

Shaun relieved it's over

REUTERS, Johannesburg

South African captain Shaun Pollock arrived back home on Saturday physically drained from a tour of the Caribbean he described as the most difficult of his career.

"This was only my second tour away as captain. There was a lot of hard work involved and a lot of deep thinking at times," Pollock told Reuters at Johannesburg International Airport.

"I would have to say that this was the most difficult tour I've ever been involved in."

The South Africans became the first team to win both a test and one-day international series in the Caribbean.

Pollock also achieved the individual honour of becoming the first South African to achieve the all-rounders mark of 200 wickets and 2,000 runs in test cricket.

However, the tour was marred by a dope-smoking incident in an Antigua hotel room involving five players and the team physiotherapist.

'Pakistan plan did not work'

AGENCIES, London

Pakistan coach Richard Pybus conceded England had the edge in the first Test after the touring team's tactic of bowling first — and leaving out top spinner Saqlain Mushtaq — backfired at Lord's.

Pybus said he was disappointed that his all-pace attack had failed to exploit seamer-friendly conditions as England closed on 254 for four after being put in.

He said: "We thought it was a seamer's wicket and that it would do a little more."

"But England's combination of left and right-handers unsettled our line."

"It wasn't easy leaving out (off-spinner) Saqlain but we looked at the history of the way Lord's plays and made our decision. We picked the side and that's the one we've got."

He added: "I would think England have the edge but it only takes a couple of balls to turn things around."

"Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis bowled wicket-taking balls and Shoaib Akhtar got up some gas and got through some of the England batsmen with pure pace on a slow track, which was pleasing. He could have taken a couple (of wickets)."

"But England played well and you have got to give them credit." Pybus, however, defended his side's decision to leave out Saqlain, arguably the world's best off-spinner.

The decision to leave Saqlain, who has taken 145 Test wickets at an average of 29.60, on the sidelines was all the more baffling given how he thrives in English conditions.

Army retain Hockey title

PRESS RELEASE, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army retained the title of the inter-service hockey championship which concluded at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The winners defeated Bangladesh Navy 1-0 in the final. The half-time ended goalless. Sergeant Humayun scored the match-winning minutes before the long whistle.

Sergeant Humayun of the Bangladesh Army was adjudged the best player of the meet.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed witnessed the final as chief guest and later distributed the trophies.

England

FROM PAGE 13

Latif c Stewart b Gough	18
Akram not out	19
Waqar c Thorpe b Gough	0
Akhtar b Gough	0
Extras (b1, lb7, nb13)	21
Total: (All out in 57 overs)	203
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-21, 3-37, 4-60, 5-116, 6-153, 7-167, 8-203, 9-203	
Bowler	O M R W
Gough	16 5 61 5
Caddick	17 3 52 4
Sidebottom	11 0 38 0
Cork	11 3 42 1
Trescothick	2 1 2 0

PAKISTAN: Second innings
Anwar c Thorpe b Caddick 8
Elahi c Thorpe b Caddick 12
Razaq not out 43
Inzamam c Stewart b Cork 20
Yousaf c Vaughan b Gough 6
Extras (lb 3, nb4) 7
Total: (For 4 wickets in 23 overs) 84
To bat: Younis Khan, Azhar Mahmood, Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Shoaib Akhtar

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-30, 3-67, 4-84	
Bowler	O M R W
Gough	6 1 29 1
Caddick	7 2 15 2
Sidebottom	5 2 15 0
Cork	4 1 10 1
Vaughan	1 0 12 0

What happened to it?

Cricket

INTERNET, rounded

Cricket needs one more inquiry — to look into scandalous and total disappearance of the King inquiry.

It was convened almost a year ago, following captain Hansie Cronje's stunning admissions of serial wrongdoing to examine aspects of corruption in South African cricket. At first it was wildly successful. In little more than a fortnight from its opening, it heard tales of match-fixing and endemic corruption on a scale not previously thought imaginable, with many implications for the game around the world.

