



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

DEMOCRATS BEGIN THEIR PARTY

California delegate Robert Camacho of Concord is decked out in pro-Harris apparel during Day 1 of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Scan this code to read our coverage at latimes.com and in our eNewspaper, where subscribers get an exclusive “LATExtra.”



Pelosi has no time for political regrets

Former speaker scoffs at idea of lamenting her role in Biden dropping out of race.

MARK Z. BARABAK

CHICAGO — Nancy Pelosi, whose fingerprints are all over the defenestration of President Biden, has expressed deep sadness at the rupture in their relationship.



The two go back decades, to a time when a then-young Delaware Sen. Joe Biden was on the rise and Pelosi, a mother of five and devoted Democratic Party volunteer, hosted one of San Francisco’s must-stop political salons. (The kids were pressed into duty as waitstaff.)

She now praises Biden as one of the nation’s greatest and most consequential presidents, deserving, even, of a place on Mt. Rushmore.

But when it comes to campaigns and elections, the former House speaker has never had much use for sentimentality, priding herself on a reptilian cold-bloodedness.

So when Biden face-planted on the debate stage in Atlanta in June, spelling disaster for Democrats up and down the ticket, Pelosi quietly went to work.

Now just another member of the Democratic House ranks — but still wielding enormous clout — she, and other party pillars, helped maneuver the president into the corner whence he abruptly quit the race in favor of Vice President Kamala Harris.

It’s all just business, of course, though Biden hasn’t seen it that way. Pelosi has acknowledged as much. The two — once close — haven’t spoken since the president grudgingly stepped aside nearly a month ago.

In a recent interview with the New Yorker’s David Remnick, Pelosi was asked whether she thought the breach could be healed.

[See Barabak, A6]



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

U.S. REP. ROBERT GARCIA finds his picture, right, among those of other past student government presidents on a wall at Cal State Long Beach.

From humble Long Beach origins, political star rises

‘I’ve had impostor syndrome my whole life,’ says influential Democratic Rep. Robert Garcia.

BY SEEMA MEHTA AND ANDREA CASTILLO

Before a class of captivated high school seniors, Rep. Robert Garcia recounted the trajectory of his life: as a boy from humble beginnings in Peru, as a gay man raised in a conservative Catholic family, as an undocumented immigrant worried about his future and, now, as a member of Congress.

The students in an Advanced Placement government class at Ernest S. McBride Sr. High School in Long Beach peppered him with sharp questions, notably whether his roots and his background ever made him feel like a fraud among his peers.

“I’ve had impostor syndrome my whole life. I always have impostor syndrome,” Garcia told the students, many of them Latino. “And you guys are gonna have impostor syndrome, too. I have never, in any position I’ve had, felt like I was either ready walking into it, or I was as prepared as I should be.”

His parents, hoping to escape domestic terrorism and economic uncertainty

[See Garcia, A6]

UC chief bans camps, masks, blocking paths

Drake directs all 10 chancellors to strictly enforce rules for campus protests.

BY TERESA WATANABE AND JAWEED KALEEM

University of California President Michael V. Drake on Monday directed chancellors of all 10 campuses to strictly enforce rules against encampments, protests that block pathways and masking that shields identities amid sharp calls to stop policy violations during demonstrations such as those over the Israel-Hamas war that roiled universities in the spring.

As students begin returning to school this week, Drake also sent a letter to the UC community affirming that the right to protest, exercise free speech and voice diverse viewpoints was fundamental to the mission of the university — the birthplace of the Free Speech Movement, he noted. He

said the “vast majority” of campus protests are peaceful and nonviolent, but “some of the activities we saw over the past year were not” and needed to be addressed.

“Clear communication and consistent application of policies and laws are key to achieving the delicate but essential balance between free speech rights and the need to protect the safety of our community and maintain critical University operations,” he wrote.

He told chancellors that rights to free speech and academic freedom must not “place community members in reasonable fear for their personal safety or infringe on their civil rights.”

Also Monday, California State University Chancellor Mildred A. Garcia and 23 CSU campus leaders issued a systemwide statement about protests. The university said campuses “must maintain an environment where its work can be conducted without disruption.”

The letter linked to a CSU [See UC, A7]

No escaping the ‘danger season’

Extreme weather is hard to avoid during a period increasingly marked by calamity.

BY HAYLEY SMITH

The United States is halfway through the period commonly known as summer, or what some scientists are now calling the “danger season” — the stretch of time from May to October when extreme weather events are peaking and likely to overlap due to the exacerbating influence of climate change.

So far this season, 99% of the country’s population has been touched by at least one extreme weather alert, according to an assessment from the nonprofit Union of Concerned Scientists, which tracks heat, wildfire, storm and flood alerts from the National Weather Service on a map that is updated daily.

The assessment found

that only 79 counties across the U.S. — home to just 1% of the country’s population — have been left untouched this season. These counties are primarily in Alaska, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The findings suggest that a new reality is emerging for millions of Americans: a time of year once defined by lazy afternoons, swimming pools and backyard barbecues is increasingly marked by calamity.

“We are at the halfway point — we still have roughly another three months until the end of October,” said Juan Declet-Barreto, an environmental and social scientist who analyzed the latest map data. “The concern is that there’s much more in store.”

The data reveal other concerning findings, including that nearly one-third of the country’s population had already been under at least one extreme weather

[See Danger, A7]

PHIL DONAHUE, 1935 - 2024

Pioneer of the daytime talk-show format

BY DAWN BURKES AND ALEXANDRA DEL ROSARIO

Phil Donahue earned praise for his “insatiably curious and accepting” nature and his ability to hold a “mirror up to America” when he received the Medal of Freedom from President Biden in May.

The groundbreaking daytime talk-show host reinvented the relationship between TV hosts and their audiences, opening the medium up

to genuine conversations about race, religion, reproductive health-care and scores of other hot topics over more than 6,000 episodes.

“He saw every guest as worthy of interest and worked to build understanding, bringing us to see each other not as enemies but as fellow Americans,” a White House announcer said of Donahue in May.

Donahue died Sunday “peacefully after a long illness,” his family said in a statement to The Times. He was 88. NBC’s “Today,” on which he was a contributor, broke the news of

the host’s death.

The Emmy Award and Peabody Award winner was known for engaging the audience in the talk-show format, interacting with in-studio fans or callers just as he did with the notable and eclectic list of guests on the show, including anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, musical star Dolly Parton and groundbreaking comedian Richard Pryor. Donahue, “the king of daytime talk,” was the first host to incorporate such audience engagement — typically during

[See Donahue, A9]



DAVID A. CANTOR Associated Press

LONGTIME TV HOST

Donahue’s show was especially popular with female audiences.

Trump lashes out as DNC begins

He claims Harris recruits undocumented immigrants to vote. NATION, A5

Benefits seen in video games

A shortage of consoles helped researchers study the well-being of players. BUSINESS, A8

Blinken pushes cease-fire plan

Secretary of State says Israel backs proposal, but Hamas has yet to weigh in. WORLD, A3

Weather

Very warm. L.A.Basin: 95/67. B6

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