

# A lack of gratitude

Dear Annie: Over the years, my son, his wife and our granddaughter have been the recipients of many gifts from my wife and me. Unfortunately, other than the holidays when we are in the same room with them as they receive gifts, we never receive any recognition that they have received the items or any thanks for the gifts.

## DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

These gifts are given because we are thinking of them. It is frustrating and so disappointing to us and lessens our desire to keep giving. I believe I should express these feelings with my son. My conclusion is that in raising my son, I must have neglected to properly convey proper etiquette and respectful actions to him. My wife believes we should just not say anything. How do we proceed? — *Sad in Wisconsin*

Dear Sad: It's wrong not to send a thank-you for a gift, plain and simple. If your son had written to me, that's what I'd tell him. But because it's

you who's written to me, I'll outline your three apparent options: 1) Keep sending gifts, and make peace with the lack of thank-yous. 2) Continue sending gifts and resenting the lack of thank-yous. 3) Stop sending gifts.

It sounds as if the first option isn't going to work for you. The second option would most likely lead to a buildup of resentment that would eventually create a wall between you and your son. So that leaves the third option. I don't see anything wrong with stopping. If they haven't been bothering to express gratitude for their gifts, then they ought not miss them much. And if your son asks you why the presents stopped, just be honest. Tell him you figured he and his family didn't care much for them, as you never heard back from them about any.

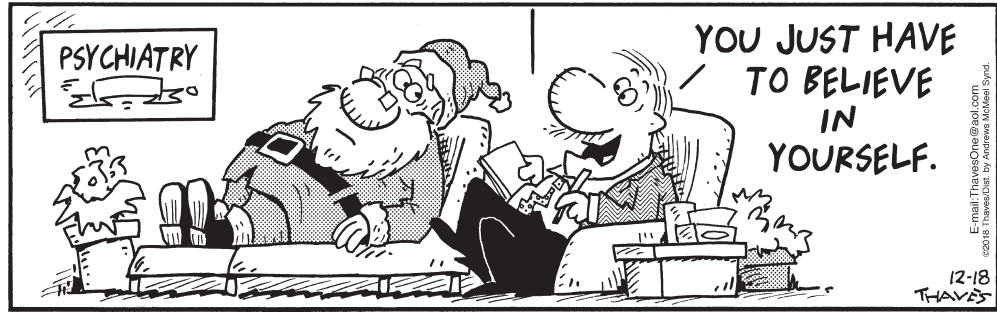
Dear Annie: Thank you for your words of wis-

dom to "Not Sure in Norfolk" regarding the use of handicapped restrooms and train seats. Your last sentence should have been in bold print: "Not all disabilities are obvious." You are 100 percent right. A lot of us do not want to draw attention to our disabilities by having to ask someone to yield the Americans with Disabilities Act seat to us on a commuter train.

I asked a 25-ish young man to move so I could sit in an ADA seat and was met with "You're not disabled. You're just lazy." Before I could respond, other riders came to my defense. I then rolled up my pant leg to show the brace I wear on both feet for my foot drop issue (nerve damage from an unsuccessful back surgery). The embarrassed young man got up and moved to a new train car. — *Uncle Dino*

Dear Dino: I hope that flush of shame was enough to burnish a sense of decency into these folks' hearts. Thanks for taking the time to share your story.

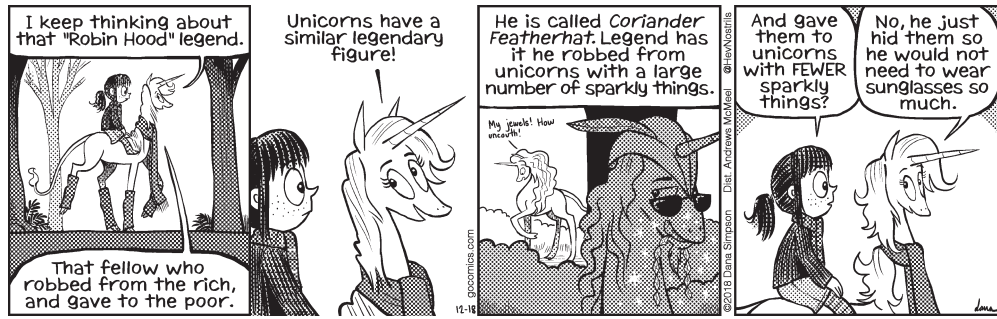
## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



