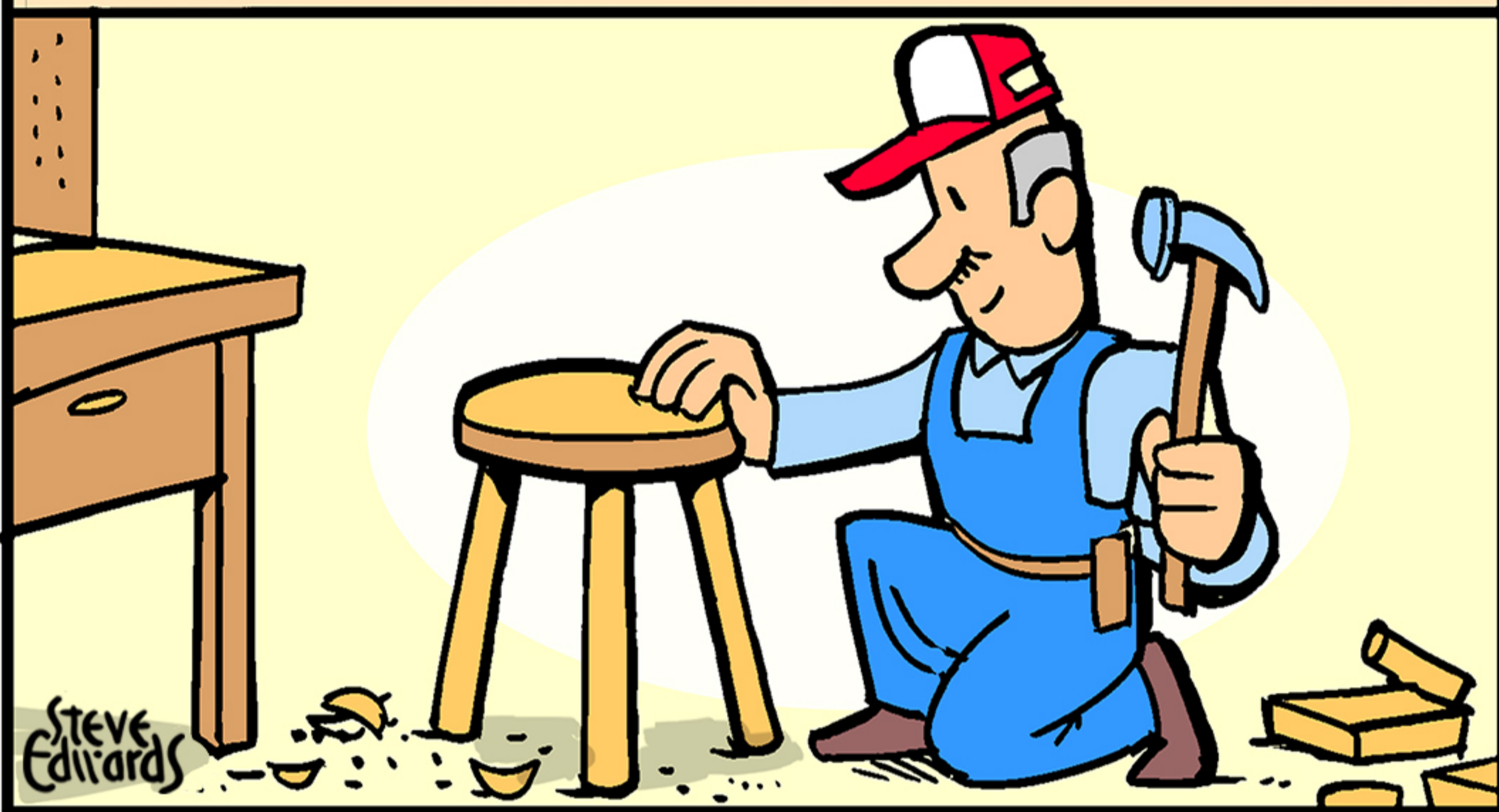
