

Dear Penny:

May 20

After reading your letter, I got exhausted by all the activities you take part in, so I decided to sit on the back yard balcony and write - its kind of warm in the house, but cool in the yard (it was 93°F today, and the coolers aren't on yet) and although our "trees" are more like bushes, the next door neighbor has several large trees and lots of nesting birds so their sounds are pleasant.

Moe has been gone for over a week now, and planned weekend outings with friends ^{were} ~~remade~~ - all universities now closed due to student unrest, and now that the students are being sent home (at Isfahan they are mostly dormitory) Moe may himself be released. Rumors this week had Monday be the day all the cars in town would be set on fire, and today the day for general rioting. Police in force at all major squares at least. In the areas I went seem to have discouraged any notions at least for now. Rioting and resultant deaths (we don't know how many - everyone has a different figures) last week were to be avenged this week according to rumors mentioned above. Its an uneasy feeling. Thursday (which is like Saturday in US) left us with nothing to do since our aforementioned plans were cancelled, so I said I'd take kids to a movie at the IAS (Iran America Society). We had no sooner walked out the door when the neighbor across the street says "Honum, koja mirid" ie Ma'am, where are you going' and tells us not to venture out.

I took his advice and stayed home with 2 very disgruntled children. It makes you feel kind of foolish to stay home, but who needs to risk being caught in the middle of a riot.

The pool sits empty for want of male attention - I bought the paint per hubby's request but it looks like it will sit in the closet since a minor cement repair needs to be done first. Mother-in-law + sister-in-law mention the heat (its warmer upstairs than down) and are also cooing Mois' attention to the coolers. The yard doesn't look too bad - I bought some new trees and shrubs, and all but one seem to be surviving. In the small front yard, I planted flowers in the boxes below the iron front gate, and a lilac bush and magnolia, plus 2 elm trees (very small). We pay a man to water everything each day, pretty soon he'll water twice a day since its getting hot and no more rain until October.

The kids keep pestering about the pool, but its a lot of work for me since I get to put the chlorine in and brush the pool out and lifeguard the kids. If I weren't going to be working, it wouldn't matter, but the kids will have to stay out of the pool until I get home unless I can find a babysitter who can swim this summer.

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As the personnel problems increase at the University, and student problems, too, Mae gets less happy with the job. He likes building the buildings and making plans, but hates having to deal with salary disputes, who gets how much office space, and a lot of other details that probably a ^{U.S.} (at least to the same degree) administrator doesn't have to bother with. He has started to talk of retirement at the ripe old age of 42, but he's tired out - that's why.

Melanie's school tuition has gone up from 8,000 to now this year to 11,000, next year, and Cameron will be 14,000 (up from 10,000), for a total of \$3,600.

Of course, they may go to a school in Lafayette instead, and the tuition may be either zero (if the U. pays it) or then \$6,000. The general rate of inflation seems to be 25%, though it may be really more judging from the grocery prices.

Melanie's 9th birthday will be next week, and I guess she'll be getting a new bike.

I've been very busy at work since the Managing Director of the (NOW) has been made Director of the 4th Regional Secretariat of the WFD (World Federation of the Deaf). Since the Secretariat is supposed to be a liaison between the Middle East countries and the WFD, I have been preparing a number of letters and materials to

be sent to regional countries. Also, we are trying to get a speech therapist, and I put an advert in ASHA (American Speech & Hearing Assoc Journal). We've already had 8 responses but now I have to send them a job description (detailed one, I mean) and write to their refs. Her or she has to train 12-20 speech therapist technicians through an interpreter. I hope I can get most of the work done before I have to quit and go to Sofara.

Camron* has final exams in 2 languages in 2 weeks so it may be a while before he writes to his penpal.

My brother writes that he caught the garter at a friend's wedding - so I'm waiting for some results!

I hope to take 2 weeks off from work at the end of June and see if Moe will take a vacation - though I doubt it.

Love

Gloria

* His biology teacher says he has a fine "scientific" mind. His literature teacher says he has a "distractive writing style", and his French teacher says he's a disaster.