

Sino-British row over HK democratisation

HONG KONG, Nov 23: China will negotiate no further with Britain unless Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten gives up his proposals for wider democratisation in Hong Kong...

10 pc of population flee Bhutan to escape violence

BIRATMOD, Nepal, Nov 23: More than 70,000 people who claim to be citizens of Bhutan — 10 per cent of the tiny Kingdom's population — have flooded into eastern Nepal...

been in the Timal refugee camp since December 1991 after fleeing their home in southern Bhutan's Chitrang district.

refugees originally came from northeast India and not from Bhutan. Bhutan's Foreign Affairs Minister Dawa Thering, who was recently in Kathmandu to discuss the problem with Nepalese authorities...

community, that they are slowly being outnumbered by Nepalese immigrants in their own country. Nepalese immigrants already constitute at least a third of Bhutan's total population.

Buddhist dress. The measures provoked resentment in the ethnic Nepalese majority south, the appearance of clandestine movements that often reacted violently against 'discrimination' and 'human rights violations'...

ANC summit: Interim govt main agenda. VERENINGO, South Africa, Nov 23: Setting a date to elect an interim government in South Africa will be the top priority at the ANC's summit next month...

BRIEFLY

Pindi to extradite 2 to US: Pakistan is to extradite two men wanted in the United States on drugs charges in the next few days and has arrested a Somali and a Palestinian for smuggling heroin...

4 killed in N Iraqi hotel blast: Four people were killed and 21 injured Sunday when a bomb ripped through a hotel in a Kurdish-controlled city of Northern Iraq...

Clinton attends Catholic mass: US President-elect Bill Clinton, a Baptist, attended a Catholic mass in Little Rock Sunday along with the revered Jesse Jackson...

Typhoon gay hits Guam: Typhoon Gay hit Guam on Monday, but apparently caused no major damage in this capital city...

LIMA: Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori (R) and his wife Susana flash their ink-stained fingers to supporters on Sunday outside a local polling station shortly after casting their votes to elect a constituent assembly.

London Film Festival ends: LONDON, Nov 23: The 36th London Film Festival which opened on November 5 concluded Sunday evening by Premier screening the film 'Bald Runner'...

Thatcher fades as intrigues grip British politics: LONDON, Nov 23: Two years ago, Margaret Thatcher resigned as Prime Minister in the face of a Conservative Party revolt...

Sudan rejects confederation proposal: KHARTOUM, Nov 23: A senior Sudanese official has rejected the proposal by rebel leader John Garang for the creation of two confederated states in Sudan...

Sophia Loren visits starving Somalis: NAIROBI, Nov 23: Italian actress Sophia Loren, who last week became a United Nations 'goodwill' ambassador, yesterday travelled to the western Somali town of Baidoa to visit tens of thousands of starving people displaced by civil war and drought...

UN Council may not agree to ease sanctions against Iraq: A central demand was that Baghdad cooperate with UN experts in dismantling its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programme...

Communists win Lithuanian polls: VILNIUS, Lithuania, Nov 23: Lithuania's former Communist Party captured a majority in last week's election, winning 73 out of 141 parliamentary seats...

Miss Globe beauty contest winner from Thailand's Queen Sirikit during a parade in downtown Bangkok. Miss Globe was in Bangkok as part of the year-long celebration of Queen's Sirikit's 60th birthday August 12.

1200 gather to mark Kennedy's assassination: DALLAS, Texas, Nov 23: More than 1,200 people gathered here Sunday to mark the anniversary of the assassination of President John Kennedy...

Fujimori wins Peru election: LIMA, Nov 23: At least 25 people were killed over the weekend in northeastern Peru in clashes between a civilian self-defence group and left-wing rebels...

Another report says: President Alberto Fujimori's supporters won the largest block of Constituent Assembly seats Sunday in elections, boycotted by main opposition parties...

