# Gazza wants Queen's seat!

LONDON, Nov 13: England international Paul Gascoigne has lodged a bid to buy the Queen's designated seat at the old Wembley stadium, an Internet auctioneer said on Friday, reports AFP.

QXL.com said the 32-year-old midfielder had offered 5,000 pounds (8,000 dollars) for the

seat in the Royal Box. The Middlesbrough star will secure the chair if no one tops his bid.

The seat -- from which the Queen handed over the World Cup trophy to England captain Bobby Moore in 1966 -- is made of gold-coloured steel, covered with foam and red velvet.

Mark Terry of QXL.com said: "Selling it to Paul would be very fitting as he is such a legend -especially after the fantastic goal he scored against Scotland in Euro 96.

Wembley in its current form is to be demolished next autumn, with parts of it being auctioned off to help fund a brand new 90,000 capacity na-tional stadium which will cost 475 million pounds.

Architects are to unveil their new design plans on Monday amid speculation that the new stadium will feature a giant illuminated arch could replace the famous white twin towers as its best-known feature.

The original plan to have four 130 metre-plus white masts soaring above the entrance has been called into question because of its similarity to designs at the Millennium Dome in Oreenwich and the Stade de France in Paris.

Wembley spokesman Martin Corrie said: "There has been considerable speculation in recent weeks about many parts of the design.

"Suffice to say we will be holding a press conference on Monday, and will be confirming nothing whatsoever until

### U-16 tennis WC

# Argentina win girls' title

PERTH, Nov 13: Argentina claimed the tennis World Cup under-16 girls' youth title for the first time here Saturday when they beat top-seeded Slovak Republic 2-1 in a thrilling final, reports AFP. The Argentinians clinched

the crown when their dobles pair, Maria Emilia Salerni and Egenia Chialvo beat Lenk Dihopolcova and Lubomira Kurhajcova 6-3, 6-2.

In the singles, Dlhopolcova beat Gisela Dulko 6-3,6-3. while Salerni defeaed Kurhajcova 6-3,

### 2-year ban on top SA decathlete

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 13: Top South African decathlete Johannes Blignaut, who won a gold medal at the All Africa Games here in September, has been banned for two years after failed a doping test. Athletics South Africa (ASA) announced Friday, reports AFP.

Blignaut tested positive for banned substance Stanozolol, an anabolic and androgenic steriod, after his gold medal win.

Blignaut was "unable to offer any explanation for the presence of the prohibited substance in his system," ASA said.

# Cuban spikers keep pace

KANAZAWA, Japan. Nov 13: Three-time defending champions Cuba defeated the United States for an eighth straight win to keep pace with Russia at the World Cup Women's volleyball tournament on Friday, reports AFP.

The Cubans, also the winners of two straight Olympics and world championships. needed 80 minutes to quash the American challenge, scoring a 25-12, 26-24, 21-25, 25-13 win. My players played quite well

at the beginning, but the Americans fought back excellently in good rhythm and we started to struggle in the second set. The Americans will improve further soon," said Cuban coach Antonio Perdomo.

Atlanta Olympic bronze medallists Brazil outplayed South Korea 25-21, 25-23, 25-12 for a 7-1 record to trail Cuba and Russia, keeping their hopes alive of finishing in the top three and earning a berth in the Sydney Olympics.

"We prepared for the match a lot and we are lucky because the Korean team played Cuba and China earlier in Kanazawa. They seemed to be tired in the third set and we took the advantage," said Brazilian coach Bernardo Rezende.

European champions Russia, hot favourites after beating the Atlanta Olympic medallists to win the World Grand Prix in August, shrugged off a slow start to beat Croatia 25-22, 25-10, 25-17 in Sendai,

north of Tokyo. The Russians trailed by five points for most of the first set but once they took a 23-22 lead, Lioubov Chackhov wasted no

time in firing off two service winners. Seven out of our 11 matches

are the first match of the day and we don't have enough time to prepare. My players haven't been awake. But they are starting to play better and better. think they did a good job." said Russian coach Nikolai Karpol.

