

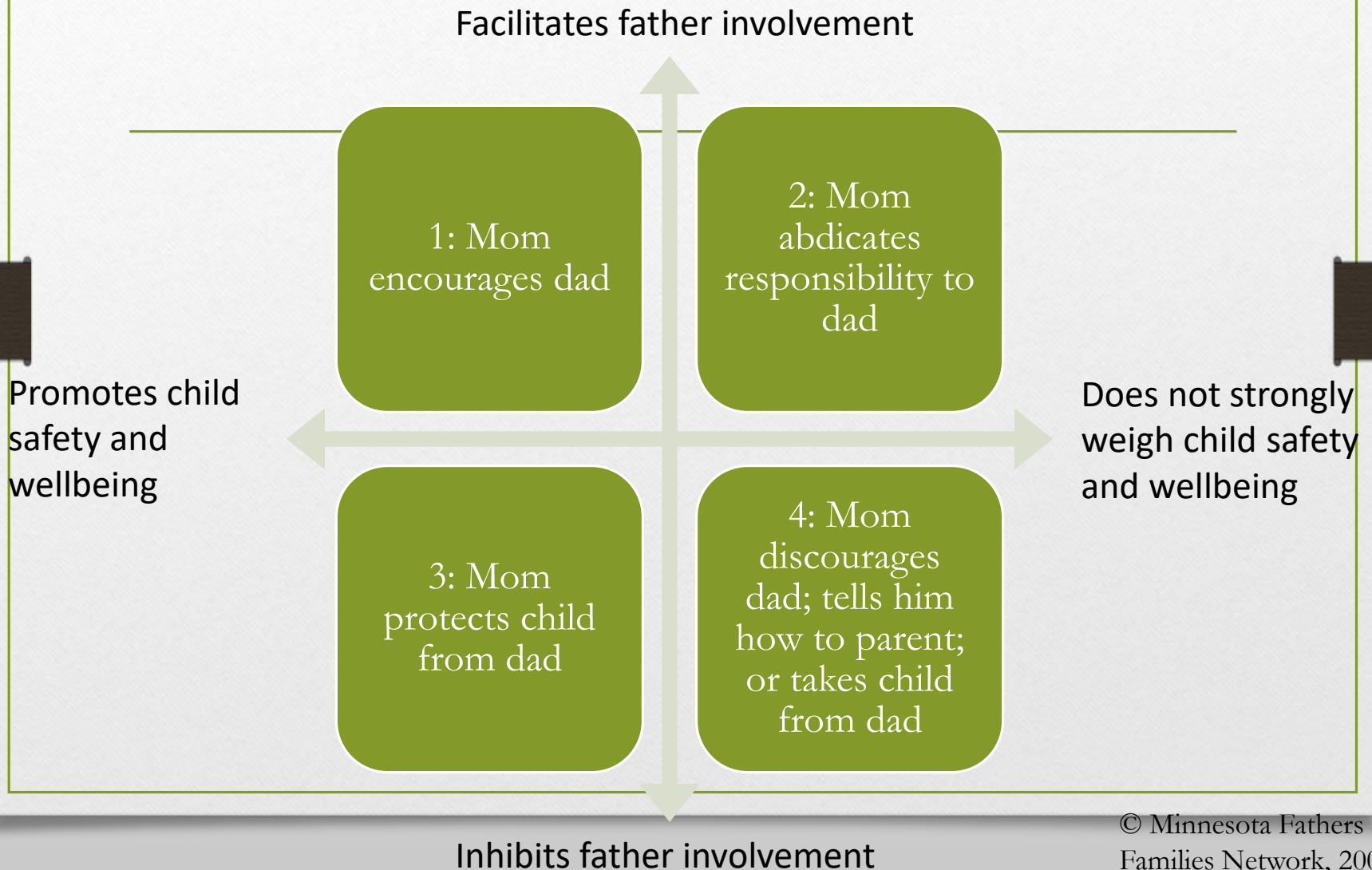
Gatekeeping

- **Gatekeeping may be defined as the role, typically assumed by the mother, that sets the tone and pace of parental interactions with the new child in the home (birth, adopted, foster or kinship).**
- **It is important to distinguish between gatekeeping and co-parenting. Let's identify some of the distinctions here.**

Gatekeeping

A recent study finds that mothers play a critically important role both in encouraging and curtailing fathers' involvement. And this maternal gatekeeping is a powerful force: Even fathers (married and unmarried) who wanted to be involved with their children often drifted away in the face of persistent maternal criticism.

