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Sizing up clothes that fit a difficult task for some
By COURTNEY McCANN Staff Writer, (609) 272-7219
Published: Thursday, October 26, 2006

Dave Forsman scanned the racks of shoes at Payless Shoe Source in the Shor
His choices at the end of the process: clunky black boots or a pair of brown s

"I can't shop at Macy's, let's put it that way," the Seaville, Upper Township, r
look good."

Blame it on America's expanding waistslines or on the clothing industry's obs
bit too narrow. And it's not getting any better.

The most recent data from the National Center for Health Statistics shows the
Bloomingdale's are slowly scaling back or eliminating their petite departmen

Forsman works as a wine and liquor wholesaler. Ill-fitting clothes don't make
of his shopping is done online or through mail-order catalogs such as Lands'

"It's just the inconvenience," Forsman said. "I'm not an oddity, but I'm bigger

Leslie Maurer wishes that shopping for pants was easy.

A shopping trip for the 21-year-old Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
are petite. And they all range anywhere from a size 8 to a size 12. She has to

"I have fat thighs," Maurer said during a recent shopping trip at the Hamilton

While both men and women share in this struggle to find the perfect fit, large
who sport broad shoulders and bulging necks. The plus-sized woman usually

"Right now I would kill for a decent pair of khaki pants," said Brette Sember

"I hate having to order online or through the mail because you never know w

Plus-sized maternity clothes are almost non-existent. Friends encouraged Sen

"You don't want to buy clothes that are a bigger size because you are not that
you're pregnant."

Fashion trends can be a saving grace. The recent trend of calf-length pants ha
what's available. Shorter women are sent to the junior departments to try and
dragging on the floor. Larger shoppers are stuck spending money on tailors a

"It's more of a nuisance than something to be ashamed of," said Tom Cowart
the way for a special store."

There are a few retailers out there who are beginning to realize the value of tl

"Speaking from personal experience I've found that retailers like Target and'

Steven Canora, senior assistant at Ann Taylor Loft in the Hamilton Mall, say:

And as far as the pregnant shopper is concerned, Sember says designers are s
bbmaternity.com.

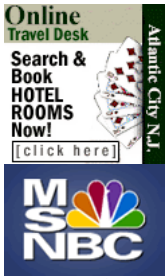
"A lot of women shop on eBay, Sember said. "And there is an online plus-size

It's rough to live outside the clothing charts. But it's something that people su

"Just give me a triple XL sweatshirt, a pair of sandals and a bathing suit and l

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