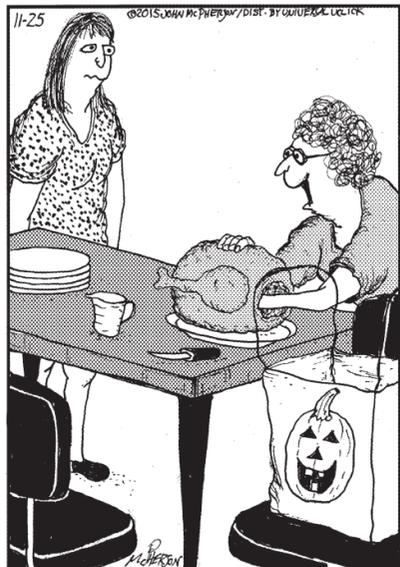


**CLOSE TO HOME** by John McPherson



"The kids love my turkeys. I stuff them with leftover Halloween candy."

# Wife seeking support gets the opposite

**Dear Abby:** While I was nine months pregnant with my first child, I asked my husband what he would say if I had any problem during my delivery and he was asked to choose between me or the baby. His answer was, "Of course I'd pick the baby because you can never replace the baby." His answer broke my heart.

While in labor, I was terrified because I had some complications at the beginning of my pregnancy. I can't get it out of my head now, because I feel like my husband doesn't love me. I have tried to talk to him, but his answer is that this is his belief. Was I wrong for asking him? — *Mother in Amarillo, Texas*



**JEANNE PHILLIPS**  
**DEAR ABBY**

**Dear Mother:** I don't think so. You were asking for his reassurance, and I'm sorry you didn't get it. If a child is delivered in a Catholic hospital, the policy is to save the child if a choice must be made. It appears this is also your husband's belief.

My advice is, dry your tears and remem-

ber that what he implied about wives being replaceable can also be said about husbands.

**Dear Abby:** When I was in my 20s and out on my own, my father left my mother for his secretary, "Doris." They married soon after. She is a nice enough person, but she can be a little pushy. I have had to work on setting boundaries with her.

Every time we talk or visit — maybe once a month — Doris makes a point of telling me she loves me, and it's clear she's hoping I will reciprocate. I'm glad she's married to my dad because he seems happy with her. I'm comfortable with my daughter calling her Grandma. But I can't bring myself to tell her I love her because I don't feel that way about her.

I hoped Doris would get it when I responded with things like, "It's great to see you, too," but it hasn't happened. She's estranged from her daughter, and I think she wants to feel like she's my mom, which I'm not comfortable with. Dad refuses to talk about anything related to his wife, so he is of no help. How can I get my stepmother to back off without hurting her feelings? I want to remain on good terms. — *On Good Terms in Illinois*

**Dear On Good Terms:** Try saying this: "You're loved, too, Doris."

It's not a lie because your dad does love her, and it may satisfy her if she doesn't see this column.

**Dear Readers:** Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, and no Thanksgiving would be complete without my sharing the traditional prayer penned by my dear mother:

Oh, Heavenly Father,  
We thank Thee for food and remember the hungry.

We thank Thee for health and remember the sick.

We thank Thee for friends and remember the friendless.

We thank Thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.

May these remembrances stir us to service, That Thy gifts to us may be used for others. Amen.

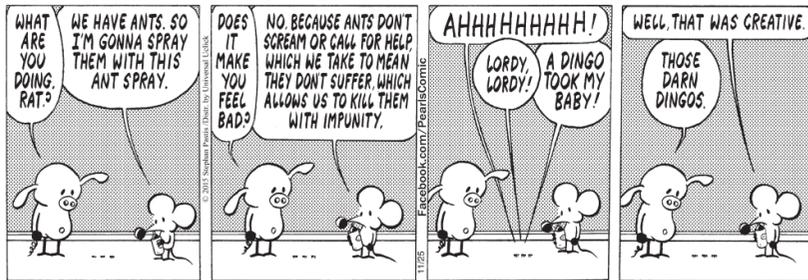
Have a safe and happy celebration, everyone! — *Love, Abby*

