

A simple matter of biology

Dear Annie: My grandson "Logan" was fathered by someone other than his elder and younger brothers' father, "Ron." (Our daughter was separated at the time from Ron, and they ended up getting back together before Logan was born.) When Logan was born, they put Ron as his father on the birth certificate. Ron and both sets of grandparents know that Ron is not Logan's biological father. The biological father and his family also are aware that Logan exists but are not interested in any type of relationship. Logan is almost 18. Since he was about 10, I have thought that we should let Logan know about his circumstances. Of course, Ron is and always will be Logan's "dad," but over the past seven or eight years, Logan has made various references about the fact that he looks nothing like his brothers or parents. (He really is a spitting image of his biological father.) Our daughter claims she's wanted to tell Logan many times, but Ron absolutely prohibits it.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

When our daughter and Ron finally split up a year ago (after 20 years of being together, though they

were never married), Ron tried to force us all to sign a document stating that we would never tell Logan about his biological father. Since the split, Logan has been very angry with his mother. He blames her for everything (because that's what Ron tells him). My issue is that sooner or later, Logan is going to find out about the lie that we have all kept for 18 years. He's already angry with us all because of his parents splitting up, so what's it going to do to him when he finds out we all knew and no one told him? I have suggested counseling just on a general basis, but Ron forbids it. What happens if Logan needs medical treatment and a simple blood test shows Ron is not a match?

I want to be honest with my grandson, but I think we have gone way past the point of no return. Which would be worse, telling him now (with controlled support of family and therapists) or just keeping the lie until it all blows up? — *Truth or Consequences*

Dear Truth or Consequences: I agree that it would be best for Logan to know the truth about his

parentage so he doesn't provide doctors with inaccurate family medical history, among other reasons. But this isn't your decision to make. You can encourage your daughter to tell him (maybe she'll feel that she can now that she and Ron have split up), but it's ultimately up to her. As you say, the truth will eventually out, one way or another.

Dear Annie: My 17-year-old granddaughter worked for a well-known chain restaurant. Not only was she expected to get tips to supplement her wages but also the manager had the nerve to take half of the tips from her, saying that part of each tip was for the quality of the food. She needed the job, so she did not complain to whatever authorities regulate these places. — *Anonymous Grandma*

Dear Anonymous Grandma: According to the Fair Labor Standards Act, "tips are the property of the employee whether or not the employer has taken a tip credit." See the U.S. Department of Labor fact sheet titled "Ownership of Tips Under the Fair Labor Standards Act" for more information. Though it's not clear from your letter whether any laws were being violated, I encourage your granddaughter to read up on her rights.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Things are working, so let them. New methods will develop soon enough; there's really no reason to rush things. Don't get the update just because it's available. Get it when you need it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). They say, "Stop," and you leap forward. They say, "Jump," and you sit down. It's odd how you feel like doing the opposite of what's expected of you, but you're also honoring a contrarian voice inside you with its own good reasons for being.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your process won't require a lot of seriousness and commitment. Lighten up, and get playful. You're allowed to be like a child following the trends and whims of youth. Life is an experiment.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't show your true emotions to just anyone. That's what makes it so special when you finally do open up with honesty about how you're feeling. Only do so with those who can be trusted with your tender heart.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Giving is different from selling. Selling is an exchange with expectations and rules that need to be upheld. Giving shouldn't be this way. Give without conditions. It's the way your gift will do the most good.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The situation will require you to simmer down, settle your energy into the same tone as the environment and get on with the business of fitting in. This will be a lot more fun than it sounds.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There will be a time for getting hard on yourself and pushing yourself through to the next level. This isn't it. This is the time to ease up and celebrate the many things you've already done right.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can come up with a plan that will help the most people with the least effort and complication. Brilliant! Then, with a calm sense of purpose, you will move everyone toward a common goal.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Remember when you let someone into your world and heart a little too soon? What followed was regret and a whole new set of rules for entry — rules to stand by today.

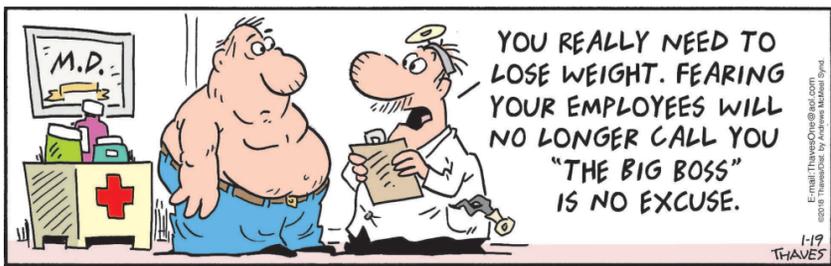
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your aim will be to surprise and delight the public. This cannot be accomplished through doing what they expect and delivering what they've already seen. Bonus: the unique satisfaction of raised eyebrows and the sound of laughter.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Somewhere between your high aspirations and the current demands of your daily life is a wonderful fantasyland. It's a playground, a vision board, an escape route. It's a good place, a place where things get done.

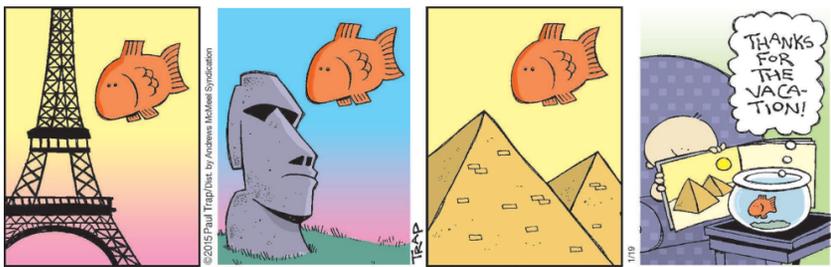
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's little to stop you from winning the admiration of your peers and the good opinion of your superiors. In the future, this approval will translate into financial abundance.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 20). Rest assured: Your optimism is not only firmly rooted in what's possible for you; your best-case scenario is practically a blueprint for exactly what will happen. If you mainly stick to the plan, you'll be golden. March will bring a new mode of transportation or a far-off destination. Your family will grow in October. Cancer and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 22, 11 and 16.

FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



B.C.



DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

