FEATURES

Foreign wedding etiquette questioned Tomorrow's horoscope By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: How much can I ask my host about etiquette for her overseas wedding?

I live in Canada. The bride is French. I met her when she was briefly living in my hometown. She went back to France two years ago, and now she's getting married there. The wedding invitation was sent to my name only, and there was not any kind of RSVP card that I'm accustomed to seeing. So I'm unsure whether I am welcome to bring a guest, since attending would involve a rather lengthy journey.

Would it be acceptable to email the bride and ask her whether I can bring my boyfriend? I don't want to put her on the spot, but I also don't want to bring my date to a country where he doesn't speak the language and then stick him by himself for the day, only to find out later that they had expected me to bring him. — Beaucoup Baffled

Dear Baffled: Did the invitation appear to be formal or informal? If informal, it is perfectly OK to ask the bride whether you can bring a guest. If it is formal, however, you'd have to be more circumspect. Email the bride and say that you would love to attend her wedding, but you aren't certain you are up to making such a long

Annie's Mailbox Creators Syndicate Inc. Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar

journey by yourself. If she wants you to bring a guest, she will then tell you so. But if she doesn't make such an offer, you can assume that her guest list is limited, sorry.

Dear Annie: After reading the letter from "Holding My Breath," whose spouse has terrible breath, I had to respond.

My husband had terrible breath, but he also had a very rigorous oral care routine, which made me wonder what else could be going on. Having been a dental assistant, I was aware of various odors from different oral diseases. The smell was not from what he ate. I ate it, too, and didn't have such an odor. It was the worst thing I had ever smelled, and I just knew it was metabolic in nature.

His dentist simply told him it was "not dental in nature." The doctor told him he was "fine." Finally, after three months of worsening gastrointestinal symptoms, his doctor gave him a blood test, and a colonoscopy showed a fistsized tumor.

He underwent chemotherapy and was graced with a lovely ostomy bag. But during this time, the breath issue went away. When it recurred, it was because the lesions on his liver had spread. He passed away two months later.

I would get that man in for a full physical, including a colonoscopy. It could save his life. - Been There

Dear Been There: Halitosis is often a result of poor dental hygiene, but it also can be due to oral problems, throat issues, gum disease, infection, certain foods and sometimes gastrointestinal difficulties. Some of these, as you have pointed out, can be quite serious. Please, folks, we want you to stick around for a long time. You must be an advocate for your own health. If you suspect something is wrong, be persistent.

Annie's Snippet for Income Tax Day (credit author Arthur C. Clarke): "The best measure of a man's honesty isn't his income tax return. It's the zero adjust on his bathroom scale."

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Take on the small challenges that will be easily won. Building up a track record of success will give you the confidence you need to take on the more remarkable and difficult opportunities coming your way in the near future.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Today feels a bit like throwing a party. Seldom does the host enjoy it while it's going on, and vet somehow the memory is often worth it because a party happened where there wouldn't have been one before.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The to-do list is important, but not as important as the spirit-in-which-things-are-done list. If trying to check too many items off causes you to lose your temper, it's not worth the effort.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People are paying attention to you today, and they might even be taking pictures. So enjoy the attention, and don't do anything you wouldn't want blasted on social media.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll contribute to the harmony of the world, not by donating tons of money or completing a mission in a foreign land, but by having a stellar attitude. You'll get along with everyone you meet.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Other people's feelings about what a human deserves in life will influence you. Entitlement is a disease, and it's contagious. Be careful who you spend time with. Prize humility and modesty.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Maybe everyone in your group doesn't fit together. Some of them don't even get along. That's where you come in. You're inclusive; you set a tone; project evolves, so will your opinion of it. That's why it's good to leave yourself an out. Don't talk in terms that are too concrete or make long-term commitments today. Leave yourself wiggle room.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People around you will struggle to do a job. Knowing when to help and when to let them learn on their own (and have the satisfaction that comes from this process) will be tricky. But if you're mindful, you'll nail it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Most bad choices begin with needlessly putting oneself in a dangerous environment or. more specifically, in bad company. As adventurous as you are, there are places you shouldn't ao.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Why is the circuitous path so appealing? Because your curious mind needs to know the bigger picture of how and why things work. For today, let yourself investigate your whims.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your loved ones sense it: You're happy when they are happy. If it makes them smile, you'll buy it. Just know that you don't always have to foot the bill. They really want to spend time with you.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 16). Your life is beautiful creation enough, but vou still feel driven to make things. You'll get teachers and resources this year and amp up your output. In May, your outstanding work will build your reputation and your wallet simultaneously. Find better ways to take care of vourself in June. Your love life gets renewing energy in July. Leo and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 15, 44, 19 and 28,

you're the gel that makes this work. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As your **BLONDIE** RIGHT THIS WAY, ALL PROFESSOR BUMSTEAD I HOPED YOU WERE KIDDING WHEN YOU SAID I THOUGHT OF IT AT THE LAST MINUTE IT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN SENATOR BUMSTEAD AS A JOKE YOU MADE THE THANK RESERVATIONS vou FOR A PROFESSOR BUMSTEAD

SALLY FORTH



B.C.



FRANK AND ERNEST





STONE SOUP









