Coach Haan calls it quits

BRUSSELS, Sept 17 (Reuters/ Internet): Struggling Anderlecht and Dutch coach Arie Haan parted company by mutual consent on Thursday following the club's dreadful start to the season.

The move follows Wednesday's 2-0 home UEFA Cup first round defeat by Swiss side Grasshoppers.

"It was decided after talks between both parties to end the contract," Anderlecht deputy manager Robert De Pot told the news agency.

He said deputy coaches Frank Vercauteren and Jean Dockx would take over until a new coach was appointed, but gave no details.

Haan, a former Anderlecht player, had signed an 18-month contract last December, two months after he was sacked by Dutch club Feyenoord.

Anderlecht, who were jeered off their own pitch on Wednesday, have made an appalling start to the season.

Before last weekend's 3-0 victory at Germinal Ekeren they had failed to win any of their first five league games, a run which saw them slump to the bottom of the Belgian first division for the first time in their history.

SA to see three more coaches

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 17 (Reuters/ Internet): Three more candidates are to be interviewed for the position of South African national soccer coach before a final decision is made next week, officials said on Thursday.

South African football federation officials will talk on Friday to former Dutch international Ruud Krol and Gordon Igesund, coach of South African club Manning Rangers.

They also hope to interview Carlos Alberto Pareira, coach of Brazil's World Cup winning team in 1994, before making a final decision next week. He was coach of Saudi Arabia before being fired after this year's World Cup.

There are three other candidates for the job, which became vacant after the World Cup when the contract of Frenchman Philippe Troussier ran out. Those candidates have already been interviewed for the position.

The favourite remains Ron Atkinson, who has extensive experience in the English Premier League and who has also worked in Spain.

The other candidates are South African under-23 coach Ephraim Mashaba and Trott Moloto, who is the country's caretaker coach for next month's African Nations Cup qualifying match against Angola in Johannesburg.

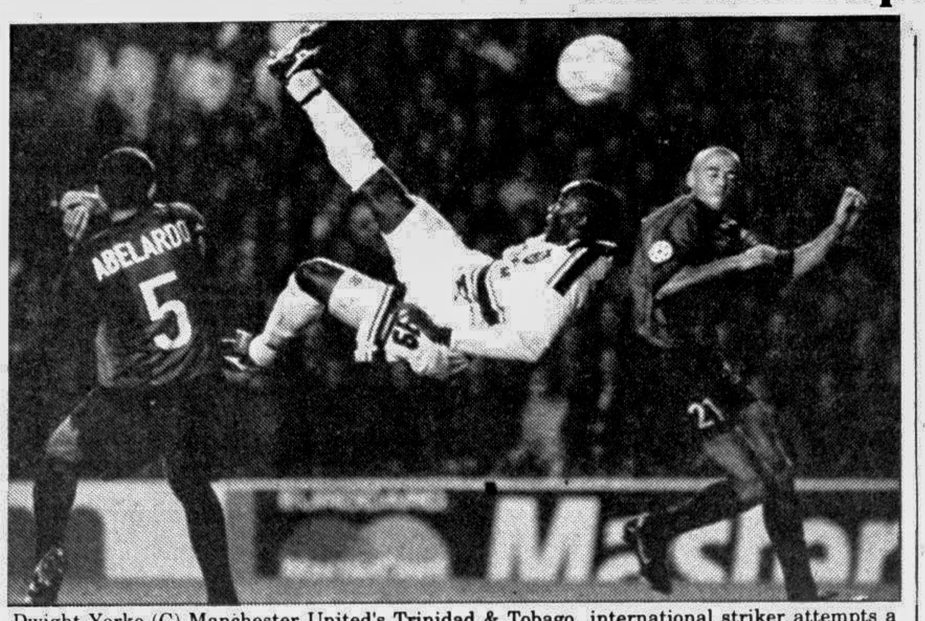
Jurain earn full points

Jurain Janata Club defeated Eskaton Sabuj Sangha 2-0 in the metropolis Second Division football league at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners led the first half 1-0.

