

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

VOL. CLXXIII . . . No. 60,252 © 2024 The New York Times Company TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2024 Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00

Harris Favors Broad Strokes To Pitch Policy

Little Time for Details in Brief Campaign

By REID J. EPSTEIN

CHICAGO — When Hillary Clinton ran for president in 2016, she had more than 200 distinct policy proposals. Four years ago, Joseph R. Biden Jr. had a task force write a 110-page policy document for his White House bid.

Now, Vice President Kamala Harris does not have a policy page on her campaign website.

A last-minute campaign born of Mr. Biden’s depreciated political standing has so far been running mainly on Democratic good feelings and warmth toward Ms. Harris, drafting off legislation and proposed policies from the man she is hoping to succeed.

Democrats’ problem for most of this year appeared to be Mr. Biden himself, rather than his policies. For more than a year, as his poll numbers sank, his aides and loyalists insisted that his legislative record and priorities were viewed favorably by Americans and would ultimately carry him to another term.

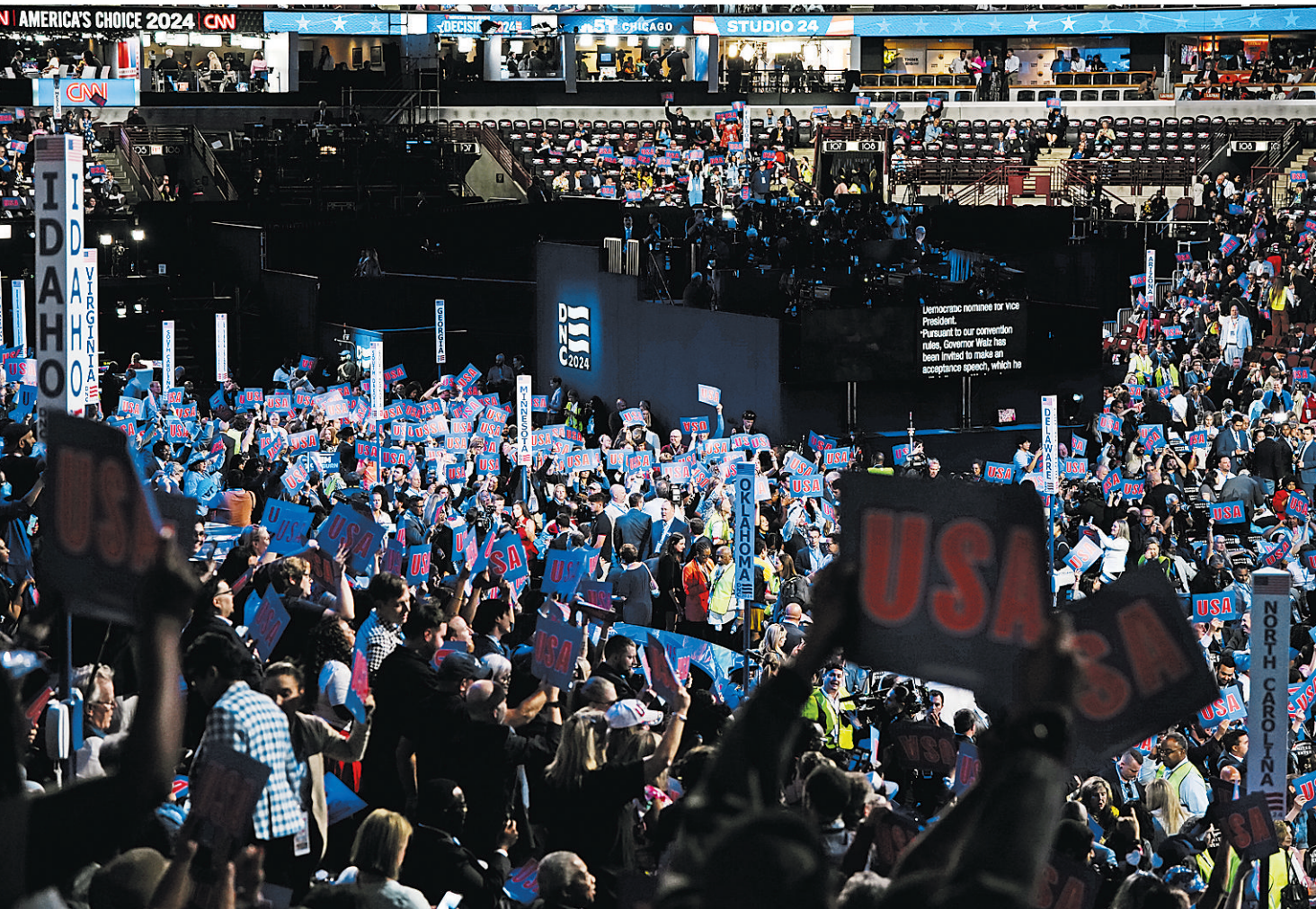
Ms. Harris is now testing that original theory — but with a younger, more spirited messenger.

