



There's no place like home

A 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-in-the-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 a different style, and occasionally, two people with different styles end up moving together. This is the situation in which I have found myself, in that First Big Relationship Step: co-signing a lease.

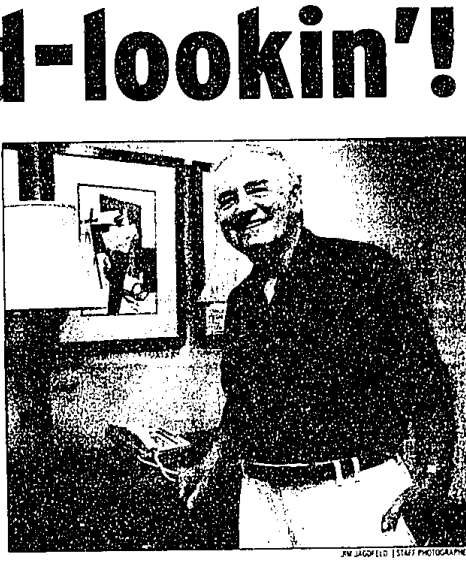
It seemed like a good idea at the time. With an October wedding ahead, distributing the stress evenly over the year made sense.

Well, I'm stressed. He's doing very well. All in 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 than to realize you're 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's in charge.



Randy Schroeder of Redford is looking great after his makeover.



Bob Bickmeyer of Troy is dressed to go.

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

OK, ladies, put your lips together and blow. Randy 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 & Eccentric's* Make Over My Man Contest.

Of course, the contest wasn't about "needing" a makeover; rather it was about "deserving" one. And the wives, Diana Schroeder and Phyllis Bickmeyer, had some mighty sweet - and straightforward - words to say about their husbands.

Diann wrote: "Randy is a hard-working, loving father, 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, hardy bothers combing his hair. He covers it with a hat. Please clean up my handsome 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, '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 stylist."



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



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

who works in a Romulus warehouse by day and plays bass guitar 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. "We're 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 with the contest," said Schroeder, examining the blonde spikes sprouting all over his 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 sat Bickmeyer. He was in the capable hands of stylist Lydia Bell. "It's just texturizing his hair a bit, cutting it a bit shorter and showing off his handsome face," she said.

THE MAKEOVER

Last Wednesday, Schroeder and Bickmeyer were paraded at Salon Bellissima in Farmington Hills and treated to new outfits at Parisian at Laurel Park Place in Livonia. Schroeder,

Bickmeyer - an active grandfather of 10 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.
 - \$100 gift certificate from Murray's Jewelry Store inside Discount Auto Store.
 - \$100 gift certificate from Boyne Country Sports.
 - Haircut and manicure 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 A's game, along with autographed memorabilia, baseball and an appearance on 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 Parisian, where Schroeder was greeted by his wife. With the help of assistant manager Suzy Brown, everyone agreed on a "dressy casual" look, nothing too adventurous for a couple of conservative guys.

PLEASE SEE MAKEOVER, C7

STORY BY RENEE SKOGLUND | STAFF WRITER

Model builders get together to work out the details

BY HUGH BALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

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 hooked.

every month during the school year, members assemble in the woodshop room at Holmes Middle School in Livonia, on Newburgh between Five Mile and Six Mile roads, to display their latest creations, share their techniques and a little history and engage in some friendly competition.

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



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

supplier. We offer them at no charge to kids. In September, we're doing a make and take at the Westland Library." PLEASE SEE MODELS, C6