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RAMADAN QUIZ CONTEST

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MIDDLE EAST - PAGE 3

Arafat meets Mubarak



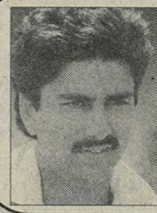
BUSINESS - PAGE 5

US, Mexico sign \$20b package



SUBCONTINENT - PAGE 8

Benazir rejects Punjab governor's package



SPORTS - PAGE 12

Indians show their class

AT A GLANCE

Air-India talks BOMBAY — Top officials at Air-India began talks yesterday with cabin-crew representatives to resolve a week-long dispute...

Washington, DC broke WASHINGTON — The US capital was declared essentially broke yesterday in a report given to Congress by government watchdogs...

7 troopers killed JAMMU — Suspected Muslim insurgents killed seven troopers of the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) in the southern region of India's Jammu and Kashmir state...

Border talks SANAA — Yemen and Saudi Arabia have made progress at talks over a long-standing border dispute but some points of disagreement still need to be ironed out...

Euthanasia favoured BEIJING — Advisers of Shanghai's government have suggested euthanasia be allowed after a survey showed 90 per cent of the residents of China's largest city approved of it...

Nuclear waste SUVA — Fiji yesterday joined a growing list of Pacific nations protesting against a shipment of highly radioactive nuclear waste...

Ramadan timings Imsak 05:03 Fajr 05:13 Dhuhur 12:25 Asr 03:35 Maghrib (iftar) 06:12 Isha 07:37

Anglo-Irish plan meets Protestant opposition

BELFAST — Britain and Ireland unveiled bold plans for a Northern Ireland political settlement yesterday but ran into a brick wall of rejection by pro-British Protestant politicians...

But the immediate reaction of Unionists representing the 60 per cent Protestant majority was condemnation with the same fury that torpedoed a similar plan in 1973.

He and other Unionists fear the plan panders to Sinn Fein, the political wing of IRA guerrillas who fought for 25 years to drive Britain from the province until a ceasefire last year.

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said the determination of the two governments to press ahead with a joint plan showed that Britain's 1920s partition of Ireland was "a failure."

There are some issues which of course we would not like but I think that the general sense of the document is that an internal settlement cannot be a solution...

The three-point plan includes a new Northern Ireland assembly and cross-border bodies to cement trust and economic cooperation and British and Irish pledges to change rival claims to the sovereignty of the province of 1.5 million people.

It is a framework for discussion not a blueprint to be imposed over the heads of anyone," Bruton said. "Its purpose is to facilitate not to pre-empt dialogue."

Setting up a new 90-seat Northern Ireland assembly elected by proportional representation to share power between the 60 per cent Protestant majority and Catholic minority.

Bruton told the news conference: "The ending of all campaigns of paramilitary violence last autumn has created an unrivalled opportunity for such dialogue to take place with the reasonable prospect of a successful conclusion."

Sinn Fein and groups close to loyalist gunmen are holding exploratory talks with Britain but Major said "decommissioning" their guns was vital if they wanted to join new all-party talks.

The document seeks to capitalise on ceasefires in September by the IRA and loyalist gunmen, who killed Catholics in a campaign to maintain cherished British sovereignty.

Changing Britain's and Ireland's constitutional claims to Northern Ireland to put the onus on its people to work out new relationships within the province and with Ireland.



BELFAST - British Prime Minister John Major (right), Irish Premier John Bruton (left) and Northern Ireland Minister Patrick Mayhew walk to Balmoral Conference Centre in Belfast yesterday to present the "framework document" for negotiations to create a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

Cable of greetings

MUSCAT — His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has sent a cable of greetings to Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, on the occasion of his country's 34th National Day.

PDO awards two gas projects

MUSCAT — Petroleum Development of Oman has awarded two separate front end design contracts for Oman's liquefied natural gas project on behalf of the Omani government.

The Chairman of the Board of Oman Liquefied Natural Gas Co. told Oman News Agency yesterday that one contract had been awarded to Delta Catalytic Ltd. of Calgary, Canada, for the Saih Rawl gas processing facilities.

The chairman said that work would begin at the end of February. The facilities were expected to be completed in September and the pipeline in November.

He explained that front end designs were part of project specification in preparation for the execution phase of contract tendering. The execution phase of the project was scheduled to begin in mid-1996, he said.

Oman-Korea gas deal signed

MUSCAT — Petroleum and Minerals Ministry Undersecretary Salim bin Mohammed Shaban announced yesterday that a letter of intent for the sale and purchase of liquefied natural gas had been signed between Oman Liquefied Natural Gas Co. (OLNGC) and the Korean Gas Corporation (KGC).

Shaban said that Petroleum and Minerals Minister Said bin Ahmed Al Shanfari had met the President of KGC and the Korean Commerce and Industry Minister when he visited Seoul on January 28th, and had informed them of the Omani government's decision to develop the gas fields.

Shaban added that the Omani government held a 51 per cent in the \$ 8 billion natural gas liquefaction project. He said that the Sultanate's natural gas reserves totalled over 25 trillion cubic feet.

Arafat seeks Arab and world support

CAIRO — PLO leader Yasser Arafat, impatient with the deadlock in self-rule talks with Israel, launched a campaign for Arab and international support on Wednesday, possibly with an Arab summit as his immediate target.

The committee believes it is important to discuss the consequences and dangers of a breakdown in the peace process by holding an Arab meeting at the highest level in the framework of the Arab League as soon as possible.

Arafat and the committee members launched the campaign by putting their plans to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak but Foreign Minister Amr Moussa gave a lukewarm response.

Arafat was expected to leave yesterday afternoon for Saudi Arabia and a meeting with King Fahd, also as part of the Palestinian campaign to bring in foreign powers.

King Hussein of Jordan. It said Israel was fully to blame for the long delays in carrying out the second stage of the self-rule agreement it signed in Washington in 1993.

Palestinian elections were meant to take place in Gaza and the West Bank in July last year, after Israeli troops withdrew from the towns in occupied parts of the West Bank.

The committee condemned Israel for a long list of practices in the occupied territories, such as confiscating Arab land, continuing to build or expand settlements and changing the demographics of the city of Jerusalem area.

The PLO again asked Israel to release Palestinian detainees, one of the disputes which dogged earlier stages of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Manipur heading for hung assembly

GUWAHATI, India — India's ruling Congress Party was running yesterday in the first of six states to count ballots in assembly elections that could prove pivotal for Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

With 45 of 59 races decided in the northeastern state of Manipur, the opposition Manipur People's Party (MPP) and the Congress had clinched 15 seats each. Congress, which won 26 of 60 seats in the last polls, in 1990, led the outgoing government with the support of independents but was expected to head for a close finish with the MPP in a hung assembly.

Manipur is one of six states holding assembly polls that will test the political winds before general elections that Rao is due to hold by March, 1996. State elections have no direct bearing on the composition of the national parliament or the federal government.

GOITY, Russia — Russian forces shelled rebel fighters and villages close to the Chechen capital Grozny yesterday and said they had foiled a push to break through their lines into the shattered city.

Chechens in Goity, just south of Grozny, said they had come under fire during the night for the first time. Shelling of Alkhanyurt, west of the capital, was also clearly audible when a Reuters correspondent visited Goity before noon.

Itar-Tass news agency said the rebels had simultaneously attacked Russian positions from the north and south of Grozny during the night but were repulsed with heavy artillery fire.

UN sets date for Rabbani to quit

KABUL — UN special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri, struggling to rescue his peace plan for war-ravaged Afghanistan, announced yesterday that President Burhanuddin Rabbani had promised to end his self-extended term on March 21.

Rabbani has not set any conditions for his agreement and he has given an undertaking to hand over power on that day," Mestiri told a news conference in Kabul.

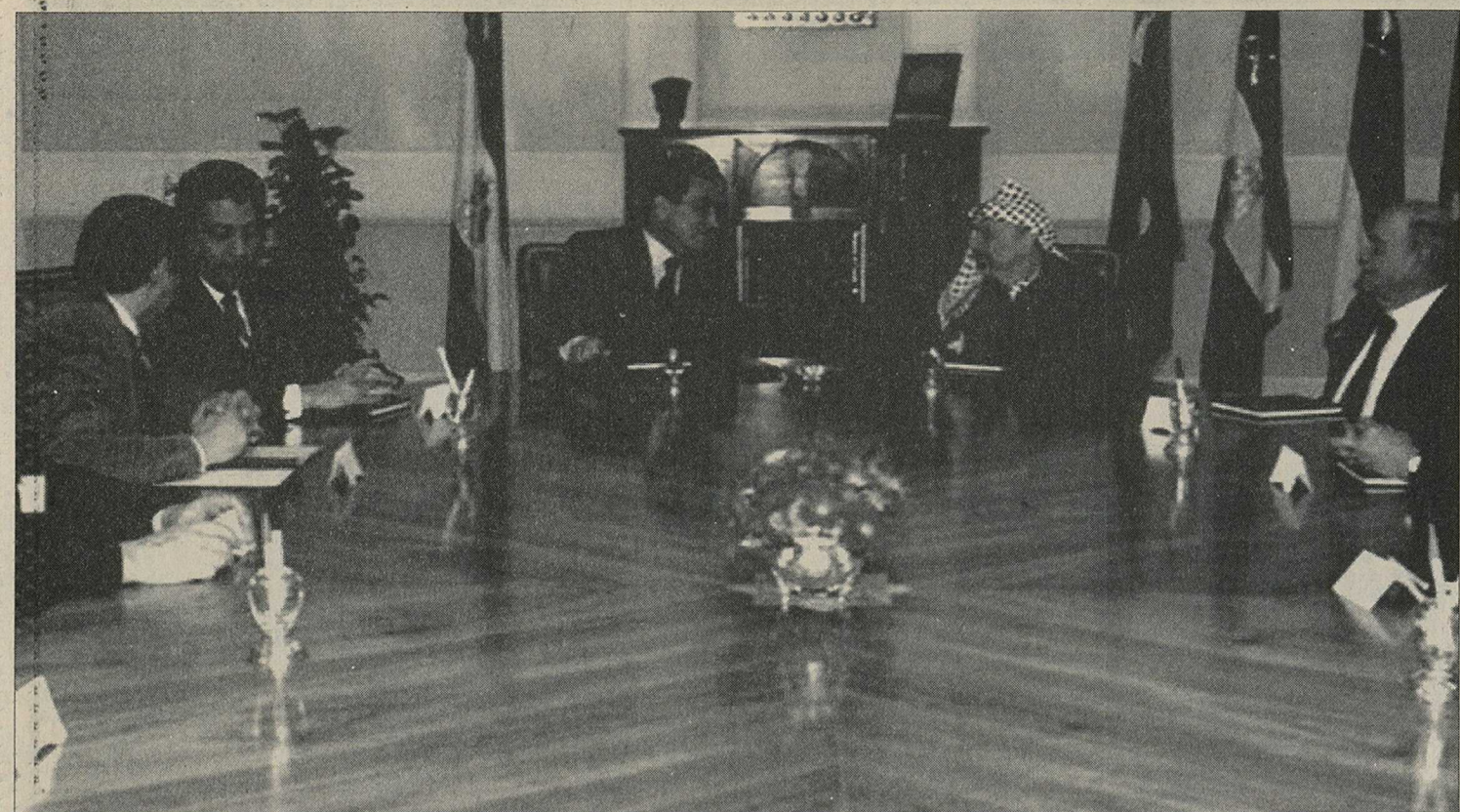
He said the new Islamic student militia known as Taleban had given conditional assurances that it would not block the plan.

The Taleban have agreed with this and have promised not to obstruct the peace process, provided there is an Islamic government that conforms to the will of the majority of the Afghan people," the former Tunisian foreign minister said.

He had returned to Kabul from the Pakistan capital, Islamabad, early yesterday after briefing some Afghan leaders slated to take part in the interim mechanism. Arrangements for the end of Rabbani's term, now eight weeks overdue, began to fray after the previously little-known Taleban reached the gates of Kabul on February 14.

Their heavily armed fighters, who had ousted main opposition leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar from his strongholds south of the Afghan capital, want pro-Rabbani fighters to lay down their arms and let them enter the city unopposed.

Advertisement for Yves Saint Laurent perfume. Features a large image of a perfume bottle with the text 'THE PERFUME OF SUCCESS' and 'CHAMPAGNE PARFUM'. At the bottom, it says 'THE NEW FEMINE PERFUME' and 'YVES SAINT LAURENT'.



CAIRO — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (centre left) and PLO Chief Yasser Arafat (centre right) chat after a crisis meeting with the PLO executive committee at the Ittihadia Palace in Cairo yesterday. — AFP photo

Israel, PLO continue poll talks

CAIRO — PLO and Israeli negotiators yesterday began a second day of talks on long-delayed Palestinian elections in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The talks are expected to examine further the issue of international supervision of the elections, which both sides have said is vital to ensure their credibility.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said on Tuesday his side wanted supervisors from the United States, Russia, the European Union, Norway, Canada, Japan, Egypt and Jordan to oversee the elections.

Palestinian elections should have taken place eight months ago, but 10 previous rounds of talks on the elections and an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank have made little progress.

Palestinians have repeatedly said they will not hold elections under the barrels of Israeli guns but Israel has said it cannot pull out its troops because of security concerns.

Attacks by Muslim militants suicide bombers, including one that killed 21 Israelis inside Israel last month, have hampered the negotiations.

The two sides have also had differences over whether Palestinian groups opposed to the peace accord can participate as candidates or voters in the elections.

The delay in the elections and in widening Palestinian self-rule led to a meeting of the PLO's executive committee in Cairo on Tuesday to assess how the peace process can be kept alive and made to bear fruit.

The committee decided early yesterday not to suspend the negotiations with Israel but to launch an international campaign for a thorough review of the Middle East peace process. — Reuter

Gaddafi blasts Nato plan

CAIRO — Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi attacked Nato's plans to discuss security with North African states, saying it was an attack on Islam and the prelude to recolonising the Arab world.

Gaddafi was speaking at a religious celebration on Monday evening. His remarks were carried by the official Libyan news agency Jana, monitored in Cairo.

The Libyan leader noted that Nato Secretary-General Willy Claes had invited ambassadors from Egypt, Israel, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia to meet him in Brussels on Friday and discuss alleged threats to Mediterranean security.

The target is widely assumed to be militant movements active in North African states.

Gaddafi said: "this means the start of colonising the Arab world again. It means that Nato has started to fight Islam through Muslims, through the rulers and governments, and to spread its shadow over North Africa."

"This is something dangerous and is bound to lead to confrontation one day," he added. — Reuter

Arafat meets Mubarak

CAIRO — PLO leader Yasser Arafat yesterday sought Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's support for a Palestinian campaign to save deadlocked peace talks with Israel from collapse.

Arafat and eight PLO executive committee members decided at a meeting which ended in Cairo earlier yesterday against taking radical steps such as calling off the Middle East peace process, at least until they had consulted their Arab allies.

Arafat and his eight colleagues met Mubarak and his foreign minister, Amr Moussa. Arafat called

the executive committee meeting after a series of talks with Israeli leaders failed to agree on Israeli troop withdrawals from West Bank towns and on Palestinian elections.

PLO spokesman and committee member Yasser Abed-Rabbo said envoys would go to Arab and Western countries to brief them on the obstacles to progress and muster their diplomatic support.

Committee member Mohamed Zuhdi Nashashibi said: "We want to tell the world that the Israelis are not willing to discuss anything. They are just playing with time and

at a certain point they feel they can say no to everything," he said. "We will put our case, and it is very clear, that the Israelis are really bringing the negotiations to a deadlock."

The next phase of Palestinian self-rule — Israeli withdrawal from West Bank towns and Palestinian elections — should have taken place eight months ago, according to the timetable of their 1993 peace accord.

But Israel has raised doubts about the Palestinians' ability to meet its security requirements after recent suicide attacks against Israelis. — Reuter

Palestinians form anti-Arafat group in West Bank

NABLUS — Palestinian nationalists and Islamists announced yesterday the formation of the first Arab coalition in the occupied West Bank opposed to the Israel-PLO 1993 peace deal which launched self-rule last May in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho as falling short of their aspirations for statehood and independence.

Even within Fatah, the backbone of Arafat's administration in Gaza and Jericho, frustration is growing over an eight-month Israeli delay in expanding autonomy and frequent closures of the areas following bombings by Palestinian militants in Israel.

The announcement coincided with a Cairo meeting of the PLO's executive committee convened to discuss the faltering talks with Israel on the second stage of the peace deal — Palestinian elections and Israeli troop redeployment in the West Bank. — Reuter

was the first in the West Bank to form a coalition publicly opposed to the peace process.

Many Palestinians consider the 1993 peace deal which launched self-rule last May in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho as falling short of their aspirations for statehood and independence.

Even within Fatah, the backbone of Arafat's administration in Gaza and Jericho, frustration is growing over an eight-month Israeli delay in expanding autonomy and frequent closures of the areas following bombings by Palestinian militants in Israel.

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Turkey says casualties rise in N. Iraq

ANKARA — More than 100 people have been killed this week in northern Iraq in intensifying fighting between rival Kurdish factions, a senior Turkish official said yesterday.

Foreign ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman said Ankara regretted the deaths and was concerned about the clashes between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) led by Jalal Talabani and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Masoud Barzani.

"Our information is that fighting has intensified and the number of deaths in the last two-three days have exceeded 100," he said but gave no further details.

"We once again call on the two sides to immediately end hostilities and begin contacts necessary for the establishment of peace."

"We especially want an end without delay to the attacks on the lives and property of the civilians of Arbil and their security assured," Ataman said.

Arbil, seat of a dissident Iraqi Kurdish administration supposedly shared between the two groups, has been under PUK control since December while KDP militants have repeatedly attempted to drive them out.

A KDP source said last week that PUK should withdraw its forces from Arbil and make the city accessible to all. — Reuter

Rabin, coalition partner end row

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and a coalition partner key to Middle East peace moves defused a row on Tuesday hours after it erupted over changes Rabin announced in his cabinet.

The Dovish Meretz party, its votes crucial to Rabin's razor-thin majority in parliament, reacted angrily after the prime minister, at a special cabinet meeting, tapped two ministers of his own Labour Party to fill vacant ministries.

Meretz wanted an additional portfolio for its environment Minister Yossi Sarid, a peace negotiator and an architect of the troubled Israeli-PLO peace deal. Hours later Rabin and Sarid made peace between themselves.

"Since my discussion with the prime minister, from my viewpoint the affair is over," Sarid told reporters.

Rabin said he asked Sarid to drop the issue in recognition of the "historic challenge" facing the government, still trying to come to terms with the PLO on expanding self-rule beyond Gaza and Jericho to other parts of the West Bank.

At the cabinet meeting Rabin announced Tourism Minister Uzi Baram would also take on the job of interior minister while Economics Minister Shimon Shetret would assume the job also of Minister of Religion. Both men belong to the Labour Party.

Rabin himself has been holding the two jobs until now, hoping the ultra-orthodox Shas Party would accept them in return for joining the government. It did not. — Reuter

Jewish boys held

JERUSALEM — Israeli police said they detained three Jewish teenagers on Tuesday who were carrying a small bomb and bullets as they tried to enter the Hebron shrine where a Jew massacred 29 Muslims a year ago.

Police said the 15 and 16-year-old youths from Jerusalem were held for questioning at the police station in the West Bank town. The items were discovered when the three were searched after leaving a teargas pistol, a knife and two toy guns at the shrine's entrance as required.

On February 25, 1994, US-born Dr Baruch Goldstein, a Jewish settler from near Hebron, killed 29 kneeling worshippers at Al-Ibrahimi mosque inside the shrine, the tomb of the Biblical Patriarchs, which is holy to both Jews and Muslims. Israel imposed tougher security measures following the massacre. — Reuter

UN report slams Iraq's anti-crime report

GENEVA — A United Nations investigator said on Tuesday that new Iraqi anti-crime decrees under which thieves can have their hands cut off for stealing less than \$10 showed Baghdad's "complete failure" to respect human rights.

In a report to the UN human rights commission, former Dutch Foreign Minister Max Van Der Stoep said a series of such decrees issued over the past year constituted an "astounding public institution of cruel and unusual punishments".

Van Der Stoep, the commission's "special rapporteur" on Iraq said the decrees were just one sign of continuing massive human rights violations in Iraq — firmly blamed by him on the government of President Saddam Hussein.

The rapporteur also criticised Iraq for refusing to accept a UN-supervised sale of oil to buy medicines and foodstuffs, which he described as "a further example of a

government policy seriously violating human rights".

His report examines a number of decrees issued by Saddam's revolutionary command council and published in Iraq's official gazette.

Van Der Stoep said Decree No. 59 of June 4, 1994 prescribes "amputation of the right hand at the wrist for a first offence of the theft over 5,000 Iraqi dinars" — or less than \$10. Amputation of the left foot at the ankle is prescribed for a second offence and death for the third.

According to Decree No. 109 of August 18, those who have suffered amputations should be branded or tattooed with an 'X' between the eyebrows. Decree No. 115, issued a week later, "prescribes the cutting off of the auricle of one ear of each person evading military service, deserting military service, or sheltering any evader or deserter of military service".

Another decree says that farmers convicted of "sabotage of the national economy" — that is who refuse to sell their produce to the state at low state prices — are also liable to amputation of the hand and branding as well as imprisonment.

Van Der Stoep wrote: "It is the opinion of the special rapporteur that these decrees reveal the complete failure of the government to respect its obligations under international human rights law."

"Indeed, it is surely a rarity in the contemporary international community that a government not only boldly pronounces laws which stipulate disfigurement of persons within its jurisdiction, but shamelessly announces and advertises the existence of these punishments."

In three previous reports to the commission, Van Der Stoep has documented widespread rights violations in all spheres of life. He has not been allowed to visit the country since January 1992.

He has argued that given Iraq's power structures, the violations were inevitable and that human rights violations were a direct result of state policy. In his previous report, Van Der Stoep said his previous conclusions were still valid. He wrote: "Power is grossly abused on a daily and widespread basis. The special rapporteur submits that the decrees issued recently in Iraq irrefutably substantiate this conclusion."

Van Der Stoep said as well as the state, there was proof of the direct responsibility of a circle of high-placed individuals, individuals who would not be afforded immunity under international law for their actions.

"In this last connection, the special rapporteur continues to receive information providing details of the personal involvement of a growing list of individuals within and around the ruling elite of Iraq in relation to various serious human rights violations," he wrote. — Reuter

Israel questions Syria's commitment to peace

JERUSALEM — Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister, taking a new line on Syria, questioned on Wednesday the validity of its stated commitment to the pursuit of peace.

Yossi Beilin said Israel had accepted in recent years that Syria had made a strategic decision to achieve peace and the only question was when a deal would be signed.

"I have some doubts about accepting this because Syria's behaviour in the last few months has not been that of someone who decided unequivocally to pursue peace and is prepared to do his utmost to achieve it," he told Israel radio.

Syria's peace talks with Israel are stalled over the extent of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in 1967, and the shape of peace and future ties.

"The current negotiations, or ab-

sence of them, is leading to a situation whereby we will not reach peace with the Syrians in 1995 because things are moving at a snail's pace," said Beilin, who is close to foreign minister Shimon Peres.

Beilin's mention of the date was a clear reminder to Syria that time is running out before Israel goes to elections in 1996. The labour government's main rival, the right-wing Likud, opposes any territorial compromise on the Golan Heights.

Israel, while blaming Syria for the current deadlock in peace efforts, had in the past pointed to repeated Syrian statements that comprehensive peace in the Middle East was a strategic option as proof of a commitment to the process.

"They are still playing the game of whether the Syrian ambassador in Washington will or won't come to

talks with our ambassador," Beilin said. "If that is the case, it is very possible there are other items at the top of the Syrian agenda."

