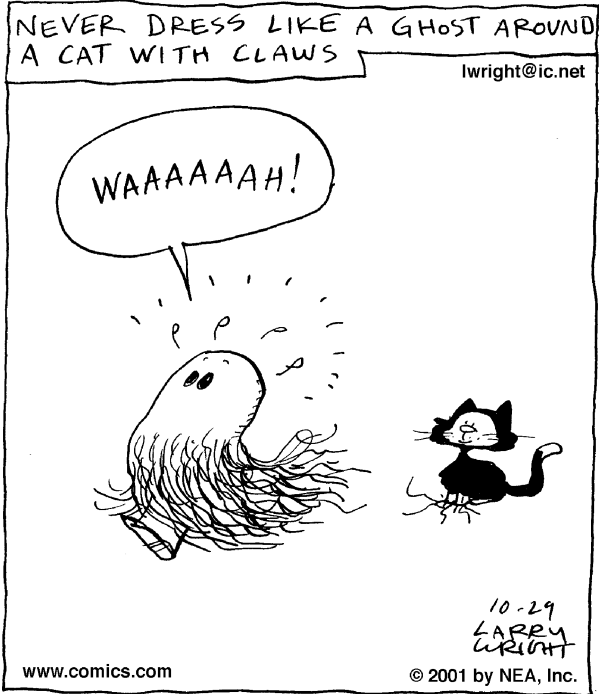


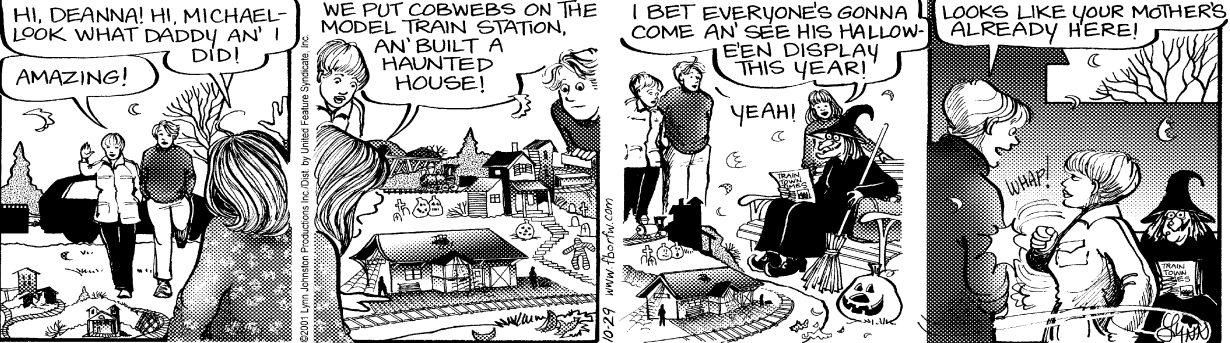
kit and carlyle



herman



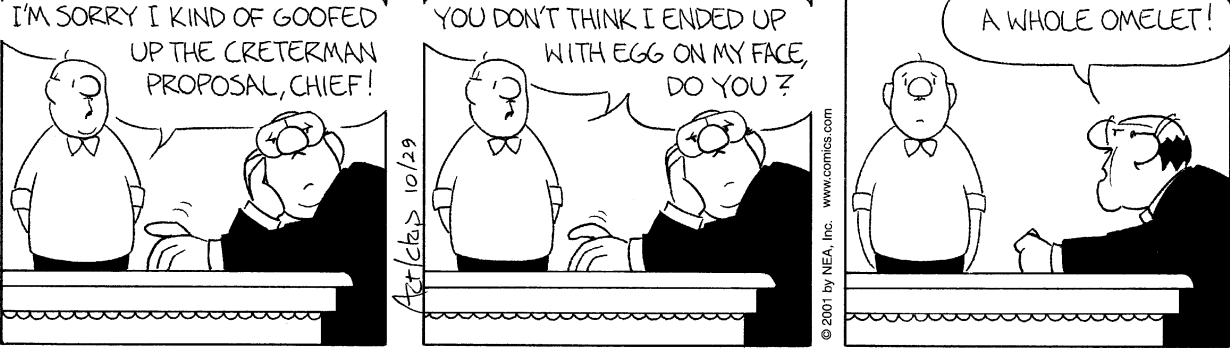
for better or for worse by lynn johnston



