

Death is not an excuse for messed-up hair

By William Rudolph
Staff Reporter

Even in the midst of life, we are in death. And even in the midst of death, the same problems are faced in life. Not only does the family of the deceased have to endure choosing a coffin and making the burial arrangements, but they also face the problem of arranging the body for burial. Along with the burial clothes comes the problem of hair. And at this step in the final journey, often a hair stylist will be called in to help prepare the body for the funeral.

Deborah Crawford, owner of the Phoenix, 3810 Normal Blvd., has assisted twice at pre-funeral stylings. Although she hopes not to have to do

any more, she does believe that the process is necessary. The process may be slightly odd, said Crawford, but "it's kind of nice to help them (the deceased) and help the family" by fixing the hair for the last time.

Generally when a loved one dies, stylists talk to the family of the deceased to get an idea of how to arrange the departed's hair. This is done in order to make the deceased appear as he or she did in life.

But the way to achieve this is very different from Crawford's usual salon jobs. For one thing, stylists cannot rely on Paul Mitchell or Prell. Conventional shampoos pose problems for the hair of the departed, since hair after death doesn't have the same organic composition. Instead, stylists

use rubbing alcohol to wet the hair down. Besides getting the hair into a manageable state, alcohol has the bonus of drying quickly and taking curls instantly.

As far as curling goes, Crawford has found that dead hair curls better by setting with rollers rather than with a curling iron. Stylists especially need to exercise caution when using a curling iron. In life a curling iron burn can produce a nasty scar; after death, it's a different story. Since the body no longer repairs itself, any kind of burn will produce a very noticeable raised spot on the skin. And as one might expect, "people do notice."

Usually an employee of the funeral home will assist in the process to help the stylist rinse the alcohol into a pan and help compensate for the fact that the dead customer can't hold his or her head up.

Stylists don't usually put make-up on the deceased's face. If the departed was a customer, however, Crawford said the stylist may advise the funeral home on the person's appearance in life. But because the morticians sometimes stitch the mouth shut and since a heavy base is often used to mask the signs of a particularly painful death, whoever applies the make-up must be careful not to wind up with

a clown-like effect.

The purpose of the entire process is not to create a new style or try innovations on customers who can't complain, said Crawford, but to leave the person looking natural and to help the family and friends through a difficult time.

Crawford said the way the body appears during a funeral can have a lasting effect.

"That is unfortunately the last picture they (family and friends) carry around of that person . . . you want to get it so they look as they did in life. You want to leave them with a comforting memory."

Costello & Associates

We can provide
Senior Management Consulting
in Support of
Programming and Analysis

Call about your current
administrative or research projects

Lee Kohrs at (402)483-7611

FREE CAMERA
with Ring Purchase



The Kodak K400 is just as easy to get as it is to use. For a limited time order your Jostens college ring through your Jostens sales representative or the bookstore. With your ring you will receive a certificate entitling you to a Kodak K400 camera (retail value approximately \$59). Mail it in. Your camera will be sent to you upon receipt of the certificate.

JOSTENS
AMERICA'S COLLEGE RING™

Offer good thru Sat., May 7, 1988

More than ever,
more than a Bookstore.

Open Mon-Fri. 8-5:30 Sat. 9-5:30 Thurs. 'til 9pm

**NEBRASKA
BOOKSTORE**

1300 Q Street

(402) 476-0111

THANKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

In Appreciation of Your Support

During the Past School Year,

Godfather's Pizza

is Giving You

"An Offer You Can't Refuse.®"

\$3.99*

Medium Cheese Pizza

(Eat In or Carry-Out)

\$4.99*

Medium Cheese Pizza Delivered

(*To take advantage of these offers, please ask for this special when ordering.)

At these prices, most places would give you a stripped-down pizza, but not Godfather's Pizza. Our pizzas are loaded with real cheese, our special sauce and any of your favorite toppings for only \$.74 per topping.

So take a break from the books and Stop by or call Godfather's Pizza. Just tell us you want...

"An Offer I Can't Refuse."



12th & Q • 474-6000 N. 48th & Vine • 466-8264

S. 48th & Hwy. 2 • 483-4129

Not valid with other offers, coupons or promotions.

We reserve the right to limit quantities.