

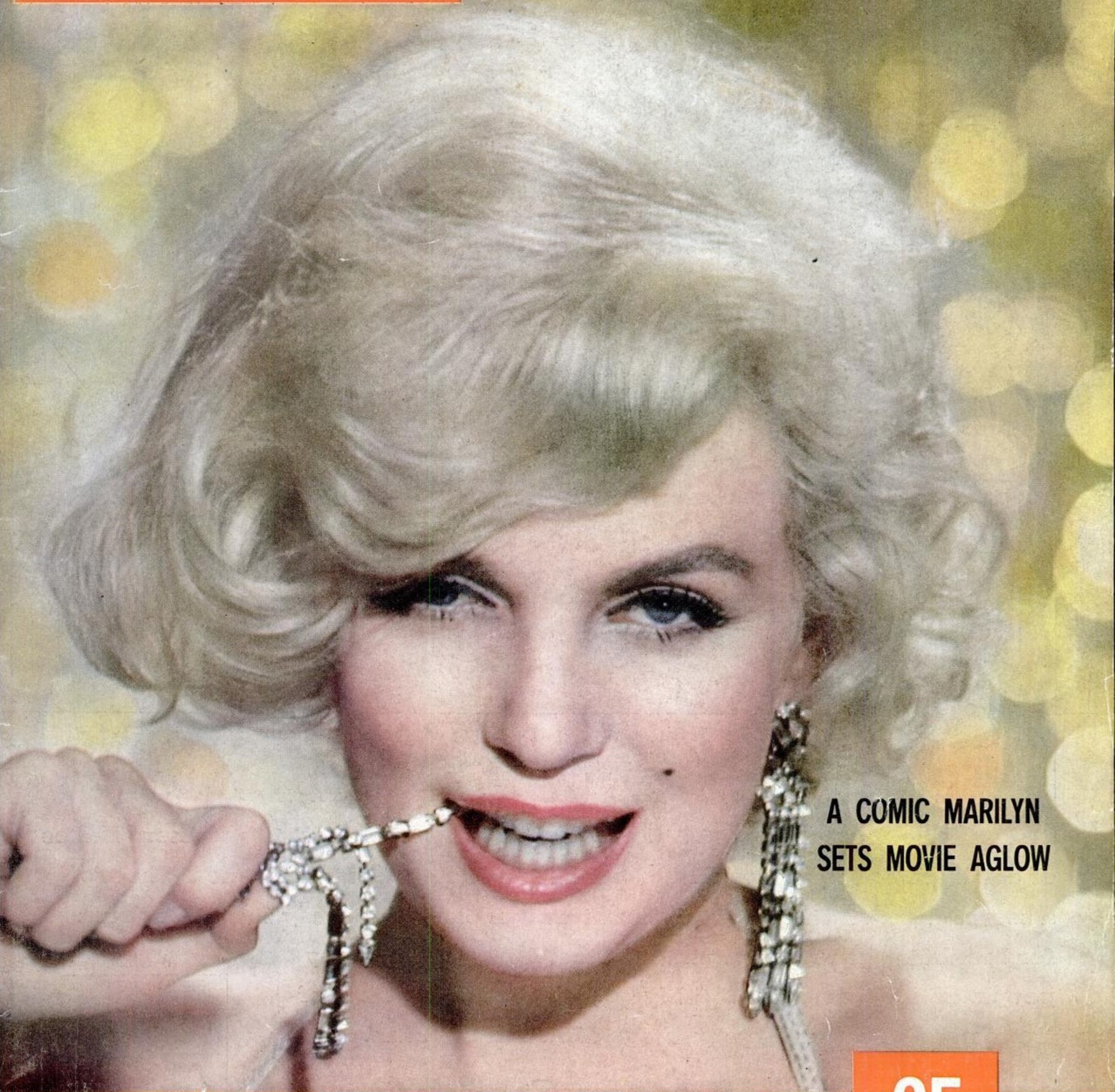
LIFE

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HOW THE WEST WAS WON: PART III