It led to Cronje's life ban and the suspension of Herschelle Gibbs and Henry Williams. It was the last of a series of catalysts that led the International Cricket Council to empower an anti-corruption unit a week later.

After nine sitting days, the King commission was adjourned to allow everyone to draw breath, or rather, to expel it. It has never been reconvened. Dates were set last October and December, but nothing happened.

Then it was announced in March that the inquiry had been closed down, reportedly prompting celebration among Cronje's lawyers. Not for the first time, legal victory had been moral defeat.

Judge Edwin King has submitted two interim reports, but the date for the expected handing down of his final report passed nearly three weeks ago with not so much as a "by your leave" from Cape Town. Malcolm Gray, then president-elect of the ICC, had visited Cape Town during the inquiry last year and been im-

pressed by King as an "iron fist in a velvet glove". Evidently, his hand has been tied behind his back.

This is not just Australian stickybeaking and self-righteousness. This week, the ICC's anti-corruption unit releases its first report, which is likely to implicate many umpires, officials and players around the world. It is also likely to declare that match-fixing is still being practised, and match-fixing cartels are still intimidating a great many people, especially in Asia.



EDWIN KING

But the unit has also been intensely curious about the vapourisation of the King inquiry.

The word from London is that the unit has found evidence of South African involvement in match-fixing far beyond what emerged at the inquiry. But word from South Africa suggests Cronje was also more deeply involved than he has admitted, all of which makes it all the more suspicious that the inquiry was shut down.

Cronje's lawyers have always maintained that he had nothing more to add, and the inquiry no-

where to go. But Shamila Batooli, the inquiry's leader of evidence, said upon her return to Cape Town from New Delhi last September that she had exciting new information, not the least of it authenticated transcripts of the Indian police tapes that indicted Cronje in the first place. Yet the inquiry was never reassembled.

It has even been suggested in South Africa that the King inquiry was killed off because it was about to embarrass some senior officials and players previously thought untainted. It has been suggested in London that the anti-corruption unit is anxious to question not only people implicated in the King inquiry, but people responsible for running it.

The sitting of the King inquiry was so long ago now that Gibbs has had time to serve his suspension, win back his place in the national team and land himself in hot water again. Perhaps he was smoking marijuana in the West Indies only to help out his impeccable mother again!

Nonetheless, the inquiry's business was far from finished. King was charged with the power to determine whether Cronje had been full and frank enough in his offerings to earn an indemnity from criminal prosecution. Cronje's standing before the law of his land is still not known. Plainly, the King Commission's work is not done.

It has been reliably reported that Cronje's lawyers are hoping that the delays, distractions and obfuscation will cause South Africa to become bored with Cronje and the whole match-fixing scandal. Perhaps South Africans will be worn down. But the ICC will not.

Imran slams itinerary

INTERNET, London

Former captain Imran Khan has launched a scathing attack on Pakistan's tour itinerary of England.

The legendary Pakistan all-rounder told BBC Five Live that he was shocked at the tourists' lack of preparation and their short schedule.

"They have come into this Test match unprepared and unacclimatised," he said.

"It is the worst thing to happen to the team after having had just five days of cricket."

"It's no preparation for a side who will have found the conditions completely alien."

The blame goes on the shoulders of the Pakistan cricket board. If I was the captain I would have refused to play in this Test series."

Imran went on to criticise that bit-part Pakistan seemed to playing in England international cricket's plans this summer.

"It's like a sideshow to the Ashes, no team would have accepted this."

Botham's bouncer

AFP, London

England cricketing legend Ian Botham claimed Sunday as much as one billion US dollars has been bet on the outcome of a single match.

Botham added that what matchfixing had been uncovered so far by the ongoing inquiry under the International Cricket Council's (ICC) anti-graft chief Paul Condon was just the tip of the iceberg.

The former England all-rounder's allegations will be aired Sunday in a BBC documentary.

"First of all I think we've just touched the tip of the iceberg," Botham told the News of the World.

"It's not just the players that are involved, it's a much wider network."

