Spain scrape in semis

KADUNA, Nigeria, Apr 19: Spain, the only European team left in the tournament, edged past Ghana 8-7 on penalties on Sunday to reach the semifinals of the World Youth Championship, reports Reuters. The Spaniards were the

more cohesive side and their relentless attacking left the African champions gasping.

They took the lead with
Saludes Barkero's penalty in
the 56th minute after Ghanian

defender George Blay upended a Spaniard in the box. The Spaniards seemed to be coasting to victory before Peter

Ofori-Quaye's last-gasp goal de-layed their celebrations. Ghana's Tutu Adu was sent off for rough play.

During the penalty shootout, Blay missed the crucial Ghanaian kick to send Spain into a semifinal clash with Mali on Wednesday in Kaduna.

Floodlight failure held up the game for 10 minutes in the first half after a similar incident halted play for 12 minutes earlier in the tournament during the Mexico-Ireland Group C match in Ibadan.

Seles mows Majoli down

RALEIGH, North Carolina, Apr 19: Monica Seles continued her dominant ways in Fed Cup play, sealing the US victory over Croatia with a 6-0, 6-3 defeat of Iva Majoli in Sunday's first match, reports Reuters.

The victory by Seles gave the United States an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the best-of-five series and a date in Italy July 24-25, and lifted her Fed Cup singles record to 10-0. The Americans went on to a 5-0 sweep after winning the second reverse singles and doubles matches.

Seles, ranked third in the world, wasted little time in both of her singles wins over the weekend. Sunday's win took only 42 minutes - the first set took just 16 minutes - and on Saturday, she defeated Silvija Talaja in just 63.

I was on," said Seles. "Everything was going my way." US captain Billie Jean King

had nothing but praise for Seles. "She played unbelievably well." King said. "I was looking at her this weekend and this last week, and she's getting physically stronger, and I just think it will be interesting to see her the rest of the year.'

While Seles was clearly on top of her game. Majoli made many of the same mistakes which led to her defeat on Saturday by Chanda Rubin.

"It was more like her playing perfect, and I couldn't do anything." Majoli said. "She played a really, really solid match, no mistakes, very good."
Majoli did jump out to a 2-0

lead in the second set. Seles, who rarely found herself behind this weekend, said she began to think about the last time she played Majoli. "Here we go again like in Tokyo when I lost to her," said Seles who lost there after taking the

But Seles, cheered on by the American crowd chanting "USA, USA," would not fold. A pair of double faults led to

first set.

Seles tying the score at 2-2. From there. Seles scored four of the last five points for the win. For the match, Majoli committed 35 unforced errors, including 14 in the first set. Seles totalled only 12 for the match.

J&J abandons Winter Games

SALT LAKE CITY, Apr 19: Johnson and Johnson has become the first company to abandon the Olympics in the wake of a bribery scandal. backing away from an estimated 30 million dollar sponsorship deal for the 2002 Winter Games, reports AP.

Company spokesman John McKeegan said Sunday that the decision was based on internal disagreements about how to link the company's many brands under a sponsorship umbrella in time for the Salt Lake City Games.

But he acknowledged that Olympic corruption also was a

"We can't say that it didn't have anything to do with it." McKeegan said. "It was certainly in the background."

The Salt Lake bribery scandal sparked several investigations after it was revealed that members of the city's bid committee offered 1.2 million dollars in cash, scholarships and other gifts to International Olympic Committee members and their relatives during the successful campaign to win the

2002 Winter Games. A total of 10 IOC members have been banished or have resigned after being linked to the cash payments and other votebuying inducements. Ten others have been censured or warned about their actions in what has been described as the worst scandal in the history of the

modern Olympics. Johnson and Johnson had just signed a letter of intent to increase financial support when the bribery scandal sur-

faced late last year. "The sponsors that we talk to are assessing the environment in which we find ourselves every single day," said John Krimsky, US Olympic Committee Deputy Secretary General and the games' chief fund-raising officer. "And when they have to invest millions of dollars and the reputation of their products and services they have

to be very, very careful." Though Johnson and Johnson has never been a full sponsor for the Games, it has provided its products to athletes through the USOC for about 20 years. McKeegan said that rela-tionship would continue.