Maternal gatekeeping matrix



Gatekeeping

The cognitive aspects of maternal gatekeeping include preferences or beliefs about the father's involvement, satisfaction with his involvement, and the mother's view of the father's competence as a parenting figure.

Gatekeeping

The behavioral aspects can include how the mother speaks about the father in the presence of their child; to what extent the father is included or updated on the child's health, schooling or social life; and the extent to which the mother communicates to the father that she knows what is best for their child and the correct way to do things—while he does not.

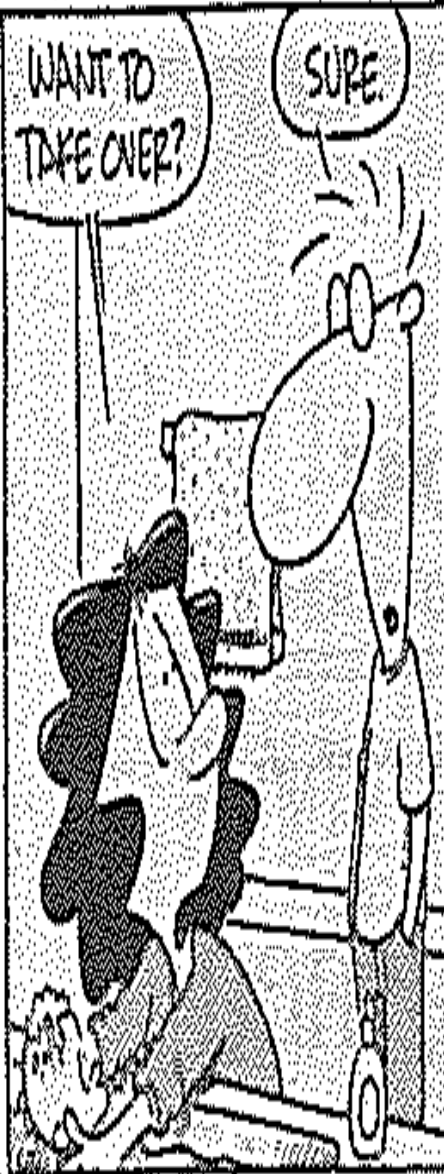
Gatekeeping

- **If the mother focuses upon “opening” the gate, the father is more likely to pick up and hold the infant, interact on a regular basis with the infant and support the mother in sharing care giving and parenting responsibilities.**

Gatekeeping

- **If the mother focuses upon “closing” the gate, the father is less likely to pursue these responsibilities on a regular basis.**
- **Fathers may respond to this limitation or rejection in a variety of ways. What are some of them?**

