

The Advantages of Raising a Family While Pursuing a Career in Crystallography

*A talk by Connie Chidester presented in the symposium
Women in Crystallography: A Unique Tradition, Tuesday, June 26, 1986.
(The symposium was at the McMaster ACA meeting, in honor of Gabrielle Donnay)*



MOM AND THE KIDS

READY FOR WORK AND SCHOOL???

Note: These cartoons were commissioned over the phone between me in Kalamazoo and my daughter Stacey in AZ. I asked her to draw just 3 or 4, and gave her ideas for a few more so she could choose, but when they arrived there were 17! This is why so many of them say WHAT DO YOU MEAN -because the few ideas I gave her for captions used that phrase.



DON'T WORRY MOM
IGUANA'S DON'T EAT VERY MUCH!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN.....

YOUR UNCLE GAVE YOU A IGUANA
NAMED REX!

Of all the sciences, crystallography is definitely one of the most appealing to women, and one of the reasons is that crystallography is such a nice clean science; - no dissection of frogs - no creatures of any kind to deal with.

Pharmaceutical companies, of course, provide a particularly nice environment in which to work, and besides that Unicap Chewables are less expensive when one works for the company.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN
THE DOG ATE ALL THE VITAMINS!



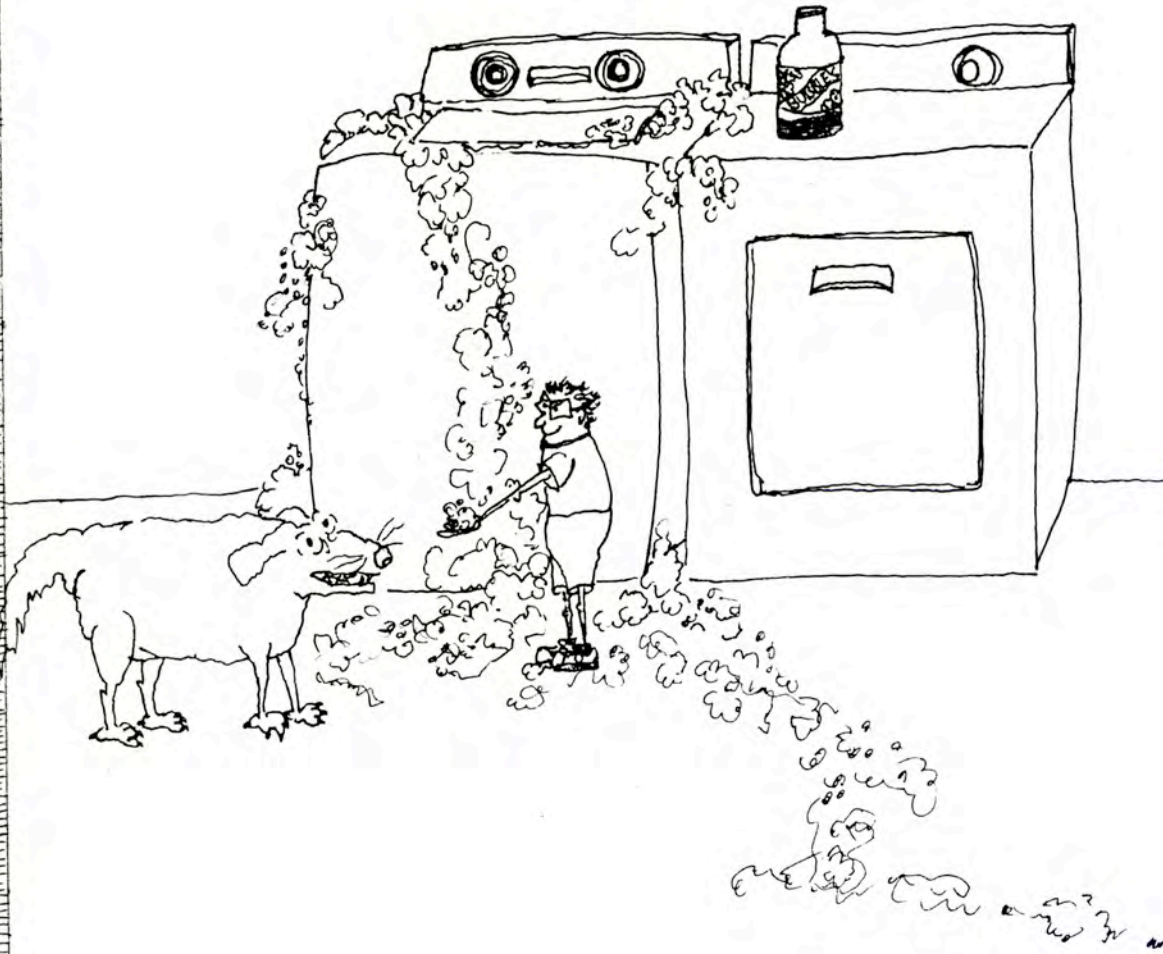
WHAT DO YOU MEAN.....
 YOUR BALLET LESSON WAS CHANGED
 TO TUESDAYS AT 6:00..

