

# Credit on heating may be available



RENEE MAHLER

**ON AGING**  
Q. We have an 87-year-old neighbor. He lives alone in his own home and has limited funds. The house is in need of repair and we don't think he has enough money to pay his heating bills. We are worried about him surviving the cold winter months. My husband has tried to make some repairs for him, but he needs more than we know how to do. I think if his house was in good shape his heating problems wouldn't be so bad.  
A. There are many low-income older adults and other low-income Michigan residents who may have difficulties paying their heating bills or making the home repairs they need to keep out the winter.

Fortunately the State of Michigan has an Energy Assistance Program that can help. Unfortunately, many people who need this type of assistance don't know about the programs or that they are eligible for them. People may not know where to go to get this help, either.

A variety of programs are available, provided by the Michigan Department of Social Services, various utility companies and other public and private agencies and organizations. Programs include emergency services, special energy payment plans and heating assistance plans. Several energy-saving plans include home repairs and improvements geared to energy conservation and savings.

Eligibility for most of these programs is based on age, income and need. Programs for those needing immediate assistance and who have had their heating turned off or have received shut-off notices also are available.

Covering the entire state, information concerning energy assistance may be obtained from a variety of sources such as departments of social services, area agencies on aging, United Way agencies, local community action agencies, senior centers, and nutrition sites. Consult your telephone directory for the telephone numbers in your area.

Renee Mahler is a gerontologist and the director of communications and admission at a Rochester Hills nursing facility. She is a former member of the Michigan State Commission on Services to the Aging.

# How to deal with an ambush

THE BRIDGE CROWD



WOODY BOYD

Los Angeles, some 10 years ago. It was always a formidable pleasure to sit in the games Billy Eisenberg arranged, as the talent was usually exceptional. On this occasion, Danny Rotman was a late arrival. And Don Adams of "Get Smart" fame volunteered to sit in for a few deals. Actually Don was a fairly decent player, but he had a terrible habit of showing his cards, even though he kept them well chested. In spite of the fact that he possesses one of Hollywood's most professional poker expressions, one usually knew when he held cards. On this occasion I had a ringside seat as dummy sitting North, witnessing the uncanny artistry of my skilled partner, Larry Cohen, after the bidding shown.

N	E	Larry	W
-	-	3NT	**
-2NT	-	-	-

\*West's first pass was a noticeably different pitch.  
\*\*His second, oh so hesitant, pass confirmed he had the keys to the card kingdom.

N/S vulnerable

♠ Q 10 9	♠ 8 5 4 3
♥ Q 10 3	♥ 8 2
♦ K 9 7 8	♦ 5 4 3
♣ 10 9 8	♣ 5 4 3 2

  

♠ A 7 2	♠ 8 5 4 3
♥ A K J 7	♥ 8 2
♦ A 2	♦ 5 4 3
♣ A 7 6	♣ 5 4 3 2

W. led 4-K

West, overzealous and displaying an unusual exuberance, placed the club king in play with absolute. Naturally I wondered, as did a covey of kibitzers, just how much of this incaution my partner had observed. In less than a tic-tic, it was apparent to all save one that Larry had reached the same universal conclusion. West had all of the missing high cards and put that advantage to his benefit in a professionally predictable manner.

West's king and queen of clubs were allowed to win, but declarer won the jack continuation. At trick (4) a low diamond won by dummy's king after West hesitated and then inserted the 10. Trick (5-8) declarer won four hearts ending in his hand as a spade was pitched from dummy. At trick (9) the inevitable diamond throw in, entitling West to win the defenses last two. At (11) the forced spade play then permitted dummy to win the spade queen and long diamond, and Larry's spade ace was the fulfilling contract ninth trick.

Best we all learn something from this lesson. Never, never show your cards until they're put in play on the table. Best to always bid and play in a consistently even tempo, otherwise the expert will getcha!

# Scholarship is available

The Michigan Hospital Public Relations Association is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to the Michigan college or university seniors or graduate students who is publishing a degree in journalism, public relations or communications. For further information, contact Julie Robinson, scholarship chairwoman, at William Beaumont Hospital, 746 Purdy, Birmingham, or call 258-0678.

# Home hospice program looking for volunteers

The Michigan Cancer Foundation is looking for hospice volunteers to visit homes in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties. A training program will begin in March for anyone interested in helping people with cancer live the final stage of their lives with dignity, and for anyone interested in providing bereavement support to family and friends.

The educational program will be 6-9 p.m. Wednesdays at the Jean and Samuel Frankel Community Services Center, 18831 W. 12 Mile, Lathrup Village. Sessions begin March 3 and continue weekly through April 7. For more information, call 833-0710 Ext. 763.

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