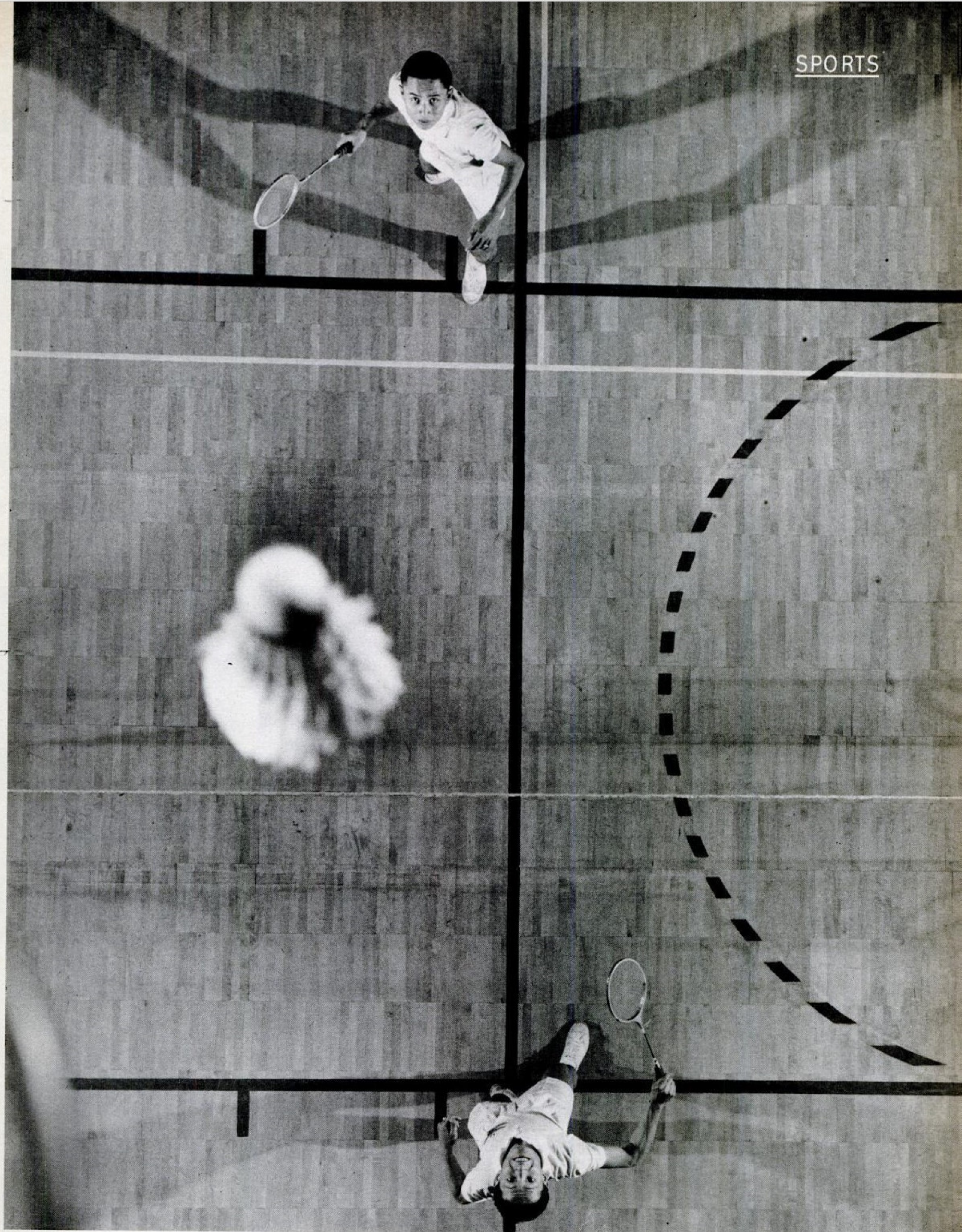
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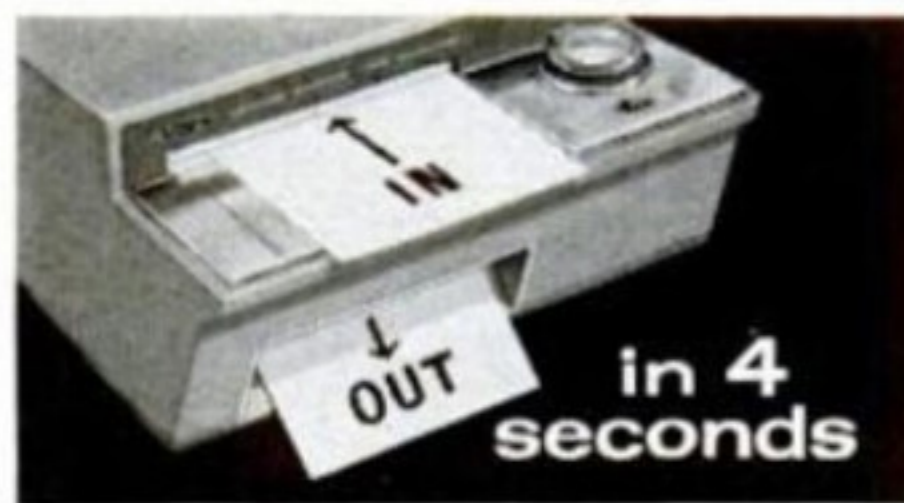
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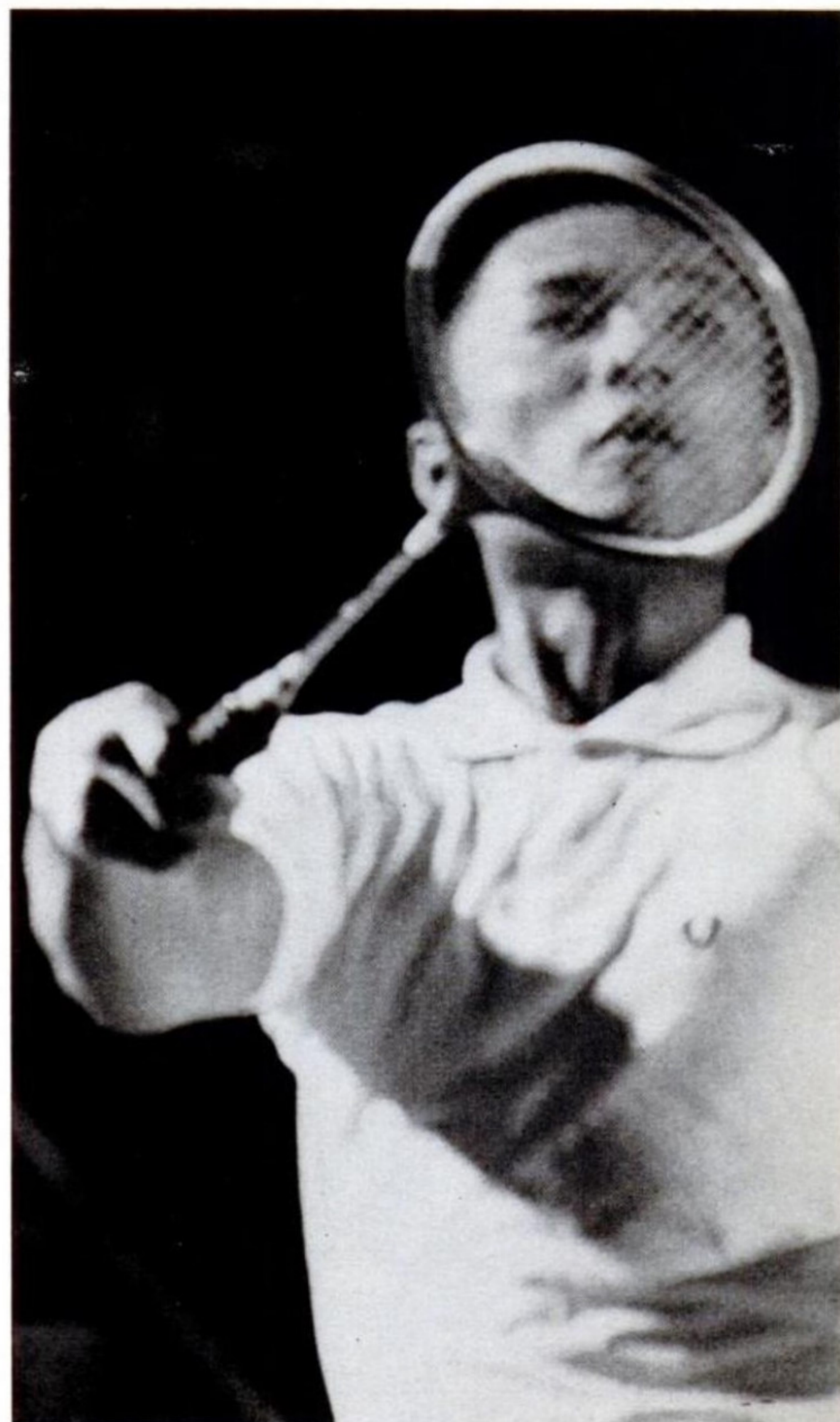
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BEST WITH 'BIRD' CONTINUED

INDONESIAN WINS AT BADMINTON

The man at the top of the preceding page is the world's most adept player of one of the world's fastest games. He is Tan Joe Hok of Indonesia, and his opponent, who has just knocked up a high lob, is Charoen Wattanasin of Thailand. After these two young Asians had routed America's best players in the U.S. badminton championships in Michigan, they came up against each other in the finals. Then the feathers really flew. When it was all over, 21-year-old Tan had proved again that nobody, not even a fellow Far Easterner, could match his dazzling array of shots.

In the small countries of the Far East, badminton is a national sport, taken very seriously. Tan Joe Hok (Hok means Lucky) learned to bat a shuttlecock playing on a thatch-roofed court against his father, mother and three sisters. Quickly mastering all of badminton's basic shots, he also developed a devastating, difficult-to-return slicing stroke. Last summer Tan led his Indonesian team to the world badminton championship, deposing the Malaysians who had held the title for the last decade. But now about to enter Baylor University as a pre-medical student, Tan may have to give badminton the bird. "If I don't study hard, I could get better," he says. "But I think I'll study hard."



FACE IN A FRAME, Tan Joe Hok reaches out to bat the bird during U.S. badminton championships at Grosse Pointe. He did not lose a set until finals.