Syria has said further ambassadorial-level meetings would be useful only if Israel presented new ideas.

Beilin said it was possible Syria had only wanted to join the peace process to improve relations with Washington, which still officially regards it as a state that sponsors militancy "without having really intended to reach an agreement with us".

He questioned whether Syria was prepared to pay the price of peace, which he described as a change in its position as the leader of Arab confrontation states against Israel and a possible worsening of its relations with Iran. — Reuter

Italy under fire in toxic waste scandal

BEIRUT — Greenpeace accused Italy yesterday of trying to duck its moral duty to take back thousands of barrels of toxic waste allegedly remaining from a huge consignment it dumped in Lebanon in the 1980s.

A Lebanese "civic emergency committee" simultaneously called for protests at the Italian embassy and Beirut government buildings to demand speedy removal of the waste which has caused a public outcry in Lebanon. The committee, including the head of the parliamentary environmental commission, said a statement by Italian ambassador Carlo Calia that Italy took back in 1988 all the waste it dumped was wrong, and thousands of barrels still remained in Lebanon.

Greenpeace Mediterranean spokesman Fouad Hamdan also told Reuters that Calia's statement at a news conference on Tuesday was either uninformed or deliberately deceitful. "The ambassador either does not know what he's talking about or he is deliberately trying to fool Lebanese and Italian public opinion," Hamdan said by telephone from the office of the international environmental watchdog in Hamburg, Germany. "It is a shame that Italy is trying to make people forget about the whole issue. Italy has a moral duty to help the Lebanese authorities find the waste, dig it out and return it," Hamdan said.

Greenpeace and the Lebanese emergency committee say Italy shipped 15,800 barrels and 20 containers — totalling 24,000 tonnes of toxic waste — to Lebanon at the height of the civil war in 1987-88. Greenpeace has called the waste an "ecological time bomb".

But Calia said only 9,567 barrels and three containers were shipped to Lebanon and Italy spent \$10 million to take them all back in 1988.

The ambassador called the Greenpeace figures "mostly fantasy" and added: "We will not take back barrels that do not exist... the barrels that are found now, we know they are not Italian."

However, Hamdan said Greenpeace had proof that 16,000 barrels were dumped in Lebanon after being turned away by Venezuela.

He said Italy actually spent only \$3 million on taking back waste after a row with the Lebanese government. The contents of only 5,500 barrels, mixed with sand to make up some 9,500 barrels, were shipped home in three small freighters. — Reuter

\$100 million for Kuwaiti defence

KUWAIT — Kuwaitis have donated 30 million dinars (\$100 million) to pay for allied support during a border standoff with Iraq in October, a government minister said in remarks published yesterday.

Social Affairs Minister Ahmad Al-Kulaib said a campaign for voluntary donations to a special defence fund was continuing and many firms had expressed a desire to contribute, the English-language Arab Times reported.

Western forces rushed to the region when Iraq, which occupied Kuwait for seven months in 1990-91, deployed troops near the border for 10 days in early October.

Diplomats estimated the cost of the buildup by American, French, British and Gulf Arab air, land and naval forces at around \$500 million, of which Kuwait is paying half. Most of the rest is to be paid by the tiny oil state's Gulf Arab allies.

The government originally floated the idea of a mandatory defence levy of between five and 10 per cent of income but backed off amid opposition from citizens and demands from some members of parliament that the levy be proportional to wealth.

Prominent merchants or their families have contributed donations worth hundred of thousands of dinars (dollars) to the fund known as the popular committee for donations, government officials said. — Reuter

Prison mutiny in Algeria, 4 killed

TUNIS — Jailed militant rebels have mutinied in an Algiers high-security prison, killing four warders they took hostage, according to official reports from Algeria's capital yesterday.

Security forces were intervening, the justice ministry said, adding that they had been called in "when it became clear that the security of the penitentiary was threatened."

"This operation is still going on," the ministry added in a statement carried on the official news agency APS.

Residents contacted yesterday said the security forces were operating inside the prison compound and surrounding it.

APS said the revolt broke out in Serkadji prison on Tuesday. The mutineers seized six warders hostage, killed four of them and wounded another.

"Some prisoners have also been taken hostage by those behind the mutiny," the ministry statement said.

Serkadji prison, surrounded by high walls with constantly-manned guard towers, lies near the defence ministry, on the heights of the Casbah, the ancient heart of Algiers.

It holds scores of militants, among them some who have been condemned to death.

APS described the prisoners as offenders against state security, a term used for militant Islamists waging a war against the military-backed government during which an estimated 30,000 people have been killed.


Among the most notable Serkadji prisoners is Abdelkader Hachani, who took over leadership of the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) when its two top men, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, were arrested in June 1991.

Hachani guided the FIS to a landslide lead in the first round of Algeria's multi-party general election which the authorities cancelled in January 1992.

The same month, Hachani was arrested after a statement appeared in local newspapers under his name which the authorities interpreted as a call for soldiers to disobey their officers in the battle against militants. — Reuter

Congratulations

Sahil Enterprises



In celebration of the opening of Sahil Enterprises new showroom in Ruwi, we at Rado extend our best wishes and congratulations to our distributor Sahil Enterprises and management for their outstanding achievements and continued success.

Wishing them a prosperous future.

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BOMBAY STOCKS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1995

Table of Bombay Stock Exchange listings including BSE Sensitive Index, BSE National Index, and various company shares like Bajaj Hind, Tata Steel, and Infosys Tech.

Table of Bombay Stock Exchange listings (continued) including companies like Kirl Bros, Modiluft, Pennar Pater, and various pharmaceutical and industrial firms.

Exchange rates table showing foreign currency rates for Omani Rial, including Australian Dollar, US Dollar, and various European currencies.

Market Roundup table listing retail prices of livestock and fish, including items like sheep, goats, and various types of fish.

MUSCAT SECURITIES TRADING CHART FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1995

SECTOR: WISE PRICE INDEX - Industry - 200.13; Service - 127.30; Insurance sector 153.54; Banks & Investment Sector 122.04; Market Price Index 152.45.

Table of Muscat Securities trading chart showing company names, share counts, and price indices for various sectors like Regular Market, Banks & Invest Co. Sec., Insurance Sector, and Services Sector.

PARALLEL MARKET

Table of Parallel Market listings including companies like National Co. for Food Prods, Computer Stationery Industry, and various trading companies.

BONDS MARKET

Table of Bonds Market listings showing bond names, volumes, and prices for various government and corporate bonds.

A year on, no listings on Lusaka bourse

LUSAKA — A year after the Lusaka Stock Exchange (Luse) opened, no shares have been listed but the exchange has recorded over a thousand trades in unlisted shares valued at over 300 million kwacha (\$375,000).

UK offers help to rebuild N. Lanka

COLOMBO — Britain is interested in joining an \$816 million plan to rebuild Sri Lanka's war-torn northern areas now controlled by Tamil rebels, government officials said.

UK offers help to rebuild N. Lanka

The offer was made by visiting British Trade Minister Richard Needham during talks with President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga.

Forward rate against RO for February 24

Table showing forward rates against the Rupee (RO) for February 24, including rates for 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months.

Spot rates against US\$

Table showing spot rates against the US Dollar, including rates for DEM, GBP, CHF, FRF, and ECU.

TENDER BOARD

Table of Tender Board listings including Health Centre at Jabal Al-Khour, Adam Water Supply (desalination plant), and various construction and service tenders.

Lebanon reviews banking, finance laws

BEIRUT — Lebanon, which is seeking to win back its role as a regional banking centre and financial marketplace, has begun a sweeping revision of its banking and finance laws to bring them up to date with modern requirements.

Nasser Saidi, first vice-governor of the Bank of Lebanon, told Reuters in an interview a joint committee formed by the bank and the justice ministry is working on the task under his chairmanship.

"Our banking and finance laws need to be modernised. We also need a number of new laws," said Saidi, who expects the job to take at least a year.

"We are trying to give a legal and

technical infrastructure for the operation of markets in Lebanon. We would like to have international norms, be up to date and to secure transparency for the markets," he said.

The committee, which began work about three months ago, wants to graft elements of US and British finance and banking legislation onto Lebanon's existing French-originated laws.

"What we are trying to do is something unique or different, to get as much as possible a hybrid system, to benefit from Anglo-Saxon law and legal tradition and marry it with the French legislation which we have," Saidi said.

"The financial markets in the United States and the United Kingdom expanded at a much more rapid pace and so did their legislation. We are trying to get the benefit of this," he added.

Updating the laws is part of the government's effort to regain the pre-dominant position Beirut held as a banking centre and financial marketplace in the Middle East 20 years ago, before the 1975-90 civil war.

"The laws haven't been revised for decades," a member of the committee who asked not to be identified told Reuters. "It's a huge undertaking if you want to do it properly. It's tremendously important."

The committee includes some 22

Lebanese lawyers, legal experts, economists, bankers and financial market experts. It meets weekly and also calls on Lebanese expatriates working in legal and financial circles in New York, London and Paris when needed, Saidi said.

Its proposals will eventually require parliamentary approval to be law. "We don't have a legal framework for modern financial instruments which evolved or were created over the last 20 years," Saidi said.

"Broadly, we need new legislation for instruments which didn't exist in Lebanon before the war, things like mutual funds which are very important."

The committee will also seek to define financial intermediaries and their role, authorisation and licensing.

It will draft listing requirements for financial markets and will draft a capital markets law whose chief purpose, Saidi said, will be to separate the role of the regulatory authorities from market operations.

Lebanon's banking legislation also needs modernisation, Saidi said. In particular, the committee will define the functions and responsibilities of investment banks, which began emerging in Beirut for the first time last year, in relation to commercial banks and other financial institutions.

— **Reuter**



WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and his Mexican counterpart Guillermo Ortiz sign a \$20 billion deal to attempt to rescue the Mexican economy at a ceremony. — AFP photo

'Progress' in piracy talks

BEIJING — China and the United States made satisfactory progress toward averting a trade war as they raced against the clock to reach an accord before Sunday's deadline for sanctions, Xinhua news agency said yesterday.

The report came after China-US talks over protection of copyrights, patents and trademarks in China moved onto a higher level in Beijing yesterday.

"Both Chinese and US negotiators expressed their willingness here today to resolve their differences on intellectual-property rights and reach an agreement as early as possible through more positive efforts," Xinhua said.

They agreed the progress they have made in the last-ditch talks so far was satisfactory, Xinhua quoted a member of the Chinese delegation as saying.

A Chinese source close to the talks said an agreement could be in the offing after US Deputy Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, who arrived in Beijing late on Tuesday, met Sun Zhenyu, a vice minister of China's ministry of foreign trade and economic cooperation.

While Barshefsky's meeting marked the shift of the talks to a higher gear, the ninth round of working-level talks since last June continued with just four days left before mutual sanctions go into force, US embassy officials said.

They refused comment on the talks or say whether any concrete progress was made.

Arriving in Beijing to add weight to the negotiations, Barshefsky said Washington had been heartened by a recent string of Chinese actions to crack down on intellectual-property rights violations but piracy remained rampant.

On Monday, the talks on protecting intellectual property in China focused on copyright ver-

ification, software piracy and customs controls. The talks began last Tuesday.

US demands have included an end to copyright and patent violations through tougher law enforcement, creation of anti-piracy strike forces and quick, impartial court action.

In its propaganda blitz to show it can enforce existing anti-piracy laws, China hailed the efficacy of a crackdown in the southern province of Guangdong where many factories churn out bootleg laser discs, compact discs and computer software.

The booming province bordering Hongkong introduced a system in 1994 that requires licences for all compact-disc production lines to be re-examined and renewed and the authorities to conduct regular inspections, Xinhua said.

The province introduced a copyright registration system last November, ruling that all work units must be registered before they implement contracts to reproduce or publish foreign video or audio products and foreign books, it said.

Among US demands is that Beijing raid 29 plants in southern China alleged to flood Asia with pirated laser and compact disks as a down payment towards building a better environment for intellectual-property protection.

Guangdong has redoubled efforts to crack down on such counterfeiting, making good achievements, Xinhua insisted.

Since January, the province had inspected 5,218 shops and confiscated more than 166,000 pirated CDs, including 4,549 smuggled ones, and 39,585 copied video and audio tapes.

Washington says piracy of US patents, copyrights and trademarks in China costs US industry nearly \$1 billion a year and has ordered \$1.08 billion in punitive tariffs on Chinese exports from February 26 if no deal is struck. — **Reuter**

Intermarkets enters Yemen

MUSCAT — Continuing its pioneering role of developing the advertising industry in the Arab World since the early 1960s, Intermarkets has announced a further expansion of its regional network by starting operations in Yemen, becoming the first regional advertising agency to enter the growing Yemeni market.

Intermarkets Yemen/Mass Advertising is the result of a management agreement signed recently in Taiz between Mr. Abdul Gabbar Hayel Saeed, executive director of the Hayel Saeed Anam Group of companies, and Erwin Guerovich, chairman of the Intermarkets Group.

Mass Advertising, a subsidiary of the Hayel Saeed Anam Group of companies (HSA), the single largest industrial, commercial and agricultural conglomerate in Yemen, is one of the leading advertising agencies in Yemen with its own full-scale outdoor signs workshop, a silk screen printing facility and a fully-equipped video production studio.

Saatchi shares take a tumble

LONDON — Shares in troubled British advertising agency Saatchi Saatchi Plc tumbled yesterday following news that it had lost the creative account for US food and confectionery group Mars Inc. Saatchi shares dipped 12 pence to an all-time low of 93 pence in early trading before steadying at 96. Mars said it had chosen Omnicom Group's BBDO worldwide as one of its three core international agencies, replacing Saatchi's Bates worldwide. — **Reuter**

US, Mexico sign \$20b package

WASHINGTON — US officials are hawking a \$20 billion aid package for Mexico, secured on Tuesday by Mexican oil export revenues and a vow to keep a lid on monetary policy, and say Washington faces little risk on the deal.

But their assurances failed to assuage congressional concerns and the head of the Senate banking committee announced hearings on the aid package and whether Washington gave Mexico advice that exacerbated its current crisis.

Markets also remained sceptical, with Mexican stocks plunging and the peso edging lower on the day. Even the dollar, which has come under attack recently amid concern about the Mexican package, also continued to weaken.

Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Mexican Finance Minister Guillermo Ortiz signed four documents on terms and conditions on Tuesday, after five days of intense negotiations, allowing the rescue package to go forward.

Rubin said under the agreements, Mexico should be able to end its liquidity crisis and stabilise its economy.

"The ultimate success of this programme depends on Mexico, and Mexico has made it clear that it intends to take tough measures to turn the situation around," he added.

President Bill Clinton proposed the deal as the anchor of a \$50 billion international aid package after an earlier proposal for \$40 billion in US aid foundered in Congress.

Tuesday's agreement was endorsed by congressional leaders and does not require approval by Congress, but some lawmakers wasted no time voicing their continued opposition.

Senate banking committee chairman Republican Alfonso D'Amato, announced hearings on the aid package and whether Washington gave Mexico advice that exacerbated its current crisis.

"I remain strongly opposed to the president's unilateral decision to use \$20 billion ... to bail out a mismanaged Mexican government and global currency speculators," D'Amato said in a statement, terming the new tougher conditions "woefully inadequate."

Speaking on public television's Macneil-Lehrer, Rubin defended the administration's decision, adding, "the risk of doing nothing vastly exceeded the risks of undertaking the programme that we undertook."

Rubin said Mexico faced many months of "difficult" times, but he was confident the agreed measures and the aid package would get Mexico's economy back on track in the longer term.

"I think the chances are very good it will work, but even if it doesn't, the chances of us getting all our money back are excellent. Not certain, but excellent," he said. — **Reuter**



WASHINGTON — US President Bill Clinton looks on as his chief economic adviser Laura Tyson speaks to the press after he announced that she will chair the National Economic Council. Tyson's appointment highlights Clinton's efforts to upgrade the visibility of the National Economic Council, which he formed to coordinate economic policy among all agencies dealing with financial matters. — AFP photo

BUDGET ON MARCH 15

Cut in customs duties likely

From R.K. Bhatnagar

NEW DELHI — For a year now, the Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, himself overseas the preparation of the annual budget. Because of the state elections, the budget this year will be presented on March 15 and not February 28. With an eye on the general elections, the 1995-96 annual budget will not contain any fresh taxes. It will be stuffed with several schemes for direct poverty alleviation like mid-day meals for school children and increased support to educational institutions for weaker sections. Although this year's Budget will be softer than the Rao government's earlier ones, it is not likely to be a runaway populist exercise either. The finance minister, Manmohan Singh, is believed to have clearly indicated that populism will not be allowed to violate sound fiscal principles.

"Sketching the broad policy outlines of the proposed budget, sources in the prime minister's office said there would be only "marginal changes" in the income tax structure, with a continued reduction in customs duties. The rationale for this low-tax element is that the tax base of the country is, in any case, fairly restricted. Moreover, in an election year, an increase in the tax burden will not be a politically sound measure. According to the sources, the prime minister, concurred with the finance minister over keeping populism within control. For this reason, there would be clear signals that the reforms process is irreversible, as was the government's commitment to foreign investments.

Arab trade network is ready

ABU DHABI — Arab states have completed an ambitious project to set up a network to boost flagging trade among them as part of long-standing plans to integrate their economies, operators said.

Several members of the Arab League have already been connected to the computerised trade data network at the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), which is encouraging regional governments to press ahead with reforms to boost their economies.

The project, launched three years ago, will be fully operational in the next few months as the remaining members are linked, and a training course has been organised for member states.

"The network is within the framework of efforts to bolster trade and economic cooperation among Arab countries," the AMF said in a statement.

The statement did not name the members already linked but AMF sources mentioned Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, and the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council states of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE.

The network is part of a \$500-million fund created by the AMF four years ago to finance flagging internal trade, which has remained below 10 per cent of the total Arab trade in the past two decades.

Official figures showed exports among the Arab League's 22 members stood at around \$12.88 billion in 1993, accounting for nearly nine per cent of their total exports of \$142.3 billion.

Internal imports of \$11.1 billion formed 8.7 per cent of the total imports of \$126.6 billion.

Experts blamed lack of financing, political rifts, customs barriers and problems associated with transport, storage, infrastructure and production.

To tackle the financial problem, the AMF established the Arab Trade Financing Programme (ATFP) in 1991, contributing half its capital. The rest came from other Arab banks and financial institutions.

Distress sales on Bombay bourse

HONGKONG — Hongkong, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur stocks dropped sharply in afternoon trade yesterday to lead the majority of Asian markets down on a mixed day in the region.

Hongkong's blue-chip Hang Seng index dropped 173.02 points, or 2.14 per cent, to close at 7,909.27 on disappointing results from a much-anticipated government land auction.

In Singapore the blue chip index closed 2.46 per cent down to close at 2053.32 points amid concerns about a weak US dollar and on delayed reaction to a Washington Post report that the district of Columbia was insolvent, brokers said.

The American dollar also slid in late Tokyo trade on the same insolvency report, raising concerns in the currency market of another fiasco like that in Orange County, dealers said.

At close of trade, the dollar stood at 96.93 yen against its opening 96.95 opening and New York's closing 97.05.

In Kuala Lumpur, a wave of heavy foreign selling in key blue-chip stocks on rumours of disappointing corporate earnings sent the Kuala Lumpur composite index down 30.03 points, or 3.1 per cent, to close at 941.07.

Stocks also dropped in Bombay and Colombo, with lack of buying support in moderate trade sending the Indian exchange to a 14-month low.

"Most investors are making distress sales. Lack of liquidity on the market is also not allowing jobbers to take bigger positions," said Chandrakant Mehta of Bombay brokers V. C. Mehta.

The Colombo market dropped to a 16-month low with brokers saying that investors were getting jittery and adjusting portfolios before the end of the March 31 accounting year.

Elsewhere, trading was generally quiet with Tokyo ending barely changed, Seoul edging marginally higher in thin trading and Sydney finishing 21.9 points higher, or 1.18

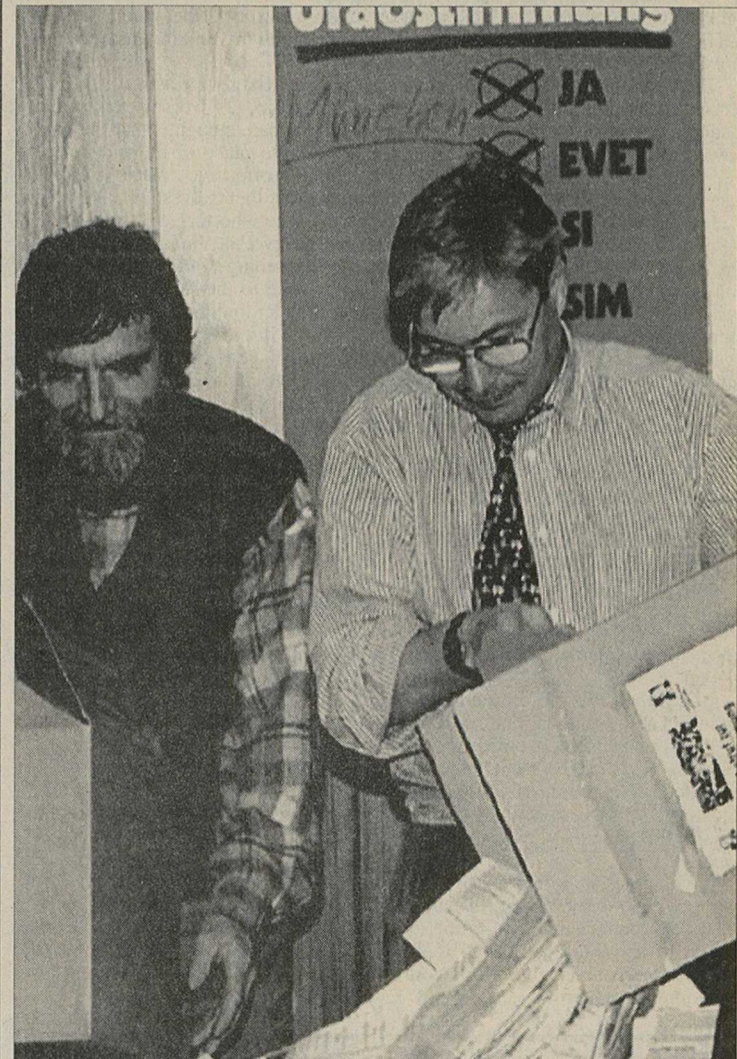
per cent, at 1879.6.

In Tokyo the Nikkei average gained just 10.40 points or 0.06 per cent to close at 18,106.65 with an estimated 300 million shares traded while in Seoul the composite stock index added 1.73 points to close at 919.49 in a dull market.

In Taipei, the weighted index slid 29.15 points, or 0.44 per cent, to close at 6,603.88, while Thai stocks also retreated in late blue chip selling with the Set index closing down 22.36 points at 1,265.95.

In Hongkong, the sharp drop in the Hang Seng was attributed to the disappointing results from a government land auction in the afternoon.

Of five sites offered at the auction, the key site brought a price within expectations, another exceeded expectations and three sites were withdrawn. "Why did it go up 170 points yesterday? Good land auction. What did we have? A reasonable but not compellingly good auction," said Nial Gooding of Kleinwort Benson. — **Reuter**



MUNICH — Members of the powerful German trade union IG Metall start counting ballots for the two-day union strike vote at a union building in Munich. The dispute concerns a pay rise and other work-related questions. — AFP photo

BA back to Damascus

MUSCAT — After a 12-year lull, British Airways will re-start its service to Damascus in April. Additionally, the airline will offer four flights to Amman each week from April — double the previous number.