**Write Dear Abby** at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**TUNDRA** by Chad Carpenter



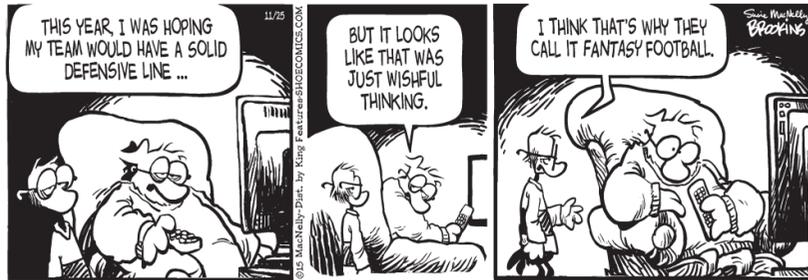
**PEARLS BEFORE SWINE** by Stephan Pastis



**GARFIELD** by Jim Davis



**JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE** by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



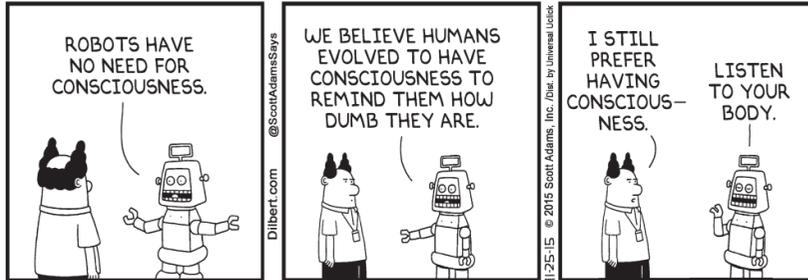
**WIZARD OF ID** by Brant Parker



**THE PHANTOM** by Lee Falk



**DILBERT** by Scott Adams



**MARK TRAIL** by James Allen



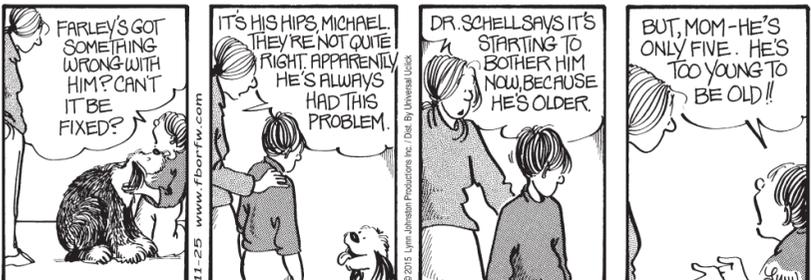
**PEANUTS** by Charles Schulz



**PICKLES** by Brian Crane



**FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE** by Lynn Johnston



**BABY BLUES** by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



**ZITS** by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



**DUSTIN** by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



## Daily Horoscope

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The moon warms your emotions and inspires you to reveal a little more about yourself than you normally would feel moved to do. Now the question is, how much should you share?

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** There are some gyms that claim to be a "no-judgment zone," thus catering to the self-conscious. You're a "no-judgment zone" around your right now. You don't feel the need to assess or be assessed by anyone.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** If you get it right on the first try, that will make you happy. You'll have something to go on. If you get it wrong at first, don't despair. You will become smarter learning from what you do wrong.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Trust that the less you do, the more desirable you will be. This is a day to believe in your own magnetism. Lie back and make fewer efforts. Doing more will only make you less attractive.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Too many choices can be a bad thing for those who don't know themselves well enough to choose what's right for them. You do know yourself well, so it's no problem. Do what pleases you — others will be thrilled with your choice.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Understanding and compassion will go a long way. Someone

will afford you the kind of graciousness that will inspire you to pay it forward. You'll have the opportunity very soon.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You don't have an ideal view for figuring out the problem yet. Astute observation usually requires a different stance from the usual one. Either you need to take a step back or you need to rise above.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** It may feel as though you are only loved when you meet a particular standard of achievement. This isn't true except for in certain (toxic) relationships.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Dreams of faraway places and exciting new scenarios fill your consciousness. Right now it's about the dream. Later you'll make it real. Your gypsy soul will soon go wandering again.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You are in a brave mood today and might be willing to share the very thing you avoided talking about just last week. Unburdening yourself will feel terrific.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Things don't have to be dramatic to be meaningful to you. In a small and very personal way, this will be a day of reckoning. Your lucky associations will involve fellow air signs (Gemini and Libra).

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** There are so many things you could be doing, but none of them will appeal to you as much as relaxing with your favorite person. Truly, anything you do with your favorite will feel like living the good life.



**HOLIDAY MATHIS**