

Sport

Fredericks wonders what it'd be

PARIS, June 12: Frankie Fredericks showed his mettle in atrocious conditions here Fri-day for a 100 metres triumph which left him wondering which event to run the World Championships, reports AFP.

"I can't make up my mind whether to run just the 100m or both 100 and 200," said the 25-year-old from Namibia who beat world champion Michael Johnson over half a lap in Rome on Wednesday.

Fredericks, runner-up in both sprints in last year's Olympics, ran 10.51 sec into the win and rain.

Brany Surin, whose 60m indoor triumph in the World Championships in March, went a tiny way to erasing Canada's Ben Johnson drugs scandal, was second in 10.53.

In the 1,500m, Nureddin Morceli's world record attempt was doomed from the start but the Algerian took off 600m from the finish for a commendable win in three minutes 36 seconds.

Qatar's Mohamed Suleiman, Barcelona bronze medalist whose 3:35.22 in Rome on Wednesday survived as the season's fastest, was a distant second.

Morceli, world champion in 1991 but an inept seventh in Barcelona, ran a blistering 3:28.82 world record last September.

Hassiba Boulmerka, Algeria's other metric mile champion, obviously did not like the weather. The world and Olympic champion finished a forlorn fifth in the women's race.

Sunday Bada of Nigeria won the 400m in 46.00 sec but Jean-Louis Rapanouil responded to the local support to squeeze Roger Black out of second place.

The Briton, 1991 World Championship silver medalist, eased up for an unfamiliar 46.55 but he has had too many injuries in the past to know when not to take undue risks.

The pole vaulters his caution and after world record holder, Sergei Bubka ran through the pit a third time the contest was cancelled.

Olympic silver medalist Winthrop Graham cocked a snook at the elements with a track record of 48.68 sec for the 400m hurdles.

World champions Samuel Maitee of Zambia, who beat him

in Bratislava 10 days ago, was fourth. He never moved into top gear.