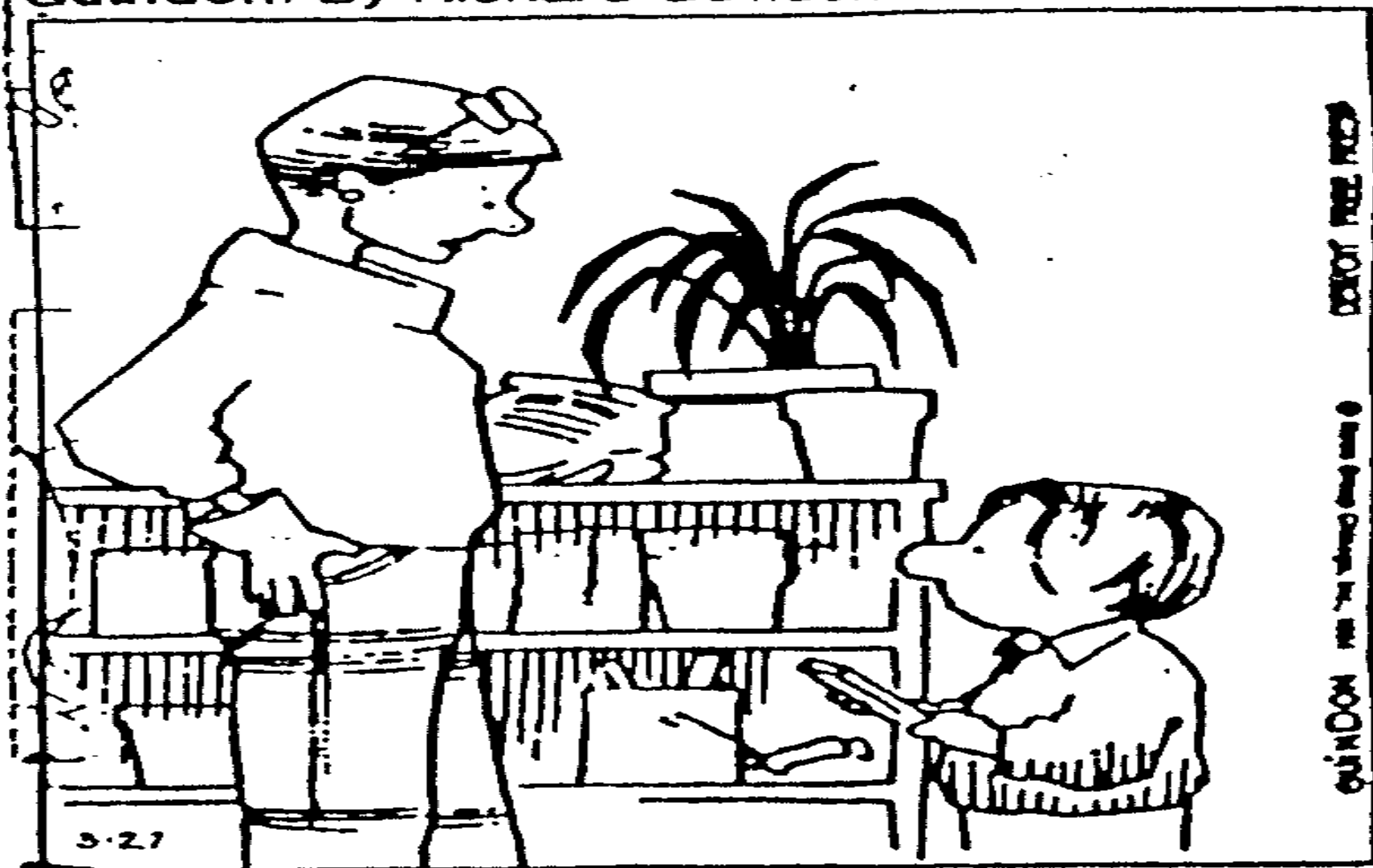
BABY BLUES



McMILLAN & SCOTT

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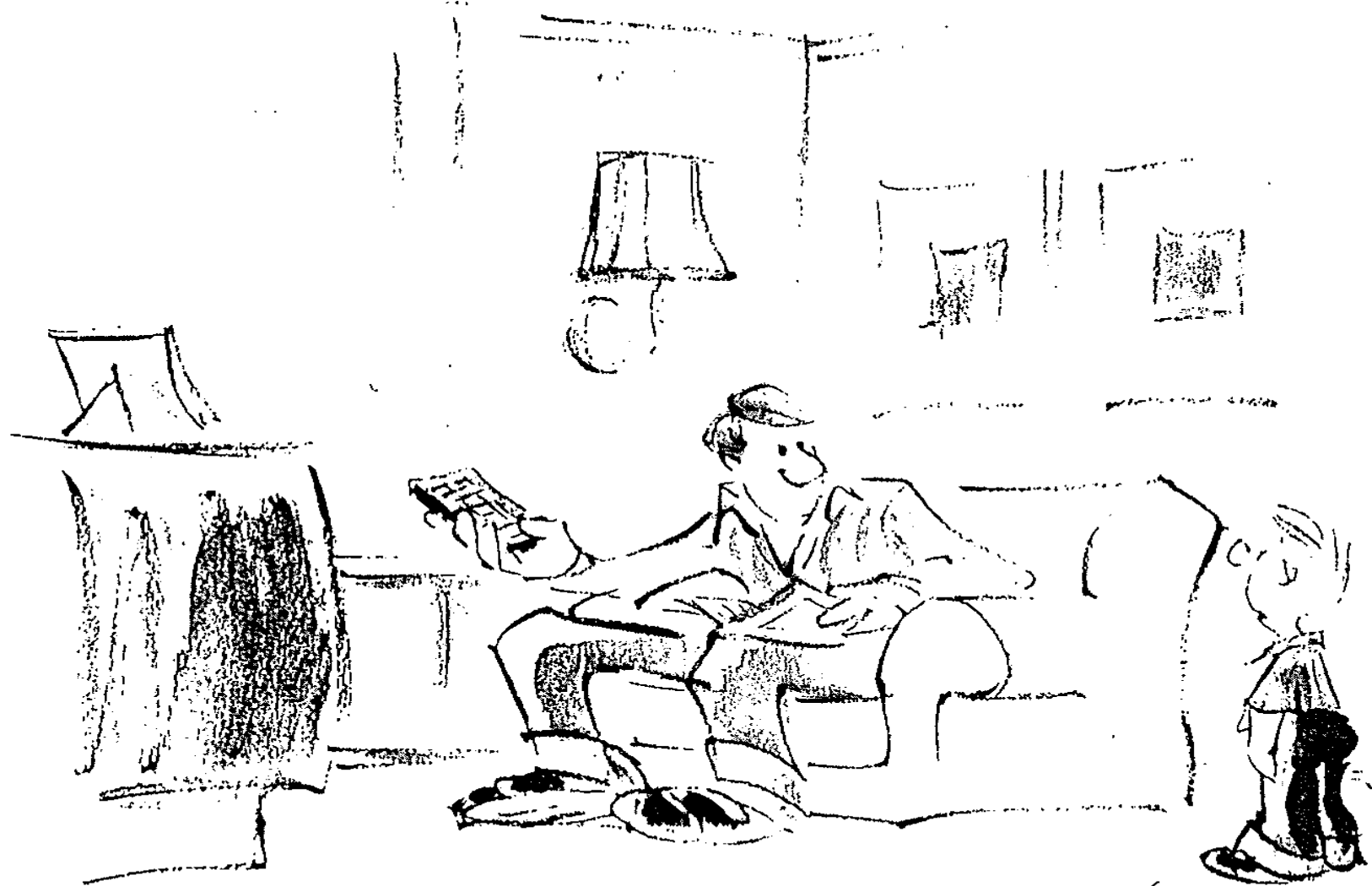
Guindon / By Richard Guindon