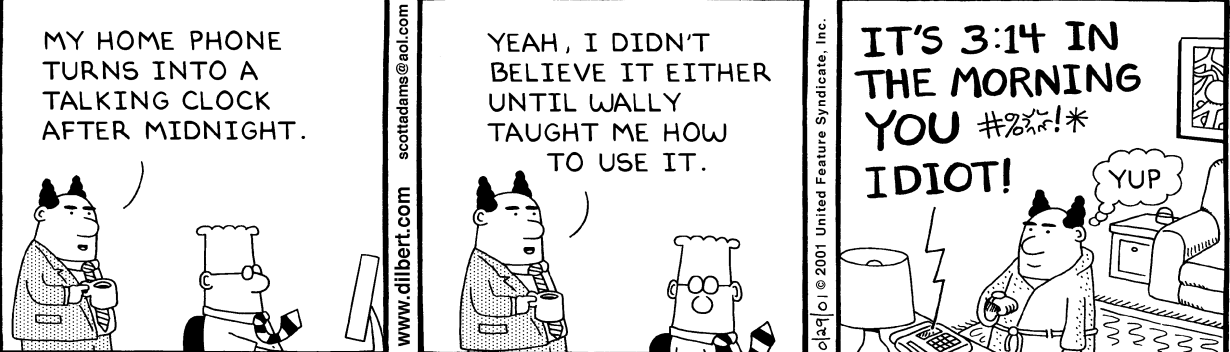
arlo and janis by jimmy johnson



born loser by art and chip sansom



dilbert by scott adams



peanuts by charles m. schulz



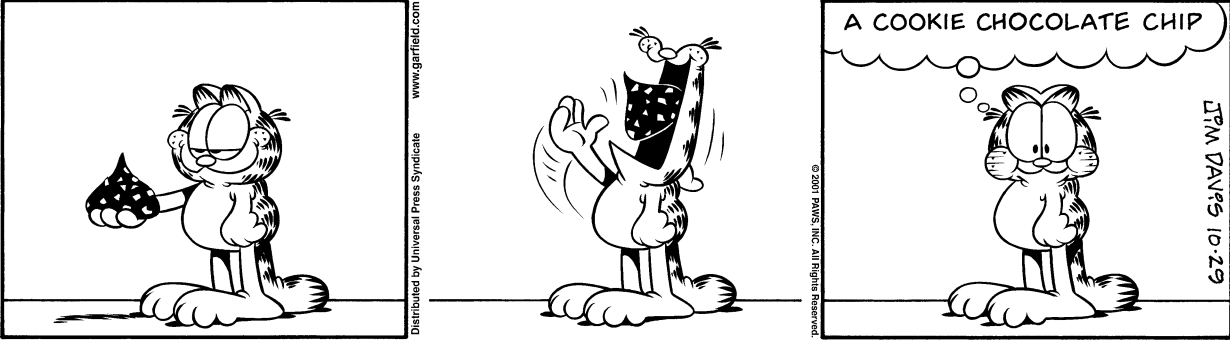
frank and ernest by bob thaves



big nate by lincoln pierce



garfield by jim davis



Kids and candles are dangerous mix

DEAR ABBY: Please help me to inform your readers about a common cause of home fires. We're heading into the season when there is a marked increase in the use of candles. Already booming in popularity, candles become the staple decoration during the winter holidays. They grace tabletops, mantels and windows from Halloween through New Year's Eve. However, these cheery and inspiring holiday decorations can generate more than flickering light. They are the cause of nearly 10,000 fires and take more than 100 lives a year.

According to the National Fire Protection Association's fire database, the number of candle fires that occur in the month of December is almost twice that of any other month. Nearly half of all home candle fires start in the bedroom — and sadly, young school-age children have a higher death risk from



abigail van buren

• dear abby

candle fires than from other fires. These are frightening statistics. However, candle fires don't have to spoil the holidays. Candles can be used safely IF consumers follow a few simple rules:

— If children are present, supervise lighted candles at all times, making sure they are displayed on stable surfaces well out of reach of children and pets.

— Always use sturdy candle holders large enough to collect dripping wax.

— Avoid purchasing candles in which flammable decorations have been embedded.

— Keep candles well away from all items that can catch fire, including clothing.

— Extinguish candles before leaving a room or going to sleep.

— Never allow children to keep or use candles in their bedrooms.

— For emergency lighting, use flashlights, not candles.

Your readers can download free, detailed safety tips for candles and other holiday decorations by visiting the NFPA Web site online at www.nfpa.org. — GEORGE D. MILLER, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

DEAR GEORGE: With Halloween and Thanksgiving just around the corner, I hope my readers will

heed your advice and "candle with care." Thank you for helping them do that.

Readers, if you don't have access to the Internet and would like more detailed information about candle safety, send a long, business-sized, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Dear Abby — Candle Safety, NFPA, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101. Please allow four to six weeks for delivery.

DEAR ABBY: My husband is desperate for friends. He allows a recently divorced co-worker to do his laundry in our home. He expects me to cook meals for people he barely knows. Most of them are nerds and losers.

