

Christie now holds the sceptre



STUTTGART, Aug 16: Briton Linford Christie pushed his powers of concentration to new limits on Sunday as he won the world 100 metres gold medal to become the undisputed sprint king of the globe, reports Reuters.

In one of the greatest sprint finals ever seen, the 33-year-old Olympic champion defeated the three fastest men the United States could send against him, slashed a huge margin off his personal best and came within a whisker of the world record.

The veteran's stunning victory in 9.87 seconds ended the monopoly of his arch-rival Carl Lewis on the world title and nipped in the bud the extraordinary rise of Andre Cason, the heir apparent to Lewis' crown.

Despite setting a third personal record in a two-day demonstration of astonishing speed prowess, the muscle-packed Cason had to settle for the silver medal in 9.92 seconds.

Fellow-American Dennis Mitchell took the bronze in 9.99 with Lewis out of the medals in fourth place.

"Age is all in the mind," Christie said. "I think I was the best prepared person."

Asked if he had thought before that it would be possible for him to run so fast, the Briton replied: "No maybe 9.90. I never thought I could run this quick."

The race, focus of the nine-day championships, was the inevitable highlight of the second day but the Stuttgart crowd found an equally compelling emotional high in roaring Germany's darling Heike Drechsler to the women's long jump title.

Asia basked in glory with three of the six gold medals on offer. Victory in the women's marathon for Japan's Junko Asari was followed by triumphs for Andrei Abdvaltyev of Tadjikistan in the hammer and Huang Zhihong of China in the women's shot.

Even the men's 20-km walk, won by Valentin Massapa of Spain, provided unsuspected drama with a judge controversially disqualifying five athletes, including two medal contenders, just before the finish in the Daimler stadium.

But nothing could match the Jamaican-born Christie's peerless feat as he defied the natural laws which force normal mortals to slow down once they pass age of 30.

Christie, now holder of the World, Olympic, European and Commonwealth 100-titles, approached the event with a steady determination to prove to the Americans they could no longer take their sprint supremacy for granted.

Christie's face was a picture of total concentration as the eight finalists prepared for the race, his mind completely focused on getting everything dead right in the brief 10 seconds on time which determine a



Linford Christie confirms his status as the fastest man in the world by bracing the tape in men's 100m dash. He clocked 9.87 secs in the World Athletics Championships in Stuttgart to take the gold on Aug 15. Americans Andre Cason and Dennis Mitchell finished second and third respectively. — AFP photo

Asked if the victory was more satisfying than his Olympic win in Barcelona last year, Christie said: "The time is very, very quick, a European record. But the Olympics is the pinnacle of every athlete's career."

"But it's nice to be the world champion and at the same time have everybody here. It's nice to beat everybody."

Lewis, who had won gold in

probably the greatest but I think I should be up there somewhere," Christie said.

"I think this is the beginning of an era. At the same time, I'm on my way out but they've got youngsters like Andre and Dennis coming in so next year will be another year and there will be another champion. I'm just glad now is my time and I can do it now."

Christie's previous best time had been 9.92, set when Lewis ran a world record of 9.86 at the Tokyo World Championships in 1991.

Drechsler, like Christie an Olympic champion trying to add the world crown, had won the gold medal as an East German in the same stadium at the 1986 European championship.

Under her maiden name of Daute, she won the gold at the inaugural World Championships in Helsinki 10 years ago.

"The pressure of competing at home was greater than I thought," she said after hearing a packed crowd bellow a crescendo of noise as she raced down the runway.

"It's strange but I had problems with my run-up," she said. "But I'm happy. I achieved my peak in the right place at the right time."

Drechsler won with a leap of 7.11 metres, beating Ukrainian Larisa Berezhnaya into second place.

Lewis wants amateurism off



STUTTGART, Aug 16: Eight-time Olympic Champion Carl Lewis called on athletics' governing body to pay prize-money at the World Championships and get rid of what he called "the Myth of amateurism in the sport," reports Reuters.

"Those who perform the best, winning medals and setting records, should be rewarded with prize-money," Lewis wrote in an open letter to International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) president Primo Nebiolo. "You are management. The athletes are workers. When we give you an honest day of work, we are entitled to an honest day of pay," Lewis wrote.

