

Chatroom

There's no place like home

long time ago, in what seems like a different life, someone called me a

nomad.
Though offended, I had to admit the word fit. By actual count, I've moved 36 times. Papa was a rolling stone, and we all followed him, which made childhood a real adventure. I learned to make friends easily and enjoyed a clique-free high school experience.

Since college, my belongings have been toted into apartments, mobile homes, condominiums and holes-ine-wall where it was just me and the hunchbacked mice. So when it comes to moving, you could call me something of an expert.

Of course, each of us has different style, and occasionally, two people with different style, and occasionally, two people with different style, and occasionally, two people with different style, and occasionally, the first big Relationship Step: co-signing a lease.

It seemed like a good idea nomad. Though offended, I had to

myset, in that rist tig
Relationship Step: co-signing a lease.
It seemed like a good idea
at the time. With an October
wedding ahead, distributing
the stress evenly over the
year made sense.
Well, I'm stressed. He's
doing very well.
All lin all, we've both taken
the move pretty much in
stride. It helps that we were
friends before going off the
Deep End; romance, while a
lovely experience, doesn't
last forever.
When it fades, I believe
what's left determines the
path your lives will take And
there is no better feeling;
I than to realize you're travel-

there is no better feeling than to realize you for traveling with your best friend.
Maybe that's why we've had an easier time with the normal stressors involved in moving. There's no power struggle, no having to decide who in charge.

He moves his stuff, he's in charge. I move my stuff, he's in charge.

in charge. Hey, I can abdicate my authority with the best of

Hey, I can abdicate my authority with the best of em.

As mail bout of anget possessed me when my moving buddy didn't seem particularly bothered by the other lark of bother by the other lark of bother by the other lark of bother bout the house two Against the fore moving day, Bather than meter use of energy to make bother than the particular than the price of one. And it still won't be enough. Almost as soon as the boxes appeared, they were filled, which taught me an important lesson: If you nudge him, he will move.

A word of warning, ladies—this axiom doesn't annyt to

important tesson: It you notice his axiom house him, he will move. A word of warning, ladies this axiom doesn't apply to all men. Tread carefully. We also part company when determining how much should be loaded into one box. Having once moved into the top floor of a converted barn, I know its important to keep box weights manageable. Instead of delivering my "Perila of Over-stuffed Boxes" lecture, however, I just did a little field testing and repacking, He never noticed. Better yet, if he had, he wouldn't have the had be wouldn't have gos sometimes don't.

MELLE ME HOMBOUR, CA

Hey, good-lookin'!

Userver Life





Randy Schroeder of Redford is looking great after his mak

Winners of the 'Observer & Eccentric' Make Over My Man contest strut their stuff

O K, ladies, put your lips together and blow.

Anandy Schroeder, 27, of Redford and Bob Bickmeyer, 73, of Troy deserve an old-fashioned wolf call of appreciation. These manly men were bold enough to allow their wives to enter their pictures in the Observer & Econtric's Make Over My Man Contest. And guess what? They won!

Of course, the contest wasn't about needing' a makeover; rather it was about deserving one. And the wives, Dlana Schroeder and Phyllis Bickmeyer, had some mighty sweet – and straighti-

had some mighty sweet - and straight-forward - words to says about their

husbands.

Diana wrote: 'Randy is a hard-working, loving faber, but the only time I've ever seen him in a tie was on our wedding day four years ago... He works long hard hours in a warehouse to support our family. Every day in jeans and T-shirts, he comes home filthy - grease under his nails, on his clothes, hardly bothers combing his halt. He covers it with a hat. Please clean up my handsome young su!"

with a nat. Please clean op in mand-some young guy!"
Phyllis provided this testimonial: "My 73-year-old husband needs a make-over because he is one of those who, after dressing for an occasion, I have to say, dressing for an occasion, I nave to say,
"You're not going to wear that, are you?
When he gets a haircut he simply closes
his eyes and relaxes - never bothers to
watch his barber, allowing himself to be
'scalped.' I say 'barber' because he won't
spend a few more dollars for a hair styllist."

THE MAKEOVER

Last Wednesday, Schroeder and Bickmeyer were pampered at Salon Beillssima in Farmington Hills and treated to new outfils at Parisian at Laurel Park Place in Livonia. Schroeder, Before



Randy Schroeder poses in his 'nice outfit' on Christmas Day. That means no holes in the

who works in a Romulus warehouse by day and plays bass gultar in two bands by night, was getting a whole new look. "I thought a haircut and a shave every other day was decent," he said about his personal grooming habits.

