

Thank you to all of you, my readers

Dear Readers: In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I would like to thank all of you — my readers. I particularly want to single out those of you who have reached out by offering your questions and opinions. Without you, the column would not be possible. To celebrate this special day, I'd like to share one of my favorite poems, because it helps remind us that noticing the simple pleasures of life brings us the most joy.

"We Thank Thee," by Ralph Waldo Emerson
For flowers that bloom about our feet,
Father, we thank Thee.
For tender grass so fresh, so sweet,
Father, we thank Thee.
For the song of bird and hum of bee,
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.
For blue of stream and blue of sky,
Father, we thank Thee.
For pleasant shade of branches high,
Father, we thank Thee.
For fragrant air and cooling breeze,
For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.
For this new morning with its light,
Father, we thank Thee.
For rest and shelter of the night,

Father, we thank Thee.
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.
Dear Annie: Your response to "Not-a-Fan Auntie," who does not want her niece and her family to attend her Halloween gatherings, did not seem thought through. She asked for a civil way to tell them they're unwelcome, and you told her to tell them, "This is important quality time with the grandkids, and we're going to keep it to just us and the kids next year."

When it comes to relatives, there is no civil way to tell them they're unwelcome. It always causes hurt feelings, and if she were to take your advice, "Not-a-Fan Auntie" would most likely feel guiltier than anticipated. Letting kindness be her guide, it might be better for her to consider whether these people are lonely, they need family contact or they need a sense of belonging. There are a lot of lonely people in the world, and life is short, so let kindness and generosity be a guiding rule for living. That will never cause regret and is much easier to live with than feeling guilty over rejecting someone. The niece may be "outspoken and obnoxious," but she

has feelings and undoubtedly would be hurt for a long time to come if "Not-a-Fan Auntie" were to follow your advice. — *Apply the Golden Rule in Temple, Texas*

Dear Apply the Golden Rule: I'm printing your letter because you make good points. I agree that one will never regret being too kind. The following letter echoes your sentiment and provides some tips that might help "Not-a-Fan Auntie" talk to her niece about some of her grating behaviors.

Dear Annie: I don't think the aunt should tell her niece she isn't welcome during Halloween gatherings. Could she please open her heart? She could take her niece aside and kindly try to let her know it would be nice if she tried to fit in more. And the aunt should talk with her niece about her hygiene in a kindly manner. She may not realize her flaws. She obviously feels a draw toward her aunt. It breaks my heart that she seems to want to be part of a family but is unwelcome. This aunt should be flattered she wants to be included. — *Aunt Who Understands in Jacksonville, Fla.*

Dear Aunt Who Understands: You weren't the only one who felt I was too quick to write off the niece. Perhaps some more mercy is called for. Thank you for setting me straight on that one.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

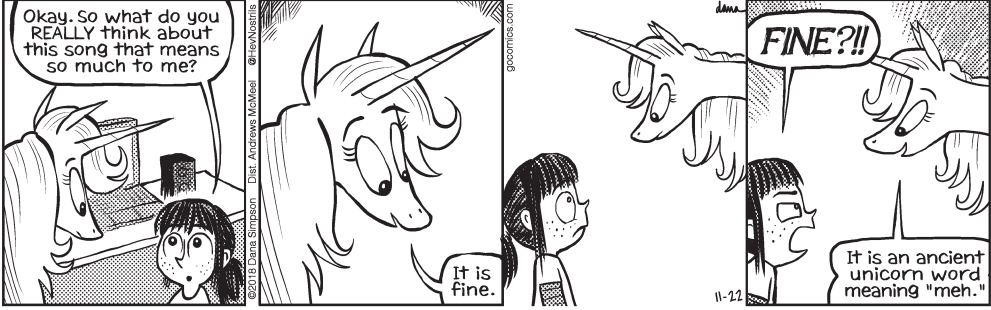
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PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



