

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-79

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm, Oct 3, '97

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options (A, B, C, D) regarding soccer and tennis.

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)



SPORTS TALK



Ajay Jadeja (Indian cricket vice-captain) 'If you go to a disco after losing, people say these guys were paid to throw away the match, now they are partying.'

On fans' psychology after match-fixing charges brought against Indian cricketers.

Inoue, Pratt reach qtrs

SURABAYA, Sept 25: Japan's Haruka Inoue of Japan and Australian Nicole Pratt upset high seeds Wednesday, advancing to the quarterfinals of the 155,340 dollars Wismilak International women's tennis tournament, reports AP.

Top seed Dominique van Roost of Belgium also advanced, defeating Japan's Miho Saeki 7-6 (7-3), 6-3.

Inoue, ranked 122nd in the world, beat second seed Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia 6-3, 5-7, 7-5.

Nagyova collapsed in agony with cramps after the final point of the 2-hour, 30-minute battle.

'It is a long time, since I played in such heat, I'm not coming to hot countries again,' said Nagyova, ranked 44th in the world. 'It was very difficult to play, but I felt quite fit until 4-4 in the third set.'

Pratt eliminated third seed Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand 7-5, 6-2.

Sixth seed Sarah Pitkowski of France defeated Australian Kerry-Anne Guse 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, and unheralded Lenka Nemeckova of the Czech Republic won when American Erika de Lone withdrew as she was trailing 6-1, 3-0.

In a remaining first-round match, Nana Miyagi of Japan eliminated American Jolene Watanabe 6-4, 6-3.

Romario back in Spain

VALENCIA, Spain, Sept 25: Brazilian striker Romario arrived back in Valencia on Wednesday after five weeks of treatment in his home country and said he hoped to play against Real Madrid this weekend, reports Reuters.

Romario tore an abductor muscle on August 22 playing in a pre-season friendly for Valencia against his former club Flamengo.



World number one Martina Hingis of Switzerland in action against Austria's Marion Maruska in the Leipzig Open on Wednesday. Hingis won 6-3, 7-5. — AP/UNB photo

Swede spoils German party

MUNICH, Sept 25: Defending champion Boris Becker made a sad, subdued 6-3, 6-2 exit today from the opening round of the 6 million dollars Grand Slam Cup as Swede Jonas Bjorkman continued his momentum after a weekend of Davis Cup triumphs, reports agencies.

Bjorkman, whose semifinal showing at the US Open boosted him to a career-best 13th in the world rankings, went from strength to strength as he beat Becker three days after virtually single-handedly taking Sweden into next month's Davis Cup final against the United States in a 4-1 win against Italy.

Becker lost a 3-1 lead in the opening set and was never able to get back into contention against the 25-year-old Scandinavian.

Despite a lack of Grand Slam results in 1997, organisers gave the 29-year-old Becker a wild card entry into the 16-man field, mainly as a crowd-puller.

'Obviously I thought I had a chance before the match,' said Becker, who has played little competitive tennis since his emotional farewell to Wimbledon in July.

'But I haven't played a serious tournament for over two and a half months and I had an opponent on the other side of the net who's had probably the best summer of his career.'

'He was clearly the better player.'

Becker said he could enter next year's Grand Slam Cup if he was awarded a wild card for it.

'I'm not saying I will but if I'm able to compete at my best, I might,' he said.

World number one Pete Sampras began on Wednesday what could be his most lucrative week of the year, overcoming a brave challenge from Felix Mantilla to reach the second round.

Sampras, appearing for the sixth time in the Munich event for the top performers from all four Grand Slams, beat the in-form Spaniard 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 to make sure of at least 750,000 dollars in prize money.

The American now meets Swede Jonas Bjorkman.

Sampras, the Australian Open and Wimbledon champion, earned 250,000 dollars for reaching the quarterfinals plus a 500,000 bonus for his two Grand Slam wins.

