

Sport

Column One

DID U KNOW?

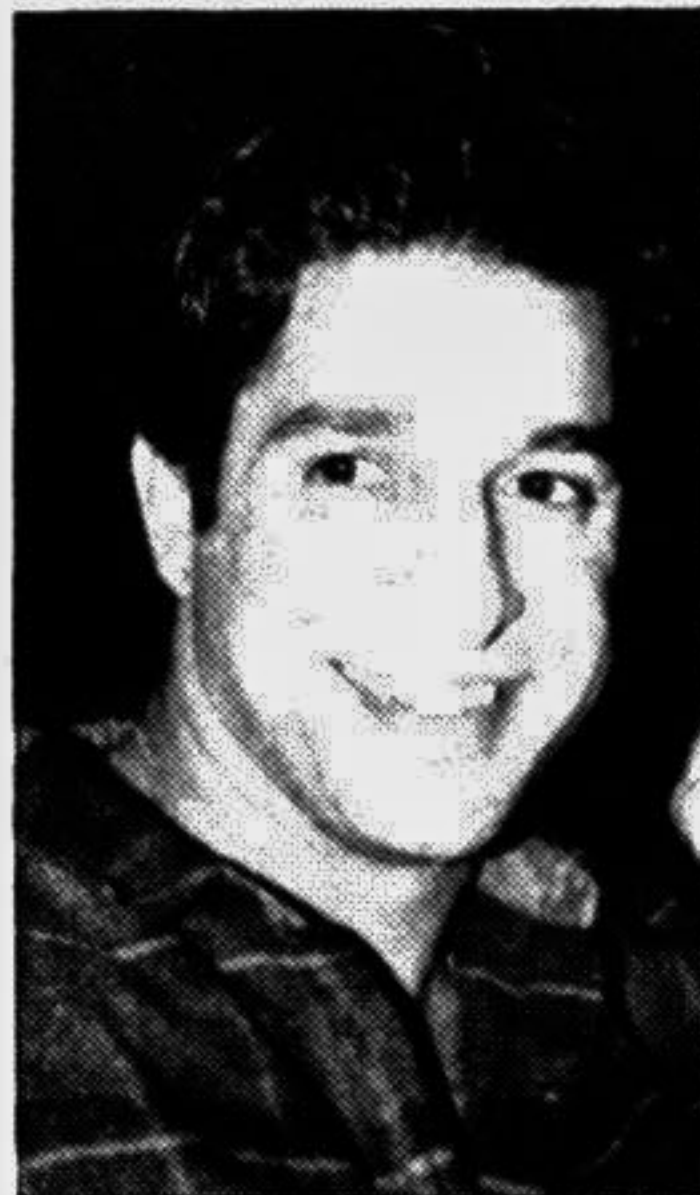
(The Professor does)

That swimming is the most popular sport in Australia. In New Zealand it is Rugby Union. Austrians love skiing, obviously. No prizes for guessing Brazil's favourite sport. Like-wise for Argentina. For Canadians, it is Ice Hockey. The French love cycling the most. Hunting is the most favoured sport in Greece. I never imagined there were forests in Greece.

Well, my imagination is going bonkers. I thought the Japanese would go for martial arts, but their favourite sport is swimming. The Finns, the Swedes and the Norwegians go for skiing. The South Africans love Rugby Union. In the USA American football as the top sport. By contrast, the Russians are fond of athletics. The Panamanians box a lot. In Guyana, it is cricket. In the Cayman Islands yachting is supreme. The Cubans, known to emulate the Russians, favour athletics. So do Ethiopians. I mean athletics.

In most other countries the crowd puller is Association Football. We are with the majority.

SPORTS TALK



Wasim Akram (Pakistan captain)

He is pretty positive. But it's too early. Let him captain for six months and he may even get better.

On Sachin Tendulkar's captaincy



COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHiZZ KID competition-55

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm October 25, 1996

- 1 In Test cricket, how many centuries did former West Indian opener Gordon Greenidge score? 18 19 17
2 The only hat-trick in the first leg of the Danish Premier Division football league was scored by Naquib Tutul Mizan
3 How many balls did Pakistani batsman Shahid Afridi face to score the fastest one-day international hundred? 42 35 37
4 Former Bangladesh cricket captain Faruque Ahmed will play next season for Abahani Kalabagan Brothers Union
5 The man-of-the-series in the quadrangular cricket meet in Kenya was Afridi Donald Kirsten

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

Women sports squad leaves for Pakistan today

A 20-member women sports team led by Lutfunnesa Haq Bakul called on State Minister for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader at the conference room of National Sports Council yesterday. A PID handout said, reports BSS.