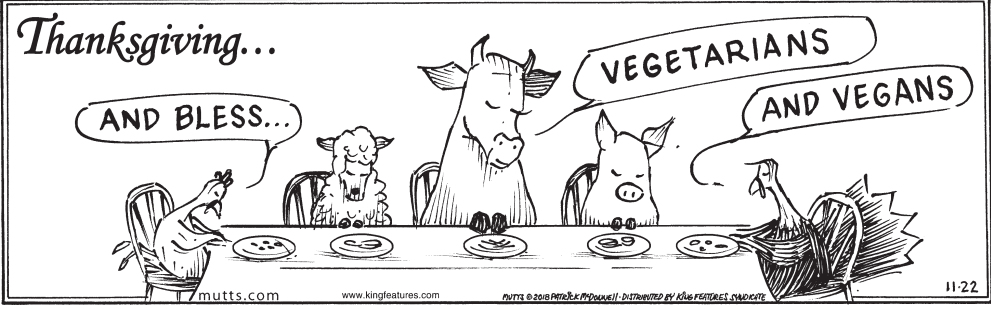
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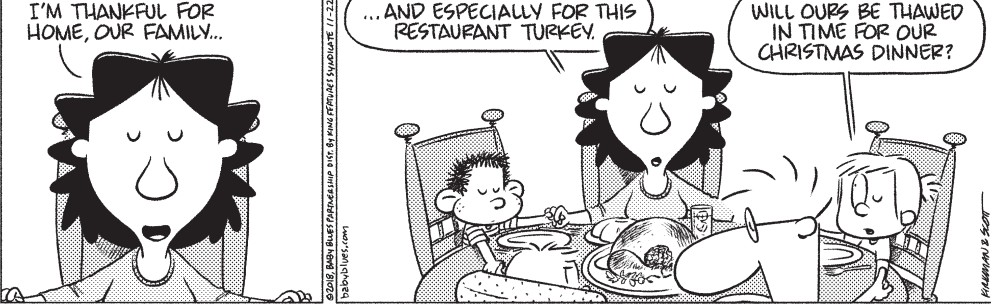
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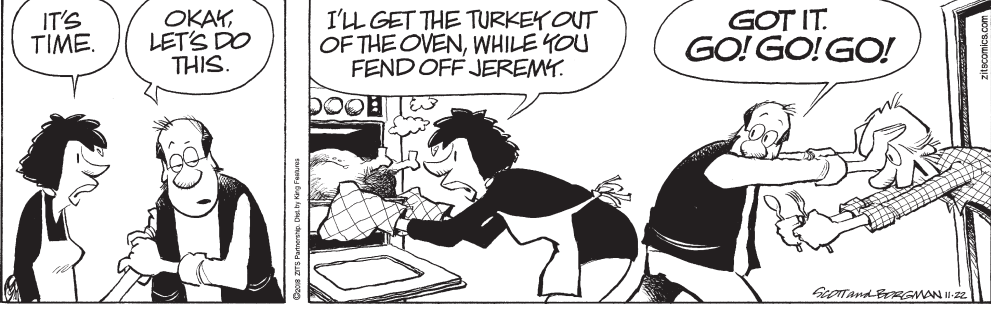
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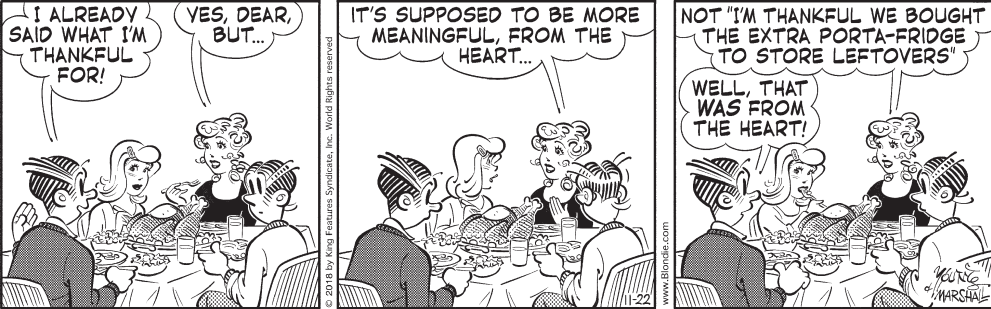
TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