Pharmaceutical companies occasionally encourage their employees to take self-help courses, but one of the big advantages of raising a family while working is that one is more or less forced to develop certain skills, among them the effective utilization of time. There is absolutely NO need to take classes in time management.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN

WE ARE OUT OF TIDE

SO YOU USED THE BUBBLE BATH!



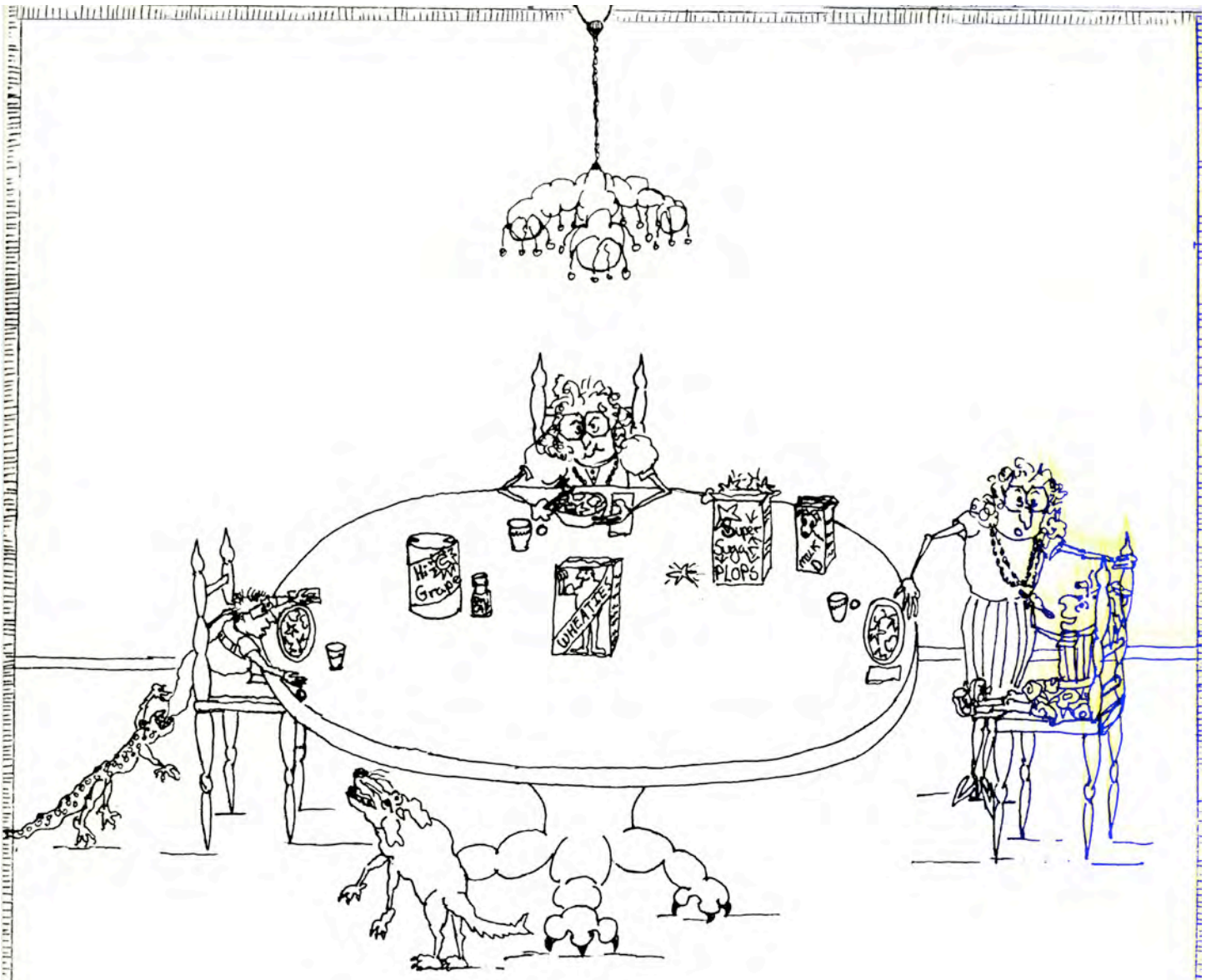
Crisis management classes are also unnecessary.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN...