The letter, details of which were released on the second day of the championships, will be published in the German newspaper, Stuttgarter Nachrichten, today.

The American sprinter called for world champions to be paid 100,000 dollars with other finalists receiving payments down to 5000 dollars for eighth place. Prize-money should total 10.6 million dollars and world records would be worth another 100,000 dollars.

The IAAF has refused to pay cash prizes at the Stuttgart Championships but winners receive a Mercedes car worth 30,000 dollars.

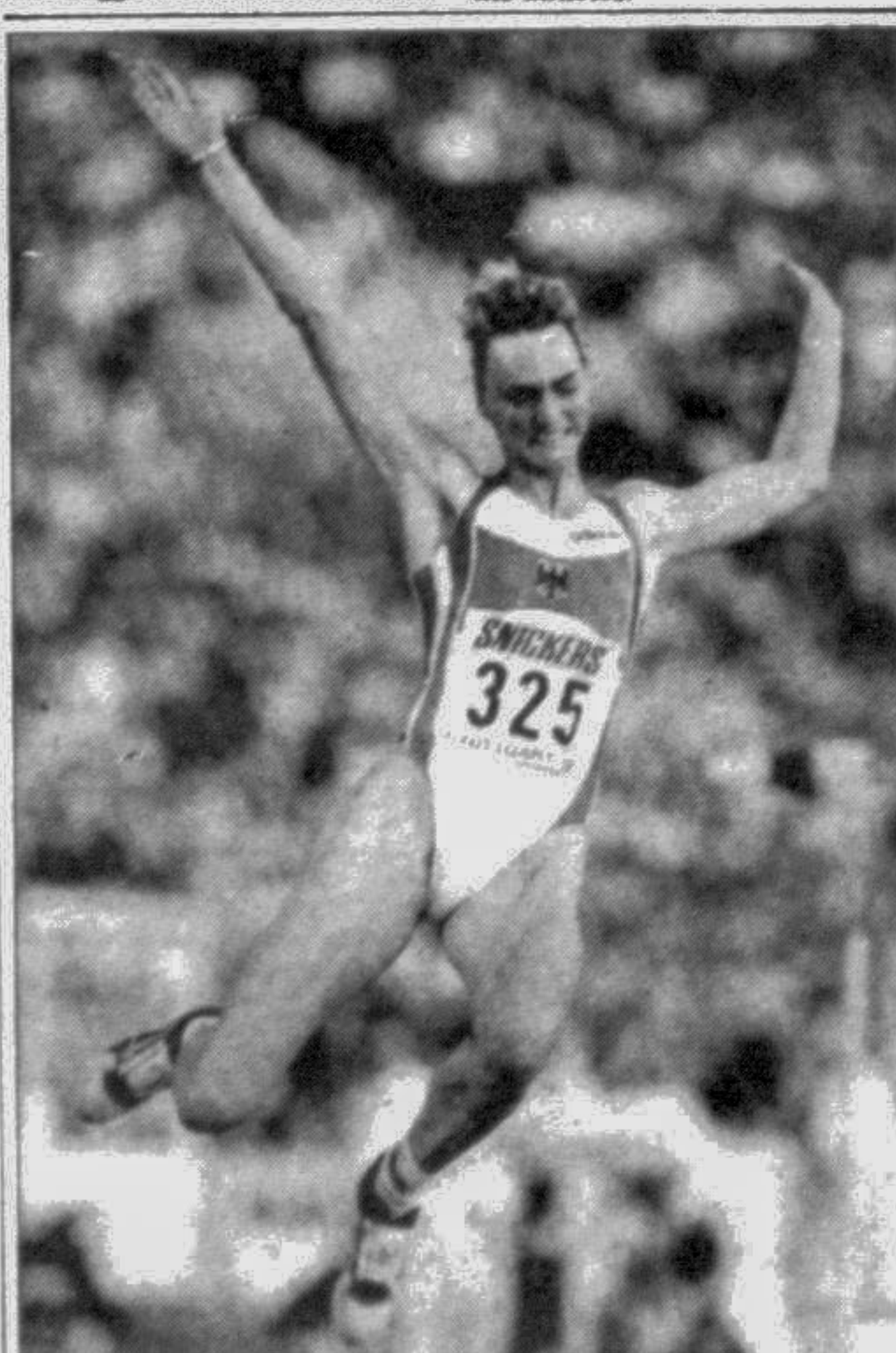
Lewis also said the IAAF should take the "amateur" reference out of its title.

