

BRIAN ULRICH



Home-Along America: The Hidden Toll of Day Care, Wonder Drugs, and Other Parent Substitutes. By Mary Eberstadt. *Sentinel*; 218 pages; \$25.95

"IT WOULD be better for both children and adults if more American parents were with their kids more of the time," insists Mary Eberstadt, at the end of a gloomy account of all that has gone wrong with youngsters' lives. She wants a new public consensus to reflect that.

Can views change? Public concern about the absence of fathers from their children's lives has already begun to rise in

HEY TEACH!

Go to downtown Albany and you'll find a whole block of brownstones housing the Albany Free School: teachers' homes, a midwifery centre, a food and car co-op, and a variety of community projects. It's racially diverse, made up of 60 kids between the ages of two to 14, seven paid staff, four resident interns, several volunteers, a dog, and a flock of thirty chickens. The whole neighborhood is the school, and that's what it feels like – with kids running in and out of houses, small streets and gardens, and students learning to milk goats in the back yard. The school and the community are practically one and the same – which is precisely as it should be.

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