

World number three Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario through with a double-fisted backhand in her match against American Linda Harvey-Wild on September 2. Sanchez-Vicario triumphed 6-2, 6-2. —AFP photo

Navratilova goes on and on

NEW YORK, Sept 3: The years have been kind to Martina Navratilova, even if the schedule makers at the US Open were not.

Navratilova, six weeks short of her 37th birthday, still has the game and resolve to succeed in Grand Slam tennis, and she out both on display Thursday night, dispatching Sabine Appelmans 6-1, 6-3, reports AP.

It took her just 60 minutes, but she had been waiting since Monday to play them.

"It was weird playing out there," Navratilova said. "I am glad I got it out of the way. I played Monday at 1 and I played Thursday at night. Is there a tournament going on here? I have been hitting at Central Park and biding time."

While Navratilova was defeating Appelmans on the grandstand, Boris Becker was next door in the stadium, playing a first-round match four days into the tournament. Navratilova just shook her head. "That is

beyond comment," she said, "beyond 'No comment'."

The delay hardly disturbed the grand dame's game, though. She zipped through the match, although there were moments of frustration for her, starting with jets zooming over the National Tennis Center.

"I could hardly hear the ball with the planes," Navratilova said. "It really messed me up a couple of times."

Then there was the matter of not blitzing Appelmans, actually losing four games and even having her serve broken in the second set.

"She started playing better and I played about the same," Navratilova said. "I think I let her get in the groove of my serve a little bit. I didn't mix it up."

It was as if she were making mental notes for the next match, whenever that happens to be.

Seeded No 3 Navratilova feels she can still make trouble in this tournament that she has won four times.

"I think I am playing well

enough to get through the next round," she said. "I mean I am picking it up and I have been hitting the ball real solid. There is really nothing that should just go off and not work. Everything is working and everything is pretty solid technically."

"Even if I get nervous, the technique carries me through. And if the technique falls apart, my head carries me through. So I have a pretty good backup system."

And it still works after 21 years on the Grand Slam tour.

Navratilova admitted that she sometimes gets tired of the grind. "Sure I do," she said. "All the time."

Her solution?

"I try not to think about it," she said. "I pack my bags and go to the next city. And I call the hotel and tell them all that I forgot."

The one thing she always remembers, though, is her game. And it's there, whenever the schedule makers decide to put it on display.

Joao Havelange envisages World Cup 2002 in Asia

TOKYO, Sept 3: FIFA President Joao Havelange said Thursday he hoped the 2002 World Cup would be staged in Asia, and he indicated Japan was a strong candidate to play host, reports AP.

Havelange, a Brazilian lawyer, said soccer's world governing body would decide the 2002 host in 1996.

Outlining certain conditions for staging the World Cup, Havelange said, "Japan does not satisfy all these conditions."

The conditions include security, a fine telecommunications network, a strong currency, five-star hotels and first-class hospitals, and an 80,000-seat stadium for opening and closing ceremonies, he said.

When reporters noted that Japan does not now have an 80,000 seat stadium, Havelange replied, "I mentioned some 15-20 requirements for the presentation for candidacy. A decision will be taken only in 1996. Six years will remain before 2002, plenty of time for the improvement of facilities."

He mentioned Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Malaysia, South and North Korea and China as other host candidates.

Havelange is in Japan for the Under-17 World Soccer Championship, and he praised "the outstanding organisation by the Japanese."

Defending champion Ghana meets Nigeria in the finals Saturday in Tokyo's National Stadium.

A total of 135,000 spectators have attended the 30 matches held so far across the country, and it will reach 150,000 when the tournament was held in Rome two years ago, he said.

This compares with total attendance of 50,000 when the tournament was held in Rome two years ago, he said.

Ghana, Japan, Mexico, Italy, Nigeria, Australia, Argentina, Canada, the Czech-Slovakia Republics joint team, the United States, Colombia, Qatar, Poland, Chile, Tunisia and China played in this year's Under-17 championships.

Wattana still wends his way

BLACKPOOL, England, Sept 3: Thailand's James Wattana will be the only Asian representative in the International Open after a dismal day for the continent's snooker players here on Thursday, reports AP.

Two Indians, two Thais and Hong Kong's Franky Chan all failed to progress to the final qualifying competition for the 200,000 pound tournament.

Chan, the world number 79, came the closest to reaching the next phase when he lost 5-4 to Malta's Alex Borg in the seventh round.