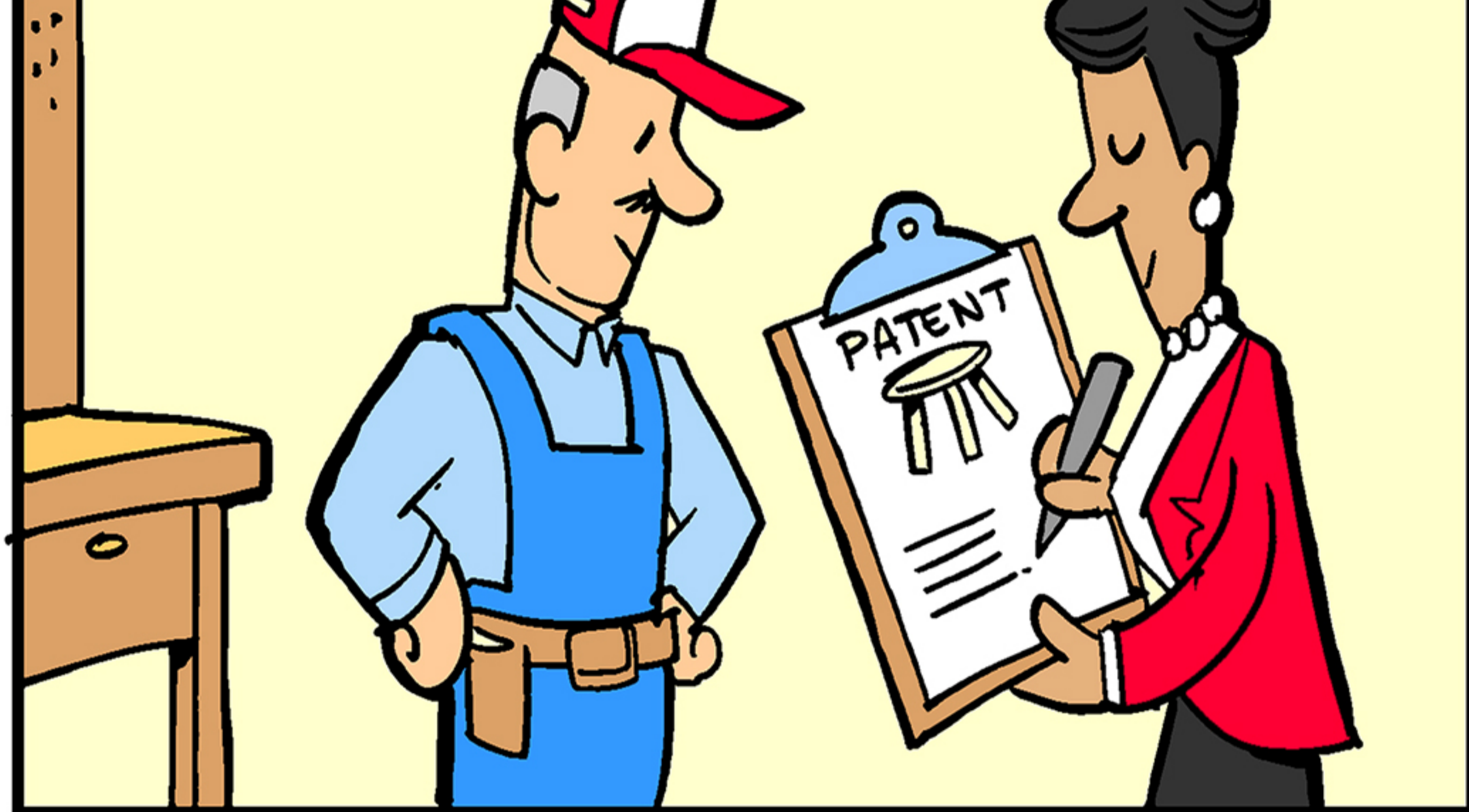


