

# Longtime friend forgets birthday

**Dear Annie:** I have a friend who, over the years, has been a lovely person. But for the past two years, she has totally forgotten my birthday. She always used to remember my birthday with sweet gestures and nice surprises that were incredible remembrances. I have also celebrated her birthday, plus other holidays, such as Valentine’s Day, with her. So I was stunned when she forgot my birthday. I mentioned in an email to her that I was disappointed she had forgotten me and hoped that that all was OK and that it wasn’t because of anything I said or did. It took her a while, but she wrote back a very snarky message saying she could not be expected to remember birthdays because her life is far too full.

How could she go over the top until two years ago and then do nothing? I would have been tickled with a “happy birthday” wish in an email. I was honestly offering to apologize in my email. If I said something wrong, I want to know. I have not replied to her response and don’t plan to, but I’m confused, hurt and amazed she could think I expected more than a wish of “happy birthday” from her.

One of her quirks is denial when

approached about anything that suggests she could be wrong. In another email, I asked for her impressions about a short story I submitted for publication to our local newspaper, but she never replied. When I followed up with her, she said she had already answered completely. But she never wrote anything about it, and she would not even hint that she could have forgotten all about it.

My impression is that she has no further interest in what I thought was a worthwhile friendship and that regardless of my tact or attempts to get to the bottom of our discussions, it’s an empty effort. Should I give it yet another try or walk away? — *Friend or Not?*

**Dear Friend or Not?:** I’d call her behavior rude if it weren’t so troubling. Such an out-of-the-blue personality change can indicate underlying health issues. Tell her that you’re concerned about her change in demeanor, and offer to go to the doctor with her for a full evaluation. If there’s no medical explanation for her sudden loss of manners, then take your distance and spend time with friends who treat you with respect. Perhaps you could join a writing group and make friends with people who will happily offer feed-

back on your short stories.

**Dear Annie:** You were kidding when you told “Bad Bridesmaid” — who had already spent money for her friend’s wedding in the form of a dress, flights, a hotel reservation, a rental car, a bachelorette party and other expenses — that she now should get a gift, as well, right?

When I was married, I told my bridesmaids, who had to travel to another state for my wedding, that a gift was not necessary. I also put mine up in my home, fed them, had their dresses made, etc. Their agreeing to travel and celebrate my special day was gift enough.

Frankly, any bride who expects all of the above from her bridesmaids plus a gift should be ashamed. The greed of weddings seems to outweigh the joy these days. Maybe it would work better if those asked to be bridesmaids and go into debt asked instead for a contract stating that all their expenses be paid for by the happy couple. After all, it isn’t the bridesmaids’ wedding. — *Tired of Greedy Brides*

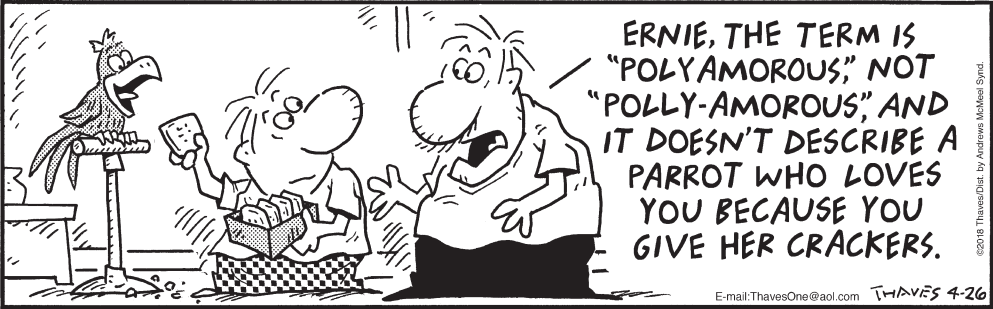
**Dear Tired of Greedy Brides:** I’m not sure how many brides share your perspective, but it’s worth sharing here. Every bride-to-be should be thoughtful about placing financial demands on her bridesmaids.