In March a new route to Baku, in Azerbaijan, will be made available to British Airways travellers. The service will run twice weekly from London, Gatwick via Bucharest, and has been created to meet the needs of many oil companies and support industries established in the Caspian Sea. "The Middle East region is a priority area for British Airways during 1995," says Alan Burnett, British Airways general manager, Middle East.

"During the past year we have been actively working to improve the quality of service we offer travellers in the region. The result: All flights to and from the Middle East have at least one cabin crew member who speaks Arabic; we offer halal meals which feature authentic recipes and local ingredients; we have a Holy Quran channel and other special Arabic in-flight entertainment; plus a range of services on the ground which are first-rate.

"Our mission this year is to communicate the excellent value for money British Airways offers to Middle Eastern business and leisure travellers. Whether you are en route to a series of important meetings or on holiday with your family, British Airways staff are keen to do their utmost to make local travellers comfortable when they fly with us."



HANOI — A street vendor sits amid foreign brands of cigarettes for sale in Hanoi. Four of the world's top cigarette makers, faced with growing public opposition in the West, are taking advantage of the recent economic reforms to produce and sell their wares in developing countries like Vietnam. — AFP photo

Mark on rampage

LONDON — A rampaging German mark had the dollar and weaker European currencies on the run yesterday with dealers looking for central bank intervention after the US currency slumped to a fresh 28-month low on the mark. There was talk early in European trading that the German Bundesbank might have been buying dollars for marks to stop the mark's rise from damaging the economic recovery in Germany by making German-made goods too expensive abroad.

A short-covering spree lifted the dollar more than half a pfennig but it then retreated when there was no confirmation of the Bundesbank's intervention.

"It gets a little worrying down here. We've come down so far so fast. The market's a little bit anxious about intervention at these levels," a dealer at a British bank in London said.

The dollar was at 1.4743 marks after earlier dropping to 1.4675, its lowest level since mid-October 1992 when it was recovering from an all-time low of 1.3860 marks. It was still down from 1.4792 late in Europe on Tuesday.

The dollar was quoted at 97.20 yen, compared with late Tuesday's level of 97.40. The bank of Japan was seen buying dollars for yen overnight, traders said. The dollar has been under pressure recently due to fears that Mexico's financial crisis would adversely affect the US currency in the longer term. There is also concern among economists that the United States may be poised to halt a cycle of interest rate rises to avoid slipping into recession.

A new concern for the dollar surfaced with a report in the Washington post newspaper which said that the US district of Columbia was insolvent. Traders said the report raised concerns in the currency market of another financial crisis like the Orange County debacle last year. Dealers in Tokyo sold dollars on the back of the report.

The focus yesterday morning was firmly on the mercurial mark, which was giving currencies like the lira, peseta and French franc a beating.

The dollar has retreated against the mark as investors moved into the German currency as a so-called "safe-haven" investment to protect themselves from the turbulence hitting weaker units.

The mark/lira rate reached another record high yesterday. When the mark bulldozed through 1,100 lire to a 1,107.50 high.

"It's completely mark dominated. Mark/lira seems to be leading the way," one London dealer said.

The Bank of Italy raised its official discount rate by 0.75 percentage point on Tuesday night to 8.25 per cent but this monetary tightening failed to help the Italian currency. Traders said this was a sure sign the lira was heading for more trouble. — **Reuter**

TENDER NOTICE

(LOCAL)
TENDER NO: 29/95

NAME	: Construction of boys preparatory school at Falaj Al Mashayekh
DUE DATE	: 10-04-1995
LAST DATE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS	: 15-03-1995
PRICE OF DOCUMENT	: R.O. 125/-
FOR	: Grade One contractors specialized in construction works & registered with the Tender Board

Thrilling Ramadan showjumping despite rain

By A Sports Reporter
MUSCAT — Despite a steady drizzle, showjumpers from Royal Stables and Royal Guard of Oman recorded impressive victories in the Ramadan showjumping competition held at Enam Equestrian showground in Seeb last Monday.

The opening event — Grade C in two phases attracted an impressive field of 15 riders of which seven qualified to proceed into phase two run against the clock.

Ashwaq ridden by Abdulla Daboon of Royal Stables set the stage with a clear in 33.36 secs but this was quickly surpassed by ROP's Said Al Qanayy who took Al Shama through in 30.84 seconds. Mohamed Saleh of Royal Guard was next and the diminutive showjumper spurred Khais to clear all hurdles through in a breezy 27.75 seconds, the best time for the class and naturally clinching first place. The nearest challenge to this performance came from ROP's Mohamed Al Rasbi on Sadiq who settled for second place, ahead of Royal Stables Mattar Hamdan who rode Khulood.

Class 2 — Intermediate, which followed the opening event also saw a quality field of 15 riders.

Salim Sultan riding Izz for the stables of Sayid Shabib bin Taimur showed a welcome return to form with a clear round and a jump-off was ensured when ROP's Hamoud Al Toki took his Belgian bred mare, Shuah through without blemish.

Tibyan joined the fray with an excellent performance from Royal Stables' Abdullah Daboon and three more qualified for the jump-off: Hamoud Al Toki taking his second ride Sharya through, Zaid Al Hashimy on Annasmy and Mafoodh Hamed on Al Dhalfaa.

Salim Sultan was drawn first on Izz in the jump-off and in an attempt to set the pace, the pair incurred a total of 33 faults.

Graham just another victim of soccer's sleaziest season

LONDON — Sacked Arsenal manager George Graham will know today how much more his alleged transfer "bung" is to cost him.

On Tuesday his successful eight-and-a-half year Highbury reign ended when the board dismissed him over claims he accepted a £285,000 (\$450,200) irregular transfer payment, concluding "that Mr. Graham did not act in the best interests of the club".

And today the Premier League's inquiry team, who have already told Arsenal privately of their findings, will publicly announce them — and reveal any further sanctions against Graham, whose job was worth around £300,000 (\$473,900) annually. Arsenal are unlikely to be penalised.

The Premier League can act independently of the English Football Association (FA) in the matter, and is planning to close loopholes with new legislation that it hopes will end transfer irregularities.

But of far more concern to Graham is that the league also has the power to fine and suspend offenders.

There has already been much media speculation that because the image of English soccer has become so tarnished this season by a succession of sleazy incidents on and off the field, the authorities should take the strongest possible action against offenders.

On December 18 last year, *The Observer's* Patrick Barclay wrote: "Let it be made clear...the charges against Graham are in a league of their own...a manager taking a £285,000 (\$450,200) 'bung' might as well take every note and coin naively tendered by every man, woman and child at an average Premier League ground any Saturday. A manager proved to have done that ought to be banned indefinitely from taking part in the game."

And Rene Eberle, the head of Uefa's disciplinary committee echoed those words two days before Christmas, saying that if Graham was found guilty and suspended, the ban should be imposed by Fifa worldwide.

The Graham case centred on the transfer of Danish international John Jensen who moved from Brondy to Arsenal for an alleged £1.57 million (\$2.48 million) in 1992. But Brondy received only £900,000 (\$1.42 million) for the player and part of the missing balance — £285,000 (\$450,200) — went into Graham's pocket. He never declared the "gift" on his tax returns.

Details of the deal only became public last November after an inquiry into the dealings of the Norwegian agent Rune Hauge by British and Norwegian tax authorities.

Graham eventually returned the money to Arsenal late last year, but his future has been in doubt since the story broke last November.

Graham is just one of a number of high profile performers to be caught up in the sleaze that has washed over English soccer this season.

His own Arsenal player Paul Merson admitted cocaine, alcohol and gambling addictions in November, and has only recently returned to the side following six weeks in a rehabilitation clinic.

The Sun newspaper claimed in November that Southampton goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar took bribes from a Far East betting syndicate to throw Premier League

matches — a claim he strongly denies. The FA are currently conducting an inquiry into those allegations and are expected to report shortly.

In January, Manchester United's French striker Eric Cantona attacked a fan with a flying two-footed lunge after being sent off at Crystal Palace. He was formally charged with assault on Tuesday.

Two weeks ago, Chelsea captain Dennis Wise was convicted of assaulting a taxi driver and told by the magistrate that he could well face a jail term when he returns to court for sentencing on March 13.

That conviction ruled him out of the England squad for the friendly against Ireland in Dublin last Wednesday which was abandoned after 27 minutes because of a riot by English hooligans.

Later the same night in Dublin, Vinny Jones of Wimbledon bit the nose of a *Daily Mirror* reporter in a hotel bar — and has subsequently been banned for three matches by his club.

Meanwhile £5 million (\$7.90 million) rated Stan Collymore was pulled out of Nottingham Forest's team to play Arsenal on Tuesday night because he is in court facing charges of assaulting two men outside a night club.

And a long-standing feud between England coach Terry Venables and Alan Sugar, his former boss at Tottenham, has been rumbling on for almost two years, with frequent allegations over Venables' business dealings surfacing in the media.

Arsenal's action on Tuesday and any subsequent action by the Premier League today suggest the authorities are finally trying to clean up the game's image. They have a long way to go. — *Reuter*

fighting. Rivas was the tournament's top-scorer last year as he helped unsung Minerven become the first Venezuelan side to reach the quarter-finals. In group three, Millonarios showed that there is still life in Colombian soccer, despite last year's World Cup fiasco.

The Bogota side, which qualified for the competition for the first time in six years, thrashed Universidad Catolica de Chile 5-1 to go top of the group. Their goals were spread amongst five players.

Wilstermann of Bolivia made a late recovery to draw 2-2 at home to Peruvian champions Sporting Cristal in group five.

Argentine striker Walter Maladot pulled the first goal back in the 78th minute and Demetrio Angola headed the equaliser five minutes from time. — *Reuter*



LONDON — Arsenal's Paul Merson (left) and Nottingham Forest's Colin Cooper go for the ball during their Premiership match at Highbury. Arsenal won 1-0. — *AFP photo*

Brazil keep top slot in world ranking

ZURICH — World champions Brazil retained top place in the latest rankings issued by Fifa on Tuesday. Leading placings (1994 positions in brackets):

1. Brazil (1)	66.54 points
2. Spain (2)	61.70
3. Italy (4)	61.57
4. Sweden (3)	61.12
5. Germany (5)	60.96
6. Norway (8)	59.99
7. Argentina (10)	59.45
8. Netherlands (6)	59.29
9. Mexico (15)	58.94
10. Ireland (9)	57.20
11. Switzerland (7)	57.18
12. Romania (11)	56.13
13. Nigeria (12)	55.08
14. Bulgaria (16)	54.09
15. Denmark (14)	53.49
16. Colombia (17)	52.84
17. Russia (13)	52.48
18. France (19)	52.41
19. Portugal (20)	52.04
20. England (18)	51.92

— *Reuter*

Carlos hits stunner for Palmeiras

RIO DE JANEIRO — Palmeiras' left-back Roberto Carlos, in a moment that was extraordinary even by the standards of Brazilian soccer, scored with a 40-metre free kick as his team beat Gremio 3-2 in the South American Libertadores Cup.

When the kick was awarded, near the edge of the centre circle inside the Gremio half, the Palmeiras player lined up the ball and gave himself a run-up of around 20 metres.

He then thumped a shot which dipped and swerved beyond bewildered Gremio goalkeeper Danlei into the back of the net.

The goal came in the 19th minute of a first-round group four game in which Gremio, another Brazilian side, twice came back after Palmeiras had led.

Goalkeeper Cesar Baena, who prevented his team from suffering an even bigger rout with some splendid saves, was dismissed in the 80th minute for a professional foul.

Striker Stalin Rivas was given the red card in the last minute for

fighting. Rivas was the tournament's top-scorer last year as he helped unsung Minerven become the first Venezuelan side to reach the quarter-finals. In group three, Millonarios showed that there is still life in Colombian soccer, despite last year's World Cup fiasco.

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Argentine striker Walter Maladot pulled the first goal back in the 78th minute and Demetrio Angola headed the equaliser five minutes from time. — *Reuter*

Ajax blast Dutch FA

ATHENS — Dutch champions Ajax Amsterdam will protest strongly against any punishment handed out to their players for boycotting the national team.

Eight Ajax players have refused to play for the Netherlands against Portugal in a friendly in Eindhoven and the Dutch Football Association (KNVB) has said it was considering what action to take against the rebels. But Ajax coach Louis Van Gaal reacted angrily on Tuesday. "I don't know anything about a punishment. I hope the KNVB board comes to reason," he said. "They haven't thought about Ajax's interests."

Van Gaal was speaking at a training camp near Athens where his players are preparing for the European Champions' Cup quarter-final against Hajduk Split on March 1.

"I am not happy with this commotion, it is affecting the players. It is very difficult to concentrate on your game," said Van Gaal. — *Reuter*

RAMADAN QUIZ CONTEST

During the Holy month of Ramadan, Times of Oman, is holding a Quiz competition. Retain the coupons with you till the end of the competition and mail the complete set of coupons in order (No photocopies will be accepted) to P.O.Box. 770, Ruwi, Postal Code 112., before March 31, 1995. Envelopes should be marked "Times Ramadan Quiz". Employees of Times of Oman and their associated companies and their families are not eligible to enter. The person with maximum correct answers will win the top prize. And so on.

Coupon No. 20

Q. When did the Sultanate observe the second year of Industry?

A.

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.....Tel.....Signature.....

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PRETORIA — Northern Transvaal beat Boland by one wicket on the final day of a four-day Castle Cup cricket match. Scores: Boland 270 and 85 (Rudi Bryson 4-23), Northern Transvaal 165-7 declared and 194-9 (Andre Seymore 84 Claude Henderson 5-57). — Reuter

TIMES SPORT

Thursday, February 23, 1995

BERLIN — Berlin, beaten by Sydney in the race to stage the 2000 Summer Olympics, will not apply to host the 2004 games, the president of the German National Olympic Committee said. Admitting a failure to generate public enthusiasm for the unsuccessful bid and mistakes in presenting it, Walter Troeger said: "We'll think about it again after 2006." — Reuter

Indians show their class

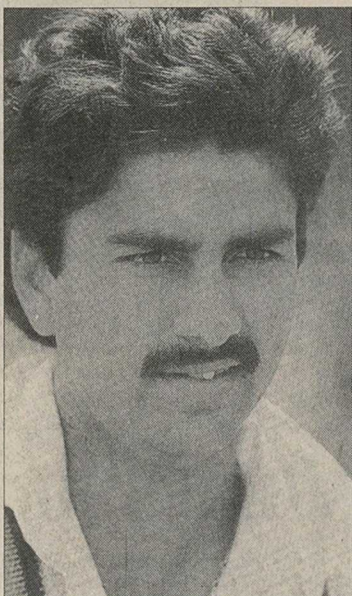
DUNEDIN — India made light work of overhauling Australia's 250 for six after their top order batsmen launched a blitzkrieg in the early overs of their New Zealand one-day Centenary Series match yesterday.

India won by five wickets in the 48th over. But the result was academic since India have already been eliminated from the four-nation competition while Australia will play the winner of the New Zealand-South Africa match being played today.

Star batsman Sachin Tendulkar smashed Jo Angel out of the attack in the first five overs so Australian captain Mark Taylor replaced him with ace leg-spinner Shane Warne. Warne was promptly hit for 19 in his first over.

Tendulkar's stroke making was matched if not exceeded by Manoj Prabhakar. Together the pair reached 97 in just the 15th over.

Angel got some reward when he had Tendulkar caught by Taylor for 47 and then bowled Prabhakar



Prabhakar... savage on Warne

Navjot Sidhu... prolific, consistent for 50.

But the damage had been done. Mohammad Azharuddin hit a quick-fire 25, including two sixes from a Tim May over, one of which went out of the Carisbrook Park. Then Navjot Sidhu smashed 54 from 70 balls to maintain the momentum.

Although wickets tumbled regularly and seemingly unnecessarily, Vinod Kambli, with 51 not out, saw the Indians to victory.

In their innings, all Australia's batsmen except Taylor (0) contributed as they set up what was a respectable score, setting India a 251-run victory target.

Ricky Ponting top-scored with 62, playing solidly rather than spectacularly.

He had strong support from Greg Blewett (46) and Mark Waugh (48). — Reuter



Aussie future looks bright in Ricky Ponting

Agassi's top form continues

PHILADELPHIA — World number two Andre Agassi played blistering tennis to soundly defeat Swedish qualifier Jan Apell 6-4 6-2 in just 51 minutes at the \$714,250 Comcast US indoor men's tennis tournament. In other first-round matches, Brazilian Luiz Mattar defeated American Brad Gilbert, who is also Agassi's coach, 6-0 6-4 and Brett Steven of New Zealand came back from a service break deficit in the final set to defeat Frenchman Fabrice Santoro 5-7 6-1 7-6 (7-4).

Once the second-seeded Agassi gained the early upperhand by breaking the 93rd-ranked Apell's serve in the third game, he was never in trouble. The second seeded American broke serve twice in the second set -- in the first and seventh games before serving it out.

"I was hitting the ball strong," Agassi said. "I just felt that I played better than he did. I returned well, I served well and I just felt I had a bit too much game for him."

Even though Agassi played well, he indicated he wants to improve all aspects of his game in an effort to displace Pete Sampras and attain the number one ranking in the world.

"There is not one shot that I have that I don't want to improve," Agassi said. "I want to improve my groundstrokes and my serve and volley game. I feel that I have a lot of room for improvement and that's what keeps me going."

"It's not a question of being number one as a goal, being number one is a by-product of a lot of hard work."

Agassi said he would not be available to play Davis Cup for the United States in the quarterfinal tie against Italy set down for Palermo from March 31 to April 2 after Pete Sampras turned down an invitation from US Davis Cup captain Tom Gullickson. "I can't afford to go play unless Pete does," Agassi said, "because really I would be falling behind, if I go and he doesn't."

"Davis Cup can be very taxing. It takes three weeks out of your schedule, your preparation week, the week you are there and then the week to come down from it. It's a big sacrifice to go play."

"I can understand Pete's desire to not want to go, but I was a bit disappointed because I felt if we were to rally as a team, then let's do it. It's just as much a cost for me and for Jim (Courier)." — Reuter

Zimbabwe tie Pak in dramatic finish

HARARE — Zimbabwe bowler Guy Whittall produced a dramatic tied finish with Pakistan in their opening one-day international when he grabbed the last wicket of the penultimate ball of yesterday's game.

Pakistani opener Saeed Anwar carried his bat for an unbeaten 103, but was left a frustrated onlooker as injured last man Wasim Akram spooned a return catch to Whittall.

Akram, who came to the crease at 213 for nine with his right hand swathed in bandages after suffering a nasty cut when fielding, found himself at the striker's end with two balls remaining and the scores level on 219.

His dismissal produced only the ninth tie in 976 one-day internationals. Pakistan have been involved in five of them and Zimbabwe two.

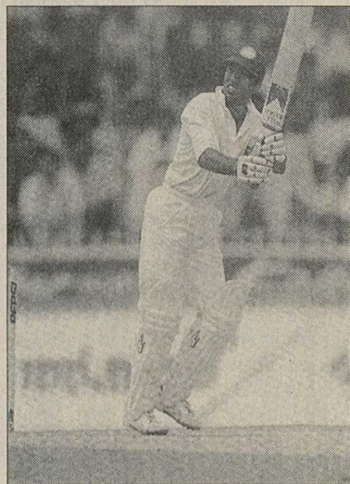
Saeed, named joint man-of-the-match with Zimbabwe's Bryan Strang, was dropped by wicketkeeper Alistair Campbell in the third over when on two, but accepted his second chance with an otherwise flawless innings.

Without ever resorting to slogging, he went on to complete his eighth one-day international century, which came in the last over of the match in 192 minutes from 130 balls and included six fours.

After the early losses of opener Aamir Sohail (7) and Inzamam-ul-Haq (0) to Strang, who took 4-36 from his 10 overs, Saeed shared important partnerships of 55 for the third wicket with Salim Malik (22) and 65 for the fifth with Shakeel Ahmed (25).

Pakistan looked to be cruising to victory but two run outs changed the balance of the game as it reached its climax in a gripping last 10 overs.

That was increased by the late appearance of Wasim, who had to have six stitches in the webbing of his right hand after trying to take a



SAEED ANWAR

fierce return catch from Stephen Peall.

Earlier, Whittall, with 33 from 32 balls including 14 in the last

over, helped Zimbabwe to 219 for nine after they had squandered a good start. From 105 for one at the halfway mark they slipped to 189 for eight in the 48th over and it was only Whittall's efforts which got them past 200. He later chipped in with three for 46 with the ball, including the crucial last wicket.

Grant Flower top-scored for 41 for Zimbabwe and shared in two good partnerships -- 45 for the first wicket with his brother Andy (25) and 60 for the second with Mark Burmester (25).

The introduction of Aamir Sohail's left-arm spin worked well as he removed both Grant Flower and Burmester and then Alistair Campbell for 21 after the Zimbabwean had threatened to rebuild the innings with a partnership of 51 with Dave Houghton (32).

Sohail finished with his best one-day international figures of three for 36 from 10 overs. — Reuter

SCOREBOARD	
Zimbabwe	b Whittall 22
A. Flower c Amir Nazir..... 25	Ijaz Ahmed c B. Strang b Peall 25
G. Flower c Rashid b Sohail..... 41	Shakeel Ahmed run out..... 25
M. Burmester b Sohail..... 25	Rashid Latif run out..... 1
A. Campbell c Ijaz b Sohail..... 21	Manzoor Elahi c P. Strang b B. Strang..... 21
D. Houghton c Rashid b Wasim..... 32	Aqib Javed c A. Flower b B. Strang..... 0
G. Whittall c Inzamam b Aqib..... 33	B. Strang..... 0
S. Carlisle run out..... 0	Amir Nazir c Carlisle b Whittall..... 3
P. Strang c Rashid b Wasim..... 9	Wasim Akram c and b Whittall..... 0
S. Peall b Aqib..... 1	Extras (b-4 lb-5 w-3)..... 12
B. Strang not out..... 4	Total (49.5 overs)..... 219
Extras (b-19 w-4 nb-5)..... 28	Fall of wickets: 1-9 2-13 3-68 4-107 5-172 6-175 7-209 8-210 9-213 10-219
Total (for nine wickets, 50 overs)..... 219	Bowling: Jarvis 7-0-30-0, B. Strang 10-1-36-4 (2w), Whittall 9.5-0-46-3 (1w), Burmester 3-0-16-0, Peall 6-0-27-1, P. Strang 10-0-41-0, A. Flower 4-0-14-0
Did not bat: Malcolm Jarvis	Result: match tied
Fall of wickets: 1-45 2-105 3-108 4-159 5-168 6-170 7-188 8- 189 9-219	Man of the match: Saeed Anwar (Pakistan) and Bryan Strang (Zimbabwe) - shared
Bowling: Wasim Akram 8.5-0-24-2 (w-1 nb-1), Aqib Javed 10-1-43-2 (w-1), Amir Nazir 10-0-52-0 (nb-4), Manzoor Elahi 8-0-36-0 (w-2), Aamir Sohail 10-0-33-3, Salim Malik 3.1-0-12-0	Second international: February 25, Harare
Pakistan	Third international: February 26, Harare
Aamir Sohail c and b B. Strang..... 7	— Reuter
Saeed Anwar not out..... 103	
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Campbell..... 0	
b B. Strang..... 0	
Salim Malik c Campbell..... 0	

Hill ready for world crown

DIDCOT — Briton Damon Hill began the countdown to the start of the Formula One season by warning his rivals "I'm better prepared than ever."

The Williams driver launches his campaign in Brazil on March 26, seeking to better his third and second places of 1993 and 1994 respectively by taking the world drivers' title.

Hill, who was at the team's Didcot base to help launch the Williams-Renault FW17 car, said: "This will be only my third year."

"In my first year it would have been unreasonable to expect me to challenge for the championship. I finished third and won three races -- I think I did a damn good job."