The women sports team leaves for Pakistan on October 17 to participate in the International Invitational Islamic Women Mini Games '96 to be held at Islamabad from October 19 to 24.

Khulna football

KHULNA, Oct 15: Town Club went down 2-0 to Victoria Sporting Club in the Bull-Head Premier Division football league here today at the local stadium, reports BSS.

At half-time Victoria led 1-0. Winger Ripon scored the goal in the 26th minute.

Ripon who netted the other goal. Ripu and Saiful of Town Club were shown yellow card while Mamun of Victoria was sent off.

Tomorrow's match: Mohammedan Sporting Club vs Khulna Newsprint.



IM Reefat-bin Sattar makes a move against Hasibul Hasan Hanif during their 13th Beximco Dr QM Hossain International Masters' chess tournament engagement at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Koshy narrows gap with Zia

Table leader International (IM) Ziaur Rahman lost his first half point in the fifth round of the Beximco 13th Dr QM Hossain International Masters' chess tournament when he drew with Khandaker Kayes Hassan at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Zia, who had so far maintained a clean slate in his chase for regaining the prestigious title since his maiden triumph way back in 1992, with this disappointing draw suffered a setback after four wins on a trot. However, he still maintains a solo lead with four and a half points in the 13-round Swiss league meet.

The national champion, who played with black and adopted the familiar Sicilian Defence, hardly lived up to his prolific self against a seasoned

campaigner Kayes. Not only that, Zia had conceded an extra pawn, but eventually managed to run away with a face-saving draw to keep his unbeaten status intact.

On the other hand, Zia's nearest rival Indian IM Varugese Koshy, who suffered his first defeat at the hands of his Bangladeshi counterpart in the previous round, earned an effortless passage against an unheralded Rafiqul Islam, a local qualifier, who failed to appear. Koshy has four points.

Enamul Hossain Rajib, the youngest player in the fray who was holding the third position behind Koshy, appeared tacit against his Mohammedan teammate Abdullah-al Rakib before settling for a draw after only 12 moves on the board.

With this draw Rajib raised his tally to three and a half points while Rakib closely trails with three points.

Reefat-bin Sattar, the other Bangladeshi IM in the meet and the 1994 champion, finally came out of his shell defeating Hasibul Hasan Hanif in an all-local affair. It was Reefat's first win after three successive draws to increase his collection to two and a half points from four games.

Pakistan's IM Mahmood Lodhi, who lifted the title twice since the inception of the annual event in 1980, in this round, defeated his Indian counterpart Sudhakar Mishra to join in the crowded third spot along with Rajib and his yesterday's victim, all having collected three points each.

Meanwhile, in the other matches of the day, Saifuddin Lovelu beat compatriot FIDE Master Jamilur Rahman while Shudakar Babu and Vishal Shareen, two of the four Indian IMs in the meet, settled for a draw.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Hanif vs Lovelu; Zia vs Jamilur Rahman; Rafique vs Kayes; Rakib vs Koshy.

Mishra vs Rajib; Lodhi vs Shudakar Babu; Reefat vs Shareen.

AB Bank TT Biman unmatched

Bangladesh Biman completed a clean sweep of the AB Bank table tennis leagues by winning both Senior Division and eves titles at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday evening.

Biman, one of the most dominant forces in local table tennis, who's second string earlier on Sunday won the First Division championship, emerged unbeaten champions in the Senior Division yesterday with a convincing 3-0 victory over rivals Warli Club.

In the best of three format, Biman's Mahbub won the first set against Manash 21-14, 21-15 while Rochi, a veteran in this line for the last 20 years, beat Hamlet in the next match 13-21, 21-15, 21-8. Kochi, another veteran campaigner, won the third match against Mustafa 22-20, 21-18.

With yesterday's win Biman earned 26 points from 13 matches while Warli have 22 points also from 13 matches which confirmed the runners-up trophy for them.

