



Seven-time champion Martina Navratilova of the United States and this year's top money earner Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain (R) give a big hand during the presentation of the Virginia Slims Championship trophy to Gabriela Sabatini in New York on Nov 20. The post-match celebration marked the end of the Slims' 25-year involvement in women's tennis. — AFP photo

Maradona plans comeback again

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 22: Diego Maradona on Monday changed his mind and now says he wants to play professional soccer again, reports Reuter.

"I would like to play for Boca (Jrs) in September," when his 15-month suspension for failing a drugs test at the World Cup expires, he told a local radio station.

His interviewer then gave the microphone again to Boca Jrs vice-president Carlos Heller, whom he had just interviewed.

Having Maradona in the team "is a dream all of us have," a surprised Heller said.

After the stiff suspension by soccer's world body FIFA, a depressed Maradona — whose career has been haunted by drugs, violence and scandals — said he was quitting soccer for good.

But last month the fallen superstar was moved close to tears after FIFA announced it was relaxing its penalty to let him coach struggling Deportivo Mandiyu.

And last Saturday, after hearing again the cheers of the crowds when he scored three goals in his second charity match — the only kind he is allowed to play — he said, "This makes one feel like returning."

ATP's top 20

MONACO, Nov 22 (Reuter): Leading men's rankings issued by the ATP tour on Monday:

1. Pete Sampras (US)	5,097
2. Andre Agassi (US)	3,249
3. Boris Becker (Germany)	3,237
4. Sergi Bruguera (Spain)	3,007
5. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia)	2,936
6. Michael Chang (US)	2,647
7. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)	2,471
8. Alberto Berasategui (Spain)	2,470
9. Michael Stich (Germany)	2,380
10. Todd Martin (US)	2,307
11. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia)	2,174
12. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa)	2,121
13. Jim Courier (US)	1,909
14. Marc Rosset (Switzerland)	1,707
15. Andrei Medvedev (Ukraine)	1,655
16. Thomas Muster (Austria)	1,616
17. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands)	1,407
18. Petr Korda (Czech Republic)	1,397
19. Magnus Larsson (Sweden)	1,131
20. Jason Stoltenberg (Australia)	1,288

WTA rankings

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Nov 22 (Reuter): Final 194 leading women's tennis rankings as issued by the WTA Tour on Monday:

1. Steffi Graf (Germany)	2. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain)
3. Conchita Martinez (Spain)	4. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
5. Mary Pierce (France)	6. Lindsay Davenport (US)
7. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)	8. Martina Navratilova (US)
9. Kimiko Date (Japan)	10. Natalia Zvereva (Belarus)
11. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)	12. Anke Huber (Germany)
13. Iva Majoli (Croatia)	14. Mary Jpe Fernandez (US)
15. Brenda Schultz (Netherlands)	16. Amy Frazier (US)
17. Lori McNeil (US)	18. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)
19. Sabine Hack (Germany)	20. Ines Gorrochategui (Argentina)

Renewal of an old rivalry



NEW YORK, Nov 22: One week after she retired, Martina Navratilova has returned with a host of friends, including Chris Evert.

The greatest women's tennis players of the past 25 years announced Monday they are joining with entertainers Barbara Mandrell and Gladys Knight for a 1995 Virginia Slims Legends Tour, reports AP.

"I thought I'd had my fill of Martina, but I guess I was wrong," said Evert, who has had two children since retiring after the 1989 US Open.

Besides Navratilova and Evert, other stars who will compete on the first senior women's tennis tour include Billie Jean King, Virginia Wade, Evonne Goolagong, Rosie Casals, Wendy Turnbull, Francoise Durr, Betty Stove and Tracy Austin.

The six weekend extravaganzas mixing tennis and concert performances will be held in Tampa, Fla; Charlotte, NC; Richmond, Va; Oklahoma City, Okla; Houston and Delray Beach, Fla. Dates were not announced.

