



Erasing portions of magazine pages can while away the time for a youngster. (Photo by Pat Bordman)

How to erase time

Ever get stuck waiting in the doctor's office with two children in tow? Or, how about that long grocery store checkout line with youngsters along for company? What about that meeting with your attorney or accountant, but the kids have to stay in the outer office? Or, a visit to a friend or relative at the hospital, where those under 14 aren't allowed past the lobby?

These situations might rub you the wrong way, but they do occur. They call for ways to keep the children busy, happy and quiet, with virtually no toys. What to do? Don't despair. Use the available materials.

In almost every situation there is a magazine either out for the use of the patrons, or one that can be purchased close by. Simply add a pencil with an eraser and you're in business.

ON ALL MAGAZINE pages with a shiny surface, it is possible to erase any part of the surface with a soft pencil eraser. A white space is left after erasing. Designs can be imposed on the magazine page by selectively erasing parts of the page. Children find it especially funny to erase the features of a face from a large picture. Or eyeglasses, mustaches, hairstyles can be created on faces that lack these elements.



Pat Bordman

Some eerie effects can be produced by filling in the erased portions with the pencil lead.

If you don't own the magazine, it would be prudent to ask the owner's permission before giving your child the eraser go-ahead. Then, tell the kids to give 'em the rub-off!

Patricia Bordman has taught elementary school and conducted workshops and lectures on education. She also has studied photography at Oakland University. She and her husband have two daughters and live in Farmington Hills.

Taxman helps recover goods

It doesn't happen often, but when it does the results can be catastrophic. What do you do when a trusted store unexpectedly goes out of business with your possessions still inside?

I became aware of the problem when I went to retrieve our slip covers from the dry cleaner. Surprise! The door was locked in the middle of a Wednesday afternoon. Nobody was there the next day either. I could see the slip covers sitting one foot from the plate glass window. But, they were on the wrong side of the glass and the door between us was locked.

I tried the telephone number listed in the phone book. Not surprisingly, no one answered. I called early in the morning, late at night, and on one memorable day, at hourly intervals (I set the timer to remind me). No luck.

By this time two weeks had gone by and I was furious. After all, businesses just can't evaporate—they have obligations to their customers. To which, now that I'm wiser, I add that yes they can, and no they don't if they don't care about good will. My cleaner didn't.

THE NEXT STEP led to nearby stores. The last thing they wanted was to cope with somebody else's irate customer. You really couldn't blame them but this wasn't getting the slipcovers home where they belonged. I would commune with them like a kid with her nose pressed against a candy store window.

Then we left town for a week. I dreaded coming

home to find some new business moved in and our slip covers consigned to a distant dump. Fortunately, that didn't happen, but it might have. Something had to be done.

I called the police. They were sympathetic, but, not in business to break into locked stores, only to keep other people from doing so. No help there.

I tried to find the building's owner. That wasn't easy.

The city clerk's office was sympathetic but didn't have an address or phone number for the property owner. Neither did the phone book. On to the city assessor's office.

IT TOOK TWO DAYS to get through to them. Everybody in town was contesting their tax bills and the joint was jumping. Once contacted, the assessors were delighted to talk to anybody who wasn't complaining about taxes, but they couldn't help. Perhaps the city treasurer could.

And there I bit paydirt. City treasurers send out tax bills and tax bills need addresses. There was



the lively needle

Mary Kay Davis

even a telephone number to call.

It turned out to be a bank which wouldn't give out any information, but, when I explained to the nice woman that all I wanted were my slip covers, she put me on hold and did something magical. Two hours later the dry cleaner's door was unlocked by a delightful lady who should have been wearing a halo.

As we walked through the quiet shop, we saw many other parcels belonging to many other customers who must still be trying to extricate them. Don't give up — you too can succeed.

Learn skills, money handling

Courses oriented to jobs and money saving are among the non-degree classes Oakland University's Division of Continuing Education is offering this spring.

A series of courses for condominium association directors will also be offered. The evening courses begin April 7.

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courses for small business managers and owners will emphasize starting, operating and managing money in a small enterprise.

Thursday, March 20, 1980

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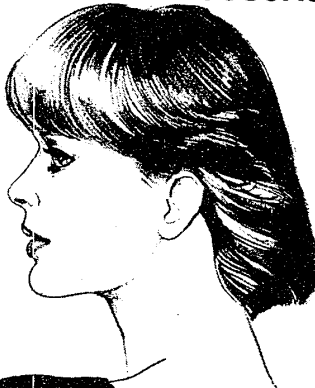


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