

The ugly campaign to recast Harris is underway

Democrats say she has ‘lawyerly, sharp mind.’ To Trump and GOP, she’s ‘dumb as a rock.’

By Kevin Rector

As Kamala Harris swiftly ascended to the top of the Democratic presidential ticket this week, a clear narrative surfaced from her supporters.

“I’ve known Kamala Harris a long time,” wrote Hillary Clinton, the last woman in the role. “This brilliant prosecutor will make the case against convicted felon Donald Trump.”

On the right, Republicans were busy casting Harris in a very different light, with former President Trump — known for giving his rivals crude nicknames — leading the charge.

Trump wrote that Harris is “Dumb as a Rock” and has been an “insignificant” vice president. He also called her “Lyin’ Kamala,” and said she’d shown particular “incompetence” as President Biden’s “appointed ‘Border Czar’” — something she was never actually named.

The dueling narratives in some ways reflect normal American politicking — the tried-and-true tactic of tearing down the opposing candidate. But they also reflect something unique in an unprecedented race between the first woman of color to top a major party ticket, and the first convicted felon to do so.

[See Harris, A5]

A race is on to be her pick for VP

Experts tend to agree that a straight white man makes sense, but contenders have flaws.

By Seema Mehta

As Vice President Kamala Harris consolidates support among Democrats to become the party’s 2024 presidential nominee, a key question dominates the political conversation: Who would be her running mate?

There is widespread consensus that Harris, of Jamaican and Indian descent, would pick a straight white man — a strategic move in a nation that has never elected a woman, much less a woman of color, as its leader.

Among the elected officials reportedly in contention are Govs. Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania, Roy Cooper of North Carolina and Andy Beshear of Kentucky, as well as Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly.

Some have mentioned the prospect of Harris selecting a Black man, as she did in 2009.

Gloves come off for Trump, Harris

He calls her a “San Francisco radical.” She recasts the race as a fight for freedom. **NATION, A4**

PARIS OLYMPICS



THE EIFFEL TOWER will provide a striking visual backdrop to the parade of nations at the Olympic opening ceremony, which will be held on the Seine River. The dynamics of the event has led to ramped-up security.

Photographs by WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

Unique Olympic opening poses security challenge

A flotilla of athletes on boats cruising the Seine along with thousands of spectators cause logistical hurdles over safety

By David Wharton

PARIS — Soldiers patrol along the Seine River, dressed in camouflage and blue berets, big rifles slung over their shoulders. The Police Nationale stand guard at checkpoints, turning away people who want to stroll at the water’s edge.

A four-mile stretch of this iconic river, in the heart of the city, is on lockdown.

The Paris Olympics will stage an unusual opening ceremony here Friday. In a departure from the usual stadium show, dancers, musicians and athletes will cruise down the Seine on a flotilla of boats as hundreds of thousands of spectators watch from bridges and grandstands.



SOME residents of Paris said the tightened security around the Olympics makes them feel like prisoners.

With a glowing Eiffel Tower in the background, it promises to be visually stunning. Also, a massive security headache.

“If there is one event that is under pressure, it’s the Olympic Games,” said Christophe Dubi, an International Olympic Committee executive. Given the threat of terrorism, officials must be “on the front foot, on tiptoes, being brave.”

The gamble seemed worth it to those who planned the Games and sought to transform Paris into a vast playing field — building temporary venues at the Chateau de Versailles, Grand Palais and other locations.

[See Olympics, A10]

NEWSOM ORDERS HOMELESS CAMPS CLEARED

Governor calls for removal of those on state property, urges cities to follow suit.

By Doug Smith, David Zahniser, Taryn Luna and Rachel Uranga

Gov. Gavin Newsom issued an executive order Thursday requiring state agencies to remove homeless encampments in their jurisdictions and urging cities to follow suit, a gesture that raised alarm among homeless advocates but drew a muted reaction from Los Angeles officials who say they are already doing so.

Citing the U.S. Supreme Court’s June ruling that lessened restrictions on the enforcement of anti-camping laws, the order said there is “no longer any barrier to local governments utilizing the substantial resources provided by the State, in tandem with federal and local resources, to address encampments with both urgency and humanity, or excuse for not doing so.”

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsay Horvath, who had blasted the Supreme Court ruling as “unconscionable,” said she did not see Newsom’s order as requiring anything the county isn’t already doing with its encampment removal program.

“Los Angeles County’s Pathway Home Program is doing exactly what this state order calls for — urgent and humane encampment resolution,” Horvath said. “Los Angeles County is — and has been — all in on doing our part under our homelessness emergency.”

Shayla Myers, a Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles attorney who has sued L.A. County over its program, said the order is “a step in the right direction.”

[See Newsom, A7]

Cleanups’ effects limited, study says

No long-term drop in the number of street dwellers results, researchers find. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

A NEWS CRISIS IN CALIFORNIA

A void in the local Latino community

Spanish-language newspapers once thrived in Santa Ana. But none cover immigration and other issues now, an important election year.



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

EMPTY news racks still stand outside Novy Ranch Market in Santa Ana, where a range of Spanish-language papers used to compete.

GUSTAVO ARELLANO

When Laura Pantoja immigrated to Santa Ana from Mexico City in the early 1990s, she could choose from about a dozen local newspapers in her native language.

A literature major, she favored Unión Hispana because it was “the political paper,” sometimes printing unflattering photos of local elected officials who, editors thought, didn’t stand up for working-class Latinos.

Miniondas covered community groups and festivals, as well as city politics with a more objective lens. Azteca News was more interested in Latin American affairs than civic matters, while El Sol Latino published poetry and essays.

Then there was Rumores, which featured a bikini-clad woman on its cover.

[See Arellano, A10]



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