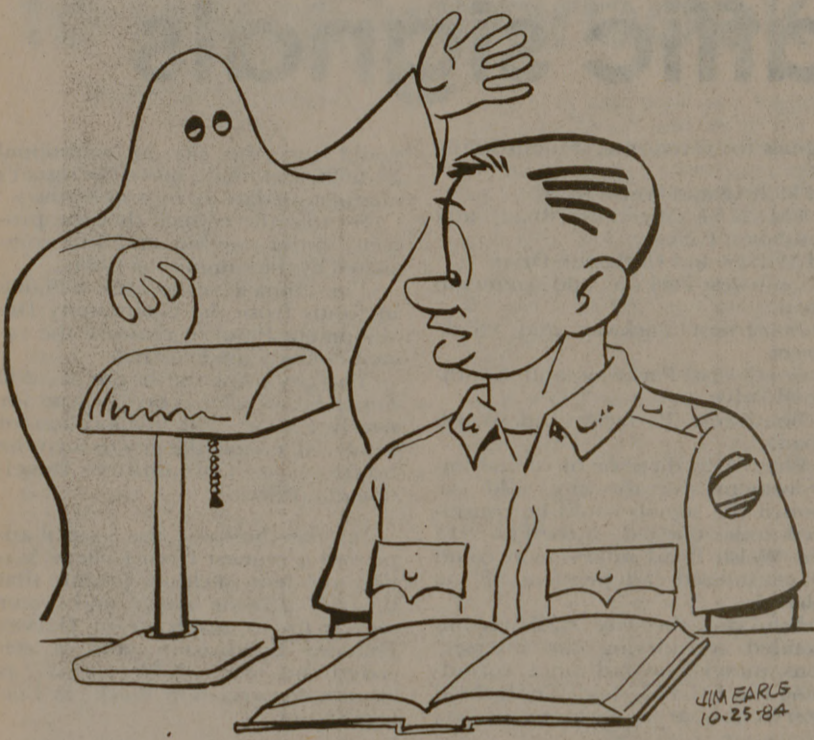


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Doesn't it strike you as strange that you are late with two assignments, have a sinking grade point average, a report that was due yesterday, and yet you are the first in the dorm to come up with a Halloween costume?"

Reduce cold weather utility bills by using energy-saving devices

By MARK SPICER
Reporter

Up to 30 percent can be saved on utility bills by installing inexpensive, energy-saving devices throughout your home or apartment, says Susan Adams with the Center for Energy and Mineral Resources at Texas A&M.

Adams said the greatest amount of energy loss comes from air infiltrating the house around doors, windows, electrical outlets and anywhere plumbing punches through the outside walls of the structure.

About 40 percent of the air that goes in and out of the house goes between the foundation and the flooring, she said.

Adams said builders today are more energy-conscious and are us-

ing various caulking material underneath the flooring to keep the air from coming through. She said silicone caulking is the best to use because some of it has a 25-year life span.

"Most of the builders use an open-cell foam caulk," she said. "They're supposed to put it under the soleplate, but I have seen houses where they've put it along the edges and that is not where it goes."

Although open-cell foam caulking is less expensive than silicone caulking, Adams said she recommends the latter because the foam caulking will only last two to five years.

She said weatherstripping is another big energy-saving device used to help reduce air infiltration.

"The best weatherstripping is

made of copper," she said. "It is nailed to the inside of the doorjamb and bent so that when the door shuts, it seals the air out."

Adams suggests that renters use inexpensive foam adhesive-backed weatherstrips that easily can be installed.

Adams said if a particular window is cold, a pop-in insulating shutter can be made inexpensively by cutting cardboard to fit the size of the window. She said that several pieces of cardboard can be glued together, thus increasing its thickness and insulating ability.

She said other ways to lower utility bills this winter include: turning the thermostat down to 68 degrees during the day and 55 degrees at night,

using small portable heaters to warm small areas around you instead of running the main heater, using an electric blanket, dressing warmly, installing flow restrictors in faucets and showerheads and insulating tanks with a hot water heater blanket.

"Most of the things that will save the homeowner, apartment owner or the renter the most money are actually not expensive items," Adams said, "and for the homeowner or apartment owner there are energy credits available from the federal government. Homeowners can get a 15 percent credit on their tax return for the first \$2,000 spent on energy conserving merchandise up to a maximum of \$300."

Don't forget to set your clocks back Sunday

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Standard Time returns Sunday, which means turning back clocks and giving up the daylight that still lingers into early evening.

The one hour time change takes place at 2 a.m. local time on the final Sunday in October.

On the last Sunday in April when

Daylight Saving Time began, clocks were set forward one hour.

The old adage, "spring forward, fall back," may be helpful when resetting the clock.

States and territories that do not observe the time change are Arizona, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the part of Indiana that lies in the

Eastern Time Zone.

The idea of juggling the hour can be traced to Benjamin Franklin, who wrote a paper while serving as the U.S. envoy to France. He recommended that shops be opened and closed earlier during summer months to cut the cost of providing lighting.

Franklin, who was very much a

night person, argued that considerable money could be saved during the summer months by lighting fewer candles.

The United States took up the idea of Daylight Saving Time during World War I when President Woodrow Wilson, on March 31, 1918, signed legislation installing it. However, the law was repealed the following year.



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