

All in the Family

Getting The Drop On Winter

By Sarah Child

On a recent misty, damp Sunday morning we were leaving for Mass when the head of the house pointed upward past the roof and said, "Listen."

I could hear the Sarah Child honking before I saw the undulating V shape of the Canada



geese winging their way southward and the usual feeling of being abandoned set in.

"Hey wait for me" I wanted to yell but it was still early and I doubted the neighbors would understand.

Subsequent cold temperatures mixed with rain the next couple of days helped dispel any doubts that indeed summer was on its way out and that it wouldn't be too long before the kids would be tracking snow in, looking for lost boots, fighting over whose mittens were mateless and whose were

intact. The whole thing was too miserable to contemplate.

Fight, not flight was the answer. First thing to do was call up the college kid who plowed our driveway last winter. We would be the first ones to sign up no matter what he charged. Next, outfit the entire family for cross country skiing and buy new boots, parkas, etc. all around.

Next, install the storm door we've been thinking about, buy an electric blanket for our bedroom which is the coldest in the house and otherwise deplete the bank account in preparation for the onslaught. If that wouldn't guarantee a mild winter, I didn't know what would. Later in the week on a

very cool morning I began to check out the winter wardrobe that I wear around the house when I'm sure no one is going to pop in. (We try to keep the thermostat set at about 62 as doing our part in the energy crunch).

A pair of slacks that have been described as ratty, but very warm. A long sleeved cotton turtleneck shirt with a wrap around cardigan over it. Knee high socks borrowed from one of the kids. Boots near the door ready to slip into when the dog gets tangled out in the back yard or the mailman finally comes.

It was all there and since it seemed none too warm inside I decided then and there to get a head start

and exchanged the summer garb I had on for the warm ensemble.

The outfit worked its magic quickly and soon I was toasty warm. Later in the afternoon when I took my usual 15 minute cat nap before the arrival of the first bus I pulled a wool blanket up over my shoulders.

I awoke to the front door slamming and either cold chills or heat prostration. It was hard to tell at first, but I struggled upright to greet our son, who was stripped to the waist, his face flushed.

"Boy, what a day," he exclaimed happily. "It's 85 degrees today and tomorrow it's supposed to be 90".

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Putney Declaration

Social Justice Action Urged By Oxfam

A call to action for international social justice has been issued by the relief organization Oxfam-America; and one of the drafters of that call is Sister Shirley Pilot, SSJ, campus minister at Rochester Institute of Technology.

The call, "The Putney Declaration," urges, among other actions: "to counter the antisocial impact of corporations both at home and abroad by means of stockholder action, the courts, legislation, selected boycotts and the promotion of alternative economic structures."

The text of the declaration was finalized this month after a three-day conference held by the Oxfam-America in August, in Putney, Vt.

Sister Shirley served as a presenter of the document to that assembly, along with, among others, Dr. Gary MacEoin, who also chaired the meeting.

The declaration is divided into three parts: a discussion of basic human rights; an analysis of systemic forces which create social injustices and imbalances; a call to action on the part of Americans.

The declaration asserts: "A major factor in the progressive deterioration of human rights is an international trading and monetary system devised by the rich nations (now headed by the United States). The process began in the seventeenth century with European penetration of Latin America, Africa and Asia, and the forced orientation of the economies and agriculture of these regions to serve the economic needs of the West.

"Indigenous economic patterns were truncated or destroyed," the document states.

The declaration further reads "In this century, imperialist governments have been joined by global corporations to continue the process of exploitation at a more sophisticated and efficient level. Aggressively committed to changing whatever cultural values reduce their profits, substituting values that encourage consumption of their products, the global corporations have introduced technologies designed to enhance private consumption, not to solve social problems.

Still worse, in poor as well as in rich countries they are speeding up the widening of the gap between a rich minority and masses of underprivileged."

The signatories to the declaration committed themselves and called upon others, "to simplify our style of living as part of the process of liberating ourselves and thus draw fewer resources away from meeting the basic needs of others ... to press our government to identify and halt those governmental and corporate activities that block the work of people anywhere toward the fulfillment of their most fundamental human right: an equal voice in the control of the productive assets needed to assure a fully human life."

The document also commits the signers to campaigning against the arms race, becoming part of a non-violent movement for social change, and becoming "artisans of a new humanity."

Urbanarium Incorporates

The Urbanarium, a group of business, community and institutional leaders in the Rochester area has been incorporated as a not-for-profit organization. Theodore J. Altier, chairman and treasurer of Altier and Sons Shoes, Inc., is the president of the group. Gene DePrez, who, several years ago proposed the concept of such an organization and who has led its development since, has been named the group's executive director.

The purpose of the Urbanarium is to "assist the community in identifying issues facing the greater Rochester area, provide an independent forum for clarifying policy alternatives and improve institutional capabilities for solving community problems," Altier said.

Other officers of the group include Father Charles Lavery, CSB, president of St. John Fisher College; William A. Johnson Jr., executive director of the Urban League of Rochester; and Alexander R. Cameron, executive director of Rochester Area Colleges, Inc.

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