I have my own circle of friends. I've known many of them for more than 25 years. We are a tight group. I don't need or want to know his friends.

Please help. His kindness toward others is driving me crazy! — LONG-SUFFERING WIFE

DEAR LONG-SUFFERING WIFE: You don't have to like all your husband's friends. But marriage is a partnership, and as much as you may enjoy your "tight group" of longtime friends, it's time to expand your horizons and be less judgmental.

P.S. Your husband sounds like a sweetheart to me. He could pitch in to help with the cooking, however, on the evenings he wants you to feed his friends.

Dear Abby is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips.

daily horoscopes



Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2001

Your ability to enhance your career or work situations will make for a most outstanding year ahead. Your unique talents and abilities will result in the chance for advancement and more pay.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Your ability to instantaneously think difficult tasks through from beginning to end, before you even start the job, makes you very productive at work today. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail \$2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — An unexpected change today may later prove to be a very lucky break, even though it might not appear so when it happens. Fortunately, you'll let events run their course.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Surprisingly, there may be a lot more bacon to bring home today at the end of the day than you may have anticipated. Several unforeseen gains could be the reason.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Better keep your schedule as flexible as possible today, because it's most likely that something unannounced may pop up you'll want to participate in.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — You should never discount logic when making evaluations, but today your hunches and intuition could be right on the mark. You'll know which to follow and when.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — A friend or an associate for whom you've done a favor in the past may be more appreciative than you realize. He or she might surprise you today with a very nice reciprocal deed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You'll have to act quickly today when possibly two unrelated opportunities come your way. They will be quite beneficial when acted upon, but the chance to do so will be fleeting.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — People who live at a vast distance from you could be the very ones who'll be fortunate for you today. You might unexpectedly hear from one of them via the Internet or telephone.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Don't discount your instincts today, especially in competitive developments. Much to your delight, acting on one of them could give you the edge to enter the victor's circle.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Your mind could be so sharp today that it might even startle you as to how quick you can grasp the essences of the most complicated issues or mental gymnastics.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Being content with the status quo isn't apt to sit well with you today. You'll take it upon yourself to make constructive changes when dealing with any condition not to your liking.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Chances are your first thoughts today are likely to be your best ones. This is because you're able to think on your feet and make good snap judgments without any hesitation.

celebrity cipher

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: L equals H

' S L G R C V S S Y P Z G Y Y S V A P S G D P

V E I B P R M Y J P, C K S D V A P E M

D G R S V A P V C M K S G S, Z P Z G Y Y

Z G E . ' — X B P R G I P E S F P M B F P Z .

C K R L

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Painting is the art of protecting flat surfaces from the weather and exposing them to the critic." — Ambrose Bierce

daily crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Cobbler's tool
- 4 Beat walker
- 7 Tibetan monk
- 11 Luau dish
- 12 Chenille item
- 13 Matty of baseball
- 14 Source of warmth
- 15 — the Red
- 16 Unhearing
- 17 Waiting to bat (2 wds.)
- 19 Bygone
- 21 Carnegie or Evans
- 22 Bastille Day season
- 23 Paradise
- 26 Broadway offering
- 30 Shuddered
- 34 Peccadillo
- 35 Yes, to Miss Piggy
- 36 Kitchen utensil
- 39 Whinny
- 42 High mountain
- 43 Ballpark figure
- 45 Govt. agents

48 Musical toy

- 50 Intensive pronoun
- 52 Hotel name
- 53 — avis (unusual thing)
- 55 Once named
- 56 MP's prey
- 57 Face feature
- 58 Hardened, as cement
- 59 Say with gestures
- 60 Owns
- 61 Dulles abbr.

DOWN

- 1 Lhasa —
- 2 Cut or scrape
- 3 Singer Ronstadt
- 4 Wine-bottle feature
- 5 Sapporo sash
- 6 Black tea
- 7 Roofer's need
- 8 Helm position
- 9 — and groan
- 10 — Wiedersehen
- 12 Subside
- 18 Alt.
- 20 Inc., in England



24 Ums' cousins

- 25 A tide
- 27 Cleopatra's snake
- 28 "Mamma —!"
- 29 Actress Sheridan
- 30 Close relative
- 31 Shade
- 32 Clock numeral
- 33 Unpaid, as a bill
- 37 Long-sleeved garment
- 38 — out (uses thriftily)

40 Drink rapidly

- 41 RN employer
- 44 Verandah
- 46 Thick
- 47 Ice pellets
- 48 Fuzzy fruit
- 49 Unit for Niels Bohr
- 50 Novelist
- 51 Goat cheese
- 52 Meadow male
- 54 "So!"

