

# Observer Life

A fine art

Former Hills resident takes his craft to new levels. C2

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Chatroom

Len McCulloch

## Treatment, diagnosis difficult with ADHD

With school back into full swing for a month or so now, many teachers and parents are facing the issue of dealing with children who have problems, who are different, and who are struggling with learning, behavior, and socialization.

There are many different reasons why children can have such problems and the difficulties take on a variety of forms and are given various diagnostic or psychoeducational labels. By far, the most commonly used term for children with problems in school is Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD).

Major characteristics of children who have ADHD typically are: 1) hyperactivity of motor behavior, 2) decreased attention and concentration abilities, and 3) greater impulsivity than that demonstrated by most children the same age.

### HYPERACTIVITY

Excessive, irrelevant activity is often seen in ADHD children as fidgetiness, restlessness, always "on the go," and display of movement that is not needed to complete tasks. This keeps them from staying in their seat when they should, getting out of their seat when there is no reason to, wriggling feet and legs, tapping things, grabbing things, and often talking nonstop, all to everyone else's annoyance around them.

### ATTENTION DIFFICULTIES

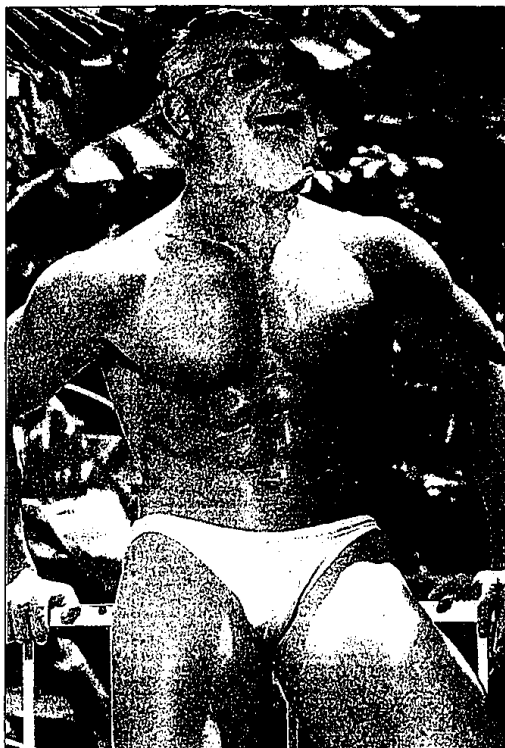
Examples of inattention in ADHD children can be seen in their impaired ability to keep their mind on one task for a sufficient length of time usually needed to finish the task. This can be seen in schoolwork and in play.

They don't finish things they start, are poorly organized, lose things necessary to finish an activity, jump from one topic to another and are unable to stick with the demands of a situation. These kids become bored rapidly and frequently lose concentration during lengthy activities.

### IMPULSIVITY

Impaired impulse control is often seen as an inability to delay immediate gratification. Children who are impulsive cannot seem to wait their turn, blurt out things that interrupt when others are talking, don't stop and think before acting and have great difficulty inhibiting their own behavior. Self-control seems to be lacking. Technically, ADHD is considered a biochemical disorder present since birth and lasting for life. It has no cure.

Just what percentage of people in the general population are truly afflicted with ADHD is uncertain. Statistics are high and many studies estimate that between 2 and 10% of all school-age children worldwide have the disorder. However, since other childhood conditions can cause ADHD-like symptoms, high statistics may be misleading. A major problem is the fact that there is no single test which can differentiate ADHD from non-ADHD children or adults with



February's boy, Ed Repucci, holds four master's degrees, but can't play poker.

## Boys will be boys

Botsford gents buff up for 2003 calendar

BY JONI HUBRED  
STAFF WRITER

The Boys of Botsford meet every Tuesday morning in the activities room at Botsford Commons in Farmington Hills, 12 men with a life-time of experiences to discuss. They're wise.

They're generous.

They're calendar models.

"Besides having charity fund-raising activities, we talk about old times," said Bill Waddell, a six-year resident also known as Mr. April. "We even try to recall how we used to look and remember when we were young and strong."

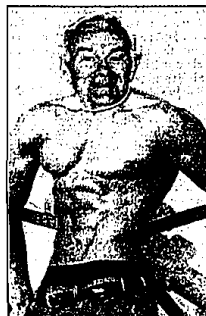
Those memories led to their second annual "Boys of Botsford Calendar," a sequel to the wildly popular 2002 version which brought in thousands of dollars given to the Farmington Hills Police Department's Benevolent Association, which serves public employees in Farmington, Farmington Hills and the Franklin Police Department.

Last year's calendar featured the boys as they look today - posed in various stages of discreet undress. It was produced in black and white. This year, they went all out.

### IN LIVING COLOR

Printed in full color, the 2003 calendar embodies the spirit of these men, whose combined ages total about 965 years. Calendar fans will see those years in their faces, but not in the bodies attached.

