

## volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities. Further information about these and other volunteer needs at more than 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau at 642-7272. Any non-profit organization needing volunteer assistance also may call the bureau.

**STAFF AIDE** — The WXYZ Action Bureau is looking for persons interested in headline consumer complaints, record research and investigation, recording issues and doing other related tasks. Volunteers should have a college degree or equivalent work experience. A time commitment of six hours a day, two days a week is required, and training is provided.

**INTERVIEWERS** — Volunteers who enjoy meeting and talking to people are needed by the Oakland County Volunteer Bureau in Birmingham. Duties include coming familiar with the needs of agencies in Oakland County and interviewing prospective volunteers to match skills and interests with agency requirements. The commitment is for one half-day each week plus a monthly staff meeting.

# Channeling the charm positively

Children have a way of getting what they want. Whether through cajoling or nagging, youngsters discover early the most effective way of controlling parents.

Often by trial and error, children try out different means of persuasion. Those that work best or produce the biggest response will be repeated.

Batting eyelashes or an impish grin can melt the heart of the most recalcitrant adult. The child that stumbles onto these methods of charm first will have smooth going.

But crying, screaming, kicking and whining are socially unacceptable and immature forms of persuasion that will only damage relationships and make things very difficult for the family whose child has experimented with these forms of control.

ONE OF THE most frightening techniques used by children is breath holding. Because it can elicit an overwhelming response, the child may learn that it is an effective means of controlling the environment. The trick is to ignore behavior that is not acceptable, or to channel it elsewhere.

Though breath holding is generally tried out when a child is very young, letting off some steam is needed at every age. With this project — don't hold your breath!

Take an empty cereal box and cut out circles of varying sizes from the front. The circles should be scattered over the front, not arranged in neat rows.

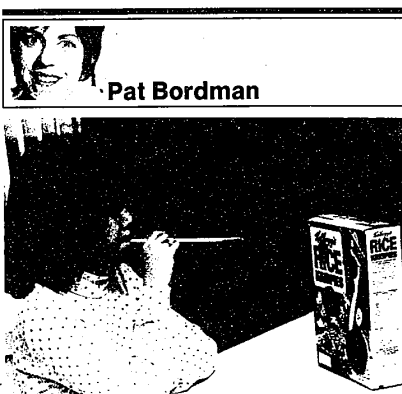
Using a piece of construction paper, cut pieces about 2 inches square.

At least five will be needed per person. Using the eraser end of a pencil, roll the paper around the pencil tip leaving one inch of the paper sticking past the eraser and twist this portion of the paper. This will form a dart-like shape that will not unravel.

Put this dart-like paper on the end of a straw. Aim toward the holes in the cereal box and blow.

Rules are flexible, but three turns per person is a tolerable waiting period. If desired, the holes can be numbered and score kept.

Patricia Bordman, a free-lance writer and photographer, has a master's degree in early childhood education. She has taught elementary school and conducted workshops and lectures. Write her c/o the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.



Pat Bordman

When a child needs to let off a little steam, a straw, a piece of construction paper and an empty cereal box modified to specifications can provide the outlet.

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**Sue Weingarden**  
■ B.A. in Education from Michigan State University  
■ M.A. in Higher Education from Wayne State University  
■ 4 years teaching experience in Warren Woods School District  
■ Certified by the Ethical Hypnosis Training Center, South Orange, NJ  
■ Trained by James H. Hoke of Self Psych, Southfield, MI  
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