In the eves' league, Biman became unbeaten champions with a 3-0 win over Brothers Union in their final league encounter yesterday.

Rinu won't the first singles for Biman beating Shamama 22-20, 21-11 while her teammate Linu earned a bye against EtI. In the doubles, Linu and Rinu defeated Shamama and Shabana 21-7, 21-19.

Abdur Rahim, Managing Director of AB Bank, the sponsors of the league, witnessed the matches of the final day and distributed prizes among the winners.

Aussies missing mettle



SHANE WARNE who has taken 207 wickets in 44 Tests.

SYDNEY, Oct 15: Australia's lack of back-up talent to mercurial leg-spinner Shane Warne was a major concern, chairman of national selectors Trevor Hohns said Tuesday, reports AFP.

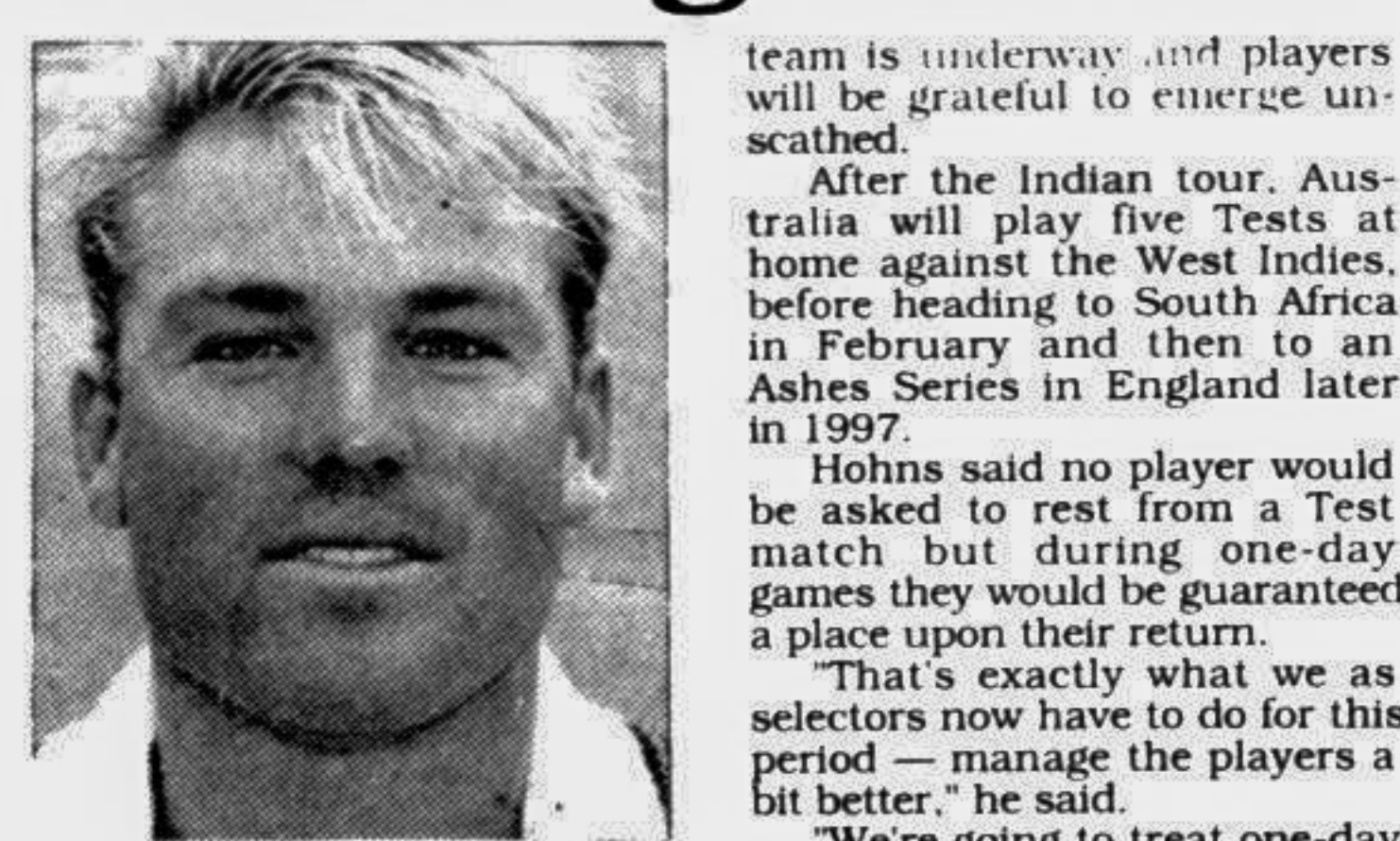
Hohns, himself a wrist-spinner who played seven Tests late last decade, was speaking in the wake of Australia's seven-wicket defeat on a spinner's wicket in New Delhi last weekend.

