'Cork so down'

PERTH, Oct 25: England paceman Dominic Cork, one of his side's major hopes for Ashes glory this summer, has been hauled over the coals for bowling too fast, reports AFP.

The big 26-year-old was ordered by England bowling coach Bob Cottam to slow down during a concentrated practice session in the WACA ground nets here today.

"That's a danger with Corkie at the moment," an exasperated Cottam explained at the end of the workout.

"He is trying to impress everyone with pace. But he is primarily a swing bowler ... he has had all his success as a swing bowler.

"It's a thing we all go through. We've all done it. We just try to impress early on a tour because you know there is going to be competition for places," former Test player Cottam said.

"It's the adrenalin running hot, but he'll settle down."

Cork is desperate to push his claims for a place in the side for the first Test of the series starting in Brisbane November 20 as the tourists attempt to regain the Ashes after five losing series.

He has played in 25 Tests capturing 94 wickets at an average of 31.41, but has yet to take on Australia at the highest level.

With 18 wickets at 31.83, Cork was second in the bowling success stakes to fast -medium Angus Fraser (24 at 20.50) in England's recent 2-1 defeat of South Africa.

DFB accept random tests

DUISBURG, Germany, Oct 25: German football clubs are to accept random doping tests conducted at training sessions, the German National Olympic Committee (NOK) said Wednesday, reports AFP.

The German Football Federation (DFB) had previously only sanctioned testing after competition but bowed to NOK pressure to alight itself with other sports such as cycling and tennis, which had a already accept random tests.

The tests will now be introduced as early as January for the German Olympic team and at an as yet unspecified date for professional players, NOK president Walther Troger said.

Cameras for control

BUENOS AIRES, Oct 25: Argentina's government announced on Tuesday a new initiative to curb increasing fan violence at its First-Division football matches, reports AP.

Each of the top division soccer clubs must install a camera system by the end of the year, said Miguel Angel Toma, Argentina's Security Secretary.

"The club that does not install them before the end of the year will not be able to compete in the next championship," said Toma.

The monitoring system, developed by an Italian firm, will record fan activity and its images will be stored in a digitalized database.

In May, a judge suspended play in Argentina's top professional league after a gruesome weekend of fan violence that included two shootings.

LARA LANDS: West Indies captain Brian Lara arriving at the team hotel yesterday. — Star photo

Gilchrist under no illusion

BRISBANE, Oct 25 (AFP): Adam Gilchrist left today for the Wills International Cup cricket tournament in Bangladesh feeling no unease over replacing world record holder Ian Healy as the Australian wicketkeeper.

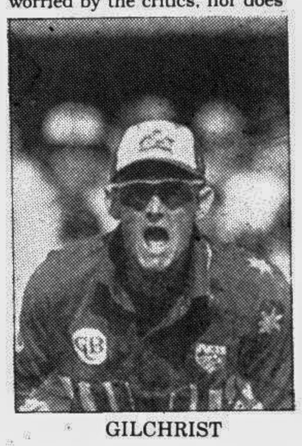
Healy, 34, broke Rod Marsh's record of 355 Test dismissals during the first Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi this month.

His value to the Australian side was highlighted again on Friday when he played a typically gusty first innings of 47 in the third Test at Karachi to lift the tourists out of a hole in their bid to win their first series in Pakistan in 39 years.

But no matter how the Australians fare in the current final Test, Healy will be on a plane home when most of his teammates fly to Bangladesh for their opening match in the nine-nation limited-over competition on Wednesday.

West Australian Gilchrist will instead be behind the stumps as well as opening the batting — a situation in practice since the 26-year-old took Healy's place in the national one-day side last Australian summer.

The decision to replace Healy for the one-dayers has been criticised by some, but Gilchrist says he has never been worried by the critics, nor does



GILCHRIST

he feel any pressure following Healy's world Test record.

"There's no pressure. Wherever a game is next, you just go and play," said Gilchrist before leaving for Bangladesh.

"I've got no drama with the situation. I'm just happy to do whatever the selectors ask of me.

"If they keep going with me in the one-day side and heals in the Test side then hopefully there'll be an opportunity in the Test team for me eventually.