Stylist Margaret Plasek had other ideas. "Were going to cut it shorter, make it messy and put some highlights in it. We're going to do something funky. He's a musician, not a lawyer.

"My wife kind of surprised me we."

"My wife kind of surprised me with the context," said Schroeder, examining the blonde spikes sprouting all over his



Bob Bickmeyer looks stylish in his fall and winter 'walk the dog' outfit. A purple jogging

head. "I thought she might send me to one of these TV programs. This is better... The guys at work told me to just relax and have fun with this. I think my wife was more excited. I was more shocked. Across the aisle at Salon Bellissima att Bickmeyer. He was in the capable hands of atylsit Lydia Boli, "I'n just texturizing his hair a bit, cutting it a bit shorter and showing off his handsome face," she said.

Bickmeyer – an active grandfather of Di grandchildren who plays senior softball and volleyball, rides a bike and

Thank you, sponsors

The Observer & Eccentric would like to thank the following sponsors who contributed to its Make Over My Man contest:

Parisian at Laurel Park Place and Parisian at the new Village of Rochester Hills.

and Parisian at the new Village of Rochester Hills.

Stop ogift certificate from Murray's Jewelry Store inside Discount Auto Store.

Stop ogift certificate from Boyne Country Sports.

Haircut and manieure from Salon Bellissima in Farmington Hills.

Gift certificate from Busch's Market and a consultation with their meal expert on preparing a romantic dinner.

Four tickets to the May 15 Detroit Tiger-Oakland As game, along with autographed memoration, with the stop of the properties of the propagation of the field before the game.

dashes off letters to editors of newspapers and magazines on a variety of topics – is taking his transition in stride.

"I like a challenge, something new and different," he said, his New York accent (Queens) still evident after 16 years in Michigan. "I'm a fun guy. I've done some weird things. I have a sense of humor ... So far, I think I'm going to get a call from Hollywood.

After manicures – "My hands never felt so soft," said Schroeder – the two men were off to the men's department at Farisian, where Schroeder was greeted by his wife. With the help of assistant manager Sury Brown, everyone agreed on a "dressy casual" look, nothing too adventurous fur a couple of conservative guys.

HEATE SH MAKEOVER, CT

STORY BY RENEE SKOGLUND | STAFF WRITER

Model builders get together to work out the details

When Bob Blevins was 6 years old, his older brother helped him build a scale model Volkswagen Beetle. He used so much glue that the plastic melted, but, no matter, he was beeted.

mesca, but, no mater, ne was hooked.
After that it was every weekend with an allowance buying a model kit, starting it Friday night and having it done by Bunday night. Blevina said. The fiscination with recreating ears, motorcycle, trucks, planes and tanks in detalled miniature has held on for Blevina said the 50 other members of the International Plastic Modelers Society Livons.
On the second Tuesday of the

every month during the school year, members assemble in the woodshop room at Holmes Middle School in Livenia, on Newburgh between Five Mile and Stx Mile roads, to display their latest creations, share their techniques and a little history and engage in some friendly competition. Blevins of Westland, who sells auto parts at Tennyson Chevrolet, is the president of the IPMS Livonia and an avid promoter of his bobby and his organization. "As a tecnager, probably 13 or 14, I went to ny first modeling contest, which was actually one held by IPMS Livonia," said Blevins. "I took a couple awards there and have had the bug ever aince."

He's passing along his enthusiaam to his daughters. Kelsey. 12, and Halley, 10, who had their own models on display at a recent club meeting.

"It's been fun being able to teach them different techniques, being able to teach them like my older brother taught me," Blevins said. "It's nice to build something with your own two hands and it's nice to get an award for it. Every job you do is better than the last one." Blevins said the club is trying Blevins said the club is trying

mevins sain the dubt is type hard to attract young people to the hobby, which has been overshadowed in recent years by computer gaming. "We have make and take' programs," Blevins said, "We purchase kits from a model



C.J. Blachford, 14, put together this F-14 Tomcat. He is from Farmington Hills

the state of the s

supplier. We offer them at no charge to kids. In September, we're doing a make and take at

PLEASE SEE MODELS, CO