

Jahangir Alam, the opening batsman-cum-wicketkeeper of the Bangladesh team was a study in distress yesterday. After a dismal stint with the bat in the morning, Jahangir made real mess of simple stumping chances later in the afternoon to complete a forgettable day. The two pictures show Jahangir's two very culpable lapses of the afternoon. Shakeel Ahmed (L), the Pakistani batsman who got half century has a reprieve as Jahangir visibly gropes for the ball. Bowler Enamul Huq Moni suffered once again when Jahangir failed to take the bails off in time to give top scorer Shoaib Mohammad a new lease of life. — Star photo

## England throw away initiative

ST JOHNS, Antigua, Jan 24: Mike Atherton and Alec Stewart each scored centuries, but England failed to capitalise against an Antigua XI on the first day of their opening tour match on Sunday, slumping from 275-2 to close on 340-7, reports Reuters.

Stewart, who retired after making 100, was more dominant in punishing the modest Antiguan bowlers. He drove, cut and pulled with ease as he raced to 50 in 42 balls with 10 fours.

His hundred came off 124 balls and he batted for 178 minutes overall before retiring with a slight hamstring injury. Captain Atherton was more watchful but played some good shots.

England suffered their first blow with the score on 184 when Graham Thorpe, who replaced Stewart, was trapped leg before by fast bowler Whitmore Quinn for one.

Robin Smith joined Atherton and they took England to tea with the score at 220 but not before both batsmen enjoyed some good luck.

Atherton, when on 87, was dropped off a no-ball at second slip and Smith was put down at first slip, both off Quinn's bowling.

After tea Atherton reached his century, which came up in 261 minutes off 190 balls and included 13 fours. But soon afterwards, the England innings went into sharp decline.

A three-wicket burst in one over by West Indies medium-pacer Hameesh Anthony saw England slump from 275 for two to 275 for five.

Part-time off-spinner and Antigua captain McChesney Simon made the initial breakthrough when he bowled Smith for 29.

Then, with the first ball of his 11th over, Anthony had Atherton caught and bowled for 108. Two balls later Nasser Hussain was caught behind for nought and then Anthony uprooted Jack Russell's off-stump.

Graeme Hick and Ian Salisbury pushed the score to 290 before Hick when on 10 attempted to pull Simon over midwicket and skied an easy catch to Anthony.

Debutant fast bowler Randy Challenger bowled Salisbury to add to the England post-tea embarrassment.

Christie begins with a bang

LONDON, Jan 24: Britain's Olympic and world 100 metres champion Linford Christie made a winning start to his 15th year in international athletics on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Christie, 33, who has been training in Australia for the past 10 weeks, won the 60 metres at the Scottish Indoor Championships in a useful 6.60 seconds.

"Today was a good start," Christie said. "I'm in very, very good shape and the speed will come next."

"My training tells me I'm up on what I was doing this time last year but it's 60-40 that I won't be running the European Indoor Championships in Paris."

"My ambition is to defend my Commonwealth and European titles and the world 100 metres record would be nice."

## Salov first to win a place

WIJK AAN ZEE, The Netherlands, Jan 24: Russia's Valery Salov became the first player to qualify for the final stages of the World Chess Championship when he beat compatriot Alexander Khalifman in the sixth game of his Candidates match on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Salov needed only six of the eight scheduled games to qualify as one of the final six World Championship candidates, scoring four wins to nil with two draws and no losses.

Twelve of the world's grandmasters are competing in the Dutch coastal town of Wijk Aan Zee in knockout matches sponsored by the Dutch Steel Corporation Hoogovens.

The Candidates matches are the concluding stage of a two-year competition to find a challenger for world champion Anatoly Karpov of Russia in 1995.

As soon as Salov's final game was completed, he criticised his opponent for playing in the rebel World Championship qualifying tournament organised by Garri Kasparov, the world number one stripped of his title by the World Chess Federation last year.

Kasparov has set up his own organisation, the Professional Chess Association (PCA), to organise a rival World Championship cycle.

"Khalifman should never have played in the Groningen qualifier," said Salov.

"It was a tournament of no importance except for money. He would have done better to prepare properly for his World Championship match."

The two remaining matches remain in the balance, although England's Michael Adams is now an underdog against Boris Gelfand of Belarus after losing a tough five-hour, 52-move, struggle.

Although Adams is almost certain to win their adjourned fifth round game, the English-

man will still be a point behind Gelfand with only two games remaining.

Joel Lautier of France tried desperately on Sunday to pull back his point deficit against Dutchman Jan Timman, last year's unsuccessful world title challenger to Karpov.