"Twenty-five years ago, we took a big first step in encouraging the accomplishments of women through our sponsorship of professional tennis," said Ina Broenman, director of event marketing for Philip Morris USA. "Today, Virginia Slims is taking another big step, celebrating the success of just how far women have come."

The Virginia Slims' sponsorship of the main tour ended Sunday when Gabriela Sabatini captured the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships at Madison Square Garden. The WTA Tour does not have an overall sponsor for next year.

"We're concerned," Evert said when asked about the lack of sponsorship for the WTA Tour. "We're fine for next year, but for '96 the pressure's on to come up with a sponsor."

Colonial Mutual Classic to feature top four

MELBOURNE, Nov 22: Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras, Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg and Michael Stich all will play in an exhibition tennis tournament in Melbourne the week before the Australian Open, reports AP.

Tournament promoter Colin Stubs said Tuesday that he also hopes to sign American Michael Chang and Cedric Pioline of France to complete the field for the eight-man Colonial Mutual Classic, which will be played at Kooyong from Jan 11-14.

The exhibition immediately precedes the Australian Open, which runs from Jan 16-29 at the nearby National Tennis Center.

Stubs said Chang, Pioline and former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash are the three players in contention for the final two invitations.

Casals noted, that when the women's professional tennis circuit began 25 years ago, "we were considered entertainers. And that's what saved us."

Besides Mandrell and Knight, who attended the news conference announcing the Legends, other performers who will participate include Martina McBride and Regina Belle.

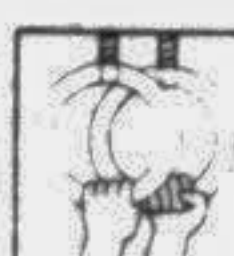
The impetus was the retirement of Navratilova, whose record-breaking career ended last Tuesday when she suffered a first-round loss to Sabatini. It was perhaps fitting that on Sunday, after Sabatini defeated 18-year-old Lindsay Davenport to capture the 3.5 million dollar tournament, the biggest cheers from the crowd were when Navratilova, Evert and King were announced.

The three-day events will benefit the AIDS effort in each community, said Broenman, who presented the National AIDS Fund a check for \$75,000 "as a beginning."

At each stop on the tour, a Friday night concert will kick off the weekend. There also will be an amateur doubles competition for women 21 and over at each city, with the winners from each city facing off against one of the Legends teams during the Delray Beach stop.

At last week's Martina Navratilova Night festivities, the retiring left-hander "was given a motorcycle. Monday, all of the players received leather motorcycle jackets with the name 'Virginia Slims Legends' on the sleeve."

Homecoming of a champion



BUCHAREST, Nov 22: Nadia Comaneci, the first gymnast to get a perfect 10, came home to a chaotic Romanian welcome on Monday five years to the day after she fled communist rule, reports Reuter.

Police out numbered well-wishers and journalists, forming an impenetrable barrier for the children — many clutching bouquets — who waited in the freezing night for their idol.

"She ran away from a police state and she's coming back to one," said one disappointed Romanian trying to peer between the fur-hatted guards blocking the view of Comaneci.

"Nadia, Nadia, Nadia," chanted a band of children far too young to have seen anything but recordings of the Romanian gymnast's triumph at the Montreal Olympics in 1976.

"I love you all and thanks for

having come to the airport," she gushed at well-wishers. "I returned often from competitions but this return is for me the most emotional one."

Comaneci was just 14 when she won three gold medals and

strike over non-payment of bonuses. Comaneci was a creation of the intense sport competition fostered by communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Yet in November 1989, just a month before he was overthrown and shot in the bloodiest of the eastern European revolutions, she fled across the Hungarian border and on to build a new life in the United States.

She has never clearly explained her reasons for defecting or why she has taken so long to pay a return visit.

Last week she announced she would marry Bart Conner, a gymnastics champion at the 1984 US Los Angeles Olympic Games.

For her mother Stefania, it was an emotional homecoming: "At last I see again my daughter at home. I didn't believe it until I saw her stepping down from the airplane."

