

AMERICAN SEGUE MAGAZINE

Conservative Voices Seeking Truth

The View from Our Perch...

Because of Him

**Teenaged Girl
Pays Tribute
to Her Dad**

by Hazel Snow

When we were kids, we had all the confidence in the world.

Do you remember that?

I remember:

- * Wearing goofy glasses,
- * Feeling like the most beautiful princess in the world,
- * Running through the grass and having the time of my life,
- * How could anyone stop me — loving who I was?

But as I grew older my clothes got
Cont'd on page 2, col.e

A Lesson Learned

**Teen Surfer Realizes
Dad Is Proud of Her**

**by Hazel Snow,
Circulation/Marketing Assistant
American Segue Magazine**

Things that happen...

My dad and I are surfing with my boss and brother.

I'm having trouble fighting the waves. Dad tells me to go in, but I don't listen and keep going; I get mad at him and stop listening. Later, when we go in (out of the water) and get back in the car. He tells me...and I realize...

The water was cold. My numb and nearly unresponsive fingers firmly grasped the sides of my surfboard as my aching feet kicked me forward repeatedly, emerging from the water and raising into the hot air.

Reaching the peak, my lack of flexibility kept my legs from kicking any higher, then sinking back down to indulge the frozen fluid that encompassed me.

I kept my gaze on the sun as its beams reflected the waves, too focused on the task ahead to feel the heat escaping from my surroundings and up into the warm air above.
"Hazel!"

(Cont'd on page 2, col. 2, 'Teen Surfer')

**View: Tribute...(Cont'd
from col. 1, page 1)**

darker. I stayed inside more. I isolated myself from everyone and went to a really dark place where I constantly hated myself.

I didn't like how I looked or acted. I constantly avoided my family, and I let people walk all over me so that they wouldn't think I was mean.

The thing is, I hated someone who I didn't know. I had lost my identity; I didn't know who I was.

I went from phase to phase, trying to become the best at whatever I was obsessed with at the time. I put myself in a box.

Every single time I quit, my confidence went lower and lower, until I had none.

With my confidence at its lowest and my thoughts racing at full speed, I was ready to throw it all away. To give up. I knew that I couldn't keep living like this.

(Cont'd on page 3, 'View')

Teen Surfer...(Cont'd from page 1, col 2)

I turned away from the view to see my Dad about thirty feet away, hanging off of his surfboard, just as I was.

"Go in and left!" He yelled.

I ignored him and looked out at the water that stretched out past the horizon, I knew what I was doing. My eyes squinted as I put my hands down on the board to hoist myself up and study the waves.

"That one," I thought once I spotted a wave larger than the others, I readied myself as the thought of seeing the beach in front of me ran through my head. But as my eyes locked on the wave, the comber hid from me once again, shrinking back into its original form.

I had lost it.

I kept looking.

"That one," my eyes fell upon another wave — this one a bit smaller but still rideable.

"Hazel!"

A pressure rose in my head — not a headache. The feeling was not as painful or uncomfortable as a headache would be, but it lacked as much comfort as I wanted. My brain felt non-existent, yet seemed to push itself against the back of my head. It left my eyes empty and without enough support to glance where I wanted — right, left, right, left, forward, right, left...

"Hazel!"

I brought myself back to awareness and released a breath I didn't know I was holding. As I once more processed the environment around me, I noticed the wave was way closer to me

(Cont'd on page 3, 'Teen Surfer')

Teen Surfer, *Cont'd from page 2)*

View: Tribute...(Cont'd from col. 1, page 2)

However, as I was about to give up, my Dad — encouragement, support, time itself — had it all. He stepped in to rescue me.

Whenever my self esteem was low, he gave me the encouragement I needed to pull me back up. He supported me on my decisions and always had time to watch scary movies with me.

When I had something I needed to figure out he was there to talk, regardless of where he was. Even when I felt like I would never get out of that dark spot, he never gave up on me. Because of him, I learned;

* That I can pursue my passions without being the best at them,

* *How to be confident in myself as well as my interests.*

* *How to be confident in who I am while bringing others up with me,*

* *How to stand up for what is right while having compassion toward others.*

Because of my father — my hero — I want to give myself a future and make it in life. I cannot thank my father enough for never giving up on me when I was in that dark place and helping me find out — and love — my identity.@

than when I had last seen it, and it was only coming closer. I flipped my board around and, despite its heaviness on top of the water, was able to complete its rotation with enough time to begin paddling.

“Hazel!”

Dad’s voice echoed through my ears louder than I wanted it. Now? NOW? The one ride I’ll get today and he calls me now?

Later, he told me, “When I saw you in the water, the sun just lit up your freckles and there was so much determination in your eyes. I thought, ‘Wow. That’s my daughter.’ It was, like, a whole moment, I don’t know.”

Upon hearing that I paused, flattered; but then I felt a sense of guilt. I remembered that look in his eyes when I had pushed my board forward.

Upon meeting his gaze in that moment, I thought he was thinking about everything I was doing wrong. He was actually looking with pride and love, while I had looked at him with anger and rage. I smiled,

“Thanks, Dad, I love surfing with you!@

Acknowledging This Issue’s Writer

Hazel Snow, featured writer of the two articles in this edition, is a teenaged actress, a winning state high school level theater makeup and costume artist, and play director. She plays keyboard in her church’s high school youth “praise band,” regularly blogs, is this magazine’s circulation and marketing assistant, and the proud Editor/Publisher’s granddaughter.@

Masthead

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