In other action, Italy downed Peru 25-17, 25-14, 23-25, 25-15 to improve to 5-3 in the 12-team round robin.

China and Japan now stand at 6-2, South Korea, 4-4, Croatia 2-6, and the United States and Peru 1-7.

# Eves' tennis in transition

NEW YORK, Nov 13 (Reuters): The changing of the guard in women's tennis becomes official next week with a retirement party for Steffi Graf at the season-ending Chase Championships while the next generation of tennis stars battle for the crown she won five times.

New York tennis fans get a chance to bid farewell to the German superstar on Tuesday night after being denied that opportunity when Graf retired prior to the US Open. A less elaborate send-off is planned for 1997 champion Jana Novotna, who also decided to call it quits this year.

The absence of Graf and Novotna and three-time winner Monica Seles, who is sidelined by injury, leaves 19-year-old defending champion Martina Hingis as the lone player in the field of 16 to have won the prestigious year-end title.

While losing Graf, Seles and Novotna, the 1999 Chase Championships receives an exciting infusion of new blood as the title-hungry Williams sisters make the most eagerly anticipated debuts in the season finale since Jennifer Capriati's 1990 appearance.

Venus Williams, 19, quali-fied in 1998 but withdrew with an injury, delaying her first Madison Square Garden experi-

"It just seems like I should've been there two years ago. For some reason or other I've never been there," she said.

Eighteen-year-old Serena Williams storms into the season finale to conclude a spectacular breakout year in which she beat her celebrated sibling to the Grand Slam punch by capturing the US Open crown among her five 1999 titles - the first of her fledgling career.

Venus was devastated upon losing her US Open semifinal to Hingis, failing to fulfil her end of her father's promise of an all-Williams final. But she picked up her sixth title of the year with a win over the Swiss teen on Hingis. Home turf in Zurich last month and beat her again at the Grand Slam Cup. Joining Hingis and the

Williams sisters as serious title threats are relative old timers Lindsay Davenport, last year's runner-up, and 1997 losing finalist Mary Pierce. Davenport, the 23-year-old Wimbledon champion, is mak-

playing for the sixth time in seven years. Win or lose, Hingis will finish the year with the world number one ranking.

ing her sixth consecutive ap-

pearance, while Pierce, 24, is

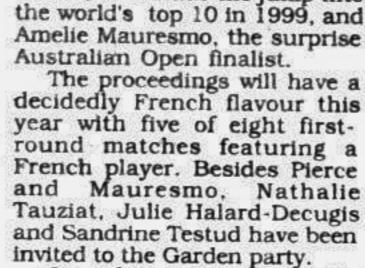
"One thing's for sure, I'm going to stay number one no matter what happens. That's a little bit of pressure off me." said Hingis, who seems to put more stock in computer rankings than any other tennis player, male of female.

"I wanted to finish the year number one. But if possible, I'd like to defend this tournament, since I won last year."

Winner of a WTA Tour-best seven titles this year, including the Australian Open. Hingis expressed surprise this week at how far ahead of her rivals she was in rankings points. "There were four different

Grand Slam champions. But I was the most consistent. I am kind of proud about that," she

In addition to Serena Williams, the 16-player field features two other first-time qualifiers - Austrian Barbara



Schett, who made the jump into

One of the truly unique ele-ments of the WTA Tour's season-ending Championships will be missing, however, after officials decided to replace the only best-of-five-sets final in women's tennis with the usual best-of-three format.

Perhaps today's younger, stronger players don't have the staying power of past champi-ons such as Graf, Martina Navratilova and Seles with 16 titles among them.



Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov makes a double-fisted backhand return against Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic at the Kremlin Cup in Moscow on November 12.