"Last year was a horrible one," said Hill, referring to the deaths of his Williams team mate, Brazilian Ayrton Senna, and Austrian Roland Ratzenberger at the San Marino Grand Prix. "I would not want anyone to have to go through that. It was not an ideal year for me to have my second season in Formula One."

Hill, who eventually missed out on the title by just one point to German Michael Schumacher, added: "This year I feel prepared, much better prepared than I did at the beginning of last year and at some points during it."

"I believe it's going to be a very exciting championship. I just hope it will be a safe season, that I win the championship."

Hill said he was delighted in his earlier impressions of the car, the successor to the FW16, with which the team won the Constructors' World Championship last year.

"It has been radically redesigned," said Hill. "For me a huge improvement will be the cockpit area. For the first time I've had one designed around my size and shape, rather than having to adapt."

"It won't necessarily improve my lap times in qualifying or in the early part of the races, but I'm sure it will help me perform better when you feel tired at the end of races."

David Coulthard, who is to partner fellow Briton Hill this season, said: "On paper the car looks to be a real winner. It's going to be a very exciting championship." — Reuter

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1. The last date receipt of the completed questionnaire is March 11, 95.
 2. The results of the prize draw will be announced in the Times of Oman.
 3. Photocopies of the questionnaire can be also be used.

Mail the completed questionnaire to:
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Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman.
or Fax to 799153

THE TIMES OF OMAN READERSHIP SURVEY

Note: All information provided by you will be kept confidential and used for research purposes only. Tick the answers you select.

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8. Was the response for your Classified advertisement adequate? Yes No
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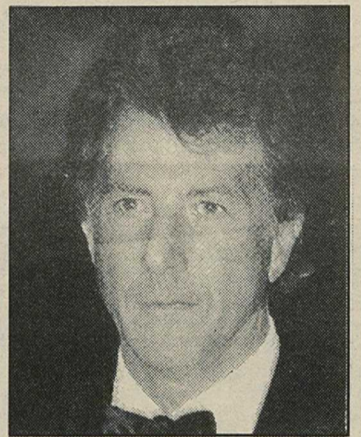
Weekend

REVIEW

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1995



Women are undermining the image of the bodyguard as a glorified bouncer. Observant and unobtrusive, they are increasingly in demand, says Christa D'Souza.



WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

Gloria (top left) with Michael Stich, has also guarded Dustin Hoffman (top) Robert De Niro (centre) and Boris Becker (bottom)

IN FOCUS

BY T.K.V. MANI

It was with great euphoria that almost the whole world greeted the PLO-Israel accord of mutual recognition and peace signed by PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington in 1993. The handshake that followed the signing of the historic agreement by the two leaders promised to hold peace, come what may. But one year and a half since the accord the Palestinians remain still powerless and their land is still occupied. Life has changed little for them. And now despair is replacing hope for peace and economic progress. The peace process is deadlocked thanks to the intransigence of the Israelis. They blame Palestinians for the stalemate. They talk only of Palestinian attack as the stumbling block to the peace move while conveniently forgetting that they still encourage Jewish settlements in the Palestinian land, they let loose their army on the Palestinians at the slightest provocation and their closure of Gaza and West Bank which put the poor people out of work. Arafat has conceded much to the Israeli demands angering his own men, only to remain committed to the agreement and for a genuine desire for peace in the region. The resentment among his men was much evident when only 9 members of the PLO executive committee attended a crucial meeting he called on Tuesday in Cairo, followed by the failure of the Washington meet sponsored by Clinton, to review the peace accord and seek a new format to revive the deadlocked autonomy talks. PLO men cannot be blamed for their indifferent attitude. It seems Israel is not serious about the accord. They want peace, of course, not at the cost of their occupation of Palestinian land. From the beginning they have been hindering the peace process on one pretext or other. The Israelis are not concerned about the real causes that stall the peace talks. Even if the process is impeded by violence, the move should not be abandoned. Israel should act wisely to stop the attack by Palestinians by recognising their rights, by leaving their land. It is shuddering to think about a failure of the peace accord and the aftermath.

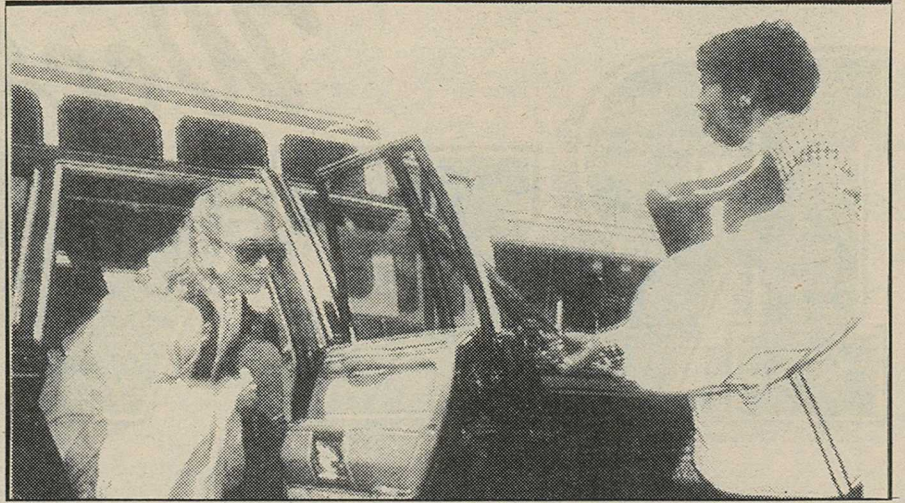


PLO leader Yasser Arafat (left) speaks with an unidentified member of PLO's executive committee at the crisis meeting held in Cairo.

It seems the main warring factions headed by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Burhanuddin Rabbani in Afghanistan, even with the emergence of a new group which boasts of great patronage from outside with more military strength, the Taliban student movement, are not ready to make peace. The UN envoy who was in Kabul to broker peace between the groups says they are now taking advantage of the presence of the Taliban, which the UN recognised as a party to any peace agreement. The new group's stunning victory over the two rivals seldom scares them as the rumour is that both the factions are regrouping their forces. The UN envoy also sees no speedy peace for Afghans, but hopeful that Taliban's military pressure on both the parties can accelerate the peace process. Ironically neighbouring Pakistan is one of the worst sufferers of the fall out in Afghanistan. It has been sheltering more than a million refugees ever since a war broke out in Afghanistan to oust the communist government. And the new government failed to bring peace. The country is facing a big economic crunch with the suspension of foreign assistance, including that of various UN agencies to look after the refugees.



Two Afghan children sell "Nan" bread locally along the ruins of a former shopping boulevard in eastern Kabul. This area was a hotly contested frontline in the recent battles between mujahedeen factions.



Hillary Clinton and her minder

Women of substance

It is just about midnight and Jackie has just finished for the day on her current contract, providing top secret security for a pop group to play at a London venue. Attractive, stockily built, dressed in a black pullover, beret and jeans, Jackie, 32, a former professional power-lifter and shot and discus sportswoman, is probably London's finest female bodyguard. Diana Ross and George Michael are just two of the "principals", as they call them in the security business, she has minded.

As she walks into my flat, I notice her discreetly casing the joint. I had asked to meet her at her flat, but Jackie had refused, explaining how essential anonymity was to the job. She will not reveal her surname. "I started out as your classic handbag searcher, six years ago," she says.

"Then one day I worked on the door at Wembley, where Prince was playing. He had a female bodyguard and I remember thinking, 'I'm sure I could do that, too.'"

Jackie is now an employee of the north London-based company Show Sec International, which specialises in providing protection for the entertainment industry. Although weapons are illegal in this country, Jackie knows how to operate a gun, is trained in martial arts, has taken courses on low-level bodyguarding (how to deal with pests or fans) and high-level bodyguarding (how to deal with stalkers, kidnapers and potential assassins) and has undergone rigorous physical training. And Jackie is far from being an oddity. Women all over the world are starting to prove that, when it comes to bodyguarding, they are just as good as men ... if not better.

Take "Gloria", the glamorous 28-year-old blonde assigned to mind Boris Becker and Michael Stich, who were playing a Davis Cup tennis tournament against Croatia in Karlsruhe, Germany, 10 days ago.

Young Gloria — her last name was never identified — had a big job on her hands, despite the fact that she was working as part of a team. As the attack on Monica Seles in Hamburg two years ago proved, there are a few loonies out there. Becker, for one, is a tremendous security risk. He and his wife, who is black, have been the target of ferocious racial abuse, even death threats, ever since they announced they were going out together. It is just as well that Gloria, who has previously protected the likes of Whitney Houston, Dustin Hoffman and Robert De Niro, is an expert in martial arts and packs a Heckler & Koch when on duty.

Becker and Stich are not the only ones to choose the so-called weaker sex to protect them. Hillary Clinton is always discreetly shadowed by a couple of smartly dressed women with little bits of curly wire coming out of their ears and carrying "quick draw" handbags. So is the Princess of Wales. In 1993 she hired Sergeant Carol Quirk, a police officer and judo expert, to join her four-strong team of royal protection officers. Although the male officers are the ones you can spot in photographs, Quirk will be somewhere in the background, particularly when the children are around. Princess Anne also uses a female bodyguard regularly and Prince Edward, too, has been spotted with one. In China, where business warfare and extortion is rife, female bodyguards with secretarial skills are in demand. They are trained in the southeastern city of Wuhan where they learn shorthand, typing, boxing, wrestling, a martial arts method called Qi Gong — said to make one resistant to pain — and how to kill with their bare hands. In 1993, 3,000 women applied for the course's 135 places, each of which costs about £200 — more than a year's salary for the average skilled worker.

What is the point of having a female bodyguard when you can have a male one for the same price (about £200 per day for a low-risk, keep-the-fans-back assignment, up to £600 a day for a high-risk anti-kidnap specialist)? Advanced Services, the Munich firm which employs Gloria, says that women are "essential" for protecting other women. Whether they be princesses, sportswomen, female politicians or the wives and children of male public figures, they are under the threat of kidnap. Women are the only people, says an AS spokesperson, who

can protect the "intimate sphere" of their principals. In other words, they can follow them anywhere ... into the bedroom or bathroom, even see them naked — all important factors as the relationship between bodyguard and female client is inevitably very close. Jackie's very first job, four years ago, was to accompany to eastern Europe a female society figure who specifically asked for a minder who was not ex-Army: a female guard with whom she would feel comfortable. There is also the question of sex. "Women bodyguards are considered more uncompromising in the performance of their duties," says an AS spokesperson diplomatically.

Marriage or serious relationships, however, can cause problems for such employees. "When you go home and tell your other half that you are just off around the world with three guys for the next nine months, it doesn't go down too well," says Mick Upton of ShowSec International. "But females make excellent bodyguards: they do it because they really want to — they give it 110 percent — whereas males who come into it because it's a very macho thing to do sometimes think it's about being one of the lads and drinking 14 pints of lager a day."

There are other reasons why females make superb bodyguards: "Women are natural observers, they spot things that men would not look at," says Steve Tavlin of Holmes Detective Agency in Manhattan, New York, which provided its services to Yoko Ono immediately after John Lennon's assassination. "Say some guy's collar keeps getting pulled down, say his tie is off at an angle — that would indicate that there might be something, such as a gun, pushing against the waistband. Women are better than men at noticing things like that."

"A female bodyguard can also easily pass for a female executive, a nanny, a secretary, a girlfriend ... nobody suspects her presence," he goes on. "Meanwhile she is looking at everything. If a man goes into a business meeting and he has an obvious bouncer with him, people say: Why does he have a bodyguard? Is somebody after him? Is there something we don't know about?"

"Rock stars often go for high-profile bodyguards," says Steve Flicker, director of the London-based Scorpion Security Services. "By high profile I mean anything over 19 stone and over 6ft 5in. But that's for show. Few rock stars get death threats. A macho bodyguard is a status symbol. It's all about saying mine's bigger than yours. When the threat assessment is genuinely high, women bodyguards are just as functional as male bodyguards. This is because good BG work boils down to common sense, co-ordination and organisational skills. Most people think bodyguards have to be killer martial artists and carry a firearm. In my opinion, if you have a confrontation you've done your job wrong."

Some men simply like the way female bodyguards look. However, many men in a position of power need to send out a message that they are quite capable of protecting themselves.

In many ways, say those in the security business, a bodyguard resembling Clint Eastwood in *In The Line Of Fire* can make a man feel rather weedy. Having a female bodyguard may make him feel more in control.

Martha Braunig, who runs Executives Security International in Aspen, Colorado, wishes more women would apply for the job. "About 92 percent of our student body is male," she says, "We'd give anything to change that. The modern image of the bodyguard is somebody who blends in, who is non-aggressive, who is a facilitator in straightening out problems, who avoids letting clients get into sticky situations and who, only as the last resort, is going to pull a gun and use it. For centuries women have worked out problems in a non-violent way."

Jackie says that much of the work can be unglamorous: waiting outside the San Lorenzo restaurant in London while the principal has lunch, hanging around in the hotel until the star wakes up at midday. But she loves the job: "I'm good at it. I have a loud voice. I command respect. I thrive on stress." And she and the boys from ShowSec loved *In The Line Of Fire*, which they viewed together. In fact, it is still Jackie's favourite film.



Krishna Mehta

itals in Paris, Milan, Duesseldorf, London and New York most of the accessories are from India.

The road is well paved therefore for Indian fashion designers since India is the big influence for fashion in the West. So what's stopping our couture kings? Why hasn't Shahab Durazi sold under his label in the West? Why does Xerxes Bhatena, the glamorous designer who has attired film stars prefer to sell only to the NRIs in Canada, USA and the Middle East?

There are stray instances of designers like Bina Ramani selling at Bloomingdale's and being recognised in the Big Apple. Or Ritu Kumar retailing at Galleries Lafayette under her own label. There is Ravissant which has its own salon in London since 1990 but that's as far as Indian fashion has gone West.

If exposure is what's worrying many, with the advent of Star TV and other foreign TV channels, Indian designers in the Nineties have never had it so good as they are viewed by millions all over the world. Yet it seems our styles are not making that all important international impact. Japanese designers like Issey Miyake, Kenzo and Yoji Yamamoto are viewed with respect on the international ramps.

Turkey's Rifat Ozbek is making waves. In Paris there is Leconte Hemant, the French-Indian duo, making waves in the Nineties. But Hemant, many will argue has been a part of the Parisian fashion scene for nearly a decade.

"Fashion has come of age in the last five years. We are still babies compared to the rest of the world. The Japanese have been on the fashion scene long before us. We are trying to find our foothold

has been working diligently for the past three years liaising with various garment associations to muster up support to make India a partner country at the Igedo in future. Tiny Hongkong was a partner country a couple of years ago. So far his efforts have been met with lukewarm interest from the various national garment associations. Exports of bulk garments is keeping them very busy and happy it seems.

India has a booming export business but the millions of garments shipped bear the labels of the buyers. In the country fashion designers are creating exclusive, one of a kind garments which are unsuitable for mass production and sale. What is needed is a pret line of quality from these designers which is worthy of export to the West with their own label.

If fabrics are a problem then mills should join hands with designers and exporters, and help each other. Textile exports are also touching new heights. Maybe converting them into fashion garments will help the country's talent and finances. A happy marriage of machines, designer and exporter would benefit the trio.

ce is often given as the reason to strike out in the West yet, Durazi comments. "Sponsors are not a problem but it is a signature look that an Indian designer has to develop before going West. Very few have it — Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla, Ritu Kumar, Pallavi Jaikishan and Asha Sarabhai do. While Western designers are inspired by India, Indian designers are also influenced by the West. Yet there is a very thin line dividing these two worlds. Inspiration is good. Initially I admit I was inspired by the work of Armani, Donna Karan and Chanel. Indian designers at times are influenced and end up literally duplicating foreign styles," feels Durazi.

Designers like Wendell Rodricks have always tried to create an international look for the Indian market so that their creations cannot be termed as ethnic. Although Rodricks has quite a faithful foreign clientele in India and France where he spends time, he has not been able to create a firm market for his clothes in the West.

It is a known fact that haute couture all over the world is dying. In France, designers are attempting demi couture which is in-between haute couture and pret. Every top designer name in the world lives off his pret line. Olivier Lapidus admits he hardly sells 5-6 pieces out of his couture collection every season but has a thriving business in RTW. Indian designers should learn, if they want to survive in the country and make an impact in the West,



INDIAN FASHION

Skirting the issue

At the end of a gruelling fashion season with designers and fashion houses knocking themselves out of breath to catch the limelight, has Indian fashion finally come of age or is it still in a flux? While the West has borrowed heavily from India in the '80s and '90s by way of inspiration can Indian designers go West and flaunt their labels easily? Or will Indian fashion and its creators remain curbed within the shores of the sub-continent?

The flower-power culture of the '60s went down well with Indian fashion. Cheese cloth shirts and Madras check skirts were the rage in the West and exported by the tonnes to Europe, USA and the Far East.

Came the '80s and there were strong indications of Indian embroidery being popular, along with a boom in Indian jewellery. In the early '90s the Indian rage did tend to wane a little, but by summer '94 once again it was the East that the West was turning to.

So at the Igedo Fashion Fair in 1993 the Sun Magic theme inspired by India was followed by top haute couture designers. It was the mystery of India that designers in Germany, France, Italy, UK and USA were fascinated by. Indian styling touches were evident in ankle length knitted leggings and high side slits for tunics. Harem trousers, Jodhpurs and austere Nehru jackets appeared. Fabrics like Indian silk, muslin, chiffon, voile and satin took over.

Gianfranco Ferré admits there has always been a touch of India in his creations ever since he visited the country as a young man. He may not have the silhouettes but it's the hot Indian colours he adores. Escada's Michael Stolzenburg swears by the beauty of Indian embroidery. There were several heavily embroidered pieces for his autumn-winter '94-95 evening wear collection from India. German designer Ella Singh combines the beauty of Indian fabrics and embroidery with western styling.

Haute couture designers like Italian Tristano Onofri and French couturier Olivier Lapidus either have the Indian essence woven into their styles or name their collections Himalaya, Kashmir etc. Emanuel Ungaro and Versace have their creations embroidered in India regularly. On the catwalks of the fashion cap-

in the country, leave aside going to the West. We don't have the courage to sell our labels abroad. But I'm confident it won't be long before Indian designers hit the international scene," predicts Krishna Mehta, predominantly an ethnic wear designer who recently introduced her EDW (everyday wear) Western line.

She goes on to add, "Today I know what foreigners want. I won't sell them a sari. Just like the Japanese don't sell their kimonos to the West. But in a country where 80 per cent of the population wear ethnic garments, designers too can't switch over suddenly," she argues. "I would go abroad with men's kurtas with a mandarin collar and I'll succeed. Jean Paul Gaultier and Armani are doing them. What we need is exposure to the right markets and recognition. When I went for the Cologne Fair the companies were backed by their countries all the way."

Countries all over the world are participating in fashion fairs in great style. In February '94 Turkey had a major promotion with Turkish designers at the Collection Premiere Duesseldorf Germany. In September '94 the USA returned to the Igedo after nine years in full strength to promote its swimwear/lingerie lines.

Mr K C Damodaran of the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce

Shahab Durazi believes that "the fashion scene in India is totally ethnic and for me it is quite discouraging. There are just a handful of us like Ravi Bajaj, Monisha Jaising, Bhairavi Jaikishan who are sticking to Western wear. Other Western wear designers are diversifying into ethnic wear for monetary reasons. It's totally a commercial business and at times one can't blame the designers. But to sell in the West one has to create their type of clothes."

Tarun Tahiliani always attempts a Western and ethnic line for his collections but it is the latter that he is more comfortable with.

Durazi, one of the pioneers who introduced Indian women to the beauty of well-tailored Western wear, has had several offers to go abroad with his collection or franchise his name. "I don't feel the time is right for me personally." Finan

they will have to compromise on price and style to create wearable, affordable clothes. Hemant Trivedi, Sheetal Stores, fashion director, still hasn't gone in for a personal label in spite of being in the designing business since over a decade. "There are buyers interested in Indian fashion. The West is looking at India but can we compete in the world market? Our poor quality shows up. We fall short of something. Our fabric development doesn't make the grade. East Asian countries and China are moving ahead. An Indian designer shows styles and the minute the buyer's interest wanes, the designer is willing to make a compromise. Sitting in this country we don't exactly have the pulse of the international market," he argues.

At international fashion fairs where giants like Mondri, Comma, Laurel, Escada, Karl Lagerfeld, Bogner participate on the strength of their collections, Indian companies are satisfied with procuring job work or generally remaining a quiet bystander.

In the vast milieu of international fashion Asha Sarabhai apparently designs under her label but stays with Issey Miyake's umbrella in Japan. A few designers in the capital claim they sell to Gallerie Lafayette, Nieman Marcus and Bloomingdales. Occasionally, a store in Europe, UK or USA has an India promotion week and Indian designers are featured and soon forgotten by those countries.

"A few georgette blouses on a rack in a store is no big deal," adds Trivedi. "Most designers in India are stuck in a rut." Yet Trivedi argues, "It is not necessary for Indian designers to go West. We could turn into a good supplier country like Hongkong."

When a buyer sells Indian garments and a customer buys it irrespective of the country, that is when we have succeeded. Funnily enough, while some Indian designers may feel they have arrived and are ready to make it big in the international market, the West is totally ignorant about their capabilities. Paris, Duesseldorf, Milan, New York, London feel that Indian designers create only ethnic garments like saris and are totally untrained.



Escada relying on Indian embroidery to live up to western formal wear.

Broken hearts and records

Awards have a way of eluding deserving people. They seem to whizz past like a cat and drop on to the lap of the person next to them. So it was little wonder then, that there were many broken hearts after the 22nd Annual American Music Award ceremony was over, — there were simply too many deserving musicians and too few awards.

They were twenty-two in number, in seven categories, namely pop-rock, soul-rhythm and blues, country, heavy metal-hard rock, rap hip-hop, adult contemporary and alternative music, which pretty much sums up the diversity of music thriving in America and the rest of the world.

Even then, the categories appeared to be lumped together and adult contemporary and alternative music were vague terms encompassing musicians of the most varied influences.

Boyz II Men hogged the awards, with Best Single Record for I'll Make Love to You in the pop-rock as well as the soul-rhythm category and the best group plus a few more nominations. To top it off was the standing ovation which they received from the audience.

But that's

stardom for you — even their soggy performance received accolades.

But the night was not about awards or performances, it was about being there. A who's who list of music moghuls and Hollywood motley crew was sprinkled all over the hall like stardust. It was also about who's with whom.

Speaking of which, Tom Jones whose height is five nine or ten, was dwarfed in the presence of Queen Latifah. The two of them hosted the show admirably but the Queen's towering presence took the cake from Tom boy's plate.

There were few surprises in any of the categories. Boyz II Men, Ace of Base (Best band pop-rock category), Lion King (Best album), Counting Crows (Favourite artiste, alternative music) had shown their strength on the billboard charts, and their glorious past year.

Mariah Carey bagged the best female

artiste award for her music and Anita Baker elbowed out the competition in the soul-rhythm category. Babyface clinched the male artiste award, so did Toni Braxton in the female category for her eponymous album—it was truly the night of black musicians.

But there were others who made their presence felt without winning anything, Little Richard, the man with the powdered face took a bite from his *Tutti Frutti*, Celine Dion exhibited the power of her love and Tom Jones and Queen Latifah strutted their stuff too. But the show stealer was Madonna who read out

a chapter from her *Bedtime Stories*, with Babyface

Michael Bolton, the lump-in-his-throat singer, also had his moments. He swept the best artistes (pop-rock) award and later, the coveted favourite artiste award in the adult contemporary field. Others, gone, were not forgotten. Nirvana received the heavy metal-hard work award which was more of a posthumous tribute to grunge rock's relevant speaker Kurt Cobain. It

was appropriate too, for he haunted the entire music industry throughout 1994, rock's 'relvetant speaker' Kurt Cobain. It was appropriate for his spectre hunted the entire music industry throughout 1994.