British Prime Minister Tony Blair (L) and former England star Sir Bobby Charlton exchange views while standing outside 10 Downing Street yesterday. - Internet photo

English bid includes kids

LONDON, Apr 19 (Reuters/Internet): The organisers of England's bid to stage the World Cup in 2006

said on Monday they would spend 4.0 million pounds (\$6.46 million) on bringing nearly 2,500 children from all 203 FIFA members to England for the event.

Alec McGivan, the director of England's bid, told a news conference: "In what will be the world's biggest ever sports-related cultural exchange, 12 young people from each of FI-FA's 203 affiliated nations will be invited to come to England for the World Cup.

The initiative - "England's Welcome to the World" - is the main feature of the theme of England's bid titled "Putting Young People First."

The idea is that the children will attend World Cup matches. live with local families as part of a cultural exchange, attend coaching sessions and generally enjoy the World Cup experience.

All their travel and living expenses will be paid for out of the profits of the tournament. Prime Minister Tony Blair,

Woerns to join Dortmund

BONN. Apr 19 (Reuters/ Internet): Germany defender Christian Woerns will move to Borussia Dortmund from Paris St Germain at the end of the season, daily Bild reported on Monday. Bild said the two clubs had

reached an agreement over the weekend for Woerns to sign a three-year contract with the 1997 European champions for a 13 million mark (\$7.09 million) transfer fee. The 26-year-old Woerns

moved to PSG from Bayer Leverkusen on a free transfer before the start of the current sea-Bayern Munich manager Uli

Hoeness said last month the Bavarian club had wanted to sign him but decided not to because he was asking for too much money.

helping to launch the project at Downing Street, said on Monday: "Everyone is excited about the possibility of having the World Cup in England, but we also want to create a football legacy that will run beyond

"I know that young people are the future of this great sport. I believe that England's commitment to put young people first will make the 2006 World Cup in England a truly unique experience.

Meanwhile, Sports Minister Tony Banks said that the minor crowd trouble after Manchester United defeated Arsenal 2-1 in an epic FA Cup semifinal replay last week would not have a negative impact on England's bid.

Although Manchester United and Arsenal fans were seen to be involved in scuffles on the pitch at Villa Park, Banks said: "There was no trouble as far as I could see but a joyous fiesta of football supporters who went on the pitch to cheer their heroes. There might have been a minor fracas but it was not harmful to our bid."

Europe beckons Atkinson



(Reuters/ Internetl: English striker Dalian Atkinson is ready

to end his selfimposed exile in Saudi Arabia and return to Europe but says his time in the Middle East may well have saved his career

Atkinson, who played for Aston Villa and Sheffield Wednesday in the English premier league, helped his Jeddahbased club Al Ittihad win the Asian Cup Winners' Cup by beating South Korea's Chunnam Dragons 3-2 in the final here on Sunday.

He said before his departure from Tokyo that he wanted to return to Europe when his eight-month contract expires at the end of the season.

Atkinson, 31, joined the Saudi club on a recommendation from former Liverpool and Tottenham striker Ronnie Rosenthal after relations with his previous club, Turkey's Fenerbahce, turned sour.

"I only played about 10 times in two years." Atkinson said of his time in Turkey.

"It's a long story but basically they refused to pay money . that was owed to me and I refused to go back to them at the end of my first season. "I wanted to go to a different

club but Fenerbahce kept messing me about and when I needed clearance from them to train with other teams they didn't help me out. "It got to a stage that I was go-

ing to call it a day. Atkinson took the club to FIFA, the game's governing body, and eventually emerged

Saudi Arabia. "The way I've had to work in Saudi Arabia has been verv hard," Atkinson said. "I was doing 1400 sit-ups a

day with a medicine ball to get my power back because the time I had spent fighting Fenerbahce had worked against me.