The other match between Bashabo Tarun Sangha and Jatrabari KC ended in a goalless draw at the Army Stadium.

Friday's matches: PWD DSC vs Adamjee SCC (2:30 pm), Sadharan Bima KS vs BG Press (4:30 pm) at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium and Gandaria Famous SC vs Avijatrik Malibagh (3 pm) at the Army Stadium.



Dwight Yorke (C) Manchester United's Trinidad & Tobago international striker attempts a back volley while Barcelona's Luis Enrique (R) and Abelardo take cover during their Champions' League Group D match at Old Trafford on September 16. The game ended 3-3.
— AFP photo

Honours shared in Old Trafford thriller

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

MANCHESTER, Sept 17(Mirror/ Internet):David Beckham had his finest hour in football to reign supreme against the Kings of Spain. But the Manchester United superstar, desperate to emerge from the black shadow of his World Cup flare-up, was still upstaged in amazing scenes.

Beckham, who had laid on opening goals for Ryan Giggs and eventually Paul Scholes, scored one of his free kick specials in the 63rd minute to restore United to a 3-2 lead after battling Barcelona's furious fightback.Giovanni fouled Dwight Yorke and up stepped Beckham to curl the ball over the wall into the top corner in a carbon copy of his World Cup cracker against Colombia.

It brought the house down and with it many thought it was Barcelona's final barricade.But amazingly they drew level once more six minutes later as Nicky Butt was sent off for a handball in a goalmouth scramble of such ferocity even eyes couldn't keep track of the action.Sonny Anderson hit the bar and as the ball bobbled loose Luis Figo hammered the goal only to be denied by Butt's outstretched hand.Italian Referee Stefano Braschi had no choice but to send the United midfielder off and Luis Enrique drilled in the spot-kick to a chorus of boos.

Ferguson had begged the faithful to sing their hearts out for the lads. To shout, scream and chant their way to another glorious European night at Old Trafford. Football at its brilliant best. Fast, fantastic and frightening.

The Catalan aristocrats could not live with United at the start. In under 30 minutes of sensational soccer United blasted their way into a two-goal lead.

Beckham was brilliant. Giggs' great runs bamboozled Barcelona. And skipper Roy Keane was king of the field as he stopped the Spaniards in their tracks. Sergi was no match for Beckham as he rounded him on the spin and his perfect centre was met by Giggs who

headed powerfully into the top corner.

Eight minutes later and United were incredibly two goals up with Barcelona well and truly on the back foot.Solskjaer linked with Beckham and once more his curling swerving pass dumbfounded the Barcelona back four. This time Yorke met the ball with a breathtaking

overhead kick, keeper Ruud Hesp blocked brilliantly but Scholes following up tucked in number two. It left Barcelona flattened as they reeled off the ropes to a knockout goal.

Rivaldo, totally frustrated and fed up, crumpled to the floor as Henning Berg passed him in a typical bit of play-acting.The Brazilian was stretchered off looking in obvious distress but then after 60 seconds of treatment,surprise, surprise he was back to his talented feet.The fury of the crowd told him exactly what he thought of his cheating.

Barcelona then gave a reminder of the deadliness they possess. Rivaldo picked up a loose ball that cannoned off a sea of legs and his shot deflected off Scholes and beyond keeper Peter Schmeichel in the 32nd minute.

But thankfully for United, the linesman's flag had already been raised and they breathed again as Barcelona curtailed their celebrations.

It was the first major sign that United might still be hit where it hurts and two minutes before the break there was another prime example of just how lethal Barcelona can be.

Any other club would have been well and truly battered from that kind of United onslaught but Barcelona obviously have remarkable powers of recovery.

They entered a stage of causing panic as a corner deflected to Anderson and the Brazilian proved that yo can't keep a good man down.

He shot with deadly accuracy for the bottom corner only to see Schmeichel reach from behind him to somehow keep the ball out.

The fans' fears were realised in the 47th minute when Anderson dragged Barcelona back into the game.