"But he doesn't took like slowing up and he's just getting better and better.

"I'm just thrilled to be where I am and there's no need for me to walk around being disappointed that I'm being held out by a guy like that who's the best in the world."

Joining Gilchrist on the plane to Bangladesh today were fellow West Australians, Damien Martyn and left-arm paceman Brendon Julian, Queensland batsman Andrew Symonds and South Australian spinner Brad Young.

English-born Symonds is the only new one-day cap and there is much expected of the explosive 23-year-old middle-order player who came of age last Sheffield Shield season in scoring more than 800 runs.

Atherton repartees

PERTH, Oct 25: Former England cricket captain Mike Atherton hit back today at suggestions by former Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee he had blundered by admitting he still lived in fear of Australia's current pace champion Glenn McGrath, reports AFP.

"You come to expect this of the Australian media," said Atherton, referring to Lillee's claims in a newspaper column here that England had put their cards on the table in relation to McGrath and leg-spinner superstar Shane Warne even before the first match of the tour.

Lille wrote Atherton's admission in England he still feared McGrath. Who trapped

ATHERTON

him six times in the last Ashes series, and the tourists' decision to call on former Test leg-spin bowler Peter Philpott to advise their batsmen how to play Warne, were "two giant steps backward."

Atherton said the Australian media tried to belittle the opposition and build up the home side.

"And that's a natural thing," he said.

"The realities are we have just come off the back of a testing summer against South Africa's Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock, who are as good as anybody around.

"McGrath is obviously a good bowler. But, against the South African pace Mark Butcher and I managed to play pretty well. We can look forward with confidence to what lies ahead on this tour.

"I eagerly await the battles that lie ahead. That's why I like Test cricket ... you play against the best in testing circumstances."

Atherton, 30, a right-handed opener, was England's most productive batsman against South Africa, hitting 493 runs at an average of 54.77 in the five Tests as England won the series 2-1.

Butcher played in three Tests, opening with Atherton and making 338 runs at 56.33.

Without the burden of captaincy after he had led his country in a record-breaking 52 Tests at the helm over four years, Atherton found some of the best form of his nine-year, 84-Test career.

"I fell in a trough in the last 12 months of my captaincy, and that was part of the reason I gave up the job," the Lancastrian said. "I was not getting the runs I expected of myself.

"Mark Taylor will tell you that, as the captain, over a period you can forget to think about your own game, because you are so busy thinking of other things.

"Being able to spend more time on my own game certainly paid off last summer.

"And I have adjusted comfortably to no longer being in charge. The other lads have adjusted pretty well to me, too, there is mutual respect between myself and the other players.

"You look to forge a different role for yourself in the team, for me now, that is as a senior player passing on a bit of advice to younger players.

"Stewy (new captain Alec Stewart) will occasionally ask me for advice, but I am a firm believer in leaving the guy who captains the side, and if he wants advice, he will come to me I don't want to push myself on him."

Atherton, afflicted with further back trouble at the end of the northern summer, missed England's humiliating 10-wicket drubbing by Sri Lanka in a one-off Test at The Oval.

"But I am in much better physical condition now, ready for this special tour in which a few of us who have played against Australia before, without much success, want to put that right," he said.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

MAKE THE ONLY ASSUMPTION THAT WILL FULFIL THE CONTRACT

(Hand # 125)

North
♠ S : Q 9 3
♥ H : A 2
♦ D : Q J 9 6 5
♣ C : 5 4 3

West
♠ S : K J 2
♥ H : 9 8 7 6 5
♦ D : 8 4 3 2
♣ C : 2

East
♠ S : 8 6 5
♥ H : Q J 4
♦ D : K 1 0 7
♣ C : Q J 1 0 9

South (D)
♠ S : A 1 0 7 4
♥ H : K 1 0 3
♦ D : A
♣ C : A K 8 7 6

Bidding: Neither side was vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1 Club*	Pass	1 Heart**	Pass
2 Clubs	Pass	2 Diamonds	Pass
2 Spades	Pass	3 Spades	Pass
3 No Trumps	Pass	Pass	Pass

* Artificial, 18 or more HCP.
** Artificial, showing 7-9 HCP.