After a tense start Sampras broke Mantilla to lead 4-3 and wrapped up the first set 6-4. He seemed in control until two double faults allowed Mantilla, winner of five tournaments this year, to break him and go 5-3 up in the second set.

Mantilla took that set 6-3, only to see Sampras move back into top gear by breaking his serve in the second game of the decisive set.

'He returned really well, putting a lot of pressure on my serve,' said Sampras. 'It was let

down by my serve at times and I made for too many unforced errors. The most important thing was to win but I must play better than I did today from now on.'

Sampras, eager to bounce back after his shock fourth round exit to Czech Petr Korda at the US Open, has won more money in the Grand Slam Cup than any other player.

The 1990 winner had earned 5.39 million dollars in the Munich tournament alone before this year, which is nearly 20 per cent of his career earnings of 27.46 million dollars.

US Open winner Pat Rafter, appearing for the first time in the event, used his powerful serve-and-volley game to oust Thomas Muster 6-2, 6-3.

'I was surprised by the way I volleyed today. It worked very well,' said Australian Rafter, who will meet Chilean Marcelo Rios for a place in the semifinals.

Austrian Muster, who hates the super-fast surface of Munich's Olympic Hall, was left still looking for his first win in the tournament, which he has now contested five times.

Korda also stayed in contention for the 1.5-million-dollar cheque awarded to the winner. The Czech was leading Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten 6-3, 5-3 when the French Open champion retired with a sore right ankle.

Korda will now meet Wimbledon finalist Cedric Pioline of France.

Thai bid not out of threat

KUWAIT, Sept 25: The Olympic Council of Asia decided Tuesday to allow Thailand to continue preparations for the 1998 Asian Games, but gave it two months to show progress in solving organisational problems surrounding Asia's premier sporting event, reports AP.

Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahad al-Sabah of Kuwait, president of the council, told reporters of the decision after a meeting to review Thailand's handling of the event. A Thai delegation attended the meeting.

'We decided today to continue with Bangkok 1998,' Sheikh Ahmad said. He added that he would head a follow-up committee that would meet in Bangkok in two months to review what has been done.

A final decision on the fate of the Games will be made by the general assembly of the OCA in December, he said.

'As long as Bangkok manages to solve the problems, the Games will stay in Bangkok,' Sheikh Ahmad said. 'If not, there will always be a replacement.'

He said four cities were interested in hosting the Games, but declined to name them.

The Olympic Council of Asia retains ultimate authority over the competition, scheduled for Bangkok in December 1998.

Sheikh Ahmad said the Bangkok organisers have still not resolved problems of accommodation, transportation, ticketing and security.

In August, when the council had issued a veiled threat to Bangkok to sort things out, it had also expressed unhappiness with the status of the day-to-day events schedule, media management, staffing and failure to recognise the council's authority.

Also, little progress has been made on building highways and rail networks necessary to link suburban stadiums with the city, and critics fear Bangkok will be showcased as an urban nightmare of traffic jams and

pollution.

Sheikh Ahmad said on Tuesday the OCA signed an agreement with the Thai delegation outlining these problems and the two-month timetable for solving them.

He said, 'I feel comfortable with Thai assurances that they can overcome the problems.'

Last month, the Bangkok Asian Games Organising Committee said it is 'very concerned' that Sheikh Ahmad had been 'misinformed' concerning the state of progress in organising the Games and invited him to make an inspection.

The Council could decide to postpone the Games or shift them to another city that already has the necessary infrastructure.

The Thai deputy prime minister heading the Bangkok organising committee, Sukhavit Rangsitpol, is one of the least popular members of Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh's government, which has been pilloried for the

country's economic crisis. Chavalit recently removed Sukhavit as education minister after he was accused of handing out bribes and using the education budget to build hotels instead of schools.

Nonetheless, he is a longtime friend of Chavalit, and was allowed to retain his title of deputy prime minister and remain in charge of the organising committee.