HOW DO PATENTS REALLY WORK TO PROTECT INVENTIONS?

CARPENTER JONES DISCOVERED THAT A STOOL WITH THREE LEGS STAYED UPRIGHT. REALIZING THAT THREE-LEGGED STOOLS WERE GOING TO BE A BIG SELLER, HE DECIDED HE'D BETTER PATENT HIS INVENTION.



WORKING WITH HIS PATENT ATTORNEY, HE OBTAINED A PATENT TO "A STRUCTURE FOR SITTING COMPRISING A BASE AND THREE LEGS ATTACHED TO THE BASE."



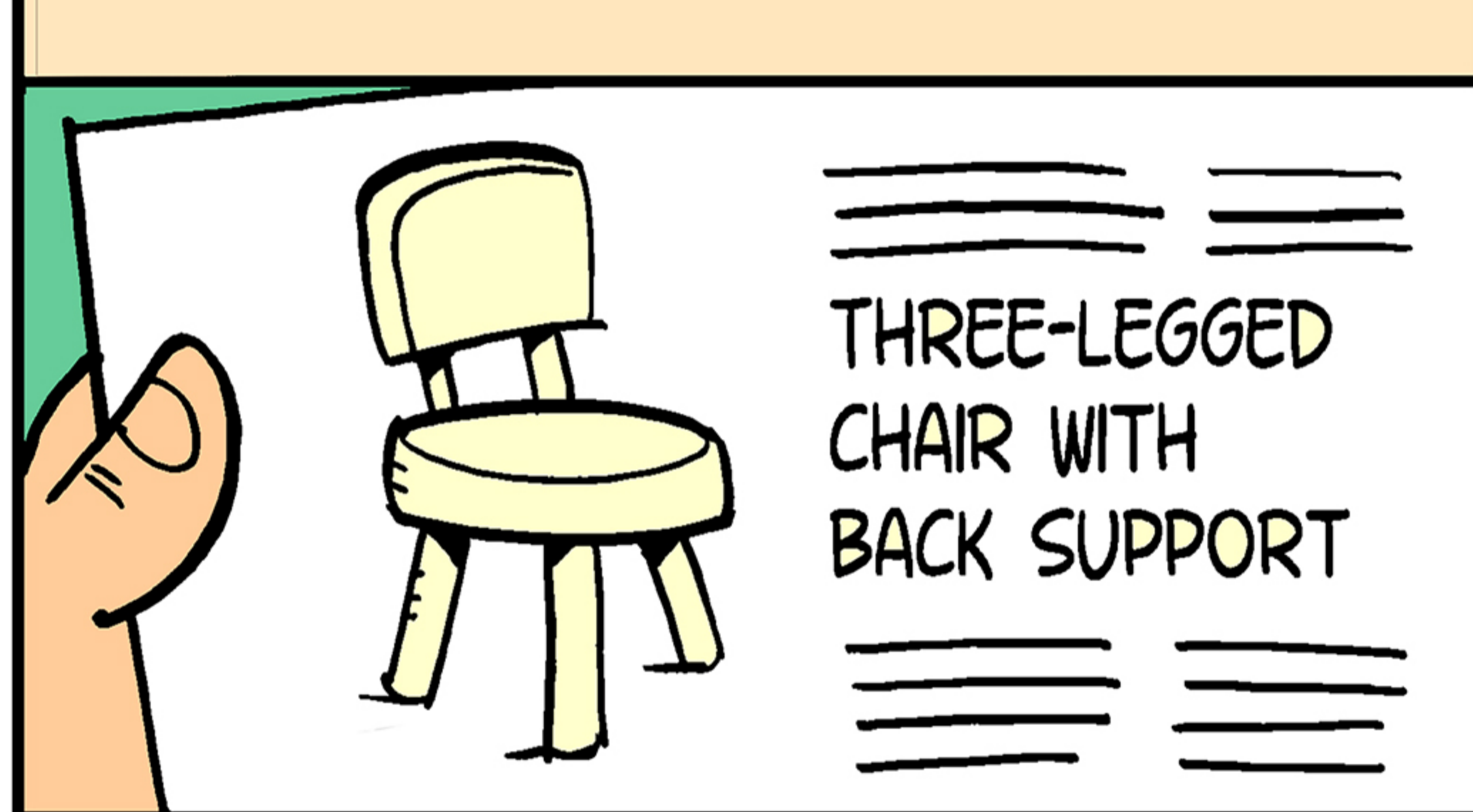
CARPENTER SMITH TRIED ONE OF JONES' THREE-LEGGED STOOLS, BUT IT TIPPED WHEN HE BENT FAR TOO REACH A TOOL.



