

# Call for apolitic approach

MONTE CARLO, Sept 20: IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch urged members Monday to remain free of political pressure when they choose the host city of the 2000 Olympic Games, reports AP.

The US House of Representatives, human rights organizations and other groups have lobbied the IOC to reject Beijing's Olympic bid because of China's human rights record.

Beijing is considered a front runner in the race, which will be decided by a secret IOC ballot on Thursday. The other candidates are Berlin; Istanbul, Turkey; Manchester, England; and Sydney, Australia.

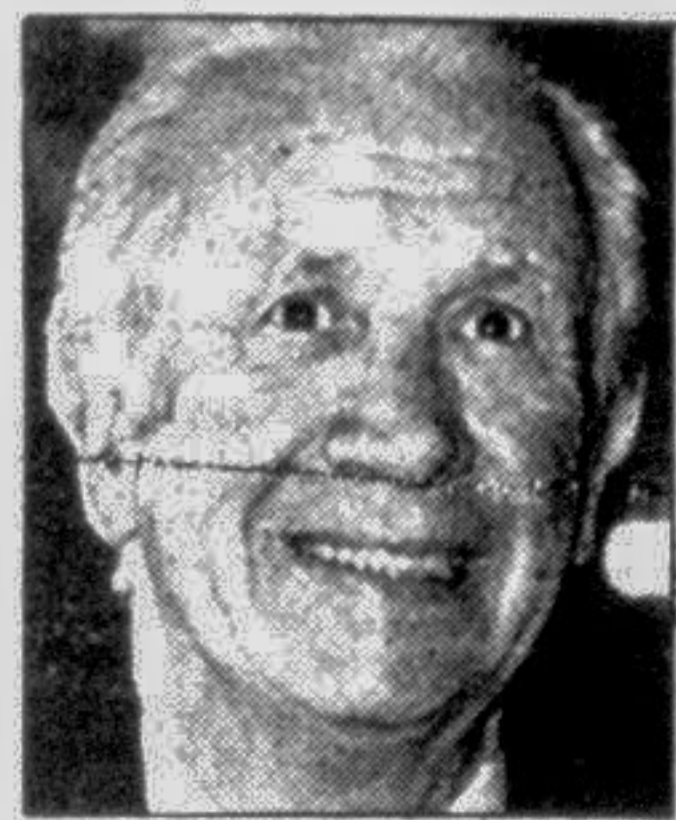
The competition will be very close between these cities of equal merit," Samaranch said in a speech marking the opening of the IOC's 101st session. "For the first time, all the constituent parts of the Olympic movement — the IOC, the National Olympic Committees and international federations — will submit together their reports before the vote."

"Everything has been done to ensure that the IOC members

can make their choice, completely independent of political and financial pressure. At the end of the day, only the interests of the athletes and of the Olympic movement count."

Samaranch closed his speech with what he described as a personal message for each of the 90 eligible voting members.

"In the next few days, you will take very important decisions," he said, "I know you will make them in complete freedom, true to your conscience and fully aware of the consequences."



SAMARANCH

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Samaranch also expressed sadness over the conflict in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia which served as host of the 1984 Winter Olympics. He called it a "martyred city where human life has no more meaning."

Samaranch said the IOC has sought to provide moral and symbolic support to Sarajevo and that he has been seeking to arrange a visit to the besieged city.

Samaranch said he hoped the situation could be alleviated by an "Olympic Truce," noting that many governments have supported the IOC initiative. The idea goes back to ancient Greece when warring parties observed a truce during the Olympics.

Samaranch lauded the strength of the modern Olympic movement as it approaches its 100th anniversary next year.

"A century — few international institutions can claim to have stood the test of time so well," he said. "A success of this order cannot help to breed jealousy and sharpen criticism. We can assert, however, that the Olympic movement has never been so strong, so united."

## OCA sides with Beijing bid

NEW DELHI, Sept 20: The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) will back Beijing's bid to host the 2000 Olympic Games, a senior OCA official said on Monday, reports Reuter.

