he had a long way to go to get

all over again but I am solely

thinking about my comeback

and getting back to be the best

I am playing on football on the

beach. Sometimes I wake up

and have forgotten about the

state I am in - but when I get

moving the knee hurts and real-

been disappointed to hear Pele

had reportedly expressed doubts

about where his career is going.

things about me. He's already

had run-ins with Romario, Zico

and Ayrton Senna. I don't want

to be Pele. But I have to say that

Pele (should) believe in my re-

turn. I read in the press that he

has said he thinks I can make

will put his injury troubles

Year as a married man.

aside to celebrate his first New

me. I love everything about her,

the calmness she brings to my

new Millennium in Rio before

returning to Paris, where the

around game by game and will

be using the quota of three sub-

stitutes in every match and

hopefully we can handle it," he

barometer for what we'll do in

on Sunday and Ferguson is tak-

ing his strongest pool of avail-

senior goalkeepers -- Mark

Bosnich, Raimond van der

Gouw and Massimo Taibi -- as

well as youngsters Danny Hig-

ginbotham, Ronnie Wallwork,

Jonathan Greening and Mark

be missing, however, and he

will remain in Manchester to

have an operation on a long-

standing hernia problem,

which he aggravated against

Bradford on December 26.

Midfielder Paul Scholes will

the second game.'

able players.

Wilson.

"The first game will be a

United fly to South America

He has included all three

life. She is always laughing."

In the meantime, Ronaldo

"I love Milene and she loves

The couple will see in the

Ronaldo explained he had

"Pele said a few disagreeable

"I am going to have to start

"Almost every night I dream

back to where he once was.

in the world.

ity sinks in again."

Mick pulls for Bobby

LONDON, Jan 1: Bobby Robson was Friday handed a boost in his efforts to secure a new contract in charge at Newcastle when the Magpies' head coach Mick Wadsworth praised the "magnificent" work the former England boss had undertaken so far, reports AFP.

Newcastle were rock bottom when Robson's predecessor Ruud Gullit left in the autumn with the club having taken just one point from six matches but are now moving towards midtable safety after Tuesday's win at Leicester.

Wadsworth, standing in for the 66-year-old Robson, who has the flu, said he could not be happier working under British football's most experienced

tant often than anything else

needed the right person and I

think the right person is here."

Penarol pay

the price

10 players banned on Thursday

was suspended for three months

after failing a dope test follow-

Their captain Bengoechea

The club were also fined

10,000 dollars for the shocking

scenes which followed the Copa

Mersocur match at home to

Brazilians Flamengo, the South

Penarol's Walter Pandiani

American Football Confedera-

was given the stiffest sentence

when he was banned for 10

matches in international club

pended for six games and Lu-

ciano Barbosa, Jose Bizera,

Jose de los Santos, Clever

Romero, Antonio Pacheco, Jose

Cancella and Octavio Rodriguez

were handed three-match bans.

Uruguay international, was

banned after his dope test re-

vealed levels of caffeine above

Penarol won the semifinal

As soon as the final whistle

Flamengo players immedi-

ately ran for the cover of the

dressing room. But at least

three were injured, one of them

when he fell down some stairs

as tried to escaped the furious

vere blow to Penarol's chances

Although the bans are a se-

the permitted limited land

out 5-3 on aggregate.

punches.

Uruguayans.

petition.

Bengoechea, a former

Martin Garcia was sus-

tournaments, the CSF said.

for fighting, reports Reuters.

ing the same game.

tion (CSF) said.

got one hell of an animal.

Wadsworth said.

The Newcastle Board will sit playing. down with Robson in the next few days to thrash out the terms of a new deal and Wadsworth says they should get on with it.

"We inherited a lot of issues and a lot of things when we came in, but the boss has been magnificent," he said. "Enthusiasm is more impor-

and if you measure enthusiasm to play at all." and add to that experience and certainly a fantastic manwilling him back into action. management style and a fantas-

tic coaching ability, then you've "We're very lucky to have | and they feel they even have the him, and I'm so fortunate to be working with him. The job

baller's car when he makes a mistake," added Ronaldo, who at least has the consolation of having just got married on Christmas Eve to Milene

Domingues. "They don't understand that nobody makes mistakes deliberately. I am not a goal machine." lamented the superstar.



Hopman Cup underway

PERTH, Jan 1: The first professional tennis tournament of the new millennium, the Hopman Cup mixed team challenge, could see a rematch of last year's battling Wimbledon Qualifiers, Alexandra Stevenson and Jelena Dokic, reports Reuters.