Warne, who ranks with Indian Anil Kumble and Pakistani Mushtaq Ahmed as one of cricket's premier spinners, bypassed tours of Sri Lanka and India to recover from surgery to his spinning finger.

In his absence leg-spinner Peter McIntyre and left-arm wrist-spinner Brad Hogg combined to take four wickets on a cracked pitch.

In comparison, India's Kumble, Sunil Joshi and Aashish Kapoor shared 14 wickets between them.

Hohns, in his second year as chairman of selectors, admitted he was concerned that there was not a lot of back-up for Warne.



Amanda Coetzer of South Africa became the first seed to crash out of the European Indoor Championships when she lost 2-6, 7-6, 6-4 to Russian wild card Anna Kournikova on Monday, reports Reuter.

Sixth seed Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands and seventh seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria both survived the opening round.

Schultz-McCarthy, ranked 11th in the world, need three sets to beat German qualifier Petra Bergerov 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 while Maleeva disposed of Miriam Oremans of the Netherlands 6-3, 7-5.

The top four seeds, including number one Conchita Martinez of Spain, all received first round byes.



Bangladesh Biman men's and women's table tennis teams pose after winning the AB Bank league titles at the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

Yet another unceremonious return!

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh began their 9th World Cup hockey qualifier tournament in the Italian city of Cagliari with a bang and ended their campaign in a whimper. The squad returned home yesterday morning albeit without two of the players who went missing as the team prepared to embark for Dubai.

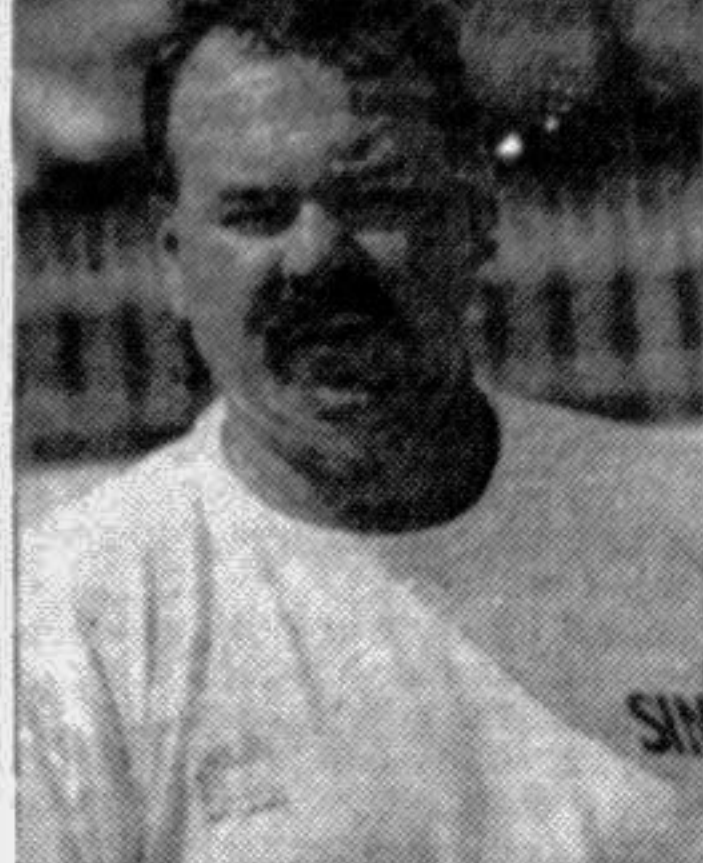
In their opening match Bangladesh defeat hosts Italy 4-3 to convey a ripple of hope back home. However, with one more win, a draw and four embarrassing defeats in the group matches, the team finished 14th out of 14 teams.

