

Harvard slow to act on slavery response

Critics see little progress two years after report

By Hilary Burns
GLOBE STAFF

CAMBRIDGE — In 2022, Harvard released with much fanfare a report detailing the institution’s historical ties to slavery and recommending a series of initiatives the university should undertake to address this ugly aspect of its past.

Harvard has made only modest headway on this work over the last two years, however, even as peer institutions have taken bolder steps on similar educational and reparative efforts to address the racist violence entwined in their history.

A growing chorus of critics say campus upheaval related to the Israel-Hamas war, assaults by conservative lawmakers and donors on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, and the forced resignation of former president Claudine Gay have distracted Harvard and diminished its appetite for making real strides.

“There are signals that the university’s priorities have shifted enough where this does not seem like it’s being handled with the care and consideration it deserves,” said Khalil Gibran Muhammad, a Harvard Kennedy School professor of history, race, and public policy who recently said he is leaving for Princeton University in New Jersey. “Harvard has responded to attacks from Republicans by moving to the right.”

The Legacy of Slavery report recommended

SLAVERY, Page A10

Harris took on for-profit schools as AG

But some borrowers are still waiting for results

By Tal Kopan
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Since Vice President Kamala Harris vaulted to presidential candidate in July, she has cast her resume as the perfect foil to Donald Trump’s, down to her toppling of a for-profit college chain as a prosecutor in contrast with him as a billionaire who ran one.

“As attorney general of California, I took on one of our country’s largest for-profit colleges that was scamming students,” Harris says in her stump speech. “Donald Trump ran a for-profit college that scammed students.”

Harris did pioneer a case against Corinthian Colleges, suing the for-profit college chain in 2013, which ultimately brought it down and set in motion a process to help students protect their money from schools that defrauded them.

But the reality since has been a case study in how such successes can be limited.

Even after Harris’s work on the case for more than a decade, tens of thousands of former Corinthian students are still being charged for their loans for the worthless program that scammed them, advocates say, despite Harris and the Department of Education announcing

HARRIS, Page A7

Jobs figures give Fed little clarity

As they prepare to lower interest rates, officials see hiring as weak but stable

By Jeanna Smialek
NEW YORK TIMES

Federal Reserve officials are moving toward their first rate cut since the 2020 pandemic downturn as they try to keep the economy from cooling too much. Friday’s fresh jobs data gave them reasons for both comfort and concern.

Unemployment eased slightly to 4.2 percent in August, from 4.3 per-

cent in July — a sign that joblessness has not started a relentless march upward, which is welcome news for both American workers and Fed officials. But hiring was weaker than economists had expected, with 142,000 jobs added in August.

Altogether, the report suggested that the job market is slowing, but not imploding, more than two years

into the Fed’s campaign to slow the economy with higher interest rates. That has kept Fed officials noncommittal and investors guessing about just how much the Fed will cut rates later this month.

Fed policy makers raised interest rates starting in 2022 to tap the brakes on a hot economy. At the time, hiring was rapid and wage growth robust, and officials worried that a burst of rapid inflation would not fade on its own against that backdrop. They ultimately lifted borrowing costs to a more than two-

decade high of 5.3 percent, where they remain.

But inflation has been cooling notably, and wage gains have been steadily moderating, so Fed officials have become increasingly wary of overdoing it. They wanted to return the job market and economy to a sustainable pace, but they do not want to cause either to crash.

That is why the Fed is poised to lower interest rates. The question has been whether policy makers would cut rates by a quarter per-

JOBS, Page A6

CHAMPION’S SALUTE



EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

Hunter Woodhall of the United States celebrated after winning a gold medal in the men’s 400-meter T62 race Friday at the Paralympic Games in Paris. Woodhall, whose wife, Tara Davis-Woodhall, won an Olympic gold last month in the long jump, had a time of 46.36 seconds. The Games conclude on Sunday. **C8.**

A long season looms for the Patriots, but can it still be a successful one?