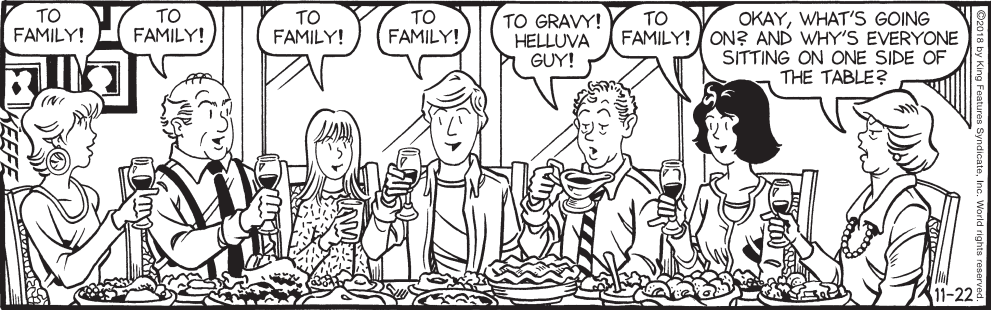
ARIES (March 21-April 19). Beyond the classic stripes of iron bars, cages take on all sorts of material forms; some look like factories, some like dinner tables, nice houses, clean cars, or bottles or mirrors. In what way do you need to get free?
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Why is it taking so long? When do we get there? These questions are completely natural, though unhelpful. With some effort, you'll calm the restless heart and see, with clarity, the current opportunities.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Today is like an elevator. You get on, knowing the risk, and take it because it's time to leave one reality. When this ride is done, the doors open onto another, slightly different, reality.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). Part of the experience of places is the expectation being carried to the entrance gate. You'll be dealing with people who are new to the environment you know so well. You'll strongly influence their reception of it.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You strive to be the best, but "the best" can be hard to assess. How is it measured? Not in popularity or awards. Those yardsticks can only measure consensus and social agreement, which often has little to do with the best.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don't believe that your win has to come at somebody else's loss, but you should be aware that there are many around who do have this scarcity-minded approach. For best results, steer clear of these types.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The love flowing through a relationship is not like it was in the beginning, or yesterday, or earlier this morning. And that's OK. Love will continue to make many forms, all of them enriching in their own way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You acknowledge people by listening to them, remembering things about them, reflecting back to them a version of themselves that represents how they'd like to be seen. Generous heart, your love boomerang is coming.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's so easy to fall in love, or have an affectionate feeling about someone, that the reality of the ongoing work of relationships can come as a surprise. Expect it and be ready to embrace it when it comes.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The great thing about falling behind is, you never know how strong, smart and able you are until you're tasked with catching up. Afterward, you no longer think every small setback spells disaster. Recovery is in your nature.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's not one way to work. People at work can be still as the moon or hummingbird quick. The action of work varies. Some stare into space, some sweat or cry. Your work, whatever form it takes, will be deeply respected.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Some vestiges of who you were in your yesteryears might be holding you back. It probably has to do with an old habit or viewpoint. Getting rid of a material representation of the era will provide a magical, metaphorical release.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 23). You know that you're incredibly valuable, and are so secure in that knowledge that you think of yourself less and less often. This is freedom. A new level of optimism emerges. More highlights: the club you're invited to, an unforgettable date and the satisfactory resolution of a conflict that's affected your family for years. Aquarius and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 24, 3, 7 and 38.