"I've heard of figures as much as 1 billion dollars changing hands in a Test — one Test result — so to offer someone 50,000 dollars is small fry."

Botham's comments come a day after The Times newspaper said Condon's probe will report next week that matches in cricket are still being rigged.

The paper said matches played by Pakistan and New Zealand in the Gulf state of Sharjah and by Pakistan in New Zealand this year have come under severe scrutiny.

Allegations of match-rigging in Pakistan's one-day series against the New Zealanders surfaced following the tour.

"The report will suggest that despite the banning from the game for life of prominent international cricketers and stringent new constraints, attempts to rig results for money may not have been wiped out," The Times reported.

Condon, a former chief of London's police force, was saddled with the task of rooting out graft in cricket following the explosion of the "Cronje-gate" match-rigging scandal last year.

World cricket was rocked after a mobile phone call where South African captain Hansie Cronje discussed taking bribes to throw a game was accidentally intercepted by police in New Delhi.

Cronje, Pakistan ace Salim Malik and Indian Test legend Mohammad Azharuddin were subsequently banned for life.

MacLaurin

FROM PAGE 13

English game.

MacLaurin's comments come ahead of a BBC documentary to be screened later Sunday which reinforces the suspicion that matches in the world-famous Sharjah tournament in the Gulf were fixed.

In the programme, Inspector KK Paul, a prominent figure in the Indian police's investigation of cricket corruption, was asked whether he believed matches in Sharjah had been rigged.

Paul replied: "Definitely. There does appear to be very strong suspicion that some results have been manipulated."

"Also it is widely known that certain mafia gangs based in the Gulf countries have been heavily betting on cricket and manipulating the results."

Asked whether he accepted there might have been match-fixing in Sharjah, organiser Sheikh Abdulrahman Bukhatir said: "Until I have proof I cannot disclaim that or say I don't know."

"I am not saying there is no match-fixing. Obviously it is very clear that if a match is fixed, it is between two people, a bookie and a player."

"One thing I can say, Sharjah matches are of such high profile, it would be very difficult for a player to be fixing matches."

"It is obvious people are watching every move, every stroke, every ball."

Darren dazzles again

Cricket

INTERNET, London

Darren Gough and five other members of England's World Cup team in 1999 almost walked out over a cash dispute, the England paceman revealed on Sunday.

Gough, Graham Thorpe,

Graeme Hick, Neil Fairbrother, Ian Austin and Alan Mullally decided to stage a boycott during the tournament but backed down from their threat.

The England player of the year claimed the players were offered 12,000 pounds a man instead of the expected 30,000-£40,000 pounds.

