for nice blocks of time. This will be a reward to savor, and, better yet, it will lead to more of the same.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Loving people do not always get to choose how that love gets distributed. You'll set out to direct your focus on one who always rewards it, and yet there will be others who need you more. That's just

how it goes.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** As much as you would like to be able to explore every option, there won't be time for meandering. Your intuition will come in the form of a preference. It will be practically impossible to miss this one.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You'll be in a position to lead. The first order of business is to help the others see what there is to want. Create an appetite for what's in it for them. Tell a part of the story that will make people wonder what's next.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** While rejection is a necessary part of life, there's no reason to put yourself in the position to risk rejection today. You'll talk to people who want to be talked to.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Check in with each member of your group to make sure everyone is on the same page. When you all work together you'll turn out a result all will be proud to claim.

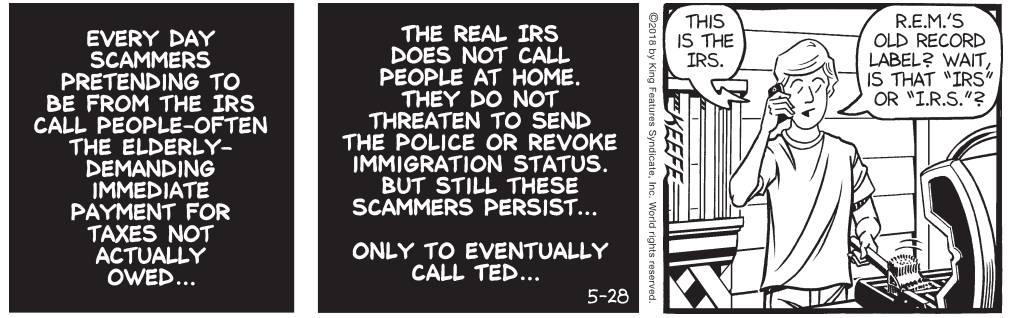
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** When the situation doesn't feel right, that doesn't make it wrong; it's just not for you. Trust that enough to walk away so you can find something that is right for you.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (May 29).** There are deep habits and essential interactions forming in the first part of this solar return, so try and repeat only the actions you firmly believe contribute to your happiness and well-being. A windfall comes in September, and an even better deal happens in December. Also, you'll throw a party that will cement your status. Pisces and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 12, 6 and 30.

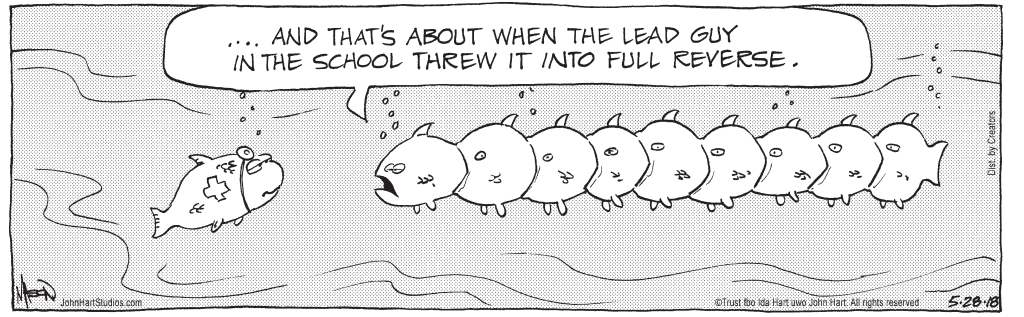
## BLONDIE



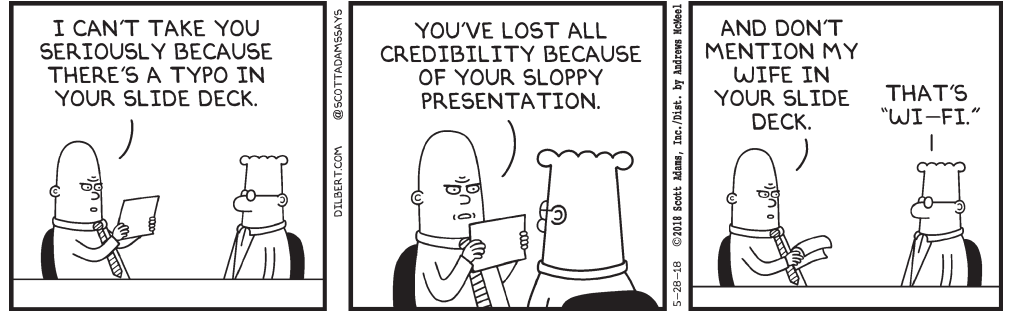
## SALLY FORTH



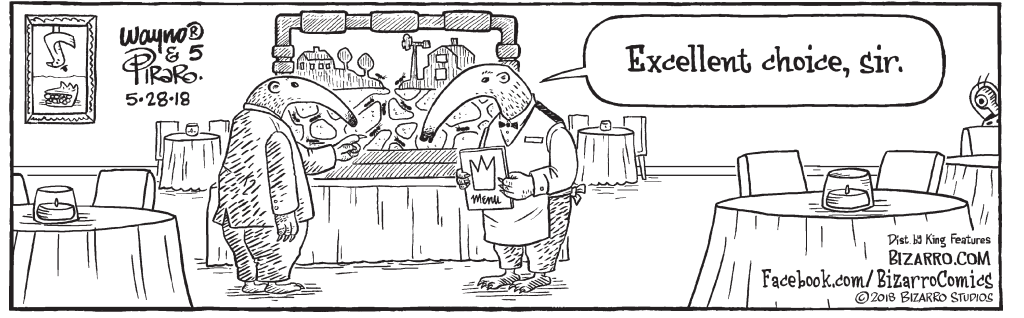
## B.C.



## DILBERT



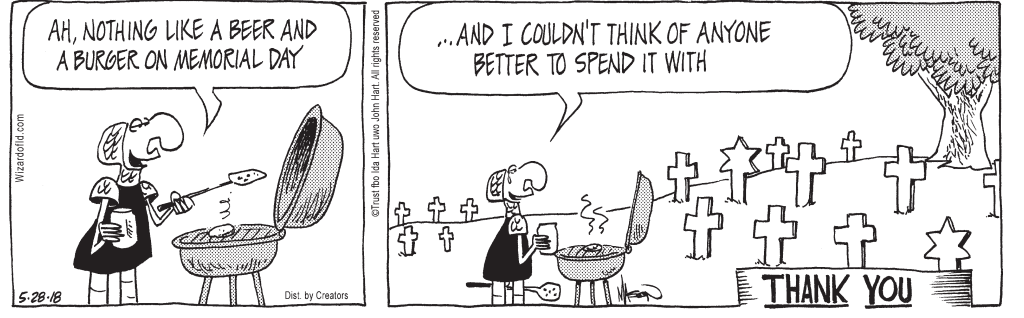
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