## DEAR ANNIE

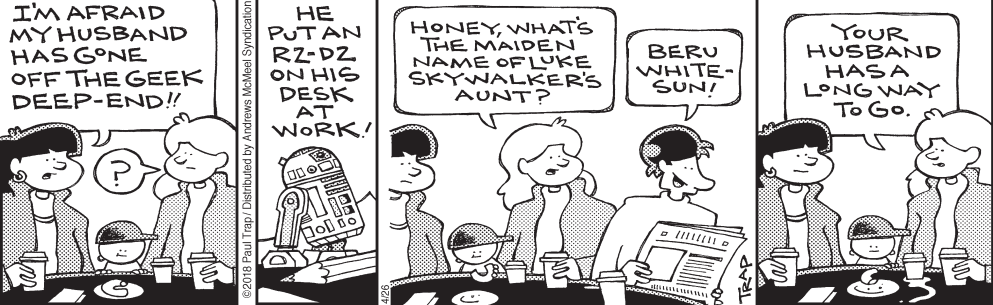


Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

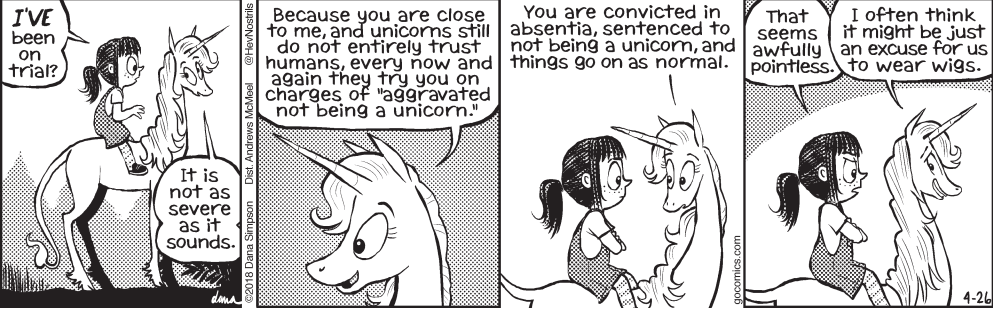
## FRANK AND ERNEST



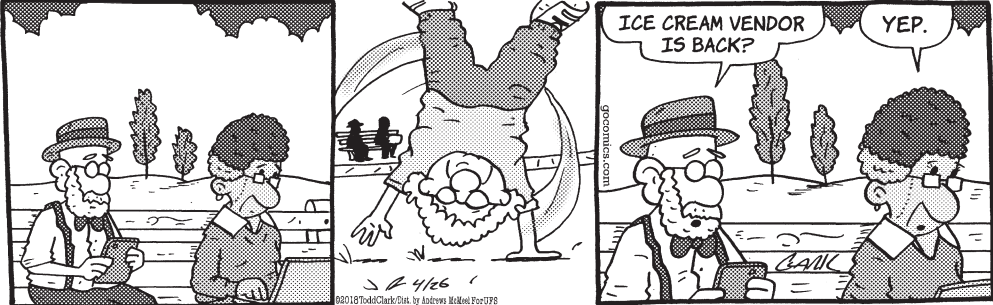
## THATABABY



## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



## LOLA



## SIX CHIX



## MUTTS



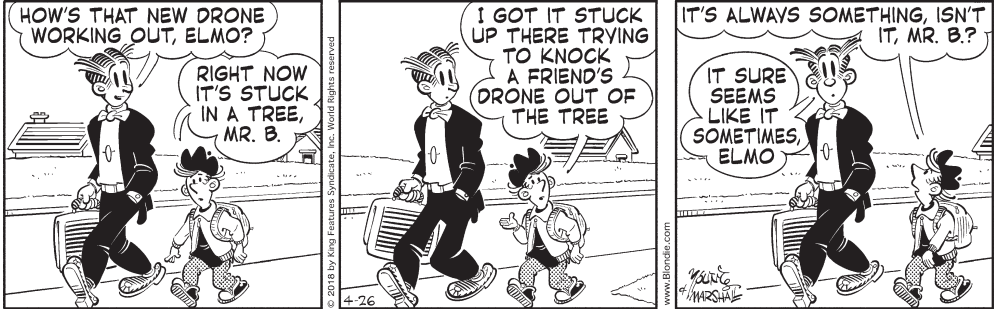
## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



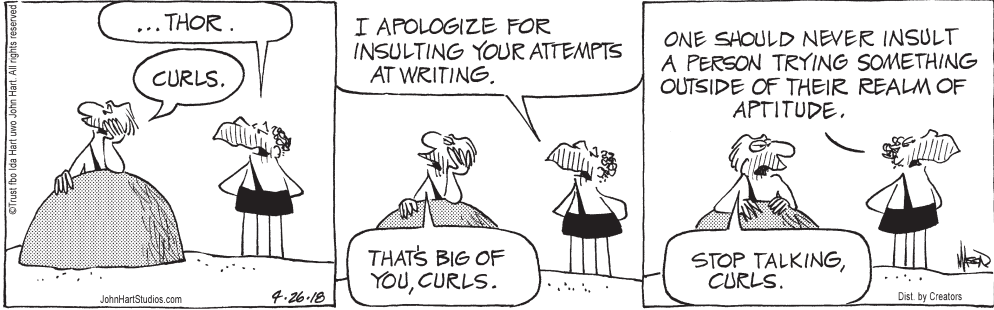
## BLONDIE



## SALLY FORTH



## B.C.



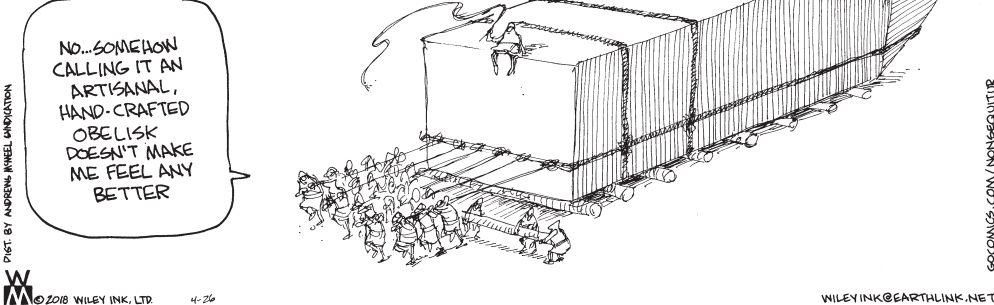
## DILBERT



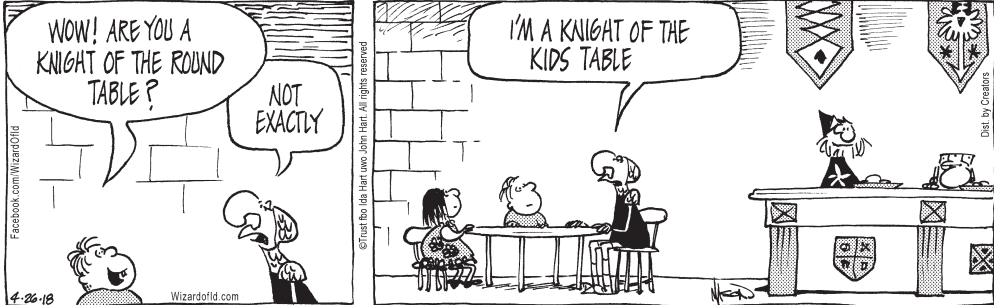
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