There seemed little to worry about when he pounced on a loose ball as United's defence day-dreamed but then in a blink of an eye he had despatched the ball beyond Schmeichel to give United the jitters. But then the Englishmen, too, are made of sterner stuff and they held up in the face of fierce pressure with Giggs causing even more panic in the Barca back four.

But just when they looked like piling on the agony Barcelona hit back in the most controversial of ways.

Jaap Stam was harshly adjudged to have brought down Rivaldo in the 58th minute and up stepped Giovanni to crash home the spot kick.

Real tame Inter in style

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

SEVILLE, Spain, Sep 17(Reuters/ Internet):Inter Milan coach Luigi Simoni on Thursday attempted to justify his side's negative approach in their 2-0 Champions' League defeat to Real Madrid.

Simoni omitted the likes of Roberto Baggio, Youri Djorkaeff and Nicola Ventola from his

starting line-up, instead packing his side with midfielders in a bid to stifle the Real attack.

But the plan fell flat as the European Cup holders overran their opponents to make winning

start to their title defence, with goals from Fernando Hierro and Clarence Seedorf in injury-time.

Simoni -- facing a storm of criticism for his cautious approach -- defended his tactics, criticising the penalty award and blaming the first-half sending-off of Salvatore Fresi for the defeat."Real Madrid always start strongly, as they did in their Supercup final defeat to Chelsea, and we were waiting for our chance later on," he said.

For Real coach Guus Hiddink, Simoni's decision to change his starting line-up was a great

tribute to his team."I was delighted when I saw that Djorkaeff and Roberto Baggio weren't playing. They give Inter a strong attacking presence and we were glad not to see them."

Hiddink also paid tribute to his Brazilian winger Savio, whose meandering runs caused Inter problems throughout the game and eventually led to the penalty as Javier Zanetti's attempted tackle resulted in a clear trip.

Savio's performance was in stark contrast to his countryman Ronaldo, who had another quiet game for Inter.The Brazilian World Cup star, anonymous in the first half, fired in a couple of shots at the start of the second period as Inter attempted to counter-attack but he was substituted on 73 minutes.

His coach recognised he is yet to recover his form. "Ronaldo wasn't playing at his best so we decided to substitute him," Simone explained."It was very hot and I think that was bothering him."

It seemed to be a general case of heat-stroke for an Inter team that, with the possible exception of midfielder Diego Simeone, underperformed woefully.Simone will have to find solutions fast if his team is to make it through a tough qualifying group which also includes Spartak Moscow. Spartak set out their stall with a 2-0 win at Sturm Graz.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

HASTE NOT, WASTE NOT
(Hand # 96)

North
♠ S K9XX
♥ H X
♦ D AJ10X
♣ C KQJX

West
♠ S X
♥ H QJ1087XX
♦ D K9XX
♣ C 7

East
♠ S 7
♥ H KXX
♦ D Q8
♣ C A1098XXX

South (D)
♠ S AQJ108XX
♥ H A9
♦ D 7XX
♣ C X

Bidding: Both sides were vulnerable.

South	West	North	East
1 Spade	Pass	3 Spades	Pass
6 Spades	Pass	Pass	Pass

With a 7-card Spade suit but 11 HCP South opened 1 Spade. As the partnership understanding was that the first bid of a suit would show at least five cards, North decided to double raise Spades in the absence of a 5-card suit. This was a good bid showing game values and interest in a slam, particularly with singleton Heart. South however immediately jumped to six Spades. This was definitely a bad call as there might have been a Grand Slam or six might been difficult. Since the suit has been agreed, South should have shown controls. A 4-Heart bid would show the Heart Ace and at the same time denying Club and Diamond Aces. (Normally, lowest suit control is shown first). North could then bid 5 Diamonds showing the Diamond Ace, but denying the Club Ace. South would then bid 5 Spades which should have been the contract.