When North supported Spades, South should have gone to 4 Spades. But he rightly assumed that North's support was on 3 cards. As his Spade suit was rather thin he booked game in No Trump. As it is, 4 Spades would have been difficult, but 3 No Trumps were also not easy.

THE PLAY

Against the No Trump contract, West opened the top of series – the 8 of Hearts. The dummy played low and East played the Jack. As ducking would enable the defence to remove cheaply a vital entry into the dummy, the declarer won the trick in his hand and played the Ace of Diamond. The declarer was R A Mazumdar who is an experienced player and very good in assessing the options. One option was to set up the Club suit, provided the suit broke favourably (3-2) in which case he could make 4 Clubs, 2 Hearts, 1 Diamond, and he had to develop a second Spade trick. For this option he had to lose the lead twice by which time the defence would have cleared the Heart suit to beat the contract. The second option was rather complicated but interesting. Assuming West had both the K J of Spades, he would be able to make 3 tricks in Spades. Since Mazumdar needed to develop a Spade trick anyway, he opted for this option. He therefore led a small Spade toward the dummy. As West needed the Spade entry to cash the Hearts as and when those were cleared, he played 2 of Spades. Following his earlier assumption, Mazumdar went up with the 9 of Spades which won the trick. Next he entered his hand with a Club to play another low Spade, West was undone. He went up with the King and played a Heart. It was then East who was put in a difficult situation. If he dropped the Queen of Hearts, the declarer was most likely to make the 10 of Hearts as West's initial lead was 9 of Hearts. On winning the Ace of Hearts, the declarer played the Queen of Diamonds. East won the trick with the King. He could then cash the Jack of Hearts but that was the end of the story. The dummy had the entry in Spade Queen, and the Diamonds would be good. A good thinking and a good play.

No word from ICC on Harbhajan yet

MUMBAI, Oct 25: The International Cricket Council (ICC) is yet to direct the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) about the measures to be taken to rectify Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh's bowling action.

The BCCI president, Raj Singh Dungarpur, told PTI here yesterday that they (BCCI) were still waiting for ICC directive to rectify the 18-year-old offie's bowling action.

"I presume that the ICC officials are busy conducting the Wills International Cup in Dhaka which began yesterday and I expect they (ICC) will let us know where and when Harbhajan would go to rectify his action once the Dhaka tournament is over," he added.

"However, I will be leaving for Dhaka on Sunday and hope to get in touch with the ICC president, Jagmohan Dalmiya there," the BCCI chief said.

The Wills International Cup is the brainchild of Dalmiya where all the nine Test playing countries are participating.

The young off spinner was not selected in the Dhaka-bound India team after an ICC letter directed the Indian board not to include the offie in the squad after adverse reports on his bowling action by match referees Peter Van Der Merwe of South Africa and Ranjan Madugalle of Sri Lanka.

However, former Test stars, including left-arm spinner Bishen Singh Bedi and former skipper Kapil Dev, had criticised the Indian board for not supporting Harbhajan Singh like the Sri Lankan board did to their off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan recently.

Border behind it all the way

KARACHI, Oct 25 (AFP) : Australian cricket great Allan Border today welcomed the prospect of a World Test Championship, saying the sport needed it.

"I think Test cricket needs such a championship and it is high time now that it was implemented," said Border, a veteran of a world-record 156 Tests and Test cricket's greatest runscorer.

Ali Bacher, the head of International Cricket Council (ICC) development programme said in Dhaka, that the ICC is considering a proposal to hold a World Championship over four years with the nine-Test nations playing each other once at home and away.

Border, who amassed 11,174 Test runs, raised doubts however about the schedule.

"I support the idea but am not sure about the format. In my opinion they should consider Tests played over a four-year period with different points for home and away wins. The top four teams play the semifinals," he said.

Legendary Pakistani batsman Hanif Mohammad also voiced support for a World Championship.

"There have been consistent calls for World Test Championship and I think that will assess the true calibre of teams as well as players," said Hanif, in the record books for the longest Test innings of 337 runs in 990 minutes.