Waddell admits he's the computer talent behind the transformation of



In addition to his work as a male model, Bill Waddell is the computer genius behind the Boys of Botsford calendars.

these retirees to buffed, body builders posed provocatively and clad in skimpy bathing suits.

"With a bit of computer magic, the boys have transformed into dreamy hunks we all thought we used to look like," Waddell said.

The calendar includes a disclaimer, in small print on the back just in case anyone might mistake the "models" for the real deal.

"We wish these bodies were ours, but thanks to the young men we borrowed them from, it looks like we took good care of ourselves. If we had known we were going to last as long as we have, we would have taken better care."

In addition to the entertaining photographs, each month includes a recipe or helpful hints, designation of important dates and holidays and a little bit of collected wisdom.

"We don't have to succeed in everything, but we do have to keep on trying."

"If the music is too loud, you're too old."

"Hire your children now, while they still know everything."

### THE BOYS

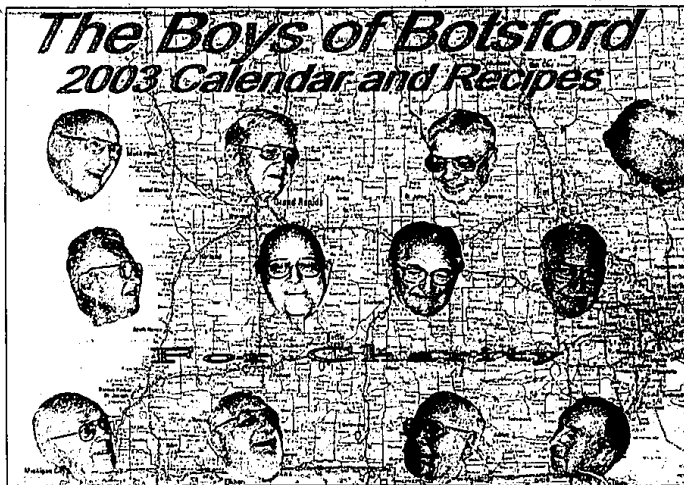
Unfortunately, two of the Botsford boys passed away before the calendar was published. Mr. December, Harry Smart and Mr. January, Capt. Leonard Nowacki, are both fondly remembered.

February's boy, Ed Repucci, was born in August, 1925 in the south. "South Boston, that is. It is rumored that Ed's active social life had him banned from Texas, Mississippi and Arizona."

Repucci also boasts four master's degrees, "but he certainly didn't pay attention when they gave poker lessons."

Bob Allgeyer, as the newest member of the group, was placed in the coveted Mr. October spot. The father of six, grandfather of 17 and great-grandfather to 11 was born in

PLEASE SEE BOYS, C2



The faces on the Boys of Botsford 2002 calendar are real, only the bodies have been changed to sell more copies.

## Heloise is featured speaker at Adat Shalom

BY JONI HUBRED  
STAFF WRITER

The latest technological wonders may be driving the rest of the world, but for a Texan called Heloise, solutions come in one simple hint at a time.

Dubbed the "high priestess of household hints" by the New York Daily News, she will be the featured speaker at the Sisterhood of Adat Shalom's annual Hiddur Mitzvah, which features samples of table settings for Jewish holidays. The event will be held from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Oct. 17, at the synagogue in Farmington Hills.

Heloise said she'll talk about how her mother started on the path that led to today's success.

"It's really quite an inspiring story," said Heloise, who on Monday afternoon succumbed to an overwhelming need to clean but took a break to talk about the world of helpful hints and her mother's unexpected career.

"She was a housewife with no formal training in journalism or anything. She walked into a newspaper office and asked if they would publish her column," Heloise said. "Within two years, it was syndicated."

Heloise has been building her own career since her mother passed away in 1977. The wildly popular "Hints from Heloise" now includes books, a Web site and a national radio show in addition to magazine and newspaper columns.

"I had been working with her full-time for three years," she said, noting her own college graduation in 1974. "The game plan was to work with mother for a couple of years, because she was ill."

### PRACTICAL ADVICE

Instead, even though she had signed a contract to teach, Heloise decided to carry on the tradition of publishing the collective household wisdom of an

entire nation of homemakers, handy-men, business people and even children. One of her favorite new hints came from a youngster who had some advice that could prove valuable for anyone who has a small, furry pet.

Say your pet hamster gets loose and your mother's very upset. You take a trash can, empty out all the paper and lay a pillow at the bottom. Then you cover the top with paper and you prop a yardstick up against the side. Put the hamster's favorite nibbles on the yardstick and the paper.

When the hamster eats his way up the yardstick, he'll step on the paper, fall into the trash can and land safely on the pillow, from which he can't escape.

One youngster submitted a great idea for keeping track of all those papers sent home from school. She decorated two shoe boxes, one marked "In" and one marked "Out." Every day

PLEASE SEE HELOISE, C2



Heloise writes a syndicated column for more than 500 newspapers, in addition to writing books and hosting a weekly radio show.