The breathless girl really behaved herself and focussed on her singing

than the polemics she is notorious for. Quite frankly more than half the audience half-expected Madonna to do something outrageous or bizarre (or both), but she checked her usually over-expressive self.



Above: Michael Bolton feeling elated having won the award for favourite male artiste in pop-rock category. Centre: Babyface and Madonna who sang a duet for the show. Top: Anita Baker with her award for favourite female artiste in the soul-rhythm and blues category. Top right: Mariah Carey best female artiste

Maladies and melodies

The sound of music can be deadly for some people. A Strauss waltz or pop song can trigger off seizures that have led to violence, attempted suicide and murder.

These tragic cases suffer from a rare disease called musicogenic epilepsy, which affects about one in 30,000 epileptics.

The sort of music that affects them varies from person to person. For some, a seizure may be induced by a pop tune. For others, a classical harmony can cause it. Even sounds such as church bells ringing have been known to affect some sufferers.

It is thought that a particular note in a tune can somehow affect brain patterns and lead to attacks in which people act out of character. Normally happy individuals have become suicidal. Other passive characters have become violent. A schoolboy in Somalia, East Africa, suffered seizures when he heard a certain type of native music. His classmates discovered this and deliberately played it to tease him — with fatal results. During one of his seizures, he hit one of them with an axe and killed him.

A woman in Leeds, West Yorkshire, was sensitive to a wide range of music. She was just as liable to suffer a fit induced by a pop tune on the radio as one brought on by the strains of a street violinist. She was so worried, she eventually became too scared even to go out shopping. A well-paid executive gave up his city job to move to a country cottage for the same reason.

Fortunately, once musicogenic epilepsy is diagnosed, it can be successfully treated with drugs. But many doctors maintain that music can endanger people's health in other ways too. Dr John Diamond of Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, claims certain rock music is bad for the heart. "Many rock tunes have a beat which conflicts with the body's natural rhythms," he says.

"Played very loudly, it can literally make the heart miss a beat, weaken the body and make it more vulnerable to disease."

Dr Diamond tested hundreds of rock records during research into the ways in which music can affect the heartbeat. And he reckoned the worst "offenders" were Michael Jackson (at full blast), the Bee Gees, Madonna and Rod Stewart.



Jackson: Worst offender

But there are two sides to every story. A prominent French doctor maintains that some kinds of music can cure a number of ailments. For instance, if you suffer from swollen ankles or sore feet, listen to Greek singer Nana Mouskouri. Her voice can help massage your troubles away, according to Dr Guy Allaire, who has made a study of the art of music therapy. Music can soothe the savage breast, but the 59-year-old doctor of St Nazaire believes it

can do much more than that and he has invented a gadget which, he claims, transforms music into direct vibrations that act as a soothing massage on parts of the body. And he says that satisfied customers maintain tunes and singers have helped rid them of facial fat, wrinkles, acne and

backache. The musical vibrations are relayed through electrodes placed on the affected part of the body. Where Sacha Distel's voice, apparently, is perfect for women who want stronger bust lines. Masenet and Beethoven seem to work for back complaints, hernia and nervous troubles.

Finally, Italian surgeon Dr Gaetano Zapala uses music to put his patients at ease. He has performed countless operations at his Rome clinic using a local anaesthetic — and music. He says: "Mozart is perfect when treating acute rheumatism. Handel is right for emotional problems."

Where music cures sprains, soothes tension and reduces weight, it can also prove fatal by affecting brain patterns or the heartbeat



Christy Turlington



Linda Evangelista



Cindy Crawford



Star choice: Nicole Kidman



Lulu did well



Sophisticated: Selina Scott

Who's a pretty woman?

It's official — not every woman wants to look like a supermodel or join the prancing army of girls with pouts and high cheekbones who refuse to get out of bed and walk down a catwalk for less than £10,000.

According to a new survey of the most sought-after styles and looks, most women don't want to be size eight six-footers or emaciated waifs.

Nowhere do we find a mention of the designers' darlings — Christy T, Linda E, Naomi C, or little Kate M. If dreams could come true, the average British female would rather be a Pretty woman than a hyped clothes-hanger.

When more than 2,000 women were

asked which celebrity influenced their style, actress Julia Roberts received the highest marks. The lady with the beestung lips scored more than double her closest competitor, film star Demi Moore.

The only supermodel who shows up anywhere on the list of wanna-be look-alikes is Cindy Crawford. But the soon-to-be ex-wife of Richard Gere still gets a lower score than Cher, Linda Evans, Goldie

Hawn and Nicole Kidman, who all tie for third place.

Even Lulu scores higher — but try convincing *Vogue* that there are more British women who would rather resemble the short, Scottish less than the longlimbed American model.

The survey by *Prima* magazine, which focuses on hair colour and care, showed Princess Diana is still a tremendous in-

Supermodels feel the pinch in a vote to discover the ideal beauty

fluence — also up there in third place with the Hollywood star-pack. But that was before this week's wet-look Princess. It remains to be seen how many women will be copying her new slickedback hairstyle.

It's the old style Diana, with her crop of flattering off-the-face curls, that readers admired. Also tied in third place was her look-alike Selina Scott, who embodies that same image of casual sophistication.

All the women chosen have one thing in common aside from their obvious good looks. They have enough age and experience to appear self-confident, happy with the way they look.

Surprisingly, in the light of all the articles telling us how to change our appearance, half the women in Britain are also quite satisfied with the way they currently look.

Half are happy with their present hairstyle, their hair type and condition, as well as colour.

But if they had the choice, 46 per cent would be natural blondes. Only 15 per cent would be dark brunettes or have red hair while 13 per cent would be brunettes.

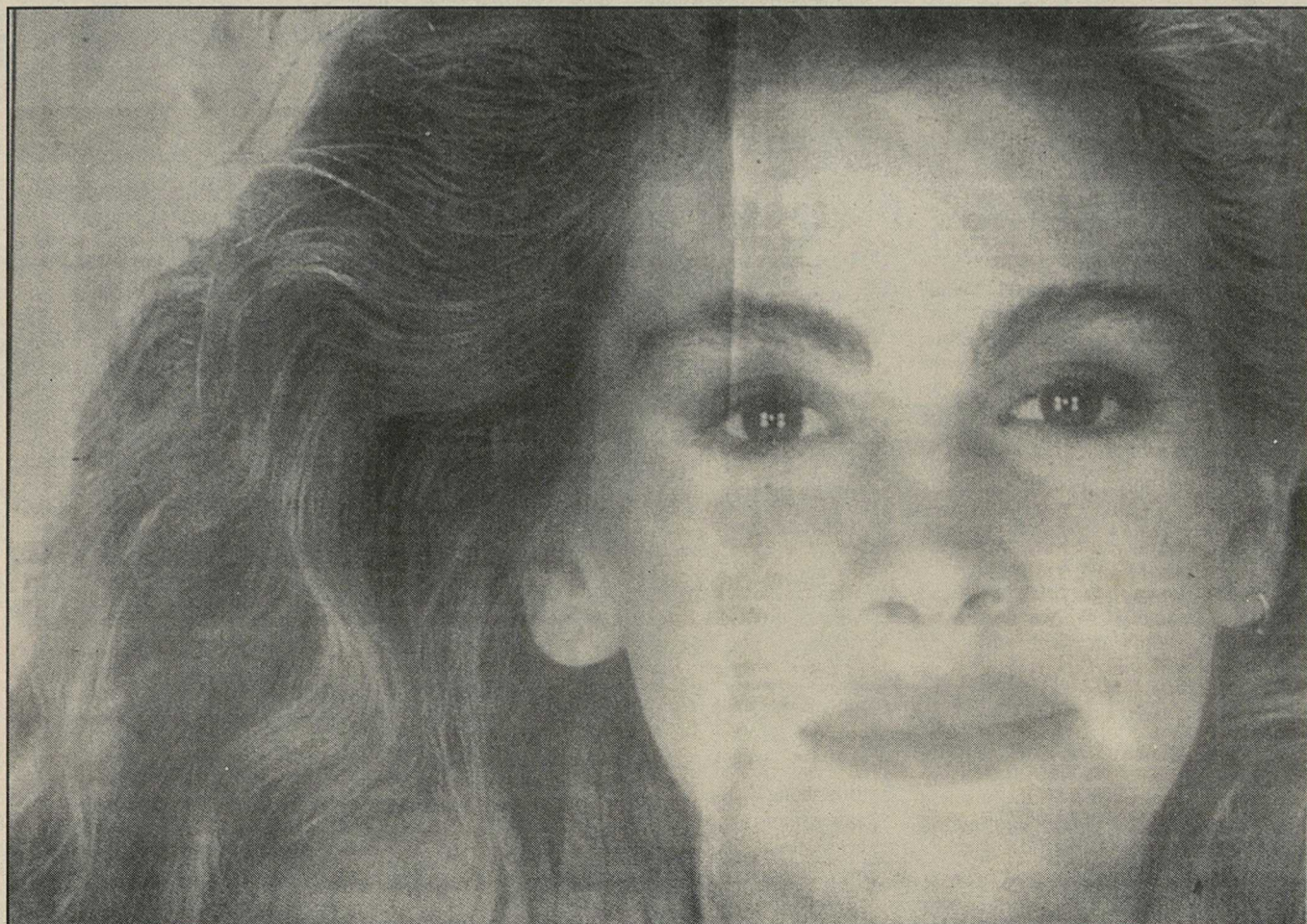
A few fashion victims — two per cent — would want to have heavily-bleached blonde or obviously dyed black hair. The survey also revealed that most women had experienced at least one major disaster at their hairdressers.

Nearly six out of 10 say they have been on the receiving end of a "hair-cut from hell" and four out of 10 have had such a disastrous perm, the only alternative was to go for the chop.

But although we all want to look like film stars, in our typically British way, we also want glamour on the cheap.

Only four per cent of us spend more than £10 a month on hair care products, and a third spend under £10 on a visit to the hairdresser.

We want to look like stars — but not if the cost is astronomical. - *Celeste Mitchell*



Winner: Actress Julia Roberts is the celebrity who most influenced other women in the survey.

An affair doomed from the start

It was an affair doomed from the start. The romance not just splits the young woman's relatives but also the nation.

Kristina Bernadette Cojuangco Aquino, popularly known as Kris, 23, probably never thought she could hurt some people with her notorious carelessness and being tactless. This time, former President Corazon "Cory" Aquino was not amused by her youngest daughter's admission in a nationwide television show that she is indeed pregnant by actor Philip Salvador and his second mistress at that.

When news reports were first leaked that Kris was pregnant, she issued a public denial. Apparently she told of her real condition to her mother before moving out a month ago from their home.

Salvador, 45, is married to Asuncion Dabao and has three children who are all living in the United States. The marriage is still valid.

Since November last year, Kris has been estranged from the Aquino family when she left the family residence to join Salvador not fully aware that the romance

shocked show business because of the wide age gap between the two -- a secret first.

Butz, however, dismissed speculations Kris was just looking for a "father figure," being only 12 when Ninoy was assassinated. "She has many uncles to run to. I don't think she's wanting in advisers or father figures," he said.

While they would like Kris to marry her condition, Butz said they understood this was not possible at the moment.

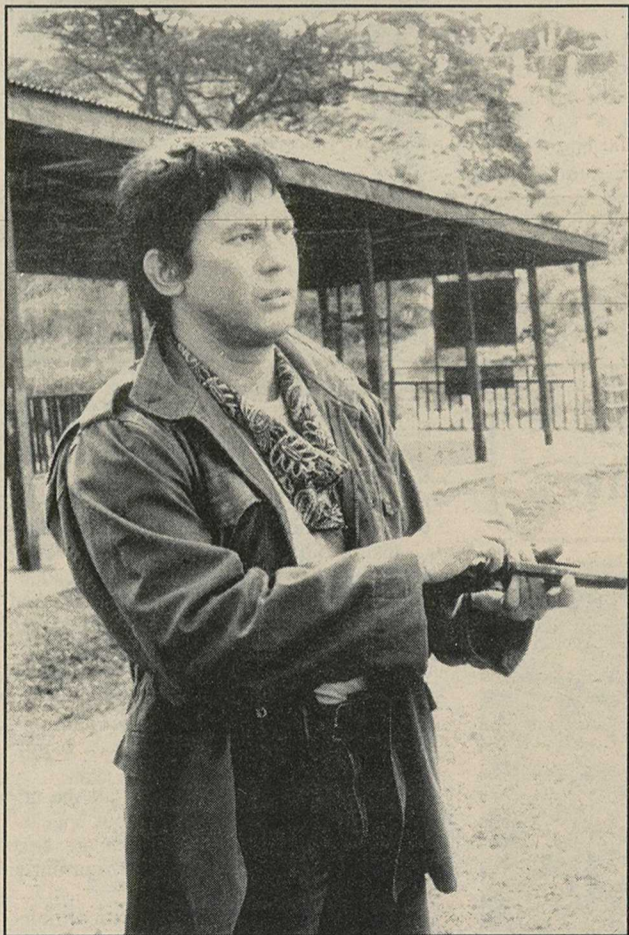
Salvador was still seeking an annulment of his marriage to the former Asuncion Dabao, now in the United States with their three children. Dabao refuses to sign the annulment papers

Aquino home. The Aquino household can't help notice that their most unsinkable member is sinking into depths of loneliness.

When she is asked, Kris blurts out with matching tears: "Since I was a child I did everything to make my mother happy. I obeyed everything she said to make her happy. But now, here I am, sad and miserable. Do I really have to be sad to make



Cory Aquino



Philip Salvador

would split the Aquino and the Cojuangco clans, joined by the marriage of slain Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and Cory.

Before Salvador, Kris was romantically linked to Robin Padilla, the "bad boy" of Philippine cinema. Reports had it that it was Kris' only brother, Noynoy, who was able to "neutralise" her romance with Padilla courtesy of the Presidential Security Group. Their mother was then president.

Senator Agapito "Butz" Aquino, her father's brother, said Kris' uncles and aunts on the Aquino side will support whatever decision she makes. He said he does not object to Kris' relationship with Salvador, whom he described as a "decent guy and not a skirt-chaser."

The couple met during the filming of the movie *Nandito Ako* (I am Here). They had tried to keep the relationship -- which



Kris Aquino

as her marriage to Salvador in 1975 is still binding.

The Salvadors have applied for annulment with Quezon City court, with the actor admitting that he had been unable to discharge his marital obligations since his marriage.

And what about Kris' father, how would he have felt?

Butz said Ninoy would not have approved of the Kris-Philip romance because the slain senator was very conservative

and did not approve of abortion or a live-in relationship. Neither would he have allowed Kris to separate from the household until she got married.

Would Ninoy have approved of Kris' showbiz career in the first place?

Kris' reply in 1993 when she "abandoned" Padilla in favour of mother Cory: "If my father were alive, he'd be my number one fan because Mom is my number one critic. I'm sure he's proud of me now because of two important things: one, I managed to finish a college course even if I'm in show business and more important, I have chosen my family over love."

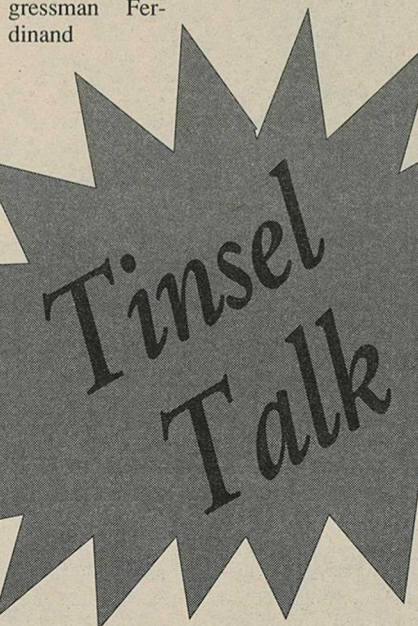
"How could you?" was Cory's only reply to Kris' when news of her pregnancy first broke out.

There was deafening silence in the

her happy?"

Kris admitted that her relationship with her mother, a devout Catholic, had been strained by her romance with Salvador. The actress known to be headstrong and the most financially independent of the Aquinos, has had her way on this one.

However, Kris compounded her personal problems when she invited Congressman Ferdinand



"Bongbong" Marcos, son of the late dictator whom her mother accused of plotting the assassination of Ninoy in 1983, as guest on her TV show recently. Her friendly kiss with Bongbong did not please Cory, who turned 62 last week. Newspaper columnists described it as a national night-

mare.

One Manila newspaper even savaged the young Aquino in its editorial: "Kris represents what is wrong with a culture that has been banalized by gossip magazines and tawdry movies."

"She has reduced the tragedy of her family -- which is our tragedy as well -- into nothing but a kiss-kiss, bang-bang movie, saccharine and forgettable. In so doing, Kris has effectively erased from our memory the nightmare that is Marcos. She herself has replaced that nightmare."

Years back, Kris had promised to be always Cory's little baby; to work hard to be a better daughter who may be in love but who will never ever bring shame and scandal to this illustrious clan.

"You know Mrs. Aquino. She believes in the sanctity of marriage," said former Presidential Press Undersecretary Deedee Sytango.

Mother Cory had repeatedly told her daughter to respect marriage as a sacrament and also to look at it as something permanent. For better or for worse.

"Maybe you consider me belonging to a forgotten generation but I'm seeing in the younger people today that it's nice for couples to make their marriages work for life," Cory has said.

Kris said she missed her family very much. "It's getting bigger and I'd like to apologise. For whatever it's worth, I still really love my Mom."

I have no regrets as far as loving Philip is concerned. My only regret perhaps is that I was not able to wait for the right time."

Former President Corazon Aquino said she would only reconcile with her daughter only if the young woman drops the man who got her pregnant and caused a scandal to their family.

"That would be it," said Cory, as she urged the people to "pray for Kris."

But as in all stories of this nature, many Filipino mothers believe this scenario would be good for the next six months. When Kris' child is born, would Cory be the first babysitter?

A forgiving nation would just watch. Just like in the movie. — Cynthia Balana in Manila.

Fame in the family

For 15 years everyone in Hollywood loved Dennis Quaid's movies off-beat pictures like *Breaking Away*, and *The Long Riders* - but none of them made any money.

Now suddenly all that's changed: Dennis Quaid has suddenly become box-office magic. His new movie, *Flesh and Bone*, took \$5 million in the US in four days. After two years away from the camera, Dennis is being hailed as the new Humphrey Bogart.

It's all due, he says to his wife, Meg Ryan. She co-stars in *Flesh and Bone*, has given him a whole new outlook on acting ... and persuaded him to take a successful alcohol cure.

"I got tired of waking up with hangovers," says the 39-year-old Texan heart-throb. "I wanted to leave my hard-drinking reputation behind. ... Otherwise I realised that I'd probably end up dead ... early."

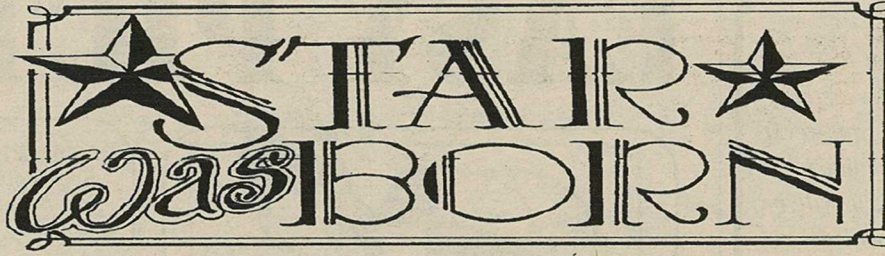
In *Flesh and Bone*, Dennis plays a haunted young loner with a terrible incident in his past. James Caan stars as his father while Meg Ryan plays the woman who ends up in both their lives.

"Working with Meg was wonderful," Dennis says. "I'd love to do more movies with her. It's nice to be together all the time, the whole family." Their, two-year-old son, Jack went on location with them.

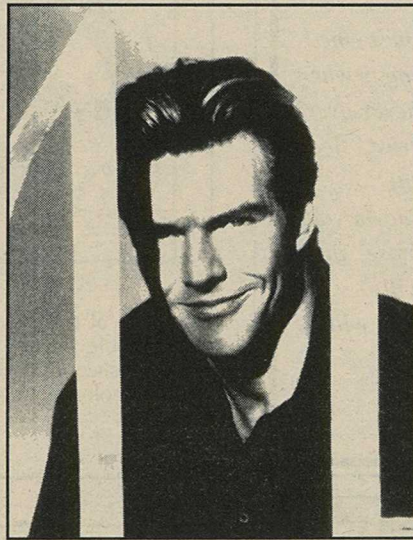
"I had no intention of leaving him behind," Dennis says. "Being a hands-on dad is very important to me. "The trouble is no one tells you just what hard work fatherhood is!"

When Dennis and Meg are not working they live in a remote log cabin in Montana with its own trout stream. When one is working on a movie, the other stays home to look after Jack.

"When we both made *Flesh and Bone* it was natural to take Jack along too," says 32-year-old Meg. "Dennis is a wonderful father. We have a very normal family life and love being at home. We probably haven't been out more than four times



Dennis Quaid has been looking for a hit movie for 15 years. Now, thanks to his wife, he's finally found one...



Dennis Quaid

in the past year. Then it will be just somewhere for a quiet dinner."

It's a far cry from the days when Dennis was a young hunkabout Hollywood, renowned for hard-living and heavy drinking. It's a relief to put all that behind me and enjoy a happy relaxed life with Meg and Jack," he says.

"We don't want Jack to grow up a showbiz kid, which is why we moved to Montana. I think you are born 50 per cent who

you are and the other half is the environment you grow up in.

"Meg and I are trying to give Jack the most normal childhood he can have. We will teach him to respect people no matter what they do."

It was Meg who persuaded Dennis to make his movie comeback with her in *Flesh and Bone*. "We had a pact when working on the movie not to discuss our roles off the set," Dennis says. "Meg would be on one side of the bed working on her script and I

would be on the other working on mine.

"That way, our characters managed to keep secrets from each other."

It certainly paid off. *Flesh and Bone* has been hailed by the critics as one of the most emotionally overpowering movies of the 90s and already Dennis and Meg have been tipped for Oscar nominations.

In the powerful opening, set in the 1960s, James Caan uses his young son as inside man on a robbery but a crucial error leads to a massacre that traumatises the youngster for life.

"The part was my biggest-ever challenge," Dennis Quaid recalls. "The character is very different from me. I'm much, more of an extrovert person."

"I admit that most of my movies in recent years have done box office dives but I choose roles that are interesting because I love acting. That's the first thing that interests me, not whether they're going to be hits or not."

It looks as though in the future, they're going to be hits whether Dennis like it or not! Says *Flesh and Bone* director Steve Kloves."

People are at last waking up to what a fantastic actor Dennis is and offers are pouring in. He could do a dozen movies this year if he wanted to.

"But I know he will only do what, really appeals to him. Then he really goes for it. For instance, he finished my movie on a Friday and started his next the following Monday!"

"I haven't felt so eager and fit for years," Dennis says. I've even thought about starting up my rock band again" - he played Jerry Lee Lewis in the biopic *Great Balls of Fire*.

"I put the music on hold when Jack came along," says the piano-playing Dennis. "I just play my music to Jack now. He loves it, and is getting very musical."

"Who knows in a few years time we could go out on the road together. He already does some very mean drumming on the kitchen saucepans!"

Faye Dunaway has been known to throw a fit or two on the set. At least one major film director has gone on record saying she can be a giant pain in the butt to work with. The press seldom fails to mention that she can be difficult, demanding, imperious, picky, peevish, melodramatic or downright scary.