But prominent Pakistani commentator Chishy Mujahid doubted the championship would take-off.

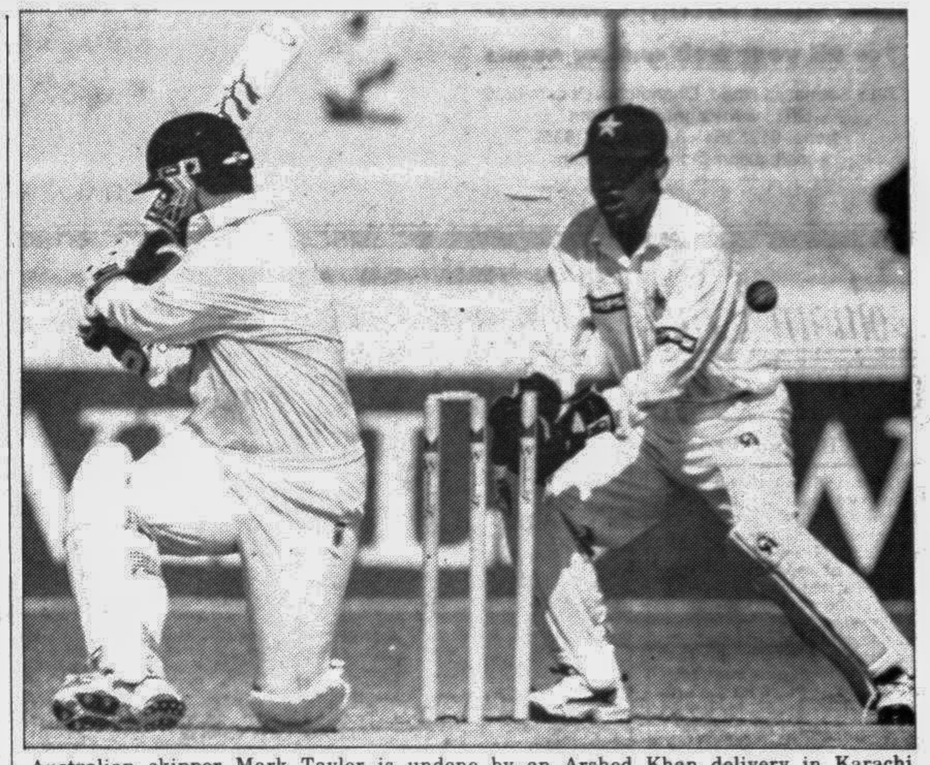
"There is no need of such a championship. The logistics as well as the busy schedule does not allow it. The world champions of Tests can be determined by the consistent performance of a team over certain period," he said.

Webber fined

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Oct 25: National Basketball Association forward Chris Webber was detained and fined 500 dollars here Friday night by customs officials for possession of 11 grams of marijuana, reports AFP.

Webber was travelling with about a dozen athletes to Barbados on a promotional tour for a shoemaker and on a lay over between flights here when a drug sniffing dog detected marijuana in his bag.

DISABILITY NO BAR: He may be a physically disabled person but showed his resourcefulness as he offered tickets for the New Zealand-Zimbabwe match for sale at a premium. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman



Australian skipper Mark Taylor is undone by an Arshed Khan delivery in Karachi yesterday. — AFP photo

Pakistan require 419 runs

KARACHI, Oct 25 (AP/AFP): Australia brightened their chances of recording their first series victory in Pakistan in 39 years winding up play at stumps Sunday with a massive 419- run victory target for Pakistan in the final Test of the three match series.

The visitors, backed by Mark Waugh's brilliant 117, were dismissed for 390 in their second innings in the last over of play on the fourth day.

If Pakistan succeed it will be a cricket first.

Pakistan's best fourth innings total was in 194 against Australia when they won by a wicket while chasing 315 runs.

A late flurry of boundaries by Gavin Robertson (45) on Sunday in the second last over of the day enabled Australia to line up the massive total.

Robertson was the last man out which gave debutant Shakeel Ahmed his fourth wicket of the innings.