Sheikh Ahmad said he was pleased the prime minister had given more authority to Thailand's National Olympic Committee, which he said has the experience to deal with organisational problems.

He announced a 10 million dollar deal with Acer Computer of Taiwan, which has become a partner of the games and will be responsible for the computer systems.

Tuesday's contract raised sponsorship funds to 82 million dollars, Sheikh Ahmad said. He expected the figure to rise to more than 100 million dollars.



Eri Imai, a member of Shape Up Girls, a Japanese entertainment group, who is selected as one of Nagano Winter Olympic torch relay runners, holds a torch during press conference marking the 100-day before the start of the relay in Tokyo on Sept 24. — AP/UNB photo

Hingis slows down

LEIPZIG, Sept 25: Martina Hingis, the world's top-ranked player, struggled Wednesday to beat Austria's Marion Maruska in straight sets at the 450,000 dollars Leipzig Open, reports AP.

The Swiss teenager converted her first match point in 79 minutes against Maruska to win 6-3, 7-5 and reach the quarterfinals.

But Hingis, who regularly routs her opponents, couldn't gain a decisive break in the second set against a player ranked 53rd in the world until she went up 6-5.

Germany's Anke Huber, looking to win the title for the third straight year, beat Italy's Silvia Farina in her first-round match. The fifth seed won 6-4, 6-2 in 63 minutes.

'Of course I would like to win here again I think my game is getting better and better,' said Huber.

Huber next faces Spain's Magui Serna, who beat Laurence Courties of Belgium 6-3, 6-4. Indonesia's Yayuk Basuki also advanced with a 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 win over France's Amelie Cocheteu.

Diego backs Chilean booters

SANTIAGO, Chile, Sept 25: Diego Maradona on Wednesday said he 'and soccer players around the world' support their Chilean colleagues striking for better working conditions, and warned similar movements may erupt throughout South America, reports AP.

'No one should dismiss the possibility of this turning into a South American strike,' the Argentine superstar told a news conference.

Maradona, sitting next to a broadly smiling president of the Chilean Players' Union, Carlos Ramos, vowed that the World Players' Union, which he presides over, would fully support the Chilean strikers.

'Chilean players have the support of the world' union and here is its president — for whatever they might need,' Maradona said.

'I thank the Chileans for allowing me to join their strike,' he said. 'Any player who doesn't feel part of this strike is not a real soccer player, be it in South America or anywhere else in the world.'

Maradona is in Chile with his team Boca Juniors for a South American Supercup match against Chilean champion Colo Colo late Wednesday.

In spite of the strike, Colo Colo players were authorised by the union to play against Boca Juniors.

'The Chilean players' strike ended the local tournament for the last 10 days. It was called to protest delays of up to two months by some clubs in paying salaries. Players are also demanding a social security system.'

Maradona called the Chilean players' demand 'just cause that will benefit Chilean soccer for a long time to come. This is not just a matter of three or four matches.'

Effenbergs acquitted

MOENCHENGLADBACH, Germany, Sept 25: German soccer star Stefan Effenberg and his wife were acquitted on Wednesday on charges of carrying out a brutal assault on a drunken man outside their home, reports Reuters.

Judge Bernd Geiger-Battermann said there was no proof that Effenberg, the controversial captain of Borussia Moenchengladbach, or his wife Martina had kicked and insulted metalworker Helmut van Thriel in December last year.

'This case shouldn't have come to court. It only came to this because I'm Stefan Effenberg,' the 29-year-old midfielder said. The prosecution case collapsed after witnesses made contradictory statements about the incident.

Van Thriel admitted he could not remember anything about the night in question and a neighbour of the Effenbergs gave testimony which did not tally with the facts of the case.

The blonde-haired star's career has often been controversial. He was sent home from the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States after making an obscene gesture at German fans during a match. He has not played for his country since.

Effenberg, dressed in a dark three-piece suit, told the court he had only touched Van Thriel briefly with the sole of his foot to see if he was still alive.

