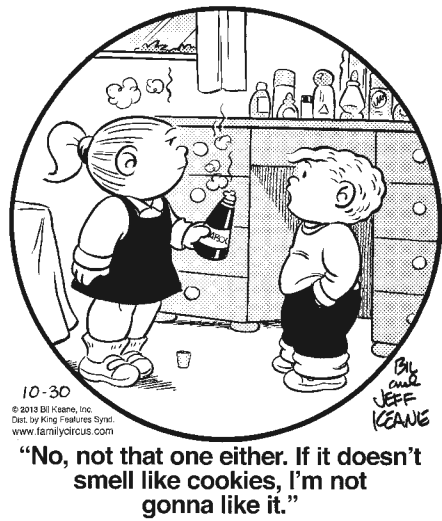
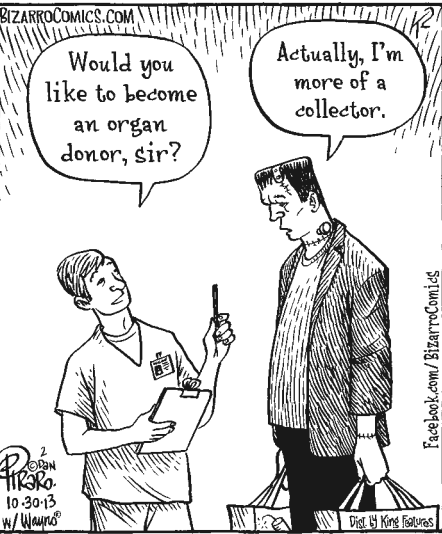


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



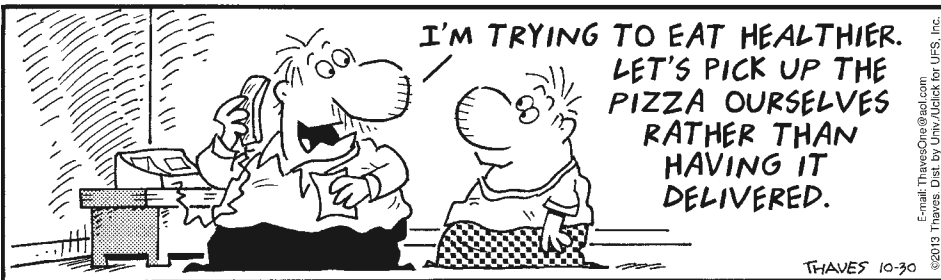
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



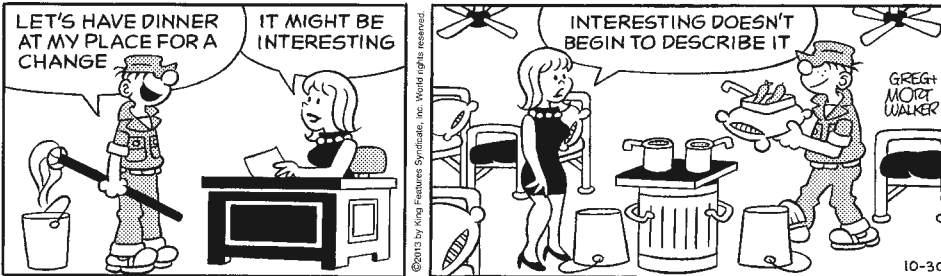
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



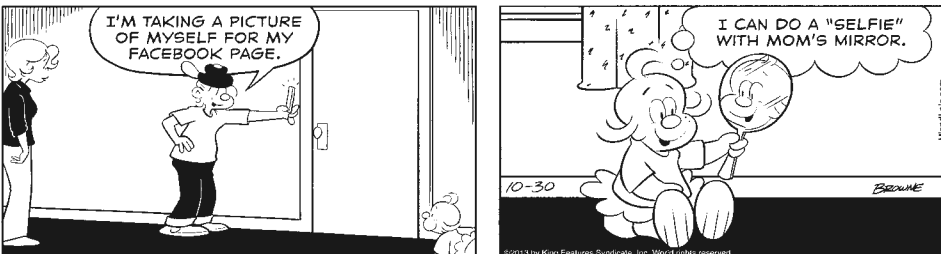
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



# Working Smoke Alarm Boosts Chances Of Surviving Home Fire

DEAR ABBY: I am a fire officer who has seen too many families experience accidental home fires, many with fatal results. It is devastating to find out that a life could have been saved had someone taken the simple precaution of replacing a dead battery in a smoke alarm.

In a recent survey, more than 50 percent of the respondents admitted to removing the batteries in their smoke detector, leaving them inoperable. A working smoke alarm in your home greatly increases your chance of surviving a home fire, but only if it is functional.