"The training was hard because I was carrying too much weight and when I joined at first I kept getting niggly little injuries but working in 120 percent humidity and 38 degree heat soon got me in shape.

Kafelnikov tops earner's list

MONACO, Apr 19 (Reuters/ Internet): Leading prize-money winners (amount shown in US dollars) issued by the ATP Tour

on Monday:	by the AIP I
on Monday: 1. Kafelnikov 2. Krajicek 3. Philippossis 4. Engvist	701,11 584,15 462,16 . 407,17
5. Moya 6. Henman 7. Haas 8. Golmard 9. Black 10. Martin 11. Rusedski 12. Kiefer 13. Stolle 14. Grosjean	304,69 300,96 280,76 276,00 269,40 240,50 230,4 229,8 223,95 223,95
15. Kuerten 16. Kucera 17. Schuttler 18. Santoro 19. B Black 20. Clavet	221,75 217,45 202,16 194,21 185,11 175,12
TOMOTOMIC TO SERVICE	

When I was training my fingers would go white with the de-Then came the move to hydration and after a training season I had to wring my socks out because I'd been sweating so

"But now I feel much better within myself and the team, in the last five matches, have seen a better me because I'm fitter and my strength is better."

Atkinson has scored 10 goals in his last 11 games for Al Ittihad, who have won three trophies in recent months.

In addition to the Asian Cup Winners' Cup, Al Ittihad have won the Federation Cup in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Club Championship, a tournament played between the top club sides from the member states of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

"Saudi's been good for me because there are no bars to go out to," Atkinson said.

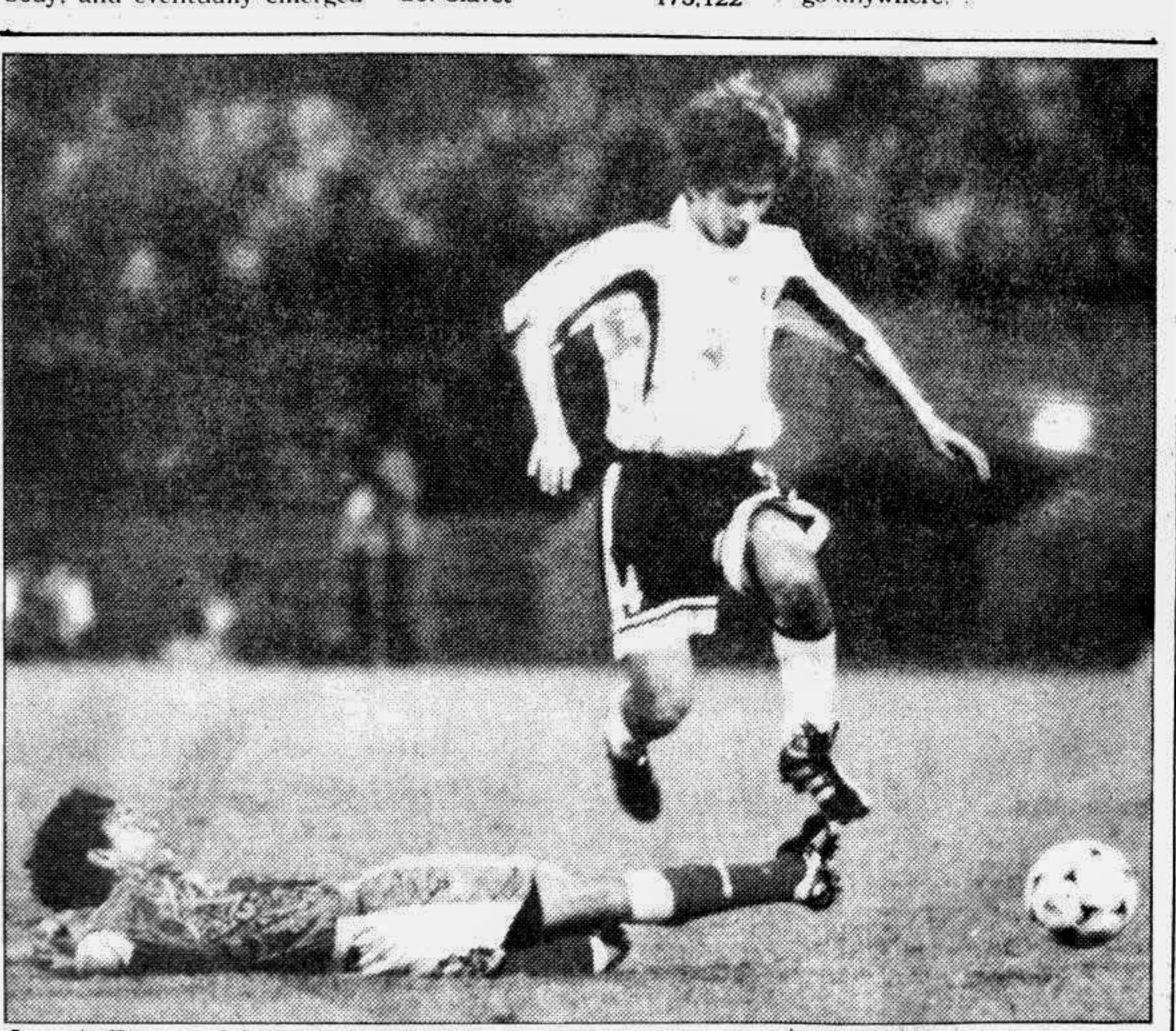
"There are no distractions, ! can just train and relax and that was what I needed when I left Turkey because the players told me I was fat when I joined the club.

