

# Asperger's leads to different view

**Dear Annie:** I have a handsome 23-year-old son who has been dealing with Asperger's syndrome for 20 years. He has grown from a child who didn't look at or talk to people other than the family to a young man who can even share small talk with people, attend college and be a successful track and field athlete.

**DEAR ANNIE**



Annie Lane  
Creators  
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However, he still has a terrible time knowing how to act around women, and he observes people around him for clues. He recently received a phone call from the campus police asking him to stop by. A woman had reported him because she felt uncomfortable around him at a dance. He had danced with her, sat and talked with her, and gotten her some punch, but then he put his arm around her. He did this because that's what he had observed watching other guys and girls. He felt terrible because he really liked her.

In the next day or two, another woman complained to the campus police. He and this other girl had a class together and had talked a few times. She accused him of stalking her. But what she said was "stalking" was his knowing a few

things about her that he had gotten from her Facebook page — and she had accepted his friend request.

He was banned from the dorms and ordered to stay away from these two women. There was an appeal, and the school lifted the ban on the dorms after they understood that with Asperger's, a person doesn't read body language or facial expressions very well.

He went to the speech pathology department last year for coaching about social situations. Now, after this involvement with campus police, the Title IX department — has gotten involved. It has some classes that will help him to understand body language and facial expressions. I hope this will help him, but I also hope and pray that people, especially women, will give him a chance.

Please tell women that if someone has made them uncomfortable, they should gently but firmly tell the person, "You are making me uncomfortable because I don't know you that well." My son would never hurt anyone, but these women ended up hurting him deeply. — *Heartbroken Again*

**Dear Heartbroken:** Thank you for sharing your son's story. Although I would never fault young women for removing themselves from situations that feel unsafe, it sounds as if these two women simply felt awkward. A little communication can go a long way in such cases. We should all be compassionate and keep in mind that we have no idea the struggles a stranger may be going through.

**Dear Annie:** I realize you meant well with your response to "Girl Who's Gotta Eat," whose co-worker was bothered by her frequent snacking. However, as the parent of a child who has been diagnosed with an auditory processing disorder, I think you should have researched misophonia.

This is one of the perils and costs of the open-office trend. Your reader with the high metabolism has needs. However, they may not be on the same level as a fellow employee who has a genuine psychological or medical condition.

My daughter is a student, whose condition is recognized and accommodated. Without that, her academic performance suffers.

Perhaps a less flip answer and additional research on your part are in order. — *Think Again*

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** There's a reprieve in whatever relationship strife you've been experiencing. Rest confident that the one you love loves you. Reciprocity doesn't guarantee an easy road, but it sure is a better start than the opposite dynamic.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You do not have to be an expert in grief or loss to help a bad situation. When you show up with an open heart, your very presence is a comfort to those who need it.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You have a family you were born to and a family you define. There's an occasion coming up where the two might intersect, and this will turn out just fine. Relax. There's nothing to worry about.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You may not be a schoolchild, but you're not too old to show your work to someone whose opinion matters to you or to hang it up in an important place. Those who honor your self-expression honor you.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Small talk won't naturally gravitate to the things you care about unless you steer it in that direction. Do so today, because you'll get more enjoyment from connecting with people on what truly interests you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You can and should automate and improve the process of day-to-day business. You'll never know what your time could be better spent doing until you open some of it up to the possibilities.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** When you make efforts to see the bigger picture, you'll notice, with mixed feelings, that many people around you face dramatic challenges that make your own grievances seem trivial.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Being a fan of great work perks your awareness and raises your bar, making you a candidate for eventual great work yourself. No pressure, though: For now, enjoy your fandom status.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Everyone needs support and compassion, and yet there are not as many givers of these things as there could be. If you feel like you're making up for the thoughtlessness and ignorance of others, you are.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** On the route to finding happiness, sometimes you have no idea which direction you're headed. This is natural. Get rid of the things that make you unhappy, and see if that doesn't clear your windshield somewhat.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** An unexpected wrinkle arises. This prompts you to seek expert help. There's much available you won't have to pay for. Follow the prescription to a T and you'll be home free.

