



South Korea's Lee Eun-Ju holds her rifle aloft after winning the gold medal in the women's individual 10m air rifle 40 event at the 12th Asian Games yesterday. — AFP photo

Sino supremacy all over

HIROSHIMA, Oct 7: At the World Swimming Championships last month, China's amazing women won 12 of 16 golds. Back in the pool for the Asian Games, they're 12 for 12, with one world record, reports AP.

And the finale is yet to come.

China will have a quintuple gold medalist from the World Championships, Le Jingyi, ready for the 50-metre freestyle as the Games swimming competition wraps up Saturday.

Le demolished the world record at that distance and in the 100-metre freestyle at the Rome championships, one of five world records set there by the Chinese women.

China also will have triple world champions He Chong and Liu Limin in Saturday's two other women's races, the 200-metre backstroke and 200-metre butterfly.

Lu Bin, one of the few Chinese stars who didn't break a world record in Rome, was the first to break one here. Lu was timed in 2 minutes, 11.57 seconds in the 200 medley, breaking the 2:11.65 set by teammate Lin Li at the 1992 Olympics.

Lu had already won golds here in the 200-metre freestyle and 400-metre freestyle relay and silvers in the 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke.

China's men have been impressive, but not invincible. On Friday, they raised their swimming gold tally to seven

of 13. Japan has four and South Korea two.

The overwhelming dominance of China's swimmers has aroused suspicion that part of their success is due to performance-enhancing drugs. But the head of the Asian Games governing body said no athletes at Hiroshima had tested positive in dope tests.

Before the Games began, swimming's international gov-



THE 12th ASIAN GAMES HIROSHIMA 1994

erning organization conducted surprise tests on Chinese, Japanese and Hong Kong swimmers and said it would announce any positive findings. So far, none have been announced, though a Thai soccer player on Friday became the first player of the Games to be sent home for failing a doping test, Japanese and Thai news reports said.

For China, success has by no means been limited to the pool.

The Chinese juggernaut on Friday also won titles in softball, shooting, fencing and

weightlifting, expanding their gold haul for the day to 11, and for the Games so far to 54.

China failed to win one gold it was expected to take home, however, thanks to a Hiroshima policeman.

Local police sergeant Masaru Nakashige won the individual gold in the men's free pistol, Japan's first shooting gold in 24 years. But China's Wang Yifu and Xu Dan took the silver and bronze medals, giving China the team title.

South Korea and Japan stayed neck-in-neck in their race for second best in the gold count with three each for the day and 20 total. Along with Nakashige's gold, Japan won its third equestrian event and one men's swimming gold.

South Korea's women picked up all of their country's golds Friday, with two in shooting and one for volleyball. India won its first gold of these games by blanking Indonesia in the men's team tennis final.

South Korea was likely to gather a goodly share of the gold Saturday as four medals were to be contested in its native fighting art of taekwondo and one in archery, a Korean favorite.

Two South Korean women who have already taken gold in bowling singles and doubles will also be in the competition again for the gold in the three-player team event.

Golds were also at stake in shooting, table tennis, weightlifting and fencing.

Indonesians begin in style

HIROSHIMA, Oct 7: Indonesia's team of world champions opened the Asian Games badminton competition today, crushing their Thai opponents after scoring away many others from even coming to Hiroshima, reports Reuters.

Only eight teams are entered for both the men's and women's badminton, forcing the organisers to hold just two rounds of competition before the finals.

"I'm disappointed at the poor turnout," said Lu Shengrong, head of the International Badminton Federation (IBF), adding that many countries stayed away out of fear of the prowess of the Indonesians, Chinese and the South Koreans.

All three countries were in good form and won through to the semifinals in the men's competition.

Indonesia, led by world

number one Ardy Wiranata, beat Thailand 5-0, the same score as China defeated Japan.

In the women's competition, South Korean Olympic silver medalist Bang So Hyoun was in awesome form in leading her country to an effortless 3-0 victory over Thailand.

Both Indonesia's women, with the world's top player Susi Susanti in its team, and China, go to the semifinals directly.

But Indonesia's men team showed the depth of its talent in badminton on the first day of the men's competition.