"But want to go back to Europe. You always think that you might have lost it but I realise that I've still got it and the more I play the better I will get. "I've just turned 31 so I'm not

an old man, I'm just more experienced now, which is good. "I can still do a job but I don't know where. I'm prepared to go

on trial and I know I'm in shape so I'm more confident about myself.

"Before the touch wasn't there because I hadn't been training with the ball for a long time but now I'm confident I can go anywhere,".



Japan's Tatsuya Ishikawa skips past a Mexican player in their World Youth Championship quarterfinal in Ibadan on April 18. Japan won 2-0 and will play Uruguay in the semifinals, — AFP photo

Sir Bobby remembers it well!

LONDON, Apr 19: If Manchester United's young stars are worried about Wednesday's Champions' Cup semifinal against Juventus, they'd do well to get a word of reassurance from Sir Bobby Charlton, reports AP.

The two teams are level at 1-I from the first leg and Wednesday's winner will advance to the May 27 final of Europe's most prestigious competition.

But Charlton, one of the

stars of Manchester United's only Champion's Cup triumph 31 years ago, has seen this type of situation before. Leading 1-0 from the first leg back in the semifinal of 1968,

United went to mighty Real Madrid for the second and was 3-1 down at half time. "I remember it clearly," the former England World Cup star said Monday. "It appeared that everything was finished for us and the Real Madrid fans were

expecting another place in the

final. "Their players even seemed to be a bit, arrogant. They

thought their job was over. "But the English always seem to be able to dig deep and we scored two goals in the sec-ond half for a 3-3 draw," Charlton said. "We had the desire to do it and we've got to do the same on Wednesday.

'We saw the best of Juventus at Old Trafford and probably the worse of Manchester United," Charlton said. "We probably got away with the draw and now it's time to bring out the best of Manchester United.'

Charlton, a director of the club, flies out with the team to Turin on Tuesday to prepare for the semifinal at the Delle Alpi stadium.

Juventus come off a 3-1 win at Serie A leader Lazio and, despite poor domestic form for most of the season, appear to be peaking at the right time.

Carlo Ancelotti's team outplayed United for a long period in the first leg before conceding a late equalizer to Ryan Giggs.