BAF on a mission

LONDON, Nov 22: British athletics will launch a vigorous defence this week against charges that it is a drug-riddled sport, reports Reuter.

Figures have been prepared claiming to show that many other sports at national and international level have a worse record.

"They are going to surprise a lot of people," said Tony Ward, public relations officer for the British Athletic Federation, which is believed to conduct twice as many drug tests than any other governing body in the country.

Seven British positive tests were revealed this summer. One of them, involving 800 metres runner Diane Modahl, who is protesting her innocence, has still to be settled.

Belated birthday party for Harris

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Nov 22: All-rounder Chris Harris celebrated his 25th birthday a day late on Monday when he became only the second player to take a first-class hat-trick for New Zealand, reports Reuter.

It happened during the Orange Free State first innings on the third day of their four day game at Springbok Park.

But it could not prevent the home side, led by a fine 157 from Rudolf Steyn and half-centuries from Mickey Arthur (83), Hansie Cronje (56) and Kosie Venter (55) not out, from passing the follow-on target of 389.

They set up a last day run-chase by declaring 146 runs in arrears on 392-5.

By the close New Zealand had moved to 140-3 and extended the lead to 286 with Martin Crowe, opening the batting in place of Bryan Young who had a slight groin strain, on 66.

With him was Harris whose feat earlier in the day has only been matched for New Zealand by Peter Petherick who launched his brief Test career with a hat-trick against Pakistan in 1976.

After Simon Doull had removed Arthur in the fourth over of the day and then ended a 119-run partnership for the second-wicket between Steyn and Cronje by removing Cronje, Harris dismissed Steyn, Louis Wilkinson and Gerhardus Liebenburg with successive deliveries.

Steyn had batted superbly hitting 20 fours before he gave a return catch from the last ball of Harris' sixth over after lunch.

From the first two deliveries of his seventh over, Wilkinson drove straight to Ken Rutherford at short extra cover and Liebenburg flicked a catch to Stephen Fleming at mid-wicket.

Wimbledon makes profit

LONDON, Nov 22: Wimbledon, the world's most famous tennis tournament, made a record profit of 28 million pounds this year, a staggering 70 per cent increase on the previous record of 16.4 million pounds set in 1993, reports AP.

This is a major boost for British tennis, as all of the surplus given to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) for reinvestment in the game in Britain.

Some of the money is intended to add more international tournaments to the domestic calendar, while some will go towards extending the season beyond the traditional summer months.

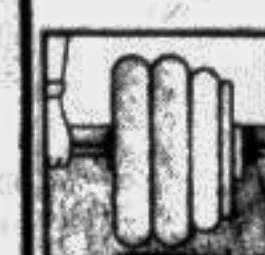
A strategy to increase the number of tennis centers in Britain will be given greater investment, and it is estimated that by 1997, 40 per cent of the population will live within 20 minutes drive of an indoor centre.

In addition, more experienced coaches will be employed to improve the standards of junior players, and elite training centres are being created round the country.

Five new tournament venues will be opened next year providing a wider range of court surfaces and all-weather facilities than ever before.

Ian Peacock, chief executive of the LTA, said: "We wish to change the general public perception that tennis begins and ends around the time of the Wimbledon Championships."

Watch out Atlanta, here comes Hercules



ISTANBUL, Nov 22: Records keep tumbling for Turkey's tiny Naim Suleymanoglu, now in his 12th year on the world weightlifting scene.

"I will not quit until the Olympics in Atlanta in 1996," he said after winning his eighth world title before a delirious home crowd in Istanbul on Sunday, reports Reuter.

"Naim is undisputedly the best," said International Weightlifting Federation president Gottfried Schold.

"I believe I can do better, but considering my recent (groin) injury I would not have done so well today without the support of the crowd," he said.

Seemingly unbeatable, 64-kg Suleymanoglu's only potential rival could be complicity. The 1.52-metre (5-ft) muscle man first put his country on the world sporting map in 1988 by lifting three times his bodyweight to win Turkey's first Olympic gold in 20 years.

He won again in 1992 and wants an unprecedented third title in 1996.

He is now accompanied by an army of medal-winning teammates most notably the eventingier Halil Mutlu, another world record-breaker, who won gold in the 54 kg on Friday.

"People's attitude changed when I came along," he told Reuters. "Turkish sportsmen would go along as tourists to international competitions. Now they go believing that they can win gold too. There has been a revolution."

"He is the architect of Turkish weightlifting," said Mutlu, Bulgarian-born like Suleymanoglu, who came to Turkey in 1989.

Suleymanoglu says drugs played no part in his stunning rise to stardom in a sport notorious for abuse. "I never needed drugs. I was winning anyway."

"Those who deliberately drug themselves for some extra kilos should be banned for life."

The tiny man who lifts mountains says freak talent cannot guarantee success.

"You have to really believe and work really hard," he said. "I used to watch lifters on television when I was 10. I always Wanted to be like them. Slowly I began to believe I

could be. I once said, 'I'll be first one day.' Everyone laughed."

"I first remember lifting 25 kilos. I was 12. It was just an exhibition events, but I was ecstatic."

Born in 1967 to a poor ethnic Turkish family in former communist Bulgaria, Suleymanoglu burst onto the world scene at 16 as a featherweight and began destroying records before defecting to Turkey at the 1986 World Championship

in Melbourne.

Squashing speculation he could not win without Bulgarian training, he claimed gold and set three world records at the 1988 Seoul Olympics to become a hero in his adopted homeland.

"Bulgaria was the best place for weightlifting when I began," he said. "Sport was a communist showcase. When we took home the golds people began to check their maps to find Bulgaria. But now it is collapsing around their ears. All their current stars are my generation. Then there is no one."

When he arrived, Turks showered Suleymanoglu with flats, cars, money and adulation, but he has not always had it easy.

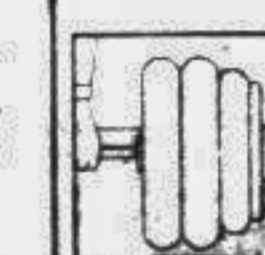
He campaigned for two years to win permission for his family to leave Bulgaria. He had to learn Turkish properly to continue his education, as well as train in an unfamiliar environment.

"When I first came here I had to take exams for everything," he said. "I got into university in Bulgaria, but here I had to re-take the high school diploma. I had to take up an interview I did in a Bulgarian paper that mentioned my university place to avoid more exams here. I re-took my driving test and failed the written part first go as my Turkish was bad."

Suleymanoglu has not been back to Bulgaria for security reasons.

"I have never regretted defecting," he said. "But I would like to go back and see the place where I was born. If you've lived 19 years in one place it is difficult to cut loose."

Sino supremacy extended



ISTANBUL, Nov 22: Zou Fei continued the dominance by China's teenage women as she set world records in the snatch and jerk at the World Weightlifting Championships in the 59 kg category on Monday, reports Reuter.

Zou won the snatch, jerk and combined gold medals with 220.0 kg in total and left Bulgarian Gergana Kirilova trailing in second place on 202.5.

Zou lifted 98.5 kg to improve the world snatch, record of compatriot Chen Xiaomin by half a kg and her 123 in the jerk overtook Chen's 122.5.

But Zou failed at the 125 kg bar in the jerk that would have brought a combined record, as the weights must be divisible by 2.5 kg for the total. Zou's snatch was recorded as 97.5, leaving her equal with Chen's 220.0 kg world record.

Thailand's Suta Khessaporn was third with 197.5 kg total.

Zou was the third Chinese teenager to win gold in the World Championships and it showed again that China has the resources to sweep the board even without their first string lifters.

China hold all the women's combined weight-lifting world records but those who took part in the Asian Games in Hiroshima last month decided it was to soon the complete in

these championships.

Seventeen year-old Wang Chang and Yun Yanhong won the 46 and 54 kg categories, with 19-year-old Li Fengying missing a possible gold through a mix-up in the 54 kg.

Meanwhile convicted rapist Angel Guenechev, allowed out of a Bulgarian prison to take part in the championships, won a bronze medal on Monday.

Guenechev finished third in the 70 kg category behind Fedail Guler of Turkey who set world records in the snatch and combined on his way to the gold, winning with a total of 350 kg.

Guler beat defending champion Yoto Yotov of Bulgaria, who equalled his own former

combined world record of 345.0 kg, into second place.

Bulgarian team officials said Guenechev, sentenced in 1992 to two years for rape, had been allowed out of jail four months ago to train with the national team.

Guenechev's last appearance in major international competition was the 1988 Olympics where he won gold but was then disqualified along with several other Bulgarians when they tested positive for a banned diuretic drug.

Guler, an ethnic Turk from Bulgaria who moved to Turkey a few years ago, said he hoped victory would improve his financial situation.

He said he had to borrow money to prepare for the championships and struggled to look after his unemployed father and mother who was ill. "All I want is a job," he said.

Guler, who set the world snatch record with 160 kg and lifted 190 in the jerk to take the combined gold, followed Turkey's 54-kg Halil Mutlu and 64 kg Naim Suleymanoglu on to the podium and into the record books.

But he had to be satisfied with the silver in the jerk, won by Hungarian Feri Attila with 190 kg on lighter bodyweight.

"It was more important to win on the total," Guler said. "I won gold in my own country, I dedicate it to my people."

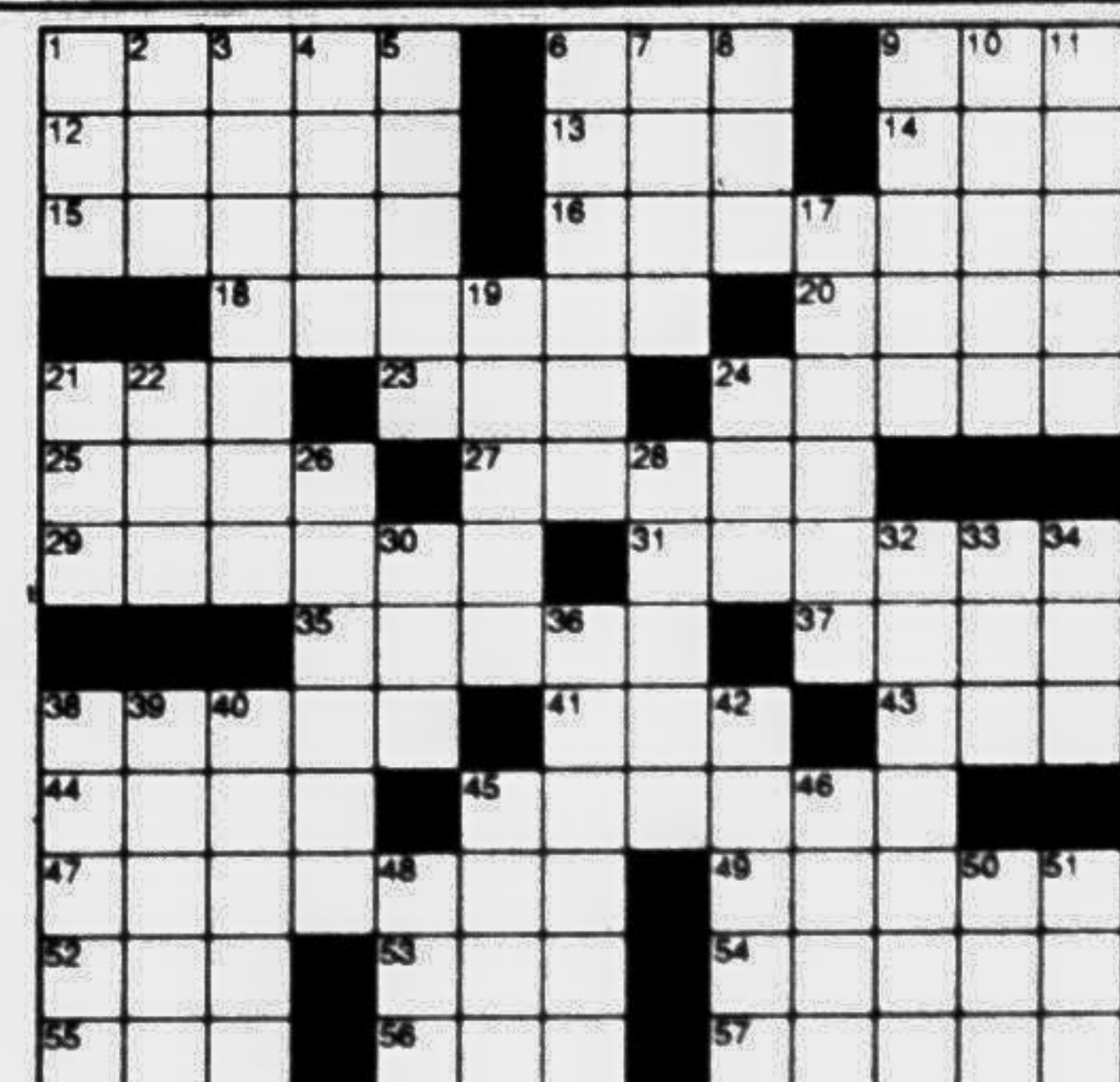
The top three all used to belong to the same club in Bulgaria.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	Xochimilco	2 Parisian	the
1 Ketch's	38 Full-size	pal	Stooges
6 Conrad's	41 Succor	3 Fried-	22 Motonists'
"Lord —"	43 Presently	chicken	org.
9 Command	44 Yorkshire	king	24 Wapiti
to Fido	45 Rise	4 Thunder	26 Packed
12 City on the	47 Advice	god	away
Missouri	49 columnist	5 Full	28 Reason
13 Swiss	49 Danish	6 Keep	30 Compass-
canton	physicist	everything	point
14 NOW goal	Bohr	up in the	suffix
15 North Da-	52 Blackbird	air?	32 Caters
kota city	53 Spelldown	7 "Dies —"	basely
16 Looks	54 Binge	8 Hr. fraction	33 Bachelor's
18 Coat with	55 Rds.	9 Fashion's	last remark
flour	56 Prevent	Geoffrey	34 Circular
20 Adam's	57 Elizabeth's	10 Slip-up	or coping
grandson	consort	11 Full of	36 Sadat's
21 West of	DOWN	idle talk	predecessor
Hollywood	1 Off-	17 Abase	38 Big
23 East	tattooed	19 Actress	bashes
Coast st.	word	Winger	39 Laughing
24 Form of		21 One of	40 Boeotian
corundum			bird
25 Galley			42 Not too
props			smart
27 Ball VIP			45 Neighbor-
29 Time for			hood
an egg			46 Pinches
roll?			48 Suffer a
31 Giraffe's			recession
kin			50 Appomat-
35 Rue			tox Court
Morgue			House
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Solution time: 26 mins.

PACA	YEA	STAN
AGAR	HER	AHOY
NEAT	ELM	PENS
GENIUS	VIPPER	
SPA	KER	
MITT	INTERIOR	
ASH	NOH	CHI
OMELETTE	NEMO	
COG	TWO	
SCHOOL	RENTAL	
ALAS	ARI	CAGE
GAME	KEA	OKRA
AMPS	ELL	MEAN



CRYPTOQUIP

Z P A I M Y Y F P A X O U X Y

T Z Z K U Y A E O I T E Z A X F

Q U E B Q U Z A G T B X M G

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WITH PROOF, THE CUSHION SALESMAN MIGHT BE ACCUSED OF PADDING THE BILL.

Today's Cryptquip clue: E equals C

The Cryptquip 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.