Shuffling its pack of champions, Indonesia played Arbi Heryanto, the reigning All-England champion in the third singles and shut out Teeranun Chiangi 15-8, 15-1.

Joko Suprianto, playing second singles struggled briefly to find his form before ending Vacharapan Kumthong's brave fightback in the second set. The score was 18-17, 13-18, 15-5.

Ardy was in much better form, quickly taking the measure of Thailand's Sompol Kookasemkit and winning 15-9, 15-7.

Indonesia's Rexy Mainaky and Ricky Subagja had no trouble in living up to their reputation as the world's number one doubles pair when they beat Pramote Teerawitana and Sakrapet Thongsari 15-6, 18-13. Gunawan and Bambang Supriyanto beat Siripong Siripool and Khunakorn Subudisodhi 15-9, 15-12 to show there are no weak links in the team.

China scored an equally emphatic win, with its number one Dong Jiong giving early notice of his devastating form in a 15-9, 15-2 over Fumihiko Machida. His teammate Lin Liwen defeated Takahiro Suka 15-8, 15-10.

The South Koreans gained a 4-1 win over Taiwan, while the Malaysian had it easy in defeating novices the Maldives 5-0.

Mansoor eyes rare treble

HIROSHIMA, Oct 7: History-chasing Talal Mansoor has his heart set on clinching a unique hat-trick of Asian Games 100m titles here — then hanging up his spikes, reports AFP.

But a posse of sprinters are determined to wreck Mansoor's track ambitions, while Qatar athletics commanders are as set on blocking the army lieutenant's plan to quit.

The 30-year-old runner, who won in Seoul and Beijing as well as collecting Asian Championship titles in 1987, 1991 and 1993, said today, "This will be the most important part in — I want to go down in history as the first man to win three Asian Games 100m golds."

"I'm at my peak, but it's 99 per cent certain that I will quit after the Games. I want to quit at my best."

But Qatar Athletics Federation vice-president Jaber Al-Rumaihi immediately interrupted with a laugh: "We won't let him."

"We have one, perhaps even two per cent chance of talking him out of it. It's his decision, of course, but he likes me too

much to let me down. We need him and I hope he will think about it. We are not convinced he should retire."

Mansoor, who ran on the Grand Prix circuit in Cologne and Zurich this season before

strong, Savin is meant to have run 10.18 secs but has he done it outside his own country? To be a champion, you must perform abroad as well.

"I'll go for the 200m as well but it's the 100m that matters."

Mansoor, who holds the Games record of 10.30 secs and an Asian best of 10.14 secs, said he was in good shape and would not train again after Friday.

"I feel fine, no injury problems. But I don't know about a new record — ask me after the semifinals."

Mansoor, captain of Qatar's 27-man squad, is one of two star athletes for Qatar. Middle distance runner Mohamed Suleiman came fourth in the World Championships last year.

With different facilities, Mansoor, who also grabbed a world indoor bronze over 60m in Toronto last year, believes he could have challenged at the top level.

But he refused to compare himself to the likes of Christie and the top Americans. "Christie is the best in the world. I think. I admire him a lot. But I am not the same. I'm from Qatar."



TALAL MANSOOR

coming third in the World Cup behind Olympic and world champion Linford Christie, considers Japan's Satoru Inoue and Ishitaka Ito and Kazakhstan's Vitaly Savin as his main rivals.

The Japanese will be

ASIAN GAMES MEDALS TABLE

HIROSHIMA, Oct 7: Following is the fifth day medals tally at the 12th Asian Games here on Friday (tabulated under gold, silver, bronze and total):

	G	S	B	T
China	54	33	10	97
Japan	20	18	34	72
South Korea	20	8	12	40
Kazakhstan	2	6	7	15
Taiwan	1	5	9	15
Iran	1	4	2	7
Syria	1	3	0	4
India	1	1	3	5
Indonesia	0	7	3	10
Thailand	0	4	3	7
Uzbekistan	0	2	5	7
Vietnam	0	2	0	2
Kuwait	0	1	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1	2
Saudi Arabia	0	1	1	2
Malaysia	0	0	5	5
Brunei	0	0	2	2
Philippines	0	0	2	2
Singapore	0	0	2	2
UAE	0	0	2	2
Burma	0	0	1	1
Hong Kong	0	0	1	1
Macao	0	0	1	1
Nepal	0	0	1	1
Tajikistan	0	0	1	1

It's baloney

HIROSHIMA, Oct 7: Athletics supremo Primo Nebiolo says Ma Juren's magic potion of turtle blood is a load of baloney, reports AFP.