The Welsh winger is considered only a 50-50 starter on Wednesday after damaging his ankle in last week's memorable FA Cup semifinal victory over Arsenal in which he scored a spectacular solo winner.

While Juve only have the Champions' Cup left, United are aiming for a unique treble having already made it to the final of the FA Cup and standing at the top of the Premier

Manager Alex Ferguson has been able to make use of his huge squad of players by making frequent changes in recent games. On Saturday, he left. seven of his regular first team players but their replacements cruised to a 3-0 victory over full-strength Sheffield Wednes-

Maracana gets a face-lift

RIO DE JANEIRO, Apr 19 (AP): A 49-year-old Brazilian soccer legend is getting into shape again, ready for match

It's not Pele or Zico, but the Maracana. Dogged by disrepair. crowd violence and tiny aftendances in recent years, the world's biggest stadium has found a new lease of life, at least for now.

"We're making it a priority to give the Maraca (its nickname) back it's dignity," Francisco Carvalho, president of Rio city council's sports body, told newsweekly Veja.

The council is spending 29 million dollars(50 million reals) to install seating in the concrete upper tier over the next year. It has also reopened the "general", a field-side standing section that was closed for years after an accident.

Built for the 1950 World Cup. the Maracana was a fitting stage for Pele, Garrincha, Rivelino and stars of the "Golden Age," when Brazil won World Championships in 1958, 1962 and 1970.

In 1950, a match against Uruguay in 1950 packed in 200,000 fans, one against Paraguay in 1970 drew 183,000. some 30,000 more than the official capacity. But the Maracana had al-

most stood fixed in time since: Fans still sit in concrete stands. Crowd segregation is limited. Toilet and catering facilities are poor. Meanwhile, attempts to privatise the stadium in 1997 fell

through and hooliganism kept

fans away. A survey last year

found 61 per cent of Brazilians soccer fans avoided matches. tearing violence. "I went to the Paraguay game in 1970 as a child. I'll never forget the atmosphere," said gas company worker Sergio Bandeira. "But I watch matches on

Bandeira's team, Flamengo. last year registered its lowestever attendance in the Maracana: 795. But now fans like him are returning in droves for Rio's state championship. With a 46,000 crowd average

satellite TV now."

per match, attendances are double what they were in 1998. About 140,000 fans were expected Sunday for the classic between Flamengo and Vasco da Gama. The attendance jump is

cut-price tickets via a local newspaper, and the city council's new drive. Whether the Maracana renaissance will go on after its 50th birthday and into the 21st century remains unsure.

down to a promotion by media

giants Globo which is selling

Former FIFA president Joao Havelange maintains the only solution for the giant stadium is to "blow up" up the huge mass of concrete and rebuild it. Only then, he says, can it compare with modern, high-tec European stadiums.



Franck Vandenbroucke of Belgium celebrates after winning the 264 kilometre Liege Bastogne-Liege cycle race on April 18. - AFP photo

Chelsea spoil a chance



LONDON, Apr 19 (Reuters/Internet): League championships are often won and lost in one or two cru-

cial moments. A brilliant late equaliser from Leicester midfielder Steve Guppy may have destroyed Chelsea's hopes of winning their first English championship since 1955.

The London club's array of experienced internationals gave away a 2-0 lead in the last 10 minutes of their premier league clash with the Midlands club on Sunday after an own goal and Guppy's brilliant curling shot from the edge of the

With it, the European Cup Winners' Cup holders lost the chance to put pressure on leaders Manchester United.

"That makes it very difficult for us now." first team coach Ray Wilkins said. 'We have got five games left and we have got to win them all to stand any chance. Then we just have to hope the others slip up. "When they went route one-

ish, we did not cope with that very well at all. We should have been three of four up by then but we started to defend too deep and caused ourselves all sorts of problems.

The draw helped Chelsea move up one place to second but they missed the opportunity to go within one point of United. Chelsea are now one point

ahead of third-placed Arsenal. the defending champions, and three points behind United. But their two rivals in the tight championship race both have a game in hand.

