# Children lack gratitude

**DEAR ANNIE**

Annie Lane
Creators Syndicate Inc.

**Dear Annie:** There are three sisters in my family. Two of us are childless. Our other sister now has seven grandchildren. Every Christmas and birthday, my other childless sister and I send a check to each grandniece and grandnephew. We never expect any gifts in return, but it would be nice to receive a text message or an email acknowledging our gifts. My other childless sister and I also receive regular solicitations to contribute to special funds — for example, one to pay for band uniforms.

Upon any graduation from high school, my other childless sister and I are expected to attend the event and pay for our own airfare, a hotel room, a car rental and other expenses, which is fine. But then we are both expected to work in the kitchen to assist with an elaborate gathering for many people — which I know is very expensive.

My other childless sister feels as if it would be unfair to the younger grandnieces and grandnephews to stop sending checks because we have sent so many checks to the older ones and they are ungrateful. I think that it is time to stop sending checks. Your opinion, please. — *Checked Out*

**Dear Checked Out:** You don't owe anybody anything. Send the younger children greeting cards if you'd like to let them know you're thinking of them on special occasions, but don't include checks. If they get angry, as though they were entitled to your money just because their elder siblings received some, then they needed a lesson in humility more than they needed cash.

**Dear Annie:** I would like to use you as a sounding board, hoping that my children and old-enough grandchildren might read this and see themselves in the paper.

I have a problem that I'm sure other adults with grown children and grandchildren have when it comes to birthdays, anniversaries, etc. I always make sure that the above-mentioned relatives have presents and cards on their special days. But when it comes to my husband's and my anniversary and birthdays, we get nothing from them.

Heaven forbid that I don't send at least a card their way for every occasion. If I don't send a card for my grandchild, for example, I get a nasty phone call from my daughter, who asks whether I forgot her son's birthday.

I am going to try to start doing the same, calling to ask whether they forgot my birthday or my husband's birthday. I guess I was brought up differently than I raised them. — *Upset in Florida*

**Dear Upset:** So many people's manners seem to be going downhill in this department. Just take a look at the previous letter.

I certainly sympathize with you and all the other grandparents, aunts and uncles who consistently show thoughtfulness that younger relatives rarely reflect back. That said, have you tried telling your children you feel this way? They might be all grown up, but there are still lessons you can teach them — such as how no one likes feeling taken for granted, not even parents. And if they don't take that lesson from you, I guarantee they'll learn it firsthand one day.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

**By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.**

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You'll be working on a mystery. You already know who did what, but you don't yet know why. You may never know why. Nonetheless, the exercise of trying to figure it out is what will bring you a degree of enlightenment.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Your frustration is a good sign. It's part of a learning process. You're on the verge of doing something different. You may need to tinker. You may need a different approach. Step back and listen to what life is trying to tell you here.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You won't like every single person, but if you limited yourself to dealing with only those you liked, you would be hurting yourself. Goldmines of opportunity will be hidden inside business with people you don't fully click with.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** The socially acceptable thing earned its status by being widely used and understood. What's new, by definition, won't fit that category. So don't use public acceptance as your gauge. Let your heart be the judge instead.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** It's a repeat of something that happened last week, except it's like the negative print version: The darks are light; the reds are green. The shape is the same, but it doesn't look the same at all. Does it still have the same meaning?

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Today you've a deep humility and a care and love for others. It's coming through in your interactions, especially since you've decided that you don't have to take the lead.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** All the things you tried that didn't work have taught you much more than just "what doesn't work out." You will be able to apply these lessons. Relax. You're only getting better.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** It's a fine day to develop the sense of mystery that already surrounds you by adding layers of silence and secrecy. It's not always the right approach, but today it will grow your power.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Language changes. Fashion changes. Music changes. There is no right way, only what's in style now and what's not. Are love and relationships also matters of style? It's a theme to consider today.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** In a perfect world, those close to you would sense what you need and kick in help, validation and support. But it's not perfect. It's a world of people born selfish. Getting them to pay attention comes with the territory. Good luck.

