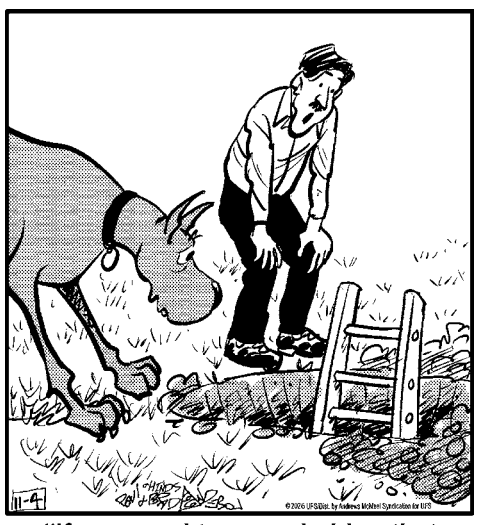
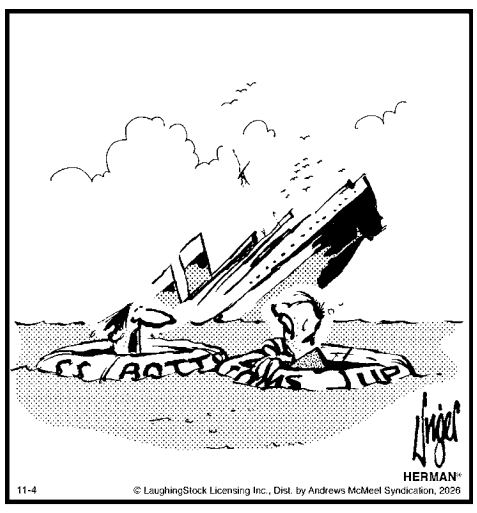
COMICS

MARMADUKE



"If you need to use a ladder, that hole is way too deep."

HERMAN



"My doctor suggested I take a cruise to relax."