THE PLAY

In the absence of any guideline, West opened his singleton Club. The King was played from the dummy which was won by East with the Ace. East could see that both the declarer and West were ruffing Clubs. As there was not any suitable return, East played back the Nine of Clubs (not the Ten). The declarer, without much thought, slapped a Diamond, but alas! West ruffed-down one.

The declarer was guilty of two faults – first, it was a bad bid, and then played the hand without thinking. He was lucky not to have received a Diamond lead in which case he could never make the contract. On the Club return he should have ruffed high and then after clearing trumps he could throw his Diamond losers on good Clubs in the dummy. With a Club lead, the contract was unbeatable. On unbeatable hands, the declarers must ask themselves – what can beat the contract? In the above-diagramed hand, he would have got the answer – a Club ruff by West. He could have then guarded himself against that risk.

Son set to emulate dad

LONDON, Sept 17 (AFP/ Internet): Surrey skipper Alec Stewart goes into battle on Thursday hoping to emulate his father in leading the side to the English county championship title.

Mickey Stewart was captain in 1971 when the London-based team last won the crown.

Alec Stewart, who led England to their first five-Test series triumph on home soil in 13 years by beating South Africa last month, would cap a perfect year if he could complete a like-father-like-son triumph for Surrey in the final match of the season.

"It's the biggest county game I've played in," he said Wednesday. "I've been asked if I am tired after the international summer we've had and, if I was playing for 14th or 15th place, then I probably would be.

"But when you are playing for the championship any tiredness goes straight out of your mind."

Surrey take on current leaders Leicestershire at the Oval. Leicestershire lead the table by nine points but Surrey could overhaul them by claiming 23 points for a win. Wasim Akram's third-place Lancashire, who play Hampshire at Old Trafford, are also in the hunt.

Stewart added: "Leicester are in the box seat, then us and then Lancashire but what is good is that Leicester have to win.

"They have to beat us because Lancashire can still catch them. If they had come here just needing a draw it would have been hard work for us.

"I've always said that by the time I retire I want to have won everything in sight. I've won a Sunday League and a Benson and Hedges Cup and it would be nice to win all four domestic competitions."

Grobbelaar named caretaker coach

HARARE, Sept 17 (Reuters/ Internet): Zimbabwe's football association has appointed former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar coach for the Cosafa Castle Cup final game against Zambia next week, the Herald newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Grobbelaar, who has coached Zimbabwe briefly twice before, named the squad for the September 27 game against defending champions Zambia in Harare, where Zimbabwe need a draw to win this year's cup while Zambia need a victory.

Grobbelaar axed seven regulars from the team that lost 2-1 to Angola last month, including captain Benjamin Konjera and former skipper Francis Shonhayi.

There is also no place in the squad for Birmingham City striker Peter Ndlovu, who did not play in the Luanda match as well as his brother Adam.

Grobbelaar is one of five coaches being interviewed for the post of national coach by Zimbabwe's Football Association, along with former South African coach Clive Barker.

He said on Tuesday he was still in talks with the Zimbabwe Football Association but insiders said they expected him to be formally appointed soon.

Seoul's plea to Samaranch

SEOUL, Sept 17 (AP): South Korea's president asked the International Olympic Committee Thursday to help organise single teams composed of South and North Koreans for the Sydney Olympics and other major international sports events.

President Kim Dae-jung made the request when he met with IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch. Samaranch was in Seoul for an IOC executive board meeting, timed to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul.

"South Korea wants to take part in international sports events as a single team with North Korea. For this, I want the IOC to actively cooperate," Kim told Samaranch.

Kim's chief spokesman, Park Jie-won, said South Korea's immediate goal is to organise single teams for the 1999 Asian Winter Games in South Korea, the 2000 Sydney Olympics and the 2002 Asian Games in Pusan, South Korea.

The South Korean president expressed hope that inter-Korea sports exchanges would help promote peace on the divided Korean peninsula, the spokesman said.