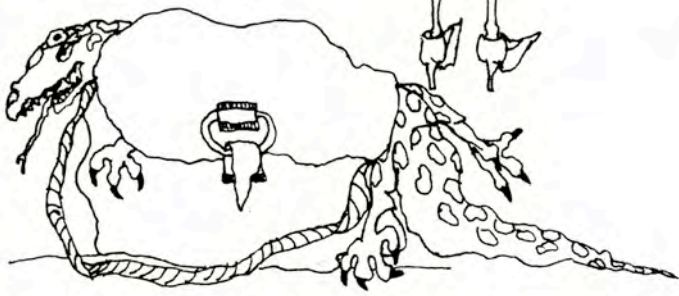
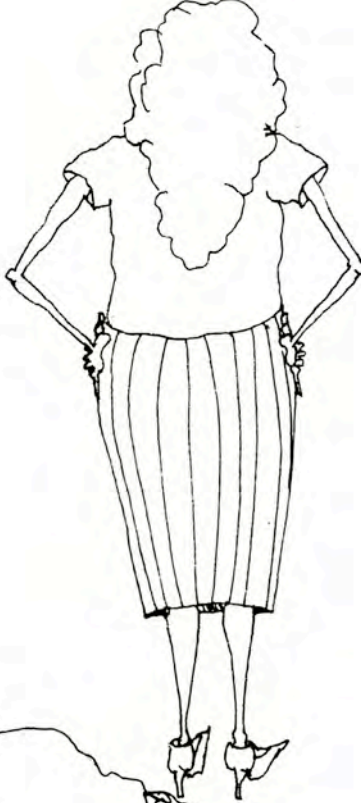
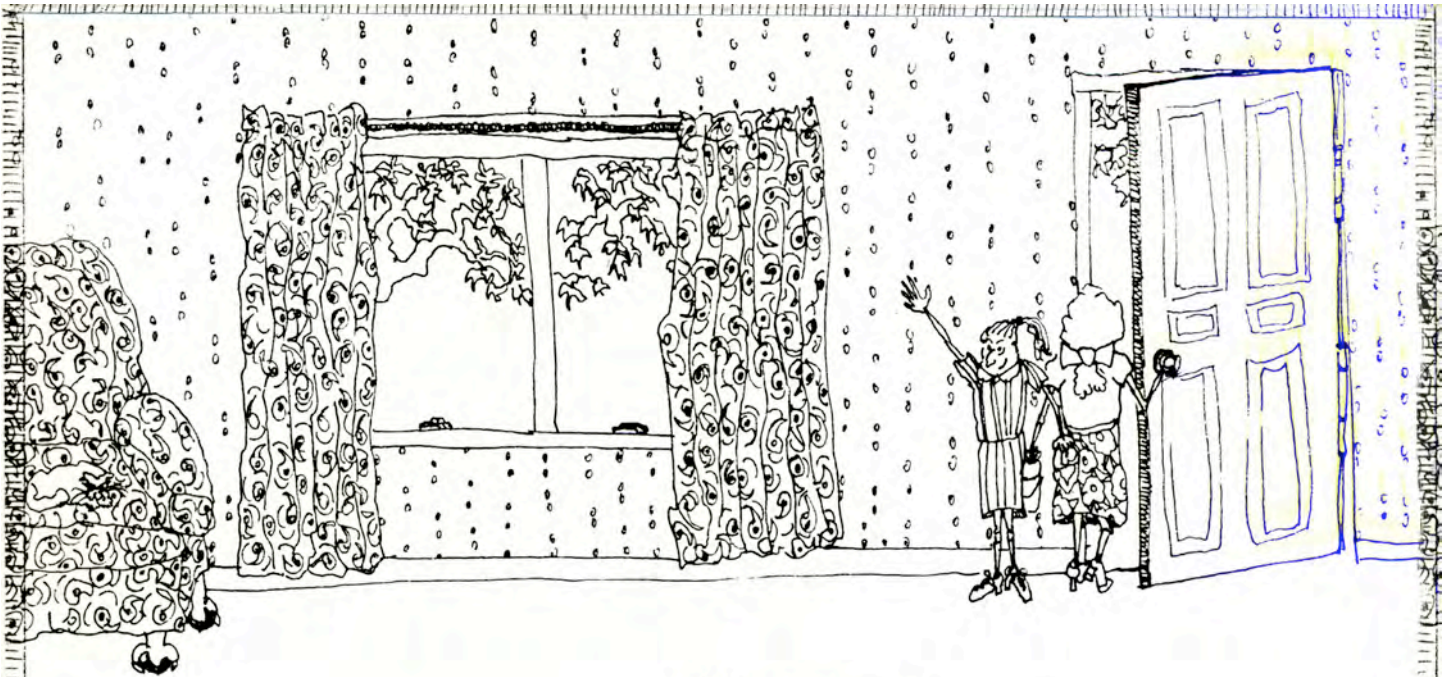
NOBODY EVER WEARS SWEATERS
TO SCHOOL !