He is lucky to have some young women ready to train two or three times a day every day, the International Amateur Athletic Federation president told AFP here Friday.

He's a very intelligent man and he knows exactly what he is doing but he also likes being a celebrity, added Nebiolo who met the Chinese coach at the Asia championships in Manila last year.

"All these stories about turtle blood are just for show. Journalists insist on asking about it so he's happy to give them what they want."

Nebiolo thought the only diet Ma fed his "army" was a marathon a day.

His two best runners, Wang Junxia and Qu Yunxia, rewrote the record books last year.

Wang broke the 3,000m and 10,000m records last year as well as winning the 10,000m at the World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, and the World Cup marathon in San Sebastian, Spain. Qu Yunxia won the 3,000m world title and broke the 1,500m record.

Nebiolo predicted that China would become the sport's leading power in 10 years.

"When you look at what Cuba has achieved with eight million people it's not surprising what China can achieve with a population of a billion."

Ma's success so far has been exclusively in women's running and there have been insinuations he must be using steroids to enable them to train so hard.

Nebiolo would have nothing of it.

Women's athletics is 15 years behind men's there is bigger margin to work in so it's relatively easier to make bigger improvements, he said.

The women's high jump record of Stefka Kostadinova, for instance is 2.09m when Javier Sotomayor's is 2.45m. The women's record should really be around 2.20m. That's the sort of margin you have to play with."

China holds every Asian women's record and three world records but Nebiolo expected them to be soon as challenging in men's events.

In five years their men will be as strong as their women, he said.

Iraq still unwelcome

HIROSHIMA, Oct 7: Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahd Al-Sabah, who became president of the Olympic Committee of Asia (OCA) when his father died during Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, said on Thursday Iraq was still unwelcome at the Asian Games, reports Reuters.

Ahmad, speaking at the end of the two-day OCA general assembly during the Asian Games, said Iraq must "remove the conditions" that caused it to be ousted from the Asian Games in 1990 and put under UN sanctions for the invasion of Kuwait.

It has remained suspended from all sporting competition since then.

"There is no problem to Iraq's reinstatement as soon as its reasons for suspension disappear," Ahmad said.

Ahmad's father Sheikh Fahad Al-Sabah, was the long-time founding president of the OCA and many delegates oppose Iraq's return while Iraqi President Saddam Hussein remains in power.

Ahmad was re-elected unopposed as OCA president for a new four year term on Thursday, surviving a row over the presence of a Taiwanese official at the Games.

Most other officials retained their positions including India's Randhir Singh as secretary general, while Indonesia's Mohammad Hasan was elevated to senior vice president.

Lu Bin sets new world mark



HIROSHIMA, Oct 7: Lu Bin set a new world record for the women's 200 metres individual medley as China's women won their 12th title out of events at the Asian Games pool, reports AFP.

Lu, 17, clocked 2:11.57, shaving eight hundredths of a second off the record set by team-mate Lin Li in winning the title at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

The performance capped a record-setting spree by the Chinese women who have been unstoppable here. But the men had a share of glory in the 200m butterfly when they won two gold medals in a single event.

Xue We, the 22-year-old Shanghai student and 18-year-old Zhang Bin touched simultaneously for a rare dead heat and shared the winners podium in the men's 200m butterfly.

That brought the night's gold medal tally to seven from six events with China taking every one apart from the men's 100m backstroke — a popular home victory for Japan's Hajime Itoi. China now have 19 golds from 25 events with one day and six races to go.

China's women, who dominated the World Championships with 12 of a possible 16 titles last month, continued were they left off in Rome.

Lu's world record was an astonishing sixth for China inside one month and followed a day after Liu Limin set the year's best time in the 100m butterfly.

At the World Championships He Chong set a new 100m backstroke record and Le Jingyi set the new 50m and 100m freestyle marks.