Lautier pressed Timman for six hours and 59 moves but the Frenchman's advantage was insufficient for victory.

The sixth round of the Candidates matches will be played on Tuesday.

Standings after six rounds: Anand (Ind) leads 4.0-1.0 Yusupov (Ger) 4.0-1.0 Gelfand (Bel) leads Adams (Eng) 3.5-1.5 plus one unfinished game

Salov (Rus) defeated Khalifman (Rus) 5.0-1.0 Kamsky (USA) leads Van Der Sterren (Ned) 4.0-2.0 Timman (Ned) leads Lautier (Fra) 3.5-2.5 Kramnik (Rus) leads Yudasin (Isr) 4.0-2.0

Agassi not invited

MELBOURNE, Jan 24: Andre Agassi will not be allowed to represent the United States in their Davis Cup first round tie against India from March 25-27, reports Reuters.

The International Tennis Federation management committee announced today they were upholding their ban on the 1992 Wimbledon champion, despite an appeal from the United States Tennis Association.

The ban follows Agassi's refusal to play a singles against the Bahamas last September because it was "dead" — in other words, meaningless since the United States had already taken an unbeatable lead in the best-of-five matches tie.

The United States Tennis Association had accepted a fine of 1,500 US dollars but appealed against the ruling that made Agassi ineligible for selection for their first-round tie of 1994.

Agassi was an unlikely starter in any event. He had hoped to play in this week's Australian Open but withdrew after undergoing wrist surgery.

Mason makes a comeback

LONDON, Jan 24: Nearly three years since his last fight, former British heavyweight champion Gary Mason is coming out of retirement, reports AP.

Mason, 31, said Monday he will face journeyman Kimmuel Odun in a 10-round bout Saturday in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

"If people say I'm mad to come back, I'll have to say they are right," Mason said. "But all you can do is what you feel is right. Sparring was a bit for some at first but once I got used to being hit again, that went away."

It will be Mason's first contest since suffering his only professional defeat against Lennox Lewis at Wembley in March 1991. He suffered an eye injury against Lewis, adding to an earlier detached retina.

Mason said he has been cleared to fight by medical and boxing officials in the United States. If he is successful against Odun, he will consider re-applying for a British boxing license.

## Washington edges Wilander out



MELBOURNE, Jan 24: MaliVai Washington outlasted Mats Wilander in a five-set marathon Monday night, ending the veteran Swede's fairy-tale run at the Australian Open, reports AP.

Washington dominated the final set after the two had traded stroke for stroke, error for error. The score was 6-7 (7-9), 6-2, 6-7 (3-7), 6-4, 6-1.

The unseeded Washington, a 24-year-old American ranked 26th, advanced to the first Grand Slam quarterfinal of his career.

Wilander, a 29-year-old returning to the tournament he won three times in the 1980s, simply ran out of steam.

Two years in retirement, during which he flirted with a rock music career, took their toll in a contest that lasted four hours.

The Swede, now ranked 322nd in the world, was given a wild card entry into the tournament, which he first won in 1983.

Washington now will meet No 9 seed Todd Martin in an all-American quarterfinal on Wednesday.

Wilander and Washington were grateful to play in the cool evening air after Stefan Edberg, Thomas Muster and Martin won day matches in searing heat.

Two-time champion Edberg made light of temperatures that reached 39 degrees Celsius (102 Fahrenheit) and breezed by fellow Swede Lars Jonsson 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 maintaining his record of reaching at least the quarterfinals here every year since 1984.

Muster, the sixth-seeded Austrian who has not dropped a set in four matches at the National Tennis Center, downed No 12 seed Alexander Volkov 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 on centre court as the mercury rose in the morning.

Marting, a Wimbledon quarterfinalist last year, advanced with a 6-7 (3-7), 7-6 (7-5), 6-

3, 6-3 victory over 125th-ranked Belgian Xavier Daufresne after trailing by a set and 2-5.

Both men were wilting by the end of the 3-hour, 24-minute match, and they made a combined 133 errors.

Martin made the majority of the mistakes, but he also made far more winners as he overcame a bloody nose, blisters on his feet, two torn toenails and dehydration.

"It was just a matter of staying cool and coping with the heat as best I possible could," said Martin, who ended the match seven pounds (3 1/4 kilograms) lighter than when he started.

Jonsson returned well, but had no luck in attempting to pass Edberg, who was in superb touch at the net and made a number of killing volleys.