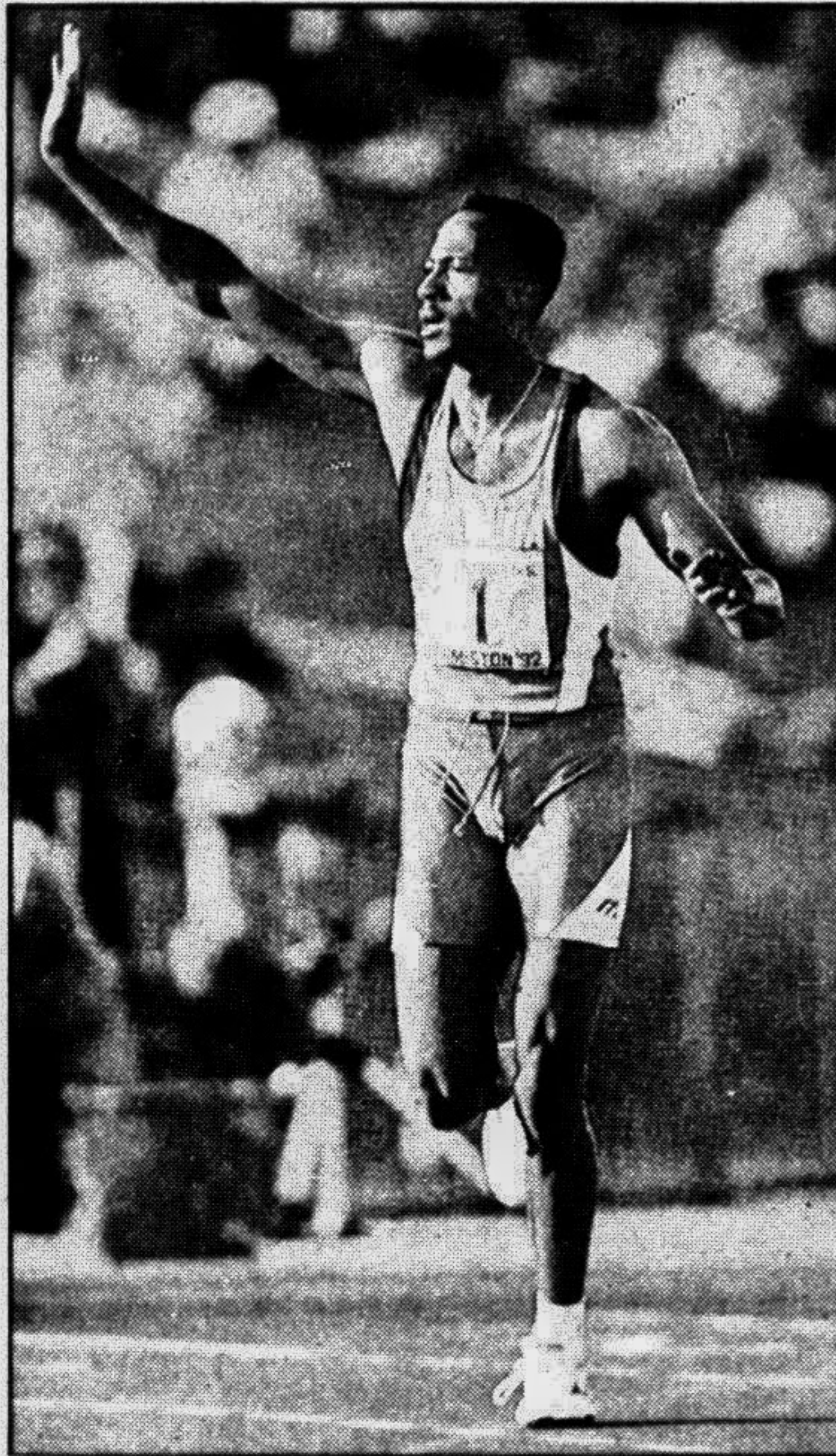
Olympic champion Mark McKoy of Canada outleaped China's Li Tong by two hundredths of a second for a high hurdles win in 13.55 sec.

Olympic 10,000m champion

run in the World Championships in Stuttgart in August.

Jamaica's Merlene Ottey was beaten into third place, behind the Russian Galina Malguchina.

Olympic high-jump champion Javier Sotomayer won his event comfortably with a leap of



FRANKIE FREDERICKS

Khalid Skah produced his usual last lap burst to win the 5,000m in an impressive time for the conditions. The Moroccan clocked 13 min 15 sec.

France's world and Olympic 400m champion Marie-Jo Pirec won the 200m in 23.20 sec in her first outing of the year, and now faces a similar dilemma to Fredericks about which race to

2.31 m. Poland's Artur Partika was second in 2.24, beating Sweden's Patrik Sjoberg, who cleared the same height, into third and reversing their Barcelona positions.

Morocco's Abdell Aziz Sahere outkicked Olympic silver medalist Patrick Sang of Kenya to win the 3,000m steeplechase in 8:25.56.

Bad news for O'Brien

NEW YORK, June 12: Dan O'Brien, the decathlon world record holder, has been hit by a new injury that threatens his chances of going to the World Championships, reports AFP.

O'Brien, who missed the Barcelona Olympics after flopping in the US trials, has a prostate infection and already missed five days training this week. He will not resume exercise until the day before the US trials for the World Championships at Eugene, Oregon next Tuesday.

O'Brien was injured just before the indoor World Championships, but still took the pentathlon with a new record total. Last month he missed a week of training because of dental pains.

His coach Mike Keller said the cause of the illness was a mystery.

"No one knows what will happen next week," added Keller.

O'Brien expects to come through the first day of competition without problem. "But things will certainly be a lot more difficult on the second day with all the jumps and races from the day before," Keller said.

"Brian missed the Olympics after scoring a zero in the pole vault at the American trials, but just after the Games took the world record with a score of 8,891 points at Talence in France.