"If we get to the finals, I'd love to play her again," 45thranked Stevenson said.

Stevenson, a last-minute replacement for Monica Seles, who withdrew from the US team because of a nagging foot injury became the first qualifier to advance to the Wimbledon semifinals after defeating Dokic 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 in the quarterfinals. The round robin format of

the Hopman Cup starting on New Year's Day means the Australian duo of Dokic and world number 19. Mark Philippoussis, last year's winners, would only meet Stevenson and partner James Blake if both teams reached the final on January 8.

Stevenson has a big asset in her strong serve, clocked recently at 190 kilometres (114 miles) per hour in Los Angeles.

Blake, a Harvard student. finished the 1999 US Collegiate year ranked number one. The 20-year-old replaces Justin Gimelstob, who also withdrew this week because of an injury. The slapdash US team will

first square off against 1999 runners up Jonas Bjorkman and Asa Carlsson of Sweden. The first challengers to the Australians will be either

Japan or Thailand. The 16-year-old Dokic, ranked 43 and attending high school by correspondence to concentrate on reaching the top 20 this year, dropped her father as coach in favour of tennis legend Tony Roche after the US Open. So far her best ranking has been 37.

Philippoussis, who returned to favour with Australian fans after leading his country to a Davis Cup victory in 1999, is frequently compared with compatriot Pat Rafter, ranked 16.

Rafter continues to nurse a sore shoulder and is regarded as an unlikely singles starter at the Australian Open beginning January 17.

The Hopman Cup, one of a number of warm-up events before the first Grand Slam event of the New Year, will see the trial introduction of an automatic two-minute rest at the end of each set and the elimination of the 90 second rest period at the end of the first game of each set.

Swede boss'

STOCKHOLM, Jan 1: Swedish Sports Minister Ulrica Messing suggested Thursday that her country provide a permanent home for the newly inaugurated World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in Lausanne.

Switzerland, reports Xinhua. "Sweden has the knowledge and the competence, and this nation's credibility in fighting drugs and doping are factors that might work to the advantage of Sweden," the sports minister told The Associated Press

Ever since its establishment last month in Lausanne, the WADA has been criticized by many as being too close to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and it should be moved. A number of European cities have expressed interest and the IOC plans a bidding

Messing said she believed

She said WADA should be moved from its present location, for propriety's sake.

"For one it is good to show an independent stance in relations with IOC," Messing said. "But J also think it is improper to have such an agency in a coun-

try like Switzerland, which has such liberal views on drugs. This is a matter of credibility." The Swedish government recently almost doubled the annual financial allocations to its

fairway. I didn't shape my shots correctly," he said. "I'd go hit a

ing putt.

3 Opposi-

5 Layer

6 See

tionist

platform

7 Resided

question

9 Copycat

policy

10 Part of

8 Explan-

He bogeyed two of the next

Joao Carlos took the job

early in September after Nagoya finished in an unimpressive eighth place in the J-League's first stage.

Stojkovic was named the

action and the Emperor's Cup

"All the players of the team

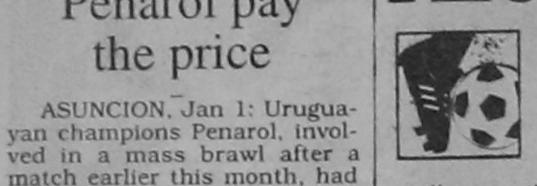
rhythm little by little," said the Rio de Janeiro native, who managed Kashima Antlers, a leading J-League club, between

Reysol in late September.

in three emperor's Cup finals following their 3-0 defeats in 1996 and in 1997, this time against J-League's Verdy Kawasaki.

It was the 78th annual event of the Cup since its inception in

player will meet again with the such fanatics, so passionate surgeon Gerard Saillant who RONALDO operated on him in November. right to throw stones at a foot-Alex's cause for concern



MANCHESTER. Jan 1: Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson is adamant his treble winners

will not wilt in the withering heat of Brazil when they compete in the World Club Championship, reports AFP.

Ferguson believes the scorching weather in Rio de Janeiro could be the biggest obstacle his players face in their bid to become the first club side to be crowned world champi-

Temperatures during the Brazilian summer regularly approach 40 degrees and United have taken medical advice to counter dehydration.