3-27

GUINDON with the always sharp wit © DOROT PUBL. HOUSE

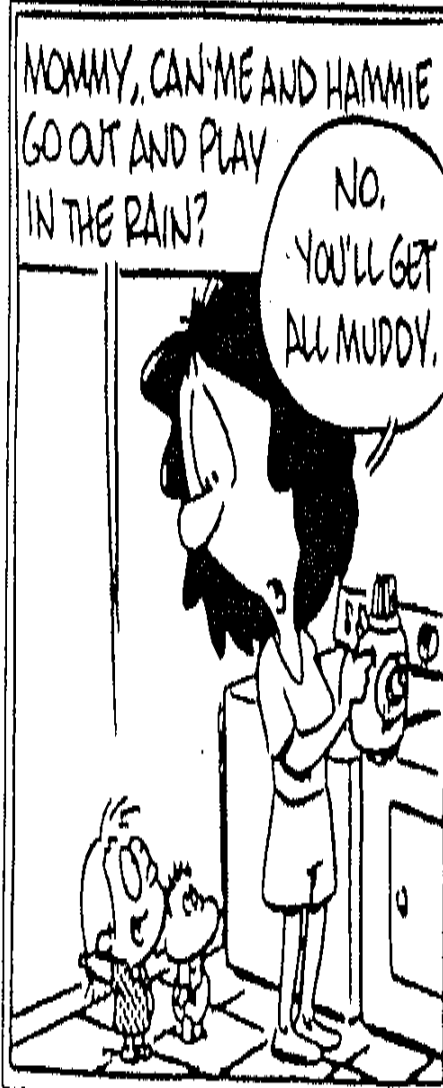
"Ask your father, dear. He's parenting today."