For Peruvians, the result also means that the second most powerful man in the country will be a Fujimori ally. Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka, 48, heads the new majority-change 90 list which won between 38 and 44 seats in the 80-seat Assembly to rewrite Peru's constitution...

Thatcher, the strident voice crying 'no' to a federal Europe, has watched as like-minded Conservatives rose up against the pro-European Major this month, compelling him to slow down the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty on European Unity.

scandal about arms sales to Iraq. Only the Independent on Sunday chose to devote a whole story to the woman who led Britain for 11-12 years.

former Soviet block. She also snipes at Major from the sidelines. Made a baroness on Major's recommendation in June...

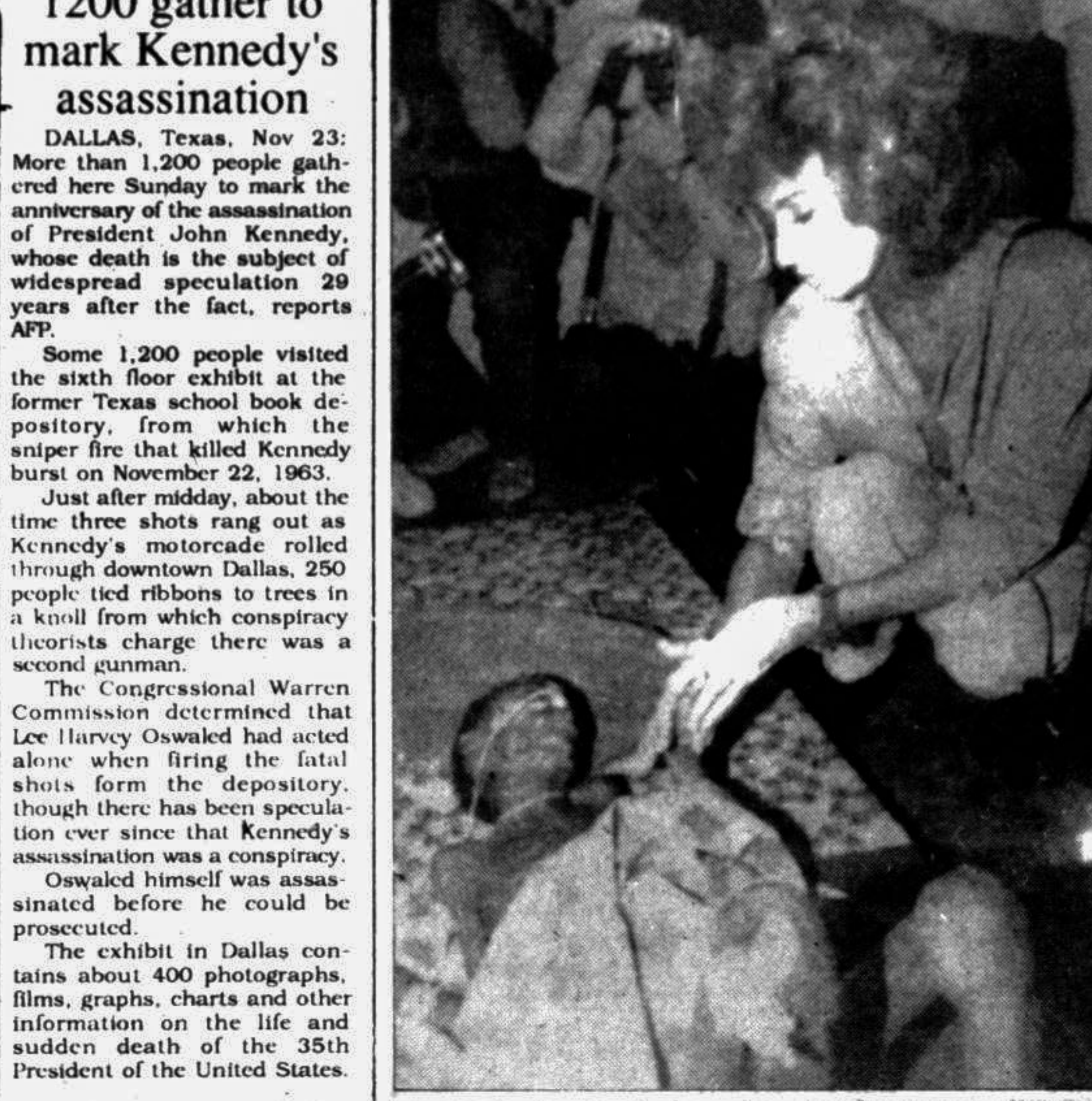
Ignoring the rule that speeches by new lords and ladies should avoid controversy, she railed against what she saw as creeping European centralisation and demanded to know why Britain was not holding a referendum on Maastricht.