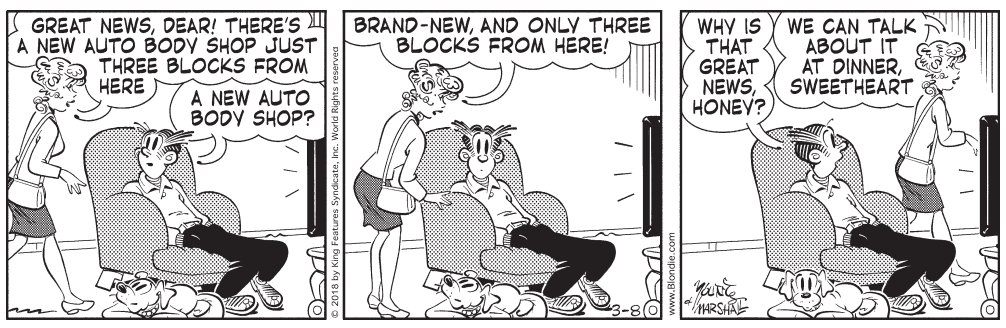
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** In the business world, one-on-one meetings are known for being hard to get right. Groups find their own equilibrium, but the one-on-one dynamic is trickier. Good thing you're a natural. You'll put someone at ease today.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Today's questions: Who gets to know you and who never will? Should you remain discreet or speak up? The thing about sharing how you feel is that it's going to change — and then what about the update?

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 9).** This solar return will change what you do, not who you are. If anything, you'll become more of who you are as you commit to what's really giving you energy and cut away the extraneous activities that don't pay you back in any meaningful way. A celebration will award you in May. A case or deal gets wrapped up in August. Leo and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 40, 33, 21 and 1.

### FRANK AND ERNEST

### BLONDIE

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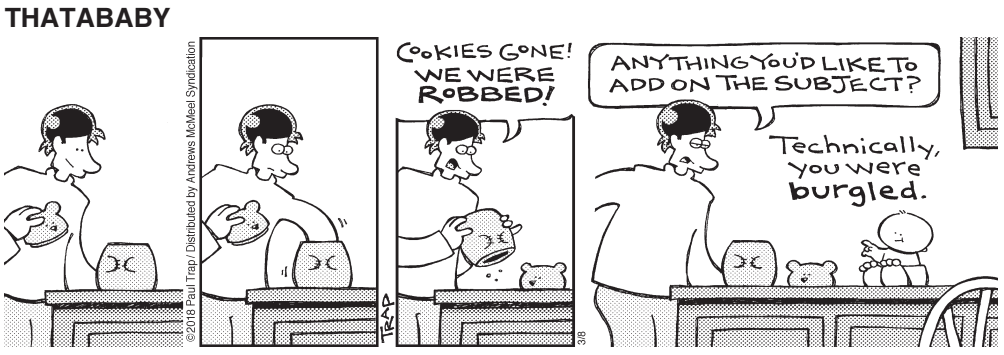


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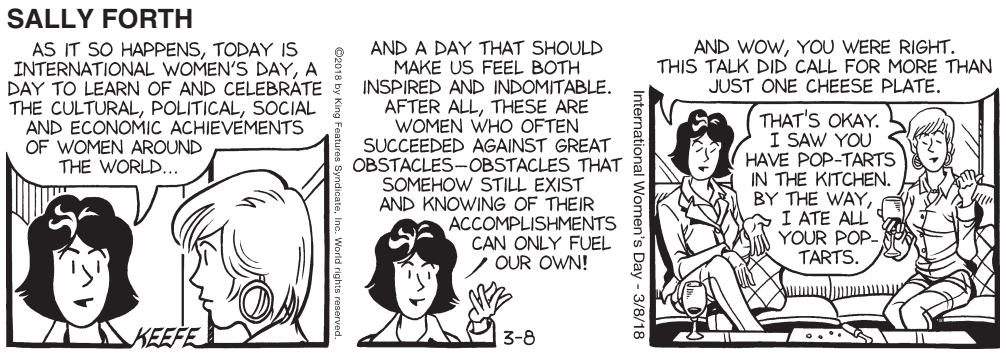
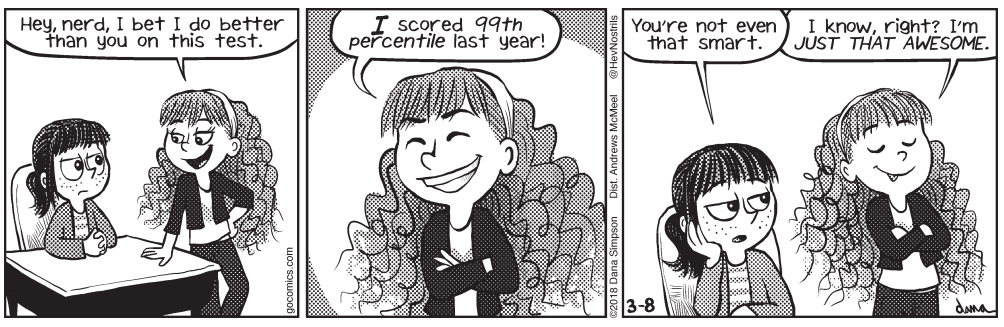



### PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

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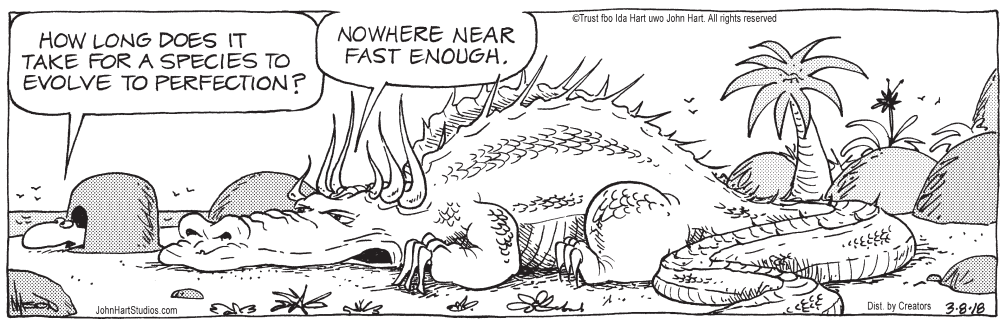


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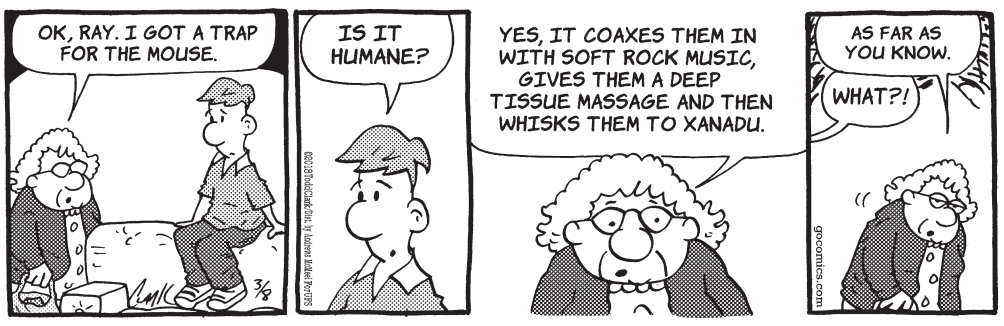


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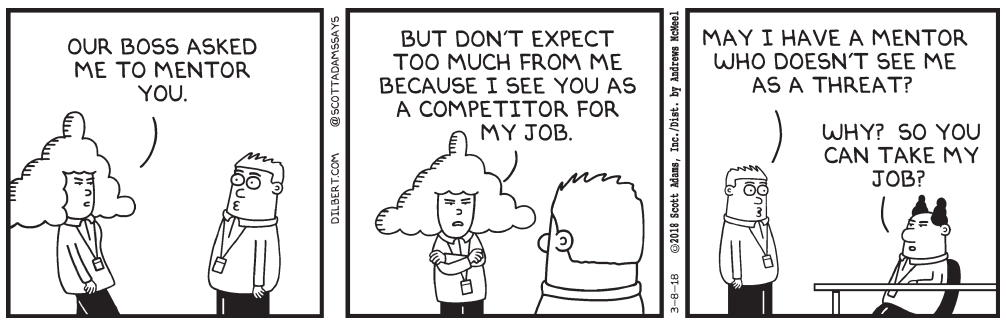
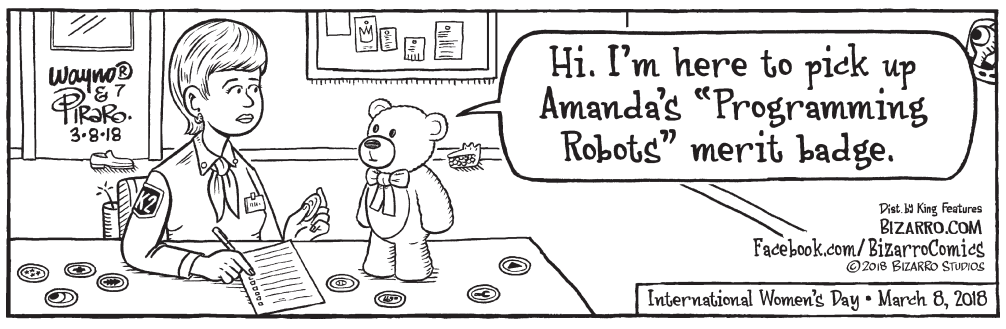