"I played OK under the circumstances," said No 4 seed Edberg, the Australian Open winner in 1985 and 1987. "It is never easy to play well in the heat, but I played as well as I needed to play."

Edberg showed the heat had not sapped his strength by jumping over the net at the end of the match. Earlier in the day, the heat did undermine Volkov's will.

"When I was warming up, I decided it was too hot for me," said Volkov, a semifinalist at last year's US Open. "I couldn't get into the match because I was thinking of the heat."

Muster rubbed his face with ice to keep himself cool, but was presented with few problems by Volkov, who made 10 volleying errors, 53 unforced errors in all and 14 double faults in a contest that lasted only one hour, 40 minutes.

"I had no more power to fight against myself," the Russian said.

Muster made his second successive Grand Slam quarterfinal after also making the last eight at last year's US Open.

The 26-year-old Austrian feared he would not play again after being hit by a drunk driver in 1989 in Miami and suffering severe knee injuries.

He has fought back to regain his place in the top 10 and won a career-high seven tournaments last year.

Muster and Edberg now will play each other in Wednesday's quarters.

"He's a tough competitor," said Edberg. "He's solid off the ground, tough mentally and physically very strong."

In other men's quarterfinal matches, top seed Pete Sampras of the United States will play No 10 Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden and defending champion Jim Courier will play No 5 Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia.

All four women's quarterfinals were slated for Tuesday, with three-time champion and top seed Steffi Graf of Germany facing the No 16 seed from the United States, 17-year-old Lindsay Davenport.

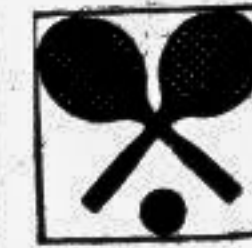
No 2 seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain plays No 8 Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland, No 3 Conchita Martinez of Spain faces No 10 Kimiko Date of Japan and No 4 Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina plays No 5 Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic.

Graf is bidding for her fourth straight title in a Grand Slam event in the absence of defending champion Monica Seles, who has not played since being stabbed by a crazed fan in Hamburg, Germany, last April.

No one except Graf or Seles has won a Grand Slam women's singles title since 1990.

The tournament is sponsored by Ford, played on synthetic Rebound Ace hard courts and continues through Jan 30.

## Davenport's moment of truth



MELBOURNE, Jan 24: Lindsay Davenport finally is going to discover what it's like to face someone with as much power as she has.

The 17-year-old Californian plays Steffi Graf in Tuesday's quarterfinals of the Australian Open in a battle of two of the hardest-hitting women currently on the tennis tour, reports AP.

Davenport blistered groundstrokes past compatriot Mary Joe Fernandez in a 6-2, 6-7, 4-7, 6-2 victory in the fourth round.

"Once Lindsay's set up, she probably hits it harder. She's stronger than Steffi. She can do it from both sides," Fernandez said. "I think Steffi moves better. I wouldn't say shot for shot Steffi hits it harder, but she is definitely a better athlete."

