

Taking a peek at the other side of 'Porky's'

By Betty Monson
special writer

My husband admits to sneaking into the movies when he was a kid. The scam was to arrive outside the exit door of the Queen Ann Theatre and, when the movie left out, to walk backward through the exiting crowd into the theater.

Seems rather like swimming upstream against the current. I chided him on this adolescent dishonesty — the Queen Ann did, after all, value every dime — the price of admission. He is penitent enough, though, rationalizes

that the Queen got his dime anyway, for popcorn. We don't discuss his upstream swim with the kids, lest we give them ideas.

If one of them tried it, old dad would be the first one to holler at the miscreant and send him to his room for the day.

Our daughter had a friend over for the weekend recently. They wanted to see "Charlies of Fire." Or so they said. My mother instinct, alerted by their covert giggling when they returned, told me that they had gone into the triple-screen movie house, handed over their

tickets, then slipped under the ropes into the adjacent "R" movie, "Porky's."

"How do you always know when I'm lying?" daughter asked. "Your giggles tell me." "Charlies" reviews said nothing about it being hilarious.

Well, they sneaked out the next day and saw it again — twice (hiding in the ladies' room between shows).

MY DAUGHTER later gave me a detailed description of the "good" parts. Sounded pretty raunchy to me, but if a pubescent girl sees it three times, per-

haps there's something a mother should know — for counseling purposes, of course.

So today, having waded my baby off to kindergarten, I hustled to the movie house for the 41 matinee. "Porky's," I muttered, as I slid my buck under the window.

"What?" questioned the cashier, who was young enough to be my daughter.

"Porky's," I repeated, casting a furtive glance to see if any other ticket purchaser was arriving. "I can't hear you, Ma'am," she persisted.

"Porky's, Porky's," I demanded in my best stage whisper. She gave me a silly smile as she slipped my ticket under the window.

I looked over the shoulder of the ticket taker, yet I caught his grin as he pointed down the lobby, and said in a voice loud enough for the popcorn girls to hear, "Porky's" is at the end of the hall. I slinked into the dimly lit theater, where 15 other adults slouched in their seats. One teenager was present, sitting tall. This was, after all, his kind of show.

Well, actually the movie was funny. I couldn't help laughing out loud a few times. Mostly at the slapstick antics. Outside of the frequent flippant referrals to jocks' appendages and chaste cheerleaders' chastity, there was, believe it or not, a plot. Several of them in fact.

The surface plot was to help Peewee get "doffered." The more serious story behind the bawdy body business was to remind the viewers of the exquisite pain of growing up in a '50s world of red-necked rowdies, bellowing bigots and at least one tyrannical teacher.

IN THE END, the bad guys got their comeuppance, and Peewee got his wish — I think. At least he had his chance to "go for it."

Seeing "Porky's" made me glad once again to be well past adolescence. Remember the pain and frustration of body-image? Remember "just dying" if you were to tall, too short, too fat, too skinny, too ugly or even too pretty? Of course too brainy, too stupid and too pimply were also right up there among the top 10.

And heaven forbid that somebody else's anything was bigger than yours. Remember the girl who was demoralized because she had a faint mustache, and the boy who was equally demoralized because he didn't? At least one beauty queen still squirms at her memory of being the fat kid with braces, pimples and stringy hair.

Peewee fulfilled, and other crises neatly resolved, the lights came up on the theater. I hoped nobody walking out would recognize me, and wonder what this grandmotherly lady was doing in a raunchy movie like that. Nobody said anything to each other, until a lady old enough to be my mother laughed and said unashamedly, "Wasn't that hilarious?"

I guess growing up is hilarious, if you've survived it.

If your children are adolescents, and you want to know what they're feeling, see "Porky's."

Wear a bag over your head.

obituaries

ARTHUR M. WEDDLE

Mr. Weddle, 60, of Farmington Hills died April 25 in St. Mary Hospital, Livonia.

Mr. Weddle was a journeyman mechanic for Ford Motor Co. He was a World War II Army veteran and received the American Defense and European Theatre Medals.

Survivors include his wife, Amelia; sons, Gregory and Michael; daughters, Nancie Blake, Barbara Grabski and Marian Byre; brothers, Ray and Leonard; sisters, Winifred, Helen Quintal, Gerry Norfleet and Bannie Tibbals.

eight grandchildren. Services were April 27 at Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home, Mass. was at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church with the Rev. Edward Balczak officiating. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery, Farmington.

EVERETT W. OLIVER, JR.

Mr. Oliver, 41, of Farmington Hills, died April 30 in Providence Hospital. Mr. Oliver worked for Wick's Furniture Store. He was in the Air Force from 1960 to 1964.

Survivors include his wife, Juanna;

son, Everett III; mother, Lillian Oliver; sister, Carolyn Holttoman.

Services were May 3 at Haggliff Funeral Home, New York. Burial was in Long Island National Cemetery. Arrangements were made by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

THOMAS RAY VIKANDER, M.D.

Dr. Vikander, 30, of Farmington Hills, died May 2 in Harper Hospital, Detroit.

Dr. Vikander was a graduate of North Park College, Chicago, and Rockford Medical School, University of Illinois. He served residency at Rock-

ford School of Medicine and was chief resident from 1979-1980. He was on the faculty of Wayne State University Medical School, Department of Family Medicine; practicing and taught at the Detroit Medical Center.

Survivors include his wife, the Rev. Mary Miller-Vikander; parents, Harold and Ruth of Mount Prospect, Ill., and a brother, Theodore.

Services were May 5 at Faith Covenant Church, Farmington Hills. Burial was in Ridgewood Cemetery, Des Plaines, Ill. Memorials may be made to the North Park College and Seminary in Chicago.

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It's YOUR Money

by Charles H. Williams, C.P.A.
HANDS OFF, UNCLE SAM
The new tax law has made big changes in the field of estates and gifts: more people will be able to leave more to their heirs, free of federal estate taxes.
The most generous provision permits an individual to leave everything to a spouse tax-free (the old rule was \$250,000 or half the estate, whichever was larger); in addition, the "unified credit" that is applied against estate and gift taxes will increase gradually, permitting a larger tax-exempt estate — as much as \$600,000 by 1987. If the estate is larger than that, the maximum tax rate will drop from 70 percent to 50 percent by 1985.
What does this mean? Tax specialists suggest that there will be fewer instances of husbands putting assets in the wife's name to avoid taxes, or couples owing each other's insurance policies for the same reason. Even joint ownership of assets may be less worthwhile for tax purposes now.
Leaving everything to one's spouse solves the estate tax problem for a while, but estate planning should consider what happens when the surviving spouse dies. Because estate tax is progressive, it may be advantageous to leave part of the estate to children right away, so that they can pay a lower tax rate on two smaller estates than they would on the larger amount they'd get if they inherited the remainder of the estate all at once. On the other hand, there are advantages to deferring whatever taxes will be due until the surviving spouse dies.
For most people the new larger limit on tax-exempt estates means that they will not have to consider taxes at all in estate planning; not that many people HAVE more than \$600,000. However, the estates have their own gift and death taxes. Many have not yet conformed to the new federal laws, and some may never do so.
How can you plan your estate to leave the most to your family, and the least to Uncle Sam? Discuss it with a knowledgeable tax professional.
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