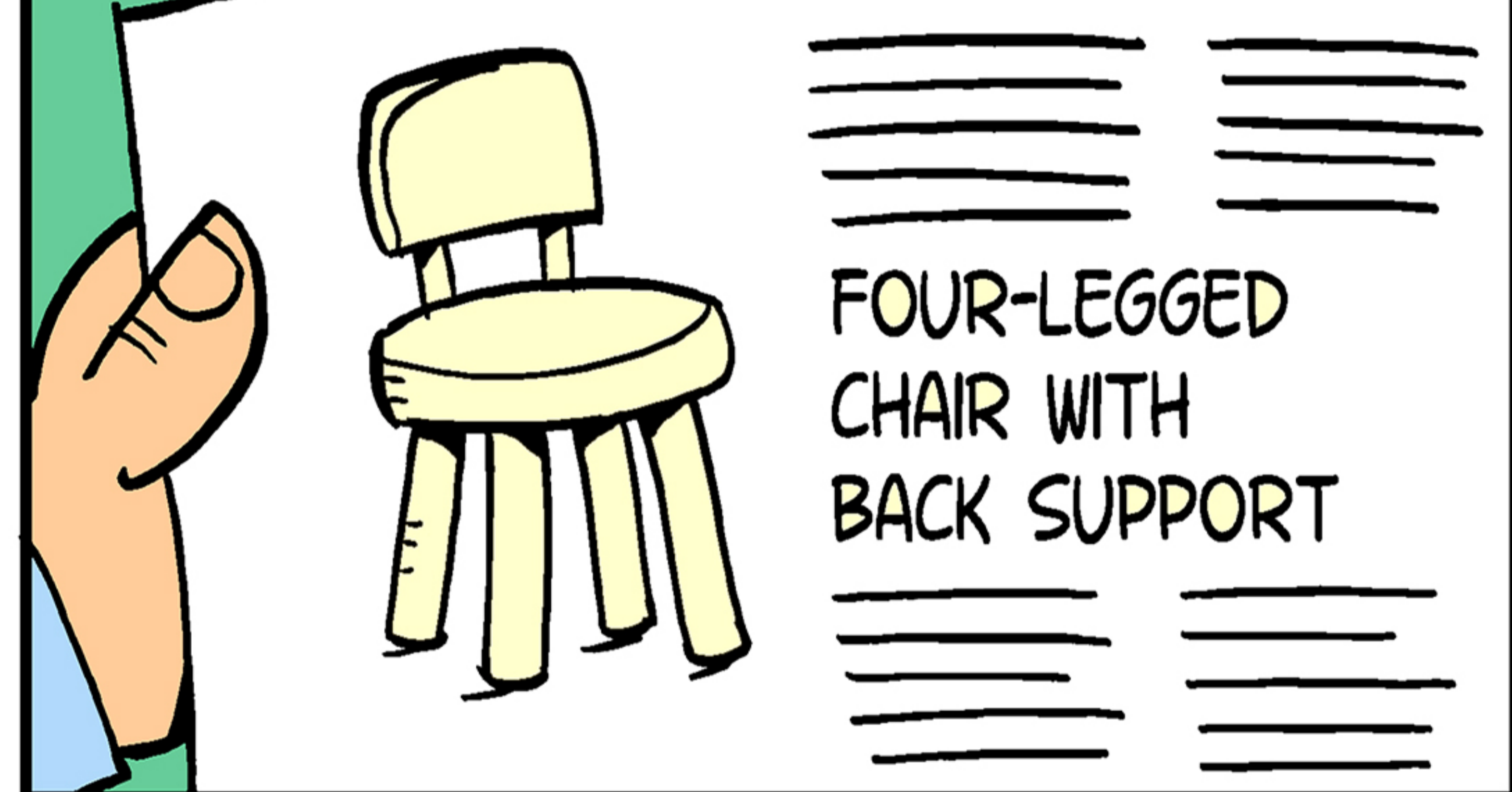
SMITH DISCOVERED THAT A STOOL WITH FOUR LEGS IS MUCH MORE STABLE, AND OBTAINED A PATENT TO A STRUCTURE COMPRISING A BASE AND FOUR LEGS ATTACHED TO THE BASE.



