

Sarah Child



All in the Family

Double Talk Not Really

Conversation at the supper table with all three teenagers present tends to be a raucous affair with interruptions, retorts and insults prevailing.

Sitting down with just one kid as sometimes happens is a wholly different ballgame. Both parents get to focus on the child and really listen to what he or she has to say instead of spending the entire meal arbitrating. Such was the case the other

evening when both girls were absent, the older at a track meet and the younger at her karate class.

Our son, the least verbal of the three, became expansive in the absence of his heckling sisters and proceeded to discuss at length a variety of subjects. It was an edifying evening to say the least.

Among the topics were his grades (improving), soccer practices (increasing) and dirty laundry (piling up in his room).

He then moved to the

subject of some dealings he'd had with a neighborhood youth.

"Didn't he use to deliver our paper?" I asked.

"No, that was his brother."

"Oh," I answered and thought for a moment. "Aren't they twins?"

"They used to be," he said, "when they were younger."

Seeing both his father and I start to choke, he quickly clarified. He meant they are twins and looked like twins

when they were small but don't resemble each other now.

His expansive mood restored, he continued to hold sway. Taking a bite of food he chewed happily, then apropos of nothing at all, he put out a long arm and pushed my hair back from my forehead, examining the follicles.

"Well, you won't be going bald for a while," he reported. "Neither will I, but, boy, you should see Henry's hairline -- way back to here

already" -- he motioned to the middle of his head.

I brushed back my bangs. "Well, good," I muttered and got up to make the coffee, careful not to meet his father's eye.

Sometimes, a little conversation goes a long way.

Note: Because of space problems in last week's paper the name of the restaurant with the romantic engagement plaques was deleted. For those wondering, the restaurant is Embrey's Liberty Hollow on Penfield Road.

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