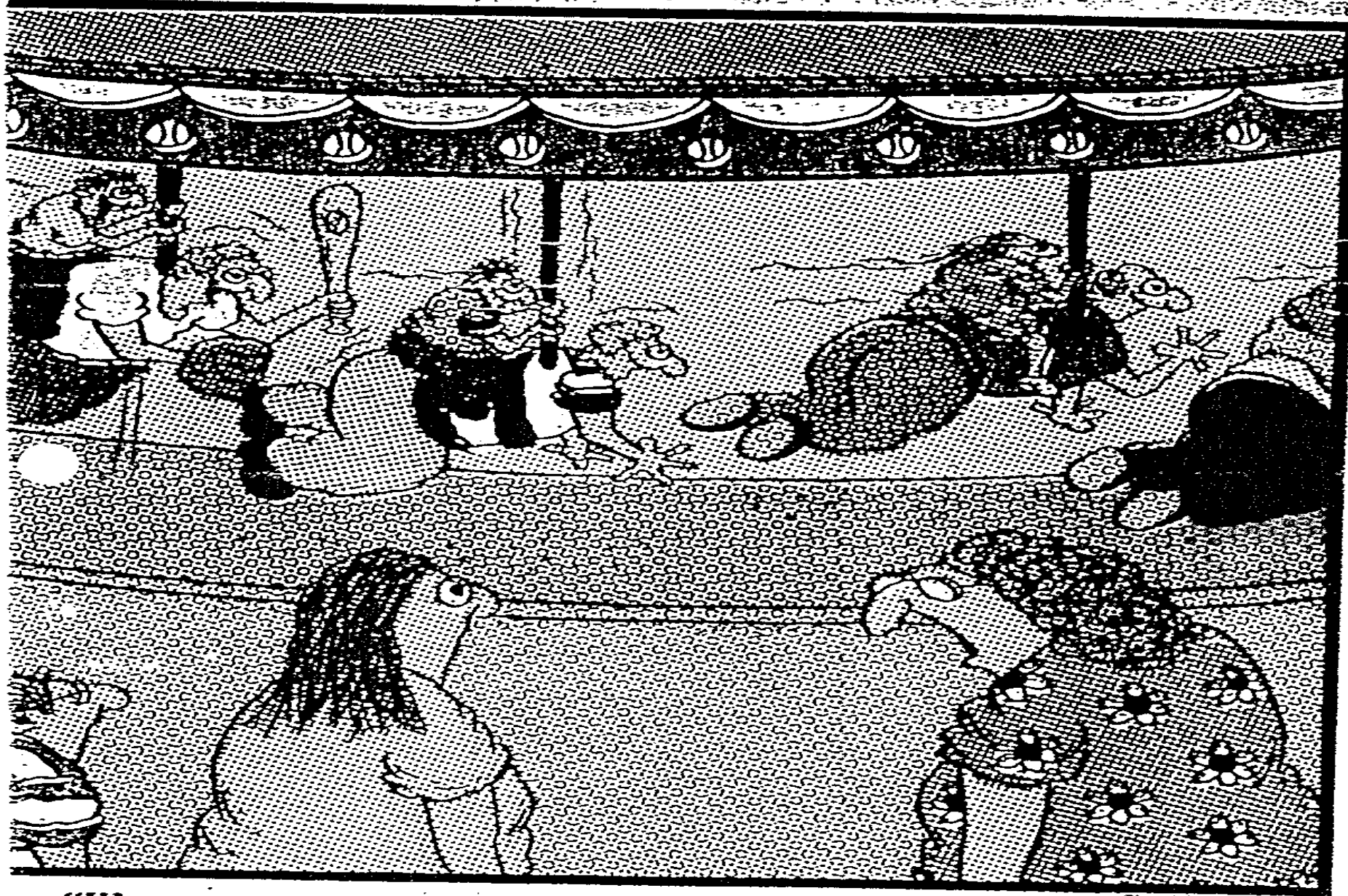


W. F. R.

"During the next stage of my development, Dad, I'll be drawing closer to my mother—I'll get back to you in my teens."

BABY BLUES KIRKMAN & SCOTT





"It's a merry-go-round for kids who don't get to spend enough time with their dads."

Conclusion

- “Don’t worry that children never listen to you; worry that they are always watching you.” ~ Robert Fulghum
- “Kids spell love T-I-M-E.” ~ John Crudele
- “Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children; now I have six children, and no theories.” ~John Wilmot

Conclusion

- “We will be known forever by the tracks we leave.” ~ *Dakota saying*
- “Although there are many trial marriages... there is no such thing as a trial child.” ~Gail Sheehy

Conclusion

- “If you have never been hated by your child, you have never been a parent.” ~Bette Davis
- “You already possess everything necessary to become great.” ~ *Crow saying*

Source Citation

Information on slides 2 & 3 are from Lauren E. Altenburger, Sarah J. Schoppe-Sullivan, Claire M. Kamp Dush. **Associations Between Maternal Gatekeeping and Fathers' Parenting Quality.** *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 2018; DOI:

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National Fatherhood Initiative

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