Breaks of 55, 79 and 45 helped Borg to build a 3-1 lead at the interval, but Chan rallied strongly, winning the fifth frame with a run of 50 and the sixth on the black to level at 3-3.

The next two frames were shared, but the attacking Maltese left-hander claimed a scrappy decider.

Thailand's Noppadon Noppachorn had also been beaten by the odd frame in nine a round earlier by England's Darren Hachison.

The 1991 world amateur champion, who was forced to negotiate a pre-qualifying match last month, beat another Englishman Craig Newson 5-2 before bowing out to Hachison.

Noppachorn's compatriot, Suraya Suwannasingh, was whitewashed 5-0 in the fifth round by Matthew Couch of England.

Sonic Multani went out at the same stage to former British junior champion Kevin Young, while fellow-Indian Yasin Merchant tasted defeat for the first time in nine matches when he was a surprise 5-2 victim of England's Eddie Lott in round six.

Alcohol gets in Hagler's way

CONWAY, N.H., Sept 3: Former world middleweight boxing champion Marvin Hagler was fined \$350 and had his driver's licence suspended for 90 days after being found guilty Thursday of drunken driving, reports AP.

Hagler, 39, was pulled over July 8 on Route 302 in Bartlett. He refused to take a breathalyzer test at the time.

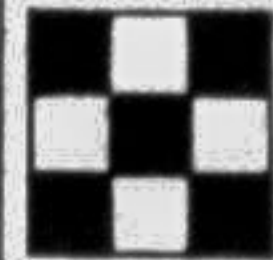
Hagler made no statement, although his lawyer said he will appeal the ruling by Judge James Patten in the district court for Northern Carroll County.

Hagler reigned as world middleweight champion from 1980 to 1987, when his career ended with a split decision loss to Ray Leonard. His career record was 62-3-2 with 52 knockouts.

He recently was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

His personal life has been marked by controversy, including a guilty plea in 1991 to assaulting his former girlfriend, Lisa Pilagoria, in a Boston hotel room.

War of lords reaches its peak



LONDON, Sept 3: The chess war start next week, with rival contests billed as World Chess Championships and behind-the-scenes battles for control of the game, reports AP.

World champion Garry Kasparov and his British challenger, Nigel Short, say their match is the only one that counts. But former world champion Anatoli Karpov and Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman also are fighting for a crown.

The two competitions mark a bitter split in the top echelons of world chess, which has been dominated since 1948 by the World Chess Federation, known by its French initials FIDE.

In February, Kasparov and Short rejected FIDE's selection of Manchester, England for their title match, saying they

fact that the Soviet Union no longer exists," Kasparov told British Broadcasting Corp radio on Thursday.

The Kasparov-Short match, billed as The Times World Chess Championship, starts Tuesday in London. The 24-game contest is sponsored by The Times newspaper and Teleworld Holdings, which is based in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

The 1.7 million pounds (dhs 2.55 million) in prize-money represents one of the largest purses in championship chess.

Kasparov and Short plans to give 10 per cent to the association, with the winner getting five-eighths and the loser three-eighths of the remainder.

When the two players refused to play for FIDE, the federation stripped Kasparov of this world title and eliminated Short as his top challenger. It then selected Karpov and

frances (dhs 2.75 million), with half put up by each country.

But Hendrik van Buren said Thursday that Dutch organisers could not raise their half, so the prize money has been reduced to 2 million Swiss francs (dhs 1.38 million). He blamed the recession for drying up corporate sponsorship.

"This is a return to amateurism," an annoyed Timman told Dutch radio. "I take it as an attack on my personal honour, but there's nothing I can do."

Van Buren said no entrance fees would be charged for the Dutch half of the tournament because this would require sponsors to pay tax, scaring some away. In contrast, London organisers are charging 20 pounds to 55 pounds (dhs 30 to dhs 82.50) for tickets.

At a news conference Thursday, Kasparov said he had just had a quick look in the Savoy

the media considered the London match to be the World Championship. Organisers have sold 77 hours of television time for the match in Britain alone.

"The World Championship match is not about the quarrel, or about the fight between two organisations," Kasparov said.

"It's just about the best chess player in the planet. And there's no doubt about my legacy as a world champion and there's no doubt about Nigel Short's legacy as the challenger," he said.

