

The Muggiest Day of the Year

The amputee
crutching his son down
sweltering sidewalks.
Crossing the street.
Entering Columbus' Shoe Repair.
Asking for another sale
on his new bargain basement special.
Son pulling on his arm,
whining over cartoons he's
missing on T.V.
Columbus talking against
fast rising gate fees at
West Florida's Busch Gardens.
Son whining and pulling.
Columbus' grubby T-shirt
barely covering a huge pot as he's
complaining about kids
dirtying the sidewalk out front.
Son whining and pulling.
Columbus glinting his rotund tanned pate above
greying white temples:
"Life is a cartoon, son."

T. N. Grove