

O Callow, Halcyon Youth! July 3, 2025

Hawaiian Tropic melds with soft pretzels and yellow mustard  
at the public pool snack bar eaten with shirt off, towel around neck.

There I discover that lemon juice doesn't lighten my hair merely making it sticky  
despite the chlorine.

How quickly I learned that M&Ms melt wherever they please including my hands and  
chin.

What a good storm won't cure dropping the temperature 20 degrees  
The white backs of leaves flapping in the gusts  
as lightning arcs off the pool ladders.

Only later do I learn there's Jewish prayers for thunder and lightning.

What a show it was, applauding G-d and a storm's own drama!

Will there be AM radio interruptions for updates amidst static.

Will this be our version of the world's end or will the power be out?

For my misspent summers I was merely grateful in the 70s and early 80s  
returning home from summer camp as my swim trunks dried.

I didn't worry about how long it would take for my hair to dry or my ears.

Double scoop chocolate and strawberry ripple Chapman's in the waffle cone  
never spoiled my dinner.

Nor did I stress about blood sugar or cholesterol and now, I merely sigh  
at a lifetime of bad dietary choices.