He said the Kuwait-based body, which links 44 national federations, passed a resolution in Taipei earlier this month appealing to all members to support Beijing's bid to bring the Games back to Asia after a gap of 36 years.

Tokyo is the only Asian city to have hosted the Olympics, in 1964.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will vote in Monte Carlo on Thursday to decide who will host the Games. The other bidders are Berlin, Istanbul, Manchester and Sydney.

The effect of the appeal by the OCA, the governing body of the Olympic movements in Asia, will be marginal as there are only 14 IOC members from the continent.

Beijing appears to be one of the front-runners despite political pressure by opponents of China's human rights policies. The US House of Representatives and the European Parliament have both opposed Beijing's bid on human rights grounds.

There is also opposition within Asia, including protest marches by Tibetan exiles in several Indian cities.

Some 5000 Tibetans, opposed to Chinese rule in their Himalayan homeland, marched through the southern city of Bangalore on Sunday to urge the IOC not to choose Beijing.



Hundreds of people gather at the Temple of Heaven to show their support for the Beijing's 2000 Olympics bid yesterday. With three days to go before the International Olympic Committee decides in Monaco who wins the right to host the Games, Beijing has put their propaganda into high gear. — AFP photo

# No room for chaos in Monaco

MONTE CARLO, Sept 20: A group of Tibetan human rights campaigners said on Sunday they had been banned from making public protests in Monaco against Beijing's bid to stage the 2000 Olympics, reports Reuter.

Four Tibetan women wearing T-shirts with slogans opposing Beijing's candidature were detained briefly by Monaco police on Saturday when they tried to unfurl a protest banner outside a meeting of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

One of the women, Dicki Lamdark, told a news conference: "We were taken by the police to the police station and made to go to the basement and turn our T-shirts inside out. They cautioned us that if they saw us wearing the T-shirts again we would be expelled from Monte Carlo," she said.

The IOC are holding a week of meetings in Monte Carlo, culminating in next Thursday's decision on the venue of the 2000 Games. Beijing is com-

peting with Berlin, Istanbul, Manchester and Sydney.

Police have enforced strict security amid fears that protest groups could be planning violent action.

Lamdark, wearing a T-shirt with the slogan "Olympics 2000 — not in China," said the police told them on Sunday they could make their protest — but not outside in the streets.

Other Tibetans at the news conference said they would try to lobby IOC members between now and Thursday to stop Beijing being selected over its human rights record in Tibet.

Tsawang Phuntso, an India-based exile from the Tibetan Youth Congress, said: "For me and my people, Beijing is a regime of suppression and repression. My country was invaded in 1949 and there have been constant human rights violations in Tibet."

He said one-fifth of the population — more than a million people — had died as a result of Chinese rule and said a population transfer of China into Tibet had turned Tibetans into a discriminated-against

minority in their own homeland.

The group's protest was joined by Xu Ken, a Chinese exile in Australia from the action group "The Alliance for a Democratic China," who was present at the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing.

"I am here because I escaped from Beijing to Australia," he said. "Just for wanting a taste of democracy and a few simple freedoms, thousands of students like me, including many of my best friends, have been quietly moved out of society, some never to be seen again."

"There has been no real improvement in China's human rights record since 1989. Despite what it tells us, the Chinese government continues to torture, imprison and execute its own people."

"If the Games go to Beijing, the Chinese regime and its victims will see this as a clear sign that the international community is not really serious when it condemns human rights abuses in China."

## Tradition bars Beijing's way to Olympics

MELBOURNE, Australia, Sept 20: Beijing should not be awarded the 2000 Olympic Games because of its cruel treatment of animals, Australia's Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said Monday, reports AP.

The society's national president, Hugh Wirth, cited the example of bile being collected from caged bears for use in traditional Chinese medicine.

"They are being milked for their bile, simply to satisfy a small number of people who believe it is a miracle cure for almost everything from cancer to stomach ailments," Wirth said.

He said a tube is inserted through the back of a bear's neck and into a bile gland near its liver. The cages are tiny and no anesthetic is used.