And despite occasional starring roles in mediocre motion pictures such as *The Champ*, *Supergirl* and *Mommie Dearest*, no one ever forgets Dunaway's ice queen-perfectionist approach to her Academy Award-nominated parts in *Bonnie & Clyde*, *Chinatown* and *Network* - which also netted her the golden Oscar statuette for best actress.

The lithe blond beauty with the high cheek bones keeps on working at 53, easily surpassing most of her more submissive contemporaries. Nor does Dunaway seem to care which medium she works in, moving with apparent ease and confidence between stage, feature films and television projects of all stripes.

Absolutely fearless, she saw the horrendous CBS sitcom *It Had to Be You* (1993-94) evaporate in about 30 seconds, but came roaring back a few months later to cop an Emmy for best guest actress-drama in a *Columbo* instalment.

Buttoning up a frenetic year, Dunaway now stars in the telefilm *A Family Divided*, a hard-hitting family drama focusing on a shell-shocked mother torn between ethics and loyalty to a son. She portrays Karen Billingsley, a volunteer worker with battered women, and Stephen Collins plays her husband Roger, a successful attorney, as both are threatened with moral bankruptcy when their son, Chad (Cameron Bancroft), is involved in a college fraternity gang rape and subsequent death of a high school girl.

"I was overjoyed when the script, then called *Mother Love*, came out of the blue," says Dunaway, "because it's the kind of role I always look for. It's hard to find a woman character who behaves heroically, who behaves away from the norm and stands for something."

"In this case, she goes against the wishes of her husband, perhaps at the expense of their marriage, to reach the core of decency in her son. She knows that her son will be destroyed if he and his parents pretend that nothing happened even if he could get away with a heinous crime."

The brutal pace of shooting *A Family Divided* in three weeks on location in Vancouver

Absolutely Fearless



Faye Dunaway

hardly fazed Dunaway, the perfectionist, though retakes of scenes were typically held to a minimum.

"You do get more time with a (feature) film and you do have to move fast in television, but perfectionism doesn't always mean time," she says. "I do have some experience with speed - I mean, Sidney Lumet directs on roller skates. If you know the moves in advance, the work gets done."

Dunaway - who was born in tiny Bascom Florida, and grew up all over the United States and Europe when her father switched from farmer to career Army man - claims to have learned a great deal about coping with chaos from Peter Falk while shooting the two-hour *Columbo* telefilm last year.

"I love Peter and learned how to slow down and get into the moments from him," she says. "When things got really crazy on the set just before shooting a scene, he would just say, 'Well, I don't know about this.....' and

he'd calm me right down. In general, I would say this is a quieter and calmer time in my life than ever before.

"When a woman gets past 40, I think she is in many ways at the top of her game mentally, emotionally and spiritually," Dunaway continues slowly. "I feel good about that and about what I'm doing."

"That's why I would do another television series in a New York second. I'm looking for a half-hour or a one-hour show, it doesn't make any difference. I know that a one-hour

drama requires long hours, but I'm a kind of workaholic. It's the one thing I love most to do, except be with my son (Liam, 14)." The intrepid actress was six weeks into rehearsals last June in preparation to take over the Norma Desmond role from Glenn Close in the Los Angeles musical production of *Sunset Boulevard* when composer-producer Andrew Lloyd Webber in effect fired her by closing down the entire operation.

He contended that she could not sing the demanding role well enough. Dunaway - who reportedly would receive \$25,000 a week plus a cut of the gross - responded crisply with a \$6 million-plus breach of contract and defamation suit. "I just wish Glenn (Close) well; I think she's wonderful. But life goes on and I'm exploring other options, including some plays at the Roundabout Theatre in New York and a couple of theatres (in Los Angeles) sometime in 1995. I'd love to sing Sondheim ... I'm also developing my own films, including one of Pearl Buck that I like a lot."

While the *Sunset Boulevard* hoopla swirled, Dunaway was already up to her ear lobes shooting the feature *Don Juan de Marco and the Centerfold* with Marlon Brando and Johnny Depp.

In the upcoming release, she plays the amorous wife of Brando, a heavyweight shrink about to retire, when a disturbed young man (Depp) who thinks he is Don Juan sucks them both into his insane world. In the process, the couple reawaken the passion in their 30-year marriage.

"Marlon is a great actor, an idol of mine I had really wanted to work with. I found him quirky with a sweet attitude on things and an imagination that allows him to come up with complete surprises. And this was my second film with Johnny," Dunaway continues, referring to the as-yet-unreleased Warner Bros. tragicomedy *Arizona Dreams*, which also stars Jerry Lewis.

"He's my brother and I love him. I think he's the crown prince, the heir apparent to Marlon's crown."

Dividing her time between homes in Los Angeles and New York, she seems to carry no baggage from her first marriage to rocker Peter Wolf of the J. Geils Band or her second union to British photographer Terry O'Neill, Liam's father.

"This is a good time for me, a time of quiet investigation," muses Dunaway. "I'm a lot mellow than I used to be, and I feel as though I'm approaching the best work I've ever done."
—Eirik Knutzen

Thursday February 23, 1995

Dear Kids,

Are you all feeling under the weather of late? All that sniffing, running noses, nose blocks, fever, flu.

But what is to be done about it. Cold, and fever virtually has no cure. And as a senior paediatrician says, if you take medicine to battle cold, it will be cured in a week, but if you leave it, you will get rid off your cold in seven days!...

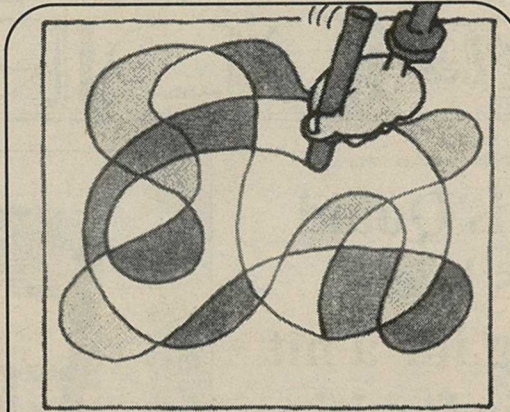
Sometimes, the above is true. But of course, medicines help. Not only that, the important thing is when you get a fever or a cold is that you must never over-exert yourself. Take sufficient amount of rest, sleep well, and do not watch TV late into the night!

But the best advice is not to let it bring down your spirits. So what if you have a running nose, or a blocked one? It will pass, as any problem will.

The sun will shine the next morning and all will be well.

Cheerio and Aatishoo to you!
Aunty Sunshine.

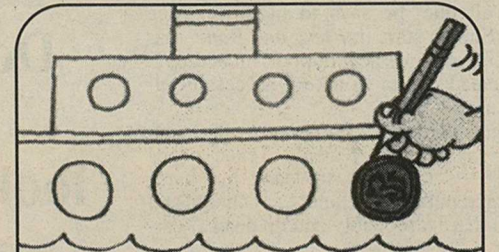
EASY PICTURES



One of the easiest pictures of all to make is a scribble picture. With a crayon scribble all over a sheet of paper. Fill in the scribble in different colours and you will have a very unusual pattern.

YOU WILL NEED

Sheets of plain paper
Your paint box, felt pens, crayons or wax crayon
Coins



Another sort of easy picture to make is a 'draw-round' picture. See if you can create a whole picture just by drawing round a few coins. Have a competition to see who can think of the most unusual things to create using the coins.

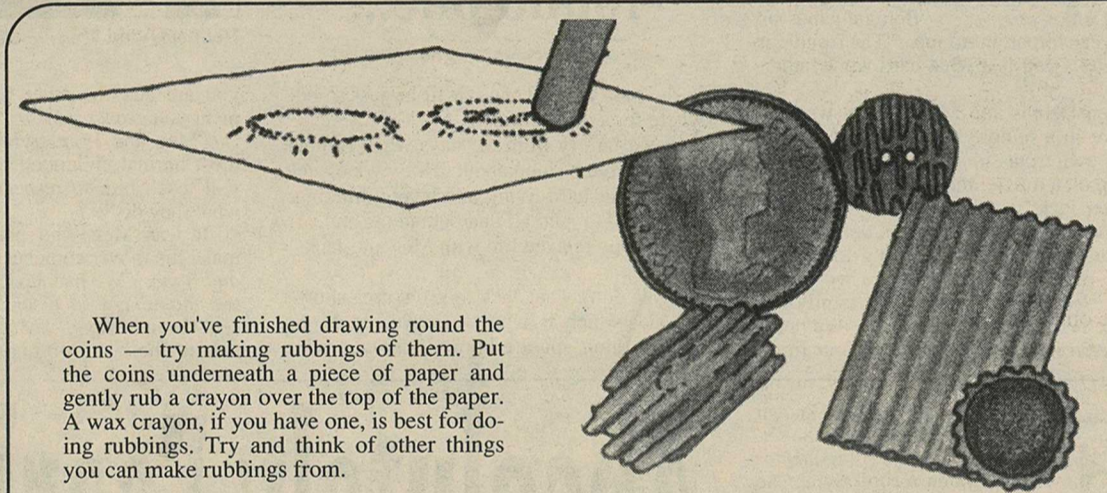
Did you know?

The last wolf...seen wild in England was spotted in 1864. One village in Yorkshire still has an official wolfcatcher who is paid £2.00 a year.

An odd job: The ghost train owner in Brighton's pier employed a feather tickler. His job was to hide in the darkness and tickle passengers with a long feather to frighten them.

Greetings: As well as shaking hands when they meet, Tibetans bump foreheads. The Eskimos, as most people know, rub noses.

Mark Twain: The author of *Huckleberry Finn* and *Tom Sawyer* was born in 1835, a year when Halley's Comet flared across the sky. He always said that he would die when it next appeared in 1910. He did.



When you've finished drawing round the coins — try making rubbings of them. Put the coins underneath a piece of paper and gently rub a crayon over the top of the paper. A wax crayon, if you have one, is best for doing rubbings. Try and think of other things you can make rubbings from.

QUIZ

Q.1 What was the name of the group before they changed it to 10 'New kids on the Block'?

Q.2 Which two members of the group are brothers?

Q.3 When's Joey-Joe's birthday?

Q.4 Name the home town of the group?

Q.5 What's the name of the group manager?

Q.6 Which two kids share the same sign, Taurus?

Q.7 Which new kids are left handed?

Q.8 What is Jordan's favourite car?

Q.9 Which new kid's nickname is puff Mc cloud?

Q. 10 Which new kid's lead song is "Treat me Right."

1: Nynuk
2: Jordan and Jonathan
3: Dec 31, 1972
4: Boston
5: Dick Scott
6: Jordan and Danny
7: Jordan and Donnie
8: Porsche
9: Danny
10: Joesph (Joey-Joe)

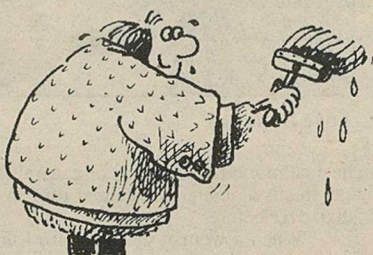
ANSWERS

WHACKY REPLY CONTEST

So what's your excuse?
Use your imagination. The funnier the better. Mail to Junior Times along with the coupon on page X to reach us by Tuesday and win

Walt Disney
Perfumes

Why are you wearing your raincoat, your overcoat and your jacket to paint the house?

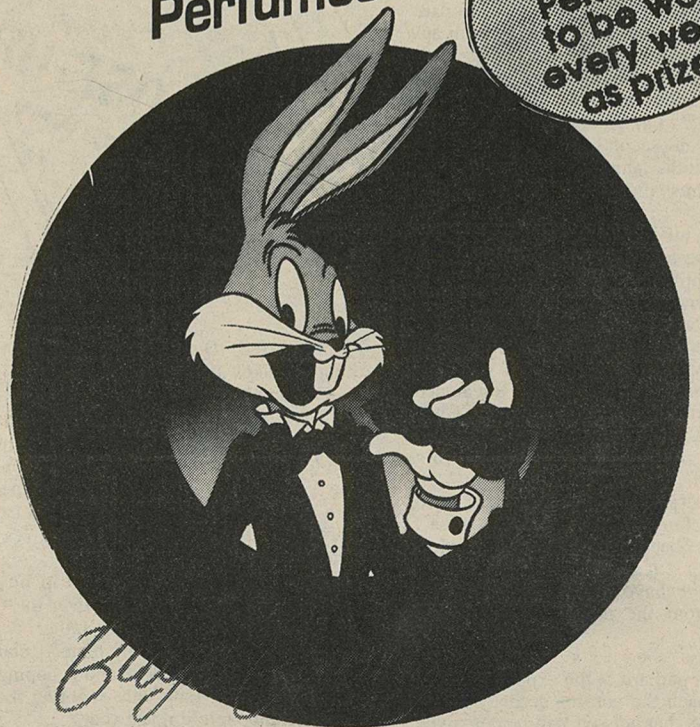


Last week's winner :
Sameera Zaman

Whacky Reply :
"Because he was too hot to handle"

Walt Disney
Perfumes

Walt Disney
Perfumes
to be won
every week
as prizes



Ebin Rushed Pharmacy Co. LLC

Bahwan Group - Bahwan Business Centre
P.O. Box 169 Muscat, P.C. 113, Sultanate of Oman, Tel. 793741.

The pigeon race

At the bottom of Jackie and Kim's garden, there was a pigeon loft where their dad kept racing pigeons. (Pigeon lofts are special little wooden houses for pigeons.)

One day Jackie and Kim had a big surprise. Their dad gave them two pigeons. 'These two aren't very good at racing,' said Dad, 'but they'll make nice pets. So if you look after them properly — you can have them.'

The pigeons were called Popsy and Mopsy and they had pearly grey and white feathers.

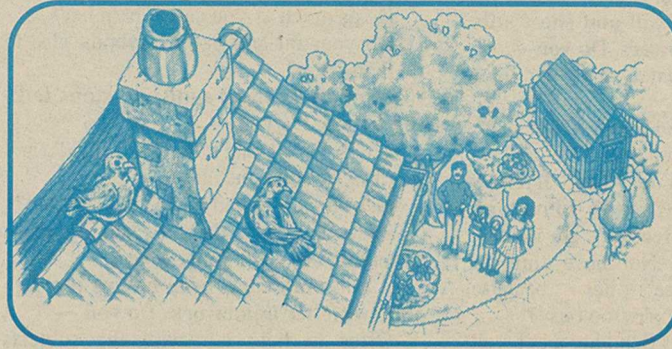
'Fancy Dad saying Popsy and Mopsy aren't good at racing,' said Jackie. 'Let's have a race with them and see. We'll take them to the park in the big shopping basket. Then, we'll let them fly home on their own and we'll ask Mum to let us know which one gets back first.'

So Jackie and Kim took the pigeons to the park. They went right to the middle of a

big stretch of grass, and they let Popsy and Mopsy out of the basket. But guess what those two pigeons did?

First they went flying round in circles as if they were playing aeroplanes. Then

park and landed on the grass right next to where a little girl was feeding some baby ducklings. The two pigeons managed to eat quite a lot of the ducklings' bread, but before Jackie and Kim could creep up and catch them, they



they went flipping about over the tops of all the trees.

Then they flew close to the pond in the

on. They don't seem to like racing at all,' said Kim.

When they got back, Dad was down the

flew up into the air again.

'Perhaps they think the park aviary is a pigeon loft!' said Jackie, as they watched the pigeons walking about on the aviary roof.

'We'll just have to go back home and see if they come back to their loft later.'

garden with his proper racing pigeons.

'How are Popsy and Mopsy getting on?' he asked.

'They've got lost in the park,' said Kim. 'I hope someone will see the little rings they are wearing round their ankles and send them back to us.'

Then Mum called from the house. 'Hurry up, tea's ready. I thought you two had got lost in the park.'

'It's Popsy and Mopsy that have got lost, Mum,' said Jackie.

'Popsy and Mopsy?' said Mum. 'They're not lost! They got back ages ago. They're up there on the roof — near the chimney-pot.'

'They must be better at racing than we thought!' said Jackie and Kim.

Kids in the Kitchen

Nachos

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 250g minced beef
- 6 olives, sliced
- 1/2 cup tomato sauce
- 1/2 cup canned red kidney or baked beans, drained
- 1/4 teaspoon chilli powder
- 1 tomato, peeled and chopped
- dash Tabasco sauce
- salt and pepper
- 1 x 200g packet corn chips
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 cup grated tasty cheese

Collect everything you need for this recipe, on the kitchen counter or table.

Prepare the ingredients.

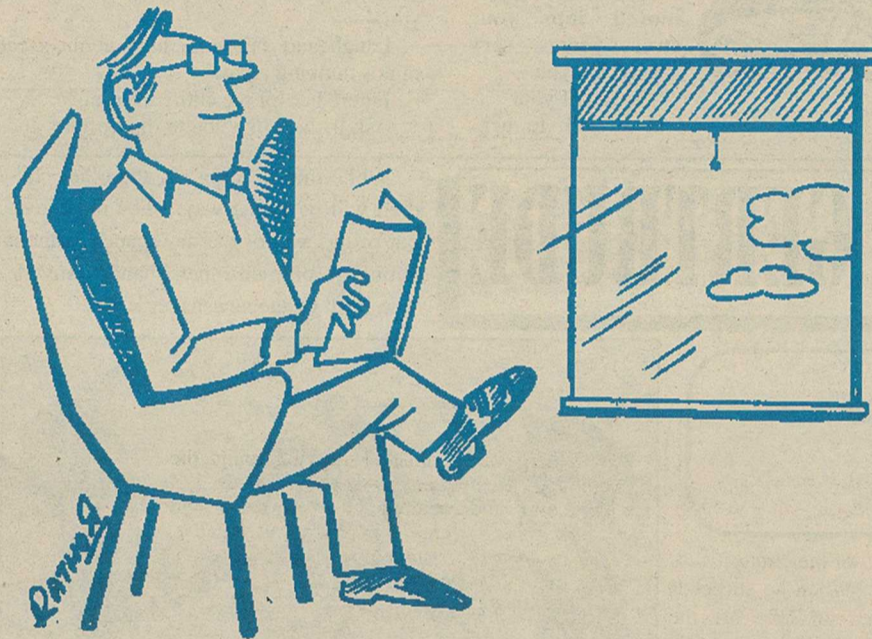
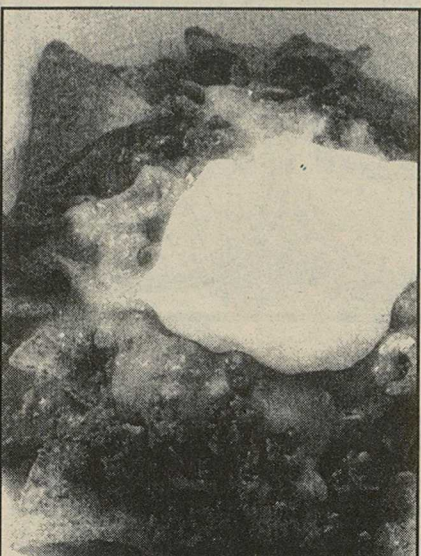
Turn on the oven to 180°C.

Put oil in a large frying pan on the stove, over a burner turned on to medium heat.

Add onion and cook for 5 minutes until onion turns clear.

Add mince bit by bit, so the pan isn't too full. Cook mince until it browns, 10-15 minutes.

Use a tablespoon to remove any fatty fluid that comes out of the meat.



Save our planet

- 1) Don't buy products made from the hides and skins of endangered animals or plants.
- 2) Use cloth bags when shopping instead of paper or plastic bags.
- 3) Trees and energy can be saved if you recycle and use less paper. Write both sides of a sheet.
- 4) Buy recycled products packed in recycled material.
- 5) Keep the planet clean. Make sure all trash gets where it belongs, in the dust bin.
- 6) Air is getting polluted. Don't drive your car around too much. Try walking, biking or have a car pool.
- 7) We need clean water. It is important not to waste it.
- 8) Pollution is making our air and water dirty. We need to work to keep them clean.
- 9) Check your house to see if there is any leak in the pipe lines. Think of ways to use less water.
- 10) Be careful not to pollute water. Make sure all chemicals are dumped correctly.
- 11) Learn more about endangered species.
- 12) Recycling is important. Learn about your neighbourhood recycling programme. Encourage others to do the same.
- 13) Saving energy will help too. Don't waste electricity. Turn off lights.

Would you believe

Tough-guy actor John Wayne's real first name was Marion.

* * *

Male birds sing for two reasons: To attract mates and to warn other male birds to stay out of their territory.

* * *

Great Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill claimed that he got over his fear of speaking in public by imagining that everyone in the audience had a hole in his or her sock.

* * *

Because of changing tides in the Bay of Fundy, a waterfall on the St. John River in Canada actually reverses itself during high tide, when the river flows back over the falls. Aptly enough, the phenomenon is called the "Reversing Falls of St. John."

* * *

Sending Valentine cards on Feb. 14 did not become popular in the United States until the mid-1800s. The first specimens truly were from the heart — they were hand-made and usually accompanied by a handwritten poem. Later, Valentines became much more elaborate.

* * *

The Los Angeles Lakers basketball team used to be located in Minnesota — ergo, the name "Lakers," although Los Angeles is not known for its lakes. Another interesting basketball misnomer is the Utah Jazz. The Jazz used to be based in New Orleans, where the name made perfect sense.

* * *

One of the primary ingredients of the alcoholic drink mead is honey.

* * *

Some people think a snake is sensing motion when it flicks its tongue, but actually what it is doing is trying to detect scent.

That is funny

American newspapers once reported that the famous writer Mark Twain had died, even though he had not. When Twain, who was travelling, heard the news, he quickly called his wife. "Don't worry," he said. "The news of my death was exaggerated."

* * *

A French furniture company once received a letter from a woman saying she had bought a Louis 14th bed.

"But," she said, "the bed is too small. Can you please send me a Louis 15th bed?"

* * *

The dentist asked the boy why he was screaming even before he started drilling. "Because you're standing on my foot," the boy told the dentist.

* * *

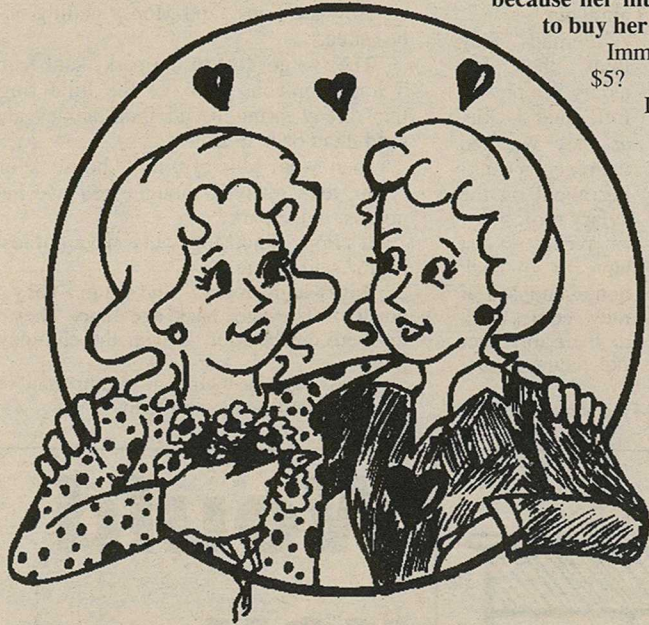
"There's something very strange about teachers," one student told his friend. "What's that?" his friend asked.

"They give you the information one day and the next day they ask you questions about it. Do they forget what they gave you?"

Are you a good friend? Test yourself.

A really good, reliable friend is one of the most important things anybody could have. So how do you rate in the friendship-stakes? Our quiz might start you guessing!

Your best friend's upset because



someone's spreading rumours about her. Do you —

Tell her she's imagining it?
Tackle the person spreading the rumours and tell her to lay off?

Comfort your friend and tell her to ignore it all?

You've saved \$5 towards your holiday. A girl you know slightly is frantic because her mum's ill and she wants to buy her flowers. Do you —

Immediately give her your \$5?

Lend her the \$5?

Lend her \$3?

Your best friend's down with something infectious. Do you —

Not have time to see her because you're too busy?

Send her a get well card and ring up a few times?

Go round every night to have a gossip with her?

A girl who's just moved into your street seems very lonely. Do you —

Go out of your way to talk to her

whenever you see her?

Never talk at all — you don't know anything about her?

Pop round and invite her to your place for tea sometime?

Your own mum is obviously very tired. Do you —

Tell her she'd be better if she had some early nights?

Do as much as you can to help her?

Do your bit and nag everybody else to do theirs, too?

Your best friend suddenly stops talking to you. Do you —

Think, 'Well that's her hard luck!', and go off with someone else?

Get very upset and try to find out why?

Assume you've done something that's upset her, but don't know what?

A class-mate has been having a rough time with her homework. Do you —

Offer to help her with the subjects you're good at?

Suggest someone else who can help?

Tell her she'll just have to try harder?

You've always got on well with your cousin, but then she turns up in the same dress as you at a family gathering. Do you —

Laugh and say something about great minds thinking alike?

Ignore her for the entire evening?

Ask if she'd like you to nip upstairs and

change?

Good friend? Bad friend? Or just in-between friend? Find out which symbol you've ticked most often —

Dog

You're a very good friend, indeed. You're always willing to help anybody who needs a hand, and you're much more concerned for other people than you ever will be for yourself. Be a bit careful, though. People could start taking advantage of you, just because you are so generous.

Cat

You're the complete opposite! No one will ever take advantage of you, basically because you seem to be so selfish — on the surface, anyhow. Underneath, we'd guess you're a bit scared of people and bit wary of close friendships, maybe because you've already been let down badly? But if you could only try again — things would get so much better in the future!

Bird

You're a lot like most of us. You're a good friend who usually puts other people first. But just sometimes you decide you can't be bothered, or something else you're involved which is more important. That's normal, and because you are loyal to people you know and like — you'll never, ever be short of your own good friends.

HAROLD AND GERTRUDE

While this is going on, the other children will be in the way. They must keep out of the way of the newspaper, without letting go of each others' hands. Anyone who is hit by the newspaper is out.



You will need:

- An old newspaper
- A blindfold (a scarf or piece of cloth)

Choose two people to be Harold and Gertrude. Blindfold Harold, give him a rolled-up newspaper, and put him in the middle of the circle of children. He calls out 'Gertrude'. Gertrude must answer 'Harold'. Harold tries to find her by the sound of her voice. He has to try and hit her with the newspaper. She runs round the outside

of the circle. When he succeeds he can take off the blindfold. Gertrude then wears the blindfold and tries to find Harold with the newspaper.



ANSWERS

1. Carol.
2. John Rice and Greg Rice.
3. Nomaza Paintin.
4. R Venkataraman.
5. Niel Kinnock.
6. Attila.
7. Robben Island.
8. Ravi Shankar.
9. Sophia Loren.
10. Reliance Industries Limited.

CITIZEN CLOCK COMPETITION

Here is a golden opportunity for you to own a CITIZEN CLOCK. All you need to do is solve this puzzle and send it to us along with the coupon by Tuesday.

Last week's winners: 1. Master Sarang Satheesh 2. Blaize Gomes 3. Cecelia Wulf

The letters of these crazy words are all mixed up. To play the game, put them back into the right order so that they make real words you can find in your dictionary. Write the letters of each real word under each crazy word, but only one letter to a square.

Fill in the coupon (no photocopies) and send along with your entries to:

Junior Times
Times of Oman,
P.O. Box 770, Postal Code 112, Ruwi.

Entries must reach on or before Tuesday

COUPON

Name:.....

C/o:.....

School:..... Age:.....

Mailing Address:.....

Tel. & Signature.....

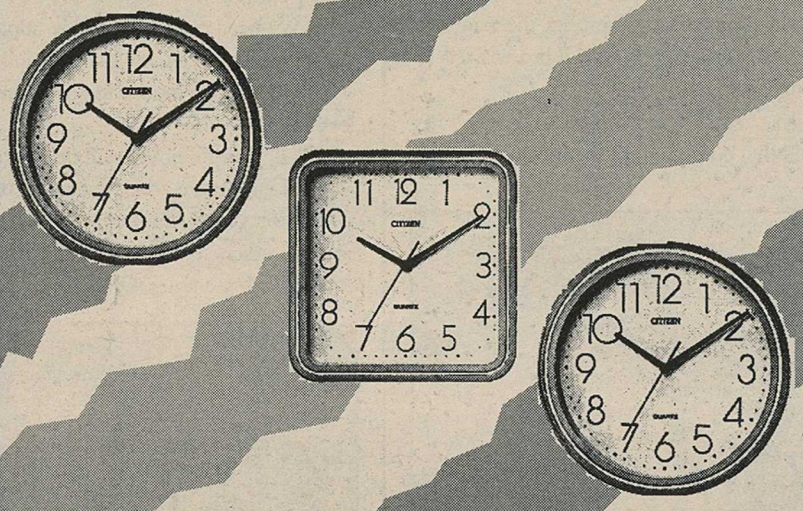
UPPYP
LAIGE
MIRSUQ
CUGHAT



CITIZEN

Three wall Clocks to be won every week

Citizen wall Clock collection



SARCO AL-SEEB TECHNICAL EST. P.O. BOX 996, RUWI, TEL. 798567

You are now ready to solve today's jumble for kids. Study the picture for a hint. Then play around with the letters in the circles. You'll find you can put them in order so that they make your funny answer.

Print answer here: A

STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

Born today, you can usually depend on your athletic prowess and your physical stamina to see you through tough times. There may be particular challenges, however, that demand concentration on your mental and emotional development. You have been endowed with many interests and abilities, and you will discover early in life that you needn't limit yourself to the standard career choices. Indeed, once you free yourself from the expectations of others, you will discover unforeseen opportunities of all kinds.

Though you will make a name for yourself primarily in one profession, with-in that particular field you will be experimental and eclectic. In time, you will doubtless become known as a pioneer of sorts.

Also born on this date are: Bobby Bonilla, baseball player; Sylvia Chase, newscaster; Peter Fonda, actor; Howard Jones, musician and singer.

To see what is in store for you today, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Evaluate a current situation very carefully today before making a decision that might last a life-time.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — A fork in the road lies ahead, so slow down a bit to get a better look at the surrounding territory.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Preventive medicine is the key to feeling good and performing well at this time. Try not to let anything slip through the cracks.

GEMINI (MAY 21-June 20) — You must work to make sense of choices that might seem random today. In the end, you'll understand the real forces at work.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Many individuals, if they were in your shoes today, would see a certain offer of help as a threat. You, however, know better — and can benefit.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You will know better than anyone how to take care of yourself today. You mustn't let anyone keep you from doing what is necessary right now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You can maintain a competitive edge today simply by progressing according to plan and avoiding any major changes to personal routine.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Though you are not usually superstitious, today you may look twice at seemingly random events that directly affect you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — A short cut may look like just the ticket today, but in fact, you'll do much better using a straightforward, old-fashioned approach.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Focus on positive developments today, and don't let others' negative attitudes get you down. You can even turn someone else around by the end of the day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Resist giving orders today unless you want to be taking them by tonight. Approach others with sympathy and understanding.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Try not to become overly sensitive or defensive when others promote their own plans and strategies. In the end, cooperation will be beneficial.

Best Sellers

1. The Celestine Prophecy, James Redfield
2. Politically Correct Bedtime Stories, James Finn Garner
3. Self-Defense, Jonathan Kellerman
4. Eyes of a Child, Richard North Patterson
5. The Bridges of Madison County, Robert James Waller
6. Debt of Honor, Tom Clancy
7. Acceptable Risk, Robin Cook
8. Mutant Message Down Under, Marlo Morgan
9. Felicia's Journey, William Trevor
10. Wings, Danielle Steele

Best Movies

1. IQ
2. Sunday's Children
3. Safe Passage
4. Little Women
5. Jungle Book
6. Stargate
7. Nell
8. Ready to Wear
9. Speechless
10. Disclosure

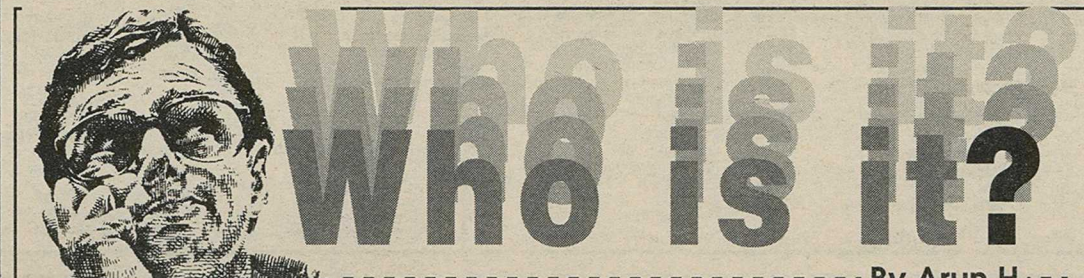
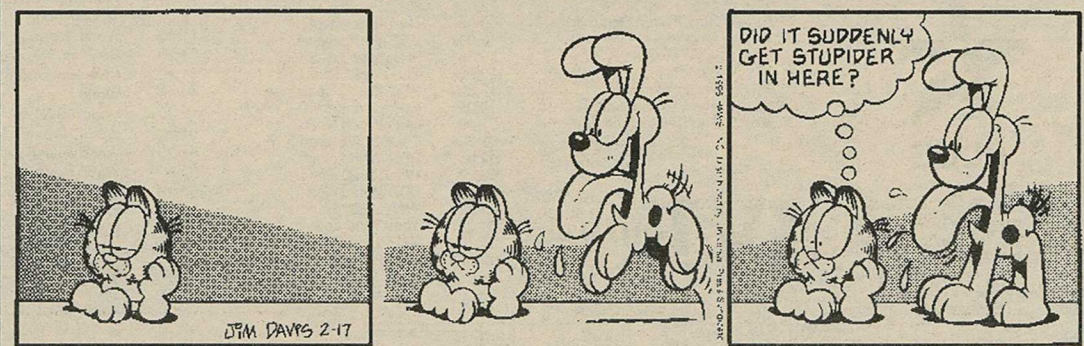
THE BORN LOSER

By Art and Chip Sansom



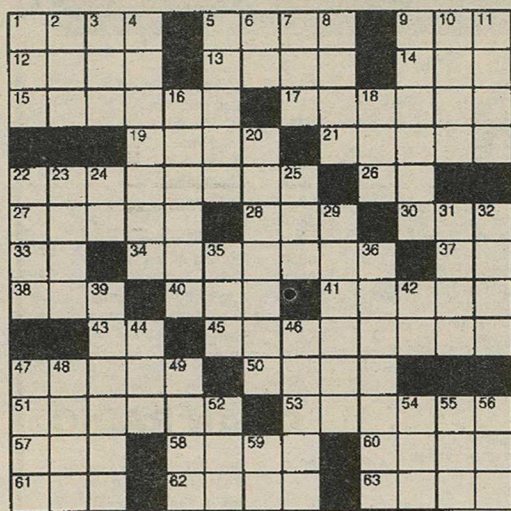
GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



By Arun H...

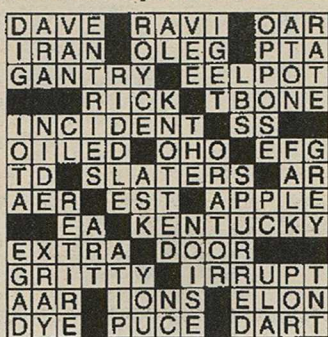
CROSSWORD PUZZLER



- 11 Mr. Coward
- 16 Raised the spirit of
- 18 Three (pref.)
- 20 More tired
- 22 Citrus fruit
- 23 Streisand film
- 24 Not later than
- 25 Ike
- 29 Rise
- 31 Princely Italian family
- 32 Beloved
- 35 Roman bronze
- 36 Discard (2 wds.)
- 39 Over
- 42 — Louis, MO
- 44 Dress border
- 46 Moldy-smelling
- 47 Johann Sebastian —
- 48 Tiny particle
- 49 Expired
- 52 Unruly boy
- 54 Mail centre abbr.
- 55 Electrified particle
- 56 Common lang.
- 59 Anton ID

- ACROSS**
- 1 Garfield and Morris
 - 5 Nobleman
 - 9 Next to Sun.
 - 12 — Letterman
 - 13 Concerning (2 wds.)
 - 14 Workers' assn.
 - 15 Wipes out
 - 17 Dinner course
 - 19 Killed
 - 21 Actor Flynn
 - 22 Without prejudice
 - 26 Maiden loved by Zeus
 - 27 Sea mountain
 - 28 Ohio college town
 - 30 Rudolph's nose colour
 - 33 Army off.
 - 34 Closest
- DOWN**
- 2 Swiss river
 - 3 Federal agcy.
 - 4 Meeting
 - 5 Comforts
 - 6 For instance
 - 7 Map abbr.
 - 8 "The Last Emperor" star
 - 9 Grooming aid
 - 10 Butter substitute
 - 37 Eggar ID
 - 38 "A rose — rose"
 - 40 Of God (Latin)
 - 41 — Rica
 - 43 Heston ID
 - 45 Term
 - 47 Revealed
 - 50 Hurries
 - 51 — power
 - 53 Inexpensive cigar
 - 57 Lettuce type
 - 58 Orient
 - 60 " — the Roof"
 - 61 British Navy abbr.
 - 62 June 6, 1944 (hyph. wd.)
 - 63 Chinese faction

Answer to previous Puzzle



● Get set and go for this hilarious, brain teasing game.

● This game is suitable for a family or gathering, with one reading the questions and others trying to get the answer.

● Alongside are a set of 10 questions in three progressively easy clues.

● If you get the answer with the first choice, give yourself 10 points.

● If you have to rely upon the second clue to get the answer, you are entitled to just 5 points.

● If you can get the answer only with the third clue, you get just one point.

● Whoever gets the highest number of points is the winner of 'WHO IS IT?'

CLUE NO. 1

1. She weighed the same as 9 men, 8 baby elephants, 728 bags of sugar, one mini car.
2. They were left for dead by their parents who could not cope with their midget new-borns. They are today the world's smallest identical twins and by thinking big they have defied all odds to become millionaires.
3. Her claim to fame has been disputed by press and critics now. She is from New Zealand. She shot to the limelight during the elections of South Africa.
4. He is the first president of his country to ever have recorded his memoirs. The same is titled as My Presidential Years. He is the ex-President of an Asian country.
5. He is one of the commissioners appointed to the EU's executive body from his country. The other one is Sir Leon Britton.
6. He was the leader of the warlike tribes from Central Asia, which terrorised Europe in AD 400's.
7. It is a bleak, 574 hectare plot of land, 11 km offshore in picturesque Table bay. It became notorious ass (name deliberately omitted) Devil's island during the peak of the struggle forrights' (here again the name in deliberately omitted.) It imprisoned many activists of a famous movement.
8. No filed of music had been left un-experimented by this great musician. Foremost innovator of global music. First artiste to introduce Indian music to the West. He has played with renowned maestros like Yehudi Menuhin. He has played music for flute virtuoso Jean Pierre Ranipal. He has also played music for Yamamoto.
9. She recently became the 2000th personality to be honoured with a star set into the Hollywood Boulevard when she took her place on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
10. It became the first Indian company to be listed among the 50 largest firms in the world's emerging markets by US magazine Business Week. (July - 94)

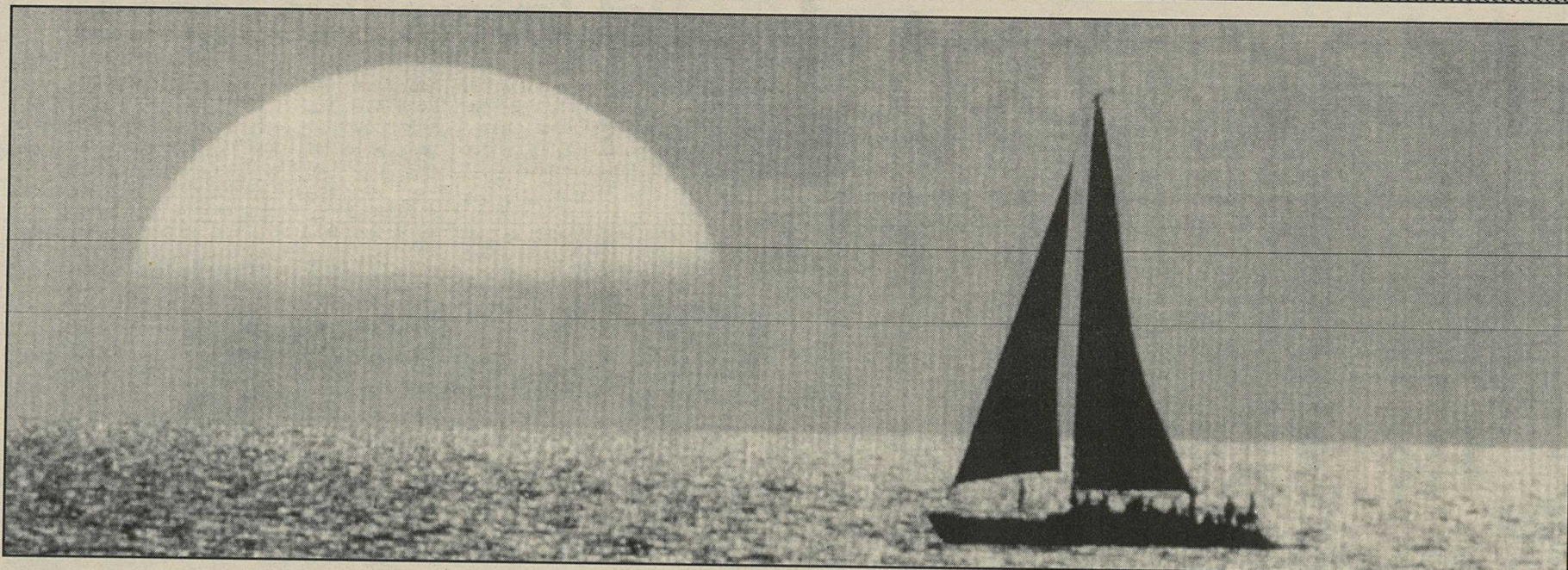
CLUE NO. 2

1. She is the fattest woman as per the Guinness Book of Records.
2. 'Think big' was the multi-million pound property rental empire built up by them.
3. She claimed to be the niece of Nelson Mandela.
4. He held various ministerial port-folios and then the post of vice president before becoming the president of his country.
5. He is from UK.
6. The name of the tribes mentioned is the Huns.
7. It is in South Africa and the people of course are the blacks, the victims of Spartheid.
8. He is the son of Shyam Shankar, a well known figure in the field of dance, brother of internationally acclaimed dancer Uday Shankar. He also happens to be the disciple of Ustad Allauddin Khan.
9. When this happened she was 50 and her inspiring message for others setting out on the rocky road to fame was 'May their dreams come true as my dreams came true'.
10. It is India's largest private sector company.

CLUE NO. 3

1. She is from Flint, Michigan.
2. The last name of the identical twins is the name of a cereal, an unavoidable daily dish of millions of Asian.
3. She was perhaps the first black to vote in the history of South Africa (now this claim is being disputed)
4. The country referred to is the largest populated democracy of the world i.e. India.
5. He was the former leader of opposition Labour Party.
6. He was finally defeated at Chelon-sur-Marine in 451 AD.
7. Nelson Mandela was imprisoned here for almost three decades for having opposed apartheid.
8. Sitar is his instrument. He is from India.
9. Her first name is Sophia.
10. It paid a record dividend of 51% for the year 1993 to its shareholders.

Answers on Page X



Let yourself Goa

Given that we knew a cold winter was firmly entrenched back home, it seemed madness to think of leaving Vaiguinim beach for even a moment.

Like most of Goa's 60 miles of coastline, its seductive formula is soft sand, swaying palms and the lapping waves of the Arabian Sea, all under a dependably cobalt blue sky that deepens at dusk to produce sensationally romantic sunsets.

Goans are working hard at their tourism, or, rather, as hard as their laid-back, Mediterranean approach to life permits.

Leaving the state's prime industry -- the mining and export of iron ore -- to non-Goans prepared to slog under the midday sun, 20 per cent of Goans have now given up their traditional village and farm occupations to live off tourism. Their efforts are encouraged by Europe's increasing number of direct charter flights.

But the region is in no danger of becoming a Costa del India. It has a way of life that is utterly relaxing. Goans offering something quite different from the rest of India. In a way, they make Goa the soft entry for those worried but fascinated by the subcontinent.

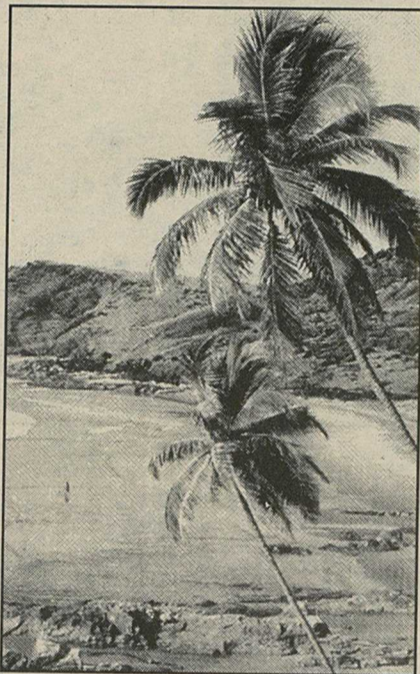
There is little of the aggressive north Indian shop-keeping here -- spending highlights are buying cheap sunglasses near Calangute beach, giant fresh cashew nuts at Zantyes in Panaji, bargain silk at the Silk House there, and half-price Benetton clothes at the franchises in Panaji and the Leela Beach Resort.

The beaches come in every shape, size and mood, the more magical and private ones to the north, the seemingly endless ones to the south. Almost all are silver-sanded, with the odd exception where iron dust gives the silver a harmless and acceptable tarnish.

It is just possible to tire of beach life, however, so we decided it was time for an expedition. Clutching our binoculars and bottles of Bisleri water, we splashed through the warm waves and clambered into a large Goan canoe made of mango wood strapped together with coir.

Our guide and boatman chugged out across Mormugao bay, into the mouth of the Zuari River and up the twisting Cumbarjua Canal.

We were soon squealing with excitement to see a big, fat crocodile



sunning itself on the mangrove banks. Two hours later it was the birds that held the stage -- the croc was almost forgotten.

Elegant herons minced among the mangrove roots; a dazzling golden oriole swooped across our bow; a great Indian bustard cruised above, its chestnut wings catching the sunlight; and we counted four different species of neon-bright kingfishers.

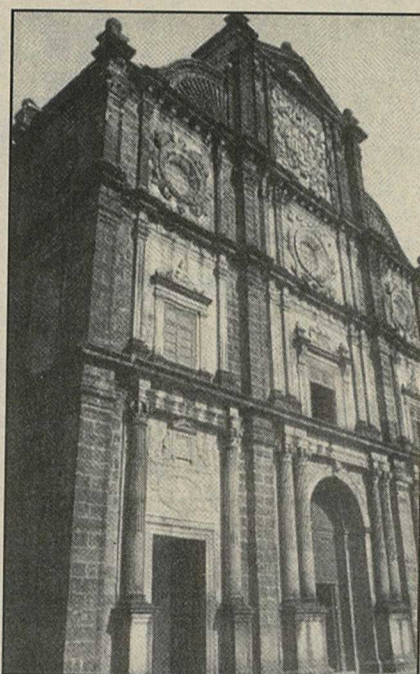
Travelling downstream along the Mandovi River you can glimpse building towers poking up above the dense palm groves; from the water these and the riverside Viceroy's Arch are the only clues that you have arrived at Old Goa.

For a century, from 1510, when Albuquerque conquered Goa, this spot was not only Portugal's principal Indian port but also the focus of her powerful seaborne empire, which stretched from east Africa to Malacca. Fortunes wobbled later, but Portugal clung on to Goa right up to 1961, 24 years after British India became independent.

In its heyday, visitors claimed Goa rivaled Lisbon in splendour. Today, the busy riverside mint, the traders and their galleons are all gone, as are the pious men of the cloth and the dissolute sailors.

The day we arrived was different. Two young tailors were pounding their treadle Singer sewing machines, shaded from the heat by a magnificent spreading rain tree.

As fast as they stitched together



pieces of cloth plucked from the huge piles lying around them, so their mates fixed each length on to a bamboo scaffolding to make a multi-coloured patchwork awning.

Beneath completed areas, fluorescent lighting was being rigged up to questionable safety standards.

In general, however, there is not the calibre of sublime architecture south India possesses.

Trips into the Goa hinterland, increasingly dotted with brash new homes built with Middle Eastern earnings, are to visit the gently fading mansions of the charming former aristocracy now on harder times.

It's well worth investing in a taxi for a day or so (roughly \$30 a day, less if you can bust their cartels around hotels) to do a little beach-hopping. There is no coast road: Lanes run down to the beaches from the main roads, which meander through undulating countryside planted with coconut palms and cashew nut trees.

They pass Portuguese forts (Agua-da and Chapora are well worth a visit) and villages where old and young laze on their "balcaos" -- the porch in front of the house furnished with built-in seats.

The beaches themselves are mostly under-shaded, making a suitcaseful of high-factor sun cream an essential, together with a deep respect for the midday sun -- jaunty parasols are, mercifully, few and far apart.

So, too, contrary to popular belief,

are hippies. Modern hippies, often cleanshaven and beardless, seem to confine themselves to the northern beaches and look suspiciously as though they have a gold American Express card tucked away in a back pocket.

Alongside the beaches there are plenty of hotels and guesthouses, but not many are visible from the sands. Coastal beauty is now protected by a 650-foot building rule. Thus the older Taj Holiday Village, Cidade de Goa and Goan Heritage open directly on to the sand, while the newer hotels, from the all-singing, all-dancing Leela Beach Resort down to charming guesthouses, are set back and so cannot provide one of the most pleasurable experiences of a seaside holiday: Lying in bed at night listening to the rhythm of the waves.

Around the hotels, and especially in the Candolim, Calangute and Baga beach areas, there are cafes and restaurants in a quantity found nowhere else on the subcontinent.

Panaji's Venite and the Panjim Inn are in the Latin quarter, Fonthainas, where Portuguese is still spoken and tiny bar-cafes serve a lethal tequila-like cocktail of coconut feni with salt and lime juice.

Food is based on the local sea and river produce such as lobster, king-size shrimp and pomfret, which respond well to a mixture of robust Portuguese and Indian traditions.

There are also delightful beach cafes -- really palm-leaf shacks -- which sprout up along any well-used beach and are liable to have menus listing grilled giant prawns, slice of fresh pineapple and, leftover from hippier times, porridge and peanut butter sandwiches.

If you find yourself wanting a change, the rest of India is readily accessible. Indeed, many packages offer trips up north to the Taj Mahal and Rajasthan, down south to Tamil Nadu's temples or over the Western Ghats on to the Deccan plain to see the lost, magnificent city of Vijayanagar -- a splendid train journey goes part of the way, from Margao to Bhubli.

But maybe it is easier just to ask one of the fishermen mending his nets to take you out for a morning, or to join a boat trip to Grand Island for a barbecue and some snorkeling (bring your own mask and flippers), or to go scuba diving, or take a sunset cruise to spot porpoises.

That's Life

Pet lovers live longer

People who own a dog or cat live an average of five years longer than those who don't, according to a new survey by psychologists.

"We have found that a pet — particularly a dog or cat — is less stressful than a child or a grand-child and is good medicine for loneliness," German psychologist Dr. Gerhard Brehm explained.

FLEAS AND QUACKERS!



Will bananas help chain-smoking chimp kick the habit?



When you feel like smoking a cigarette, reach for a banana instead — that's what Pete, a chain-smoking chimp, does.

But the puffing primate's owner, Jim Garvin, is going to make sure his pet kicks the habit. He's also weaning Pete off cigarettes with nicotine patches.

"We're a bit worried about the cigarettes and matches. He could set fire to the straw in his cage," Garvin said.

Pete, 26, has been

hooked on the wicked weed since a tourist threw him a cigarette and a box of matches several years ago. Pete popped the cigarette in his mouth and lit up.

Now Garvin has given up smoking and he reckons Pete should do the same thing.

Although the chimp loves his ciggies, he much prefers bananas.

So every time Pete gets the urge to smoke, zookeepers at Causeway Safari Park give him a banana instead.

Dad has 60 kids!

When a judge asked an accused drug dealer to list his assets, he named his kids — all 60 of them.

"I have 60 children," Glovis Arteaga Encinas, 65, told startled US Magistrate Peter Palermo.

"Did you say 60?" responded the shocked judge. Glovis explained he had tied the knot five times, starting when he was 16.

The aging drug suspect arrived on a flight from Bolivia with 5.6 pounds of cocaine strapped to his back and thighs, according to agents.

99-year-old still behind the wheel — and he'll keep on driving till he drops!

The one thing John H. Chapman wants to do more than anything is to still be driving when he hits 100 — and that milestone is less than a year off!

"You that's what I want...to be able to say I was still driving a car at the age of 100," the 99-year-old former mechanic admitted.

And the amazing thing is, he seems a shoe-in to do it. For one thing, he just breezed through a driving test to get a new license. For another, he's as mentally sharp and physically spry as a lot of people half his age.

And to top it all off, he has a spiffy, '91 four-door General Motors Saturn that's logged only 5,000 miles on the odometer. "It's a good car...just right for me," he said. "I don't take long trips. I use it for driving around town doing

my errands and coming home.

"The best car I've ever had was an Oldsmobile. But I have to say that because I worked for the Oldsmobile Division of General Motors for a long, long time."

If you think that John is just another old codger who's too old to be on the road, think again. His pet peeve is older folks who drive too slow for the flow of traffic.

"You get on the freeway and there's a slow mover nine times out of 10 you look over and it's an old gray-hair. I say, if you can't keep up with the traffic, maybe you ought not be on the road.

"If I can be driving my car when I hit 100, I'll be happy," John said. "That would really be great. That would be an accomplishment."



Was he a traitor passing on a nation's secrets or the victim of a woman's revenge?

Throughout the summer of 1947 Claude Fabre's regular disappearances from his office in the French Ministry of Information became at first a departmental joke then something considerably more serious.

As deputy chief of the ministry's external affairs department, 40-year-old Fabre, an elegant university honour graduate, was largely a government public relations man mixing with foreign diplomats. The problem was he was never around when he was wanted.

His colleagues at first assumed that Fabre was conducting a clandestine affair. After all his wife, Yvonne, a dumpy blonde who lived in a world of hairdressing and clothes-buying, never accompanied her husband to the theatre or the opera.

They had little in common and in the past, Fabre had had discreet affairs with the wives of colleagues but had ended them before they became serious.

Now, as his disappearances from the office became more frequent, colleagues began to wonder whether Claude Fabre had got himself seriously involved with some mysterious lady-friend.

Nor were they apparently the only ones to take an interest in Fabre's private life. In August, 1947, the security services, tipped off about his behaviour, began an investigation into his private life.

A few weeks spent following Fabre, tapping his phone and intercepting his mail,



Claude Fabre

at the Soviet Embassy in Paris who was suspected of working for Soviet Intelligence.

Five weeks later, security men made an early-morning call on Fabre in his flat near the Place De La Concorde. As a result he appeared before a District Court in October 1947 accused of five charges involving breaches of security.

Maitre Rene Cherete, prosecuting, alleged that Louise D'Flette "an experienced temptress", had passed on a variety of security secrets obtained from Fabre.

These included the future deployment of French Air Force jet fighters and top-secret radar installations. This information, claimed the prosecution, had fallen into Russian hands and Fabre was directly responsible.

For two days the court was closed to the public while the prosecution have evidence concerning details of the espionage involved. Then at a public session a security agent known only as R. testified that he had followed Fabre for several weeks. With the aid of an eavesdropping device he had

listened in on conversations between the lovers.

Asked Maitre Daniel Boame for the defence: "Did you hear the accused pass over state secrets to this young woman?" to which R. replied: "We heard him communicate numerous pieces of information of a military nature, including some deliberately false, which had been made available to him in his department."

Maitre Boame: "I put it to you that this

WAS THE LADY A LOVER ... OR A SPY?

gave security chiefs the information they wanted: Claude Fabre was having an affair with a tall dark-haired divorcee named Louise D'Flette, a 34-year-old executive in a Paris theatre management organisation.

The revelation was about to be dismissed with a Gallic shrug when something more ominous was discovered: Louise D'Flette's sister was married to a Russian - an official

was merely casual conversation resulting from the lady asking Fabre what sort of day he had had." Replied R.: "I did not get that impression. It seemed to me that definite information was being passed on."

Appearing as a witness for the prosecution, Louise D'Flette said that Fabre had asked her to pass on envelopes of material to her brother-in-law at the Soviet Embassy. She was reluctant to do so but he persisted and eventually she agreed.

She told the court: "I was very much in love with him and thought that I might lose him if I didn't do as he asked. When asked by the defence if she had been told that she would not be prosecuted if she testified against Fabre, Louise D'Flette replied: "No one has promised me anything or threatened me."

In court, Claude Fabre declared that he was "the victim of a woman's vengeance." The relationship with Louise D'Flette had ended acrimoniously and his former mistress was now determined to get her own back.

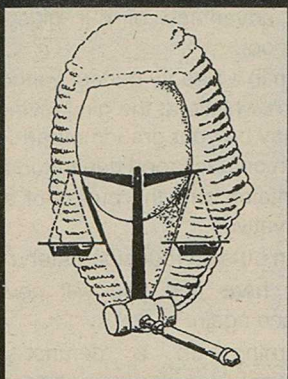
He told the court: "I never passed on any security secrets to anyone. My relationship with this woman was purely personal and emotional. In fact I did not know anything about the nationality of her brother-in-law or his position in the Soviet Embassy until these investigations started.

"He said that in his job he had no access to security material and had never made any attempt to gather any from other departments. "I wouldn't know where to start," he said.

"Why Louise D'Flette feels it is necessary to ruin me remains a complete mystery to me. The whole thing is a setup. I am innocent of everything except an unwise love-affair."

Would YOU have found Claude Fabre guilty of espionage?

THE VERDICT IS YOURS



Claude Fabre was found not guilty on all charges and discharged. In May 1948, Fabre and Louise D'Flette defected to East Germany. It was believed they were given jobs in Russian foreign affairs services.

Mystery of the bird of death

The afternoon that 10-year-old Sarah Hallett told her mother that she had seen a white bird sitting outside her bedroom window, Mrs Elizabeth Hallett felt as though a knife had been twisted in her heart.

"What sort of bird was it?" she asked as casually as she could although her heart was beating furiously and she felt cold shivers down her spine.

"A big white bird like a dove," Sarah replied. "It just sat outside the window looking at me. Then it just disappeared. I didn't see it fly away. I wonder what it was."

Elizabeth Hallett said nothing but she feared that she knew exactly what it was. The white bird of death was traditionally seen in the garden of the Corner House, a 17th century manor house on England's north-west coast, when some member of the household hadn't long to live.

Sarah, the Hallett's youngest daughter, had been seriously ill with a chest infection throughout the summer of 1931. Now the family had been assured that she was on the road to recovery. Could the appearance of the white bird mean that the doctors were tragically wrong?

Elizabeth Hallett reasoned, it was high time such tales were dismissed as superstition? The next morning, when Sarah seemed no worse for her experience, Elizabeth mentioned to her husband that their daughter had seen the white bird.

She was totally unprepared for the future that followed. Her husband, furious that she had delayed so long in telling him, roared off in his car to the local vicarage to ask the vicar to conduct the service of exorcism which had been used for centuries when ever the white bird was seen at the Corner House.

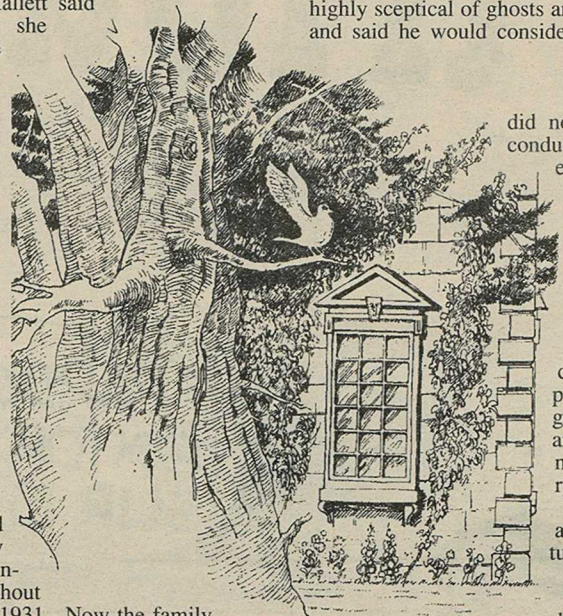
It was the first time the vicar, a young man who had been in the parish only a few months, had heard about the curse. He was highly sceptical of ghosts and superstitions and said he would consider the matter.

Later he telephoned to say that he did not feel able to conduct the ceremony.

In her husband's absence, Elizabeth Hallett had called in the family doctor who examined the child and reported she was getting better and there was nothing to worry about.

So comparative peace returned to the Corner House ... but not for long. Shortly

after midnight that night, the household was aroused by piercing screams coming from Sarah's bedroom. Her parents rushed to the child's side and



STRANGER THAN FICTION

Was a ten-year-old girl the latest victim of a centuries-old curse?

Elizabeth Hallett said nothing to her husband Charles about what their daughter had seen. He knew all about the legendary white bird of death. His grandmother had died hours after she claimed that a white bird had fluttered frantically around her bedroom.

And only five years earlier, Charles Hallett's father, a vigorous man in his early sixties, had seen a white bird hovering around the stable yard. No one else had seen it and he had mentioned it to his son.

Then Colonel Hallett mounted his favourite Cleveland Bay mare and left for a day's hunting. When he returned it was as a corpse. The horse had hesitated at a jump and Colonel Hallett had fallen heavily, shattering his spine. He was dead within minutes. Legend had it that in the 18th century a daughter of the family had seen the bird on the morning of her wedding day and pleaded with her father to postpone the ceremony. He said it was impossible and that the wedding should go ahead.

During the ceremony, a former suitor of the girl, inflamed with drink and jealousy, shot the bridegroom as he was kneeling at the altar. The assassin was attacked by guests and wounded so seriously that he died a few hours later.

But all that was a long time ago. Surely,

found her sitting up in bed beating frantically at the empty air.

"Don't let the bird hurt me," she screamed. Her mother, acting instinctively, snatched a Bible from a bookcase and began to read out loud. Slowly the child's hysteria subsided and she fell into a fitful sleep.

"I don't remember what I read," Elizabeth Hallett recalled, "but a feeling of calm seemed to sweep over the room." The doctor was called and found that the child had apparently suffered from some mysterious nervous shock.

But Sarah Hallett didn't die and the white bird was cheated of its victim. Or so it seemed. The child grew up, and in 1941 was a 20-year-old nurse in a hospital in the thick of the London blitz. One Sunday afternoon in October Sarah and her room-mate at St Stephen's Hospital were relaxing when Sarah suddenly clutched at her throat. "It's trying to choke me," she gasped. "It's taking my breath away."

Her room-mate called a doctor. By the time he arrived, Sarah was unconscious, her pulse faltering and feeble. She died two hours later and an inquest recorded an open verdict. But to the Hallett family the cause of her death was quite clear.

The bird of death had patiently waited ten years to claim its inevitable victim.

Damn the pinkos, and thank God it's not a perfect world! All comedy, all humour, perhaps arises from our enjoyment of other people's mistakes and imperfections, and if there is a place of perfection where there is nothing to laugh about, then I don't want to be there!

If, like me, you regard laughter as a blessing, and think of the jugular as a sacred vein, you too ought to pay tribute to error.

To me, it seems not only human but also wise to err. So highly do I esteem misprints that if I were to edit a

Chand Rangwani compiles a wacky miscellany of misprints, malapropos and Freudian slips

marriage of their daughter....

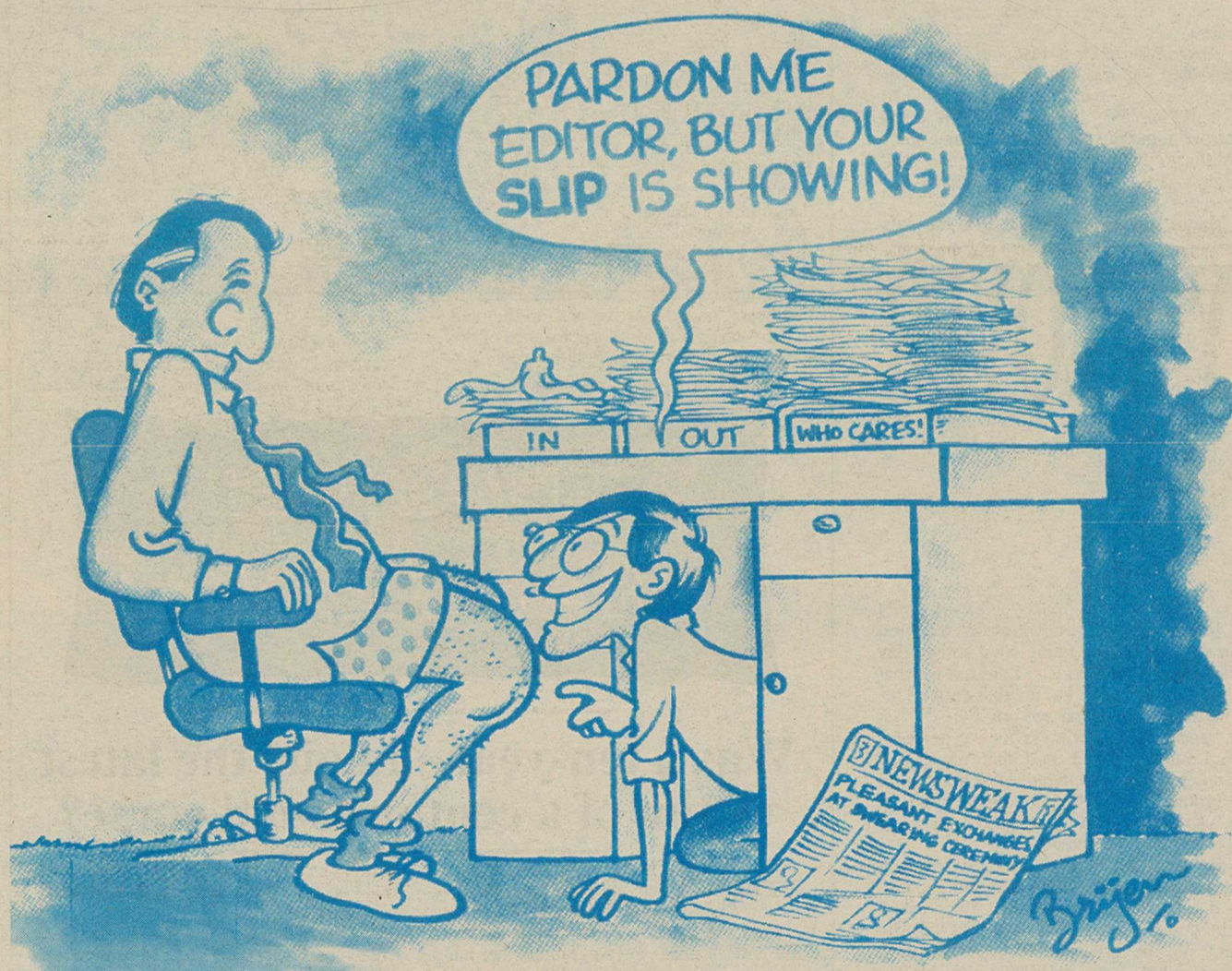
Investigators into last night's inferno say that a crossed wife may have led to the fire.

We regret our proof-reader's error in yesterday's edition which stated that 'Mr Sawant is a defective in the police force.'

The correct line should read 'Mr Sawant is a detective in the police force.' We apologise to the concerned officer.

The three-day outing at Pushkar is climaxed by a huge festival which practically doubles the town's population each year. (From a travel magazine.)

A tribute to error



newspaper, I would make sure that there is at least an amusing misprint in every page to add gaiety to all this news of great sombriety.

I'm sure the paper will sell that much better, since it will allow each one of our esteemed readers a daily squeal of delight at his own wisdom and a daily reason for writing a letter to the editor.

Here, then, are some examples (all real, of course):

HAUNTING HEADLINES

Miss World unveils bust at dedication ceremony

Deceased accused of fleeing site after accident

Rain makes roads impassable for drought-relief vehicles

High court directive to rape accused.

NUTTY NEWS-LINES

The area in which the film star was hurt is famous for its great beauty. (On actress Sonu Walia getting injured in Ooty.)

His friends could give no explanation on why he should have committed suicide. He was single.

When the baby is done with the drinking it must be unscrewed and laid in a cool place under the tap. If the baby does not thrive on fresh milk, it should be boiled. (Instruction on bottle-feeding procedure in a 'child-care' mag.)

To love and cherish, in sickness and in health, for poorer or richer, until

debt do us part. (Overheard at a Catholic wedding.)

Pakistan better not fool around with the nuclear bomb.

It is dynamite. (A home minister's statement at a press conference.)

His father was a civil serpent too. (Extract from an article accusing a prominent bureaucrat of corruption.)

The esteemed minister, who has been sick for several days, is now in bed with a coed.

They were married and lived happily even after.

The newly-formed Women's Orchestra is rather weak in the bras section.

Mr and Mrs Popley request the pleasure of your presents at the

AWFUL ADS

We offer special 'English Improvement' classes in which, student be able to very much improve their spoken and writted English and speak like foreign. Even Kapil Dev be coming to us. Contact quickly: *Rapidex Tutoirals*.

Ad inserted to announce arrival of a grandson: A seven pound bonny baby arrived last night to frighten the lives of Pappu and Sharda Gupta.

Under which, was another ad from the same family:

Mrs Sharda Gupta pleased to announce arrival of seven pound baby boy. And of loss of 20 pounds.

'SITUATIONS VACANT' AD

Prominent High Court liar is searching for a pretty and accomplished deceptionist to help him deal with clients. Salary and pecks negotiable.

AD IN A LONDON PAPER

Indian Vegetarian Restaurant: Proprietor: Jyotindra Pattni cooks proprietors mother-in-law + wife.

MISCELLANY MADNESS

Sign on a photocopying machine: Employees are not to interfere with the typist's reproduction equipment without the manager's express permission — Manager.

Sign in a 5-star hotel offering 'Girl Friday' services:

Executives who have no secretaries of their own are welcome to take the fullest advantage of our girls in the steno pool.

Sign in a beauty parlour window: Don't whistle at the girl leaving here. She may be your grandmother!

Sign on packaged health food: Contains only the purest of artificial preservatives.

Sign outside roadside eatery: Eat here and you will never eat anyplace again.

Warning on a defunct public telephone: Beware! This machine is coiniverous!

Telegram received by a divorced wife:

Bangkok is beautiful. Am having a wonderful time. Wish you were her.