But FIDE permanent secretary Casto Abundo said Kasparov lost his title just like American world champion Bobby Fischer when the refused to play in 1975 — and either Karpov or Timman will be world champion.

The next battle between FIDE and the Professional Chess Association is for control of the next round of qualifying matches.

Short said the association has invited the top 50 chess players to a qualifying tournament in Groningen in the Netherlands in December. Kasparov said more than 40 had already accepted.

Underlying the chess war is the association's determination to put professional chess on the same commercial footing as professional golf and tennis — with similarly lucrative prizes.

Kasparov and Short believe that the success of the London match will attract other sponsors, and that big money eventually will lure recalcitrant players to the association's tournaments.

Aussie concern for women athletes

ADELAIDE, Australia, Sept 3: An Australian government department on Friday issued two booklets advising women athletes how to take advantage of their menstrual cycles to boost performance, reports Reuters.

The booklets, based on interviews with 50 women from the 1992 Australian Olympic Squad and the national Under-21 netball side, detailed how the menstrual cycle affects athletes.

Pre-Menstrual Syndrome (PMS) can hamper training and competition, while at other times natural hormones bolster performance, according to the booklets.

They say women athletes can plan ahead to ensure they compete in major events at the optimum point of their menstrual cycle.

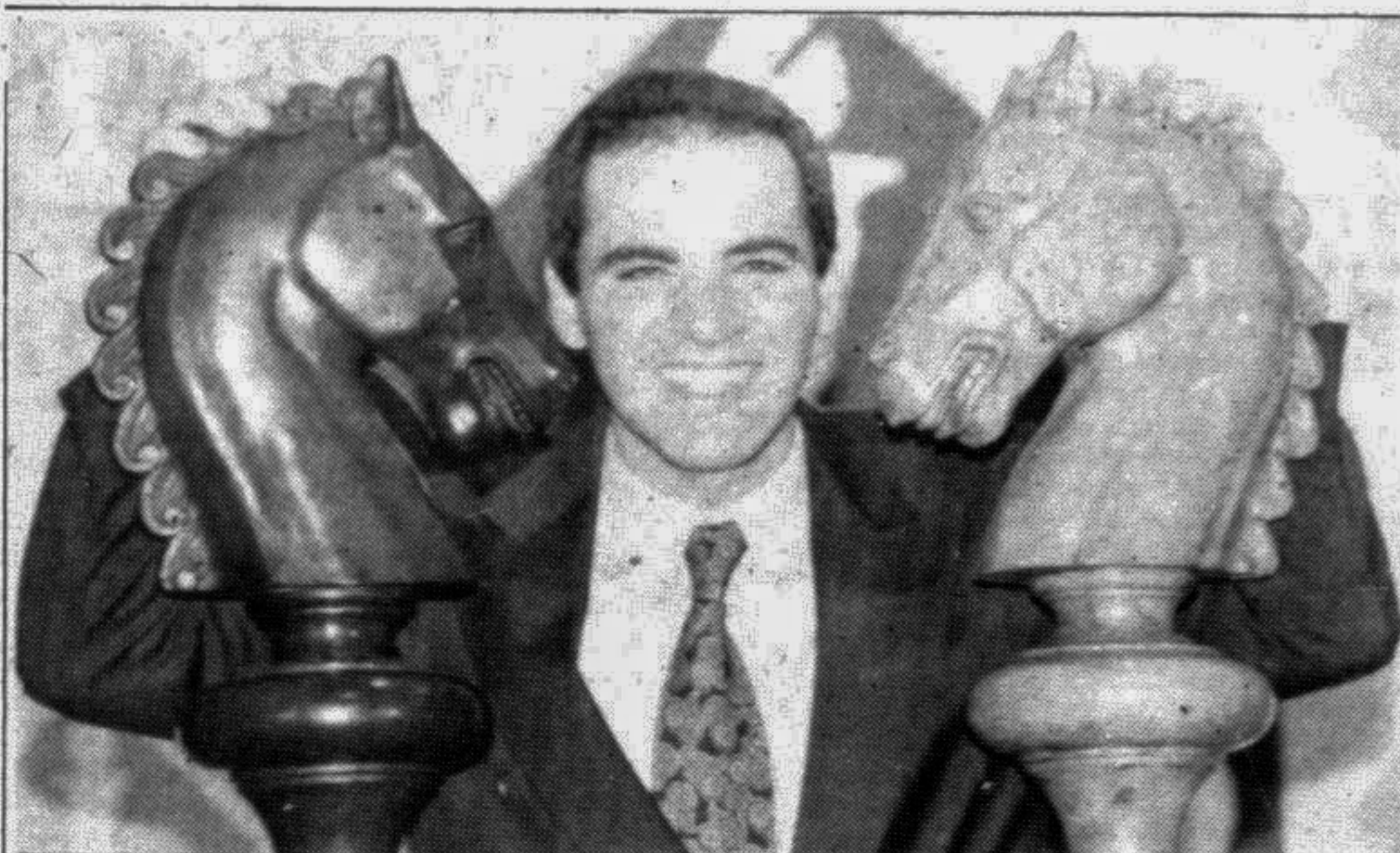
The booklets, the sporting cycle and training diary for women, were issued by the South Australian Department of Recreation and Sport.

