

# Should I ask for gift?

**Dear Annie:** On a yearly basis, my employer recognizes employees who have dedicated 10, 15, 20, etc. years of service as well as individuals who are retiring. These employees have their names published in local press and also receive a gift. This past year I completed my 10th year of service. While my name was published, I never received a gift. Everyone else received one, so it's not that the tradition stopped and I was unaware; mine was just somehow overlooked. My co-workers tell me I should ask about it, but I feel kind of awkward doing so. Is it tacky to contact the human resources department and ask about the gift? — *Feeling Forgotten*

**Dear Feeling Forgotten:** It's not tacky so long as you handle it with tact. Send a short and sweet email to the human resources department. Start by expressing gratitude for their recognizing you in the local press. Then ask about the gift, taking care not to make demands: It is, after all, a gift, not a right. So emphasize that you realize it's not something

you're automatically entitled to, but you were just wondering if your not getting an anniversary gift was intentional.

Alternatively, if you feel too uncomfortable bringing the subject up yourself, you might ask a co-worker with whom you're close to do so on your behalf.

**Dear Annie:** I am a good tipper. I always tip 20 percent for servers, pizza delivery guys, bartenders and baristas because they are serving me in some capacity. What I don't understand is the tip line on the credit card receipt when I get takeout or ice cream. Is a tip really expected? What is the difference between tipping the girl who hands me my takeout order and the girl behind the fast-food counter or the girl behind the gas station counter? We are not asked to tip these folks.

I feel like a jerk when I draw through the tip line, but I just don't feel an additional 20 percent is earned. — *Confused at the Counter*

**Dear Confused:** You're not the only one. Many people are

confused about whether or not they're expected to leave a tip for takeout.

The reason you're not asked to tip employees at a gas station or fast-food restaurant is because those employees are making at least minimum wage. The lines become blurrier in the case of getting takeout from restaurants.

So as much as I hate to say that it depends, well, it depends. I find that, when in doubt, I never regret erring on the side of generosity.

**Dear Annie:** "Tipped Off" was inquiring about tipping at a doctor's office. You never heard of tipping at a doctor's office. You are correct, but it depends. You would never tip a nurse or a receptionist, or anyone fully employed by the doctor.

As a massage therapist of 20 years, I can attest, most massage therapists are not fully employed by the doctor, which means that we do not receive a salary, health insurance, vacation time or sick time. The massage therapist also has to pay licensing fees, continuing education costs and liability insurance! — *Happy MT*

**Dear Happy MT:** Thanks for the tip!

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

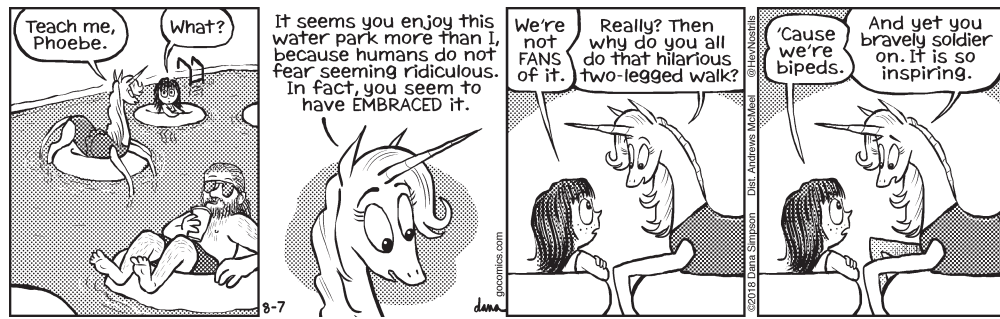
## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