President Kim Dae Jung (R) of South Korea shakes hands with International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch on receiving a service medal in Seoul yesterday.
— AFP photo

Young's terrific hattrick

Aussies abase Kiwis

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 17: Left-arm spinner Brad Young took a rare hattrick as Australia skittled out New Zealand for just 58 in their cricket semifinal at the Commonwealth Games today, then galloped to victory in just 65 balls, reports Reuters.

"That was a great performance. That was something to remember for the rest of your life," said Australian captain Steve Waugh.

Young's hattrick — the first in the Commonwealth Games — Tom Moody's bowling and catching, Damien Fleming's destructive pace, Ricky Ponting's brilliant fielding and Adam Gilchrist's blazing batting were the highlights in an amazing all-round performance by the Australians.

The bowling was hostile, the fielding impeccable and the batting marred only by Mark Waugh's dismissal, caught behind off Alex Tait.

Gilchrist exemplified the buoyant mood of a side at the summit of its game by smashing two sixes and four boundaries in 36 balls as the Australians blazed their way to 62 for one off just 10.5 overs.

In Saturday's final, Australia plays South Africa, who edged to a one-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in a low-scoring semifinal on Wednesday.

New Zealand and Sri Lanka face off on Friday for the bronze medal, the first to be awarded at the Commonwealth Games in cricket as the game makes its debut in tropical Kuala Lumpur.

The South Africans are going to have to play supremely well to have a chance of beating the rampant Australians.

Young ended with four wickets for four runs off four overs as the New Zealand batsmen found no answer to the Australian cocktail of spin and pace on a wicket which helped both.

Paceman Damien Fleming (three for 23) began the Australian march into the final and Young accelerated it into overdrive.

Young, bowling his fourth over's third delivery, had Matt Bell (11) playing an uppish shot to be caught by Ricky Ponting at backward point.

Kiwi left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori edged the next ball to Tom Moody at slip, then Paul Wiseman knicked the fifth ball of the over to Moody and Young went into a rapturous celebration.

It was also the first hattrick of his adult career, asked when he last took one, Young replied: "Back in primary school cricket."

He paid tribute to the terrific catching of Moody, who also took a brilliant diving catch at second slip to get rid of New Zealand opener Matt Horne off Fleming's bowling.

Moody was also outstanding as a bowler, sending down six maidens in his seven overs.

Young's hattrick reduced New Zealand to 58 for nine and ended any hope they might have had of a recovery.

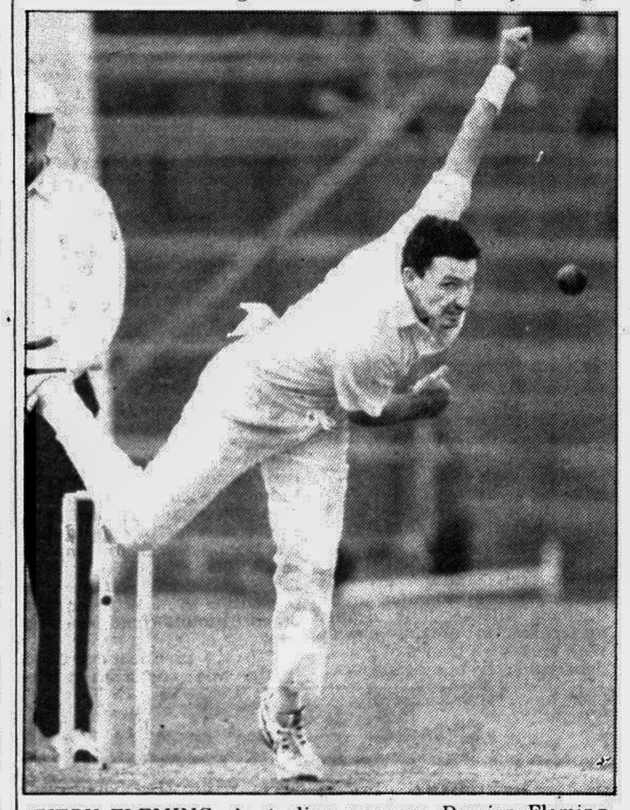
The South Australian had earlier removed the dangerous Adam Parore after he had added 18 runs with Matt Bell in a sixth wicket partnership which had given the Kiwis hope of a defendable total after an early battering by Fleming.

