

Good intention, but no cohesive strategy

When it comes to reparations, state lawmakers can't get on the same page.

ERIKA D. SMITH

On Thursday morning, state Sen. Steven Bradford sat down alone at a table inside the Capitol in Sacramento.

He fiddled with a stack of papers while waiting for reporters in the room to quiet down and then, with self-assured gravitas, announced a detailed plan for legislation that would provide reparations for Black Californians.

"Several months ago, I began the work of developing this package," Bradford said. "These policies have an impact that's needed right now to start to repair some of the harms that were defined."

One could be forgiven for thinking that the Gardena Democrat was about to explain California's long-awaited legislative strategy for compensating Black people for the lasting harms of slavery and systemic racism. A strategy that supposedly has been in the works since the state-appointed reparations task force, of which the senator was a member, ended its work in June with a long list of recommendations for the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom.

But Bradford wasn't explaining that.

That's because California doesn't really have a legislative strategy for reparations. Not one that is a cohesive vision, anyway.

Instead, what we have so far is a confusing and grow-

[See Smith, A8]



MOLLY KEANE Los Angeles Times

IRISH PAINTER Paul MacCormaic's portrait of Annie Murphy sitting on a porch outside a mobile home in Riverside hangs at the National Gallery in Dublin. Years later, he told her of the work's place of prominence.

COLUMN ONE

In Riverside, she was a nobody. In Ireland, her affair rocked the Catholic Church

Decades ago, Annie Murphy, an American, gave birth to a son fathered by an eminent bishop. The scandal is still felt today.

By Noah Goldberg

Hanging from a wall in the National Gallery of Ireland is a photorealistic portrait of a stoic, gray-haired woman wearing a fuchsia shirt and slippers with a dress adorned with fuchsia flowers.

She sits in a green plastic chair on a cracked-stone porch outside a mobile home in Riverside, with palm and orange trees in the background and a pale-blue sky above.

It's a serene Southern California scene in the halls of Dublin.

But who is this woman whose portrait was installed at the gallery in December, next to a photograph of legendary Irish singer Sinéad O'Connor? Her name is Annie Murphy, a woman unknown by almost all of her neighbors and described by her own son as "penniless."

Yet thousands of miles away, across the Atlantic

Ocean, Annie Murphy is a household name, her story a turning point in the country's history. Three decades ago, she took on the Catholic Church when she revealed the affair she'd had with a celebrated Irish bishop — and the son he'd fathered.

Her incendiary story touched off heated debates in Ireland in an era long before #MeToo and before allegations of sexual impropriety against the church were commonplace.

"In terms of the shock it had on the Irish psyche, it was almost like the JFK assassination," said John Cunningham, a history professor at the University of Galway.

The shock was triggered, in part, by her explicit memoir, which revealed the bishop's secret and recounted their first kiss.

"What stunned me was the realization that he had done this before," she wrote. [See Murphy, A18]

TRAVELS WITH KAMALA HARRIS

The vice president finds her groove with prosecutorial style

MARK Z. BARABAK

LAS VEGAS — "Proud," Kamala Harris said, elongating the word and stretching its vowels. "PROUD!"

Donald Trump expressed his great delight at choosing three of the Supreme Court justices who overturned the constitutional right to abortion, and now the vice president was using his own word — proud — to whip up a labor hall packed with jeering, cheering Nevada Democrats.

"Proud," she said. "Proud for taking the freedom of choice from millions of women and people in America."

With that, her voice rose as though she could scarcely believe the statement issuing from her lips.

"He openly talks about his admiration for dictators," Harris continued in the same tone of wonderment, as some in the audience murmured their disapproval. "Dictators jail journalists. Dictators suspend elections."

"Dictators." She emphasized each word. "Take. Your. Rights."

After a history-making ascent to the vice presidency and a humbling descent into mockery and disdain following her rocky start, Harris finally seems to have found her footing in a role to which she is accustomed and adept: prosecuting attorney.

She's become a top fundraiser for Democrats, an emissary to groups that are lukewarm toward President Biden — in particular Black and younger voters — and emerged as the administration's most forceful voice [See Barabak, A8]

U.S., U.K. target Yemen's Houthis with new strikes

The assaults are meant to further disable Iran-backed groups that have attacked since the war in Gaza. **WORLD, A3**

Year of Dragon means one thing: Feasting in L.A.

Celebrate Lunar New Year with multicourse meals, inventive desserts and events across the city. **WEEKEND**



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

Intense storm zeroes in on Southland

The worst of heavy rain and wind is expected Sunday to Monday, but more rain after that could exacerbate hazards amid wet conditions. **CALIFORNIA, B3**

Business
Biden energy plan beats climate change. **A13**

Weather
Rain.
L.A. Basin: 58/54. **B10**

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Recording Academy accused of silencing sex abuse accusers

Former executive criticizes its decision to honor attorney she says pushed for NDAs

By August Brown and Stacy Perman

On Saturday, on the eve of the Grammy Awards, the Recording Academy was set to bestow its Trustees Award on prominent music industry attorney Joel Katz, a former chairman and general counsel of the organization who has represented Michael Jackson's estate and Willie Nelson.

Not everyone thinks it's deserved.

Terri McIntyre, former executive director of the Los Angeles chapter of the Recording Academy, is troubled that the group planned to honor — alongside such past luminaries as Walt Disney, Berry Gordy and George Martin — someone she believes once played a key role in helping foster a culture of secrecy around allegations of abuse and

Restraint use at hospital is among highest

L.A. General strapped down its psychiatric patients at 4th-leading rate in U.S. in 2022.

By Emily Alpert Reyes and Ben Poston

Los Angeles General Medical Center restrained patients in its psychiatric inpatient unit at the fourth-highest rate of any such facility in the United States, newly released annual figures show — the latest evidence of a persistent pattern that has troubled local leaders and mental health advocates.

Under federal law, hospitals are prohibited from restraining psychiatric patients except to prevent them from harming themselves or others. Patients are supposed to be strapped down only as a measure of last resort after other steps fail. Experts warn it can traumatize patients, damage trust and ramp up the risk of injuries.

The L.A. County-run public hospital again had the highest rate of restraining psychiatric inpatients of any facility in California, according to data released last week by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The latest figures from the federal government cover the year 2022.

During that year, L.A. General's inpatient psychiatric unit, which is located at the Augustus F. Hawkins Mental Health Center in Willowbrook, had a restraint rate 48 times higher than the national average.

Its restraint rate far exceeded those at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital — a public hospital serving San Francisco — and at Bellevue, another large safety-net facility in [See Restraints, A11]



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