

# The rules of trick or treating

**Dear Annie:** It's that time of year again when the tacky cobweb decorations are up and overpriced bags of "fun-size" candy flood every grocery aisle's end cap. As I prepare for this Halloween, I'm wondering what your opinion is on something that's been bugging me for years now.

My neighborhood civic league has rules regarding trick-or-treating. It's to occur between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m., and only children 13 or younger may participate.

Of course, every year, there are a handful of teenagers, probably 15 or 16 years old, who show up on our doorstep expecting candy. I tell them sorry; they're too old to be trick-or-treating. I didn't make up the rules, but I do agree that trick-or-treating should be left to the little ones.

Also every year, there are the stragglers who come ringing the doorbell at 8:15, after I've shut off the lights and put away the candy, and I refuse to answer.

Apparently, some neighbors think I'm omery. I'm just following the rules. I don't want to have to buy extra candy so I can hand it out to every high schooler who decides he wants some Snickers. And I don't think they should be

## Dear Annie



By Annie Lane

Creators Syndicate Inc.

But if these kids are trick-or-treating in earnest, wearing costumes they put real effort into, then loosen up and give them some candy. Embrace the fun, playful spirit of this holiday, and let these children be children a little while longer.

**Dear Annie:** "Playing games" isn't my thing. Women need to be more straightforward. Recently, I went out with a woman who works at a restaurant that's in the same shopping center as the retail place where I work. We always chatted when we saw each other in the parking lot and were what you might call "simpatico."

We got happy-hour drinks at a bar across the street, and she seemed into me. The next night, I texted her, asking whether she wanted to go out to dinner sometime. She texted back and said she would love to get dinner sometime but specified that she only wanted to be friends. Ugh. I told her thanks but that I didn't need her pity friendship.

Why did she go out for drinks in the first place? — *Too Nice*

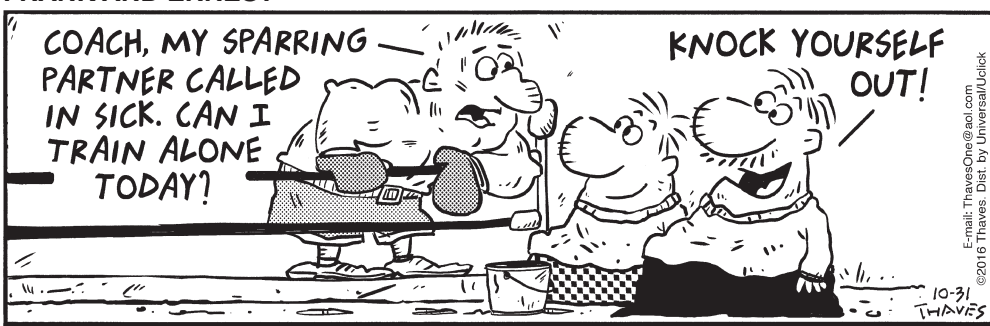
**Dear Nice:** This woman is not in your debt. She simply wasn't interested, and she did you the courtesy of letting you know that quickly.

ringing my doorbell after 8 o'clock, either. It's rude. What do you think? — *Halloweary*

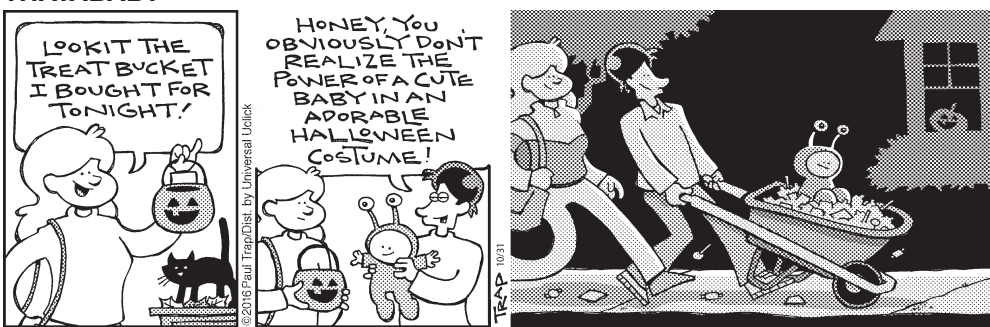
**Dear Halloweary:** As for the 8 o'clock cutoff time, you're entitled to shut things down promptly (provided you don't slam your door in any sad little Spider-Man's face). It's better to encourage an early curfew on Halloween night anyway, because it can be dangerous to have kids in the middle of the street after dark.