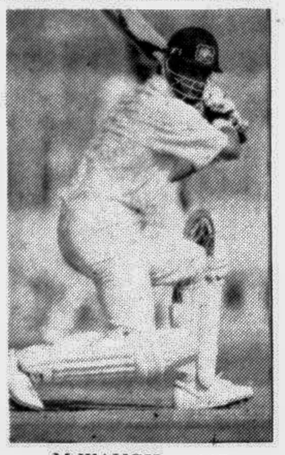
Mark Waugh came to the crease in the fifth over of the day after Mark Taylor (68) was bowled by Arshad Khan. Waugh was finally stumped by Moin Khan off Shakil Ahmed after spending six and a half hours at the wicket in making 117 off 232 balls.

Pakistan captain Aamir Sohail setup a defensive field throughout the day in order to restrict the Australians. However, Mark Waugh continued to push the scoring with singles and twos and occasionally found the boundary.

He brought up his 15th Test century with a gentle push to square leg in nearly six hours off 201 balls. His second Test century against Pakistan featured eight fours and a straight six over left-arm spinner Shakil Ahmed's head.

Waugh added 56 runs with his twin brother Steve (28) for the fourth wicket. Then with Darren Lehmann (26) they put on another 76 runs for the fifth wicket before making 63 with Gavin Robertson.

Lehmann survived a touch and go stumping decision when the square leg camera failed to catch both wicketkeeper Moin and the batsman in one frame.



M WAUGH ... 117

Earlier, after resuming their second innings at the overnight total of 130 for one, Australia lost skipper Taylor and Langer before lunch.

Taylor added another four to his overnight 64 before he was bowled by Arshad. The 33-year-old Australian captain eclipsed his predecessor Allan Border's 395-run mark in a series in Pakistan. He scored 513, 426 in the second Test at Peshawar, with an impressive average of 128.25.

Taylor and Langer put on 109 runs for the second wicket in 191 minutes.

Langer was run out when he failed to beat Ijaz Ahmed's strong throw from square leg. His 51-run innings included three fours and a six and came off 222 minutes.

Steve Waugh departed soon after lunch, giving left-arm spinner Shakil Ahmed his first Test wicket as Australia went for tea at 283 for four with Lehmann struggling at 26 and Mark Waugh on a patient 77.

Pakistan paceman Wasim Akram and Soaib Akhtar, removed Lehmann and Ian Healy (3) respectively in the space of three overs. Izaj took a superb diving catch to his right at point to dismiss Lehmann while Afridi took a well judged catch off Healy's mistimed pull at mid-wicket.

Shakil ended with four for 91 while two wickets were claimed by Moin.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the fourth day of the third cricket Test between Pakistan and Australia in Karachi on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 280 (M. Slater 96, I Healy 47; Shahid Afridi 5-52)

PAKISTAN: First innings 252 (Aamir Sohail 133, Wasim Akram 35; G McGrath 5-66)

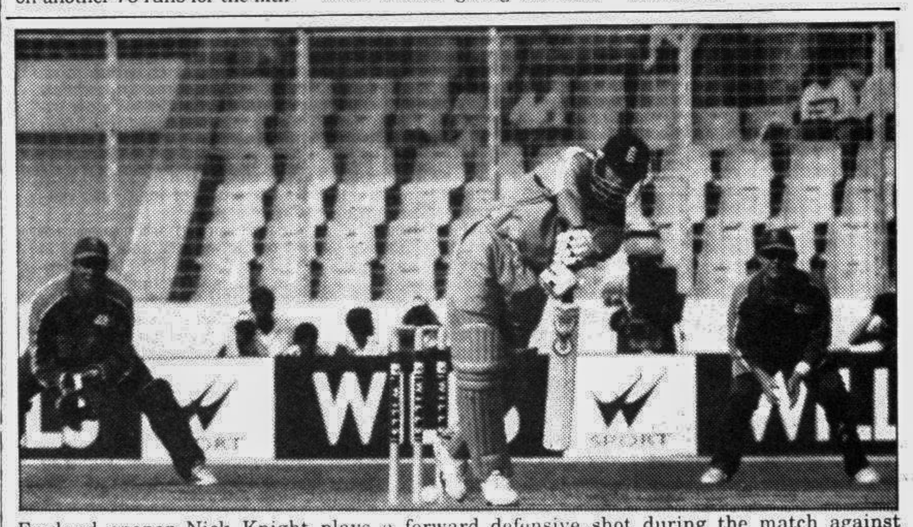
AUSTRALIA: Second innings (Overnight 130-1)