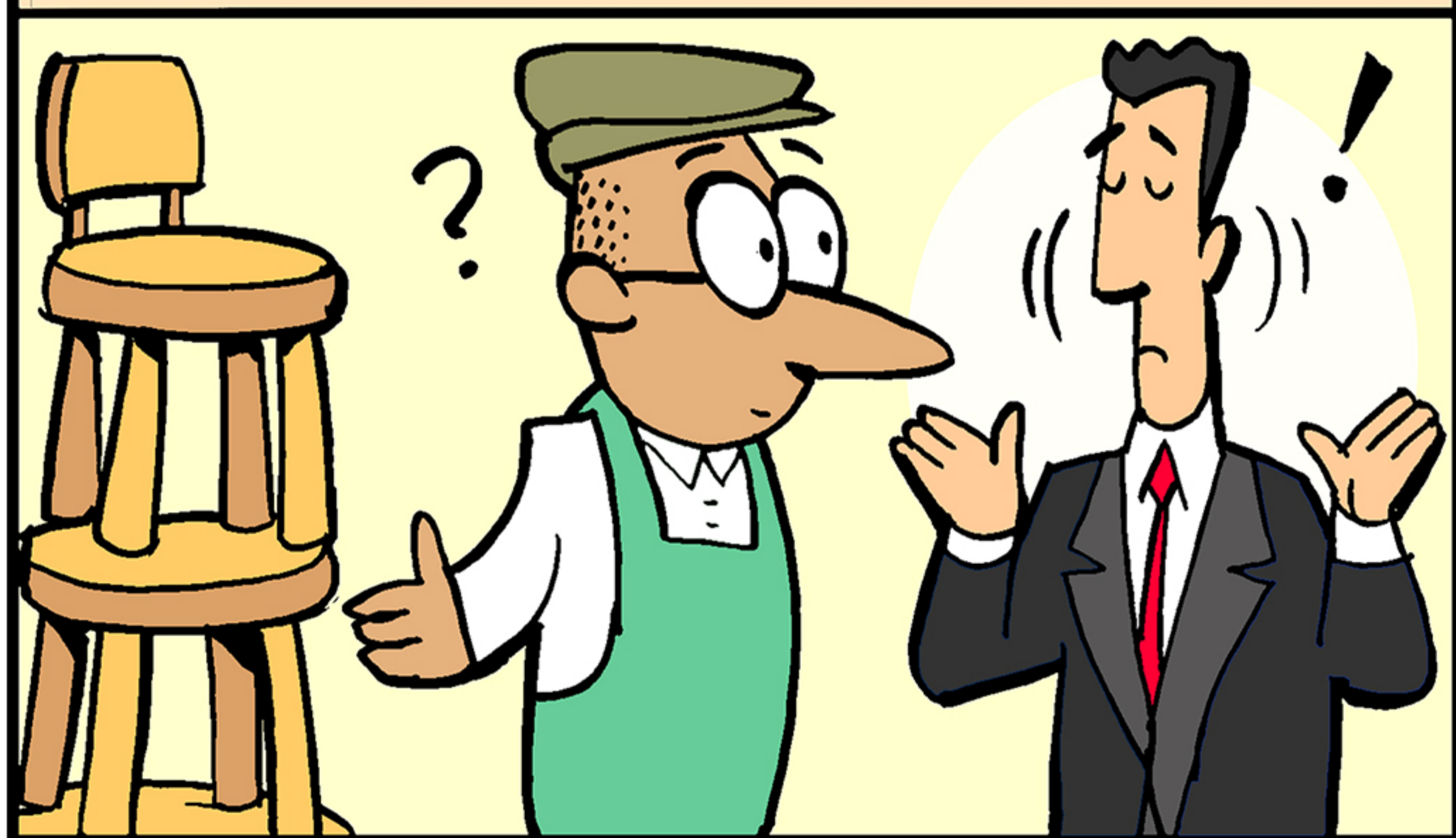
SMITH ALSO DISCOVERED THAT ADDING A BACK SUPPORT WAS BENEFICIAL. SO, ONE OF HIS CLAIMS WAS DIRECTED TO A STRUCTURE COMPRISING A BASE, THREE LEGS, AND A BACK SUPPORT.