- AFP photo

# White House official banned



SYDNEY, Nov 13: Animosity between Australian Olympic chiefs and the United States boiled over Saturday when Washington's most powerful anti-drugs campaigner was slapped with a ban

from Sydney Games' venues, reports AFP. Australian Olympic Committee president John Coates said General Barry McCaffrey's stance on anti-doping had undermined the authority and role of international and

national sporting organisations. McCaffrey arrives in Sydney on Sunday to attend an international drugs in sport conference and Coates fears he will use it to attack a newly created drugs agency set-up by the Interna-

Lausanne Documents published in The Australian newspaper Saturday show Coates has told Olympic administrators to refuse him access to Sydney Olympic Park for press conferences and tours.

tional Olympic Committee in

"As far as I'm concerned McCaffrey may be a four star general but he does not even rate one star in the drugs-insports arena," Coates said in a letter to New South Wales Premier Bob Carr.

A separate letter to Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) chief executive Sandy Hollway outlined the plans to bar McCa-

I have asked David Richmond (Olympic Coordination Authority director) not to allow him access to Sydney Olympic Park for any tours or press

conferences, and ask that you

new coach

tomorrow

Football Association (NFA) will

on Monday decide on a new for-

eign coach for the national

team ahead of next year's

African Nations' Cup which

Nigeria is co-hosting with

ing has been called for Monday.

The meeting will finally decide

on who will handle the Super

over who to pick between two

team in the past will be resolved

Bonfere and Clemens Wester-

sports ministry to get back his

former job while recently

elected NFA chairman Tony

Williams has insisted on an-

other Dutch coach Westerhof,"

Bonfere has been the fron-

Contract talks between

ago over huge fees demanded

trunner for the post last held by

Bonfere and the footballing

compatriot Thijs libregts.

body stalled two weeks

by the Dutchman.

Dutchmen who had handled the

The two Dutchmen are Jo

"Bonfere is favoured by the

He said the disagreements

Eagles." an NFA official said.

"An emergency board meet-

Ghana, reports AFP.

at the meeting

the official said.

LAGOS. Nov 13: The Nigeria

not accommodate him at SOCOG in any way."

The summit brings together government ministers from 26 countries, including Europe. North and South America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific Representatives from the IOC and international sports feder-

ations will also attend. The aim is to produce a framework for anti-doping programmes and sanctions and Coates' open hostility is certain to embarrass Prime Minister John Howard, in Durban for the Commonwealth Heads of

Government meeting. It was Howard who invited the American to the conference. McCaffrey is the director of the White House Office of National Drug Control and is often referred to as Bill

Clinton's drugs tsar. He favours an alternative drug testing agency with more responsibility given to the US government and has threatened to deny US television income to the IOC unless it surrenders its

anti-doping role. Coates, also in Durban, told the newspaper McCaffrey's approach "smacks of a petulant school bully who hasn't, and can't, get his way".

He said as McCaffrey's trip was not official Olympic business he saw no reason to extend any invitations to Olympic sites so he could use them to

"promote his own ideologies". In a statement Saturday Coates continued the attack, saying he had written to McCaffrey "to express my disappointment with the almost complete absence of effective action to date by the US government in the fight against

doping in sport" He said establishing the IOC agency was a major step towards a uniform anti-doping regime that would apply equally to all athletes regardless of their nationality or

"It's clear General McCaffrey intends to establish his regime in disregard of the authority and role of international and national sporting organisations," he said.

SOCOG Saturday attempted to distance itself from Coates' position.