NFL experts point to five markers the team should aim for

By Ben Volin
GLOBE STAFF

Rick Spielman saw it all in 21 seasons as a general manager and senior-level executive with the Minnesota Vikings and Miami Dolphins. He won division titles, reached a conference championship game, and suffered through losing seasons and fired coaches.

When asked what will make this season a success for the Patriots, his answer was succinct.

“Patience,” Spielman said.

This season could be a long one in Foxborough as coach Jerod Mayo and executive vice president of player personnel Eliot Wolf take over for Bill Belichick.

The Patriots are coming off a 4-13 season that was the franchise’s worst in 31 years. Their quarterbacks are a journeyman (Jacoby Brissett) and a rookie (Drake Maye). They don’t have any players ranked in top-100

lists. And they have a 38-year-old, first-time head coach who is learning on the job.

Expectations haven’t been this low in Foxborough in three decades. NFL.com projects the Patriots to have the lowest win total in the league (4.5).

“It’s a total, clear-out rebuild — new coach, new coordinators, new quarterback,” said Scott Zolak, the team’s radio analyst. “So, we’ll see how this goes.”

But just because the Patriots will probably finish with a losing record again, and last in the AFC East for the second year in a row, it wouldn’t automatically make the season a failure.

There are still several paths for a successful season, even if it doesn’t show up in the standings.

“Record-wise, you hope you win enough, you want to be a playoff team and all that,” Hall of Fame coach Tony

PATRIOTS, Page C5

The judge overseeing Donald Trump’s criminal case in Manhattan postponed his sentencing until after Election Day, a victory for the former president. **A2.**

Sergio Mendes has died at 83; the Brazilian-born pianist, composer, and arranger brought bossa nova music to a global audience in the 1960s. **C10.**

A Turkish American woman was fatally shot during a protest against an Israeli settler outpost in the occupied West Bank. **A4.**

Cambridge election officials said they’ll recount the votes in the House primary between state Representative Marjorie Decker and Evan MacKay. **B1.**

FATHER, SON IN COURT



BRYNN ANDERSON-POOL/GETTY IMAGES

Colin Gray, the father of Apalachee High School shooting suspect Colt Gray, made his first court appearance Friday in Winder, Ga. He is accused of allowing his son to have access to a military-style rifle despite knowing “he was a threat to himself and others.” **A2.**

In ‘final chapter,’ Bulger’s killer sentenced for death in prison cell

Geas, serving life term, gets 25 years in plea agreement

By Shelley Murphy
GLOBE STAFF

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. — A former Mafia enforcer pleaded guilty Friday to voluntary manslaughter for killing James “Whitey” Bulger in 2018 at a federal prison in West Virginia, marking the end of a decades-long saga chronicling the rise, fall, and brutal death of one of Boston’s most infamous crime figures.

Fotios “Freddy” Geas, 57, of West Springfield, Mass., was sentenced to 25 years in prison for beating the 89-year-old Bulger to death inside his cell at US Penitentiary Hazelton, though the

length of the term is largely symbolic — Geas is already serving a life sentence for the 2003 murders of Springfield mob boss Adolfo “Big Al” Bruno and an associate.

Under a plea agreement, the government dropped murder charges against Geas and he pleaded guilty in US District Court to the lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter and an assault charge, which his lawyer said was an appropriate way to resolve the case without going to trial.

US Chief District Judge Thomas Kleeh asked Geas if he understood that the manslaughter plea meant he was admitting that he intentionally killed Bulger in the “heat of passion,” and it was not premeditated.

Standing in handcuffs and shackles, Geas repeatedly answered, “Yes, your

BULGER, Page A10



One of a kind

Saturday: Getting cloudy. High: 70-75. Low: 55-60.

Sunday: Breezy, sunny. High: 69-74. Low: 54-59.

Sunrise: 6:16 Sunset: 7:07

Comics and Weather, **D4-5.** Obituaries, **C10.**

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