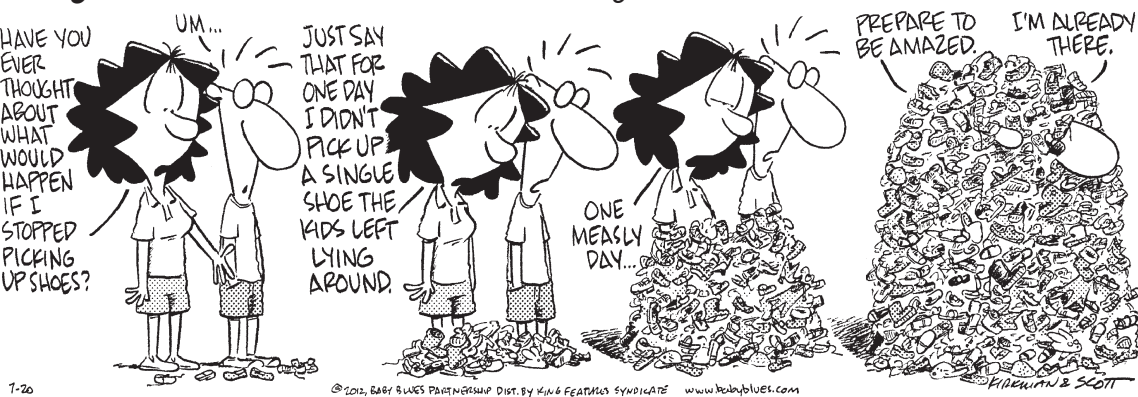## Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