At the launch, former Olympic and Commonwealth Games sprinter Raelene Boyle said her menstrual cycle had been a decisive factor in her success and failure on the track.

"I knew my stronger stage of the month, and programmed a run to be on my strongest possible day," said Boyle.

She said her efforts provided the natural boost she needed to win the Commonwealth Games 400 metres title in Brisbane in 1982.

Boyle said she withdrew from the Olympic Games in Moscow two years earlier because of physical and emotional vulnerability caused by PMS.



Reigning world champion Garry Kasparov of Russia poses between two giant knights at a press conference in the Savoy Hotel on September 2. Kasparov starts defence of his world crown against Briton Nigel Short on September 7. —AFP photo

had not been properly consulted and accusing the federation of "willful disregard" for top players. They said they would play only for the new Professional Chess Association that they were establishing.

"Unfortunately, FIDE was always under the influence of the Soviet authorities and this spirit is still there despite the

Timman, who both lost to Short in qualifying matches, to fight for the vacant FIDE World Championship title.

Their match is being divided between the Netherlands and Oman, with the first game scheduled Monday in the small Dutch town of Zwolle. FIDE initially said the championship purse was 4 million Swiss

Theatre, where he will play Short.

"I... had a strange impression that there would be more people watching this match than the number of citizens in the village where Karpov is playing Timman," he said, smiling broadly.

Kasparov said the key to any title was public recognition, and

DeFrantz unsure who to vote for

WASHINGTON, Sept 3: Three weeks before the 2000 Summer Olympic Games is selected and despite strong opposition in Congress to China's bid, the lone US vote is undecided, reports AP.

"Bravo," said Anita DeFrantz, the sole American on the 93-member International Olympic Committee, upon learning Wednesday that a senior State Department official declared all governments should keep hands off questions of Olympic sites.

DeFrantz said in a telephone interview she won't decide how to vote before hearing final presentations to the IOC Sept 23 session at Monte Carlo by the five contending cities — Sydney, Australia, currently rated the favourite; Berlin; Istanbul, Turkey; Manchester, England, and Beijing.

DeFrantz won a bronze medal rowing at the 1976 Montreal Olympics. She has railed against mixing politics and sports

ever since the US and West boycott of the 1980 Moscow games cost her a second chance at Olympics gold.

Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lott told reporters late Tuesday, "we really don't think it's up to governments, including the US government, to say where the Olympics should be held."

The Clinton administration agrees with IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch that human rights should be one criterion for selecting Olympic sites, Lott said. The State Department has provided IOC members latest human rights reports for all five countries competing for the 2000 Summer Games. But he answered "no, no, no," when asked if the administration include any recommendations.

By contrast, members of Congress are taking a strong stand against Beijing.

The House of Representatives voted 287-99 on July 26 for a resolution asking IOC members to oppose China's bid. It said the campaign is headed

by Chen Xitong, a former Beijing mayor who ordered the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown against pro-democracy activists.

A similar resolution is before the Senate. Its sponsors, Sens Bill Bradley and Dennis DeConcini, recently sent letters to all IOC members signed by 60 of the 100 senators.

Holding the games in China amid continuing repression "would confer upon China's leaders a stamp of approval by the international community which they clearly do not deserve," the senators said. "China's democracy activists would be demoralised," and the IOC would stain its own image by working, "closely with an authoritarian government to stage an event televised around the world."

As a lawyer, woman and African-American, "I honour and respect such sentiments," said DeFrantz, reached at her Los Angeles office. "Respect for human rights and civil rights has been a guiding principle in my moral compass."