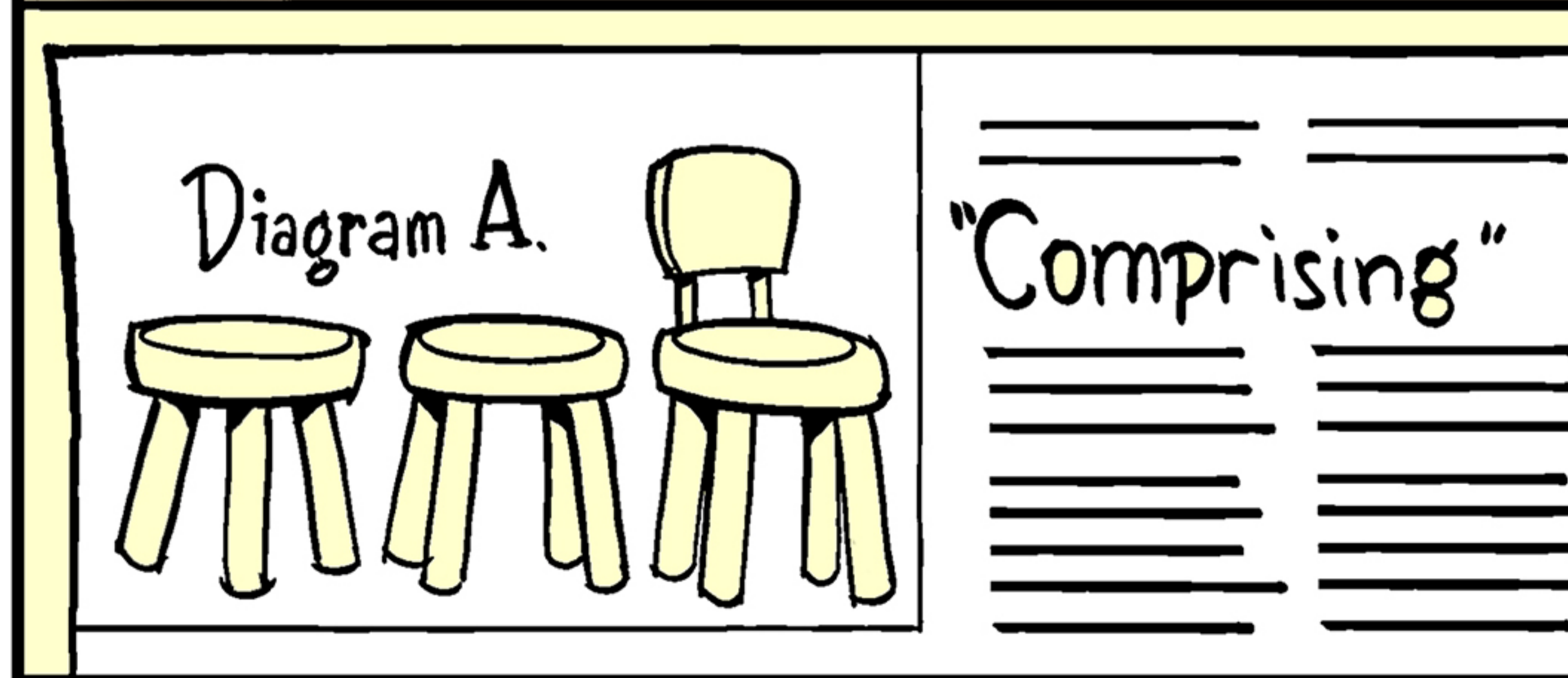
YET ANOTHER CLAIM IN THE SAME PATENT APPLICATION WAS DIRECTED TO A STRUCTURE COMPRISING A BASE, FOUR LEGS, AND A BACK SUPPORT.



WHEN SMITH TOLD HIS PATENT ATTORNEY THAT HE WAS GETTING READY TO SELL FOUR-LEGGED CHAIRS, HIS ATTORNEY GAVE SMITH SOME UNPLEASANT NEWS.



NOT ONLY CAN JONES PREVENT SMITH AND OTHERS FROM MAKING, USING, AND SELLING THREE-LEGGED STOOLS, THE WORD "COMPRISING" MEANS JONES' PATENT COVERED THREE-LEGGED CHAIRS, FOUR-LEGGED STOOLS, AND FOUR-LEGGED CHAIRS.



ON THE OTHER HAND, SMITH'S INVENTION EXCLUDES JONES AND OTHERS FROM MAKING, USING, AND SELLING THREE-LEGGED CHAIRS, FOUR-LEGGED STOOLS, AND FOUR-LEGGED CHAIRS.



SO FOR EITHER OF THEM TO MAKE, USE, OR SELL THESE IMPROVED DESIGNS, EACH MUST GET THE OTHER'S PERMISSION. SMITH APPROACHED JONES AND THEY DECIDED TO ENTER INTO A CROSS-LICENSE AGREEMENT SO THEY EACH COULD SELL FOUR-LEGGED CHAIRS.

