

## Who You Gonna Call?

*By Hap Hansen*

Help! Just like many folks my age, I take a series of prescriptions as recommended by my Doctors. Along with the medications, there is a list of 10 or 15 pages of caveats in very small print, which requires a magnifying glass to read. These pages describe a few of the possible side effects such as the following warning: This medication may cause: low blood sugar, pancreatitis, diarrhea, heart palpitations, swelling of the tongue, thoughts of suicide, stomach pain and possibly ulcers, low blood pressure, high blood pressure, hemorrhoids, low sex drive, persistent perspiration, weight gain, water retention, allergic reactions, muscle spasms and cramps, hostility, depression, nausea ... The list goes on and on. If you do experience one or more of these side effects and you manage to get your Doctor on the phone, he or she is likely to say, "We're tied up for the rest of the day. Take an aspirin and call me in the morning." Help!

There are also some things I would like help from the Federal Communications Commission. That would be the constant, oppressive ads on television that in my opinion, stretch the truth. "Buy gold! Buy silver! Get a 60 percent return!" "Buy my pillow and get a good night's sleep. Guaranteed! But wait! Order in the next 20 minutes and get the second pillow at half price!" How much are the pillows? One has to call to find out. "Reduce headache and joint pain without medication!" Again, call to find out the price. "Hear again, even if you're mostly deaf!" How do they do that? Call and find out.

One of my favorite head shakers is this ad, "A classic love story ... Coca-Cola and food!" What? Help! Please!