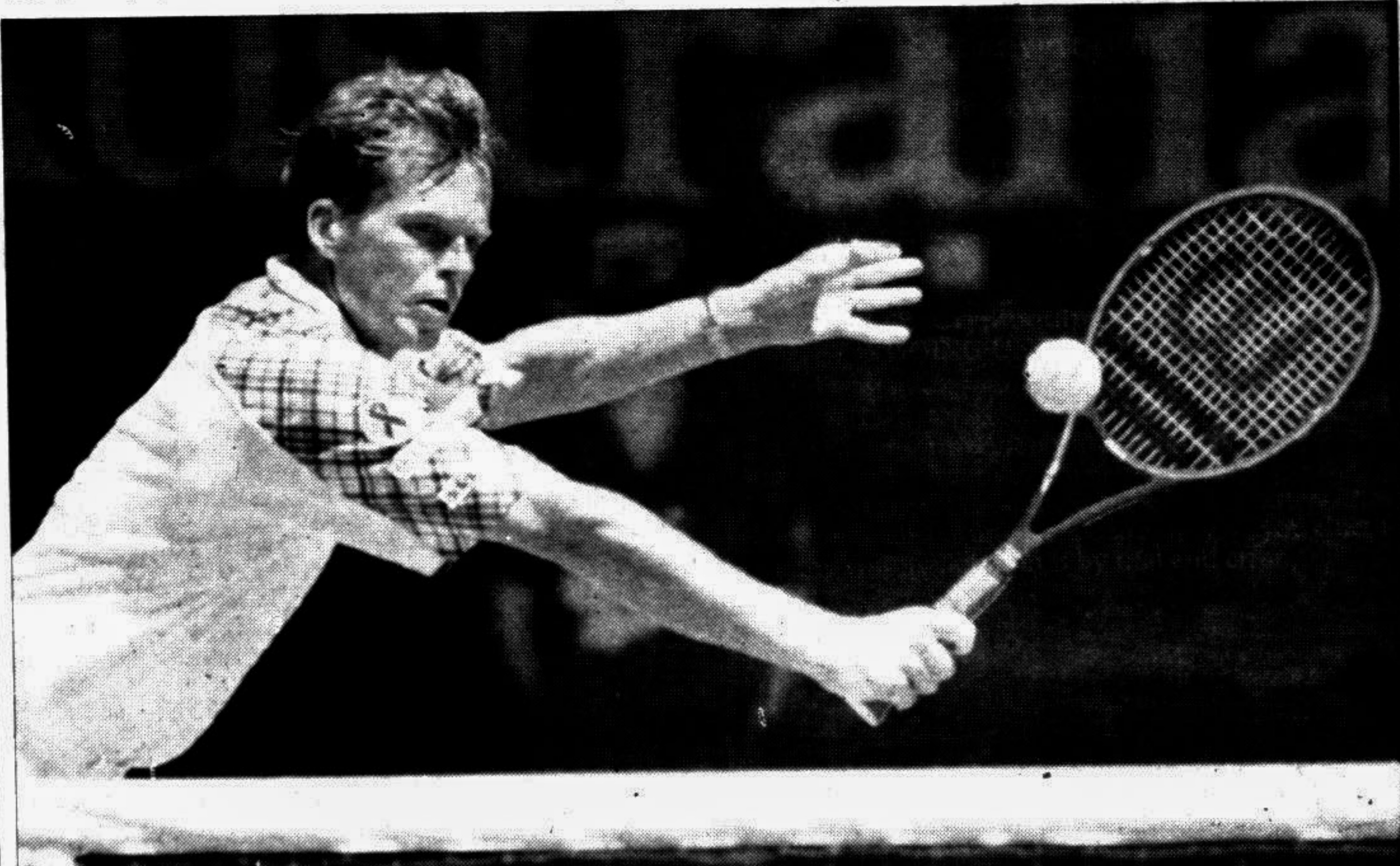
The 6-foot-2, 165-pound Davenport rivals Graf, Monica Seles and Mary Pierce, among others, for the hardest groundstrokes in women's tennis.

She will be playing Graf for the first time. She also has never faced Seles, who is missing the Australian Open while recovering from being stabbed

by a spectator last April in Germany.

Davenport uses her power to compensate for a lack of speed against most opponents, but could be at a major disadvantage against Graf. Davenport, who lumbers around the court, will probably be run from side to side by Graf's scorching forehands.

"Obviously, that's going to be someone's strategy against me, to move me, because I really like to be the one in control of the points and moving the other person around," Davenport said. "When I am in control of a point, I'm hitting my shots and hitting the ball hard."



Stefan Edberg of Sweden stretches to put away a net volley during his match against compatriot Lars Jonsson in the Australian Open yesterday. Edberg won in straight sets 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 to advance into the quarter-finals. — AFP photo