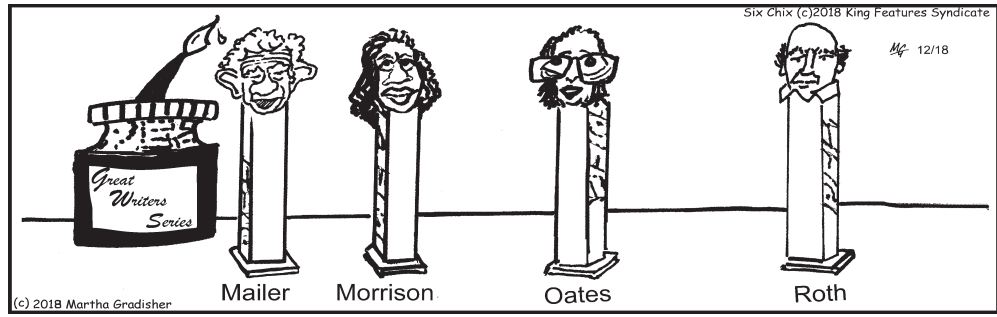
## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



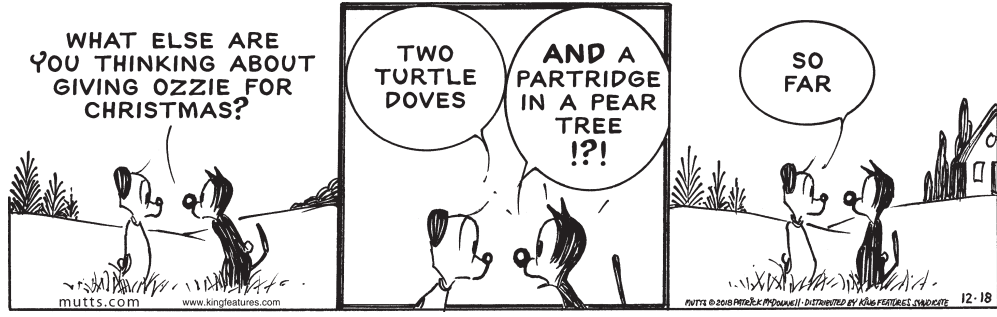
## LOLA



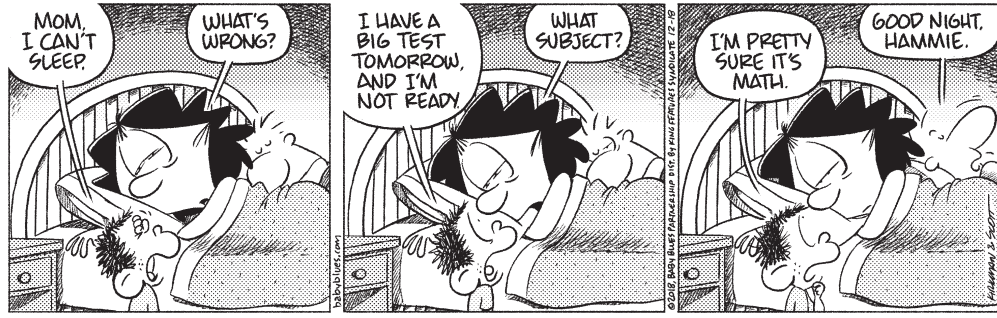
## SIX CHIX



## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** It's time to reach out and risk. Follow your daring impulse, pitch your idea or extend your offer. Regardless of whether you get the result you were hoping for or not, the spontaneity will invigorate you.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You're not in it alone; the others just haven't joined you yet. They don't yet know enough to come into the picture. So start telling people what you're doing, and what you need.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** No one is born with character. Character is the natural outcropping of your choices, mainly the little ones today. Each small challenge is a chance to rise up and meet the moment with grace.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** It may help you to think of your thoughts as items scattered around the rooms of your mind, some of little or no value, others pearls. You can go in and tidy up just as you would your home.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Children need different things at age 5 than they do at age 13, and here you are, grown, and still growing, needing different things as you go. In a new stage, you might not be sure what you need, but experiments will show you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You can like a person and still dislike the person's behavior. It won't help to criticize though. For now, just observe with a compassionate heart. It's very likely things will turn around on their own.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** There's a lot of information out there you don't need to or want to know. The way to filter it is to figure out what you do want to know and go deeper and deeper into that area of knowl-