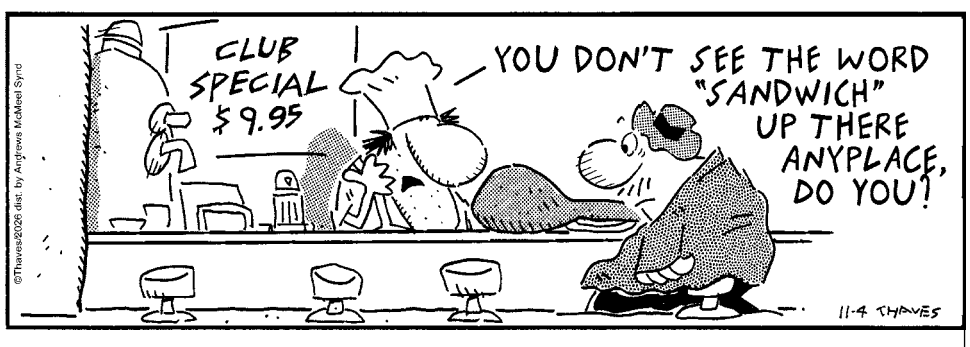
REALITY CHECK



MODERATELY CONFUSED



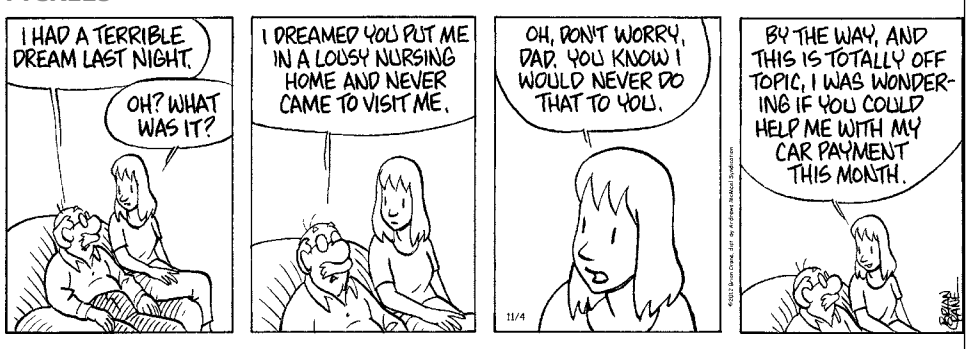
FRANK & ERNEST



THE GRIZZWELLS



PICKLES



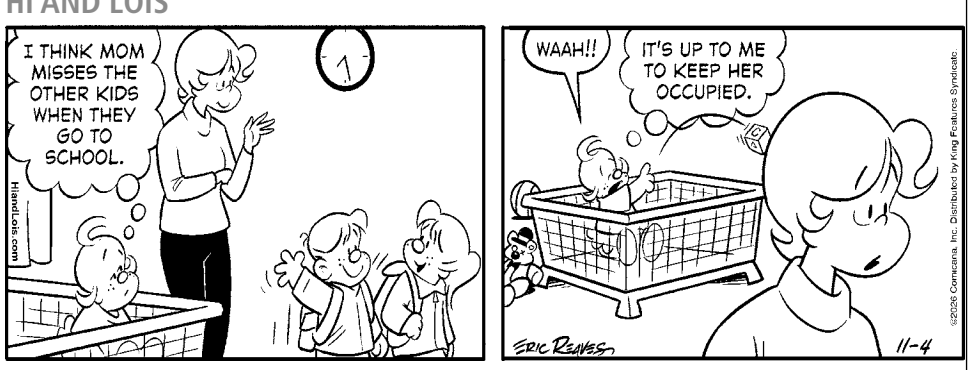
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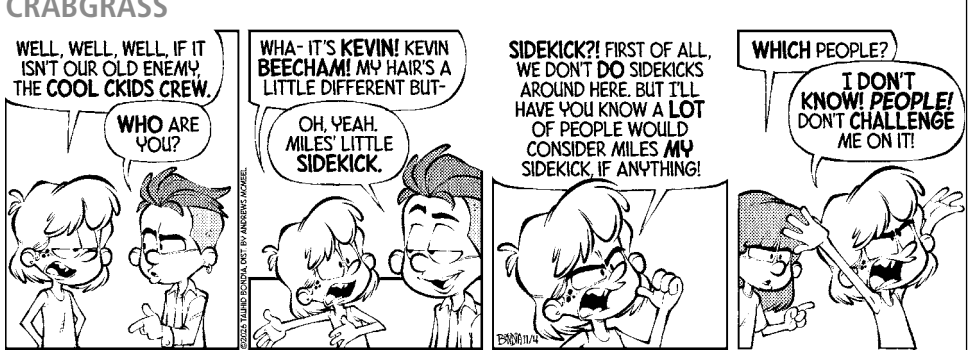
BORN LOSER



HI AND LOIS



CRABGRASS



Family Can't Make Time for Two Turkeys This Thanksgiving



ANNIE LANE
Dear Annie

Dear Annie: Every year, as soon as October rolls around, my husband and I start having the same argument: Whose family gets us for Thanksgiving?

We've been married for 12 years and have two children, ages 7 and 10. Both sets of grandparents live about an hour away, and both families expect us to spend Thanksgiving with them.

My mother starts asking about our plans weeks in advance. She makes a huge dinner, loves having the grandchildren around and gets genuinely hurt when we don't come. She'll say things like, "I guess we'll just have a quiet Thanksgiving without the kids this year," which makes me feel terrible.

My husband's parents are no different. His mother insists that Thanksgiving is the one holiday when the entire family gets together, and his father recently told him, "We won't be around forever, you know."

We've tried alternating years, but somehow whoever isn't hosting feels cheated. We've tried having Thanksgiving lunch with one family and dinner with the other, but that turned into a marathon of driving, overeating and cranky children. Last year, my youngest actually cried in the car because she was tired of rushing from one house to another.

To make matters worse, my husband thinks I'm too easily manipulated by my mother's guilt trips, and I think he gives in just as easily to his parents. What starts as a conversation about turkey ends with us arguing about whose family comes first.

I love both families, and I know how lucky our children are to have grandparents who want to spend time with them. But I'm beginning to dread a holiday that's supposed to be about gratitude and togetherness. Sometimes I fantasize about staying home in our pajamas, ordering pizza and watching the parade.

Is there a fair way to handle this without hurting someone's feelings? Or are we destined to spend every Thanksgiving disappointing half the family? -- Torn Between Two Turkeys

Dear Torn: It's understandable that both sets of grandparents want to spend Thanksgiving with their grandchildren. As they get older, these family gatherings become even more precious, and no one wants to feel left out.