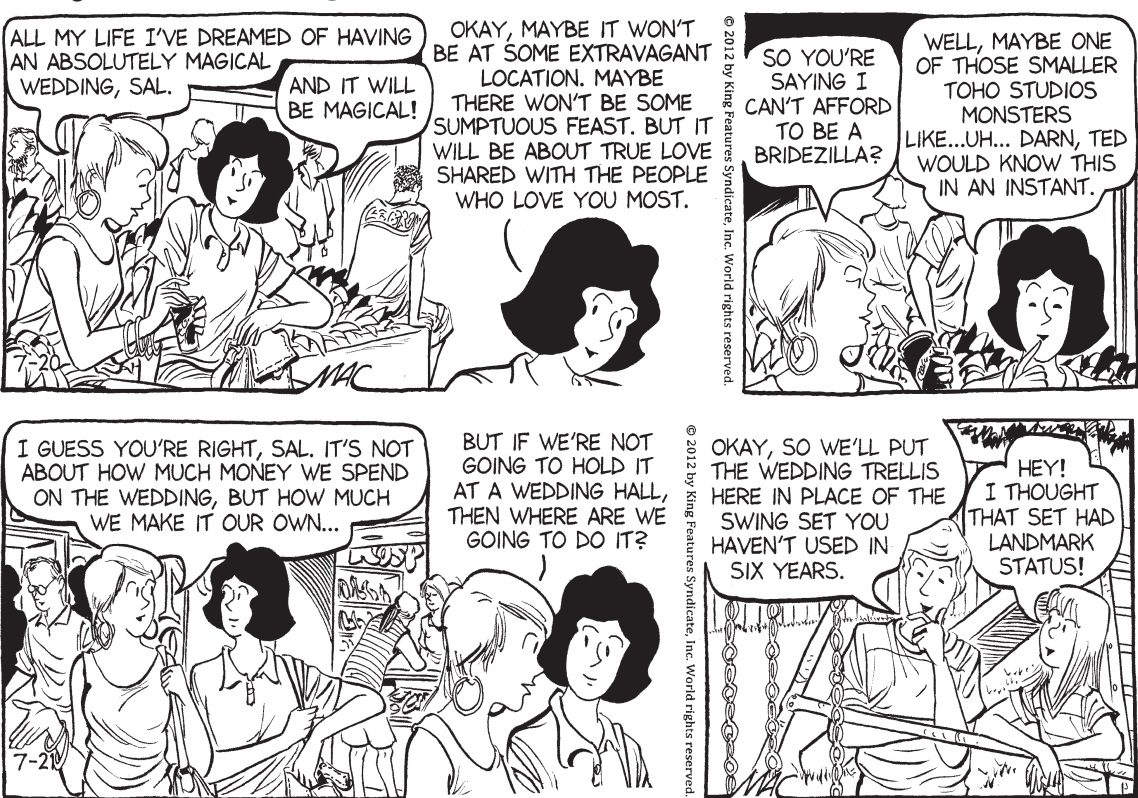## Blondie • Chic Young

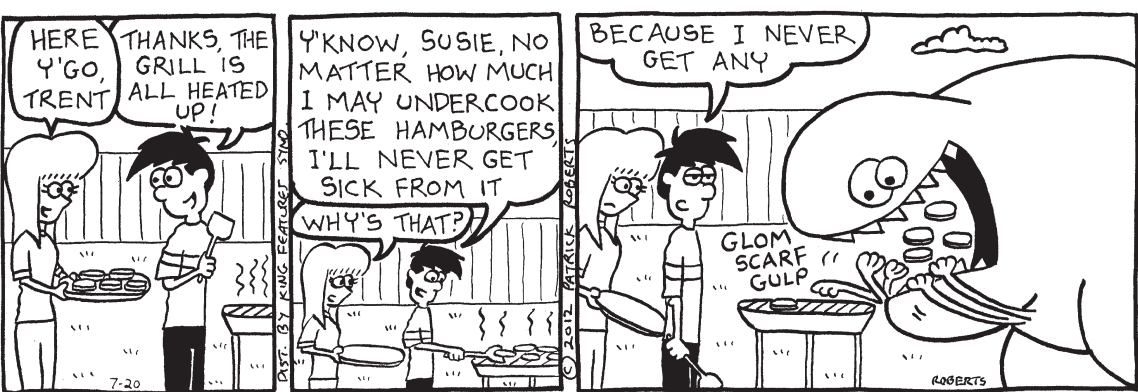## Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

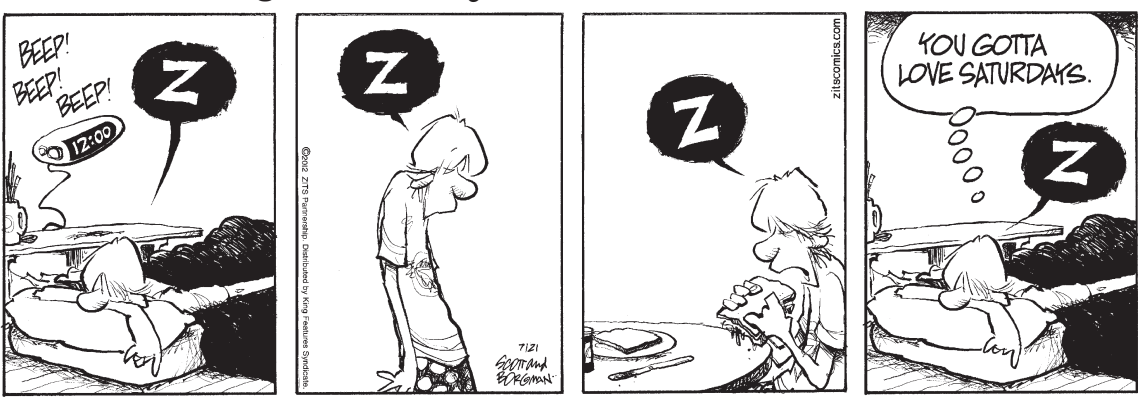## Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Heloise

● Hints from Heloise

Procedure helps claim damages

Dear Heloise: I bought a pair of porcelain candleholders on a recent trip. I packed them carefully (in air-pocket wrap) in my checked luggage. Upon my return home, the candleholders were unwrapped, and one was damaged. What can I do? – A Reader, via e-mail

There is something you can do, and it's good information for all of my readers.

According to the Transportation Security Administration, travelers can file a claim for broken or damaged items if they believe the administrationg is responsible. Be aware that there are more than a dozen airports that use other screening services and do not accept agency claims.

To file a claim, you need to download or request a claim package from the administration and submit all required paperwork. Download the packet at www.TSA.gov. The main phone number for the Transportation Security Administration is (866) 289-9673, and the claims management branch fax number is (571) 227-1904.

Some of the things you may be asked for are:

• Purchase receipt (credit-card receipt or, if not available, a bank statement).

• Baggage tags or boarding passes.

• Repair or replacement estimates.

• Photographs of items (if you have them – Heloise).

Mail or fax claim documents to the Claims Management Branch. Within three weeks, you should receive an acknowledgment letter with instructions. But the claim itself can take anywhere from two to six months to complete.

The agency may not repack items as carefully as you had originally (if at all). So if something is important or valuable to you, put it in your carry-on or have it shipped directly to your house. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

ART AVALANCHE

Dear Heloise: I love my children's artwork and have a hard time throwing anything away. I read in your column about scanning the artwork into the computer. Such a helpful hint!

