

TV, film crews ready for talks with studios

Hollywood workers' unions stand together in wake of last year's actor, writer strikes.

By Christi Carras

Thousands of Hollywood crew members and their supporters gathered Sunday in the crisp morning air and muddy fields at Encino's Woodley Park in a show of support ahead of contract negotiations that begin this week with the major film and TV studios.

Slogans such as "Fighting for living wages," and "Nothing moves without the crew" adorned dozens of tents representing everyone from cinematographers and costume designers to lighting technicians and video editors. Some demonstrators had just returned to work after last year's strikes by writers and actors, while others hadn't been employed since last summer.

"Every union in the entertainment industry is standing here together, and that has never happened before," Matthew Loeb, international president of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, said Sunday. "We stand here together to demand fairness, to demand a living wage ... for everybody who works in this business."

The rally, organized by IATSE, Teamsters and other unions representing more than 66,000 Hollywood crew members, underscored that the labor unrest that roiled the entertainment industry last year is not over.

After writers and actors secured historic gains by striking for nearly six months combined, camera operators, makeup artists, costumers, carpenters, animal trainers and others who work behind the scenes on film and TV sets are pursuing demands for improved pay and working conditions as their contracts with the major entertainment companies come up for renewal.

IATSE, Teamsters Local 399 and the Hollywood Basic Crafts — a coalition of guilds representing drivers, electrical workers, cement ma-

[See Hollywood, A8]

Bloody Sunday commemorated

Fundamental freedoms are under attack, Vice President Kamala Harris says in visit to Selma, Ala. **NATION, A8**

State's primary needs to change

Forget March; let's go back to the traditional, comfortable date in June, George Skelton writes. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

'Dune' sequel boosts box office

Denis Villeneuve's sci-fi epic exceeds expectations with the biggest opening of the year. **CALENDAR, E1**

Weather

Partly sunny. L.A. Basin: 65/48. **B8**

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LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

CLOCKWISE from top left: Rep. Adam B. Schiff addresses supporters at an event at a union hall in Orange; Rep. Barbara Lee speaks at a rally at the Back Bay Conference Center in Irvine; GOP challenger Steve Garvey visits downtown L.A. in January; and Rep. Katie Porter drops off her mail-in ballot at a voting center in Irvine.

Garvey wages a minor league campaign but is a hit with voters

GOP Senate hopeful is aided by Dodgers fame, Schiff ad blitz

By Seema Mehta

Former Dodgers all-star Steve Garvey's quixotic campaign for the U.S. Senate seat once held by the late Dianne Feinstein appears likely to pay off in Tuesday's California primary. Despite his barely there strategy — Garvey held few public events and did

not pay for a single television ad — polls show the Republican is on the cusp of winning one of the top two spots in the nonpartisan primary and advancing to the general election.

Political experts say Garvey was buoyed by two forces: fame from his nearly two decades playing for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres, including the Dodgers' 1981

World Series victory, and a multimillion-dollar ad blitz by his opponent, Democratic front-runner Rep. Adam B. Schiff and his allies, that boosted Garvey's standing among GOP voters.

Schiff (D-Burbank) benefits if Garvey advances to the November election because of California's over-

[See Garvey, A7]



ALEXANDRA BOWMAN For The Times

COLUMN ONE

Who gets to decide whether she is Native American?

Controversy over a book contributor's heritage echoed painful debates in tribal communities

By Noah Goldberg

The dilemma arose just a few days before the book was set to go to press.

Two contributing authors confronted their editor, Larry Gross, an associate professor of race and ethnic studies at University of Redlands, who had worked for months to assemble the anthology, "Native American Rhetoric."

The two authors wanted to talk to Gross about a fellow contributor to the book. As a classmate at UC Santa Barbara, she had always identified to them as white, the writers told Gross. But in the book she claimed ancestry from the Chippewa, Sioux and Crow tribes.

The matter, Gross recalled, was "of grave concern to me and caused me to feel alarmed. I did not want our book and the contributors to be ... tainted."

[See Identity, A12]

Can privately run high-speed rail succeed in SoCal?

President Biden is betting that Brightline will get Vegas-goers to forgo driving. But not everyone's convinced.

By Noah Bierman

MIAMI — When Simon Akinwolere, a 27-year-old cruise director, needed to commute from Orlando to Miami, he sorted through his travel options.

He could drive the 235 miles, spending four hours dealing with traffic, stress, lost work time and refueling. Flying would be faster, but he'd endure security lines and baggage hassles at two busy airports.

He settled on a new, third option: Buy a train ticket that promised a 3½-hour ride, access to a conference room and a free buffet with self-serve beer and wine on tap.

Brightline, a privately run train line between Orlando and Miami, has become Akinwolere's favorite way to shuttle between the Florida cities since the long-haul service started in September.

"I come from England, so trains are my bag," he said, explaining his decision to pay \$149 for a one-way, first-class seat in order to catch a flight from Miami to Cozumel, Mexico.

President Biden is depending on people such as Akinwolere — and train con-

[See Trains, A6]



EVA MARIE UZCATEGUI For The Times

PASSENGERS arrive at Brightline's Miami station. The company's western project could launch by 2028.



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