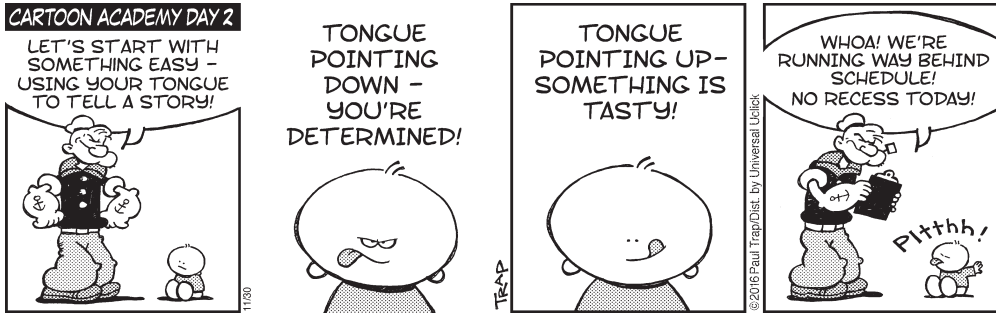
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The best position is the one with the least to lose. Paradoxically, to get there, you have to agree to lose things. You'll loosen your grip on something you thought you needed. Turns out, you don't.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 1).** There's a romantic confession and an exciting proposition right at the top of this solar return. In April you'll become one with your equipment and conquer work that used to take you 10 times as long. You'll then have the time for a moneymaking venture and sock it away through spring. Taurus and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 32, 30, 2, 40 and 16.