"You should eliminate any reference to our sport being amateur. Those days are long gone. How about changing to the International Association of Athletic Federations?"

"The letters — IAAF — will remain the same but the message will be a much more honest one, finally getting rid of the myth of amateurism."

Lewis called for athletes to be seeded at future championships so that top names would not have to compete in the earlier rounds.

He also asked for automatic invitations to medalists from the previous Olympic Games and World Championships who



An airborne Heike Drechsler of Germany during her golden leap in the fourth World Athletics Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, on August 15. — AFP photo

all three previous World Championships, missed the Olympics last year after failing to qualify at the US trials.

"I think I've gone beyond being the greatest British athlete. Carl with all his records is

Lewis conceded defeat gracefully. "This was his day," he said of the new champion. "He deserves it. He's run well all year. It's been a down year for me. I've not been able to concentrate and it showed."

"We convinced him we were not giving money to anybody," Jacomini said. "Having clarified this misunderstanding, his manager said he has decided to run. He's happy to run."

Morceli, who is entered for the fourth World Championships here, was threatened with a two-month ban and exclusion from the 1996 Olympic Games under IAAF rules.

A new IAAF rule states that athletes failing to compete in Stuttgart despite being selected by their national federation would be penalised with an immediate two-month ban and be ineligible for the Atlanta Games.

The ban would have also stopped Morceli competing at lucrative Grand Prix meetings later this season.

The 1,500 heats at the Stuttgart Championships are scheduled for Thursday.

Edberg's realisation

NEW HAVEN, Conn, Aug 16: A recent addition to his family has made Stefan Edberg's loss of the world's top ranking a whole lot easier for him to accept, reports AP.

Edberg's wife Annette gave birth to the couple's first child, Emille, on July 14, and the Swede says his perspective on tennis, and life, has changed.

"I am sure I will look at things a little bit more differently than I did before," Edberg said recently. "Whether it is going to be for the good or bad, we'll have to wait and see. But I am feeling good about it."

Edberg, who will try to defend his Volvo International tennis title this week in New Haven, says getting back to the top is within his reach, if he wants it.

"I know it is going to be really tough to get back there, but nothing is impossible," he said. "I am still playing consistent tennis. I just need to get that little bit extra that you need to be in the No. 1 position — winning a few more important points."

Swiss prodigy does it again

LUGANO, Switzerland, Aug 16: Tennis prodigy Martina Hingis, the 12-year-old Swiss girl who won the French Open Junior title in June, embarrassed her elders again by winning the Swiss outdoor senior championship on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Hingis, 13 next month, took the Swiss indoor title earlier this year and needed less than an hour to overcome unseeded opponent Patty Schnyder 6-3, 6-4.

MEDALS TABLE

Medals table after the second day of the World Athletics Championships on Sunday (tabulate under gold, silver, bronze):

United States	1	1	1
Spain	1	0	2
Japan	1	0	1
Germany	1	0	1
Tadjikistan	1	0	0
Britain	1	0	0
Finland	1	0	0
China	1	0	0
Italy	0	2	0
Ukraine	0	1	0
Russia	0	1	0
Portugal	0	1	0
Namibia	0	1	0
Belarus	0	1	0
Hungary	0	0	1
Netherlands	0	0	1
Denmark	0	0	1

Crooked quartet

STUTTGART, Aug 16: Erik de Bruin, discuss silver medalist at the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo, and three Nigerians face bans for drugs, reports AFP.

The Dutchman, second-best this year, was withdrawn from Monday's qualifying round after the International Amateur Athletic Federation informed his federation he had tested positive for an anabolic steroid at the Cologne Grand Prix meeting on August 1.