When the Conservatives held their annual autumn conference, the 'iron lady' sounded off again about Europe, but the bombshell blew up in her face. In the end the party rallied behind Major who emerged strengthened by the confrontation.

Commentators said at the time Major had finally exercised the ghost of his steely predecessor. She may draw some satisfaction from recent opinion polls showing that both Major and Maastricht are deeply unpopular with the British public.

Colonel Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), announced the proposal on Thursday in the Zimbabwean capital Harare during a two-week visit to southern Africa.

Under the initiative, each state would have its own constitution but for a joint defence force against foreign aggression.



BAIDOA, Somalia: Italian actress and UNHCR goodwill ambassador Sophia Loren kneels to comfort a child suffering from starvation at Baidoa hospital on Sunday. Children are dying at a rate of 30 to 40 a day.

UN Council may not agree to ease sanctions against Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 23: Top Iraqi officials planned to appear before the UN Security Council on Monday, but UN representatives said the council would likely not agree to ease economic sanctions imposed after the Gulf War...

The UN officials said Baghdad has continued to be evasive in providing information about its nuclear weapons programme ceasefire terms require Iraq to cooperate in dismantling the programme before sanctions can be lifted.

There's been no movement to date which would give the council any inclination to consider lifting or modifying the sanctions any time in the near future, said Andre Ergos of Hungary, who is chairing the Security Council this month.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and Foreign Minister Mohammed Said al-Sahaf were scheduled to appear before the council. They were expected to request an easing of the embargo.

In a letter to the Security Council released Friday, al-Sahaf said Iraq has 'fully discharged the substantive obligations' imposed by the council

at the end of the war. Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission overseeing the disarmament programme, said 'the arguments contained in the letter were weak'...

Iraq has said the sanctions have hurt the civilian population, causing food shortages, disease and hundreds of deaths.

The council imposed sanctions to punish Iraq for invading Kuwait in August 1990. Baghdad was routed from the emirate by US-led forces in the 1991 Gulf War.

Ekeus said cooperation with Iraq has deteriorated since last spring. Ekeus and Hans Blix, director of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, also were to address the Security Council on Monday.

Ekeus said Baghdad's refusal to provide a list of Western companies that aided Iraq's nuclear weapons programme has been a 'major sticking point'. A UN inspection team was denied the list on a visit this month to Iraq.

Communists win Lithuanian polls

VILNIUS, Lithuania, Nov 23: Lithuania's former Communist Party captured a majority in last week's election, winning 73 out of 141 parliamentary seats, according to official election results released Monday, reports AP.

Sajudis, the anti-Communist Party that lead Lithuania to independence 21-22 years ago, won only 30 seats, election officials reported.

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Off the Record

Before love, she wants to make sure he's not her father

OLONGAPO, Philippines: Before Michelle Ramil makes love to any middle-aged Black American Marine, she demands to know if and when he has ever been to the Philippines before, reports Reuter.

I want to make sure the man I'm giving myself to isn't my father, says the 25-year-old half-Filipino, half-American receptionist at a restaurant just outside the Subic Bay Naval Base in Olongapo city.