Arsenal had the chance to bounce back against Wimbledon later on Monday.

Chelsea's next main challenge is their Cup Winners' Cup second leg on Thursday against Mallorca. Then their last handful of games are against Sheffield

Wednesday, relegation-threat-

ened Everton, impressive Leeds United, Tottenham Hotspur and Derby County on the last day of the season on May 16. Interestingly, fourth-placed Leeds, who are bidding for a place in Europe next season,

also appear on the fixture lists of United and Arsenal, as do Tottenham Hotspur. Spurs, who have clinched their place in Europe next season by winning the League Cup. have little else to play for this season but the London club re-

gard themselves as one of the

country's leading sides and will

be difficult opponents.

After their European Cup semifinal against Juventus in midweek, United travel to Leeds on April 25. They then face Aston Villa, Liverpool, Middlesbrough, Blackburn Rovers and Tottenham.

Store of the contract

After Wimbledon, Arsenal take on Middlesbrough, Derby, Tottenham, Leeds and Villa.

ATP Tour's top twenty

MONACO. Apr 19 (Reuters/

Internet): Leading rankings issued by the ATP Tour on Monday (points shown alongside): L. Sampras 2. Moya 3,388 Kafelnikov 3,382 . Krajicek 3,130 5. Corretja 3,101 6. Rafter 2,978 2,633 7. Henman 8. Philippoussis 2,264 Kucera 2.253 10. Agassi

2,219 11. Martin 2,216 Rusedski 2,126 2,125 13. Rios Costa 2,079 Enqvist 1,951 16, Ivanisevic 1,929 17. Mantilla 1,905 18. Johansson 1.650 1,631

1.600

19. Kuerten

20. Haas

Becker shows his old self



Internet): Boris Becker's fine

romance with the Monte Carlo Open blossomed again on Monday when he beat last year's finalist Cedric Pioline in three sets.

The 32-year-old part-timer, playing for the 13th time here -a record he shares with Thomas Muster and Romanian Ilie Nastase -- won 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 against the French number one.

who has never beaten him. "It's nice to be here again. Everybody's always been very nice to me," said Becker, who has lived in the principality. It was only the third tour-

nament this season for Becker

and he showed he still ranked among the best as he did two weeks ago by reaching the Hong Kong Open final before losing to Andre Agassi. Becker, who has enjoyed his best clay-court performances here reaching three finals, had

mainly himself to blame for

losing one set against local hero

Pioline. Pioline, who had vital ATP Tour points to defend here, seized the opportunity to level at one set each when Becker lost concentration. The Frenchman had lost the first in 47 minutes, Becker breaking him in the ninth game.

It seemed the match was going Pioline's way at the beginning of the last set as he raced to a 3-0 lead. But Becker fought back and again peppered the lines with winners to level at 3-

The ninth game of the set was a nail-biting contest, which lasted nearly 20 minutes.

ACROSS

1 Money-

making

5 It can be

9 Auction

action

12 Cruising

spread

14 Bustling

activity

15 Diploma

tears

18 Feeds

21 Partner

19 Vast

the fire

expanse

no more

22 Ricochet

nance

28 Bacterium

bender

Geller

32 Kyoto

33 Born

34 Fix

sash

37 Charon's

27 Normal

31 Spoon-

24 Suste-

17 Tend

13 Bread

venture?

But Pioline, who double-Apr 19 (Reuters/ faulted twice, cracked first when Becker returned one of his smashes with a brilliant lob before finishing him off at the

> Serving for the match, the German did give his nervous opponent, winning the final game to love and the match in two hours and 33 minutes.



meets another Frenchman, the in-form Jerome Golmard, who could become the French number one here.

Golmard demolished Italian Davide Sanguinetti 6-1, 6-2. Another Frenchman, hopeful Arnaud Di Pasquale, a former junior world champion, caused the main upset of the day when he beat Spaniard Alberto Berasategui, a semifinalist here last year, 7-6, 5-7, 6-4.