United could play four games in only nine days if, as expected, they progress to the final or third-place play-off and Ferguson is worried about his players becoming exhausted.

weather out there from what I can gather," he said. "It's 38 to 42C, which is very,

very hot and that's the one concern I've got. We hope we can handle it

and we're obviously taking all the support and medical advice we can get. "We're taking plenty of

second leg 3-2 but were knocked equipment with us and we have to think about things like the went they attacked opposing players' fluid intake, their rest players with kicks and and making sure they don't get too much sun.

"There are all these things which I'm sure we can handle, but what we don't know is how

SIR ALEX FERGUSON "It will be very warm

> that was when it hit 98F against West Germany," he said. "It was very hot and Graeme Souness, Tremember, lost 12lbs

23-man squad as much as pos-He has also said he will use

his three substitutes in each match to keep players as fresh as possible.

United open their Group B

1998 South American champions Vasco da Gama of Brazil and the pair meet on Saturday in the game that is expected to decide who will top the group and reach the final.

South Melbourne on January

11 before the final and the later in the Maracana.

suggestion

process for a permanent seat.

the WADA headquarters would be moved after 2001 and Sweden would submit an application after the IOC specified its

anti-doping efforts from 6.6 million (676,000 US dollars) to 11 million kroner (1.28 million US dollars), the AP report said.

Kournikova's new friend

MOSCOW, Jan 1 Russian tennis sweetheart Anna Kournikova has left one ice hockey player for another, local sports newspapers said, reports Reuters.

They said Kournikova had dropped Sergei Fedorov for his former teammate Pavel Bure. However, her agent warned against reading too much into the fact that she had been seen with Bure a lot recently.

Daily Soviet Sport said that Kournikova, 18, had recently begun dating high-scoring winger Bure, who plays for Florida Panthers of the National Hockey League.

Sport Express also published a full-page story with a photo of Bure watching Kournikova's tennis practice.

The report said Bure, 28, had bought a condominium in the same apartment building as Kournikova in an upmarket Miami suburb. It said the two had been seeing each other frequently.

But Alexei Selivanenko, Kournikova's Moscow-based agent, said the media should not jump to conclusions.



Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn makes a forehand return during a Hopman Cup qualifying round match against Japan's Ai Sugiyama in Perth yesterday. Tanasugarn won 6-1, 6-3. -AFP photo

Nagoya lift Emperor's Cup



TOKYO, Jan 1: Brazilian-born Wagner Lopes and Dragan Stojkovic of Yugoslavia

were the scorers as Nagoya Grampus Eight beat Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2-0 Saturday and won the Emperor's Cup, an annual five-week contest among Japan's 80 top soccer teams, reports AP.

It was Nagoya's second victory in two trips to the final of the Cup, a competition open to all Japanese teams - high school, college, club and professional J-League, Nagoya previously won the event in 1996, also defeating their fellow J-League club Hiroshima.

After a scoreless first half at Tokyo's National Stadium, Stojkovic gained possession of the ball in the 56th minute, raced down the right side of the field and sent a perfect low cross to Lopes, who dived and headed home past goalie Takashi Shi-

team's first-ever Emperor's Cup, fought back aggressively but failed to penetrate Nagoya's de-

fence, spearheaded by Brazilian defender Torres and solid goalkeeping by Japanese international Seigo Narazaki. Hiroshima was able to shoot

Hiroshima, striving for the

just once after the interval. compared to Nagova's six. Nagoya scored again in a

goalmouth melee in the 82nd minute when Torres passed the ball to Stojkovic, who dribbled past advancing goalie Shimoda and two defenders before slamming it into the net.

most valuable player of the

"It's a result of good play by the team and strong support from the club and supporters." said Brazilian manager Joao Carlos de Silva of the victory and the team's 11-game winning streak under his reins in the closing phase of the J-League

tle. Hiroshima was tough, buwe managed to gain our won

were determined to win this ti-

1996 and 1998. Under Joao Carlos, Nagoya has won 15 games against one defeat, a 3-1 loss to Kashiwa

It was Hiroshima's third loss

Tiger gets birthday blues

2-iron draw and hit a 2-iron

fade. If I wanted to hit it low, I

for par on the 422-metre par-4

ninth hole. His drive caught the

fairway bunker, and Woods

was hitting up-shooters."