Nevertheless, the silver lining in the perennial cloud is that Bangladesh lost some close matches after leading in some by wide margins.

The saddest episode of a dream shattered is that two players gave the team management the slip and are now perhaps roaming in Rome. Ehtesham and Haider Alam lengthen a list of deserters from teams going abroad. Whatever has been the outcome of the tournament, those who returned on Monday are ambassadors of Bangladesh; the two who did not are betrayers.

In their 13,14th play-off match against Kazakhstan, Protop Shanker's kaysa lost by a golden goal after the regulation time ended 4-4.

Three journalists who went to cover the tourney visited Cagliari on October 5, collected their accreditation paper and were seen more, claimed a BHF official. The three have not yet returned home.



DAV WHATMORE

Whatmore to visit Bangladesh in Dec

Sports Reporter

Celebrated coach Dav Whatmore, the architect of Sri Lanka's phenomenal rise in the cricketing world, is expected to visit Bangladesh in December to impart training to the local players for a brief period.

It was learnt from a reliable source that Whatmore, who is now engaged with English county team Lancashire, will arrive in the capital in the first week of December as part of a cultural pact between Bangladesh and Australia.

Ivanisevic, Henman win

OSTRAVA, Czech Republic, Oct 15: Top seed Goran Ivanisevic cruised to a 7-6, 6-4 win over Romania's Adrian Panu in the first round of the Czech Indoor open on Monday, reports Reuter.

In the only other match involving a seeded player on the opening day, Britain's Tim Henman overpowered Sweden's Nicklas Kulti 7-6, 6-4.

Both players took advantage of the fast carpet court, blasting service winner after service winner to demoralise their opponents.

Coetzer left in cold

ZURICH, Oct 15: Eighth seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa became the first seed to crash out of the European Indoor Championships when she lost 2-6, 7-6, 6-4 to Russian wild card Anna Kournikova on Monday, reports Reuter.

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Metropolis bridge ends

The 'Alpha' team of Aces Club have won the Metropolis bridge league championship 1996 which concluded at the Bangladesh Bank Club premises on Monday, says a press release of Dhaka Metropolis Bridge Association (DMBA), reports BSS.

Thirteen teams entered in this year's bridge league. After a two-day five-session preliminary round in three groups held on October 3-4, six teams qualified for the two-tier Super League. The matches of the Super League were held on October 10-14 and Aces Alpha clinched the league title by a comfortable margin over last year's champions M Wallui Haque and partners.

Nat'l sports confce today

Sports Reporter

The three-day national sports conference organised by Ministry of Youth and Sports, will begin at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishthan, Savar this morning.

Other sports federations and other sports organisations are also likely to be present. The three-day conference includes seminars on six different issues in as many sessions.

Programme schedule of sports conference

Table with columns: Date and time, Topic, Speakers. Includes sessions for nursing talent, necessity of sports, standard of coaches, sufficient and planned involvement, involvement of BKSP, and planned training.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the conference at 10am as chief guest of a colourful opening ceremony. State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader and secretary ASM Shahjahan will be present on the occasion which around three hundred representatives from all the thanas across the country are also expected to join. Besides, officials of National Sports Council, Bangladesh Olympic Association...

Juventus mean business

LONDON, Oct 15: European champions Juventus, who were beaten for the first time this season on Sunday will be looking to bounce back through their third successive Champions' League victory at Rapid Vienna on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Juventus lost 2-1 at Vicenza in the Italian First Division, a result Juventus coach Marcello Lippi believes will inspire his team against the Austrians, who also lost their unbeaten league record at the weekend.

'We'll definitely be that bit more angry after this result, a defeat we consider entirely undeserved,' said Lippi.

Croat striker Alen Boksic returns against Rapid but Juventus still will be without injured goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi, midfielder Antonio Conte and striker Alessandro Del Piero.

Even so, they should still be good enough to chalk up their third successive Group C triumph following 1-0 victories over Manchester United and Fenerbahce.

Manchester United, who came back from losing their opening match to Juventus by beating Rapid 2-0 two weeks ago, travel to Turkey for the third time in four seasons to face Fenerbahce and are likely to receive just as volatile a welcome as they did when they played Galatasaray in 1993 and 1994.