Every mother knows that one crisis per morning is normal.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN.....
ITS YOUR DAY TO BRING
COOKIES TO SHARING TIME!

- but statistically speaking, there will be mornings --



WHAT DO YOU MEAN
YOU CAN'T FIND REX
ANYWHERE!

in which there will be 2 or 3
- or even MORE crises.



[Away] WHAT DO YOU MEAN.....

YOU CAN'T FIND THE IRONING BOARD!

One essential to combining family and career successfully is
HELP AROUND THE HOUSE. It makes all the difference in the world.
The great trick is to be able to afford to hire a housekeeper and to *find a good one.*



AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!

[RUBY MEETS REX]

Trick # 2, of course, is to manage to keep the good ones you do find.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN.....

MY SON BROUGHT A DRAGON TO
SHOW AND TELL!

It's an advantage to any career to develop skills in dealing with people, - -

HOW MANY

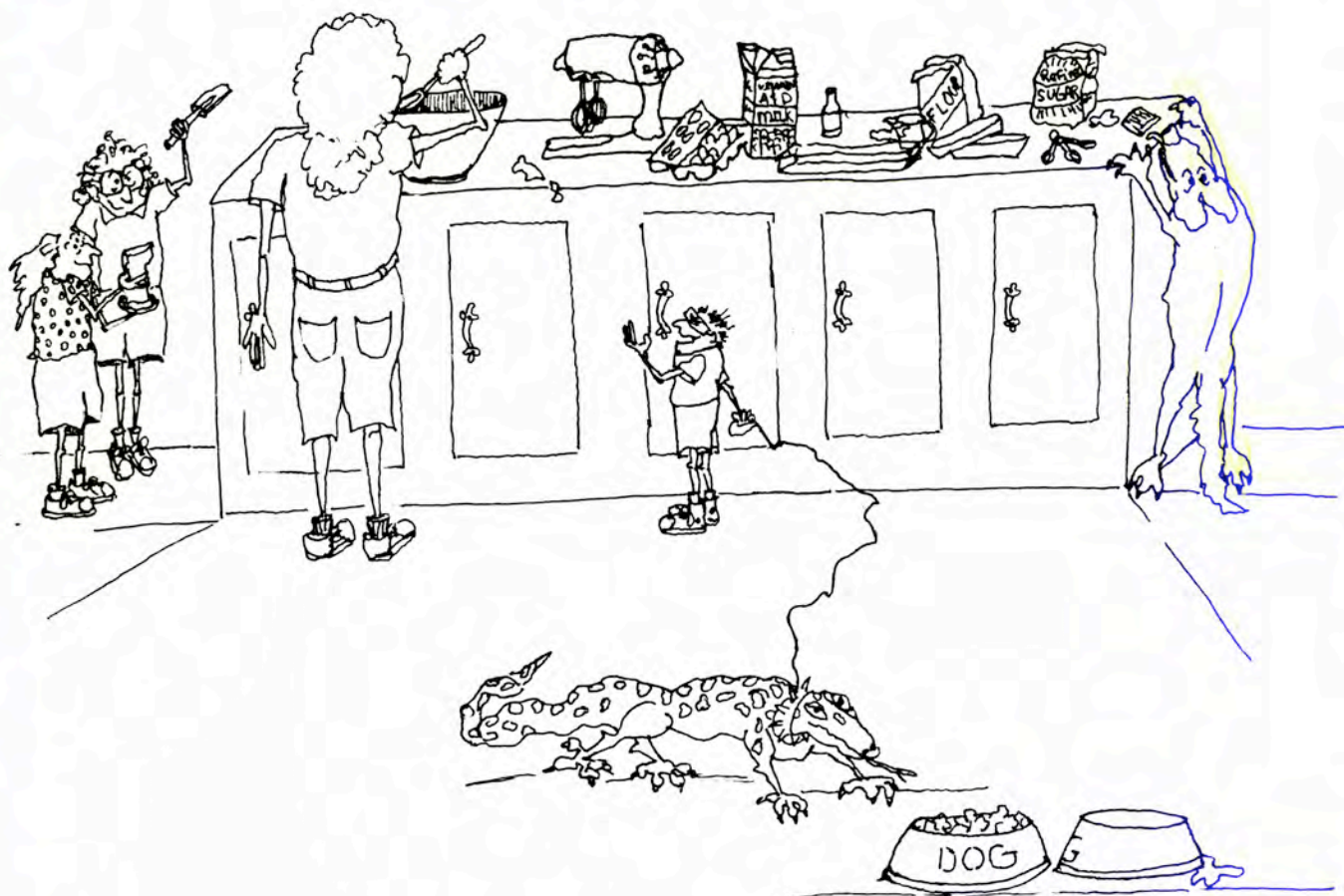
FRIENDS DID YOU
INVITE TO DINNER

TONIGHT!



and, especially for crystallographers, it's necessary to develop considerable dexterity with numbers.

Crystallographers also need to develop the ability to visualize in 3 dimensions.
It's very important to be able to conceptualize shapes well.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN
You WANT YOUR BIRTHDAY CAKE
TO BE IN THE SHAPE OF A FIRE-BREATHING