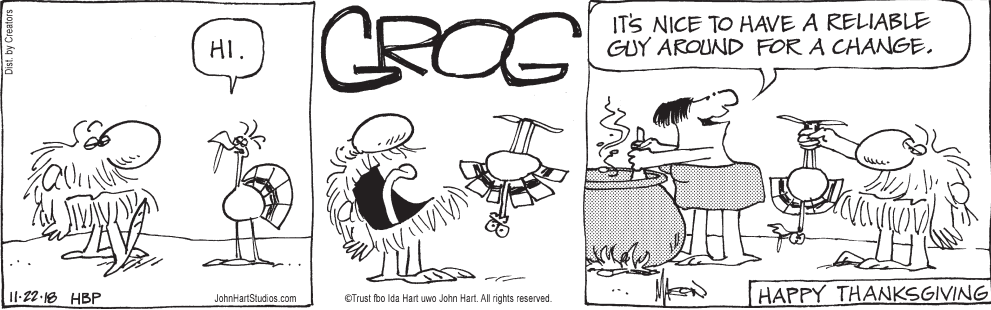
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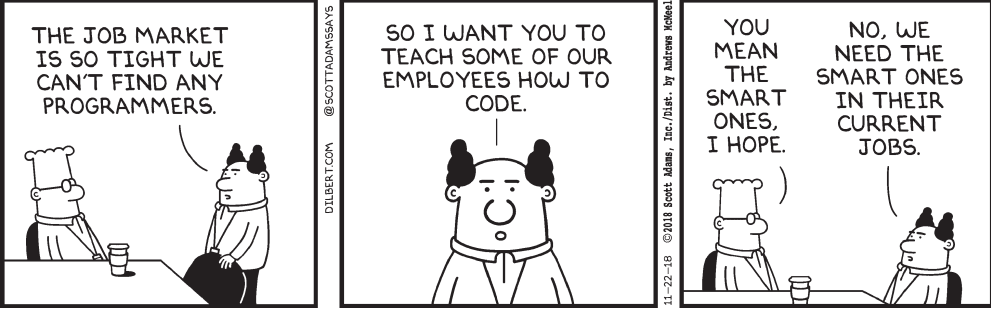
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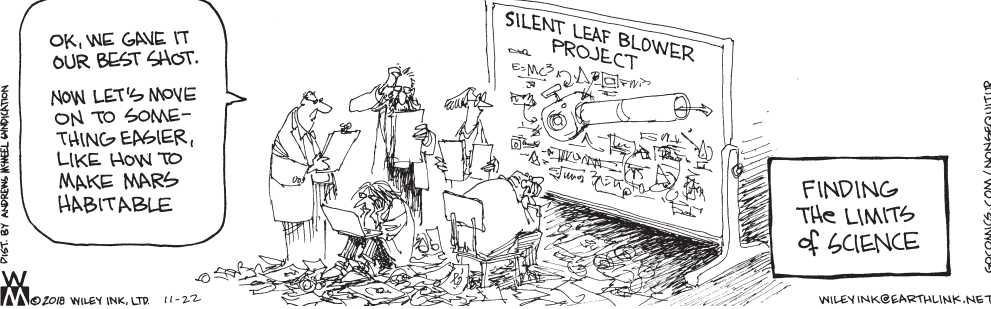
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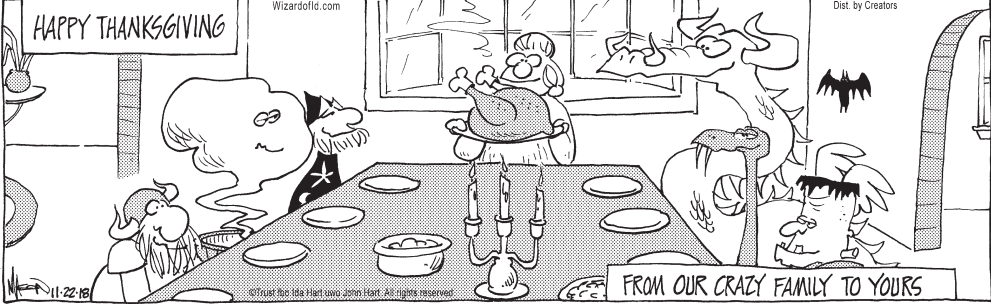
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