SCOTTSDALE. Arizona, Jan 1 (Internet report): Golf got the better of Tiger Woods on

his birthday. The world's best golfer turned 24 on Thursday as he played in the Williams World Challenge. Aside from a bear hug from his dad on the first tee and a rendition of "Happy Birthday. Dear Tiger" from the gallery around the 18th green, it was a round Woods would just

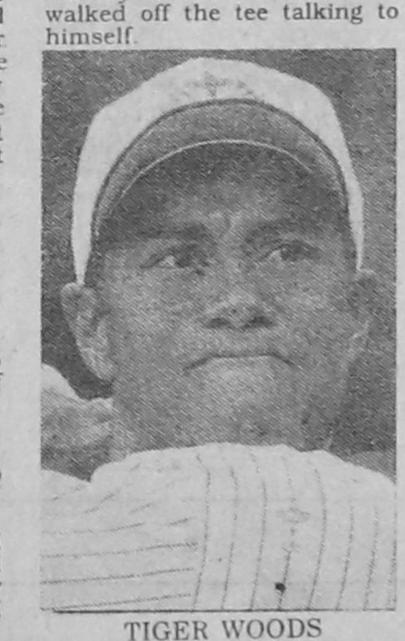
Struggling most of the day with his swing and occasionally mumbling to himself. Woods shot an even-par 70. Good enough for most mortals. but not up to Tiger standards. That left him two shots be-

hind Tom Lehman, who shot 65 on Thursday, and one back of David Duval. Duval, paired with Woods, shot 69. "It was one of those days," said Woods, who planned to

daylight on the practice range. "I didn't hit the ball the way wanted to. I didn't putt the way I wanted to," said Woods. "I really didn't do anything right. What I did do was hang in there." Lehman is at 7-under 133 heading into Saturday's third

first-round lead with Woods, is at 134 and Woods at 135. Woods had trouble finding consistency from any club in

"I didn't drive the ball in the



Faced with a tough lie in the bunker. Woods took a mighty swing. He hit it fat and nearly lost his balance, the ball going just 90 metres up the fairway. He put his fourth shot close to the cup and made the par-sav-

three holes. He three-putted

16 Somalian

super-

model

center

20 Storm

23 Syrup-

24 Honest

25 New

27 Bill

atory SAT 34 Prepared 57

4 Broadway 29 Elevenses

40-Across 32 Exxon

politician

Jersey

town

30 Harvard-

er's rival

Valdez,

Pop-Tarts

doctor of

377-faced

from 15 feet at No 10, then missed a 1.5-metre shot at No 12 after missing the green with Woods went 13 holes without his second shot. He saved his a birdie but made a great save round with back-to-back birdies on 14 and 15.

"Most of the day I was leaving myself some tough putts,' Woods said. "I was just getting by. I'm going to hit a lot of balls tomorrow and come out with a

game plan for Saturday." Unlike most pro events, this week's 72-hole tournament at the Grayhawk Golf Club is being played over five days. A pro-am will be played on Friday, with the third and final rounds on

Saturday and Sunday. Lehman, who had five birdies and no bogeys in his round, said a good showing here will boost his confidence for the start of the 2000 tour season. Lehman didn't win on the

gible to compete in next week's opener, the Mercedes Champi-"I'd love to be playing next week, but second-place finishes don't get you in," he said. "But I'm ready for the season to start.

tour this year and thus isn't eli-

I feel like I have a lot of things to prove to myself this year." Duval left several birdie putts inches short in a gener-

ally solid round. "I putted well," he said. "I hit a lot of putts where I wanted but the greens are pretty severe and

very slick." Twelve of the world's topranked players are competing in this final off season event, with the winner earning one million US dollars.

23 24 25 48 49 50

CRYPTOQUIP

45 Fight the HZJJPSW WPZEED WSQQPY IWCMV IZD

> TEACHER CAN NO DOUBT KEEP THE KIDS IN HER CLASS SPELL-BOUND. Today's Cryptoquip clue: G equals T

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.

of doing well in next year's Libertadores Cup, Flamengo had demanded the club be eliminated from international com-Penarol were once one of the great clubs in international soccer but their fortunes, like that of Uruguayan soccer as a

Gold Coast tennis starts today

whole, have taken a turn for

worse in the past decade.

GOLD COAST, Australia, Jan 1: Russian star Anna Kournikova will attract the crcwds but French top seed Julie Halard-Decugis will start favourite in the Australian women's hardcourt tennis tournament, reports AP.