Mutola: A rag to rich saga



MAPUTO, Sept 3: Six years ago, when she was 15 and poor, Maria de Lurdes Mutola pretended she was a boy and played soccer for a Mozambican team, reports Reuters.

But joy quickly turned to tears when her team won the Maputo City League but were disqualified when the runners-up discovered that the winners had faked a girl.

"Unfair," they said. She had scored the winning goal.

That seemed to be the end of a promising sporting career but then along came her country's greatest poet, Jose Craveirinha, a sports fan, who encouraged her to take up a less male-dominated sport.

Lurdes, as everyone in Mozambique still calls the girl better known to the world as Maria Mutola, took his advice and trained every day under the poet's watchful eye.

Today the once-impoorish girl from one of the poorest countries in the world is the champion of the world over 800 metres, one of Africa's newly emerging queens of the track.

Tonight she is due to run in Brussels and after recent Grand Prix successes she is one of five athletes with a chance of winning 20 one kg bars of gold worth an estimated 200,000 dollars.

Mutola's rags-to-riches story sounds like a fairy tale even to her. "I still cannot believe what has happened in my life," says Mutola.

She was born in the poor Maputo suburb of Chamanculo on October 27, 1972, when her countrymen were fighting for independence from Portugal. After independence was won in 1975, the country was racked by civil war until a peace agreement was signed last October.

But despite Mozambique's continuing problems in the late

1980s, her international reputation was starting to grow.

She made her country's team for the 1988 African Championships in Algeria as a 15-year-old — just a few months after her identity was "unmasked" on the soccer field.

She won a silver medal in



MARIA MUTOLA

those championships — an amazing success for such a raw talent — and although it was no surprise when she was eliminated in the heats of the 800 at the Seoul Olympics soon afterwards, people had noticed her obvious potential.

The following year, she went to study and train in the United States, a move made possible through Craveirinha's support and a grant from the Olympic Solidarity Committee for Third World Athletes.

While studying at Springfield High School in Oregon, her running talents were refined and carefully nurtured — and honours started coming her

way.

In 1990, she won both the 800 and 1,500 metres at the African Championships, while in 1991 she won the 800 gold at the African Games and — still only 18 — finished fourth in the World Championships 800 in Tokyo in a world junior record and African senior record time of 1 minute 57.63 sec.

There was relative disappointment in the Barcelona Olympics when she was fifth in the 800 and ninth in the 1,500, but there was some consolation a few weeks afterwards when she won the 800 at the World Cup in Havana, Cuba.

But this has been her truly golden year.

Her failure to win a medal in Barcelona has been tempered with two World Championships titles — the 800 metres indoor in Toronto in March and the outdoor itself in Stuttgart last month.

Those two victories prove just how far she has developed in terms of tactical awareness since being criticised by her country's sports writers for being over-confident in Barcelona.

In Toronto, she ran from the front to win — in Stuttgart she made a late burst. That kind of adaptability is a sure sign of mature track craftsmanship in a runner not 21 until next month.

Every champion in Stuttgart not only won a gold medal, but also a Mercedes.

Things have certainly changed for Mutola in a short time and she says she will probably sell the Mercedes — she already has a car in the United States.

Asked recently what she was thinking of while striding towards the finish-line in Stuttgart — the Mercedes, the medal or her family back in Chamanculo, Mutola replied: "I only thought of winning."