United were outplayed by Liverpool in the top match in England at the weekend but still won 1-0 to remain unbeaten in the league. They will need to keep their cool in Istanbul where Fenerbahce supporters gave their team a rough ride at home to Bursaspor on Sunday despite winning 1-0 with a first minute penalty by Bosnian Elvir Bolic.

Fans whistled in frustration for much of the second half as Fenerbahce sat on their lead. Bulgarian striker Emil Kostadinov was jeered when he was substituted two minutes from time and the booing reached a crescendo when he made an obscene gesture to the fans as he left the field.

Ajax, champions in 1995 and runners-up last season, won't return to Brazil if the player doesn't come with me,' said Leite, who has offered to let a Flamengo player join Valencia on loan in exchange for Romario.

Unconfirmed reports on Monday suggested that Romario would travel to Brazil this week, his third trip home in the two months he has been at Valencia.

have a vital Group A match against Rangers at their new Arena Stadium where they have made a disappointing start to their Dutch league and Champions' League campaigns.

Rangers, who have spent millions building a team to challenge for the European Cup but who have failed to make it past the opening round for the past three years, will be dead and buried if they lose to Ajax following opening losses to Grasshopper and Auxerre.

If Juventus felt their defeat against Vicenza was undeserved, look at, not at all, we'd better show some character and react,' said Boban.

Marco Simone, ruled out of the Roma game, by an upset stomach, returns to partner Liberian George Weah in attack while Boban returns in midfield alongside Dutchman Edgar Davids. Frenchman Marcel Desailly and Demetrio Albertini.

Atletico Madrid and Borussia Dortmund meet in Spain with each boasting two wins in their opening two Group B matches, and a win for either will probably guarantee their place in the last eight.

Dortmund will be without several injured players including defender Matthias Sammer and striker Karlheinz Riedle. Defender Julio Cesar, 34, has a slight muscle injury but can probably play.

Italian league leaders Internazionale, bidding to win the UEFA Cup for the third time in seven seasons, entertain Casino Graza of Austria in the opening leg of their second round tie, boosted by their 2-0 win over Piacenza on Sunday.

Germany's man of the moment, Karlsruhe's Thomas Haessler, who scored two goals for the national team against Armenia last week, faces his former team Roma in the UEFA Cup.

Paris St Germain, attempting to become the first team in the 36-year history of the Cup Winners' Cup to win the competition in successive seasons, will face a difficult second round, first leg match at Galatasaray in Turkey. French Third Division side Nimes will be hoping to continue their unlikely participation in the competition at the expense of AIK Stockholm in the opening leg of their tie at home on Thursday.

Flamengo president Kiebert Leite arrived in Spain on Sunday and has already made Valencia an offer for Romario, who has been dropped again by coach Luis Aragones.

