

# Nobody on, nobody out

Sportsmanship. When you win, it's easy to be a good sport. But what if you lose? We often push our children to play games where there is a winner. We forget that there is also a loser. Unless the child is athletic, he may wind up on the losing end more often than not. It's hard to be a loser, a good sport and a child all at once.

It is possible to learn sportsmanship, but take the focus off winning. Using typical equipment seems to turn children into the typical ways of playing.

By using unusual equipment, children become free to explore other possibilities. They can create rules that eliminate losers.

LACROSSE TOSS has no firm arrangements. Needed are a soft ball such as a wiffle ball, hollow rubber



Creative play encourages the exploration of possibilities. In Lacrosse toss, the only equipment needed is an everyday plastic container and a ball. And, of course, a friend to share the fun.

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## Pat Bordman

There is no pushing, shoving, or tackling. Second, the ball cannot be thrown with the hand. All other rules can be determined as the game progresses.

THE IDEA IS to toss the ball back and forth between the players. To create a game with only winners, try to keep the ball going as long as possible. If four tosses were possible before a miss last time, try for five or six this time.

Each player has an interest in the other player's success. A miss is every-one's loss and a higher score is to the credit of all. That's sportsmanship.

Patricia Bordman, a free-lance writer and photographer, has taught elementary school and conducted workshops and lectures on education. She is a master's degree candidate at Oakland University specializing in Early Childhood.

Mrs. Bordman welcomes suggestions and comments. Write her c/o Observer-Eccentric Newspapers, 38251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

• PATRICIA BORDMAN

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B.R., Southfield

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Have tax credits for solar systems been increased?  
M.N., Troy

## consumer mailbag

How many inches of insulation should I use to make my house energy proof?  
H.D., Detroit

Consumer Mailbag answers your questions on consumer and environmental issues. Address letters to Concern Inc., Detroit, 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy 48068.

Yes, the Crude Oil Windfall Profits Tax Bill signed into law by President Carter increased solar systems credits from 30 percent of the first \$2,000 and 20 percent of the next \$8,000 to a straight 40 percent of the first \$10,000. On a \$10,000 solar system this represents an increase of \$1,800 from \$2,200 to a \$4,000 tax credit.

The amount of insulation needed to make your home more energy efficient should be measured in R-numbers not in inches. The R stands for resistance to winter heat loss and summer heat gain and is more accurate as a means of designating insulation performance. R-values should be plainly marked on all insulation you or your contractor bought. One brand may be thinner or thicker than another, but if they are rated at the same R-value, the performance will be the same. R-values recommended for the Detroit area are: R-33 for ceilings, R-19 for walls, R-22 for floors.

## Middle years topic of talk

"The Middle Years-Reflections on Marriage and Divorce" will be the topic of Rabbi Morton York at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5 at Congregation B'nai David, 24350 Southfield Road in Southfield.

The lecture is part of a series for the B'nai David Institute of Adult Education and is open to the public free of charge.

For more information call the synagogue office at 557-8210.

ECO-TIP — The fourth highest use of energy within the industrial sector of our economy is food processing. Help conserve energy by using unprocessed foods. Simple foods, such as fresh produce from local growers need not require a large energy investment. They are also free of enrichment additives which consume energy to produce and inject.

## Mad night benefit

Lords and ladies will don masks and costumes for a "Mad Night at the Mansion," Oct. 31 to benefit the Detroit Community Music School.

An elegant historic mansion will open its doors at 9 p.m. to admit a limited number of revelers for a pre-paid donation of \$25.

For reservations, call Richard Findlater, 831-2870.

The Detroit Community Music School was founded in 1926 by the late Mrs. Edsel Ford and her friends to serve as an educational resource for the community by providing quality music and dance instruction to all regardless of age, race or ability. DCMS continues to make its programs available according to each student's means.

The Detroit Community Music School, at 200 E. Kirby, serves more than 1,500 students. Facilities include 22 teaching and practice studios, a 175-seat recital hall, two dance studios, a music library and other offices.

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