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Intercalary

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"Open 8 Days a Week"

—from Gary Grier's *Cracker Jack* (2008)

To help customers feel welcome,
Cracker Jack has improved on God
by adding another day to the week.

Today is the day after the weekend,
the extra day maybe even shade trees need
to get rested up for Monday.

The shadows say today is half over,
this day of the empty street,
the day when the pay phone,
should it ever ring,
will go unanswered.
This is the day when it's all right
that a pump's gone missing.

As on any other day
GAS and CIGS merit bold letters.
As on any other day
COLD BEER is the retort to sunshine.
As on any other day
the dispenser promises ICE.

But today is the eighth day of the week.
Today a lone black cat can mosey by
without crossing anybody's path.
Today a sign can guarantee winnings
when it insists PLAY HERE.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR William Aarnes, a professor of English at Furman, has published two collections with Ninety-Six Press: *Learning to Dance* (1991) and *Predicaments* (2001). His work has appeared in such magazines as *Poetry*, *The Seneca Review*, and *Red Savina Review*. Recent poems have appeared in *Main Street Rag*, *Shark Reef*, and *Empty Sink*.