

# Partners need mutual respect

THE BRIDGE CROWD



WOODY BOYD

John Nance "Cactus Jack" Garner was Franklin Roosevelt's VP during his first term as President of our United States. He could be a mighty cantankerous bellyful at moments, which prompted those who didn't know him to step softly in his presence.

On occasion though, the VP was gifted in his delivery. Here follows a case in point. "If you have respect for people as they are, you can be more effective in helping them to become better than they are." I think this has significant application to a partnership at the bridge table. Two with mutual respect can serve each other in their pursuit to improve, and that ultimately leads to success.

I have played against George and Jeanne Stanovich of Farmington on numerous occasions these last few years but never had the pleasure till now to partner one or the other. Such became a reality recently when Jules Stroas suggested that George and I had a common denominator in our styles.

So be it, in Jeanne's absence, we agreed to enter SOMBA's September Sectional I.M.P. Pair Play. No one told me till it was too late that George had driven 800 miles, from Virginia that some day. Three and a half days after, to neither of our surprise, we had a 69-percent first-class finish.

George played superbly. Joyce Krout later told me that George was quite capable of finishing in the money in any tough game, and I could now see why. He is an exceptionally comfortable partner, and I love to play under these mutually respectful circumstances — for there is little that deflects one's concentration.

In the course of 24 boards, there were a number of exceptional hands. Eight successful slams and most of the field found many fewer — two games that only two other pairs played and a defense that was quite remarkable. But I was particularly pleased with George's fine performance on this one, which was a tie for a top, as just four other pairs out of the 40-table field found the four-spade game and succeeded. When you look at fifty-two, it looks ever so easy, but by the rules of this game, a declarer isn't graced with that advantage.

Many E/W were playing four hearts down one, losing two tricks in each minor suit, but one pair beat it two by executing unusual brilliance or uncommon ignorance. South led the diamond king and, when North played the seven, he decided at trick two to give his partner a ruff, expecting he held a singleton.

North won his queen and then played his club king! Yes, his club king, forcing declarer's ace to get ruffed. The defenders still had to win the clubs.

But George was working on a four-spade contract. Seven of George's eight reasons for bidding the spade game were his expected heart shortness in dummy. To his never-show-emotion disappointment to my 13 points, I guessed he had seldom played a puzzle poser of this proportion. For sure, there were two heart losers and a strong likelihood of an equal number of trumps.

East had at least one ace but not two with his preemptive opener as he was a well-recognized disciplined bidder. At trick (4) after ruffing East's heart continuation, George played dummy's club king!

East covered and George ruffed, which solved that perplexing mystery. West obviously had the spade ace and maybe the lady, but not both missing honors or he probably would have doubled. At trick (5), George played the spade jack and when West inserted his eight, George confidently inserted dummy's king, smothering East's singleton queen and victory.

After the conquest had ended, I asked the star of our partnership what he would have done at trick (4) if East hadn't played the ace. Believe me, there are geniuses out there on defense who might not have. And that would still leave the position of the two missing aces in doubt. With a victory smile, he quietly replied, "I wasn't faced with that dilemma."

Woody Boyd teaches local bridge classes and is a life master. He lives in Bloomfield Township. To leave a message for Boyd, from a touch-tone phone, call 953-2047, Ext. 1853.

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## FASHION CALENDAR

### FRIDAY, NOV. 20

**Saks Fifth Avenue**  
Donna Karan & DKNY Hosiery Fashion Focus Week, with preview of Holiday Legwear Collection, through Saturday, Nov. 21, in Accessories, First Floor, at Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection in Troy.  
Hilditch & Key Furnishings,

Fashion Focus Week, featuring luxury shirts, ties and accessories, through Saturday, Nov. 21, in the Men's Shop, First Floor.

Andre Laug Spring '93 Collection with informal modeling 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Saturday, Nov. 21, in Designer Salon, Second Floor. Anne Klein II Petite Collection with special representative Sally Slachta, in Petites, Third Floor.

**Trunk show**  
Stuart Weitzman Spring '93

footwear collection in trunk show 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Saturday, Nov. 21, at Roz & Sherm at Bloomfield Plaza in Bloomfield Township.

### SATURDAY, NOV. 21

**Roz & Sherm**  
Bridalmaid gowns and second wedding gowns informally modeled 1-4 p.m. at Roz & Sherm at Bloomfield Plaza in Bloomfield Township. Fall and winter collec-

tions of designer Zela modeled informally noon to 4 p.m.

### MONDAY, NOV. 30

**Saks showings**  
Adolfo Spring '93 Collection in Designer Salon, second floor, with informal modeling 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection in Troy.  
Tahari Fashion Week featuring suits, dresses, sportswear and petite collections.

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