Beijing is one of five candidate cities bidding for the right to host the Games. The others are Sydney, Australia; Manchester, England; Berlin, Germany; and Istanbul, Turkey.

The 90-member International Olympic Committee will decide the venue in a secret ballot in Monte Carlo on Thursday.

Wirth said a delegation from his organisation inspected several "bear farms" in China earlier this year.

He said 8,000 bears are currently in captivity with plans by the Chinese government to increase this to 40,000.

"It appals me to think that a country which is bidding for the Olympic Games can allow this sort of torture to go on," he said.

# Beijing builds momentum

BEIJING, Sept 20: China kicked off the week of the International Olympic Committee's decision on the host city, for the 2000 Olympic Games by doing one of the things it does best — holding a mass rally, reports AP.

The participants cheered through rousing, patriotic speeches and were whipped into a frenzy by several popular singers who interspersed their songs with shouts of "Beijing will definitely win."

The venue was the Temple of Heaven, a highly sacred site in imperial times where the emperor officiated at solemn ceremonies once a year to pray for a bountiful harvest. Commoners were banned and had to stay indoors.

The scene Monday was completely different. More than 2,000 students and young factory and office workers organized by their schools and employers gathered at the foot of the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests with gongs, drums, trumpets and symbols.

Two people dressed as

chickens, the mascot for the just concluded 7th National Games, stumbled blindly about on the walk that once was reserved for the emperor.

The ear-shattering strains of Beijing's bid song ("Good luck, Beijing. Let the sun embrace you. Good luck, Beijing. You will shine. Good luck, Beijing. All these years of goodbye. Good luck, Beijing. Now your time has arrived.") were amplified over eight massive loudspeakers mounted on the steps leading up to the sacred hall.

Streamers with the Beijing bid logo fluttered from the posts of the steps and fences, and a brisk breeze rippled colorful flags and banners bearing slogans such as, "Sacrifice for Beijing's Olympic Bid."

A young athlete said in his speech, "At the just concluded 7th National Games, Chinese athletes through their years of hard work... have once again proven to the world: the Chinese people are no longer the sick men of Asia."

Chinese women distance runners broke four world records, and other athletes broke 32 Asian records.

Another speaker, representing the Beijing Students Association, castigated critics of Beijing's bid, who have argued that China's human rights record makes it an inappropriate site for the Games.

"We cannot accept that some countries, some people and even some governments and officials... have put political pressure on the International Olympic Committee and have created all sorts of obstacles to Beijing's bid," he said. "Anyone who blasphemes the purity of the Olympic movement... should be condemned."

The Beijing Youth Association, which organized the rally, plans a similar event Tuesday on the Great Wall. It says 50,000 people are expected, but actual turnout may be far less. The association's press release for Monday's rally said "nearly 10,000" of Beijing's young people turned out.

The IOC is to decide on a host city on Thursday. Beijing is competing against Sydney, Australia; Manchester, England; Istanbul, Turkey, and Berlin.

## Miscreant in Monaco nabbed

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Sept 20: Police on Sunday arrested a German man suspected of planning to try to disrupt International Olympic Committee meetings, Monaco officials said, reports AP.

The man, who was not immediately identified, was detained while trying to obtain an accreditation permitting access to the IOC venues, according to officials speaking on condition of anonymity.

No other details were immediately released.

Opponents of Berlin's bid for the 2000 Olympics have threatened to cause trouble before Thursday's vote by the IOC. Anti-Olympic militants set off several small bombs in Germany last week. About 15,000 people protested against the bid in Berlin on Saturday.

IOC officials said they were satisfied with the security arrangements in Monaco. The IOC's 101st session will be formally opened Monday evening.

## Games sponsors at bay in Berlin

BERLIN, Sept 20: Anti-Olympics protesters early Monday smashed windows at three branch offices of a bank that's one of the main sponsors of the city's bid for the Games in the year 2000, Berlin police said, reports AP.

The militant activists left behind anti-Olympics flyers at the offices of the Berliner Bank, police said in a statement to the news media. No one was injured.

Police said they had turned over the investigation to a special squad in charge of probing terrorist actions.