edge. All else will fade on the periphery.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** The words of William Shakespeare in "King Henry IV" will apply. "The better part of valor is discretion, in which, better part I have saved my life." Your life isn't at stake, but your enjoyment may be.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** A person who is time rich and cash poor is in a far better position than one in the opposite situation. With the drop of one responsibility, your time could open up unexpectedly. This is a golden opportunity indeed.

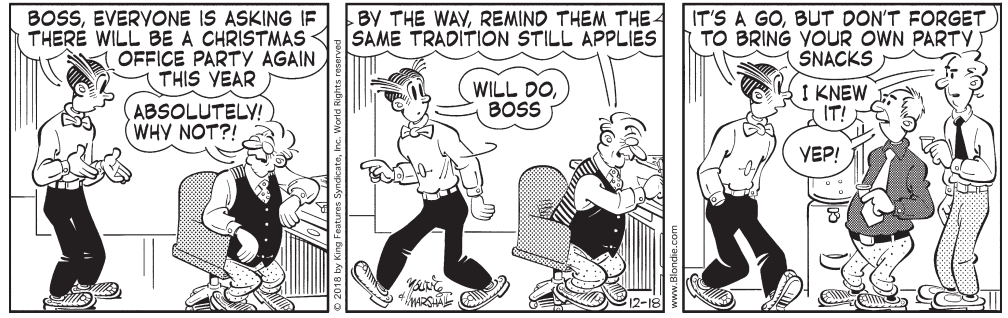
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Success will be a matter of sorting. There will be a few things to match up: What you have to give, what you like to give, who needs such a thing, and who meets your qualifications of exchange.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Ambitions will drive you forward, and, because you choose such interesting ones, they drive you forward in novel ways, involving fascinating people and culminating in one-of-a-kind scenarios.

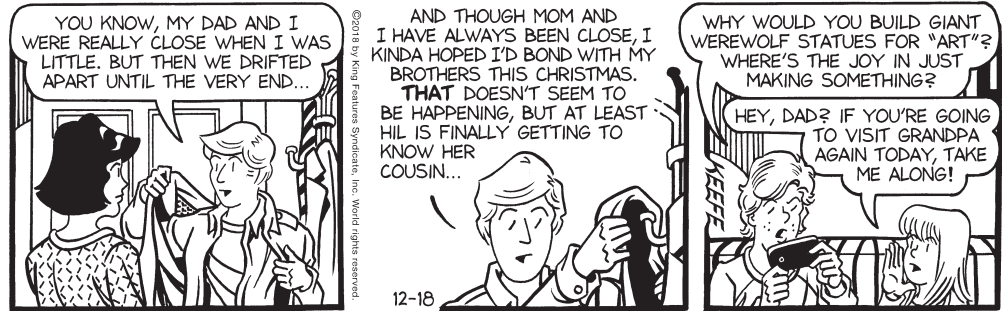
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The power of habit is not to be underestimated. A strong habit can conquer any number of complex emotional conditions. It can settle the wilderness of the mind.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 19).** You're stepping up your game this year, simply because you've done what you can where you're at and you're ready to go to the next level. This will involve exciting changes. Three standout events will reflect your status, solidify your alliances and crystalize your memory of this remarkable time of life. Sagittarius and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 33, 38 and 18.