He said the man was completely drunk at the time of the incident and smelled strongly of urine and excrement.

'I wouldn't want to touch someone like that. That's why I only prodded him with the sole of my foot,' he told the court in the western town of Moenchengladbach.

In July, a lower court ordered former German international Effenberg and his wife Martina to pay 390,000 marks (220,000 dollars) for the alleged attack. Wednesday's hearings was ordered after the couple appealed against that ruling.

Spain book French berth

LONDON, Sept 25: A 2-1 victory in Slovakia on Wednesday sent Spain into next year's World Cup finals while Georgia's seemingly meaningless 1-0 defeat of Moldova caused celebrations in Austria and Scotland but consternation in Italy, reports Reuters.

Spain's confident win guarantees their place in the finals either as Group Six winners or Europe's best runners-up and they need only a point from their last game against the Faroe Islands to clinch top spot ahead of Yugoslavia. Only a win by the Faroes in Spain can deny Group Four leaders Austria a place in France.

Georgia's victory in Group Two means that Italy can no longer finish as best runners-up.

If Italy beat England on October 11 they will win the group and England will face a play-off. A draw in Rome or a victory for England sends Glenn Hoddle's team through and leaves the Italians in the play-offs.

The results also mean that the best runners-up place will

almost certainly go to Group Four and Austria likely to top the group Scotland will probably go through if they beat Latvia at home.

Spain become the fourth European qualifier to date, joining Bulgaria, Romania and Norway in the 32-team tournament. Hosts Brazil, hosts France, five African nations and three South Americans are also through.

Guillermo Amor scrambled in Spain's vital goal in the 76th minute — just a minute after Josef Majoros had threatened to delay Spanish celebrations by making it 1-1.

Kiko Narvaez had headed home an Alfonso Perez cross two minutes into the second half to put Spain into a deserved lead.

And despite a couple of scares as Slovakia pushed forward in the closing minutes, Spain held out to spark celebrations throughout the country.

Apart from their penalty shoot-out defeat by England in last year's European Championship, Spain last lost in the 1994 World Cup quarterfinals — 2-1 to Italy.

They have consistently been

superb qualifiers for recent tournaments and this time will hope to reproduce that winning formula when it really matters.

Georgia's victory over Moldova in Chisinau was marred by three red cards.

Newcastle midfielder Timur Ketsbaia got the only goal after just nine minutes after coming with Archil Arveladze but the game turned nasty after an hour when Georgian defender Kaha Koladze was sent off for a bad tackle from behind.

Ten minutes later Moldovan captain Alexander Curtivan and Georgian striker Georgy Kiknadze followed him into the tunnel after an exchange of punches.

The night's other game, also in Group Six, saw a weakened Czech Republic beat Malta 1-0 in Valletta. Radek Bejbl scored the goal in the 32nd minute when he headed home a Vladimir Smicer cross.

Malta are still searching for their first point after nine games but the Czechs, who now have 13, can leapfrog Slovakia and finish third if they beat their neighbours in their last game. That is on October 11, when all the European groups will be settled.



Diego Maradona (C) of Boca Juniors struggles to break through the defence wall of the Colo Colo during the Supercup match in Santiago on Sept 24. Boca lost their away engagement to the Chilean club 2-1. — AP/UNB photo

Maradona fails to buck up Boca

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 25: Off-form Diego Maradona was substituted at halftime as Boca Juniors lost 2-1 away to Colo Colo of Chile in the South American Super Cup on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Maradona playing outside Argentina for the first time since beginning his fifth comeback, appeared to be feeling the affects of his fourth match in ten days at the age of 36.

He often looked lethargic and even misplaced passes during 45 inspired minutes in the Group One game played in Santiago.

Maradona was replaced by Diego Latorre, the man he has controversially displaced from the Boca team, but Colo Colo went on to win 2-1 thanks to a late goal by former Chilean international striker Ivo Baso.