But you can't make everyone happy, especially at the expense of your own family's peace. Sit down with your husband and agree on a plan, whether that means alternating years, hosting everyone or starting a tradition of your own.

Be loving but firm with the grandparents. Remind them that they are cherished, even when you're not at their Thanksgiving table. After all, the holiday is about being thankful for family, not keeping score over who gets the turkey.

"Out of Bounds: Estrangement, Boundaries and the Search for Forgiveness" is out now! Annie Lane's third anthology is for anyone who has lived with anger, estrangement or the deep ache of being wronged -- because forgiveness isn't for them. It's for you. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Follow Annie Lane on Instagram at @dearannieofficial. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Pace yourself, look at the possibilities and concentrate on what's doable. Wasting time on projects, people and situations you have no control over is futile. Set your sights on getting the most out of each day and performing at a level that supersedes anyone who chooses to compete with you. If you do your best and look your best, the returns will surpass your expectations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Set boundaries, and say no to extravagance. Push back if someone pressures you. A change in how you spend, invest and deal with red-tape issues will determine how others treat you and what you can achieve.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Stop, make yourself aware of what's happening around you and recognize what's doable. It's time to let go of what's not as important to you and to concentrate on what makes you feel good about yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Push forward with gratitude and a healthy and happy attitude. Refuse to let what others choose to do become your responsibility. Offer suggestions, not hands-on help.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Personal change is required if you want to get ahead. Career moves, reinventing yourself and redefining what you can offer will help you establish a direction that can subsidize your income.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Face your fears and emotions head-on, and initiate whatever is necessary to rid yourself of setbacks, torment and loss. Recognize what you have and how you can use your attributes and connections to get ahead.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Do what you can to make a difference. Your input will push you in a direction that changes how you make or use your money. Doors will open, interviews will go well and opportunities will change your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Be open and honest. If you are stubborn, exaggerate or are tempted by overindulgence, you will fall short of your expectations. Question your motives, and do your best to avoid those who are bad influences.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Broaden your horizons through educational pursuits, helping those less fortunate or exploring how you can turn something you enjoy doing into additional income.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Don't believe everything you hear. Ask questions, and test the validity of what others have to offer. Take better care of yourself, your money and your meaningful relationships.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Make convenience and comfort your goals. Focus on tightening your budget, reducing your overhead and canceling subscriptions and other monthly costs you can do without.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Take care of unfinished business, and make room for lifestyle changes. Letting go of what's holding you back will be uplifting and free up the energy necessary to engage in new beginnings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Put your heart and soul into what matters to you most. Reaching out to those you love will change how you feel and what you choose to do next. A lifestyle change will encourage you to update your appearance.

Answer to this puzzle

ACROSS

1 End
4 Comedian Jay —
8 Recipe direction
12 Kimono sash
13 Jacob's twin
14 Soliloquy start (2 wds.)
15 In medias —
16 Sleeveless garment
17 Among
18 Dapper
20 Creamy pasta sauce
22 Impair
23 Table scrap
24 Signal
26 Pair
27 — the line
30 Pale
32 Cutting tool
33 Barley beard
34 Luau fare
35 Shadowy
37 Flowed back
39 "— If by Sea"
40 Ref cousin
41 Nothing
42 Provide with weapons
43 Brewed drink
45 Sin
49 Girl at a ball
51 Ancient Peruvian
52 Victory goddess
54 Succor
55 Streetcar
56 "You — it!"
57 Compass pt.
58 Sawbucks
59 Shade trees
60 Lair

DOWN

1 Shredded
2 Girder (Hyph.)
3 Green nut
4 Tax
5 Opposite of WNW
6 Astronauts' org.
7 Audibly (2 wds.)
8 Commence
9 Massive book
10 Footnote abbr.
11 Change the decor
19 Faithful
21 Turned to ice
25 Tolerate
26 A little wet
27 Plateau
28 Be in debt
29 Stop
30 Fitting
31 Pig
36 Very large
38 Chomp
42 Sandler and Scott
44 Skirt shape (Hyph.)
45 Glove
46 About (2 wds.)
47 Diagnostic image
48 Soap brand
49 Cots
50 Perfect place
53 Celebrity — Kardashian

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