



KATHIE O'DONOHUE

Buying new suit is a rite of passage for son

Broad shoulders tapering down to a thin waist announce you have moved beyond childhood, forcing me to admit to myself you are, indeed, a young man.

And tonight your dad and I did something that was infinitely more painful than I ever imagined it would be: we took you to the men's department to buy you a new suit.

I know what you're thinking: big deal! Who cares? It's just a suit.

But that's where you're wrong. Tonight represented a milestone in both our lives.

You stand on the fitting-room stage and I watch the scene unfold before me as if I am somehow an outsider. The salesmen remark about your youthful form, cast a few wistful glances, perhaps reminiscing about their own first suits. Dad smiles, another man pats you on the shoulder and there is a sense of you becoming a member of "the club." In a flurry of matter-of-fact activity, they mark your pants for alterations with chalk that will fade away, but the marks written on my heart this evening are indelible.

Knowing glance

Observing you, I catch a flash of a smile, a knowing glance I have never seen on your face before. Five minutes in the dressing room seem like nothing more than an obligatory trial to you and Dad, but it feels like a major emotional incident in my life.

Who is that handsome young man? Having a reputation for being overly sentimental at times, I ponder this possibility, testing the waters with a question to Dad: "Is this situation bothering you at all?" But his answer, "What situation?" leaves me again to my own thoughts.

"Wait!" I want to yell. "I'm not ready! This is my child. My first ... little ... boy ...". But of course, I can't intervene in this rite of passage that seems — perhaps only to me — so much more significant than face value. Like it or not, you are ready, diving headlong into the uncharted waters of manhood. Already this experience seems to have caused a major shift: you are different, and fooling around in the store on the way out, you are held accountable, your previously successful childish excuses now flimsy and ineffectual. The salesman in the computer department uncannily seems to sense the mood, remarking that you are taller than your father. How dare he insinuate; how right he is.

Transported back

Immediately I'm transported back to your first haircut, your sensitivity as a 5-year-old, your first experience with a friend. When I look at you, I still see vestiges of a sweet innocent face boarding the kindergarten bus for the very first time. And for an instant I wish I were your dad, to be able to merely take this in stride, consider it an interruption, a necessary evil even.

Instead, another sign of separation. Despite what you may think, my oldest son, I don't spend my days anxiously and with great trepidation crying about your inevitable growth and development. At moments such as these, I am beginning to recognize a perplexing, bittersweet sense of love and pride mixed up together, and occasionally tears mark the realization.

At these moments, I am eye-to-eye with reality's stun ... that we can't ever go back, that you will never again be that 6-month-old in red corduroy overalls, the precocious snake and reptile expert, digger of deep holes on the beach. That I probably won't see you in the old tire swing too many more times.

A small sense of panic grips me within, because there's so much I want to teach you, talk to you about, laugh about, but there's so little time. Among the lessons the new suit teaches me is that I'm not the center of your life and haven't been for some time, though you're still at the very heart of mine.

There is simply no denying the truth, that your journey away will now become exponential, not linear. You are so quickly putting away the

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Prom costs couples lots of dough

■ Prom-bound seniors are spending hundreds of dollars on all the trimmings required for the big night out.



BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
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If there was a game, "Who Wants to be Broke?," area high school seniors attending prom would be

good contestants. Prom night for Holly Stockton and Brian Horr, seniors at North Farmington High School, is going to cost more than \$1,000. It will mean tapping into their bank accounts and maybe getting a little help from their parents. But both think it's money well spent.

Stockton hasn't bought her dress, yet, but she plans on finding something in a pastel color, "definitely not black." She expects it will cost her "around \$300."

"A lot of girls are spending \$600 plus," Stockton added. "The girls get competitive in the way they look and that kind of takes some of the fun out of it."

Her budget also includes \$50 for a hair cut and styling and \$25 for acrylic nails. Tack on another \$100 for shoes and a purse to match her dress.

"And if you get your make-up done (professionally) it will be about \$20, because you have to buy something," she explained.

Add up "all the little things," like nylons and earrings and there goes another \$100.

Then there is a boutonniere she must buy for Brian. She plans on spending about \$10 for that.

How is she going to foot the bill? "I'm hoping my parents will help out," she said after a moment's thought.

"When you stand back and look at the big picture and look at how much it's costing the guy and the girl, you say, 'Why don't we save this money and do something more fun?'" she said.

Something memorable

But the prom is once and "it's something memorable," Stockton added.

Meanwhile, her date, Brian Horr, also a senior at North Farmington, is expecting to pay about \$100 to rent his



STAFF PHOTO BY SEASON LOCKLEY

Dress shopping: Holly Stockton took her boyfriend Brian Horr along to Parisian in Laurel Park Place mall for his input on the dress. Both seniors at North Farmington High, they've been dating for a year and a half.

tuxedo.

His biggest expense for the night will be the prom tickets and renting a limousine. The May 30 prom at the Dearborn Inn (which includes dinner) costs \$110 per couple, or \$55 for one ticket. Harrison High School's May 31 prom at the Southfield Manor is \$80 a couple. And Farmington High School's June 8 prom, also at the Dearborn Inn, costs \$80 per couple.

"I've heard a few complaints about how the guys get stuck paying the tickets, but I haven't really heard a lot of complaints," Horr said.

Limo costs vary

He hadn't priced the cost of limousines. Costs vary between \$60 and \$150 an hour depending on the vehicle and how many passengers it holds, usually between eight and 14 people.

"You get what you pay for," according to Ross Green, owner of Distinct Limousines in Farmington.

Horr is also figuring on paying "around \$30" for Stockton's wrist corsage.

"And if we end up doing stuff afterward and go out, there's food and everything," he said.

Horr, who works during the summer,

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Cantor's assembly

'Shir Joy' to honor long-time cantor

BY MARY RODRIQUE
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In the current hit movie *Keeping the Faith*, much of the action takes place inside a synagogue presided over by a young rabbi played by Ben Stiller.

In one memorable scene, a cantor is singing prayers before an uninspired congregation when Rabbi Ben decides to spice things up by introducing a hand-clapping, uplifting ball Gospel choir.

Raphael Frieder — who plays the stunned movie cantor — is among a select few real cantors who will sing in a free concert at Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills on Wednesday, May 24, in a performance that promises to uplift its audience to the same soulful heights as a Gospel choir.



Cantor Larry Vieder

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BECKMAN

Joining Frieder during the annual Cantors Assembly 63rd International Convention performance will be Larry Vieder, cantor emeritus of Adat Shalom; Howard Glantz, Adat Shalom cantor; Alisa Pomerantz-Boro; Faith Steinsnyder; Steven Stoehr; Barry Black; YShaya Grama; Henrique Ozur Basi; Jacob Ben Zion Mendelson; and the Lachan Choir of Toronto under the direction of Cantor Benjamin Maisner.

Performance open to all

The performance, called *Shir Joy*, will begin at 8 p.m. and is open to all. Tickets are available at Adat Shalom, 29901 Middlebelt, north of Thirteen Mile.

The concert, which culminates a week-long conference — the first ever held in Michigan — will be a tribute to Vieder, who has dedicated 40 years service as cantor.

"The cantor does the chanting. He is the soloist for weddings, funerals, services, holidays — every day of the week," explained Vieder, who started with Adat Shalom when the congregation was located at Curtis and Livernois in Detroit. He was hired by Adat Shalom in 1980 as associate cantor and Torah reader.

The synagogue relocated to Farmington Hills in July 1972 and Vieder stayed with his duties until retirement in 1993. He still keeps an office in the synagogue and stays active except for a few months every winter in Florida now.

Born in 1923 in Czechoslovakia, Vieder began singing at an early age. During the Holocaust, he lost his parents, two sisters and four brothers — his entire family.

"They took me to a Hungarian labor camp. I ran away to Russia and joined the Czech

Attention touches Korean-era War vet

When former Army Ranger John Daul marches in the Memorial Day parade in Farmington May 28, his heart will be with his brother, Jim, who was severely wounded in Korea and who was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in 1991.

John, who was a field first sergeant of a heavy weapons company stateside during the Korean War, was responsible for training 250 men. His brother Jim was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor, Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman badge.

"Korea was not long after World War II. We still had that taste of patriotism," he said recently.

A Farmington resident for 21 years, retired from Ford Motor Co., Daul is "thrilled to death" that Korean-era war veterans are being remembered this year for their wartime service.

Remembered after 60 years

"It's nice to finally be remembered after 60 years. We recently had a commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. We lost 58,000 men and women in the 11 years our country was involved. However, in the Korean War from 1950 to 1953 we lost over 54,000 men and women — almost as many in just three years."

Daul enlisted in the Illinois National Guard in December 1946, right after graduation from high school.

"As it turns out, our 44th infantry division was federalized in 1951 to fight in the war. As a result, I re-enlisted for another three year term which carried me through two years of active military service and a final sixth year of inactive reserve."

Daul, the father of nine children and grandfather of an even dozen, has written a letter about his war experience and this year's Korean War commemorative



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BECKMAN

On Parade: John Daul will march in the Farmington Memorial Day parade May 29, which will spotlight Korean War era veterans.

relative to his family members.

"We often elude to Korea as the 'forgotten war,' but a lot of men and women gave their lives," he said.

The Farmington area committee to honor veterans of the Korean War era is still looking for veterans of the armed forces who served from 1950-53. They will march as a group in the Farmington Memorial Day parade — vintage cars of the era will carry veterans unable to walk the parade route. The Farmington Hills Senior Activities Center's annual "Stars and Stripes" program in November will include a special salute to these veterans.

The commemorative period officially begins June 25, 2000 — the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the war — and officially closes Nov. 11, 2003. The idea is to thank and honor those veterans and their families for their service, especially those who lost loved ones; recognize and remember the prisoners of war and those missing in action; and provide the public with a clearer understanding of the Korean War. Commemorative flags are available for sale from the Farmington area Chamber of Commerce.

The committee is also looking for veterans willing to speak to students in Farmington Schools as part of a living history program.

For more information on events, call Wally Christensen at 474-8554.