

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



“Trick or gluten-free, organic, non-dairy, peanut-free, non GMO-treat!”

# Smoke-alarm investment is lifesaving

**Dear Abby:** Printing this letter could save some lives — maybe even your own.

In the United States, eight people die every day (on average) in house fires. Tragically, about half of these deaths could have been prevented with an inexpensive device that takes just a few minutes to install.

I'm talking about smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are the cheapest life insurance money can buy. They are one of the most successful public health innovations in history, but 71 percent of smoke alarms that failed to operate during the last year had missing, disconnected or dead batteries.

For the 28th year, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) is proud to partner with Energizer, the manufacturer of batteries, flashlights and lanterns, in the Change Your Clock Change Your Battery program. Together, we're asking your readers to make sure they have working smoke alarms that have been installed correctly, and to test

their existing batteries — or install fresh ones — in conjunction with the end of daylight saving time on Sunday, Nov. 1.

A working smoke alarm can literally mean the difference between life and death. This program ensures that residents will have a WORKING smoke alarm, giving them and their families the critical early warning needed to escape a fire. That precious time also helps to protect firefighters.

Learn more about the program by visiting [energizer.com/firesafety](http://energizer.com/firesafety) or the IAFC at [iafc.org](http://iafc.org). Readers should also check with their local fire departments because many of them offer discounted or free programs to install working smoke alarms in low-income areas. Thanks, Abby. — *Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr, IAFC President and Chair of the Board*

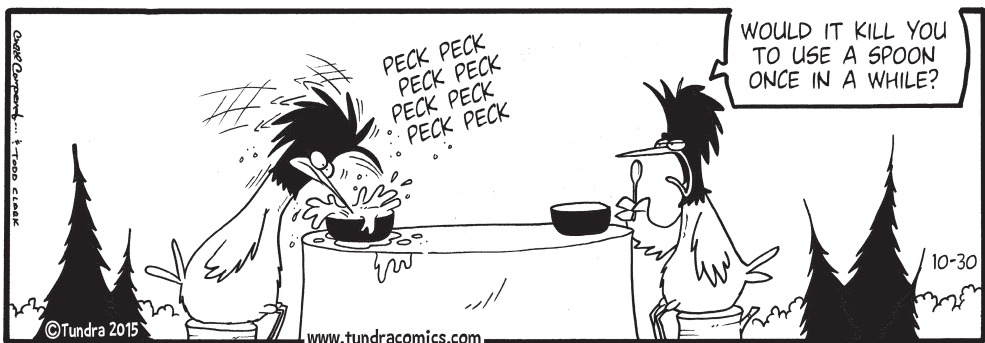
and practice it so that everyone is prepared to evacuate should an emergency occur. A great start to establishing that safety plan is to recognize that this is the ideal time to buy and install those batteries.

**Dear Abby:** My husband was going to a meeting at the home of a fellow temple member. Because I was baking for a cookie exchange and had plenty available, I sent a lovely plate of cookies with him. The hostess thanked him, but didn't serve them. I'm fine with that. But as he was leaving, she presented him with the still-wrapped plate and said she "couldn't possibly" accept them. Is it me, or is that odd? — *Cookie Baker*

**Dear Cookie Baker:** Yes, I think it's odd — unless the hostess or someone attending the meeting had a severe allergy to an ingredient that might have been in the cookies, such as nuts. While it was not unusual (or rude) to not use the gift of food in the meeting, it WAS odd to return it.

**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



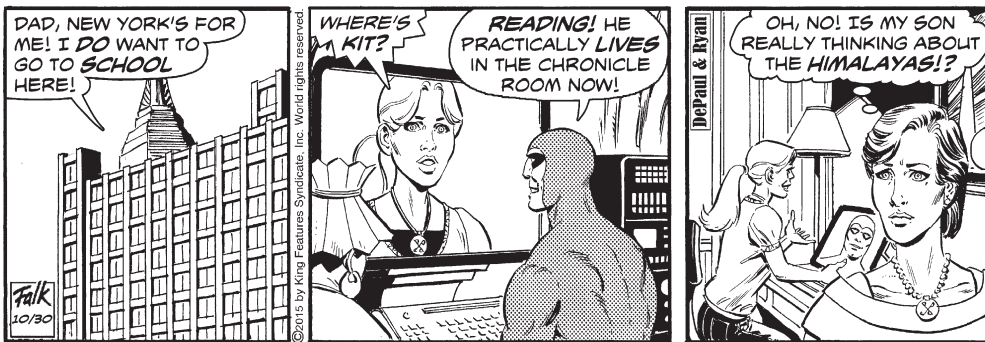
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



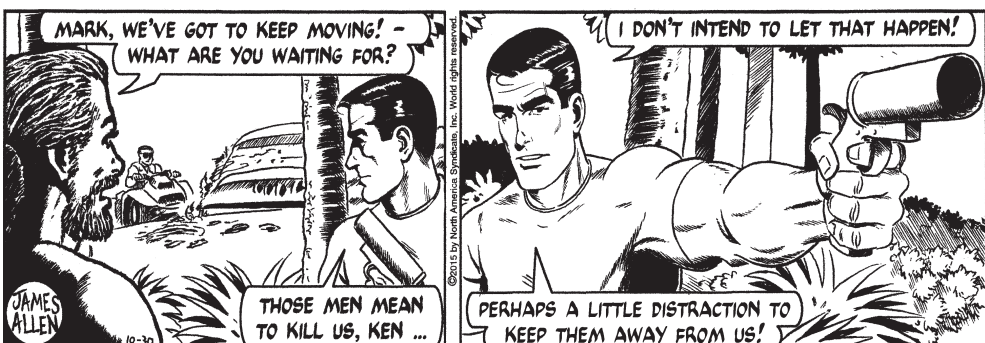
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



