



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times
MOURNERS take part in a vigil for victims of the mass shooting at Star Ballroom Dance Studio on Jan. 23 in Monterey Park. Eleven people were killed Jan. 21 when a gunman opened fire inside the studio.

Mystery behind killer slows recovery in Monterey Park

When mass shooters die, answers die with them.
Survivors of the Lunar New Year attack are struggling to make sense of a senseless tragedy.

BY SUMMER LIN, JEONG PARK AND BRITTNY MEJIA

The search for answers played out in a Rowland Heights home, in a room the owners use for karaoke. On this day, it was the stage for reenacting the worst mass shooting in modern Los Angeles County history. Full-length mirrors covered a wall. Chinese lanterns hung from the ceiling. A disco ball reflected light on the tile floor below. And a middle-aged Asian man, head in hands, dispelled the mystery that hangs over Monterey Park to this day: why a 72-year-old would shoot 11 people to death, turning a celebration into a bloodbath and shattering a tightknit community. “I’ve thought about suicide and even thought about killing someone, because I often hear

“The police already said that the truth may probably never come out. We’ll probably never know why he did it. ... We can only guess.”

— LLOYD GOCK, who survived the mass shooting at Star Ballroom Dance Studio by hiding under a table

MENTAL HEALTH: After shooting, pastor tried to de-stigmatize therapy. CALIFORNIA, B1

voices in my head telling me to kill someone,” Kaidy Kuna told his friend. But Kuna is an actor. And on this Saturday he was rehearsing a play called “Dance with New Year’s Eve.” His character, Ah-Gen, was written to parallel Huu Can Tran, who fired 42 rounds in the Star Ballroom Dance Studio during a Lunar New Year’s Eve celebration before taking his own life. The play was created with limited input from those tied to the Jan. 21 Monterey Park massacre — and despite the concerns of many survivors. Its aim is to help a community struggling to heal and grappling with the unknowable. [See Monterey Park, A10]

Trustees largely unscathed after sex misconduct crisis at CSU

As scandals roiled the Cal State system, its board faced little scrutiny. But that’s beginning to change.

BY COLLEEN SHALBY AND ROBERT J. LOPEZ

California State University was rocked last year by claims it mishandled sexual misconduct allegations, forcing a chancellor to quit and a university president to step down. Two outside reviews blamed the chancellor’s office and top campus officials for failing to properly investigate complaints or track repeat offenders. But Cal State’s most powerful leaders — those on

the CSU Board of Trustees, which oversees the 23-campus system — largely escaped scrutiny. Interviews and university records reviewed by The Times show that trustees were warned as far back as 2014 that CSU wasn’t properly monitoring sexual misconduct complaints. As the public outcry grew last year, some trustees claimed they had been in the dark. Yet over nearly a decade, the board approved more than \$13 million in settlements related to sexual harassment cases. University administrators had promised the trustees they would improve their handling of sexual misconduct claims after a 2014 state audit found breakdowns in procedures. But trustees [See Cal State, A18]

Lawmakers’ stocks clash with politics

Environmentalists invest in oil firms and a social media critic owns Meta shares.

BY MACKENZIE MAYS, QUEENIE WONG, HANNAH WILEY AND SANDHYA KAMBHAMPATI

SACRAMENTO — Environmentalists with stock in oil companies. A vocal social media critic with hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in the owners of Facebook and YouTube. Union-backed Democrats making money off the very companies whose worker policies they’ve criticized. A third of the members in the California Legislature

collectively reported at least \$14 million worth of investments on their most recent financial disclosures — but their stocks don’t always align with their political values, a Times analysis found. Their collective holdings could total tens of millions of dollars more, but exact amounts are unclear because financial disclosure forms required by the state allow politicians to report a wide range of minimum and maximum fair market values. Elected officials and other public employees who influence government decisions are required to report investments including stocks, bonds and business partnerships, along with income, properties and gifts [See Stocks, A8]

GOLDEN STATE

A year into the aging beat, I have found my strength

From a world in a sad state come stories of survival

STEVE LOPEZ

Almost a year ago, as I set out to explore the woes and wonders of aging, I wrote that I didn’t feel as old as the man I saw in the mirror. That was the truth, and I still feel that way. But as I think back on what I’ve learned over the last 12 months, I need to make a confession. Although I feel younger than my reflection, I’m way older than the impostor whose likeness has been running at the top of this column. I can’t even recall when that photo of me was taken and transformed into a sketch. Ten years ago, maybe? Most of the hair in that rendering is gone, and the years have carved more lines into my face. It’s false advertising, pure and simple. Here I am, standing firm against ageism in all its forms — in March, I extolled the



virtues of actress Mimi Rogers’ vow to age naturally — and yet my miraculous, anti-aging portrait is the equivalent of radical cosmetic surgery. Is there anything that makes you look older than obvious attempts to hide your age? Not that I was particularly sanguine about anything, including my own age, at the start of 2023. It was the year in which I would turn 70, which does knock you back a bit, especially if you glance now and again at the obituaries. And the world was in a sad state, bearing no resemblance to the picture I’d had in my head as an idealistic and somewhat naive younger man. Vladimir Putin was attempting to crush Ukraine. The United States was at war with itself. Robots were writing essays. The planet was alternately flooding and burning. And all of that was before the Middle East exploded yet again. You want to believe, as a parent, that your kids will inhabit a more evolved and less divided world than the one you were born into. So it’s a bit of a letdown to hit 70 and realize time is running out on the chance of sanity [See Lopez, A12]



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

FINISHING STRONG

UCLA’s Kyle Ford (19) is tackled by Boise State’s Rodney Robinson in the Bruins’ 35-22 comeback win in the LA Bowl at SoFi Stadium. **SPORTS, D1**

Hostages had waved white flag

Officials say three Israelis mistakenly shot by soldiers in the Gaza Strip were shirtless when killed. **WORLD, A3**

Private dog park for members only

“Rufferees” enforce the rules as affluent city dwellers seek green spaces for their pets to socialize. **BUSINESS, A13**

Weather
Sunny and warm.
L.A. Basin: 80/58. **B10**



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