Last week, anti-Olympics protesters set off a series of small bombs in Berlin and Rostock. On Saturday, 15,000 opponents of holding the Games in Berlin marched through the German capital.

The International Olympic Committee will choose the site for the 2000 Summer Olympics on Thursday.

# SBS denies Chinese claims

SYDNEY, Sept 20: Australia's SBS Television station denied Monday Chinese claims it misquoted a Beijing official as threatening a boycott of the Atlanta Olympics, saying its translation was supported by an official Chinese translation, reports AP.

The station also screened on its dateline programme another segment of the controversial interview, showing the official Zhang Baifa, head of the Beijing Olympic Bid Committee, was questioned fully by reporter Jane Hutcheon after his boycott threat as to whether he really meant it.

In it, he confirmed that he did, saying: "well, I think what I said is my personal points of view."

A segment of the dateline programme showing the interview with Zhang sparked a furore in international Olympic circles after an advance transcript was released last Friday.

In it Zhang said the US Congress had been "stupid" in its opposition to Beijing's bid adding: "On the other hand, we could boycott the US in the 1996 Games in Atlanta."

Zhang said in Monte Carlo later that it was a personal opinion he first expressed last month in the SBS interview.

However, in an interview with the official Chinese agency Xinhua on Saturday, Zhang said the extract from the Australian interview had not

reflected his full views.

"Zhang... said this morning that what was reported in the western press was not what he said in his Australian television interview," the government news agency reported.

Zhang told Xinhua that his

### Sydney officials deny rumours

MONACO, Sept 20: Sydney Olympic officials on Sunday denied they had concluded a secret pact with Manchester officials to switch votes to stop Beijing getting the 2000 Games, reports AP.

"Nonsense, absolute nonsense," John Coates, Australia's Olympic Committee president, said of the report in a Sydney newspaper.

Rod McGeoch, chief executive of the Sydney bid, added: "Manchester and Sydney were reported to have agreed whoever is eliminated first in the early rounds of Thursday's ballot will try to swing its support behind the other in an attempt to overwhelm the opposition."

true thoughts were: "An American friend told me that you have every reason to boycott the Atlanta Olympic Games but I said that China sticks to its firm position that it fully supports the Olympic movement and therefore we will not do that."

He Zhenling, president of the Chinese Olympic Committee, dismissed the apparent boycott threat as "unfortunate rumours based on what I believe was an erroneous interpretation of a statement."

However, dateline executive producer Greg Wilesmith said Monday the programme showed the official interpreter, provided by the Chinese themselves, was a lot stronger in his interpretation of what Zhang said than the SBS subtitle's eventual translation that went with the story.

At the end of the interview, Hutcheon asks him: "Can I just clarify that last point then? So you will threaten to boycott the 1996 Olympics in retaliation for what the House of Representatives has said about China's human rights or it is very likely that China will boycott the 1996 Olympics."

Zhang's reply is: "well, I think what I said is my personal point of view."

"It doesn't represent the viewpoint of the government of China because the government really stands at the high point of view and sees the issue from the long term perspective."

## US to hold '96 trials in Atlanta

CHICAGO, Sept 20: The 1996 Olympic trials for track and field will be held in Atlanta, with a formal contract between the organizing committee and USA Track and Field expected to be signed soon, reports AP.

Both parties said Saturday at meetings in Chicago that the trials would be preceded the Olympics in Atlanta. The USA's 45-member International Competition Committee, chaired by Washington State University coach John Chaplin, approved Atlanta in a teleconference vote on Sept 1.

The USA's executive committee ratified the decision Saturday.

USATF, the governing body for athletics in the United States, also selected Atlanta as the host of the national indoor meet at the Georgia Dome for the next 10 years.

## Ticket sales silence critics

LONDON, Sept 20: The Lennox Lewis-Frank Bruno all-British fight for the World Boxing Council heavyweight title at Cardiff Arms Park Oct 1 has attracted some 20,000 ticket sales with 12 days still to go, Lewis' manager Frank Maloney said Monday, reports AP.