The Chinese relay teams added records in the 4X100m medley and 4X100m freestyle, in which Lu swam the anchor leg.

Lu, the world champion from Liaoning province in northeastern China, was 77 hundredths of a second ahead of her winning time in Rome, and left Dai Guohong, her teammate and world champion

over 400m, trailing nearly four seconds in her wake.

Dai, 17, from Shenyang, who won the 100m breaststroke gold two days ago, clocked 2:15.42, and was followed home by Japan's Hitomi Maehara, seventh at the World Championships, who obliterated her own personal best.

The women won the 800m

4X100 metres medley relay in 4:07.69, well behind their world record time but good as gold here. Japan were second and South Korea third.

The Chinese men won the 50m freestyle through Hu Bin, a 21-year-old from Shanghai who set a new Games record.

Alexei Horvinn gave Kazakhstan their second swimming



Choi Yoo-jin of South Korea perfects her moves during a practice session for the synchronised swimming competition yesterday. — AFP photo

freestyle with Luoping taking the gold in a new continental record of 4:17.07, and teammate Zhou Guanbin collecting the silver.

Then they ended the night with a rousing win in the

silver medal, beating Jiang Chenji, the 100 metre butterfly gold medalist from China, to the touch.

New world record holder Lu's personal coach, Yao Zhenjie, explained how he planned his protégée's attack.

Paes breaks India's duck



ever Asian Games tennis gold medal with a memorable win over Indonesia in the men's team final here, reports AFP.

And the boisterous 21-year-old immediately issued a warning to his rivals.

"I want to leave Hiroshima with at least two more gold medals," he said.

The former Wimbledon and US Open junior champion is top-seeded for the singles events starting on Saturday and will Davis Cup partner Gaurav Natekar in the doubles.

"Playing for the country really gets me going. It's the ultimate experience...No sportsman can ask for more," said Paes, who lifted rank outsiders India into the Davis Cup semifinal last year.

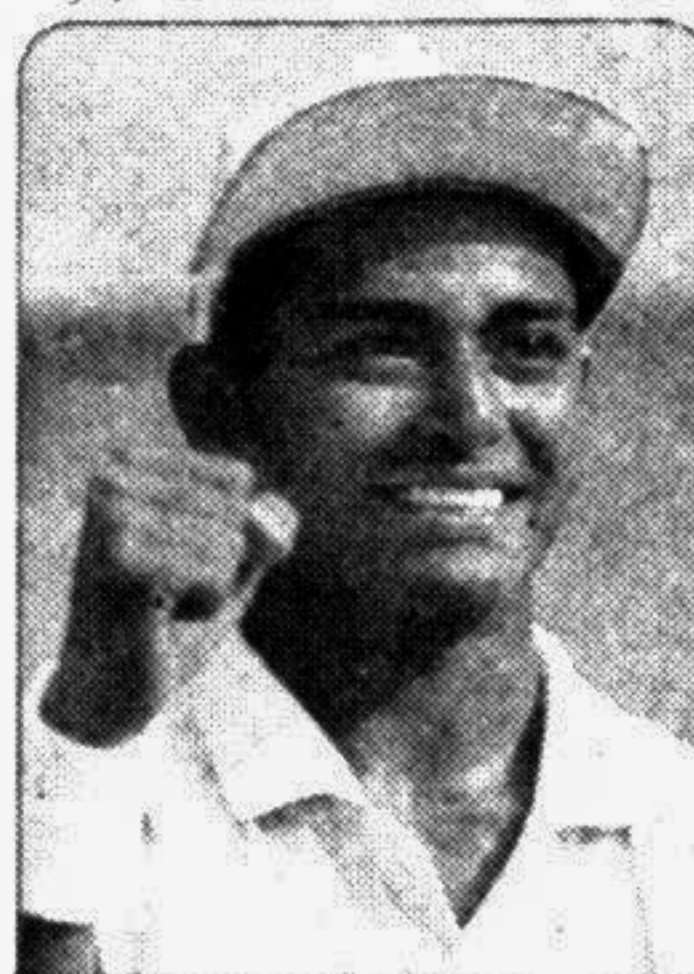
"My next target is to win an Olympic medal at Atlanta. Ramesh (Krishnan) and I narrowly missed one at Barcelona when we lost in the quarter-finals. I am determined to set the record straight."