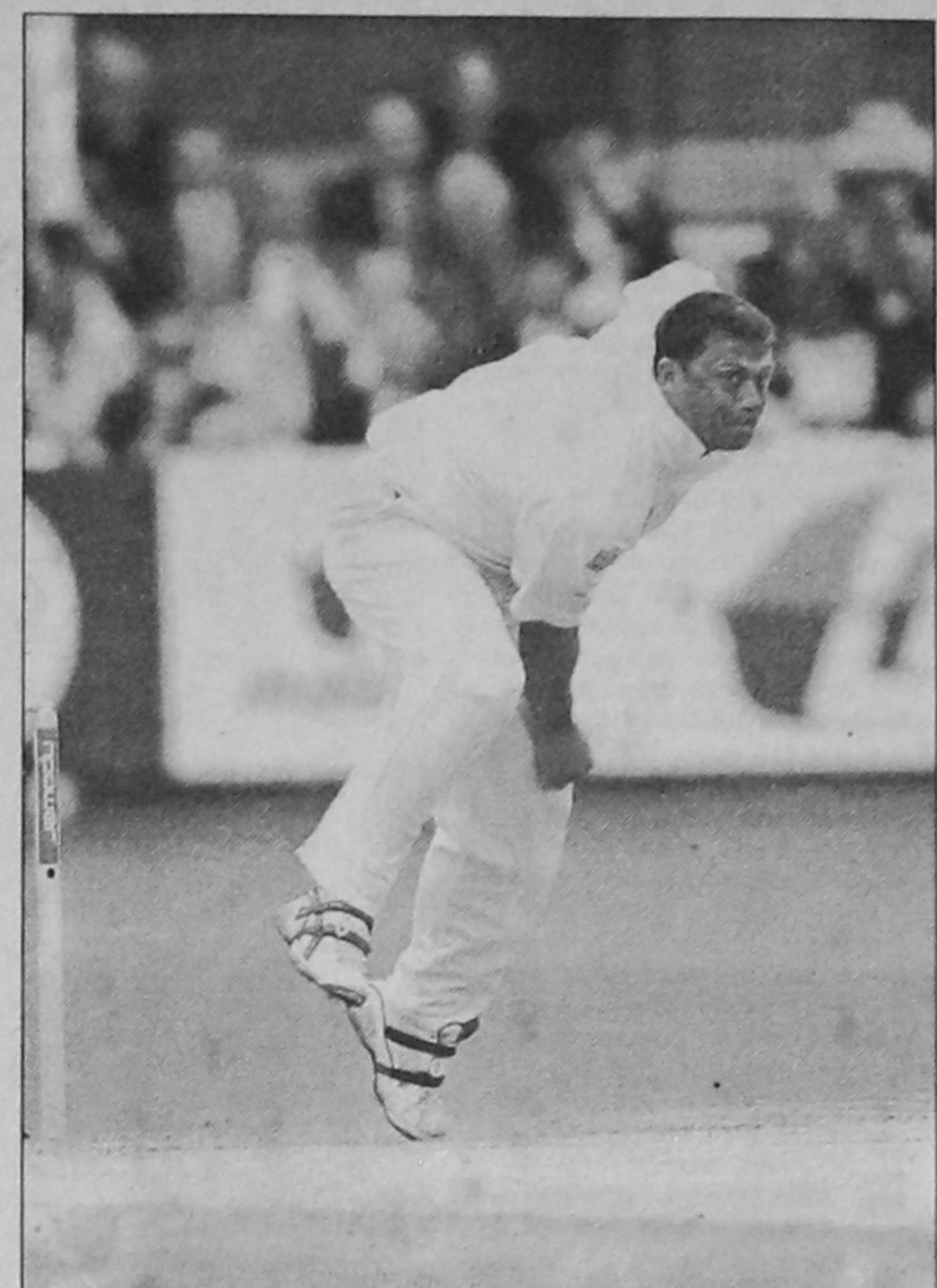


PHOTO: AFP

THE TERMINATOR: England paceman Darren Gough in action on the fourth day of the first Test against Pakistan at Lord's yesterday. He captured five wickets on way to going past 200-mark.

Hampshire miss out

Cricket

REUTERS, London

Hampshire squandered the chance of moving to the top of the English county championship's Second Division in a remarkable finish to their game against Gloucestershire on Saturday.

Needing only 56 runs for victory in their second innings from the final 10 overs of the game, they finished on 55 for six before a stunned crowd at their new West End Rose Bowl headquarters.

That left the scores tied in a drawn game, affording Gloucestershire an additional five points from a match in which they had been totally outplayed and forced to follow on.

They started the final day on 36 for two, still trailing by 181 runs. But a sixth-wicket stand of 119 between opener Dominic Hewson (89) and Jeremy Snape (73) helped them reach 272, a lead of 55.

And in the frenetic finish that followed, two wickets apiece from James Averis and Jonathan Lewis, plus two run-outs, caused Hampshire to throw away their winning position.

All the other rain-affected games ended in draws.

Durham were challenged to make 302 in 70 overs at Riverside after Middlesex declared their second innings at 189 for four, with Owais Shah adding another 88 runs to his career-best 190 in the first innings.

They were going well after a good start from Michael Gough (41) and Australian Martin Love (31), only to be pegged back by two crucial run outs which ac-

counted for Paul Collingwood (59) and Nicky Peng (28).

They settled for a draw after that, finishing on 226 for 6 with Danny Law unbeaten on 36.