Reacting to a report that the history-making fight was likely to be a financial flop, Maloney said the fight was already making a profit.

"We are now more confident of reaching 30,000 ticket sales," he said.

The fight is the first all-British matchup for a world heavyweight title.

# A denial of drug diablerie

BEIJING, Sept 20: A Chinese sports medicine official, denying that Chinese athletes use drugs, says no

potential known to man can help a runner break a world record at 10,000 metres, reports AP.

Yang Tiable, professor who specialises in doping and heads China's National Research Institute of Sports Medicine, said traditional Chinese medicine produced countless health tonics.

"But not one of them could enable such records to be broken," said Yang, a member of the International Anti-Doping Working Group.

China's Wang Junxia, 20,

not only broke the women's 10,000m world record, she destroyed it at the recent National Games here, shearing a massive 42 sec off the old mark.

The Chinese runners had already been the target of drug-taking allegations after their performance at the World Championships in Stuttgart in August when Wang won the 10,000m, Qu Yunxia led home a Chinese sweep in the 3,000m and Liu Dong won the 1,500m.

"Every year, many world records are broken and we can't harbour these kind of doubts every time," Yang said. "The International Amateur Athletics Association (IAAF) carried out tests at the World

Championships in Stuttgart and no trace of drugs was found."

"We also carried out our own tests during the National Games which have just ended and all were negative," he said.

"The tests were the same as the federation's and our laboratory, approved in December 1989 by the International Olympic Committee's medical commission, is checked annually," he added.

He admitted, however, that the high cost at 200 US dollars a time prevented regular drug testing.

Last year 1023 tests were carried out and only five were positive, he said.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS									
1 TV reception woe	42 Past	3 Do what you're told	24 playwright						
5 Urban area	44 Involved with	4 Less experienced hospital staffer?	25 news reporter						
9 Use a microwave oven	48 Hostel	5 Sovereignty symbols	26 Lingerie purchase						
12 Vagrant	49 Became a blonde	6 "— Got a lineman for the county"	27 "My Name is Asher —"						
13 Exceptional	50 "Cheers" footnote	7 Alice's pal	28 Heidi's height						
14 Ostrich's kin	51 Churchill-lean gesture	8 Nevertheless	30 Chess champion Mikhail						
15 Incessantly	52 Pound of poetry	9 Epsilon	31 Sister of 55 Across						
16 Drop	53 California valley	10 Andy's partner	35 "Ghost" star						
17 Anderson's "High —"	54 She sheep	11 100 percent	36 Camp town chorus						
18 "— of our Lives"	55 One of Louisa's girls	20 Word in a dirty limerick?	39 Jazzy jargon						
19 Grow	56 First place?	22 "Golden Boy"	40 Freshly						
20 Florist's item	1 Backyard structure		41 Dangling locale						
21 A billion years	2 PBS science series		43 Hamlet's mom, familiarly?						
23 "Rocks"			45 Receipt stamp						
25 Alternative to drapes			46 Chronologist's concern						
28 Print problems			47 Ken or Lena						
32 Skit show			49 She'll come out when she's ready						
33 Religion of Muhammad									
34 Sidesteps									
36 With intensity									
37 Away from NNE									
38 Killer whale									
39 "— and the									

**Down**

11 100 percent

20 Word in a dirty limerick?

22 "Golden Boy"

24 playwright

25 news reporter

26 Lingerie purchase

27 "My Name is Asher —"