Sunday at the Hope Island tennis complex, also includes former Grand Slam winners Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Conchita Martinez. Magdalena Malceva's progress will also attract inter-

The event, which begins

est as she strives to return to the form that saw her ranked No 4 in the world. It's been almost eight years since Maleeva beat Martina Navratilova in the second round at the US Open. Maleeva, 24, is the youngest sister of the tennis family which produced

fellow top 10 players Manuela and Katerina. Injury has plagued Magdalena's career, with shoulder

problems forcing her out for almost 18 months. She returned to the circuit nine months ago and was soon on the sidelines again, this time battling a stress fracture in her

left arm. But Maleeva has regained her health and confidence. leading to a tournament win In Thailand in November when she came through the qualify-

ing rounds. "I'm feeling really well at the moment and my goal this year is just to play and stay healthy." Maleeva said.

not setting goals yet. I just want to play for about six to eight months without injury and then 'll assess things. First-round matches include a showdown between defending

champion Patty Schnyder and

"I'm excited about it but I'm

Wimbledon semifinalist Mirjana Lucic. While Halard-Decugis and Kournikova received firstround byes. Martinez will meet Austria's Sylvia Plischke and Sanchez-Vicario will play fellow Spaniard Maria-Angeles Montolio.

Ronaldo's request



in 2000, asking them to be patient and realise that "I am not a robot," reports AFP. Ronaldo has struggled to get back to his best ever since his nightmare end to the World Cup and his injury run continues as

he recovers from knee surgery in late November in Paris. "I am doing everything I can to get better but there are people who don't understand and who aren't patient. I want to play more than anything - a footballer is only happy when he is

"But I'm not a robot. You can't just tweak a screw and say everything is o.k.," Ronaldo

told Veja magazine. "I'm living through hell and it's very tough," Ronaldo added candidly. "I'm really suffering with not being able to play. I'm not sad about playing badly - it's sadness about not being able

Ronaldo said it was tough to shoulder the pressure from fans

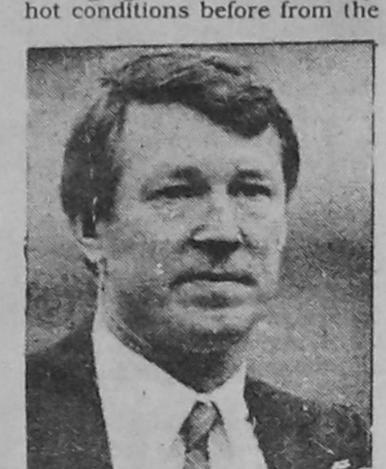
"The supporters here are



they're going to handle the games, recovering and then playing again two days later."

Ferguson has experienced

managing a team in extremely



1986 World Cup in Mexico when he was in charge of Scotland. "In Mexico we only really had one very, very hot day and

in weight." To combat the conditions, Ferguson intends to rotate his

campaign on Thursday against Mexican side Necaxa, who are the CONCACAF champions, in the Maracana Stadium. United's main rivals are

United's third game is against Oceania champions third-place play-off three days

"I'll be changing my team Selectors no-balled again over all-white team

By Mohammed Allie from Cape Town, South Africa South Africa sports minister Ngconde Balfour has warned cricket chiefs that there must be no repeat of the controversy that erupted after the selection of an all-white provincial team to play England in November. Gemini News Service looks at the selectors' slow progress in making the rainbow appear

over the country's posts and stumps. Although apartheid was of indication of the progress ficially buried nearly six years which has been made in crickago, race controversies con- et's transformation. tinue to pervade South Africa. In a sports-mad country, the racial composition of representative teams has had the un-

Despite all the praise heaped

on a cricket development pro-

a hardy weed.

gramme in which black youngsters have been introduced to the game across the country, some administrators within the sport have also bowled a few silly no-balls to punctuate the sport's progress. The racial composition of representative cricket teams came under the spotlight once again recently when the combined team from Northens and Gauteng provinces picked to play England contained no

black players - despite a March

Cricket Board of South Africa

(UCBSA) that all future provin-

directive from the United

cial teams contain at least one black player. It was only after much finger-pointing and shifting of blame that the young Gauteng pace bowler Walter Masemula was drafted into the side ahead of Rudi Bryson, who had not played a single provincial match this season. As it turned out. Masemula bowled impressively to take three England second innings wickets. The furore follows an outcry exactly a year ago when the cricket authorities were taken to task for not including a single black player in the first Test against

the touring West Indies.

