



THE TENT camp set up by pro-Palestinian protesters in front of UC Berkeley’s Sproul Hall was dismantled without police involvement. JEFF CHIU Associated Press

Berkeley campers leave in peace, resolve

The university promises to consider the demands of pro-Palestinian protesters to divest.

BY JAWEED KALEEM, TERESA WATANABE AND HANNAH WILEY

BERKELEY — Pro-Palestinian protesters at UC Berkeley have removed tents on a central campus plaza in an agreement that appeared to end one of the largest and longest student encampments in the country as Chancellor Carol Christ said she would initiate a discussion about the university’s investments in weapons companies and the possible divestment from them.

The move to dismantle the encampment, which swelled to more than 180 tents and hundreds of students at its peak, notably included no police presence or arrests at a time when some universities — including UCLA, USC, Pomona College and Cal Poly Humboldt — have faced immense criticism for using police to clear camps or building takeovers by pro-Palestinian protesters. Ongoing turmoil has racked UCLA since an encampment there came under a violent mob attack two weeks ago.

The Berkeley agreement joins ones at at least four other California universities and several across the country that have forged settlements with activists to end campus encampments that some Jewish students say have included anti-semitic signage and chants. While no schools have agreed specifically to divest from ties to Israel — a demand of protesters — each has indicated that it will explore proposals to tighten investment policies regarding companies that sell weapons.

At UC Berkeley, in two [See **Berkeley**, A10]



HOLLYWOOD writers, joined on picket lines by SAG-AFTRA members such as Christine Robert, above, gained wages and AI protections during last summer’s strikes. But they’re now working less. MARIO TAMA Getty Images

A year after strike, writers are struggling

For 14 straight years, Ted Sullivan was consistently paid to pen stories for the screen. The Hollywood-based, 53-year-old TV writer and producer’s résumé boasts credits on hit shows such as “Riverdale” and “Star Trek: Discovery.”

Now, he spends seven to eight hours a day writing without pay, preparing for the unforeseeable moment that Hollywood studios start green-lighting projects and hiring writers again. He misses the picket lines of the WGA strike,

Contraction in film and TV industry means less work for scribes at all experience levels

BY CHRISTI CARRAS AND STACY PERMAN

which, to him, were the next best thing to working in a writers’ room, surrounded and supported by colleagues.

He hasn’t worked in a real writers’ room since the strike began.

“I feel like I’m in the worst ‘Twilight Zone’ ever,” Sullivan said, “where I wake up and I’m now 20 years old again writing spec scripts for free in my apartment.”

A year after Writers Guild of America members walked out in [See **Writers**, A7]

How our ear-splitting racket deafens marine life

Industrial activity has added up to 15 decibels of noise to the Santa Barbara Channel, new research has found. The difference is clear and worrying.

BY HAYLEY SMITH

Imagine it’s the early 1900s and you’re a giant blue whale basking in the warm waters of the Santa Barbara Channel, just off the coast of Southern California. What do you hear? Fellow whale songs, murmuring currents, the occasional foghorn, perhaps.

Fast-forward to 2024, and the quiet environment you once called home now sounds vastly different as massive cargo ships churn overhead, slicing through the water with powerful propellers as they converge upon two of the

[See **Whales**, A5]



A WHALE breaches off L.A.’s coast in 2016. Increasing noise levels from ship traffic can harm whales and other marine life. NICK UT Associated Press

Home market gaining better supply

Housing inventory improves in many corners of Southland, providing some relief to would-be buyers.

BY ANDREW KHOURI

For much of the last year, the Southern California housing market has been defined by an extreme shortage of homes for sale.

The abnormal scarcity — compounded by the region’s long-running underproduction of housing — emerged when homeowners chose not to sell and give up pandemic-era mortgage rates. The so-called seller strike helped pushed home values to new records, despite rising borrowing costs.

Now the inventory picture might be changing.

“It’s getting a little bit better,” said Eneida Contreras, a Compass real estate agent who specializes in the San Fernando, Santa Clarita and Antelope valleys.

In April, the number of homes listed for sale in most Southern California counties rose from the same month a year earlier, according to data from Zillow.

Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties turned positive for the first time since the first half of 2023, each recording an increase of at least 5%.

Orange was the only county to see a decline, while in San Diego, inventory has risen for two consecutive months and is 18% above what it was a year ago.

To be sure, the availability of homes remains at historically low levels. But as it rises, it opens the possibility that prospective buyers will have an easier time making the largest purchase of their lives.

Jordan Levine, chief economist with the California Assn. of Realtors, said more homes are coming onto the market because owners are increasingly accepting that the new normal [See **Housing**, A7]

Biden, Trump agree to debates

Presumptive nominees to face off June 27 on CNN and Sept. 10 on ABC before early voting. **NATION, A4**

Big spending on mental health

The state will make \$3.3 billion available by July to begin building treatment centers. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Housing costs driving inflation

Overall rate dipped in April, but the effort to keep lid on prices has opposite effect in key segment. **BUSINESS, A6**

Weather
Morning clouds.
L.A. Basin: 71/57. **B6**

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