Fleming struck the first blow in the third over soon after opener Nathan Astle struck him for a confident boundary. Astle edged a ball moving away into Gilchrist's gloves.

Fleming got Horne and Craig McMillan in his next over to put the Kiwis deep in trouble.

Only Kiwi captain Stephen Fleming held out against the tide to reach 20, but then paceman Mike Kasprowicz beat him outside the off-stump and Mark Waugh took the catch at slip.

Australia's brilliant fielding accounted for Chris Harris in the next over. Ricky Ponting leapt on the ball at point, swivelled and hit the single stump he had to aim at.



FIERY FLEMING: Australian paceman Damien Fleming bowling against New Zealand in the semifinals of the Commonwealth Games cricket competition yesterday.
— AFP photo

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Commonwealth Games cricket semifinal between Australia and New Zealand on Thursday:

NEW ZEALAND

Astle c Gilchrist b D Fleming	6
Horne c Moody b D Fleming	3
S Fleming c M Waugh b Kasprowicz	20
McMillan lbw b D Fleming	0
Parore c S Waugh b Young	12
Harris run out	0
Bell c Ponting b Young	11
Tait c Lehmann b Robertson	0
Vettori c Moody b Young	0
Wiseman c Moody b Young	0
O'Connor not out	0
Extras: (lb-1, w-1, nb-4)	6
Total: (all out in 26.3 overs)	58

Fall of wkts: 1-8; 2-22; 3-22; 4-39; 5-39; 6-57; 7-58; 8-58; 9-58

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
Fleming	7	1	23	3
Kasprowicz	7	0	21	1
Moody	7	6	8	0
Robertson	1.3	0	1	1
Young	4	2	4	4

AUSTRALIA

M Waugh c Parore b Tait	10
Gilchrist not out	43
Ponting not out	8
Extras: (lb-1)	1
Total: (for one wicket in 10.5 overs)	62

Fall of wicket: 1-26

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
O'Connor	4	0	31	0
Tait	5	1	17	1
Astle	1.5	0	13	0

Result: Australia won by nine wickets.

Saturday's final: Australia v South Africa

Three counties & four days

LONDON, Sept 17: With four days remaining to decide the champion county in English cricket, three teams — Leicestershire, Surrey and Lancashire — are still in the hunt for the title, reports AP.

The most critical clash will be between first-place Leicestershire and second-place Surrey starting Thursday at The Oval, while third-placed Lancashire is still in the calculations.

Leicestershire, winners in 1975 and 1996, can earn their second county championship in three seasons with a win over Surrey.

Surrey can secure the championship with a outright win, while Lancashire must rely on a draw at The Oval and score an outright win over Hampshire at Old Trafford to grab their third domestic title this season.

Lancashire have already won the AXA league and NatWest Trophy limited-overs competitions this season and have hit form at the end of the season.

Surrey, featuring a host of internationals including England captain Alec Stewart, Mark Butcher, Graham Thorpe, Ian Salishbury and Adam and Ben Hollioake, were leading the championship until Sept 4 when they lost to Yorkshire.

"We have a lot of international players who thrive on pressure and they will be really looking forward to getting out there and giving it a go," Surrey captain Adam Hollioake said Wednesday.

Surrey, undefeated at the Oval this season, still have a strong chance to clinch their 17th county championship but face several key selection headaches.

Key strike bowler, off-spinner Saqlian Musthaq, is unavailable due to international commitments with Pakistan and has to be replaced with another spinner.

Thorpe has been sidelined with injury since England's winning Test series against South Africa and doubts remain over his fitness.

Wasim Akram will bring a10-year stint with Lancashire to an end when he leads the Manchester-based team onto the field on Thursday.

The former Pakistan captain announced Tuesday he was quitting international cricket to concentrate on fighting match-fixing allegations in Pakistan.