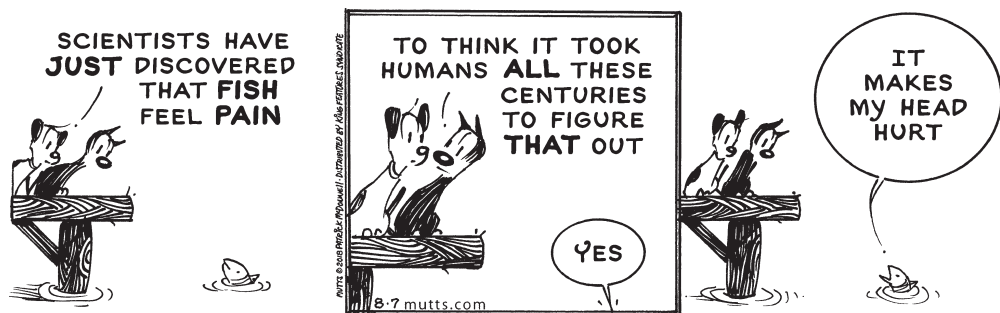
## LOLA



## SIX CHIX



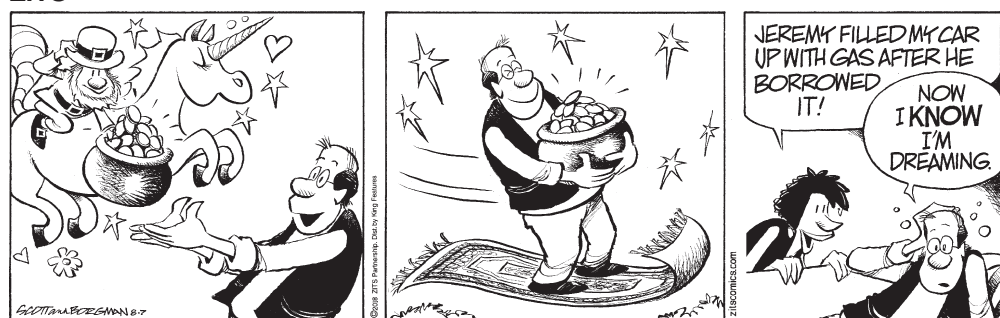
## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** We are often surprisingly ignorant of our own needs. And when it comes to motivations, those can be even more mysterious. But writing can unlock many secrets. Journaling will bring stress relief and self-realization.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The planets are shifting, and so are you. You could make a buddy out of a former adversary, or make peace with a part of your past that, up until this point, you'd considered unfortunate.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Your imagination is powerful. Devote time to chasing your ideas. Your life will be richer for it. Also, let no one interfere. You're the engineer of this fantasy train, and you can drive it wherever you want it to go.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Big ambitions are accomplished through small wins. So don't let your high hopes keep you from celebrating the little things. Mark the milestones to honor your journey.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The day features action, conflict and decisions that must be made in a snap. Take a break to process all that's going on. Idle chat will turn out to be valuable. You'll learn more in downtime than you do in the heat of the action.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** A pleasant day stretches ahead. You'll be treated. People you enjoy are close at hand. You belong to something bigger than you, and this will offer a degree of ease and security to your day.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Love isn't something you have; it's something you do. So it's impossible to love without investment, as the love is the investment. These are things you know, but others haven't learned yet. You'll

teach through example.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** The start of a task will bring butterflies. The middle part will be accompanied by doubts and wonders about what made you take this on in the first place. The end will answer all, and you'll be better for it.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Though there is cooking and cleaning to be done and errands to run, you want to do so much more with your time than wile away the hours on ordinary things. Put extraordinary aims first, and the rest takes care of itself.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Though you're tougher than most, you still long to be treated with reverence and care. When your soul meets with a callous world, it causes pain. Seek bonds with the tenderhearted.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Be careful not to over-identify with your characteristics, personality or social and economic standing: You're more and something other than those things. Stay connected to the down-deep you.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The more you learn, the better you serve; the better you serve, the more you learn. It may not sound very glamorous, but oddly enough, there will be something glamorous about it.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 8).** This year has the pacing of an award-winning movie. Your treasures will be more or less evenly spaced throughout the year, giving you much to celebrate and then to look forward to. Featured happiness includes an easy and joyful relationship; an important sale; and hefty compensation for doing what you love. Gemini and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 3, 33, 38 and 19.