In a clash of rising tennis stars. German Tommy Haas. seeded 14th, beat Russian Marat

Safin 6-4, 6-2. Haas advances

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Apr 19: German No 1 Tommy Haas advanced to the second round of the dies 2.2 million Monte Carlo Open on Monday with a convincing 6-4, C-2 win against Russian teenager Marat

Safin, reports AP. The No 14 seed, appearing at the Monte Carlo event for the first time, is looking for a good run here to serve as a springboard for a successful claycourt season.

"This is my first tournament on clay for six months," Haas said. I was in Florida until last week to practice on clay, but I had flu, so my preparations haven't been great. "I really want to play my best

tennis at the French Open this

year." Haas said. France's Jerome Golmard and Arnaud Di Pasquale, and American Vincent Spadea, were among other early winners Monday.

Golmard had no problems against Italy's David Sanguinetti, with a 6-1, 6-2 win. Arnaud Di Pasquale had a tough 7-6 (7-4), 5-7, 6-4, win against Spain's Alberto Berasategui, while Spadea beat 17year-old Swiss player Roger

Federer 7-6 (7-3), 6-0. Boris Becker was due to play Marcelo Rios, but Todd Martin's withdrawal meant a reshuffle

to the draw. The German will instead play French No 1 Cedric Pio-

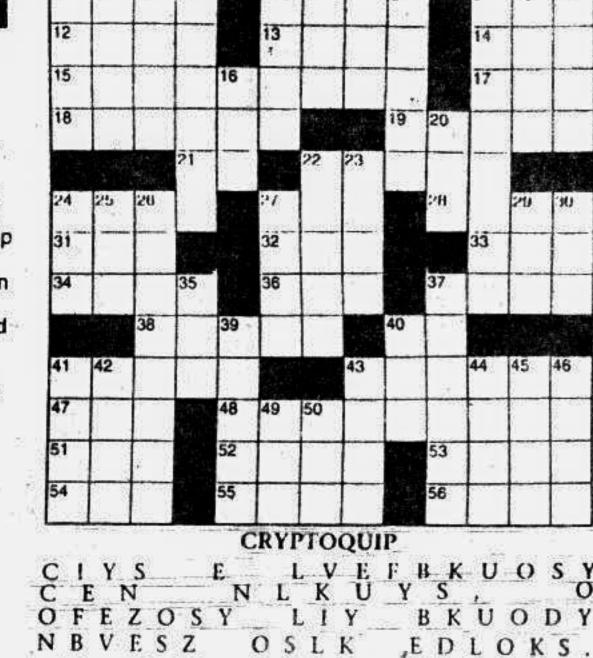
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

8 Engine 55 Nervous 9 Cellar 38 Marquee 56 Name for a Dalma-10 Thought datum 40 Fine 11 Descendtian 41 Beta DOWN 16 Whammy 1 Charts follower 2 "The wolf 43 Baseball 20 Gear part - the 22 TV hookup shoes 47 Dander door!" 23 Dry 48 Declara-3 Pianist 24 Word from the Giant Peter tive 4 Put on the 25 Mined find sentence 26 Salve 51 Shark's bulletin indicator 27 Combine board 52 The 5 Lapdogs, resources O'Hara for short 29 Castilian 6 Stout estate 30 S. of the 53 Animalrelative 7 Novelist rights org. border Deighton 35 III-lit 54 Make lace

37 Is frugal Solution time: 22 mins. 39 Sample 40 Unclose, 41 Talent 42 Pavarotti 43 Go no SUMACEPREKEY 44 Hold onto 45 Within: 46 Pronto, in 36 Long-lived Yesterday's answer 49 Smidgen

farther

the O.R.



Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE ROGUISH WINDOW REPAIRMAN WOULD OFTEN REMIND HIMSELF: NO PANE, NO GAIN. Today's Cryptoquip clue: B 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 50 S.A. nation locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.