Slater c Yohanna b Arshad	11
Taylor b Arshad	68
Langer run out	51
M Waugh st Moin b Shakil	117
S Waugh c Moin b Shakil	28
Lehmann c Ijaz b Akram	26
Healy c Afridi b Shoaib	3
Robertson c Akram b Shakil	45
Miller c Afridi b Shakil	0
MacGill run out	10
McGrath not out	4
Extras: (b-4; lb-8; nb-15)	27
Total: (All out)	390

Fall of wickets: 1-27; 2-136; 3-152; 4-208; 5-284; 6-294; 7-357; 8-357; 9-269; 10-390.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Akram	22	2	60	1
Shoaib	17	3	37	1
Arshad	56	14	141	2
Afridi	18	3	49	0
Shakil	29.3	3	91	4

Umpires Dave Orchard (South Africa) and Riazuddin (Pakistan).



England opener Nick Knight plays a forward defensive shot during the match against South Africa. — Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

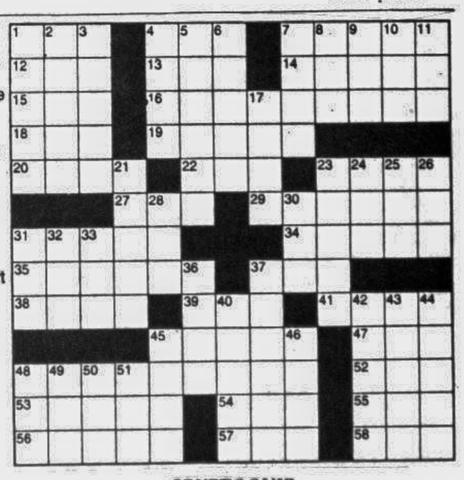
ACROSS
1 Scroogean shout
4 Tramp
7 Imelda's collection
12 Popular card game
13 Gasteyer of "SNL"
14 Eucalyptus eater
15 Speck
16 Movie pooch
18 He defeated AES
19 Tonto's horse
20 Fox's cry
22 Work unit
23 Not nude
27 Clumsy chap
29 Schulz's dog
31 Reef ring
34 Pueblo material
35 Forerunner to 1 Down
37 Ripen
38 Mayberry marshal
39 Bubble producer
41 Succumbs to gravity
45 Reacts in horror
47 — Na Na
48 LBJ's pets
52 Zero-star review
53 Where the action is
54 Epoch
55 Remnant
56 "Olympia" painter
57 Scale members
58 Unfavorable vote

DOWN
1 Socks' rival
2 Battery terminal
3 Park Place
profit-maker
4 Musician's measures
5 Halloween charity
6 Estate
7 Revue segment
8 Sweetie
9 Feed-bag tidbit
10 Ivy Leaguer
11 Japanese honorific
17 Harbor craft
21 Tom Sawyer's aunt
23 Morse and ZIP
24 Card game
25 Police alert abbr.
26 Go blonde
28 "The Greatest"
30 Kvetch
31 Doctors' org.
32 10th anniversary gift
33 Stale
36 "Zounds!"
37 Current unit
40 Pal of the groom, often
42 Skiers' mecca
43 Accra's land
44 Annie's companion
45 Estival pest
46 Mmes., across the Pyrenees
48 Son of Noah
49 George's brother
50 Lavatory sign
51 Hydrocarbon suffix

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer



CRYPTOQUIP

Z G N D W R E M L P Z M E P M P F P K D Z R Y F Y K P S W L M K N S Z P F P M M Y F M W G F R Y M M Y K.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I THINK ANY MAN WHO LIES DOWN ON RAILROAD TRACKS EVIDENTLY HAS LOCO MOTIVES.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: R equals G

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.