When it comes to the issue of trick-or-treating teenagers, that all depends on their effort level. If they aren't even dressed in costumes and simply show up on your doorstep looking for a handout, set them straight. The same goes for ones wearing sarcastically halfhearted costumes, such as just a sheet over one's head.

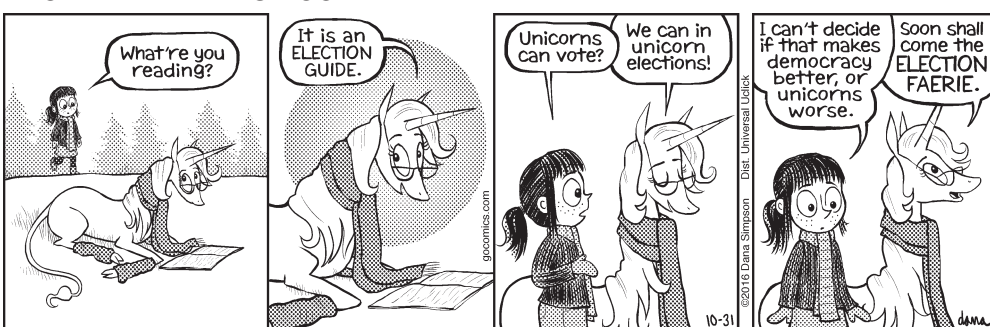
### FRANK AND ERNEST



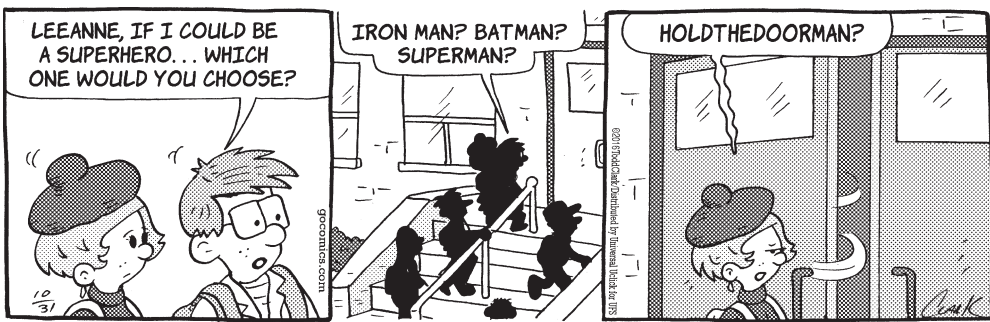
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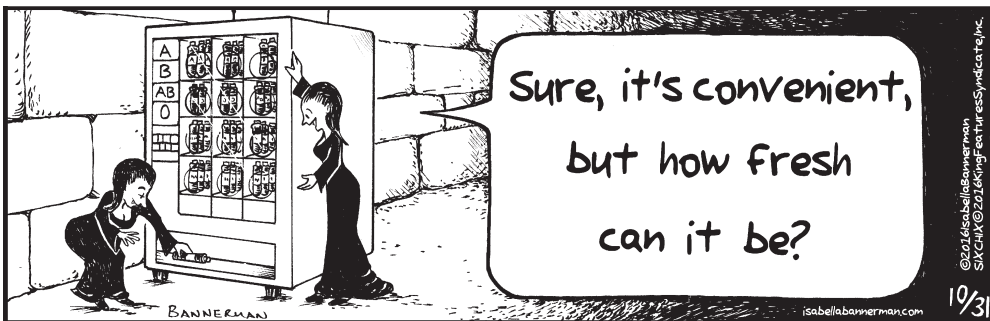
### PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



