

Birthday Happy

Last week was my college daughter's birthday so my husband and I filled the car with presents and headed towards her school.

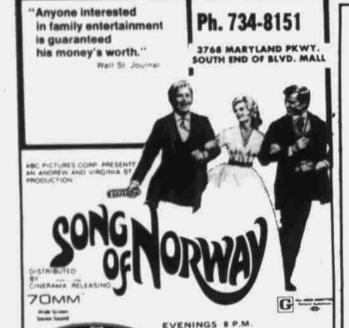
We met our daughter half-way, in the little town where we used to live. She was there with What's-his-name, the guy with the brown eyes who's been hanging around our house weekends for the past two or three years or is

It was miserably wet and rainy but we toured the town where our daughter spent her childhood and where we spent the first decade of our marriage.

We saw our old store with the swayback aisles and the house with the 25 once tiny yews we planted ourselves years before.

Nothing had changed radically but the now huge yews, I found myself thinking about them the way I did when I saw my son in his first The growth of any family member,





SAT. and SUM.

even an inanimate one, can make a mother 'qvell.'

When we were thoroughly drenched, we took our daughter and What's-his-name to the old hometown restaurant that serves at least 9,000 courses, (My diet died ignobly.) I could tell What's-his-name was pleased my daughter invited him to such an elegant place by the way he looked at her.

The next day at my daughter's school, What'shis-name, left in the rain to return to his own university. And funny thing, my daughter started to look at us when we spoke. And I think she even heard some of the things we were saying.

Since it was also Parents' Day, we were treated to her dorm brunch. The gals sang us a special song and gave each mother a rose. We mothers showed our immediate appreciation; we cried. It was lovely!

I never saw so many pretty girls. Re-freshing and real. They sorta bubble. Mebbe if I were that young and pretty and skinny, I'd bubble too.

At the brunch I talked to some people who sat across from us. (My daughter now thinks I'm old enough to converse with people not necessarily related to me by blood. This is contrary to the Bas Mitzvah belief that one's mother is not deemed mature enough to carry on intelligent conversations with her child's contemporaries.)

I accidentally said something funny and my daughter's roommate laughed and said a maven's house must be filled with fun and games and I assured her we just laugh and chuckle all

Then it was over. My husband said someone should check the pollen count at the school. Because loads of parents developed an allergic reaction; a tearing of the eye, running of the nose. Particularly when it was time to say goodbye.

We filled the car with my daughter's surplus winter clothes and vital collection of trivia. And as we splashed back home in the rain, we decided it was great for our daughter to be away from home. She has matured so much,

And besides summer vacation would bring her back to us in six more weeks.

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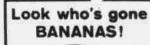
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