

# Teenage third wheel

**Dear Annie:** I do not get to see my friend "Amy" as often as I'd like because of our busy schedules. My problem is that she continually shows up to our planned outings with her daughter, "Jennie." She gives little or no notice when she's bringing her. Her daughter is 17 and not mature for her age, and I don't feel comfortable talking about adult things (such as marriage issues or other personal problems) in front of her. I end up feeling obligated to ask her questions about her school and her boyfriend, etc. This has been going on for years, though I understood when the child was, well, a child. I just want to have grown-up time and conversations with my friend. I almost want to cancel when I find out that Jennie is tagging along again. It bewilders me why a girl this age cannot cut the apron strings, though I don't care if it doesn't affect my time.

**DEAR ANNIE**



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

I am not good with confrontations but have hinted a few times to my friend that this bothers me. Can you give any advice on how to handle this situation? I'm thinking of just giving up on this until Jennie goes to college. — *Three's a Crowd*

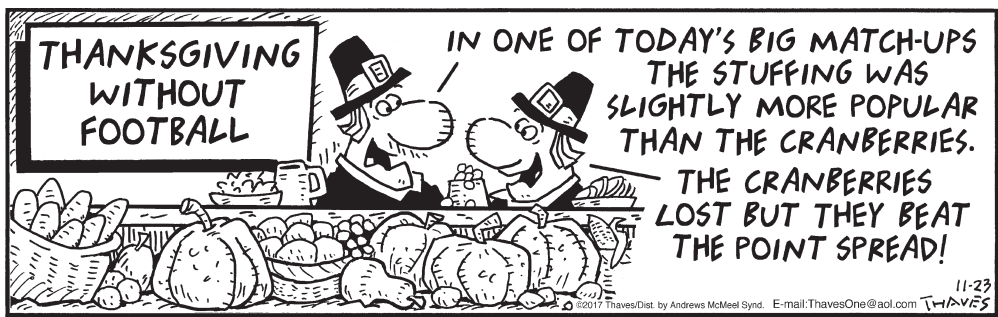
**Dear Three's a Crowd:** Mother birds shouldn't wait until they've an empty nest to take alone time for themselves now and then. It's healthy to get together with friends and commiserate about adult problems — though not in the presence of children. I'm not sure why Jennie would want to go to every single lunch with her mom or why her mom would make her. But there's no reason you can't politely request one-on-one time. The next time you two are planning an outing, say something like this: "I'd really like a chance to talk to you about my personal life, and I just don't feel comfortable doing that when

Jennie's there. Could we keep this lunch to just us?" If she rejects the idea, put the ball in her court. Ask her to let you know when it's a good time for the two of you to get together.

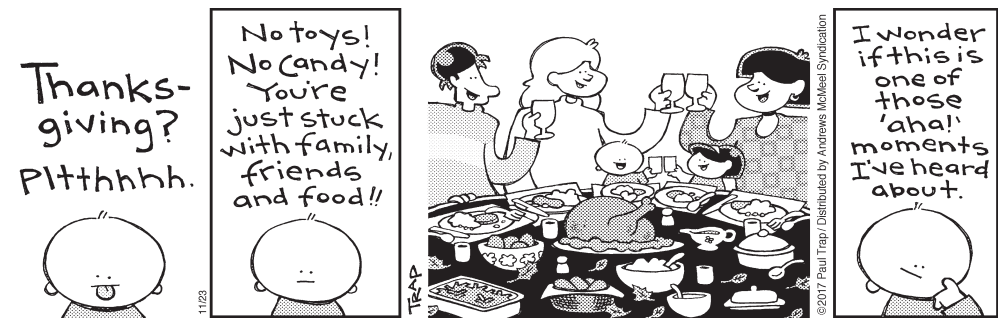
**Dear Annie:** I am writing in response to "If Only He Had a Heart," who complained about her younger brother's behavior. One of her statements was sheer prejudice: "He was ... let's face it, a teenage boy." Not all teenage boys are trouble-makers. Why should "teenage boy" be a synonym for "bratty, angsty and entitled"? No other group can be treated as being all the same just because some are bad. But apparently, it's OK to say such a thing, because you didn't correct her. — *A Teenage Boy in Texas*

**Dear Teenage Boy:** I appreciate your writing. You are absolutely right. Not all teenage boys behave badly, and making sweeping generalizations helps no one. I'm printing your letter to correct the record.