outery was the formation of a Transformation Committee charged with drafting a policy to ensure the better representation of all ethnic groups in cricket. Among the committee's decisions was that each of the 11 provinces should include at least one black player in their teams, starting with the current 1999/2000 season. Professor Andre Odendaal,

that the current outcry is an

The intensity of the protest showed that white administrators can no longer get away with such acts without being called canny knack of resurfacing like to account." he says. "There's no place for those in senior positions to hide any longer. One thing is certain - those in senior positions will be more careful about their actions. If

this kind of thing happens again, someone must go.' Odendaal believes the pressure put on white administrators by their disgruntled black counterparts has accelerated the pace of change. 'The leadership has become more jacked upthan in the past. One of the major results of this pressure has been the appointment of Rushdi Magiet, a black man. as

convenor of the national selec-But Odendaal also calls on black athletes to star! delivering the goods: They now have all the opportunities and it's also up to them to make it hap-

Graham Abrahams, spokes-

person for sports minister

Ngconde Balfour, says while the

ministry will not become

involved in the policies of the

respective sports federations. it will monitor the pace of change. We will be meeting national sports federations over the next few weeks to ascertain what their policy is towards transforming their sports and ensuring greater representivity. It's up to them to formulate their policy and to set targets. We will simply be monitoring their progress over a period of one

ter is the creation of opportu-

nities and giving expression to their respective transformation charters. Referring to the recent

UCBSA went against their own charter: "We expect them to honour their own charter and that's why we will be meeting with them shortly to discuss the situation.' After a subsequent meeting with the Board, Balfour com-

mented, "They have admitted to

their mistake but such a thing

cannot happen again.

Northerns-Gauteng selection

debacle. Abrahams says the

Abrahai; s however, feels it is time for blacks to make their presence felt in the sporting arena and in the boardrooms. "It's the duty of former disadvantaged people to exert pressure on those authorities who refuse to change," he observes. "They cannot simply stand on the sidelines and cry foul. The

Ministry of Sport will not be-

come involved unless the situa-

tion demands it." The calls for black sportspersons to seize the opportunity may have some validity, but talented black sportsmen and women have always had limited opportunities to formance against the highlyrated All Blacks that observers questioned why he had not

while white players are given ample chances to cement their places, their black counterparts

played in the tournament's

Many sceptics believe that

previous matches.

About the Author: Moand Cape Town correspondent for the BBC Africa service.

prove their worth. A case in point was at the recent rugby World Cup in Wales where the slightly-built Breyton Paulse turned in such a polished per-

as soon forget.

spend the remaining hours of

round. Duval, who shared the

By Eugene Sheffer 58 Affirma-ACROSS 38 Feathery tive 1 Nameaccessory 40 With action sakes 59 Pinza of 6-Down, Nabokov Pacific" recipe 41 Ai's 5 Norm DOWN (Abbr.) cousin 1 Weaponry 43 Coach 8 Mideast 2 Air for a Parseghpotentate 12 Litter's

45 Calculate

47 Unassum-

51 Rue the

many

years

character 52 Figure of 15 Louisiana town speech 17 On 54 Actress from 18 Blot on "Mask" one's 55 Candle escutchcount eon 56 Heather 19 Slot 57 Many, machine trio

13"... - a

14 Lawless

21 Nosh

22 Manuscript

puddytat!"

23 Ted on "Cheers" hood dorf donkey 36 "Love me (not)"

PAZ DIN DONEE MAYAN JUDAISM DESKSET PROXY Yesterday's answer

39 Domingo the loop 11 Seance 42 Emassounds 44 More than G B Solution time: 25 mins. clock

46 Microphone 48 Boz's 53 ld

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A GOOD ENGLISH

illustrator 49 Burt's ex 50 Therefore counterpart

The immediate result of the have to deliver immediately. year to see how they live up to their commitment," he ex-As long as such discrepan-26 Sister 'Well, it does not necessarily cies continue, most black peoplains. 28 The 400 mean they have a relationship. "Our position is that the best ple, especially those who grew 31 Help a he said. "Anna is a very friendly team should play, but built into up under the yoke of apartheid. person and I know that she has this is the proviso that opporwill refuse to support all-white 33 Ran into many friends among other athtunities must be provided for national teams, as was the case 35 Dusselletes. disadvantaged people from a during the rugby World Cup. -"And of course if two people junior level upwards to ease the Gemini News of the same nationality happen way for players to make it to a to live next door to each other national level. We won't prehammed Allic is a South in a foreign country they are scribe what sporting codes African freelance journalist determibound to see each other more should be doing. What we're afhead of the committee, argues