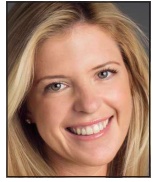


# Look who just dropped in

**Dear Annie:** I occasionally have lunch with a relative whose company I enjoy. We usually have a nice time, but lately she has been bringing a last-minute guest with her without telling me. Sometimes it is another relative, and sometimes it is a person I've never met. This has caused seating confusion and a less desirable room at places where we have reservations. Does this mean she doesn't care for my company, or is it just a lack of manners? — *Mystified in Michigan*

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Mystified: I can't divine this woman's reasons. Perhaps she's trying to save time by consolidating her lunch dates (which, I agree, would be bad manners). But there's no need to consult a crystal ball. The next time you're making plans and wondering whether she'll invite anyone else, just ask.

**Dear Annie:** My sons were the topic of a recent letter published in your column. It was from "Concerned Grandfather," my dad. He told you he's wor-

ried that my sons are overly affectionate with each other. (He admitted he had written the letter when I confronted him.)

I appreciate your thoughtful answer to my father's letter. For the record, my sons know that their grandfather disapproves of their closeness. They think he is being silly. I explained to my elder son, "Steven," that his grandfather grew up in a time when affection between brothers or a father and a son was frowned upon. His response was: "That's messed up."

My husband, their dad, was extremely affectionate to them, so I think that kind of openness and love is what they are used to. When their dad died, the boys were devastated. When the younger boy, "Frederick," wanted to sleep with Steven because he was having nightmares, I let him. Steven would comfort him by holding him in his arms all night. Now, six years later, Frederick gets scared because I sometimes work a third shift. He says

he feels safer with Steven by his side when I am gone overnight.

It is true; they hug a lot. And yes, they do exchange pecks on the cheek, but it is not constant as my father described.

My sons love each other. I certainly will not do anything or say anything to make them feel their behavior is dirty or inappropriate. How different would the world be if boys gave and received more affection?

My sons are well-adjusted. They play sports, get excellent grades and have friends other than each other. My father has often said they need to see a counselor to end their disgusting affection for each other. There is no way I would ever take them for counseling to break something that I think is beautiful and normal. My prayer and wish is they will always stay close and openly affectionate. — *Loving Mom*

**Dear Loving Mom:** Thanks for sharing. I'd like to add that you shouldn't automatically discount the notion of counseling for your sons — not because they are affectionate but because they lost their father at a young age.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You take pleasure in maintaining your friendships. It's not so easy for all your loved ones. Some find it difficult to be social, so it's wonderful that you're willing to reach out and take the initiative.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** It's time to expand the social circle again — an effort that will pay off in laughter and fun as well as in the context of business and finance. One way is to plan an event that will allow your friends to introduce you to their friends.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The mistake may have been an honest one, but that doesn't change what happened. Try to be logical and methodical as you work out how to make things right and how to make sure this doesn't happen again.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** What's not advancing in your life is retreating. Chances are, you're fine with this. You can't move everything forward at once. And letting cycles run their natural course is the smart thing to do.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Oddly, what you think is boring will get far less so as you do it repeatedly. Your mind will open to the intricacies. You may even feel that you've glimpsed the magical underpinnings of life itself in this.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** One of something is a choice. Two is an accumulation. Three is a collection. Moving into the higher numbers will involve more roles, hierarchies and categorizations. The more organized you are, the more you can handle.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The ideal way to behave in the situation isn't written in the manners books. Also, a person can be caring and compassionate and still have no idea how to do the right thing. You'll help in this regard

today.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Flip the problem around in your mind, because the obvious solution may not be the best one. Furthermore, it may very well be the case that you can get more use from your obstacles than from the things that are going easily right.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Not one to be cynical or pessimistic, you know to listen to those voices inside that might be nudging you toward an uncomfortable conclusion. This is intuition warning you.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** When the weather turns cold, the stagnant water freezes long before the running water. To avoid rigidity of mind, body or spirit, keep moving. To avoid rigidity of style, keep seeking new influence.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** The problem is like a kinked-up Slinky. In your efforts to handle the twist, things coil into themselves, become even more entangled, until it's absolutely a mess. Two choices: Either throw it away, or call it art.

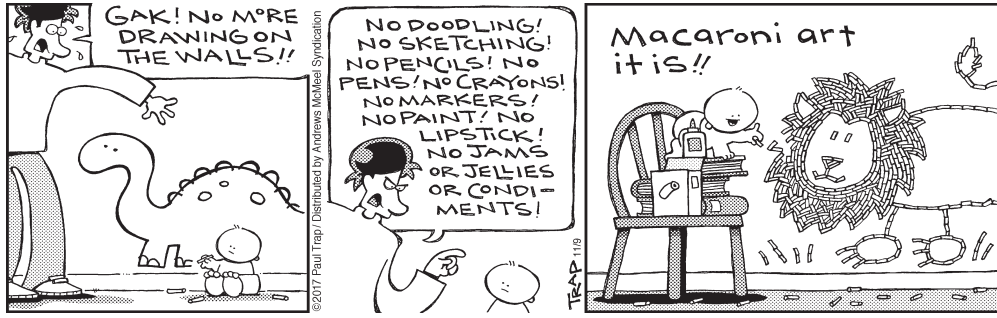
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You're an integral part of whatever group you join, even if you're new there. Don't underestimate your energy. Your joy is contagious; your curiosity is a stimulant for all around you.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 10).** You're changing and so are your wishes. Your efforts to be a better communicator on all levels will lead to astounding luck. A long process will end happily. What you pay forward before the end of the year will change someone's life. A group will progress in part because of your intelligent leadership from within. Cancer and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 45, 7, 12, 22 and 15.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



## LOLA



## SIX CHIX



## MUTTS



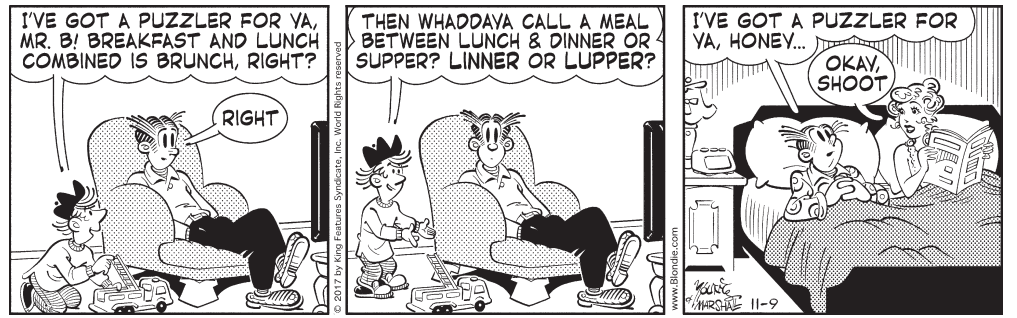
## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## BLONDIE



## SALLY FORTH



## B.C.



## DILBERT



## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR

