

## 'Growing up' touches both children and parents

There's been a lot of talk this summer about what my son, Bobby, would like to be when he grows up. At the end of one of these conversations, I asked my daughter, Teresa, "What do you think you want to be when you grow up?"

Exasperated at my failure to acknowledge a statement she's repeated many times during the past year, she said, "Don't you remember? I'm not going to grow up. I like to be little and I don't want to get old!"

Bobby responded before I had a chance, "Well Teresa, everybody has to grow up and it's not like you're going to be the only person out of every one on earth who gets to stay a kid."

Bobby can't fathom anyone wanting to stay little. He is jumping into the future — literally. Each day his feet leave the ground as his arms stretch high. He jumps. He shoots. He scores. Like thousands of other children across the country, he wants to be just like Michael Jordan when he grows up, and he believes that by jumping and stretching each day he'll grow to Jordan's height.

All this talk of growing up has me feeling a bit uneasy. For months I've been in major denial over the fact that, come September, Teresa will be going off to kindergarten. For the first time in seven years I will be home alone.

In July, I turned 39 without a trace of age anxiety, but the day we went to Teresa's kindergarten orientation this past June, I couldn't help but wonder and worry about where the time had gone. At



### family matters

By ELLEN MARX

every opportunity Teresa insists she's going to be a kid forever, but her growing body and mind tell a different story. And her budding confidence and independence indicate that she is not only growing up but is more than ready to head down the halls of Ben Franklin Elementary School in Lawrenceville.

There are milestones in our children's lives that offer us an opportunity to reflect on how swiftly and ably our children are growing up — birthdays, holidays, first Communion, confirmations, graduations and the start of kindergarten. But there are also the more subtle signs in our everyday lives that let us know time is marching on and our children (with the exception of Teresa) will not stay little forever.

The signs that my two children were no longer little began appearing this past year. The "tippy" cups and the colorful plates with a section for each food group were gradually being pushed to the back of our cabinets. We're now all using the same dinner plates. As we packed for our summer vacation this year, we removed

the children's bike seats from the back of our bicycles. For the first time, we all rode on our own bikes. A telltale sign for me that life was changing was the request to turn off the kids' sing-along tapes and turn on their Hanson tape — a popular pop-music group consisting of three brothers from Oklahoma. And then came the invitation to the kindergarten open house. ... For almost seven years I have been home with my children. I was fortunate to have a rewarding professional career before I had them, and I've been blessed to have a profession I can work at part-time from my home. I understand the importance of having an identity separate from my children's, but I also recognize that through their world of wonder, discovery and love, both my husband and I have gained a stronger and more independent sense of who we are. They are a reminder that what matters most is the person we grow up to be rather than the profession we choose.

As Teresa steps into her new world, I'll be stepping into mine. For both of us the possibilities of new beginnings will be endless. Each of us will be doing a lot more reading, writing and learning. She'll be in a new classroom and, thanks to my husband's hard work, I'll be in a newly refurbished home office. Still it's difficult to stop the ache that surfaces anytime I wonder how different my day will be without hearing her burst into song each time we hop into the car. My office may have a new look but I'll miss my old cheerful assistant who made me paper-clip necklaces and ceremoniously put them around my

neck. I will miss our lunch-time walks around the block and the way her hand slipped so easily into mine. Most of all I'll miss all her hugs, kisses and expressions of love throughout the day.

Going off to kindergarten certainly doesn't represent the end of parenting, but anyone who's had a child go off to school knows that there's a seismic shift in a parent's relationship with a child once she is in school full-time. While I'm excited about the changes the year will bring in our family's life, I know that there will never be a time as sweet as these past seven years spent at home with my children.

During our vacation last week, my husband Joe and I enjoyed toddlers exploring the sand and sea. I asked him if he remembered what Teresa was like when she was a baby at the beach. We were both having difficulty remembering. Then I looked over at a baby sleeping peacefully under a beach umbrella. Her floppy sun hat hid most of her face except for the thumb locked securely in her mouth. I reached for Teresa who was burying my feet in the sand and plopped her on my lap. I pointed to the baby and told her that the baby reminded me of her when she was little. Teresa smiled and I started hugging her, kissing her and rocking her back and forth. For a few brief moments she was my baby again.

"I don't want her to grow up," I thought. "I want her to be little forever."

Marx lives in Lawrenceville, N.J., with her husband and two children.

## Disney animated features provide delightful film fare

**NEW VIDEO** (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a USCC classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.



### Peter Pan

Walt Disney's animated feature is a delightful adaptation of Sir James M. Barrie's 1904 play about an impish 12-year-old boy (voice of Bobby Driscoll) who refuses to grow up. Directed by Hamilton Luske, Clyde Geronimi and Wildred Jackson, it offers dreamy fantasy panoramas of London and Never Never Land, along with the antics of feisty pixie Tinker Bell and some mostly unmemorable songs. Some dated sexist (jealous women) and racial (Native Americans) stereotypes are wrong-headedly intended as fun. The

USCC classification is A-I — general patronage. The MPAA rating is G — general audiences.

### The Black Cauldron

Disney animated adventure about the brave attempts of a peasant boy to prevent the evil Horned King from gaining possession of a black cauldron capable of producing an army of supernatural warriors. The result is a delightful fantasy saga during which the boy learns about love, loyalty, courage and the importance of friendship over power. Some creepy moments. The USCC classification is A-I — general patronage. The MPAA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

### The Borrowers

Whimsical fantasy in which a villainous banker (John Goodman) sets out to drive a family of three from their home only to discover he is up against a resourceful family of miniature people also living on the premises. Directed by Peter Hewitt from the children's stories of Mary Norton, the movie doesn't lack for charm or gentle humor as the two families join

forces to outwit big bully Goodman. Some menace and comic violence. The USCC classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The MPAA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

### Melody Time

Another of Walt Disney's feature-length variety shows with songs, stories and musical interludes presented in cel animation, live-action photography and sometimes a mixture of both. The music segments vary from the lively to the lyric with visuals to match, but more memorable are the stories of itinerant planter Johnny Appleseed, exuberant young tugboat Little Toot and, best of all, the tall tales of Western folk hero Pecos Bill as earnestly told by singing cowboy Roy Rogers. An enjoyable family diversion. The USCC classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the MPAA.

### Star Kid

Thin adventure fantasy in which a 12-year-old boy (Joseph Mazello) climbs inside the shell of an alien android and uses its superhuman strength to take revenge on a school bully, then is con-

fronted by a ferocious spider-like invader from outer space. Written and directed by Manny Coto, the movie's premise of controlling a powerful robot may appeal to young boys, though most others will find the formula plot as tiresome as the derivative special effects. Fantasy violence, menacing situations, bathroom humor and few coarse words. The USCC classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The MPAA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

### Good Burger

Weak comedy about the extremes to which two teen fast-food workers (Kel Mitchell and Kenan Thompson) go to keep a rival burger joint from stealing their secret sauce recipe which is saving their store from bankruptcy. Director Brian Robbins keeps up a peppy pace as the bumbling buddies are put in and out of an insane asylum in their quest to save their jobs. Some slapstick violence, mild sexual innuendo and a few crude expressions. The USCC classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The MPAA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

## Wedding Guide

**DAN'S CRAFTS & THINGS**  
352 EMPIRE BLVD., ROCHESTER, NY 14609  
716-654-8388 • SAVE • DO IT YOURSELF!

- Wedding Accessories
- Ribbons
- Headpieces
- Instruction Books
- Cake Toppers
- Silk Flowers
- Bridal Bouquets
- Favor Supplies
- Veiling

**Fioravanti Florist**  
For that one special occasion you'll want perfection.  
2279 Clifford Ave. (near Culver) (716) 482-1001



The Perfect Setting... for the Perfect Wedding  
Packages start at \$44.95. Choice dates still available in 1998 and 1999.  
Vineyards • 2287 Turk Hill Road, Fairport, NY • (716) 223-4210

**DAVIE'S SEAFOOD SPECIALS**

- Fresh Littleneck Clams \$65.99 (20 dozen bag) \$3.30 per dozen
- Extra Large Cooked Cocktail Shrimp \$9.95 lb.

**FULL DINNER MENU AVAILABLE**

- Broiled Haddock Dinner \$5.95
- Broiled Salmon \$7.95
- Fish Fry \$5.00

**Davies Seafood**  
395 Stone Road (Greece) • 663-7573 • Monday thru Saturday, 9 am - 7:30 pm

As You Travel This Summer...  
**Visit The Grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes**  
Replica of the famous University of Notre Dame Grotto  
Notre Dame High School, Batavia  
NYS Thruway Exit 48 Batavia  
Route 98 South 1 mile right on Richmond Avenue 3 blocks  
**For More Information: Call (716) 343-2798**  
Rosary said first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.