

ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

Once again it is raining outside. For the trillionth time this summer as our kids would say.

It is Sunday and instead of spending it in a fresh air activity we are clustered inside attempting to busy ourselves with a variety of pastimes in the hope that if we ignore the dampness and gloom it will go away.

It is not likely that it will. For the first time in 13 years of housekeeping we have not had to put the room air conditioner back in the window. I have not had my sunglasses on in three weeks and the tan I got on Easter Sunday (remember it was 90 degrees) is now only a memory.

In order to make use of the pool membership the kids have gone in while it was sprinkling on any number of occasions. If there is no lightning or thunder the lifeguards sit huddled under towels while the little ones splash around almost impervious to the rain, only blinking now and then to the pitter patter from above.

This morning at the 10 a.m. Mass we were reminded from the pulpit that the weather is inclement and exhorted to pray for sunshine for the upcoming parish picnic.

The fruit growers report that production is down and in our own garden the zucchini vine which everyone said would overrun our lot with its overbearing propensities has borne maybe 15 or 20 lovely specimens and then turned brown and hang-doggish.

The weather man has not changed his message in a month. Present temperature — 63 degrees. Chance of rain is 40 per cent today, 60 per cent tonight and 80 per cent tomorrow. Humidity — 99 per cent.

Temperatures may be down but tempers are up. The kids have written a play entitled "Royal

Family" with their neighbors next door and there is much argument as to whether the first prince or the second queen should have the most lines. Whoever wins they'll all have to rehearse in the garage, not in the front yard as they planned.

I remember a monthly column labeled "Life Savors" that is printed in one of those magazines you pick up at the grocery check out and I try to think of some personal ones. The first taste of a sweet, crisp apple, the feel of a baby in your arms, the rediscovery of a novel you first read 20 years ago, a painting whose colors make your throat catch, sunshine puddling on the kitchen floor.

In this climate particularly where the long, hard winter is the rule, autumn is short and spring nonexistent, it seems particularly unfair that fate should take from us the few short hot, sunny weeks of summer.

Gee, I wish the sun would come out. Now.

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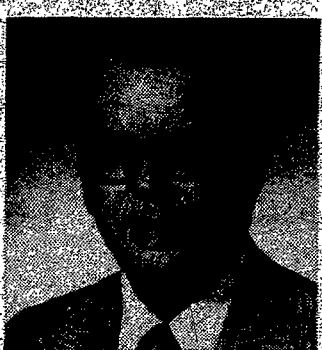


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