Australia's Michael Di Venuto scored his first century for Derbyshire when their one-innings game with Worcestershire finally got under way on the fourth morning at New Road.

The 27-year-old left-hander hit 108 off 136 balls, including 19 fours, in the visitors' 222 for eight declared.

But that left Worcestershire needing 223 to win off a minimum of just 25 overs and they called it a day after reaching 52 without loss from 15.

In the first division, Somerset secured the draw they needed to keep them at the top of the table despite following on against Kent at Taunton.

Resuming at 109 for two — still 54 runs behind — they batted themselves out of trouble to reach 334 for seven thanks to half centuries from Peter Bowler (87), skipper Jamie Cox (63) and Mark Lathwell (58).

At the Oval last year's champions Surrey saw their faint hopes of forcing a result against Leicestershire fade away as they slipped from their overnight 46 without loss to 190 all out in reply to the visitors' first-innings total of 246.

James Ormond (four for 55) and Carl Crowe (four for 47) did the damage before Leicestershire reached 94 for five declared at the close.

SCORE SUMMARIES
Division One
At Chelmsford
Yorkshire 403-9 dec (J D Middlebrook 84, C E W Silverwood 70,

D Byas 55) v Essex 249 (S G Law 53)

Essex (8pts) drew with Yorkshire (12pts)

At Old Trafford
Lancashire (4pts) drew with Glamorgan (4pts)

At Taunton
Kent 343 (D P Fulton 140, D J Cullinan 57) v Somerset 184 / 334-7 (P D Bowler 87, J Cox 63, M N Lathwell 58, M V Fleming 4-74)
Somerset (7pts) drew with Kent (10pts)

At The Oval
Leicestershire 246 (J M Dakin 69, E S H Giddins 5-48, M P Bicknell 4-61) / 94-5 dec v Surrey 190 (C D Crowe 4-47, J Ormond 4-55)
Surrey (7pts) drew with Leicestershire (8pts)

Division Two
At Riverside
Middlesex 386 (O A Shah 190, S P Fleming 114, M A Gough 5-66) / 189-4 dec (O A Shah 88) v Durham 274 (N Peng 101) / 226-6 (P D Collingwood 59)

Durham (9pts) drew with Middlesex (11pts)

At West End
Hampshire 350-4 dec (D A Kenway 131, R A Smith 102 no) / 55-6 v Gloucestershire 133 (A D Mullally 5-41) / 272 (D R Hewson 89, J N Snape 73, A C Morris 4-74)

Hampshire (13pts) drew with Gloucestershire (5pts)

At Trent Bridge
Nottinghamshire 402-6 dec (D J Bicknell 167, G S Blewett 99, U Afzaal 61) v Warwickshire
Nottinghamshire (9pts) drew with Warwickshire (6pts)

At New Road
Derbyshire 222-8 dec (M J Di Venuto 108) v Worcestershire 52-0
Derbyshire (4pts) drew with Worcestershire (4pts)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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13 Rose's	known	as —	26 Obey a
lover	stuff	3 Navigation	red light
14 Persisting	45 Linseed	hazard	27 Negri of
15 Long-pop-	source	4 Solid con-	the silents
ular game	48 Exodus	ditionally	28 She
show	commem-	5 Home	sheep
17 Patrick	oration	6 Round	29 Hanks
Dennis'	50 Wheels	of	movie
auntie	of	7 — Rex	32 "Day-O"
18 Be there	fortune	8 Pres.	style
19 Anger	51 Location	Garfield	33 Village
21 Victory	52 Feast-	9 — stand-	People's
sign	famine	still	genre
22 Through-	link	10 Energy	35 Prized
out the	53 — arms	11 Downed	possession
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26 Reeves-	54 Exam	format	38 Anglo —
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29 Vagrant			42 Cosmetics
30 Put to			company
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31 Burg			Peter
32 Opposite			44 Spirited
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shop			46 Type of
34 Bulling			service
bravo			47 — "Blue?"
35 Throttle			49 Melody
36 Skintint			

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