

Union, studios reach early accord

Three-year contract would provide raises and AI protections for Hollywood crews covered by IATSE.

By Christi Carras

Film and TV crew members have reached a tentative contract deal with the major Hollywood studios after months of bargaining, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers announced Tuesday night.

The resolution arrived before the current contract's expiration date, finally permitting the entertainment industry to breathe a sigh of relief in the wake of two marathon strikes waged by actors and screenwriters. IATSE's Hollywood Basic Agreement spans three years and covers about 50,000 craftspeople primarily based in Los Angeles.

The tentative deal includes updated terms related to pay, pension and health benefits, work-life balance, job security, subcontracting, streaming residuals and artificial intelligence.

"From start to finish, your input was invaluable and ensured that our Negotiations Committee was at the bargaining table with clear goals and a consensus for how to achieve them," IATSE's negotiating team said Tuesday in a memo to members. "The ratification timeline will be forthcoming and we look forward to presenting to you the complete package."

A summary of the deal will be released within the next few days, followed by a full copy of the document in roughly two weeks. The deal must then be ratified by the union's membership before the memorandum of agreement can officially go into effect.

So far, the union has revealed that the deal contains wage-scale increases of [See Hollywood, A9]

Idaho may allow some abortions

Supreme Court draft inadvertently posted backs the procedure in some urgent health situations. **NATION, A5**

Vape is recalled over pesticide

State's order comes months after it was told of contamination in legal weed sold to public. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Soccer star isn't going to Paris

Alex Morgan was left off the roster for next month's U.S. women's Olympic tournament in France. **SPORTS, B10**

Weather

Mostly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 84/64. **B6**

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Photographs by GINA FERRAZZI Los Angeles Times

A GROUP from a UFO convention visits Giant Rock, a seven-story boulder that has inspired gatherings as well as feuding.

Mojave Desert's big attraction

For some, the enormous boulder in the Mojave Desert is a sacred site. For others, it's a gathering spot to camp, climb, off-road or party.

On a recent afternoon, the aptly named Giant Rock is the first stop on a tour from a UFO convention whose guides tout it as the place where, in 1953, extraterrestrials visited a man and instructed him to build a time machine that is now one of the area's main tourism draws, helping to spawn a movement of "contactees" who still periodically gather there.

A woman kicks off her shoes and buries her feet in the sand. Some wrap their arms around the rock's worn face or press their faces into its sun-warmed surface.

"This is a very big landmark for ufology," says Julio Barriere, 75, as he lights sticks of palo santo. The retired actor traveled from Queens, N.Y., to attend the Contact in the Desert Convention. He carries a bag with crystals, a singing bowl and a tuning fork designed to activate the pineal gland, which some believe can enhance telepathic abilities. "If there was a history book of this stuff, you would put Giant Rock in it."

But the seven-story rock on federal public land has also become a tinderbox of tensions over who gets to enjoy this patch of desert, which has rapidly gentrified since the

Giant Rock draws seekers, conservationists, territorial locals — and, some claim, aliens

By Alex Wigglesworth
Reporting from Giant Rock, Calif.



SOME VISITORS, like Lauren Hunt-Wisdom, believe Giant Rock is a source of spiritual energy.

COVID-19 pandemic. There's no signage to inform people of its beloved status. Its face is often splashed with graffiti. Unsanctioned concerts and parties have left it littered with trash and human waste. And recently, troublemakers have been menacing volunteers who try to clean it up.

"There's some aggression that's been coming to a head these past six months," says Karyl Newman, an artist who has been organizing community cleanups at Giant Rock since 2016. She raises her voice over the buzz of a pressure washer that's blasting spray paint off the rock's massive face. In its shadow are the mangled remnants of a folding table.

The night before, a group of kids had driven through her campsite, tied the table to their truck and dragged it around until it broke apart, she says.

And it's not the first time: During a cleanup campout a couple of weeks ago, someone fired a shotgun, swore and called the group hippies, Newman says.

"I do think that there is this kind of territorialism," she says, noting that in the most recent incident, the kids yelled at the volunteers to go back to Los Angeles. Newman lives in nearby Yucca Valley.

When a fellow volunteer tried to [See Giant Rock, A7]

Mass deportations vs. a humane approach at southern border

Trump scores points with tough talk on migrants. Biden's empathy may be a harder sell at debate.

By Benjamin Oreskes

When President Biden and former President Trump take the stage in Atlanta on Thursday, immigration and the humanitarian crisis at the southern border will almost certainly be a flashpoint.

Many polls show that voters believe Trump is best positioned to address the issue, and he has continuously slammed Biden on it. He has blamed his successor's policies for the crisis, and filled his social media feeds with missives about crimes allegedly committed by immigrants, referring to them as "Biden Migrant Killings." He has vowed to deport millions of immigrants who are in the

country without legal authorization.

Trump has referred to migrants as "animals" and even suggested they should be turned into mixed martial arts combatants.

"I said, 'Dana, I have an idea for you to make a lot of money. You're going to go and start a new migrant fight league, only migrants,'" Trump said before an evangelical Christian conference in Washington, D.C., last weekend, referring to Dana White, head of the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

Such comments have scored Trump points with his base and beyond.

Biden faces a trickier challenge, allies and advisors say, and needs to home in on a nuanced message Thursday night that emphasizes the balance between the need for border security and humanity for immigrants who already have entered this country.

"I don't think it's an [See Debate, A6]



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

SOME CRITICS say ex-Chief Michel Moore, left, created a groupthink mentality among senior staff that made them reluctant to second-guess the "LAPD way."

An outsider as next LAPD chief? Candidates may face culture shock

By Libor Jany

The running joke around the Los Angeles Police Department for the last few years was that if you wanted a promotion, you had better learn to ride a bike.

Former Chief Michel Moore was an avid cyclist, and career-minded officers jockeyed to get into his riding group in hopes of currying

favor before the next promotion list came out.

Moving up the ladder is often about who you know. But with the city searching for a new chief after Moore's departure this year, a growing number of department officials are privately lobbying for an outsider who can breathe new life into the organization.

A police executive who didn't come up through the

LAPD is more likely to challenge the favoritism — or the perception of it — that has been a way of life on the force for decades, according to interviews with more than a dozen past and current LAPD officials and others familiar with the department's inner workings. Some current officials requested anonymity in order to be able to speak frankly [See LAPD, A6]



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