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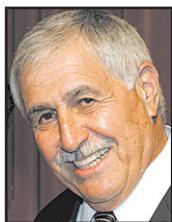
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Mother's advice on wearing underwear proved correct

BY ERNIE SOCHIN

Vice Mayor



"You are ripped."

That is what my live-in wardrobe manager said to me the other day.

I immediately went to the nearest mirror to see just what she was talking about; perhaps it was my slim muscular physique that I have been working on these many years or just my general healthy look. "No, no, no," she shouted as I looked into the mirror. Your T-shirts are all ripped and need to be replaced."

I replied that I had just purchased these T-shirts at either Jefferson's or Richards, I forget which, but they were purchased recently. I hate wasting money on things that I really don't need but she insisted on going shopping.

Of course I only wear these T-shirts around the house and would never think of wearing them to a town meeting or other venue. For town meetings I have shirts with my name emblazoned on them so that people will know who I am, but many still don't recognize me.

So much for the T-shirts. The big problem comes with my undershorts that I admit are somewhat ripped and full of holes. I am very careful about saving my best shorts to wear on special occasions.

The following is a true story. A while back after having a wonderful dinner at Joe's Stone Crabs, my car was struck from behind by a vehicle traveling much faster than I was because I was stopped at a red light. The accident resulted in one fatality and several injured people including myself. I was rushed to Mount Sinai Hospital taken to a room where my shirt and trousers were removed and I realized that my mother's advice about always wearing new underwear when you are going someplace special finally paid off.

Going to Joe's Stone Crabs is in my mind a special event and I think that by wearing new Jockey shorts, I might get seated a little faster than normal.

Back to the accident: As I lie there on the bed in the emergency room one of the nurses came in and shouted OMG it's Ernie Sochin from WIOD. The word got out that they had a famous talk show host celebrity in their hospital and everyone came in to see what I looked like. I was greatly relieved to know that I had my best quality Jockey shorts on at that particular time.

Truly, who would really care if there were a few



The ties that bind.

holes or rips in my shorts as long as they provided their basic purpose of keeping me and everything else in place? I have heard many men when fantasizing about some hot young babe, say that they had underwear older than the girl being observed. I actually do and I am proud of it. Look at all the money that I have saved over the years. I may be forced to go back to Jefferson's, Richards or Jordan Marsh to replace some of the really worn ones but that is if I can find one of those stores still in existence.

Of course, I wear other articles of clothing other than underwear. I have even been known on occasion to wear a necktie — the most ridiculous clothing article invented by man. What possible purpose is there for wrapping a cloth around your neck, making you feel terribly uncomfortable and guaranteeing that you will spill something on it in the very near future?

Frankly I hate anything tight around my neck, possibly because my mother might have tried to strangle me when I was younger. I wouldn't have blamed her. I do have a huge collection of ties, some of which are shown here, including a Versace purchased in Milan for a huge amount of \$\$\$\$. At least people give me compliments when I wear that baby. Believe it or not, ages ago, before I was married (yes there was such a time), I seemed able to dress myself with a minimum of

difficulty and felt quite comfortable with my clothing selections.

Now that I have a wardrobe manager living in my house it seems that each time I am about to leave I get a comment such as: "Are you going out looking like that?"

When I asked what could possibly be wrong, the reply is: "If you don't know then I won't tell you."

What in blazes does that mean? I have a very specific method for dressing myself each day. I walk into my closet, grab a pair of pants, grab a shirt, put them on, and feel properly dressed. On occasion I must accidentally grab just the right pair of pants and a shirt that matches.

When I do this, people will comment: "Oh your wife must have dressed you today."

I for one believe that black goes with everything. A man can own a pair of black shoes and go through life without anyone noticing. Women on the other hand must have shoes to match every color garment that they might wear, handbag that they might carry, or even their eyeliner. I guess this is great for the retail shoe industry. Walk through any shopping mall and count the number of women's shoes stores as opposed to hardware stores for people like me to browse in.

All I ask is that the next time you see me out in public make a comment such as "You look great today. Did you pick that out by yourself?"