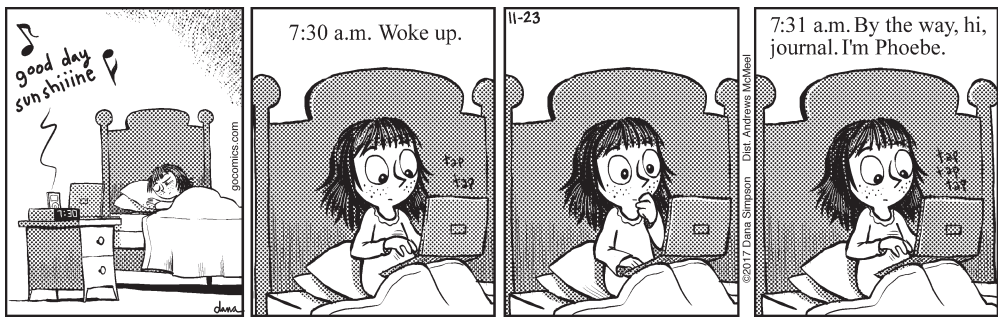
**FRANK AND ERNEST**



**THATABABY**



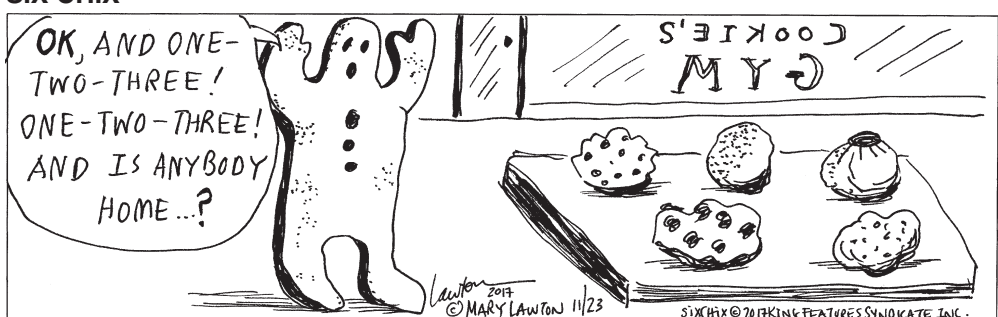
**PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN**



**LOLA**



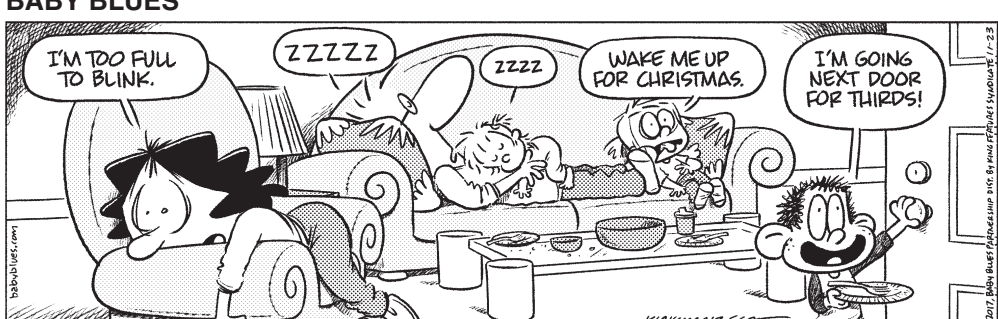
**SIX CHIX**



**MUTTS**



**BABY BLUES**



**ZITS**



**TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE**

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Who is on your side? Not that people have to be on your side for you to get something out of interacting with them. But if they do happen to be on Team You, you're going to feel much more comfortable and free around them.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Lying opens the door to doubt. It makes it hard to believe or to be believed. There's a small and tempting lie hanging over you — maybe it seems like the kinder choice — but if you can avoid it, do.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Improvement is the goal. If improvement is always the goal, eventually you'll hit the heights. But if you make the heights the goal, every small win will be diminished by the cruelty that is comparison.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** For the sake of being orderly, you may have to cut something out. You may have to lose a lot of something, actually, but the remaining part should be much easier to manage.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The simplicity of your approach will be disarming to those dealing with massive complexities. And as they pause to observe, perhaps in wonderment or maybe just to chuckle to themselves, you'll make your next brilliant move.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Strongly consider putting your thoughts into written form, especially in a letter to someone you appreciate. Everything about the written expression will be thoughtfully received, maybe even cherished.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** If you can keep to the topics and activities that contribute to your health and stay on purpose, this is no small thing. Reward it. You might be surprised how few people can do this.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Every family has its own kind of delicate balance to strike, and today you're throwing weight in this corner or the other just to keep things afloat. Don't wear yourself out over it. Give others a chance to contribute.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Your family balance may be upset, but this is very positive. It's what had to happen to strengthen the bonds. Tonight, you're open-minded. You may even be willing to travel beyond reality as you know it.