It was India's first major Asian success since Seoul in 1986, when track star P T

Usha picked up four golds and wrestler Kartar Singh added another. India's lone gold in Beijing four years ago came in home-grown Kabaddi.

The bronze medals went to Malaysia and Japan.

India's Sports Minister Mukul Wasnik, opposition leaders Sikander Bakhat and Vijay Kumar Malhotra and



LEANDER PAES

Paes' father Vece, a former hockey international, joined around 100 flag-waving Indian athletes to cheer on their country's first gold medal here. "It is a fantastic moment,"

Wasnik said. "I hope it inspires the others to show that we do not lag behind the other countries."

Paes, who defeated Indonesian number one Benny Wijaya 6-1, 6-3 in the second singles in just 67 minutes after Ismail had taken care of Suwandi 6-1, 6-7 (6-8), 6-3 in the first, paid tribute to his teammates.

Natekar and Zeeshan took turns to man the coach's chair since the All India Tennis Association had refused to clear Davis Cup captain Javed Mukherjee for the Games.

Ismail, 24, who made his Davis Cup debut last month in the World Group play-off against South Africa in New Delhi, said winning the Asian gold was his greatest moment in a fledgling four-year international career.

The Davis Cup experience gave me the confidence to take on the best. I am relieved at justifying the faith reposed in me," said Ismail, whose father Abdul Ismail played first-class cricket for Bombay in the sixties.

Ismail is paired with Zeeshan Ali for the doubles. Natekar is the other Indian besides Paes in the singles draw.