I have found that there are many websites (and even some drugstores) that can take your pictures and make them into a book. I did this with my kids' work, and loved it so much that I made some for the grandparents. – Sheila, via e-mail

POT DRAINAGE

Dear Heloise: I may have learned this from your column. I'm not sure, but it bears repeating. When potting plants, I put a coffee filter or a piece of landscaping fabric over the drainage holes. No more mud all over the patio when I water. – Sue P., via e-mail

What a tried-and-true hint! Not only does it keep the dirt in, it also helps keep the hole from getting clogged and not draining. – Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Some **bidding sequences** are regarded as impossible — that is, you can't have a hand that fits the bid or bids you've made. In each of the following five cases, specify whether South's last bid is Possible or Impossible:
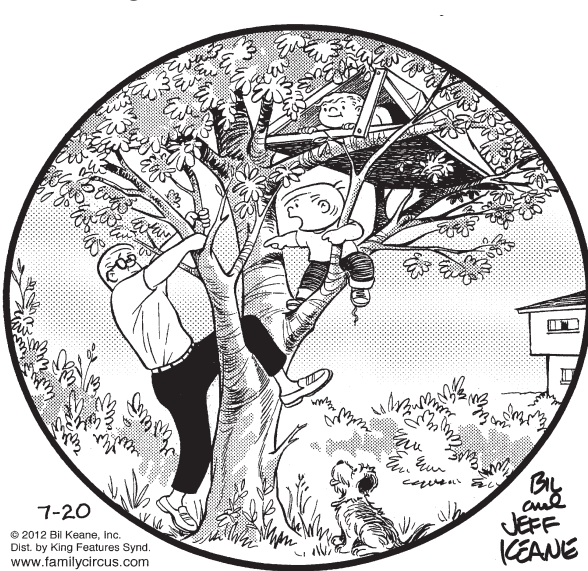
	North	East	South	West
1.	1 ♥	Dble	Redble	1 ♠
	Pass	Pass	Pass	
2.	North	East	South	West
	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
	3 ♠	Pass	Pass	
3.	South	West	North	East
	1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
	4 NT			
4.	South	West	North	East
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
	Pass			
5.	North	East	South	West
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
	2 ♣	Pass	Pass	

* * *

Bidding Quiz

1. Impossible. The redouble promised 10 or more points, so South must bid over one spade, since his side has substantially more than half the 40 points in the deck. Note also that North's hand is unlimited; he could have a very good hand and pass one spade, knowing that South cannot allow the bidding to die.

2. Impossible. North and South have agreed on spades as trumps, so South can hardly pass three clubs. North is probing for a game or slam and cannot suddenly be left high and dry in three clubs. The least South can do is bid three spades.

3. Impossible. North's three-notrump bid says, "We have enough points for game, but not enough for a slam, even if you have a maximum." South therefore cannot bid four notrump.

4. Impossible. It is a fundamental principle of bidding that a new suit bid by responder is 100 percent forcing. South must therefore bid again. North's two-diamond bid implies a reasonable hand of at least 10 high-card points and could be much stronger.

5. Possible. A new suit bid by opener is not forcing, so responder may pass with minimal values (six or seven points) and a preference for opener's second suit. With more (or the same number of) cards in opener's first suit, responder must return opener to that suit regardless of how weak his hand might be.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

"No, Daddy, put your hand over there... then your foot goes over here... then grab that branch..."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/20

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle.

The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral.

The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

H YIXNJ LGN BGYWCCNWK

HC AN ANKN GNYJNJ HQ

LGN BMKKNBL JHKNBLHMQ,

YQJ GN IYHJ "ANIL YIIWKNJ."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A BLACK-FEATHERED CROW WERE TO BEHAVE VERY WACKILY, YOU COULD CALL IT A RAVEN LUNATIC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals W

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Stashed
4 "Kapow!"
8 Crooner Jerry
12 Cinnabar or galena
13 — mater
14 Soul singer Redding
15 Magnetic coil
17 Cry
18 Vim
19 Lemieux milieu
21 Roulette bet
22 Grave
26 House on an estate
29 "Glee" network
30 Meadow
31 Winged
32 Grecian vessel
33 Opening day?
34 Omega preceder
35 Emulate 41-Across
36 Edison rival
37 Excluding all else
39 Bro or sis
40 Existed
41 Ms. Earhart
45 Prop for Dr. House
48 Grammatical slip
50 Culture medium
51 Always
52 Jungfrau, for one
53 Band in Boston?
54 Talk back
55 In medias —

DOWN
1 Firetruck necessity
2 Unyielding
3 Take out of context?
4 Brit's sausage
5 Harold of silents
6 Parisian pal
7 Unger's sloppy roommate
8 "Wheel of Fortune" purchase
9 Noshed
10 Recline
11 Sixth sense, for short
16 Fielder's woe
20 Courteney of "Cougar Town"
23 "Desire Under the —"
24 Repast
25 Houston acronym
26 Navigator's stack
27 Moreover
28 Hammer's target
29 Saute
32 James Joyce masterwork
33 Mediterranean three-master
35 Peninsula st.
36 Stopwatches
38 Basins' accessories
39 Comic Soupy
42 Tale-teller
43 Gilligan's home
44 Pumps up the volume
45 Upper limit
46 Past
47 Siesta
49 Eggs

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-20