### FRANK AND ERNEST



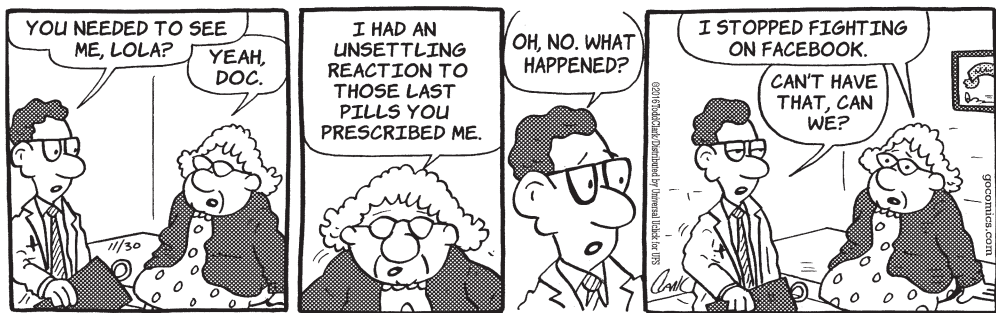
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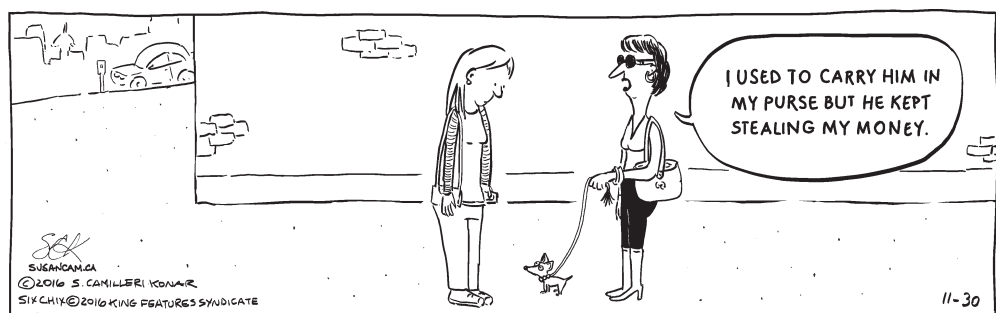
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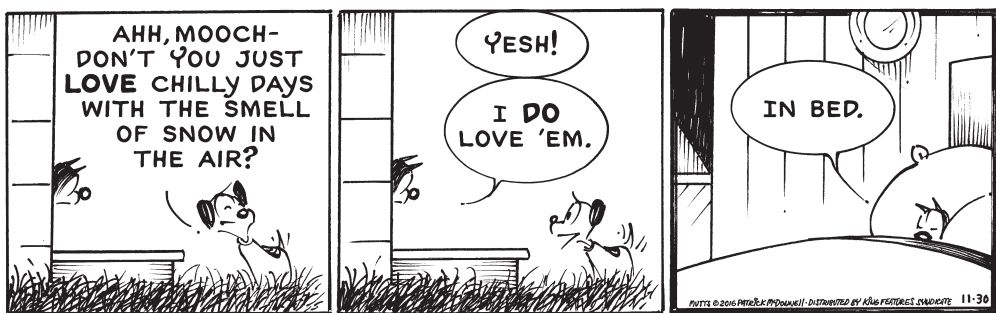
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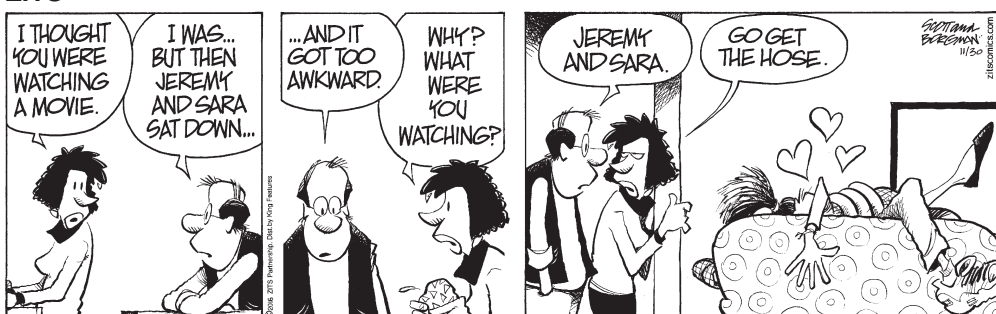
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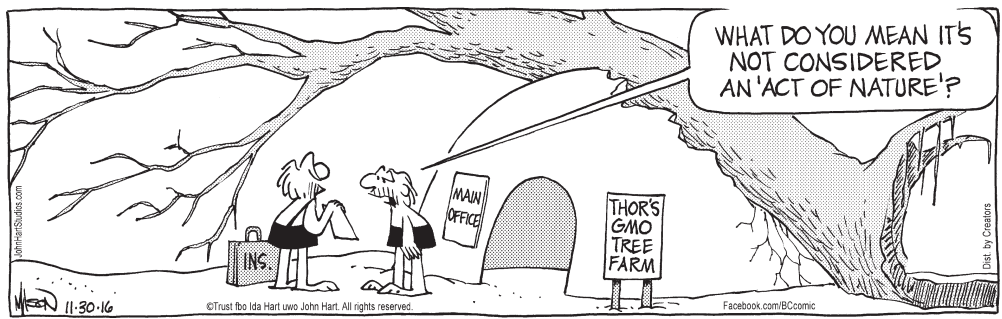
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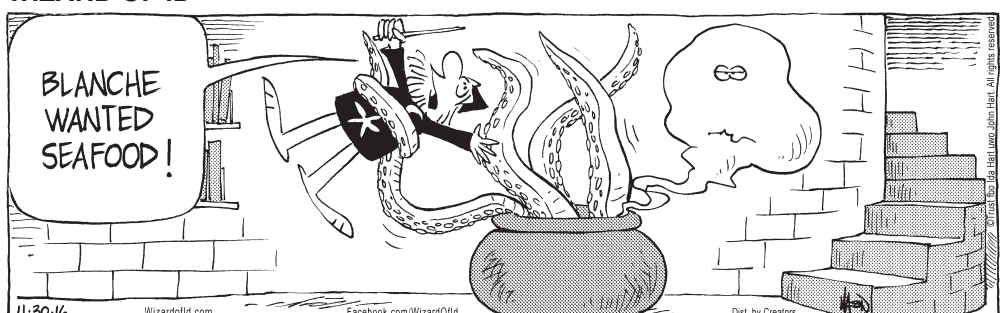
### BIZARRO



### NON SEQUITUR



### WIZARD OF ID



### ROSE IS ROSE