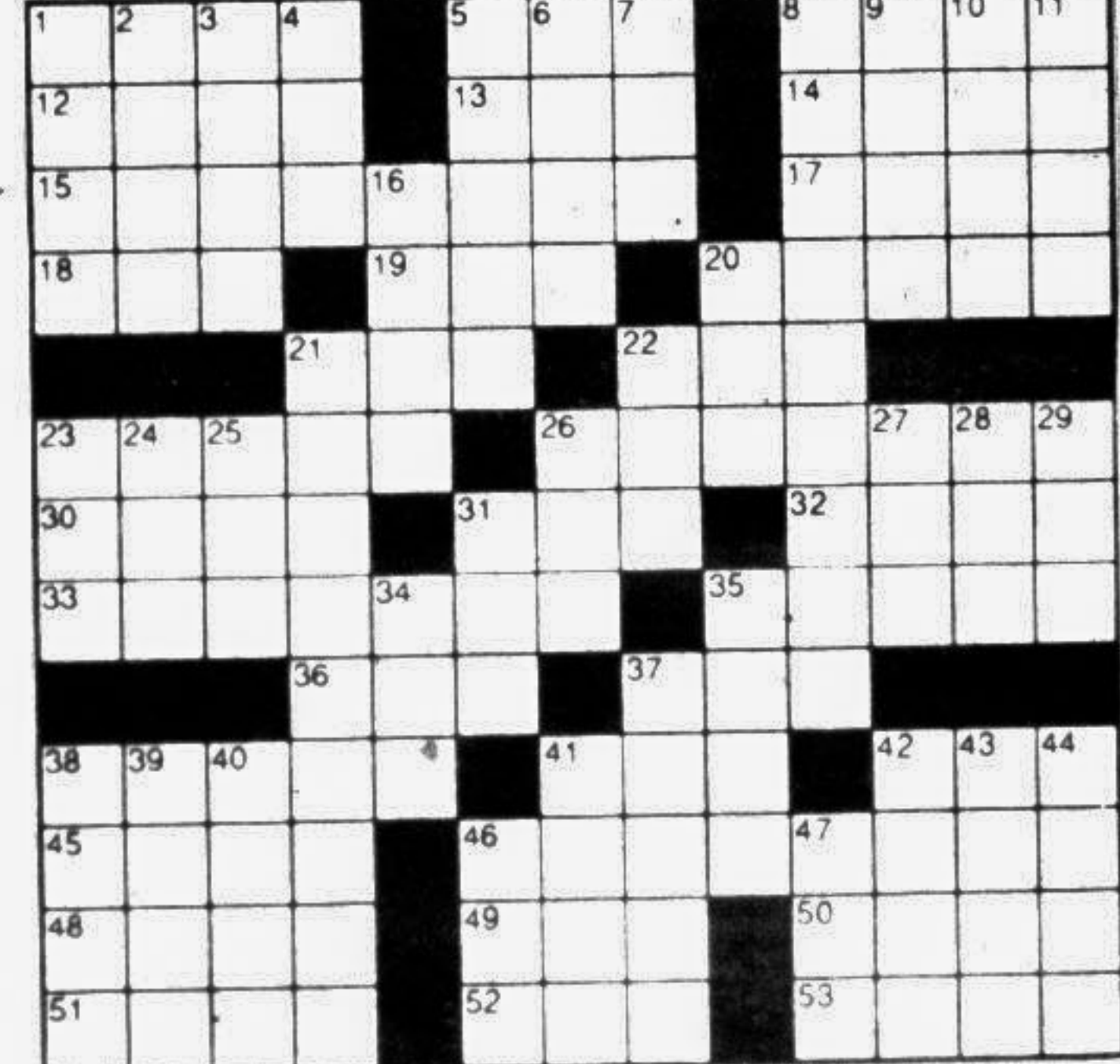
## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- Stare stupidly
- Sandra or Ruby
- It's a long story
- Columbus' home
- Tease
- Summit
- Lincoln biographer
- Fellini-based musical
- Show-time's rival
- Paint medium
- Sidled
- Turf
- Vigor
- Brunhoff's pachyderm
- "Lakme" composer
- Shakespeare's river
- Moonshine container
- Gearshift setting
- Took care of
- Hill of fame in
- Beer belly
- Disco-dance
- Large parrot
- Author Kesey
- Neon, for one
- On song
- Dagwood's creation
- Vase stopwatch
- Medley
- Luminary
- TV's Tarzan
- Confederacy's Hampton
- Sidled
- Turf
- Vigor
- Brunhoff's pachyderm
- "Lakme" composer
- Shakespeare's river
- Moonshine container
- Gearshift setting
- Took care of
- Hill of fame in

**DOWN**

- "Holy mackerel!"
- Cribbage
- Moby's pursuer
- Derelect, maybe
- Decked for ten
- Oak worshiper
- The Duke of — (62 song)
- Future phalarope
- Shorebird
- in a poke
- Hackman or Kelly
- Pink-slipped
- Churlish sort
- Moray
- Abrasive smoother
- Cribbage
- item
- "Hum-bug!"
- Gardner biography
- "— voyage!"
- Flop
- Proscribe
- Sea eagle
- "Guys and Dolls" role
- Deep black
- Moo
- Orchestra
- TV talk-show host
- Jones
- Wilander of tennis
- Persisting
- Robin Cook book
- Wallenda patriarch
- River to the Colorado
- Word before rain or test
- Comic-strip news editor
- Take to court
- Knock em dead



## CRYPTOQUIP

S K U X R H X D N E D U W ' G  
P Q W R Z W Q U A Y Z H V A Y  
H V S K U F E G S F H  
S Q N Q A P K U W

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR TOO-TIRED DETECTIVE IS GOING UNDER COVERS.  
Today's Cryptoquip clue: Equals W

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.