Ramil, along with thousands of other Amerastans living around former US military bases, are part of the human legacy the United States leaves behind when it pulls out the last of its troops from the Philippines tomorrow.

So is Lenny Cruz, a government clerk. At 30, he is one of 269 Filipinos officially afflicted with the AIDS-causing HIV virus, unofficial estimates put the number of people with HIV at up to 30,000.

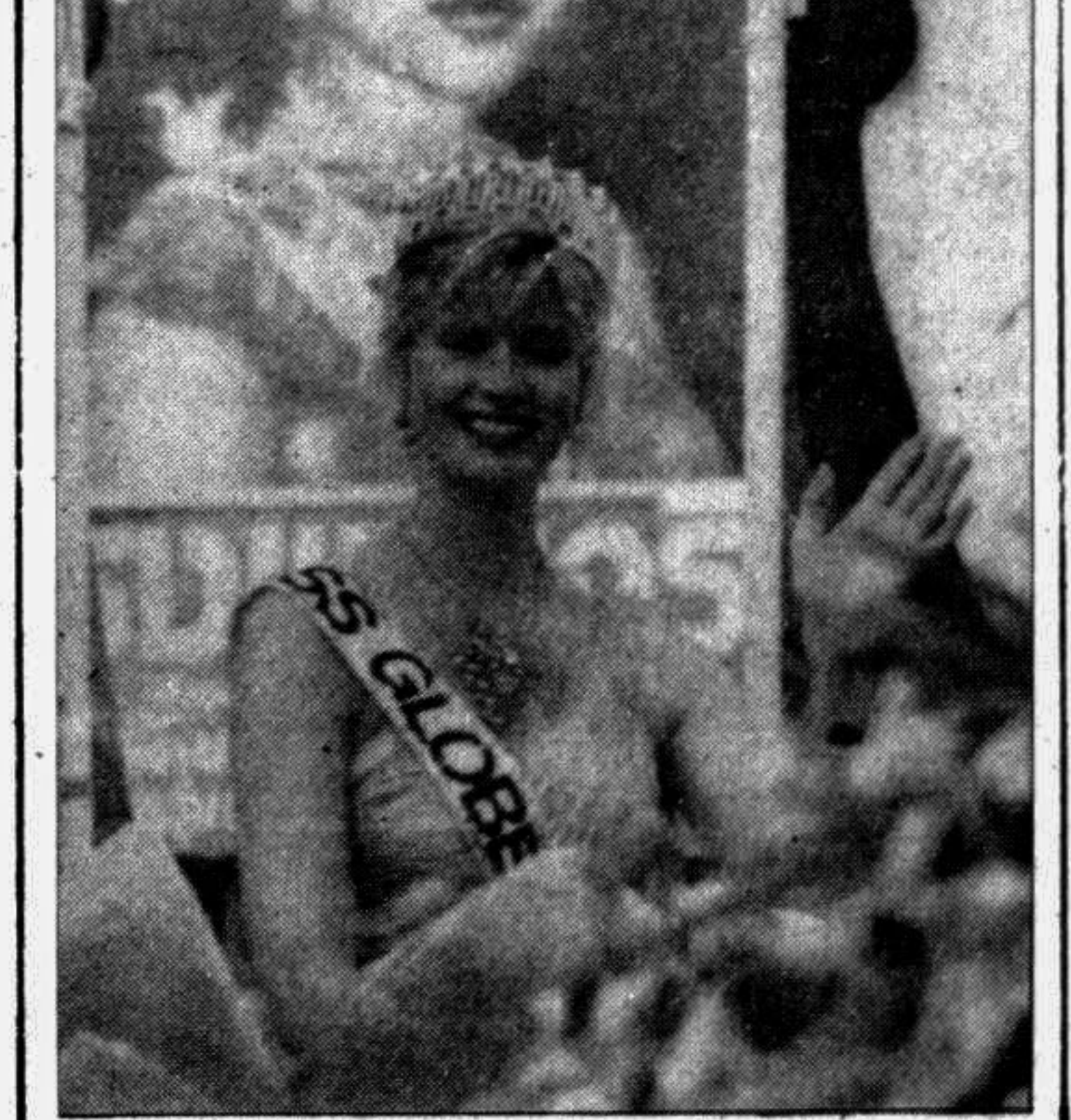
All because they thought he was Jewish

WUPPERTAL, Germany: Two far-right youths beat a man to death because they thought he was Jewish, pouring alcoholic spirit over him and setting it alight, police announced Sunday, reports AFP.

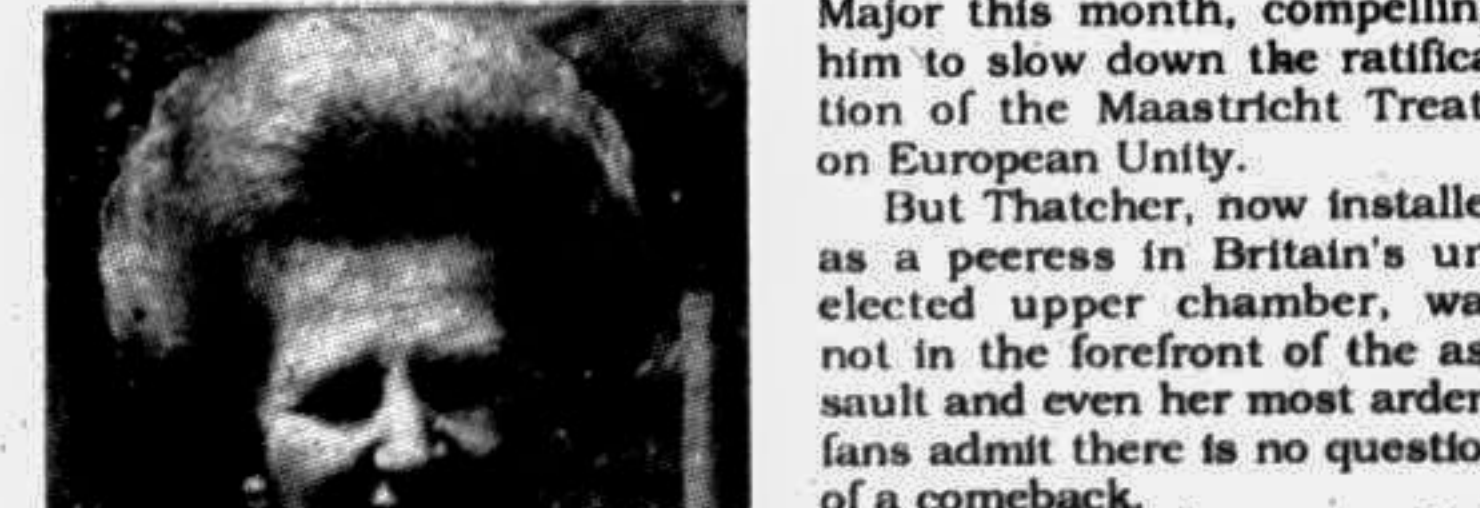
They youths, described as skinheads and aged 18 and 24, together with the owner of a restaurant in the western German city of Wuppertal where the man was killed on November 13, were arrested and have admitted to the crime.

They drove the dying victim in the restaurant owner's car to Venlo, in the Netherlands, where the man's body was found the next day.

The youths had turned on the representative after he called them 'dirty Nazis', and the proprietor of the restaurant had intervened to tell them that the man was Jewish.



BANGKOK: Miss Globe, a beauty contest winner from the United States poses Sunday in front of a picture of Thailand's Queen Sirikit during a parade in downtown Bangkok. Miss Globe was in Bangkok as part of the year-long celebration of Queen's Sirikit's 60th birthday August 12.



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