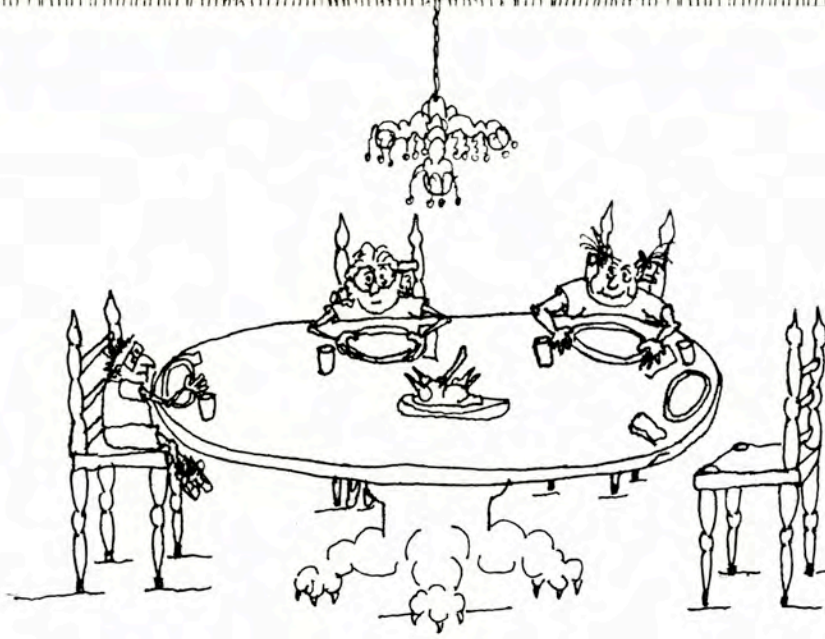
DRAGON

And, of course, it is a wonderful advantage to have the sense of achievement which comes from doing something truly creative.

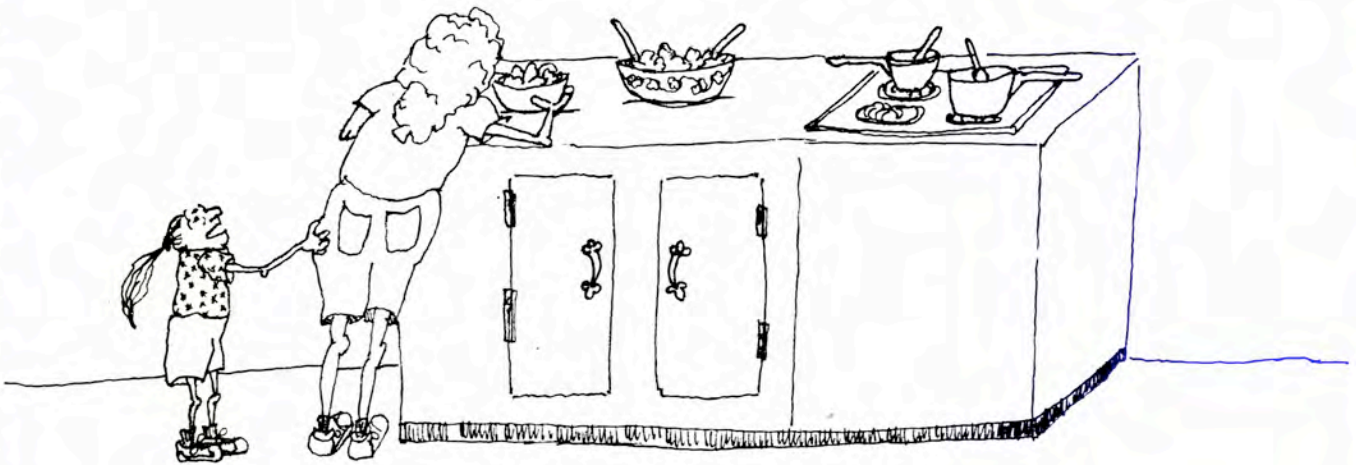


WHAT DO YOU MEAN....

YOU WANT TO BE A
FIRE-BREATHING DRAGON
FOR HALLOWEEN.