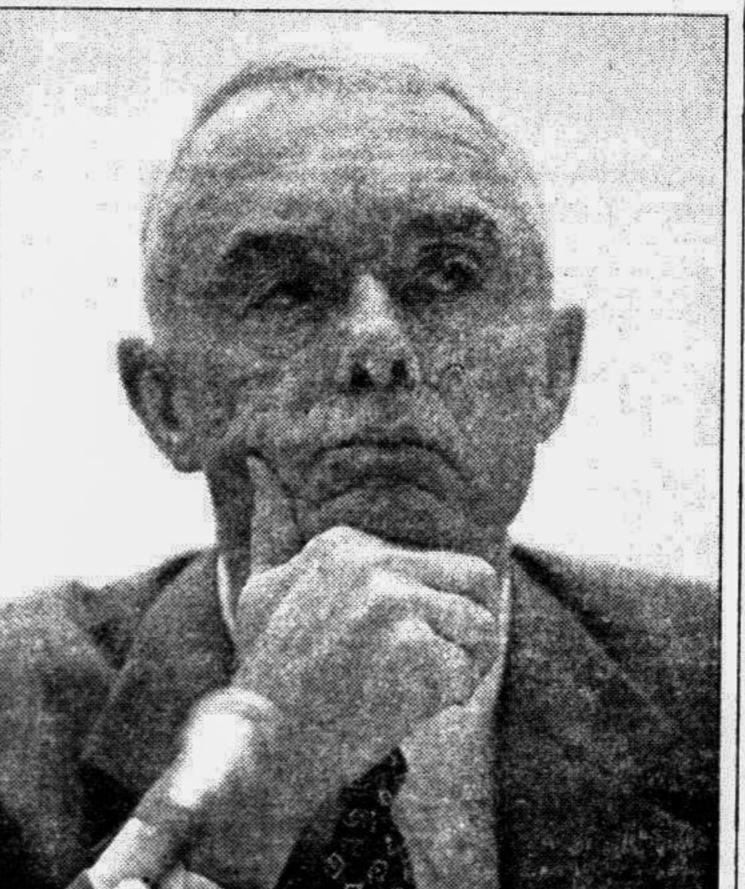
"It's got nothing to do with us, it's a letter from John Coates as president of the AOC," a SOCOG spokesman said, but rejected suggestions the ban was heavy-handed and over-reac-He said people needed to un-

derstand the difference of opinion between Coates and McCaffrey over who should control drug testing in sport. "The responsibility of detect-

ing and excluding drug cheats should be left to sports. General McCaffrey says the US government should control it." the spokesman said. "Why would he (Coates) sup-

port General McCaffrey's plan or proposal when the IOC is the world anti-doping authority." The World Anti-Doping Agency officially came into existence last week with its pro-

visional headquarters established in Switzerland. It will include 16 Olympic movement representatives and 16 government representatives.



An AFP file photo of American retired general Barry

# Vogts joins **UEFA**

BERLIN, Nov 13: Former Germany national team coach Berti Vogts is to become an observer for European football's governing body UEFA, Bild newspaper reported Friday, re-ports AFP.

Fifty-two-year-old Vogts, a member of West Germany's 1974 World Cup winning side and capped 96 times, will join a commission of experts presided by former Scotland boss Andy Roxburgh and also including Angel Iordanescu and Javier Clemente, former coaches of Roman's and Spain respec-

Vogts, who coached Germany to the 1996 European Championship in England, will not be paid for the role and will be required to attend important matches and deliver a report. He will meet his fellow observers twice a year.

Vogts resigned as national team coach in the wake of the unsuccessful France 98 campaign where Germany were eliminated in the quarterfinals by Creatia.

# Everton mad about Max

LIVERPOOL, Nov 13: English Premiership side Everton are closing in on New England Revolution's American striker Joe-Max Moore, reports AFP.

The Merseysiders have agreed terms with the 28-yearold and now need to acquire a work permit for the United States international, who has scored 20 goals in his 78 games for the national side.

"The Premiership is the whole reason I am coming. It is the best league in Europe right now and just to have the opportunity to play with and against the best players in the world is the biggest part for me," Moore told Everton ClubCall.

"I have always dreamed of playing at the highest level. Everybody in America knows it's the best league in the world and everybody is in awe of the pace of the game over there."