It was the first time Maradona had been part of a losing team in the six matches he has played in the latest comeback of his amazing career.

Colo Colo, backed by a 50,000 crowd, took the lead in the 37th minute through Argentine forward Marcelo Espina. Boca, Argentina's most fanatically supported club,

equalised a minute later, when Mexican striker Luis Hernandez scored on his debut.

Latorre gave the team new life in the second half but they were unable to capitalise on a series of chances.

Colo Colo top Group One with nine points from three games but play their three remaining matches away from home only the group winners qualify for the semifinals of the competition, which is played every year between past winners of the Libertadores Cup.

Brazil's Vasco da Gama had two player sent off as they crashed 5-1 to River Plate in Buenos Aires in Group Three.

Vasco were utterly outclassed by the Argentine champions and were trailing 3-0 at halftime even with 11 men. Af-

ter the break, they had midfielder Luisinho sent off for twice kicking an opponent and defender Mauro Galvao dismissed for a second bookable offence.

Mercelo Salas, Sebastian Rambert and Roberto Montserat scored in the first half for River, while Hernan Diaz, with a penalty, and Ramon Medina Bello made it five. Edmundo grabbed Vasco's consolation.

Despite missing injured Uruguayan playmaker Enzo Francescoli, River, who top Group Three with maximum points from three games, could comfortably have doubled their tally if they had taken their chances.

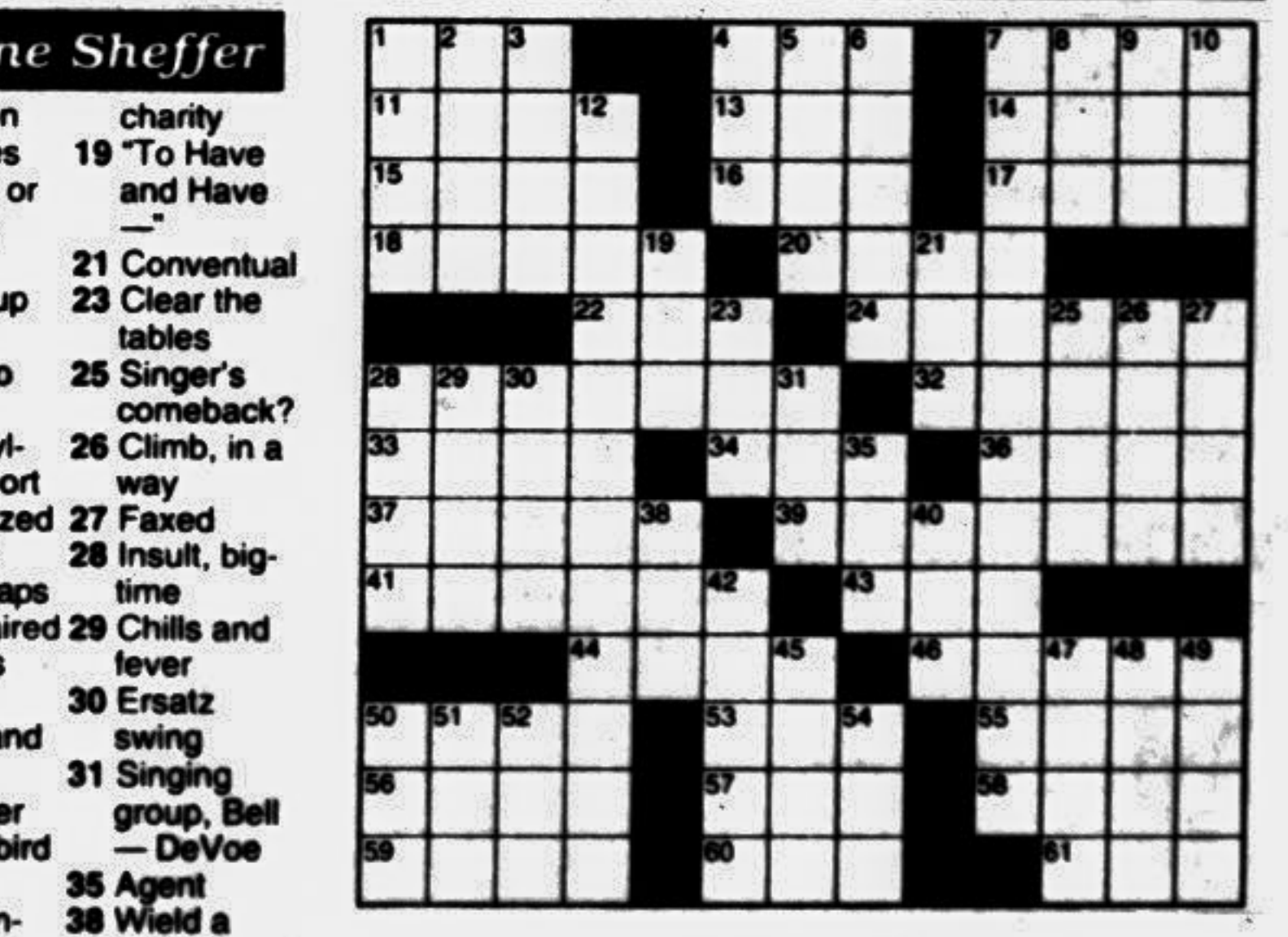
None of the four Brazilian teams who have played so far this week have managed a win between them.