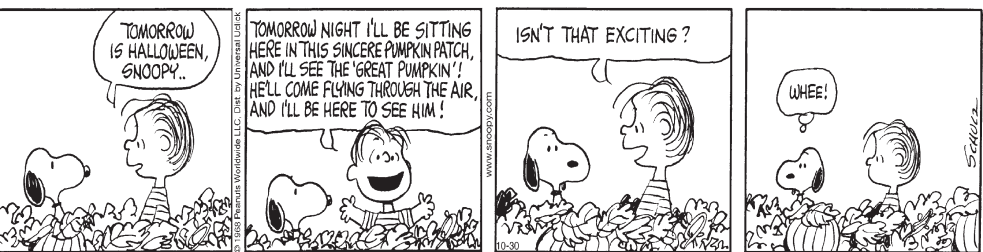
DILBERT by Scott Adams



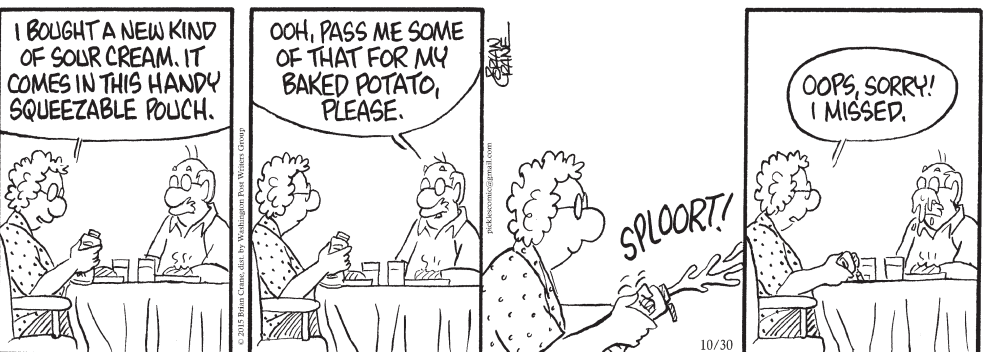
MARK TRAIL by James Allen



PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



PICKLES by Brian Crane



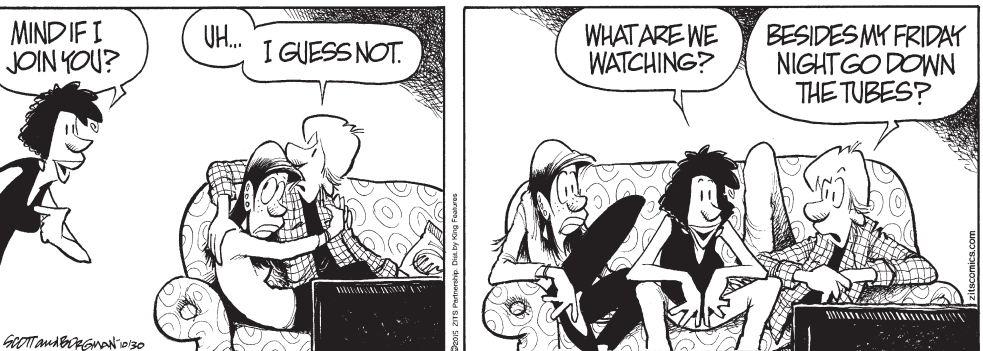
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



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).** Your choices are likely to reflect the great ambition that is your heart's desire. Know that what you want doesn't have to come at the expense of other things that are important to your well-being.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The requests coming your way are not all as important or feasible as those making them assume. Lucky for them, you are very good at filtering what you hear; knowing what's essential and prioritizing accordingly.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You can be counted on in a crunch, and that's one thing people have come to know you for: It explains the flurry of activity today. It's good that people trust you and need you. It's making you stronger.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** There's a certain person you want to make happy, but you haven't quite hit on the magic combination for doing so. Too much experimentation in this regard is not advised. At this point, you're better off just to ask.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Relationships need on-site care. Insecurity melts as soon as you meet face to face. So save all of your important communication and your best stories for when you're physically in the same room.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** People will ask you things that, quite simply, are not their business. Whether you want them to know is up to you. Once

you open the door, you'll set a precedent. It's just something to keep in mind.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Rumination is a dangerous habit that must be broken in order for your happiness to return. Luckily, today it won't take much to distract yourself from negative mental cycles.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You can't force people to love or not to love. Love won't be pushed around. It does its own thing. Love will flaunt its autonomous nature at you. You'd be foolish to argue with that.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Just when you thought you were dealing with mature adults, someone calls "dibs" and gets a prime position that really should have gone to you. No matter: Where you land will be even better.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Put your question into a search engine, and viable, helpful options will come up. Just know that study can only take you so far: To get to your goal, you'll need real-life application, trial and error: Especially error.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You'll follow your heart, your gut, your itch to find the work you love. You won't find it today, but you're getting warmer. Read the clues. Keep track of how different tasks make you feel.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** It's fun to pretend you're someone else, and in a weird way, that leads to learning more about who you really are. You'll be a master of humor and social graces tonight.



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
DEAR ABBY



HOLIDAY MATHIS