Moore would be following in the footsteps of fellow American internationals Roy Wegerle. John Harkes, Cobi Jones and Kasey Keller who have also played in English soccer's top

MOSCOW, Nov 13: Top seed and defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov reached the Kremlin Cup semifinals for the fifth successive time with a 7-6, 6-3 victory over former doubles partner Daniel Vacek on Friday, reports Reuters.

two was given his toughest test of this year's tournament by the

Kafelnikov took the first set of the quarter-final 7-3 on tiebreak and fell 3-1 behind in the second before reeling off the next five games to earn his 11th win over Vacek in 15 meetings

that I would win the key points," said Kafelnikov. Kafelnikov, bidding for a third Kremlin Cup success. plays world number 53 Nicolas

Escude eliminated fifth seed Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, American Jeff Tarango faces

the other semifinal. Both are unseeded

beyond the second round in five attempts in Moscow, overcame seventh seed Marc Rosset of Switzerland 5-7, 7-6, 6-4. Twice winner Rosset hit 28

last-four appearance in Moscow by beating Frenchman Fabrice Santoro 6-3, 6-4.

# FIFA's help

Football Federation on Friday asked FIFA to lean on German side Werder Bremen to ensure the release of international striker Claudio Pizarro for a friendly next week against Slovakia, reports AFP. The Federation's general

secretary, Javier Quintana, said he intended to issue a warning Bremen's sporting director

the player has a knee injury and therefore did not intend to release him.

# Anelka unfit

MADRID, Nov 13: Peal Madrid have told France that their striker Nicolas Anelka will not be fit to play in Sunday's European under-21 championship match against Italy, reports Reuters. Anelka, who is recovering

Clairfontaine on Friday. But Real Madrid confirmed on Friday they had written to the French authorities to tell them that they felt Anelka was

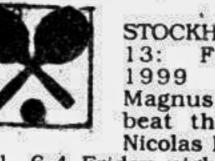
from a knee injury, had been

"We haven't made any decision and we haven't told anyone they can't play," a spokesman for Real Madrid said. "We've simply informed France that Nicolas is not fit, as everyone knows.'

cult season at Real, where he has yet to find the net since this protracted 35.7-million dollars move from Arsenal in the close season.

Ukrainian Wlasimir Klitschko (R) lands a left on Phil Jackson of the United States during their bout in Las Vegas on November 12. - AFP photo

# Norman stays on course



STOCKHOLM, Nov 13: Five-time 1999 winner Magnus Norman beat third seed Nicolas Lapentti

6-1, 6-4 Friday night to give Sweden three of the four semifinal spots at the 800,000dollar Stockholm Open, reports The sixth seeded

Scandinavian joined compatriots Thomas Enqvist and Magnus Gustafsson in the final four in one of the last two events prior to the season final in Hanover starting in 10 days. Norman is level with Andre Agassi on five for the most tro-

ATP Tour and has raised his ranking to a current careerhigh 19th from 51 at the start of the year. He now owns a 2-1 lead over world number eight Lapentti.

travelling to Germany as one of

phies won this season on the

the elite eight field. The Ecuadorian who made his breakthrough on indoor courts this autumn with his first match victory (Munich) followed by his first title on the surface (Lyon) was unable to repeat any miracles against the home favourite of 4,500

screaming fans at the Kungliga

Watching the evening's matches was Bjorn Borg, who sparked the Swedish tennis boom which continues to this day more than 25 years ago.

Earlier, top seed Thomas Enqivst had to battle through against a teenaged challenger. finally emerging with a 6-2, 6-7. 6-3 quarterfinal victory over Andreas Vinciguerra.

Viciguerra, the latest young hope to roll off the somewhat depleted Swedish tennis assembly line, saved three match points in the second-set tiebreaker to throw the sellout contest into a deciding set.

Enqvist, the world number seven also going to Hanover, needed an early break in the third to finally ensure victory after more than two hours. The two-time champion

joined compatriot Magnus

Gustafsson in the final four after the 32-year-old ousted Jonas Bjorkman 6-4, 0-6, 7-5. "I had a feeling this would be a tough match," said Enqvist. "I felt it was a good match for both of us. I played a fantastic first set and he came back in the sec-

ond managing to save three match points. "I felt I kept the pressure on

throughout, but he kept probing

Enqvist will next take on Norman, while Gustafsson plays American Jan-Michael Gambill, who ignored minor back pain to notch an upset of seventh seed Mark Philippoussis 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.