Gremio had to come from two goals behind to force a 2-2 draw at home to Colombia's Atletico Nacional in Group Four where both their goals were scored by midfielder Beto, recently signed from Italy's Napoli.

On Tuesday, Flamengo lost 1-0 at home to Argentina's Velez Sarsfield in Group Two while Sao Paulo drew 0-0 away to Lomia of Paraguay in the same group.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Rarin' to go 4 Possesses 7 White House pooch 11 Mine car 13 Dos Pasos trilogy 14 Devastation 15 Verdi opera 16 Hodges of baseball 17 Supplement 18 Long 20 Hourglass fill 22 Corn eater's trash 24 Compulsion 28 Bygone container 32 Statue's place 33 Exchange premium 34 Round Table address 36 Leno's prominence 37 Cruises the Internet 39 Its motto is 'Freedom and Unity' 41 Paid attention 43 'Once Upon a Mattress' problem 44 'As — going to St. Ives' 46 Noted circumnavigator 50 Rodman epithet 53 Altar exchange 55 Hands 56 Theater award 57 '— not choose to run' 58 Take on charity 59 Perukes 60 Rather or Marino 61 Quest follow-up 62 DOWN 1 Word to Fido 2 Pennsylvania port 3 Verbalized fanfare 4 O, perhaps 5 Unprepared 6 Dieter's lunch 7 Jekyll and Hyde 8 Diving bird 9 Fable 10 Addition ally 12 Health care 19 'To Have and Have 21 Conventional 23 Clear the tables 25 Singer's comeback? 26 Climb, in a way 27 Faxed time 28 Insult, big-time 29 Chills and fever 30 Ersatz swing 31 Singing group, Bell mackerell? — DeVoe 35 Agent 38 Wild a needle 40 Flushed 42 Michelangelo work 45 Scotch partner 47 Met melody 48 'Show Boos' composer 49 Lambs' dame 50 'Holy mackerell!' 51 Sapporo sash 52 Predetermine 54 Took the trophy



CRYPTOQUIP KMA VJHL UIK LJYEGIV OW NFDV FN WIQODE KMKI MA'W WOHZGQ I ZJYY WDIKUMAY. Saturday's Cryptquip: THE INEPT ROOF REPAIRMAN VERY APTLY REFERRED TO HIMSELF AS AN EAVESDROPPER. Today's Cryptquip clue: Y equals R The Cryptquip 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.