IAAF spokesman Jayne Pearce also announced that three Nigerians — Ime Akpan, Godfrey Okugbe and Vtivan Chukwuemeka — had tested positive at their national trials at Lagos on June 17.

The first two face four year bans and the third faces a three-month suspension for stimulants.

Morceli finally decides to run

STUTTGART, Aug 16: Algerian distance runner Noureddine Morceli has dropped his boycott threat and agreed to compete at the World Championships, officials said Monday, reports AP.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation said it received confirmation of Morceli's appearance Monday morning from his manager, Amar Brahma.

"Morceli is running," said IAAF chief of staff Enrico Jacomini. "His agent is in Stuttgart and Morceli is coming later today."

Morceli, the world record-holder and reigning 1,500 metres world champion, had vowed not to compete in Stuttgart unless he was paid. He claimed that other select athletes, including Carl Lewis, were receiving payments.

"We convinced him we were not giving money to anybody," Jacomini said. "Having clarified this misunderstanding, his manager said he has decided to run. He's happy to run."

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Chang chokes Edberg down

MASON, Ohio, Aug 16: American Michael Chang and Stefan Edberg from a long night's work beat Sweden's Stefan Edberg in the final of the 1.65 million dollar ATP championship on Sunday, reports Reuters.

"It just was not going to happen today," Edberg said after his 7-5, 0-6, 6-4 defeat.

After toiling for three sets against defending champion Pete Sampras in Saturday night's semifinal, the third-seeded Edberg had returned to the court with doubles partner Henrik Holm for a semifinal win over the top-ranked team of Grant Connell and Patrick Galbraith.

"It was tough to come back after a night like that," said the third-ranked Edberg, who got only five hours sleep before the final. "I didn't feel too bad today, but it didn't make it easier. I wasn't as sharp as I was early in the week."

The seventh-seeded Chang, who won 235,000 dollars for his third tournament victory of 1993, was surprised to see Edberg hitting practice balls earlier than he did on Sunday morning.

"I thought maybe he stayed here all night," joked the ninth-ranked Chang, who went to bed at a respectable 10:30 pm after 6-4.

Navratilova gutsy as ever



MANHATTAN BEACH, Calif, Aug 16: Martina Navratilova rallied from a 1-5 second-set deficit on her favourite court to defeat top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario 7-5, 7-6 (7-4) for her 165th career singles title Sunday in the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles, reports AP.

Navratilova, 36, the second seed and defending champion, has reached the final 11 times and won eight titles on the fast hardcourt of the Manhattan Country Club. She improved to 32-4 this year with her fourth tournament victory.

The winner's check for dms 75,000 pushed Navratilova's career earnings to more than dms 19 million.

"Like the man yelled at me at the ceremony, 'Hey, that's over 19 million dollars,' I said, 'Yeah, I wish I had it,' she said. "It just means I've been playing for a long time and done a really good job at winning the money but not a very good job at keeping the money."

Sanchez-Vicario, whose only victory in 14 matches against Navratilova came in 1990 on clay, opened a 2-0 lead in the second set.

Navratilova trailed 0-30 on her serve before recovering to climb to 1-2. Sanchez-Vicario then took over and won the next three games for a 5-1 lead, appearing ready to force a third set.

That's when Navratilova began her comeback — winning four straight games to tie the set 5-5.

"If you look at the whole 5-1, it looks insurmountable," Navratilova said, "but she's still got to put those points together."

Sanchez-Vicario served for the set twice during that stretch, but both times committed errors on game point.

Energized by her improved play and a sellout crowd of 6,166 cheering her on, Navratilova served a love game to go up 6-5. She was two points from victory when Sanchez-Vicario hit a crosscourt forehand on the line to tie the set 6-6.

"I just wasn't going to give it to her; she had to earn it," Navratilova said. "She wasn't able to close the door. So I said thank you very much, I'll slide right through."

Navratilova dominated the tiebreaker, going up 3-0, then 6-1.



MARTINA NAVRATILOVA

Navratilova started slowly, dropping the first seven points of the match as Sanchez-Vicario took a 2-0 lead. They traded service breaks twice to tie the set 5-5.