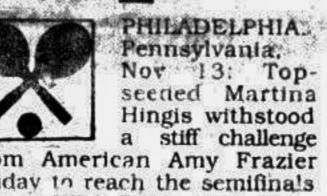
"I'm having a great time here," said the 22-year-old North American winner, "I've got some small back and leg problems, but I hope to play through them. Injuries are just a part of the game. I've played almost non-stop since Shanghai (first week of October)."

Gambill, with victories already this season over Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi in the same week last spring on the way to a title in Scottsdale, came within one perfect serve of tying the big-hitting Philippoussis at his own game.

Philippoussis pounded over a dozen aces in his losing effort -- Gambill nearly matched him with 11.

"It's not that surprising." said Gambill."I'm usually in the top ten on aceing. But I was more pleased with my returns. I returned better than him and you need to do that against one of the two biggest servers in the

# Top four in final four



a stiff challenge from American Amy Frazier Friday to reach the semifinals of the WIA Tour event ners, reports AFP. Frazier, who was fighting for

a spot in the season ending Chase Championships in New York next week, finally succumbed 7-6, 6-4 to the Swiss world number one. "I definitely wanted to be aggressive before she could set up her shots," said Frazier, who

ripped winners all over the court at the start of the first set. "I was returning and timing the ball well." She took a 4-2 lead, but

failed to convert an opportunity to make it 5-2. At 4-3, the 27-year-old baseline slugger wasted two game points with unforced forehand errors and Hingis leveled the set at 4-4.

"I tried to slow it down to get my first serves in because she returned some unbelievable shots," Hingis said. "That was just amazing. I was a little bit surprised by the way she played. Nothing much I could do about it. I just had to wait for my chances", Hingis said.

Hingis, winner of seven WTA Tour events this year, went on to capture the first set, which inlouded six service breaks.

In the second set Frazier was unable to produce the same quality of tennis she showed in the first, dropping her serve a final time in the ninth game before Hingis closed out the match with a service winner.

she only won two games. Hingle said. "I started to mix if up and played more on her forehand. It's good to have a

match like this. Frazier could have still bumped Spain's Aranata Sanchez Vical to from the-16th and final position for the 16women Chase Championships

with a win over Hingis. Now Sanchez-Vicario will face Austrian Barbara Schett in the first round of the season fi-

In the semifinals, Hingis will face fourth-seeded Nathalie Tauziat of France, who downed American Lisa Raymond 7-6, 6-4 to preserve her immaculate record (7-0) against the 26-yearold American.

Tauziat, the oldest player in the top 10 at 32, has been competing for the last six wecks with WTA Tour victories in Moscow and Zurich. She is currently riding a seven matchwinning streak.

Also advancing into the semifinals was second-seeded American Lindsay Davenport who rallied from a one set deficit to defeat fifth-seeded Julie Halard-Decugis of France 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

The second-ranked player in the world was too inconsistent on her serve in the first set and was broken three times. Halard-Decugis, who had beaten Davenport for the first time in her career in the semis in Los Angeles over the summer,

was moving and returning well, but couldn't keep it going. "It's one of my best sets I've ever played against her,

Halard-Decugis said. "! was re-

because last time I played her playing. I just couldn't inan-

tain that level all along.

The Frenchwoman, ranked 9th in the world, closed out the first set on a cross-court fore hand passing-shot. "I'm not used of getting broken that much. I was really dis-

appointed to lose the set. I didn't make enough first serves. I just needed to focus on winning my points on my serves. Davenport said. Davenport, playing her first tournament since hurting her

· right wrist in Filderstadt a month ago, grabbed the momentum with a service break in the opening game of the second set. She broke again in the fifth en route to taking the set 6-2. "Getting to a quick start in

the second and third helped me a lot. I started to relax more. said Davenport, who didn't drop her serve again. In the semifinals she'll face third-seeded Venus Williams

who edged France's Sandrine

Testud 6-1, 7-6. "Anyone who loses the first set 6-1, is going to come out strong in the second. Nobody wants to lose that quickly" Williams said. "The points were close but I didn't think I played that well in the tie-breaker. really wanted to win it because I had such a horrible record this

year in tie-breakers." "She is like a bulldozer. She puts so much pressure on you. The only thing I wanted to do is hang in there. I lost the second set on one point. That's the whole match right there, Testud said, referring to Williams' miraculous running forehand passing shot for a 5-4 lead in the tiebreaker.