### SIX CHIX

### BIZARRO

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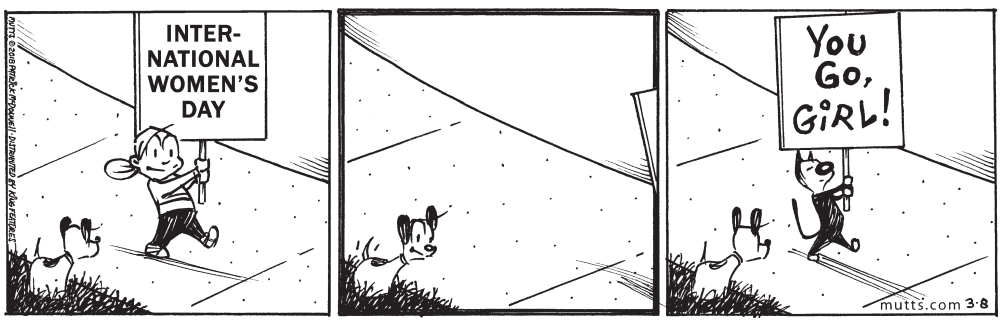


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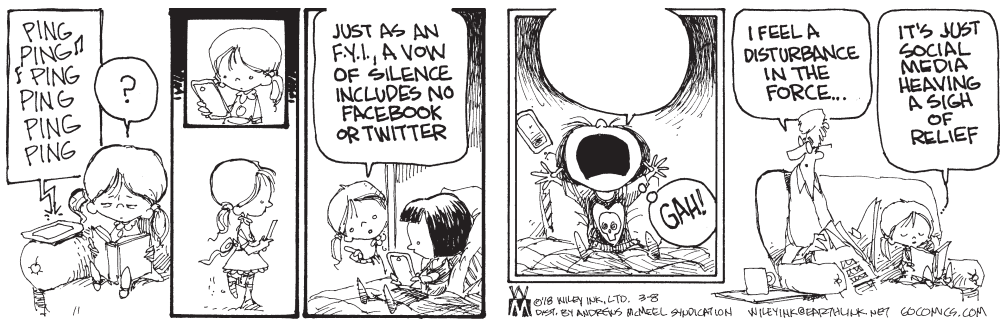
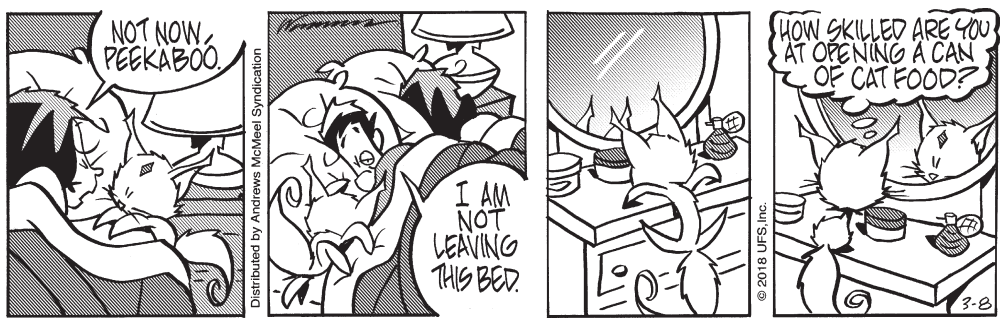



### BABY BLUES

### WIZARD OF ID

### ZITS

### ROSE IS ROSE