Keller said O'Brien hoped to score between 8,200 and 8,300 points at the trials in Eugene. He reckons this would put the world record holder into one of the top three positions and get a place at the World Championships in Stuttgart.

Lisa Ondieki to skip World Championships

NEW YORK, June 12: Australian marathon star Lisa Ondieki confirmed here Friday she would not be running in the World Championships in Stuttgart in August even with the incentive of brand new Mercedes for the winners, reports AFP.

"What if you finish second or third? You get nothing, except a medal," Ondieki, who is here for a 10km road race today, stormed.

"Cars don't buy food. They can't give money to the athletes? It's pathetic."

Her husband, the Kenyan 5,000m world champion Yobes Ondieki already won a Mercedes he won in the New York Marathon last year as well as two other cars, she pointed out.

The Australian denied she ran purely for money but insisted: "I have to support my family."

"I run about two marathons a year and I don't want to waste one of them with all the training and the preparation that it takes — to run for no money."

Ondieki has asked the Australian Federation not to select her for the World Championships, thereby avoiding possible IAAF sanctions against athletes who refuse to take part in the championships following the row about appearance money.

Chelimo earns his right to be at Stuttgart

NAIROBI, June 12: Kenya's Olympic silver medalist Richard Chelimo qualified for the World Championships here when he stormed to victory in the 10,000m during the Kenyan Armed Forces Championships, reports AFP.

Running at Nairobi's 1,800-metre altitude, Chelimo won Friday's race in 27 min 55.7 seconds, inside the World Championships' qualifying time of 28:07.0.

The 22-year old soldier's time was the fastest by a Kenyan this year.

Russian spikers still unbeaten

TOKYO, June 12: Russia defeated Japan 3-1 here Saturday to remain the only unbeaten team in the 12-nation World League men's volleyball tournament, reports AFP.

The Russian spikers ran out 15-11, 9-15, 17-15, 15-7 winners at the Tokyo metropolitan gymnasium stretching their match-winning streak to seven in the six-team Group A preliminary competition.

Russia have beaten the United States, Germany and Greece twice each over the past three weeks.

It was the fourth defeat against three wins for the Japanese, who suffered a major setback when they lost their ace spiker Yuichi Nakagachi through injury during the first set.

"We thought we had a chance to beat Russia because they committed many errors, but it's too bad that my players' stamina ran out faster than them on our home ground. Without Nakagachi, team begins to get out of rhythm," said Japan's head coach Seiji Oko.

The two teams will meet again on Sunday.



Singapore Minister for Trade and Finance Teo Chee Heam holds the torch for 17th Southeast Asian Games as he stands on a dragon boat during the torch relay on Friday. The 500 km relay covering the whole of Singapore ended yesterday with the opening ceremony at the National Stadium. — AFP photo

SEA Games cauldron set afire

SINGAPORE, June 12: Singapore President Wee Kim Wee declared open Saturday the region's biggest sports carnival, the Southeast Asia (SEA) Games, amid a display of pageantry before a capacity crowd at the National Stadium, reports AFP.

"I declare open the 17th Southeast Asia Games," Wee said to the applause of some 4,000 competitors and officials from the nine participating countries who had assembled on the field in front of him.

To further applause of the capacity crowd of 55,000, the Game's flames were lit and some 60 specially bred pigeons

released followed by cultural, dances, musical performances and flashcard displays.

The SEA Games flag and those of the participating nations — Brunei, Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — were then raised.

A man wearing the mask of a lion, the official games mascot, received the SEA Games torch, which ended its 48-hour journey throughout Singapore after it was lit Thursday by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

As if to reflect hi-tech Singapore, the mascot lit the tip of "Mercury Sinoe," the code-name for a sophisticated instrument that got the cauldron burning at the stadium.

Ten years ago, when Singapore last hosted the games, the torch had to be carried up a few

hundred steps and dipped into the cauldron for the flames to dance upwards to signal a symbolic start to the Games.