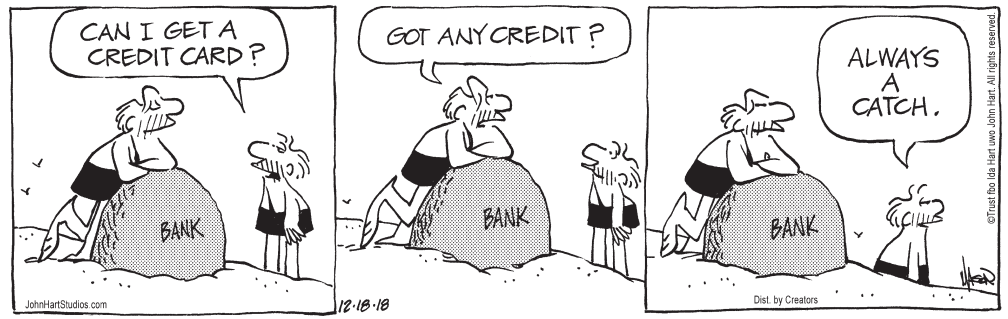
## BLONDIE



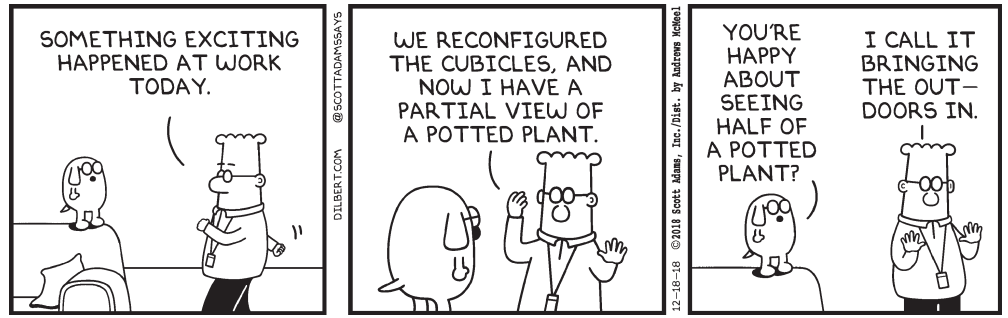
## SALLY FORTH



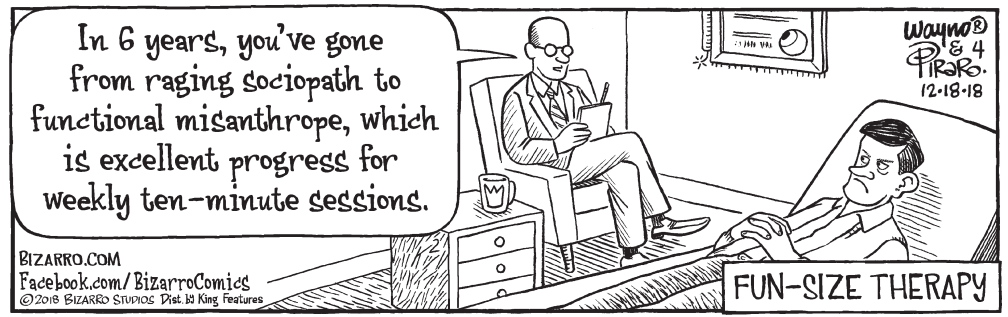
## B.C.



## DILBERT



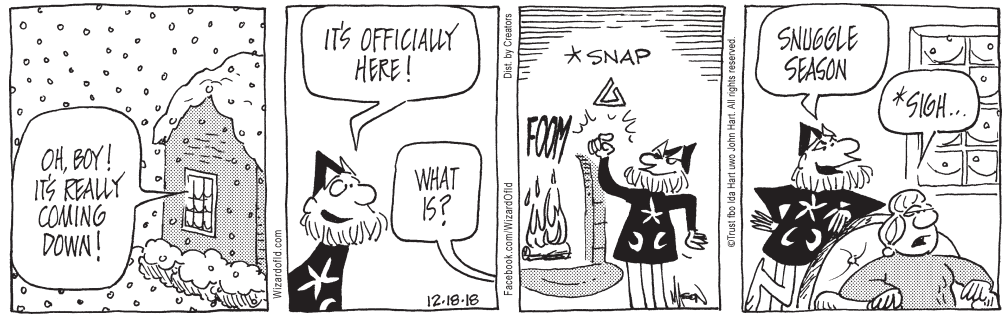
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

