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Unprecedented trial begins with competing views of Trump

Prosecutors say he plotted to erase seamy past; defense sees him as political victim

By Jonah E. Bromwich and Ben Protes

NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK — Manhattan prosecutors delivered a raw recounting of Donald Trump’s seamy past on Monday as they debuted their case against him to jurors, the nation, and the world, reducing the former president to a co-conspirator in a plot to cover up three sex scandals that threatened his 2016 election win.

Their opening statement was a pivotal moment in the first prosecution of an American president, a sweeping synopsis of the case against Trump, who watched from the defense table, occasionally shaking his head. Moments later, Trump’s lawyer delivered his own opening, beginning with the simple claim that “President Trump is innocent,” then noting that he is once again the presumptive Republican nominee and concluding with an exhortation for jurors to “use your common sense.”

The jury of 12 New Yorkers who will weigh Trump’s legal fate before millions of voters decide his political future also heard brief testimony from the prosecution’s leadoff witness, David Pecker, a former tabloid publisher who was close with Trump. Pecker, who ran the National Enquirer, tes-

TRUMP, Page A4

A look beyond smartphones for teen troubles

Lack of unstructured play may be driving mental health crisis, biologist says

By Adam Piore

GLOBE STAFF

When Peter Gray remarried and became a stepfather to two small children in the early aughts, he made a discovery that surprised him. Most children were no longer allowed to play outdoors on their own.

The Boston College evolutionary biologist soon noticed other changes that highlighted just how much childhood had transformed since his first son, Scott, graduated from high school in the late 1980s. Once they entered elementary school, his stepchildren spent more time in the classroom and on homework at younger ages. Their after-school hours were overscheduled with adult-supervised sports and activities.

Even before smartphones ushered in the age of the modern “screenager,” it seemed to him, unstructured play time — a staple of most childhoods

PLAY, Page A7



MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF



Hit and mist?

Tuesday: Sunny, breezy. High 57-62, low 41-46.

Wednesday: Cloudy, rain. High 54-59, low 33-38.

Sunrise: 5:50. Sunset: 7:35.

Obituaries, **C9-10**.

Comics and Weather, **D5-6**.

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Toronto’s Auston Matthews scored the game-winning goal to lead the Maple Leafs 3-2 over the Bruins in playoff Game 2 at TD Garden. **C1**.

TD Garden is ready for legions of fans to spend big on souvenirs, as the NBA and NHL playoffs begin. **D1**.

Israel’s military intelligence chief has resigned, citing failures before the Hamas-led attacks on Oct. 7. **A3**.

Protests raise tensions at colleges

Pro-Palestinian Emerson, MIT, Tufts students demand cut of financial ties to Israel



NED GERARD/HEARST CONNECTICUT MEDIA VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Several hundred students and pro-Palestinian supporters rallied Monday on the campus of Yale University.

By Daniel Kool and Maddie Khaw
GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS
and Hilary Burns
GLOBE STAFF

College students ramped up protests against Israel’s war in Gaza on Monday, occupying tent encampments at MIT, Emerson College, and Tufts University, as tensions mounted at campuses in New York and Connecticut.

Students at the three Boston-area schools started setting up camp Sunday night, and said they would stay until university leaders met their demands, including cutting alleged financial ties with Israel.

At Yale University, dozens of students were arrested during a pro-Palestinian protest Monday morning, according to the Hartford Courant. Later in the day,

New York University students and faculty established an encampment at the nearby Gould Plaza.

The NYU encampment was cleared by police Monday evening and some protesters arrested, with officers cuffing their wrists with zip-ties before loading them into transport vans, according to The New York Times. NYU officials said some of the protesters breached barricades and behaved in a “disorderly, disruptive and antagonizing manner,” the Times reported.

Pro-Palestinian demonstrators also hunkered down at the University of Michigan and the University of California, Berkeley.

Students said they were following the lead of protesters at Columbia University, **COLLEGE PROTESTS, Page A7**

‘I know if I go back there, I’m a dead man.’

L., *asylum-seeker*



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

E. fears for her life if she is forced to return to her home country. “The reason why I’m here is because I hear this is where they are helping others,” she said. “I have no family here.”

FLEEING HAITIANS SEEK HOPE IN ASYLUM PROCESS

Those who escaped violence and death aspire to forge a new path in the US

By Danny McDonald

GLOBE STAFF

A reminder of what Haiti has become is there, in the mirror, anytime she wants to look. A large scar runs from her ear and down her jaw, toward her chin.

The wound is from an attack she suffered in her parents’ home at the hands of machete-wielding gang members, according to legal filings submitted to support her asylum

claim. The woman requested to be identified only by her first initial, E., as her asylum claim is ongoing and she fears for her life if she is forced to return to her home country. During the assault, a blade cut her face, arm, and leg before she was able to flee.

Her parents were hacked to death in that attack, according to court filings. E. breaks down in sobs when she talks about it. She believes her father, a supporter of the late dicta-

tor François “Papa Doc” Duvalier and his son, Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier, may have been targeted for his political views.

“He could have been talking and giving his own opinion,” she said through an interpreter. “He loved the Duvaliers.”

Her future could hinge on this detail. For this surge of migrants from Haiti, who are fleeing gang violence that has upended the

ASYLUM, Page A6

In wave of elite basketball talent, a memory kept alive

Clarke an inspiration to region’s prospects

By Ethan Fuller

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Jason Asemota is one of Massachusetts’s brightest young basketball talents. A four-star guard/forward from Lynn, Asemota just finished his senior season at Hillcrest Prep in Phoenix. He’ll continue his ascension at Baylor and have a shot at the NBA.

But five years ago, Asemota was just a kid with hoop dreams, watching Terrence Clarke light the way.

On Sept. 14, 2019, in Roxbury’s Vine Street Community Center, Clarke announced that he would play basketball

at Kentucky. It was a coronation of sorts for Boston’s homegrown basketball celebrity, one of the top high school players in the nation.

Asemota sat in the audience enthralled. A Boston kid was going to play at *Kentucky*. He remembers frantically checking his phone to see which news outlet would have the scoop as Clarke, with a chain around his neck and a Brewster Academy ring on his finger, unzipped his camouflage jacket to reveal his Wildcats shirt.

In front of family, friends, coaches, and a swarm of media, Clarke paused to acknowledge some of the young ballers he recognized. He shouted out Asemota.

“When he said my name, my heart dropped,” Asemota said.

CLARKE, Page C6



MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF/FILE 2019

Terrence Clarke, a top-ranked high school basketball player from Roslindale, died at age 19 in a car crash three years ago.