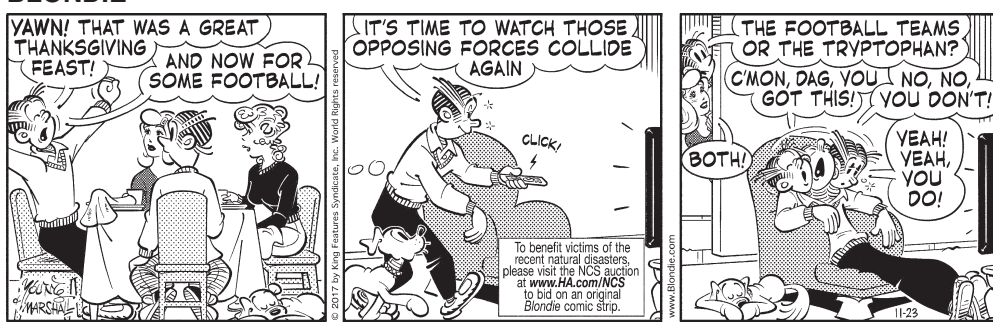
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Do you have people around you who believe in you even more than you believe in yourself? Because that's a gift. Treasure them, and let them know about that, too!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Today's luck springs from appreciating where you come from, partly because you're now experienced enough to understand the pressures and freedoms of adulthood and the difficulties involved in raising another human.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** In the wizarding world, you say your spell, wave your wand, and it's done. In the physical world, there's so much more breath and flesh to involve in it. Maybe that's better. Work will feel good to you today.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 24).** It's not that you want a total change, but a few key refinements on your wish list will be granted in the next three months, and this will up your entire game. January is the start of a new level of self-love and acceptance. March brings a change of scenery, and June is all about building up your loved ones. Gemini and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 44, 5, 16, 21 and 37.

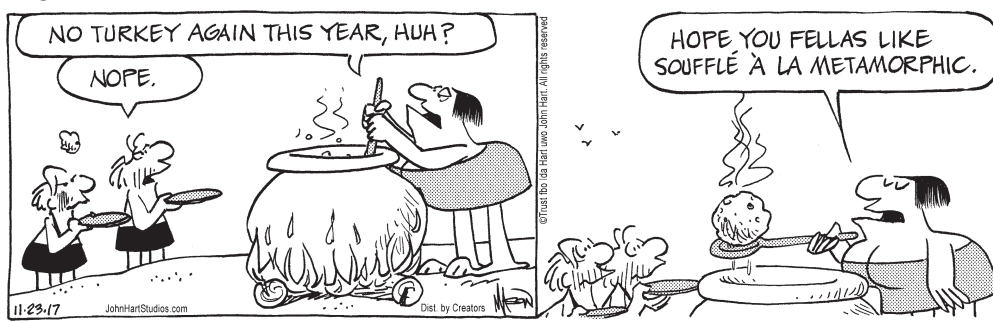
**BLONDIE**



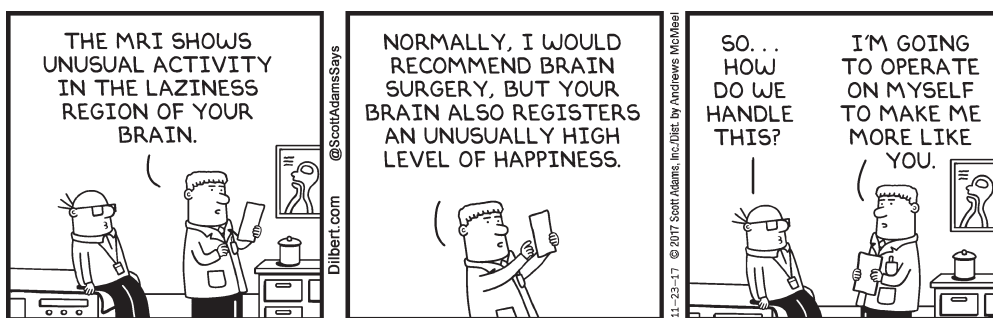
**SALLY FORTH**



**B.C.**



**DILBERT**



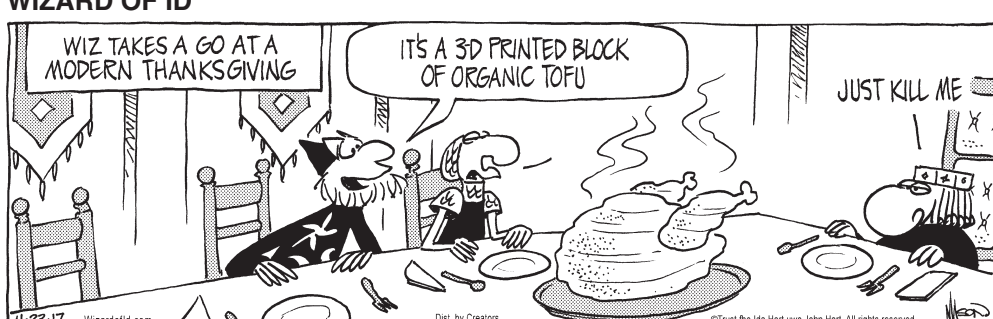
**BIZARRO**



**NON SEQUITUR**



**WIZARD OF ID**



**ROSE IS ROSE**