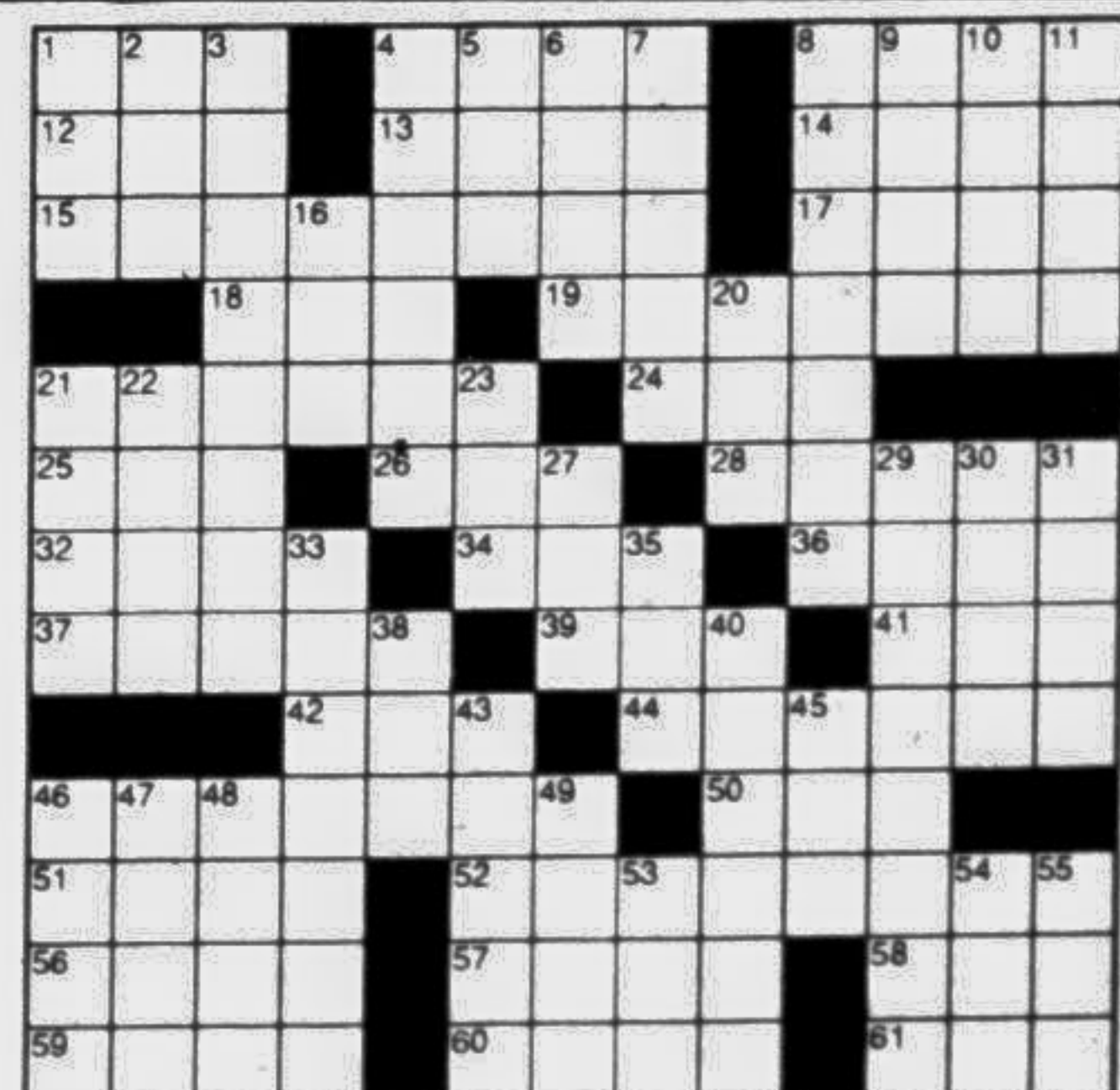
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Ewe said it 44 Music lover's range 46 Start a cigarette athlete 50 Valentine solecism 51 Acreage 52 Reference 56 Modern-day fashion model 57 "Let's Make a Deal" choice 58 Important numero 59 Pub missile 60 Year-end word
61 Catcall? 20 Letter carrier's burden 21 Smack 22 Leonine lingo 23 Run up the phone bill 27 "Great Expectations" hero 29 River deposit 30 Linguist Chomsky 31 Pulls hard 33 Mesmerize 35 Sou-chong, e.g. 38 Speck 40 Attraction 43 Campus areas 45 Kramden's carriage 46 Deposited 47 "La Douce" 48 Paraphernalia 49 Tactic 53 Chaney Sr. or Jr. 54 Indivisible 55 Without further ado

Solution time: 23 mins.

APPE COBB GRAB
LAC OHIO RUSE
ACH MOONLIGHT
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GUS HYDRA
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UNDO IRAO FLY
DEAN RENT TEL

Yesterday's answer 12-17



CRYPTOQUIP

Y Z G K Y G L Y D V A H Q
K W G Y L D H Z G O R G X G A O R
Y W W D G J "X H L V K W G J
U J R G N G L J Q H N R
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ROOF REPAIRERS REFUSE TO OVERHAUL THE HOUSE OF EAVE-ILL REPUTE.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z equals F
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.