Please remind your readers to change the batteries in their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors when they turn their clocks back to standard time on Nov. 3. On average, home fires kill seven people every day. No one should be injured or lose a life because of a non-working smoke detector.

This is the 26th year the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and Energizer have collaborated on the Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery Program. What may seem like a tedious task can be lifesaving. A working smoke alarm can give families precious extra seconds to get out safely. If you help me circulate this important safety reminder, together we can make a difference and save some lives. — WILLIAM R. METCALF, PRESIDENT, IAFC

DEAR OFFICER METCALF: I hope my readers will take your letter to heart as I have, and buy those replacement batteries TODAY if they haven't already. Yes, I know tomorrow is Halloween — but as distracting as the holiday may be, your family's safety is more important. If you're buying candy, grab some batteries. On Saturday night you'll be turning your clocks back an hour. Before you do, be sure you insert fresh batteries in your smoke detectors and test the alarms.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 16-year-old girl, and my 45-year-old father acts even more childish than me. He doesn't have a stable job, and he stays out late or never comes home at all.

My father complains that we don't have enough money and says we need to start saving, then he goes and blows his paycheck on booze and his girlfriend. I need a car to get to work, and I'll be going to college in two years. I can't pay for it all myself.

How do I get Dad on the right track? Please help, because I'm tired of worrying about my future and what's left of his. — HEADING FOR COLLEGE SOON IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR HEADING: I wish I could tell you how to motivate your father to behave more responsibly, but a lesson you should learn early is that you CAN'T change someone else. Your father is a self-centered individual, but only he can change his behavior.

Small college scholarships are offered by some fraternal organizations. I'm glad you wrote, because it's never too early to start exploring what's available. Talk to a counselor at school about what you need to do to earn scholarships. You should also look online or at your local library. You appear to be focused and mature, and with some guidance you can accomplish your goals.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



## DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.

A baby born today has a Sun in Scorpio and a Moon in Virgo.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, OCT. 30, 2013:

This year you achieve many of your key goals. Your strength emerges from an ability to detach and see the big picture. Your empathy increases, and your understanding grows. Some of you will add to these qualities through travel, education or the pleasure of knowing someone who is very evolved. You are likely to broaden your immediate circle of friends and network new acquaintances into your professional life. If you are single, you could create the type of relationship you desire. If you are attached, the two of you could become quite an unstoppable force. VIRGO is a remarkable example of efficiency.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

### ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

★★★★ Note the back-and-forth tug between risk-taking and following the status quo. You might waver less than other signs do, but you will remain sensitive to the different undercurrents. Through understanding your nature, you will take a risk. Tonight: Try to relax.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ A brainstorming session could trigger even more of your high energy. You might decide to pursue an unusual course. Recognize your boundaries, but also note the ease with which you can break down one of these barriers, if you so choose. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You might want to hang close to home. Consider making your office more comfortable or try working from home. You see life differently from how many people see it. Be willing to try a new approach that might achieve the same goal. Tonight: Stay centered.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You naturally stumble upon the right words. Keep the lines of communication open. When you decide which way to go, share your ideas with a trusted associate who is able to visualize different issues and scenarios. Tonight: Express your creativity around a special friend!

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Be aware of your spending in a situation that has implications. Listen to your instincts; they

will guide you. Your sixth sense points to an opportunity. Even if you make an error, you somehow will turn it around. Tonight: No one knows how to have a good time like you do!

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Take advantage of all your supporters, especially if you want to start a new project. You can do it! Remember that. Be willing to let a younger person know more about the specifics. He or she will give you strong feedback. Tonight: Act like the world is your oyster.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ The less said, the better. A boss or someone you look up to has a very different image for you, which he or she would like you to fulfill. You might not be able to satisfy this request. At the present moment, maintain a low-key image. Tonight: Get some much-needed rest.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ Your sense of direction points you to getting feedback and support from others. News from someone at a distance puts a smile on your face. A visit or a trip to or from a dear friend seems impending. Make a call to this person soon. Tonight: Go for exactly what you want.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Tension builds because others have expectations that you do not want to meet. You could feel stuck. You must weigh the pros and cons of a decision. A partner or family member might guide you in the direction of accepting a new responsibility. Tonight: Go till the wee hours.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ If you experience some discomfort with several situations, detach. You must have a favorite way of distancing yourself from trigger issues. Use it. Reframe the issue at least several times. Recognize that your perspective is not the only one. Tonight: Put on some great music.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★★ Relate to key people directly. You could be delighted by someone's openness. You might be able to relate far more easily without "in-between" people. Use caution when making a money decision, especially if there is high risk involved. Tonight: Out to dinner with a loved one.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Others seem to be unable to contain themselves around you. They keep testing your boundaries. Sometimes these people can be very charming, yet at other times, they can be testy and difficult. Tonight: Make sure that you are ready for tomorrow.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