### By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 3 Pale red- 23 Eggs 40 Admon-1 With isher's purple 24 Do 6 Across. tenderloin 42 With follower 25 "Friends" 39 Down 5 Actor. 6 Oliver generally member 1 Across 44 Night light Twist's 12 Crudités 46 Spirited word request offering 7 News with just 13 One who 50 Earhart's articles one co-pilot portrays 8 Sailor letter? Lawrence 52 Mexican 9 Early 28 Alberta's 14 Threat entree love capita 54 Elvis 30 Bind clause boat? 10 Gymnast 31 Do 15 Packs town 46 47 48 49 differenti 55 Broke Korbut suturing 16 Robin 11 Loch the seal 33 0 34 Chaps 56 High Cook Monster standards 12 Fabulous 39 See book 42 Across 17 Goblet 57 Bird bird 18 Dorothy's 41 Domespart homes 19 Owns transticates **CRYPTOQUIP** 20 Syndicate DOWN 42 Opposiport 1 Gambling 21 "Little biggie tionist 22 "- your Women" 43 Ear-2 The same old man!" woman

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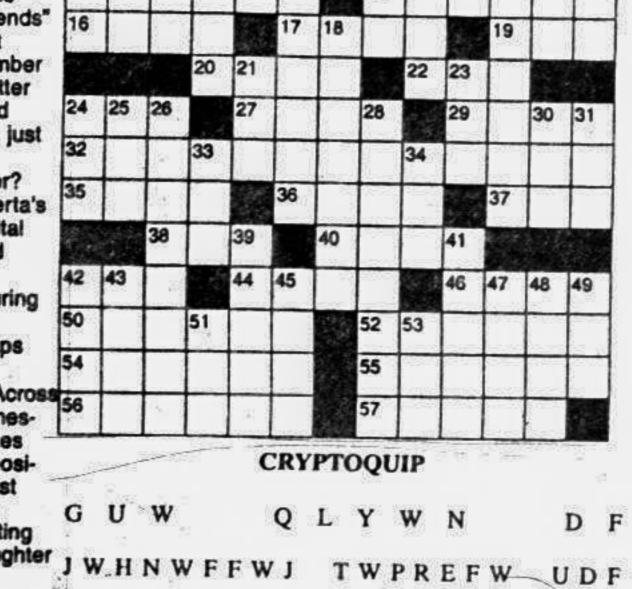
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51 Perfor-

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ME TO BE A TAILOR, BUT I WASN'T SUITED FOR 49 Founda-

> 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



FUQH ADMUG MQ EYJWN. specialty Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY FAMILY WANTED

Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals B

sponsor 53 Gorilla give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

# Nigeria names

McCaffrey.

# Kafelnikov reaches semis

The Russian world number

"We both know each other so well and I was pretty confident

Escude of France today for a place in the final.

Byron Black of Zimbabwe in Tarango, who has never gone

aces in all but wasted four break points in the second set. Black also earned his first

# Peru seeks

LIMA, Nov 13: The Peruvian

to the Germans to prevent them fielding Pizarro unless they released him 48 hours before the Klaus Allofs has reportedly informed Peruvian officials that

due to join the French squad in not fit to play.

24 Expert

27 Swampy

29 Cisterns

terrain

32 Talk show

35 A dozen

36 Appellation

parish of

Greater

London

Whitney

38 Inventor

37 Garden

Solution time: 27 mins.

BAILS STY HAM

LIREPASKEG

ODE FIX CHEEK

CASTLE PEA

Yesterday's answer

Anelka is enduring a diffi-