28 Heidi's height

30 Chess champion Mikhail

31 Sister of 55 Across

35 "Ghost" star

36 Camp town chorus

39 Jazzy jargon

40 Freshly

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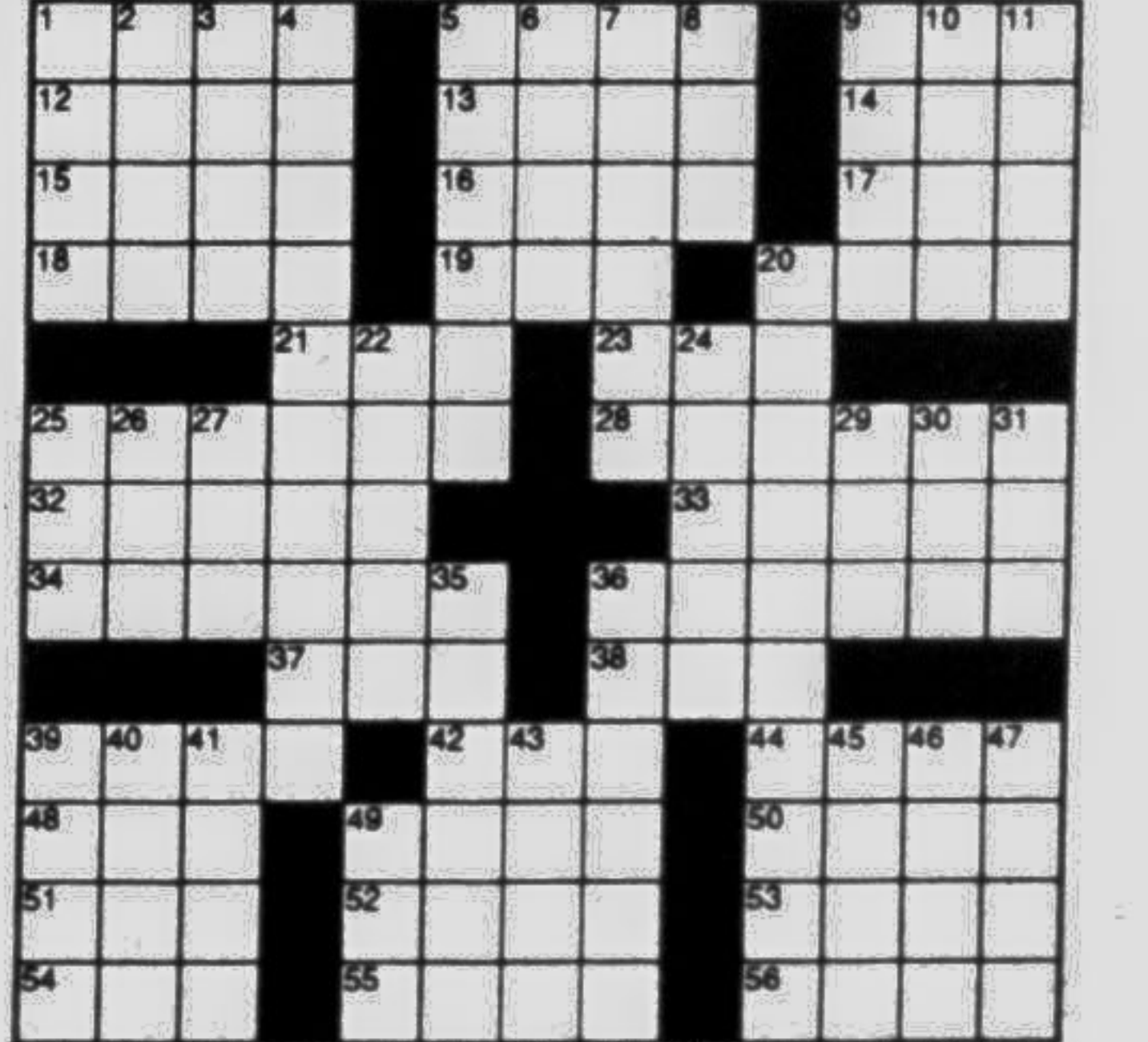
43 Hamlet's mom, familiarly?

45 Receipt stamp

46 Chronologist's concern

47 Ken or Lena

49 She'll come out when she's ready



**CRYPTOQUIP**

UPZDXV WAKQABDF DU

NSQPJ ZQOWQKPS BDF

BXFQ OQKWLQ EPO BD

FPLJ EWV NFPWAV

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE PICNIC, WE RAN OUT OF LETTUCE FOR THE SALAD, SO WE PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z equals M

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.



Scenes from yesterday's matches of the Second Division chess league at the National Sports Council chess room. — Star photo