### LOLA



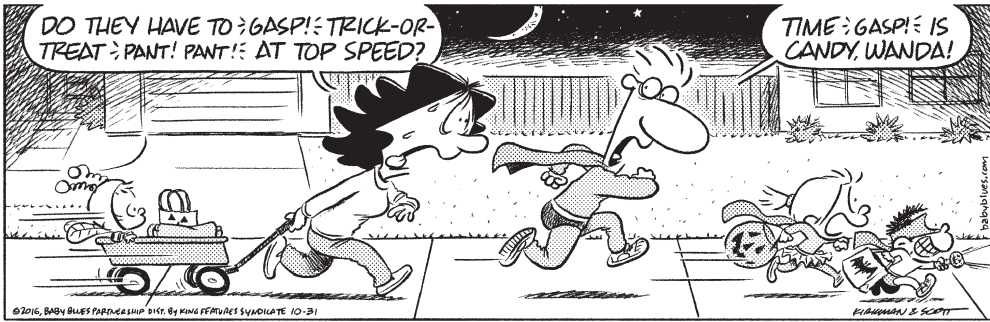
### SIX CHIX



### MUTTS



### BABY BLUES



### ZITS



# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You may get off to a slow start, and perhaps your goal is the thing to blame — not quite big enough to entouse you. See what happens after you raise the stakes.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** In one mood, you'll say, "No regrets." In another mood, there's a list of things you would do differently if you could. Both moods have their merits. The past needs to be examined, after all. It also needs to be released.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You're considerate, and you love to please, but you're also careful not to waste a lot of effort where it won't be appreciated. You'll have the biggest impact when your efforts are well-matched to the situation.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Go on and jot down those notes to yourself. You'll be surprised by your own pen. Also, writing will help you mentally organize yourself even if you don't save what you've written.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** People making hysterical fools out of themselves may be in keeping with the shenanigans of the day, and you'll laugh along with the others. You won't feel complete until you've tended to more serious tones, too.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Congratulations: Today you are the solution. Of course, that means that in order to really shine, you need a problem. Open your helping heart and the perfect one will quickly show up.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You'll speak powerfully and confidently. Your ideas will be a hit, as long as you act on them. Be decisive. Follow through. Don't ask for permission when you know it's what's best for all.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** The one who should be in the starring role of your life is you. Someone else seems to be vying for the part these days. Yes, this person needs care and love, too — but save some for you! Healthy boundaries are the way.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Stay buoyant. The others are counting on you to break the ice, crack a joke, make it fun. The heavy karma will work itself out in a hundred lighthearted exchanges.

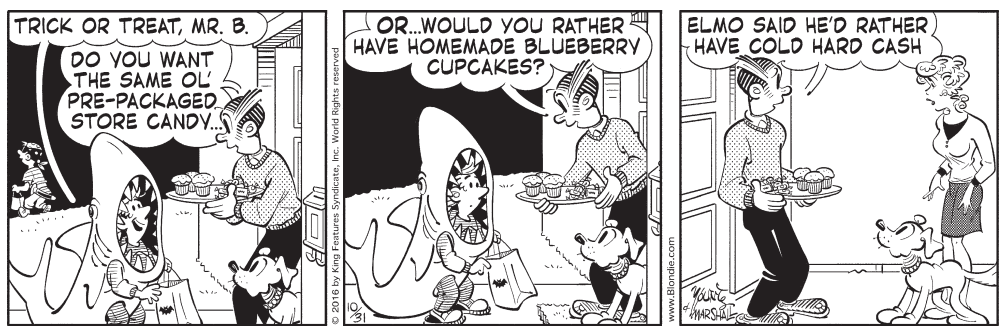
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** It might not go according to plan, but it will all go better because you have a plan. Prioritize consciously before you get into your day, or you'll wind up serving someone else's priorities.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** People will work for your approval, ask for your advice and make various kinds of attempts for your support. It is no small thing to be respected by your peers.

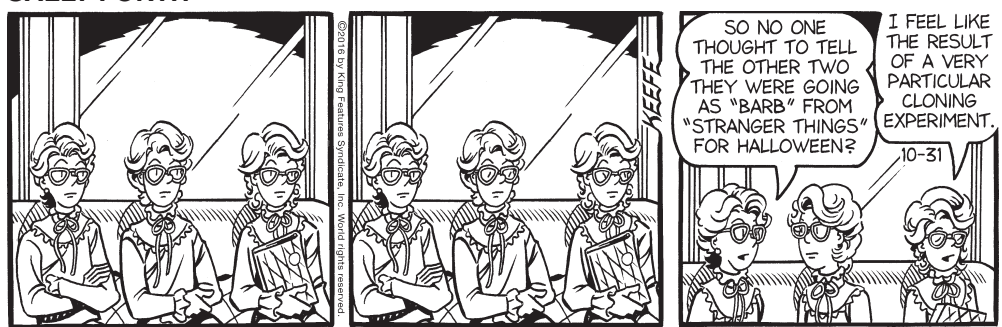
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You've had to surmount a few difficulties to get here, and now the challenge you face is one of your own design — that's what makes it worthwhile. This is harder than what others would have encouraged you to take on.

**TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 1).** You'll be packaging your skills differently and trading on them differently as well — just the change you needed to bring more money and satisfaction into your life. Your connection with nature is strong, and this will figure into the traveling you do in 2017. You'll be celebrated for your talents in February and July. Aries and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 39, 1, 22, 21 and 19.

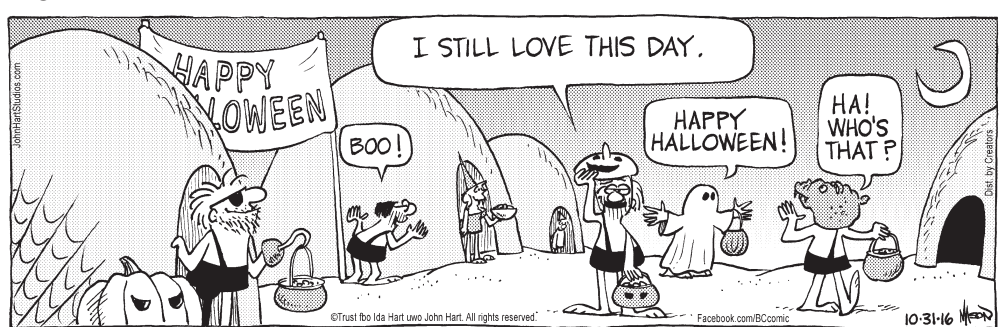
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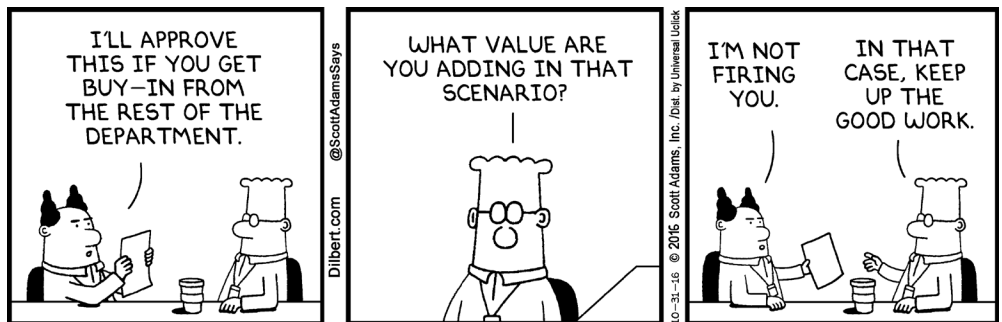
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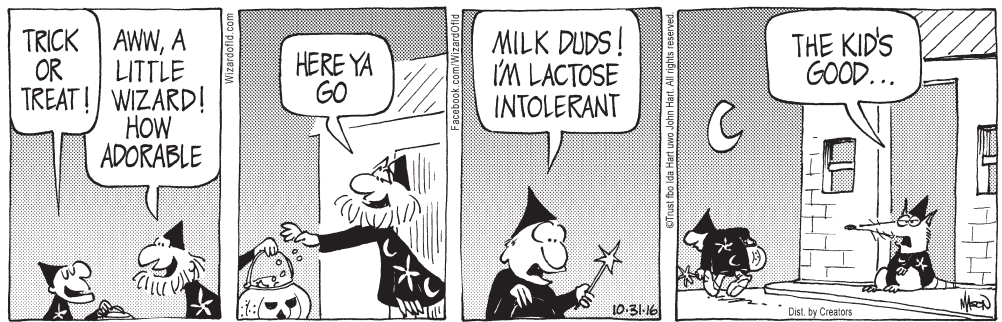
### BIZARRO



### NON SEQUITUR



### WIZARD OF ID



### ROSE IS ROSE