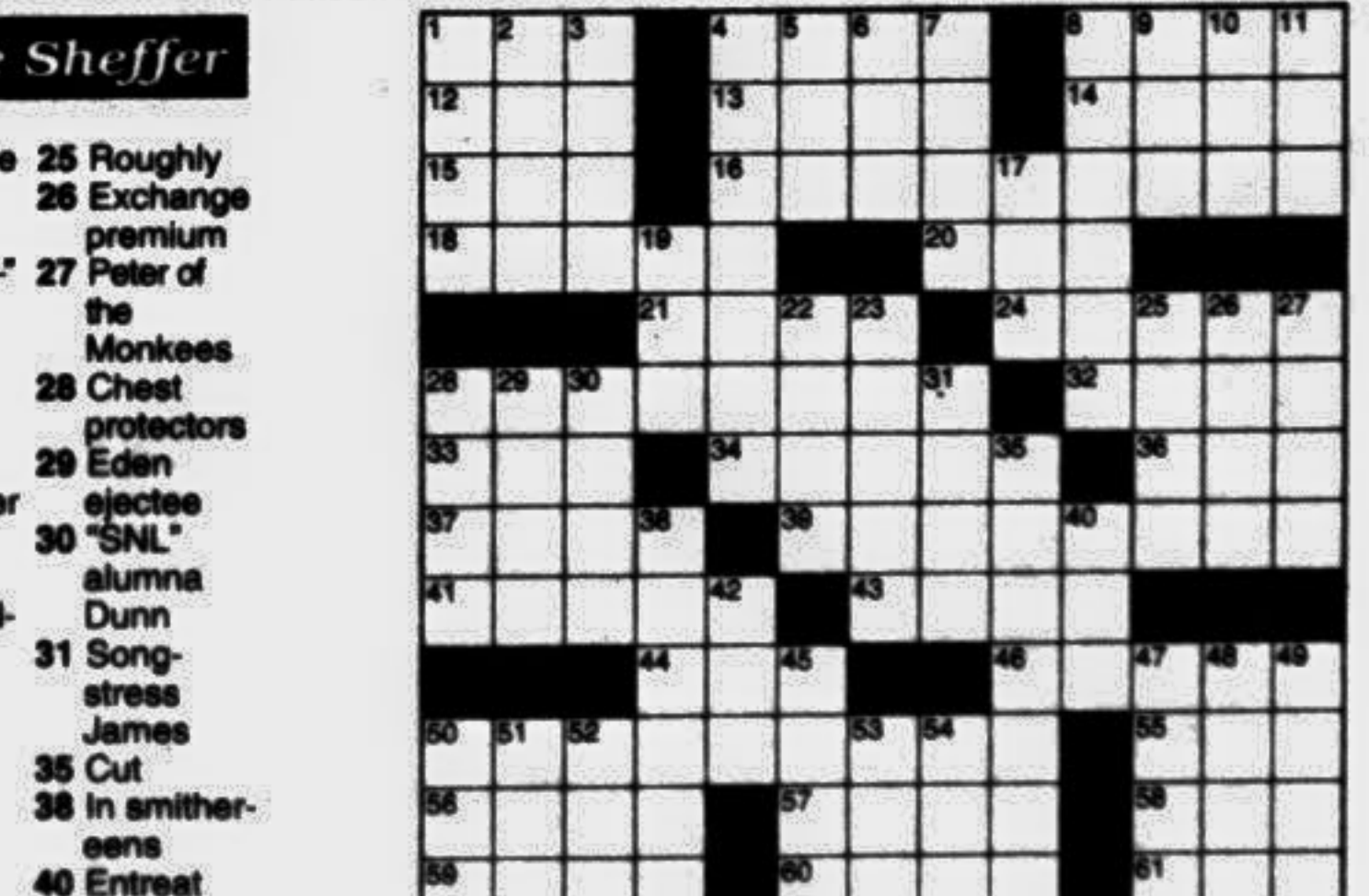
'I've come for him and I

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Chew the fat 4 Seductress 8 Test the waters 12 All-purpose truck for 55 Mirrie 13 Nantass 14 Ellipse 15 Anderson's 16 Depollitory 18 Asparagus serving 20 Gist 21 St. Louis team 24 Sweet 28 IOU of a sort 32 Therefore 33 Alter affirmation 34 Knave of hearts' booty 36 Round table address 37 Insult 38 Laptop computer 41 Intelligent 43 Macadamize 44 Ewing wares 46 Incite 50 Vig 51 Purpose collector 55 Mirrie 56 Gardner 57 Carry on 58 Zuluider 59 Adolescent 60 Went 61 Hoover 62 Haunted house 1 Prorudes 2 On 3 Existed 4 Energetic 5 The whole shootin' match 6 'O Sole 7 Lowly worker 8 Waver 9 Ms. Gardner 10 Mr. Rather 11 Wapiti 12 Work on the sound-track 13 Clumsy craft 14 Haunted house 15 Prorudes 16 Barber-chair attachment 17 Clumsy craft 18 Haunted house 19 Prorudes 20 Barber-chair attachment 21 Energetic 22 Mediterranean strip 23 Admitting customers 24 Requisite 25 Diamond club 26 Raw rock 27 Inseparable 28 Bard-leader 29 Partner of 29 Down



CRYPTOQUIP F D C U X A C K N A O C K U W M C E Y N U U W A O D W H Y N A N E W N A H W E C M W Y M F X K X A F X. Yesterday's Cryptogram: DO CERTAIN HERB SPRIGS, PLACED ON THE BURGERS, RESULT IN MINTS MEAT? Today's Cryptogram clue: M equals K The Cryptogram 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.