Navratilova went up 6-5 when Sanchez-Vicario's backhand service return went wide. The Spaniard was serving at 30-30 when she committed two straight errors and Navratilova won the first set 7-5.

"Game, set, match," chair umpire Jan Ryan announced before realizing the match wasn't over.

"That surprised me and the crowd started screaming," Sanchez-Vicario said. "I don't think she's a very good umpire."

She scowled, turned her back and waved her hands as if to dismiss Ryan in the chair. Sanchez-Vicario felt it was another officiating error in a match that had other controversial calls.

Sanchez-Vicario became irritated as she served for the first set at 5-4, 15-15 and Ryan overruled a linesman's call in the corner. She eventually lost the game and the set.

"If the linesman called the ball good, I don't why she (Ryan) has to call the ball out," Sanchez-Vicario said. "Of course it bothered me. It was a very important point. It made a lot of difference."

"I think Arantxa felt she got bad calls, but they were the right calls," Navratilova said. "The crowd gets excited and then she (Sanchez-Vicario) doesn't hear the call."

Sanchez-Vicario staved off two match points on Navratilova errors, then hit a forehand volley winner to cut her deficit to 6-4.

Navratilova ended the suspense on the fourth match point when Sanchez-Vicario sent a backhand wide.

"I could've won in two sets," Sanchez-Vicario said. "I had my chances and I didn't take them."

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MICHAEL CHANG

Chang benefited from an Edberg backhand volley which was so long it nearly landed in the stands at 30-40 on the Swede's serve in the 11th game of the first set.

But the second set was all Edberg's as he suddenly appeared alert and unbeatable.

"In the second set he took advantage of everything," said Chang. "His game was coming together. Before I knew it, the second set was over."

Chang regrouped effectively in the final set, breaking serve at 15-40 in the first game when an Edberg forehand crosscourt volley flew wide.

Edberg's best opportunity to break even came when he led 0-30 on Chang's serve in the sixth game. But he could not keep the momentum. The normally placed Swede was visibly frustrated during the final set as things continued to unravel.

"He was a couple of points better than I was today," said Edberg.

dollars as runner-up in the two-hour match, was slightly off-kilter in all but the second set. He mistimed many forehand shots, both on the baseline and at the net.

Unforced errors took a toll on Edberg, whose lone 1993 title came in Madrid. He had 14 errors in the first set and 13 in the third.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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5 Vegetarian's shun 38 Egglike 1 Dad 25 It's cut and dried

9 Diamond club 40 Lindbergh book 2 Blind as — 26 1944 Chemistry

12 Wind instrument 41 Earthy sun god 5 Labyrinth 27 Tempo Nobelist

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14 Part of REO 47 Inlet 7 It gets flicked 30 GIs with peelers

15 Not Joan Lunden or Katie Couric 51 Scroogean cry 9 "The Red Stairway" painter 39 Bad lighting?

17 Wooden-shoe occupant 53 Square root of a nonet? 20 Essen expletive 41 Balls

18 Long step 19 Flavorful 21 Baum's magic land 55 ME, CT. Solution time: 22 mins.

22 Sponge money 24 "— Sorry Now?" 27 Acknowledge applause 28 Cabbie 31 Chow down 32 Lo-o-o-ong time 33 Move like a bunny 34 Bit bunch 36 Chowder.

DOWN

1 Dad 25 It's cut and dried 26 1944 Chemistry Nobelist 27 Tempo 29 Seafood selection 30 GIs with peelers 35 She raised Cain 37 Does a double-take 39 Bad lighting? 40 "— Should I Care" 41 Balls 42 "Arrivederci" 43 Urban blight 44 Marx or Malden 45 Where to find Ashtabula nose-in-the-air sort 49 Rosemary Clooney hit, "Botch—" 50 Calendar abbr.

CRYPTOQUIP

X Q K P N K T I N K L C K H X
Y D C K W H D C E D W H V K C -
Y W X Q H Y X T L F D N F D C
D N F C E F X V N K F P W F D W F.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: "I HAD A BAD YEAR," SAYS PERCEPTIVE CAMEL DEALER. "BUT I'M OVER THE HUMP."
Today's Cryptoquip clue: L equals B
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.