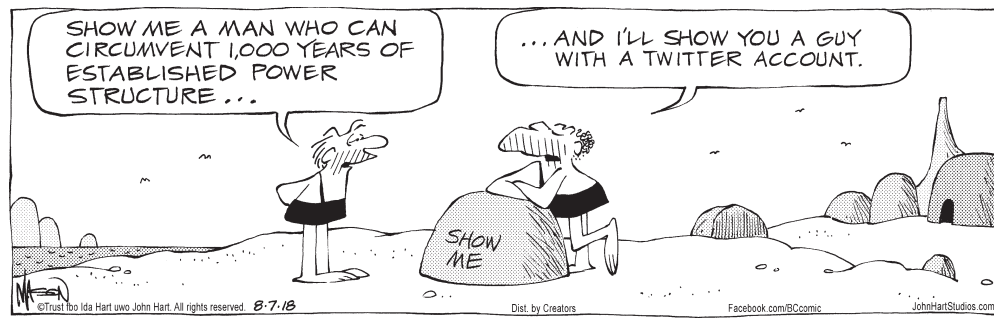
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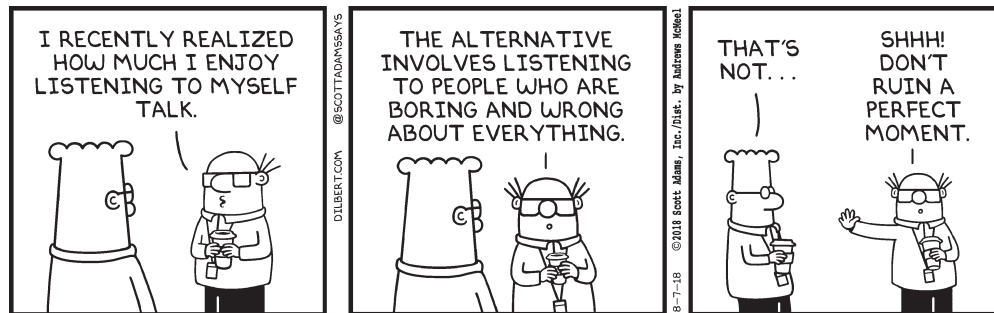
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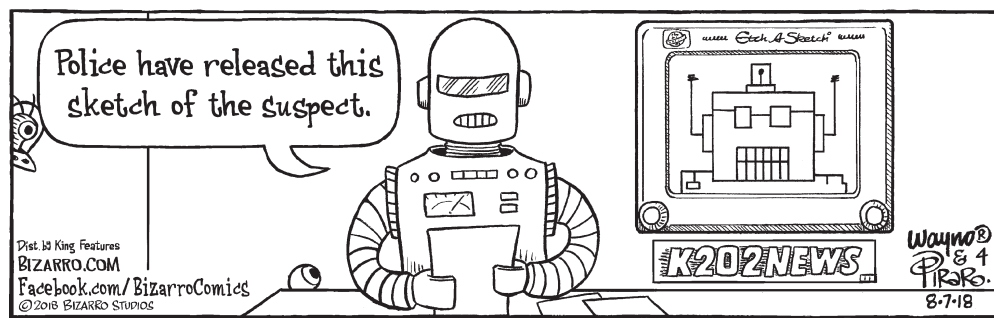
## B.C.



## DILBERT



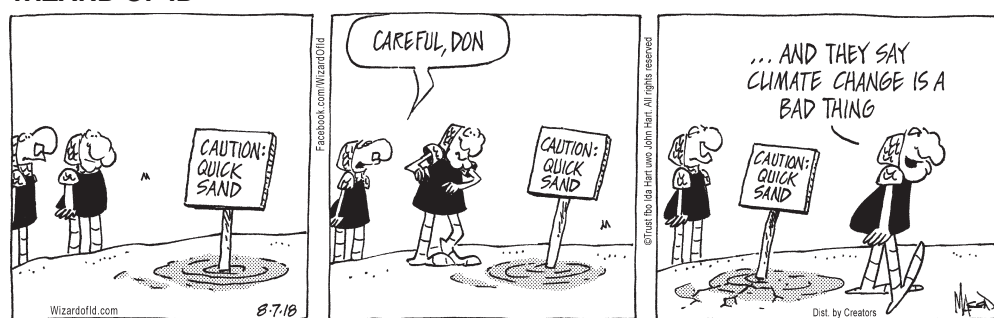
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