Singapore has spent 15 million dollars (about nine million US) to prepare for the Games, which will last nine days and cover 29 sports.

The colourful opening ceremony was relayed live to about 100 million viewers in the region. Of the Southeast Asian countries, only war-torn Cambodia was absent.

Indonesia, the region's most populous nation and traditionally the most powerful participant at the Games, is strongly favoured to again take the lion's share of the 317 gold medals at stake.

This is the third time Singapore has hosted the biennial Games. Thailand are the hosts to the next Games in 1995.

Thai athletes at tether's end

SINGAPORE, June 12: The use of army trucks to ferry Thai competitors to training venues in the 17th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games has irked the squad from Thailand, reports AFP.

The Thai athletics squad, which has put up with the uncomfortable mode of transport since its arrival here Thursday, gave an ultimatum to the organisers this morning that it would not stand for such treatment any longer.

The athletes and officials said they would make arrangements for their own transport if the organisers were unable to provide them with the same air-conditioned buses as all other contingents.

The Thai athletes complained that travel in the three-tonne army trucks was bumpy and uncomfortable, describing this as unbearable.

One of the athletes, Sykanya San-Nguen, a member of the relay squad, told the Straits Times he and his team members would no longer ride in the trucks to the training venues and would play for taxis if necessary.

An official of the organising committee said today the army trucks had been brought in only because the air-conditioned buses used earlier had to be sent to the airport to fetch other competitors.

"There was a shortage of transport to carry arriving athletes from the airport to the hotel. So we used the buses given to the Thai contingent at the hotel to be sent to the airport."

"This was only a temporary measure and the Thai team will be given air-conditioned buses from now on," the official said.

Contingents from the other seven participating countries said they had been provided with air-conditioned buses since their arrival.

Thais march on

SINGAPORE, June 12: Thailand beat Brunei 5-2 while Vietnam edged the Philippines 1-0 in the Southeast Asian Games football tournament here Friday, reports AFP.

The Thais stepped up their attacks only after half-time when the teams were tied 2-2.

It was Brunei who drew first blood with a ninth minute goal through Momin Ahmad but midfielder Attapol Puspakorn equalised for Thailand five minutes later.

The Thais took the lead through Pongtorn Thubthong in the 20th minute but Brunei erased it quickly through Rosanan Samak.

About 10 minutes after the interval, ace Thai striker Piyapong Pue-On was on target, followed by a goal each by compatriots Attapol and Pongtorn.

Nguyen Manh Cuong scored the solitary goal for Vietnam in their match against the Philippines.

Chinese spikers leave US girls in a fix

SYDNEY, June 12: Spectacular spiking at the net by China left United States players sprawled all over the court as they tried to return the ball during a four-set loss at the women's world volleyball Grand Prix on Friday, reports Reuter.

China won the opening match of the three-day tournament 15-8, 15-7, 6-15, 15-5 against the Barcelona Olympic bronze medalists.

US coach Taras Liskevych said his players found the Chinese net game too strong.

"We just weren't focused and didn't serve well," he said.

China's Sun Yue, Pan Wenli and captain Lai Yawen were not only focused but well on target.

Their net play found the gaps between the US players as they spiked hard and accurately.

The United States are lying seventh overall after two rounds of the 1993 Grand Prix series.

Stich proves Becker's bane

LONDON, June 12: Michael Stich produced a repeat performance of his 1991 Wimbledon final victory to put Boris Becker out of the Queens Club tournament here on Friday, reports AFP.

"I am in the best shape ever," the German, who attributes his new-found confidence to the joys of marriage, declared after beating his compatriot 6-4, 7-6 victory to level up his career record against Becker at 3-3.

It was the first time the pair had met on grass since Stich's straight sets triumph two years ago and once again he controlled the match.

"It is always nice to beat Boris although I am not saying I have proved I am a better player," Stich said. "But this gives me confidence and shows I can do well on grass."

Becker paid credit to his

conqueror. "He is playing excellent tennis right now," the treble Wimbledon champion said.

Stich surrendered a 3-0 lead in the first set but broke again when Becker netted a forehand volley under pressure.

Both players easily held serve in the second set but Stich romped through the tie-break 7-2, clinching victory in 82 minutes when Becker drove a backhand into the net. He now plays Australia's Jamie Morgan, who upset Stefan Edberg in three sets.

"Every match I am playing better and better," said Stich, who beat another serve and volley merchant, David Wheaton, in the third round.

Stich revealed that marriage to German actress Jessica Stockman nine months ago helped put his career back on track after he slumped to 17th in the world rankings last year.

"It has helped to take from tennis when I have time to relax," said Stich who has climbed back to world no 9.

Becker, who failed to get past the second round of the French Open, put a brave face on his defeat. "I thought I played a pretty decent match," he said.

"I have had a good week, winning two matches and I am moving in the right direction."

Defending champion Wayne Ferreira broke Marc Goellner's service without once touching the ball on his way to a 6-4, 6-2 quarter-final victory over the powerful German.

Goellner, the winner of the Nice Open on clay earlier this year, produced two aces and four double-faults in the third game of the match to gift the South African a vital first-set break.



Lebanese striker Mohamad Messemani (C) dodges past an Indian defender before unleashing a shot at the goal during their World Cup Asian Zone Group D match at the Seoul Olympic Stadium on June 11. Lebanon edged past India 2-1. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

A crossword puzzle grid with clues. The clues are: ACROSS: 1 Part of a Batman costume; 5 Kissimmee's st.; 8 Hammerhead part; 12 Friend among les femmes; 13 Kurosawa movie; 14 Headlight?; 15 Excessively distrustful; 17 Incas; 18 Before; 19 Ca-boose's place; 20 Directly; 21 Gluttonize; 22 Greek X; 23 In any way; 26 Searched; 30 Bamako's country; 31 Ump's cry; 32 Goller Bob; 33 Infant in a 1987 film; 35 Inclined (to); 36 Reverential fear; 37 Baseball's; DOWN: 1 Part of a Batman costume; 2 Actor; 3 Telegram; 4 Actress; 5 Political coalition; 6 Deposited; 7 As well as; 8 Rapport; 9 Stromboli spith; 10 Guinness of screen; 11 Drudgery; 16 "Hud" Oscar winner; 20 That girl; 21 Harry and William's; grandmum; 22 Emulate Edward Scissorhands?; 23 Docs' org.; 24 Road goo; 25 Erstwhile ring king; 26 Sine — non; 27 Love seat capacity; 28 Name-to-adjective suffix; 29 Go red; 31 "A Chorus Line" show-stopper; 34 Use credit cards; 35 Notation stamped on a receipt; 37 Fern leaf; 38 Pleased; 39 French composer; 40 Skip; 41 Links warning; 42 Astronaut Eisele; 43 Eugene's daughter; 44 Distort; 46 Magazine article?; 47 Valise.

A 11x11 grid for a Cryptokuip puzzle. The grid contains numbers 1 through 53 indicating the starting positions for words. The words are: CRCF, DJRAP, AQRA, RGU, DJVBD, AJ, CU, PJXW, RBF, WRF, BJE, RGU, AQU, BUE, YVWP, JB, AQU, CXJTY. The puzzle is a substitution cipher where O is equal to O throughout.

CRYPTOQUIP
CRCF DJRAP AQRA RGU
DJVBD AJ CU PJXW
RBF WRF BJE RGU AQU
BUE YVWP JB AQU CXJTY.
Yesterday's Cryptokuip: OUR MOST FAMOUS PAINTERS ARE DISPLAYED IN THE HALL OF FRAME.
Today's Cryptokuip clue: D equals G
The Cryptokuip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.