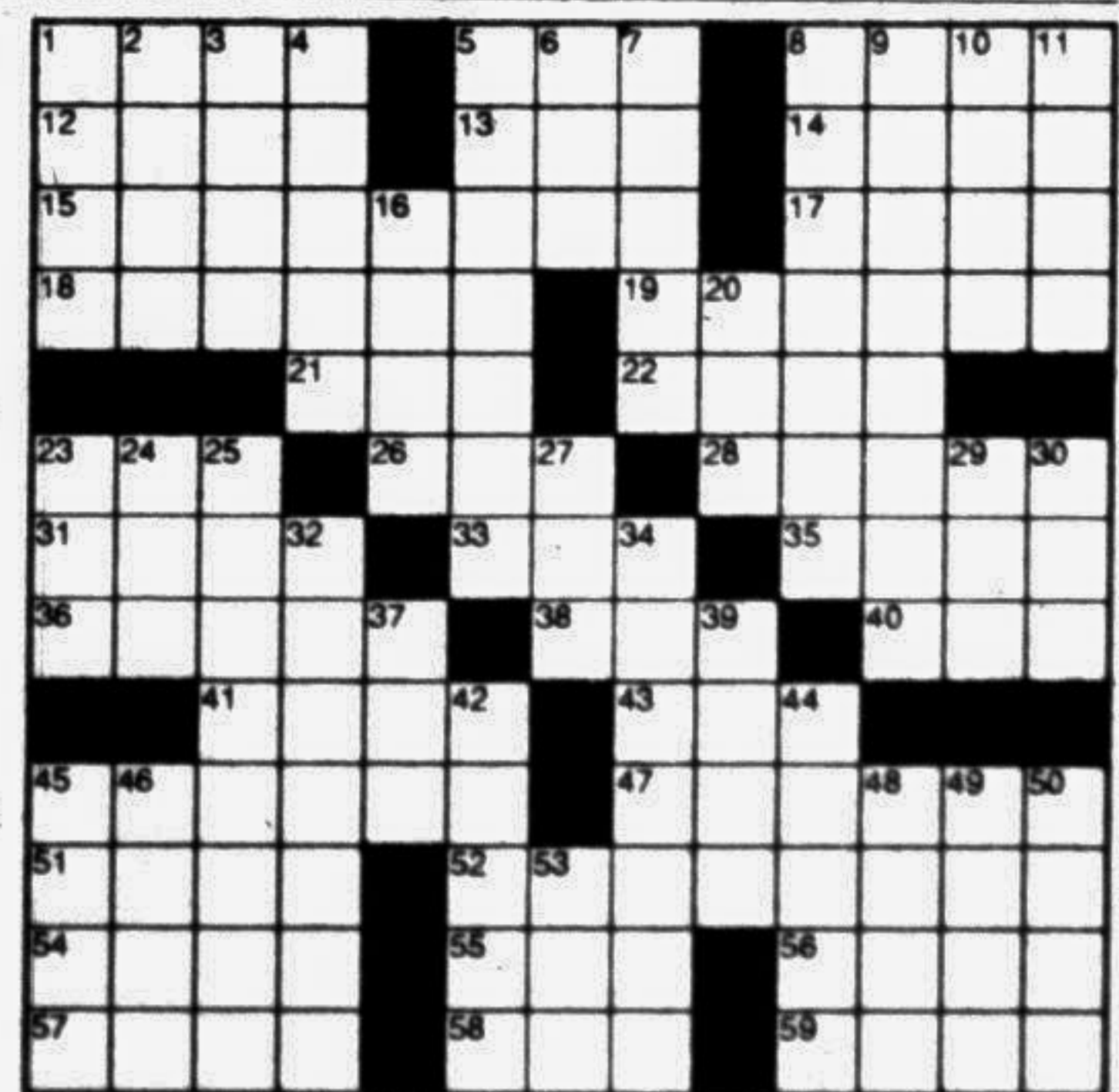
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS				DOWN			
1 Supermarket	41 Bruce's missus	2 Competent	Lafitte	11 Pen, to a con	42 Urge	44 Dog in a children's song	45 "Shane" star
5 Motor-oil additive	43 Head	3 It could be a proper subject	20 "Caught ya!"	12 Attack a la Drac	46 Toast topper	48 Admitting a draft	49 Domestic cat
8 Holyfield tactics	45 Immovable pileup	4 Disreputable	23 Running partner?	13 The Georgia Peach	47 Privateer	50 Argus had 100	53 Guglielmo's greeting
12 Hautboy	47 Narcotic	5 Gathered in large groups	24 Spanish preposition				
13 Abbott's first baseman	51 Inter-	6 Your	25 Making a promise				
14 Mine entrance	52 Pretentious sort	7 They're used in fencing	27 Chest protector				
15 Toronto team	54 Gainsay	8 Johnny Carson's successor	29 Start a garden				
17 Abominable Snowman	55 Blueprint addition	9 Capital of South Australia	30 Prior to				
18 Binge	56 Daytime TV entry	10 Attack a la Drac	32 They're radio-active				
19 Up more	57 Follows relentlessly	11 Pen, to a con	34 Impressive array				
21 Thanksgiving veggie	58 Build a brick wall	12 Attack a la Drac	37 Tiny, to a lassie				
22 Flushing field	59 Raw minerals	13 The Georgia Peach	39 Kachina worshiper				
23 Ant			42 Urge				
26 Neighbor of Kan			44 Dog in a children's song				
28 Licorice flavor			45 "Shane" star				
31 Practice origami			46 Toast topper				
33 Party bowlful			48 Admitting a draft				
35 Stench			49 Domestic cat				
36 Lets go			50 Argus had 100				
38 "Humbly"			53 Guglielmo's greeting				
40 Lamb's dam							

Solution time: 21 mins.

MOLE	BEG	GAIT
ALICE	ALI	ERLE
PIGLATIN	NILE	
SOS	BOZ	SPASM
MEN	BOA	
PAPAL	SIXTEEN	
AMEN	WIZ	TRIO
LIGHTER	MOANS	
ARE	YEN	
PARTY	HAS	SPA
EXIT	POWHTAT	
ELLA	RON	GYRO
KEEN	OKS	OXEN

Yesterday's answer 2-23



CRYPTOQUIP

G J N Q J K N G I C B Y X N S A
X W S A W C J O K H J O
T Z V G B H V T I O V J
T W S X V O W B I W C T V
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHIPWRECKED COUPLE, ABOARD LIFEBOATS, GRIPED: "I KNOW WE'RE DRIFTING APART."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: X equals K
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher