

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

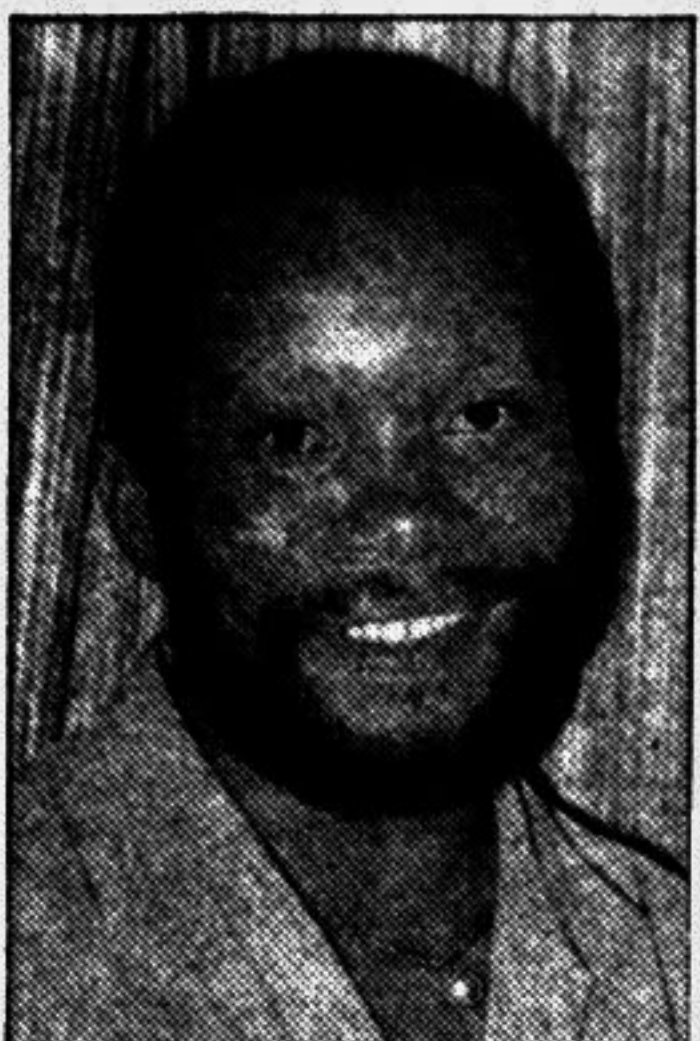
(The Professor does)

At the ATP Tour university in Florida, where young tennis tyros gather to learn the intricacies of their profession, a new subject was added to the curriculum — chauvinism.

This, after one of their graduates, Richard Krajicek, a 23-year-old Rotterdam born, Monte Carlo resident respectfully intoned, "80 per cent of the top 100 women in tennis circuit are fat lazy pigs and don't deserve to be on the show courts."

This remark put Krajicek at the centre of controversy, specially portly tennis stars wanted to slay him. Tennis legend Martina Navratilova, however, chose a softer way by threatening to beat him up.

SPORTS TALK



Malcolm Marshall

(Former West Indian fast bowling great)

"I could probably keep on going for a while longer but I think I would rather be remembered as a good cricketer than as someone who just hung on for money."

On his decision to retire.

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-26

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Feb 16, 1996)

- 1. Munich Olympics were held in 1970 1972 1974
2. The name of the first three cricket World Cups were
3. 1976 soccer World Cup was won by Brazil England Argentina
4. The current national cricket manager is
5. 2000 Summer Olympics will be held in London Beijing Sydney

Name:
Class: Roll No:
School Address:
Phone: (if any)

Nielsen rescues S Australia

SYDNEY, Feb 14: South Australia wicketkeeper Tim Nielsen hit an unbeaten century as the Sheffield Shield leaders rallied from a shaky start against Victoria on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Nielsen scored a rapid 106 not out from 145 deliveries as South Australia reached a respectable 296 for nine at the close of the first day in Melbourne.

Victoria left-arm pace bowler Ian Hewitt claimed two wickets on his Sheffield debut to reduce the visitors to a precarious 169 for six at tea.

South Australia opener Paul Nobes provided the only resistance during the first session, hitting 18 boundaries in an aggressive 66.

In Perth, Queensland struck back during the final session after being dismissed for 154 by Western Australia. Western Australia pace bowler Sean Cary, drafted into the attack as a replacement for injured Bruce Reid, took three for 49.

The home side were 61 for four at the close.

Tammisuo breaks Nurmi's record

HELSINKI, Finland, Feb 14: Running legend Paavo Nurmi set 31 outdoor and several indoor world records in the 1920s and 1930s — all since broken, reports AP.

But until now, he still held a Finnish record, which he set in Buffalo, New York. After 71 years and one day, Nurmi, who died in 1973 at age 76, lost that one, too.



STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE: England's speedster Dominic Cork (C) stands exasperated as the long-handles of Kiwis Nathan Astle (L) and Stephan Fleming plunder the England attack during the World Cup opener in Ahmedabad, India, yesterday.

Astle hammers Cup's first ton NZ ride on iffy England



AHMEDABAD, India, Feb 14: New Zealand took advantage of England's failings to snatch an 11-run win in the Group B opening match of the 1996 World Cup today, report agencies.

New Zealand opener Nathan Astle, dropped on one, went on to score 101, his third century in one-day internationals, to guide his side to an impressive 239 for six from their 50 overs after they were put into bat.

Despite a brave 85 from Graeme Hick, who batted with a runner after damaging his hamstring, England could muster only 228 for nine in their 50 overs against tight bowling and fielding.

Astle was one of four catches put down by England in a shoddy fielding display, although they managed to restrict New Zealand to just 43 runs in the last 10 overs of their innings.

But apart from Hick, few England batsmen looked up to the challenge of scoring an average of 4.8 runs per over to win, and their day was summed up when Hick was run out following a mix-up between his runner, captain Mike Atherton, and Neil Fairbrother.

Man-of-the-match Astle brought up his century in just 126 balls with eight fours and two towering sixes off seamers Darren Gough and Peter Martin, making England pay in full after Graham Thorpe spilled a low chance offered by him in the third over.

Thorpe missed Astle's fellow opener Craig Spearman in the next over, while Atherton and Dominic Cork also spilled regulation chances.

England's ground fielding was sloppy, and afterwards both Atherton and team manager Ray Illingworth acknowledged their side's out-crick had cost them the match.

Illingworth said: "If we had taken those chances

early on it would have been a different game. It was exactly as we did in South Africa.

"It's an area we have worked hard on, but when it has come to the crunch we have missed the chances again."

Atherton said: "Our batting and bowling was not too bad but the fielding was poor. It cost us 20 or 30 runs and the match."

With 10 overs to go in their innings, New Zealand

United Arab Emirates in Peshawar, Pakistan, on Sunday. "It's not a pulled muscle. Just a bit of stiffness which Graeme first felt yesterday. He aggravated it running round the boundary today, but he should be okay in a couple of days," said Illingworth.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World Cup Group B match between England and New Zealand here on Wednesday:

Table with columns: NEW ZEALAND, Spearman c and b Cork, Astle c Hick b Martin, Fleming c Thorpe b Hick, Twose c Thorpe b Hick, Cairns c Cork b Illingworth, Harris run out, Thomson not out, German not out, Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-4, nb-2), Total: (for six wickets) 239, Did not bat: Larsen, Nash, Morrison.

Fall of wickets: 1-12: 2-108; 3-142; 4-196; 5-204; 6-212

Table with columns: ENGLAND, Atherton b Nash, Siewart c and b Harris, Hick run out, Thorpe b Larsen, Fairbrother b Morrison, Russell c Morrison b Larsen, White c Cairns b Thomson, Cork c German b Nash, Gough not out, Martin c Cairns b Nash, Illingworth not out, Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-1, nb-2), Total: (9 wickets) 228

Fall of wickets: 1-1: 2-100; 3-123; 4-144; 5-151; 6-180; 7-185; 8-210; 9-222.

Table with columns: ENGLAND, Atherton b Nash, Siewart c and b Harris, Hick run out, Thorpe b Larsen, Fairbrother b Morrison, Russell c Morrison b Larsen, White c Cairns b Thomson, Cork c German b Nash, Gough not out, Martin c Cairns b Nash, Illingworth not out, Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-1, nb-2), Total: (9 wickets) 228

Result: New Zealand won by 11 runs.

Picking pivots of play

beginning with two wickets for 45, a catch and a typically heavy 85 with the bat before his cruel dismissal.

Astle, who also managed a one-day 120 last month against Zimbabwe — has posted the clearest of warnings that he is a batsman to watch in this tournament.

THE MOMENT

Crocketed Graham Hick's run out proved the key to New Zealand win... and Chris Cairns' catch to dismiss Craig White in the final stages draw the bolt on England's chances of getting out of jail.

The blameless Hick was the fourth Englishman out, having scored 85 out of a total of 144, flowing a typical mix-up once a batsman has had to resort to a runner.

Neil Fairbrother, on strike, pushed into the covers only for Mike Atherton, doing the leg work after Hick had strained a muscle, to hesitate fatally. Roger Twose whipped the ball in and Atherton and Hick were on their way back on the pavilion.

The Cairns catch in the 43rd over ended any lingering hopes of an against-the-odds fightback. With White gone England were left high and dry on 180 for six, with 60 still needed for victory at over eight an over.

Garriman manages to hold 'Deep Blue'

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 14: The third game in a six-game chess match between world champion Garry Kasparov and an IBM supercomputer called 'Deep Blue' ended in a draw on Thursday, reports Reuter.

6th World Cup's 'firsts'

Toss was won by Michael Atherton of England

Team to bat was New Zealand

Ball was bowled by Dominic Cork

Run came from a wide ball

Four was hit by Nathan Astle (NZ)

Six was hit by Nathan Astle (NZ)

Wicket to fall was that of Craig Spearman (NZ)

Wicket fell to the bowling of Dominic Cork (ENG)

Batsman to reach 50 was Nathan Astle (NZ)

Batsman to reach 100 was Nathan Astle (NZ)

Run-out was that of Chris Harris (NZ)

Batsman to be caught was Craig Spearman (NZ)

Batsman to be bowled was Michael Atherton (ENG)

Man-of-the-match was Nathan Astle (NZ)

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ROQUIBUL ON THE ROCKER

Catches win the matches



The Wills World Cup cricket got off to a flying start at Ahmedabad (Gujarat), the home town of Mahatma Gandhi, yesterday. New Zealand beat England by 11 runs and, to my opinion, thoroughly deserved to win. They outplayed England in every department of the game. Putting New Zealand into bat was predictable. England captain Atherton wanted to take the early morning advantage from the wickets.

As the proverb "catches win matches" said in cricket, England not only spoiled chances 4 vital catches but also displayed a pathetic ground fielding. Man-of-the-match Astle, dropped by Thorpe while on 1, went on to score a brilliant century (101).

Taking full advantage of the poor English performance New Zealand, led by Astle, rattled through for a fighting total. Excepting Dominic Cork and Illing-

worth English bowling lacked the bite. When Astle and hard hitting Chris Cairns was building up a solid partnership following Flemming-Rager Twose contribution it all looked that New Zealand were gunning for 260 plus. But it was not to be. When Cairns departed scoring a quickfire 36 in 29 balls in the 40th over (196 for 4) suddenly their batting fell apart and the last 10 overs only produced 43 runs. To my mind this could have been a big turning point from New Zealand point of view and this could have had a big bearing towards their winning the match.

When England started their innings a target of 240 runs wasn't a very difficult task considering having experienced batsmen, fast wicket, fast outfield and New Zealand going into the game with one specialist spinner on a comparatively slow wicket.

There was a big hiccup early in the England innings when their captain Atherton was yoked in the very second over. Then a solid 99 runs partnership between

Alec Stuart and Graham Hick (batting with a runner) who was going great guns put England on the right track. New Zealand captain used all of his bowlers but runs were reined within 6 runs per over. After the departure of Stewart and early dismissal of Thorpe by the 31st over England had all the hope as long as Hick was these who hardly cooked to be bothered by any bowler.

The 36th over of the England innings turned out to be the main turning point of the match. Seemingly a wrong call by Fairbrother and a smart fielding by Roger Twose resulted in Hick being run out and theoretically all England's hope was dashed. The departure of Hick had the New Zealand bowler with their tails by and succeeded in restricting England to 228 for 9 and record a very creditable victory. Amongst the New Zealand bowler Larsen, Nash and Morrison bowled exceedingly well and captain Lee German handled his bowler very well, and their fielding was top class.

Warne gets Qadir's nod



KARACHI, Pakistan, Feb 14: Former Pakistan great Abdul Qadir hailed Shane Warne as the best leg-spinner in the World Cup on Thursday — then admitted even he would have struggled to match the Australian, reports AFP.

Qadir labelled the tournament a "World Cup of spinners", with the Australian, Mushtaq Ahmed of Pakistan and Anil Kumble of India has favourites for match-winning honours.

"Undoubtedly Warne is in his own class. Though I am close to Mushtaq, I cannot deny the fact that Warne is a great bowler," he said.

"I have never seen such great leg-spin in my entire career and believe I might never see anything to compare with him in the future either."

"I was never able to bowl such leg-breaks myself."

Qadir, now 40 but still playing in domestic cricket, should know what he is talking about. It was he who helped resuscitate the dying art of wrist-spin at a time when West Indian pacemen roamed the globe unchecked during the late seventies and eighties.

Known as "the magician", Qadir played in the 1963 and 1967 World Cups and ended his international career with 236 Test wickets, second

only to Imran Khan in the list of Pakistan's bowling hall of fame.

For him, it is Warne's control that makes him the real master.

"He has an amazing control over his leg-breaks. Mushtaq has improved

his successor struggling to exploit his flipper delivery. I wanted to help a great bowler," he said. "I told him not to use too much force while bowling flippers as he used to. Now I see him bowling flippers more effectively."

Qadir's admiration for the young Victorian, who already has over 200 Test wickets at the age of 25, in stark contrast to what the rest of Pakistan think of Warne after he accused their former national captain Salm Malik of attempted bribery.

Perhaps the wrist-spinning brotherhood is as strong as national ties.

Anil Kumble, according to Qadir, does not deserve as high a rating as the other two. The Indian bowls flatter and spins the ball less but does have a range of subtle variations to keep batsman guessing.

The three bowlers, however, share the ability to mix it up with snarling one-day batsmen intent on grievous bodily hitting.

"All these three bowlers are at their peak and it will be a treat to watch them bowl," said Qadir. "Used to be considered a virtual sin to include spinners in teams. But now things have changed. I will be happy to see a revival of what used to be called a dying art."

"People and selectors said leg spinners would prove costly in one-day matches. But I am proud that it is no more a dying art. It is very much alive."

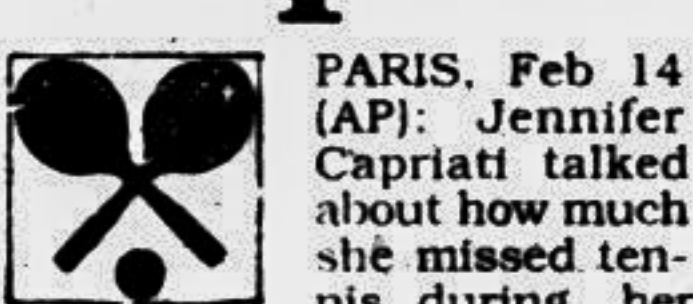
Some of the magician's arts rubbed off on Warne in 1994, when Qadir spotted

tremendously but he does not have such control as Warne has."

Not that Mushtaq — "Mushie" to his devoted fans at English county Somerset — should be underestimated, especially after taking 18 wickets in the final Test against Australia last year. "I believe he will do amazing things with the ball in the event," said Qadir.

Some of the magician's arts rubbed off on Warne in 1994, when Qadir spotted

Capriati can't this time



PARIS, Feb 14 (AP): Jennifer Capriati talked about how much she missed tennis during her self-imposed exile, how she loved being back, how she felt better physically and mentally than ever before.

The former teen prodigy looked content and relaxed as flash bulbs popped and questions were fired at her in the interview room.

Capriati did and said all the right things — except play a tennis match.

Just minutes before she was due to walk on court Tuesday night for her first tournament match in 15 months, and only her second in 2 and a half years, Capriati suddenly pulled out of the Paris Open with what was described as a strained muscle.

"I was really looking for-

ward to playing here," Capriati said. "It's very unfortunate. I came all this way and I felt like I was ready. There was nothing I could do. Something like this had to happen."

But Capriati's comeback may have been put off only for a few days. Her father, Stefano, said she would stay in Paris on Wednesday for treatment and, if healthy, would play next week at an indoor tournament in Essen, Germany.

Capriati, who requested and was granted a wild card into the Paris Open last week, had been scheduled to face 25th-ranked Sabine Appelmans of Belgium in a first-round match at the Stade Coubertin.

She said she pulled the muscle around the right hip, between the hamstring and the lower back, while prac-

ticing with Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria earlier in the day.

"When you haven't been playing for a while, your muscles are very tight," she said. "I was going for a ball and I just went too far. It pulled and I felt pain."

There was immediate speculation about the extent of the injury, that Capriati was looking for an excuse to pull out, that maybe she wasn't ready to face the pressure and expectations linked to her eagerly-awaited comeback.

The speculation was fueled by the way the WTA announced the withdrawal at the last minute, without specifying the injury. Then, when Capriati appeared at the news conference, she didn't explain what the injury was either-until questioners persisted.

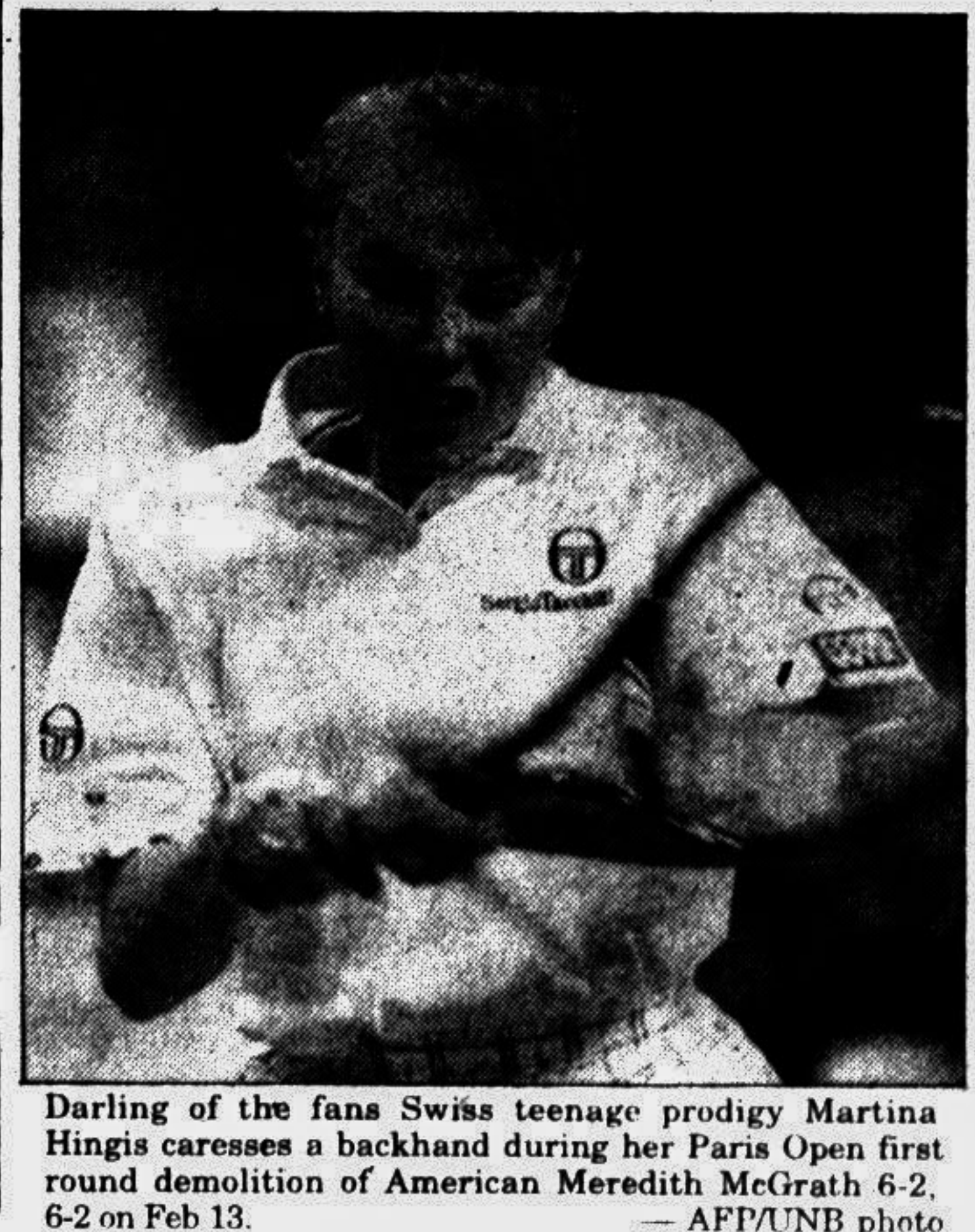
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 37 Labor leader, 1 Trip and Voljac, 40 Blue, 41 Fisher, 42 Not spoiled, 43 Not spoiled, 44 Latin's love, 45 Pedestal, 46 Kid sibling, 47 Off-stolen, 48 Charle's name, 49 Superlative ending, 50 Dangling locale, 51 Rushmore author, 52 Cotton quantity, 53 Purlish red, 54 relief, 55 Zoo structures, 56 False hood, 57 Boss, 58 Hawaiian resort area, 59 Birthstone, 60 Run the show, 23 Down 22 Mini-plateau member, 23 Breakfast roll, 4 Some are potbellied, 25 Arms depot, 26 Noah's passenger, 6 Take place, 7 "Mits-behavin", 29 Ann or May, 31 Petrol, 33 Stephen King's output, 34 Asskan beer, 36 "Laughing Cavalier" painter, 37 Sampling of film, 38 Make yourself scarce, 39 Any moment now, 40 Aim for the outspider, 43 Greek letters, 44 Larry King's employer, 45 Mollus for Lemniscate, 46 Ball-bearing item

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters: U, R, H, B, T, M, C, K, F, N, L, K, N, P, G, E, F, C, B, E, G, T, F, K, V, K, C, N, E, H, V, K, B, N, U, C, K, R, L, U, E, T, G, M, N, E, K, P, G, T, G, E

Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals L

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.



Darling of the fans Swiss teenage prodigy Martina Hingis caresses a backhand during her Paris Open first round demolition of American Meredith McGrath 6-2, 6-2 on Feb 13.