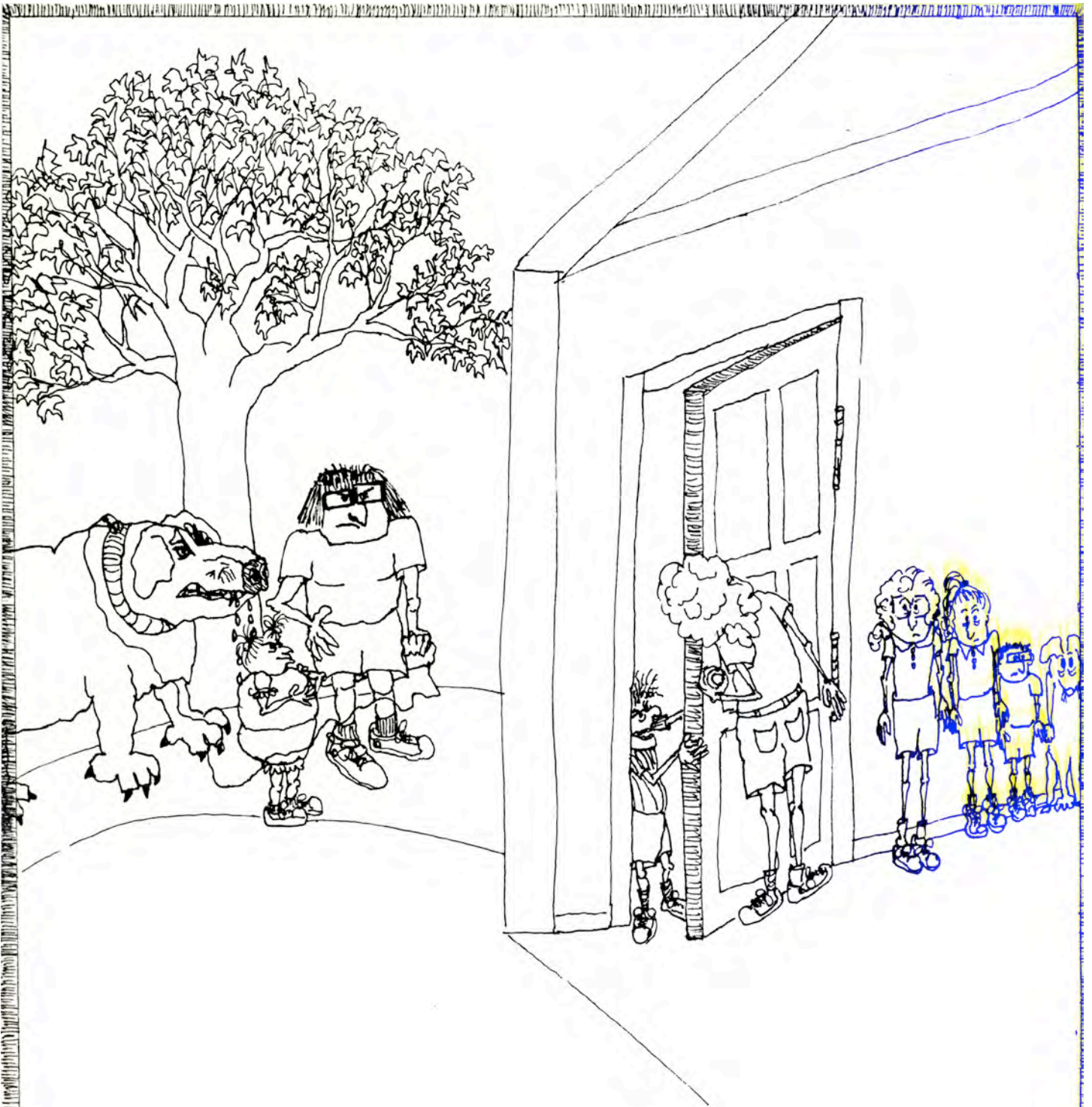


There always are compromises, it seems, and sometimes mothers and children have different views on which compromises are O.K. to make.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN
YOUR FRIEND'S MOM ALWAYS

MAKES DESSERT!



THEY CAN NOT COME OUT AND PLAY!

-But in the long run, a spirit of cooperation usually develops,
and occasionally pays off.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN.....
You HAVE TO HAVE THE CAR
FOR THE WEEKEND!



**Children do eventually grow up, and, on the whole, life gets a lot easier,
but is still not entirely without opportunities to learn new skills.**

In a spirit of cooperation, these cartoons were drawn by:

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