He is being replaced next season by Sri Lankan off spinner Muttiah Muralitharan.

Lancashire have not won the county championship outright since 1934, although they did share the title with Surrey in 1950.

England opener Michael Atherton is the only player in doubt for Lancashire but he is expected to be fully recovered from a back injury which kept him out of England's 10-wicket loss to Sri Lanka at The Oval three weeks ago.

Hampshire captain Robin Smith said he was confident his team could reverse their NatWest Trophy semifinal loss to Lancashire.

"We know it's going to be a difficult game, because Lancashire still have a chance of winning the title," he said.

"But we still haven't made amends for losing to them in the NatWest and we know that on our day we can be a match for anyone."

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

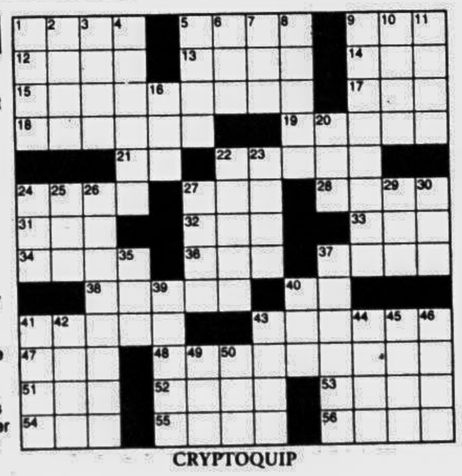
ACROSS
1 Capricorn
5 Headlight?
9 Drop by
12 Basilica section
13 One Baldwin
14 Bankroll
15 Deal between manufacturer and retailer
17 S.A. nation
18 Like bell-bottoms
19 Seek a job
21 Bunyan's Babe, e.g.
22 Cobra's weapon
24 "Awaiting reply"
27 "When I — 17..."
28 Indiana town
31 Make as good as new
32 Heidi's height?
33 A long, long time
34 Datum
36 Coquettish
37 Riboflavin
38 Dave Barry's specialty
40 Dad
41 All the world?
43 Comes up
47 Have
48 Retaliation in kind
51 Illus.
52 Geometry find
53 Houston acronym
54 What ID may verify
55 Groucho-esque look
56 British gun

DOWN
1 Harsh treatment
2 October stone
3 Largest of the seven
4 Fear, and then some
5 Unyielding
6 Wing
7 Played first
8 Lindbergh's view
9 Place to barter
10 Count's counterpart
11 Nervous
16 Cartoonist Avery
20 Burst
22 Boldness
23 Catch sight of
24 Inoperative
25 Through
26 Quid pro quo
27 Texas city
29 Tier
30 Popular card game
35 Harbor vessel
37 Kilted kids
39 Gold, silver or bronze
40 In favor
41 Parlor piece
42 Nest piece
43 Place of worship?
44 O.R. adverb
45 Facility
46 Oliver's partner
49 Wrath
50 Gizmo for Tiger Woods

Solution time: 22 mins.

F	A	I	R		W	A	R		S	P	A	R
A	L	O	U		I	D	A		C	L	I	O
D	O	W	N	P	L	A	Y		H	A	D	A
S	E	A	T	E	D		O	B	E	Y	E	D
			S	E	E		N	U	M	B		
J	A	B		P	S	I		G	E	O	D	E
A	T	O	M		T	A	P		D	O	O	R
G	L	O	A	T		M	O	P		K	E	G
		K	N	O	W		W	O	W			
T	O	M	A	T	O		E	L	A	T	E	S
A	B	A	T		M	A	R	K	D	O	W	N
M	I	R	E		A	G	E		E	R	E	I
P	E	K	E		N	O	D		S	O	R	T

Yesterday's answer



CRYPTOQUIP

G OJTTROZ GW'O WNJZ W U I W N J S S Z N O A R W U A N Z I W U Z I S F F N Z O O G S O U R N W T I S W O .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WON'T HAUNTED HOUSES OFTEN COME FURNISHED WITH SCREAM DOORS?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: "T equals P

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.