On policy, she has essentially cherry-picked the parts of the Biden agenda that voters like most while discarding elements like his “Bidenomics” branding on the economy. She has emphasized what allies call the “care economy”: child care, health care and drug prices, which directly affect voters’ lives.

There is no area in which she is seeking a significant break from his agenda — perhaps not surprising.

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PROTESTS Thousands marched in Chicago, but the turnout was smaller than expected. **PAGE A11**



HAIYUN JIANG FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Opening Night for the Democrats
Energized party members filled Chicago’s United Center on Monday on Day 1 of their national convention. Coverage at [nytimes.com](#).

‘Happy Warrior’ for Harris: Last to Vie for First Female President

By ANNIE KARNI and KATIE GLUECK

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton was on Martha’s Vineyard on Sunday, July 21, the day President Biden dropped out of the presidential race, when her phone rang. Her husband, former President Bill Clinton, had already received a call from the same number, so she knew who wanted to talk to her.

Vice President Kamala Harris was calling to tell her she was running for president and hoping to build support as quickly as possible. Mrs. Clinton didn’t hesitate:

She told the vice president she was all in. The Clintons rushed out an endorsement well ahead of many other party leaders, including the Obamas.

As Democrats revolted against Mr. Biden’s re-election bid this summer, Mrs. Clinton wanted no role in pushing him out, according to people briefed on her thinking. But behind the scenes, she was also adamant that if the president chose to step aside, Ms. Harris should become the party’s nominee with no drawn out primary.

The two women, once on opposite sides during the contentious 2008 Democratic primary, have quietly bonded over the past sev-

Clinton Has Become a Close Ally Behind the Scenes

eral years, sharing dinners at Mrs. Clinton’s Washington home, discussing high-impact decisions like whom Ms. Harris should pick for her running mate, and connecting over the still-stubborn ways that women in high office can be underestimated.

On Monday night, Mrs. Clinton, who came achingly close to becoming the nation’s first female

president, will pass the torch to a woman nearly two decades younger, in a moment that friends say comes with a mixture of bitterness and pride for Mrs. Clinton.

The last time Mrs. Clinton stood on the convention stage, dressed in suffragist white, she thought she was on track to be the next president. Much has happened since then — from Mrs. Clinton’s grief over and eventual acceptance of her 2016 loss, to the rise of a new generation of Democratic leaders. And America seems more at ease with women as candidates for the highest office, a shift no

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THE WEATHER
Today, clouds giving way to some sun, breezy, less humid, high 74. **Tonight**, partly cloudy, low 58. **Tomorrow**, slight chance of a shower, high 71. Weather map is on Page A24.

Ukraine Sees An Incursion As Leverage

Zelensky’s Risky Wager on Talks With Moscow

This article is by Anton Troianovski, Andrew E. Kramer, Kim Barker and Adam Rasgon.

BERLIN — In July, as he secretly readied an invasion of Russia, President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine sent a very different signal in public: He wanted talks to end the war.

Speaking to the BBC, Mr. Zelensky said he had a plan to end the “hot stage” of the war this year. He dispatched his foreign minister on a surprise trip to China, a mission to improve Ukraine’s relationship with Russia’s most important partner. And he pushed for a series of international meetings, including one planned for Qatar this month, in which he hoped to rally backing for Ukraine’s positions and pave the way for a broader settlement.

His summer overtures departed from the two years of Mr. Zelensky’s refusing to offer any hint of concessions in the face of a Russian invasion that many Ukrainians believe aims to wipe their country off the map. And they made it all the more stunning when on Aug. 6, Ukrainian forces rolled into Russia’s Kursk region, delivering one of the most embarrassing moments for President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia in 30 months of war and confounding predictions that the two countries might be headed toward a cease-fire.

Kyiv is making a risky bet: that the incursion gives it new leverage for a favorable deal with the Kremlin, even as its military remains on the defense across much of the front line in Ukraine. Russians who know Mr. Putin expect him to lash out in response, believing that his military has the upper hand in personnel and weaponry.

There are already signs that cease-fire efforts suffered a setback. A diplomat involved in the talks said that Russian officials postponed a meeting planned to be held in Qatar this month to negotiate a deal in which both sides would stop attacks on the other’s energy infrastructure. The postponement was reported earlier by The Washington Post.

In comments reported on Monday by Russian state media, Mr. Putin’s foreign policy adviser, Yuri Ushakov, said, “At the current stage, given this escapade, we are not going to talk.” The length of any pause in negotiations, Mr. Ushakov added, “depends on the situation, including on the battlefield.”

Grigory A. Yavilinsky, a longtime Russian politician who met with Mr. Putin last October to promote the idea of a cease-fire, said in an interview from Moscow that there had been hope in the Russian capital that “the fighting would stop this year.”

“The circumstances that have just happened,” he added, “they have lowered all these chances, they have removed them from

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MARK LENNIHAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Few subjects, if any, were off limits on “The Phil Donahue Show.” “It doesn’t do any good to talk if nobody’s listening,” he once said.

PHIL DONAHUE, 1935-2024

Talk Show Titan Who Elevated A New Co-Host: The Audience

By CLYDE HABERMAN

Phil Donahue, who in the 1960s reinvented the television talk show with a democratic flourish, inviting audiences to question his guests on topics as resolutely high-minded as human rights and international relations, and as unblushingly lowbrow as male strippers and safe-sex orgies, died on Sunday at his home on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. He was 88.

His death was confirmed by Susan Arons, a representative of the family.

“The Phil Donahue Show” made its debut in 1967 on WLWD-

TV in Dayton, Ohio, propelling him on a 29-year syndicated run, much of it as the unchallenged king of daytime talk television.

Almost from the start, the show dispensed with familiar trappings. There was no opening monologue, no couch, no sidekick, no band — just the host and the guests, focused on a single topic.

At the time, audiences were expected to be seen and not heard, unless prompted to applaud. Mr. Donahue changed that. He quickly realized from chatting

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Skipping Spoons and Giving Them a Drumstick

By KATIE J. M. BAKER

Jenny Best was determined that her firstborn son would have a positive relationship with food from his very first bite. Years earlier, as a professional ballerina, she had struggled with disordered eating, and she wanted her son to think of food as fun.

But no matter what she did, the baby seemed to hate eating.

“I made the homemade purées, and I got the expensive little baby blender, and I tried to concoct these things from scratch, and then, from Day 1, he didn’t like it,” Ms. Best said, wincing at the eight-year-old memory. “He was crying and arching his back, and turning his head, and particularly did not like me coming at him, at his face, with a spoon.”

Ms. Best’s son stopped eating altogether by his first birthday, and his weight dropped so precipitously that a doctor recommended a feeding tube. It took a team of therapists and dietitians to get



LAUREN PISANO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

In baby-led weaning, children feed themselves solid food.

him back on track. Ms. Best concluded that his issues stemmed from finding her spoon-feeding “invasive,” and when she became pregnant with twins, she resolved to find a different way to teach them how to eat.

She came across baby-led

weaning, a concept pioneered in 2001 by Gill Rapley, a former midwife and public health nurse from Britain. In contrast to the conventional medical advice that parents spoon-feed babies special infant cereals and purées, parents instead offer their babies solid food that they feed to themselves, usually at around 6 months old.

To the uninitiated, baby-led weaning can seem shocking and scary: You’re really just going to hand an infant with no teeth a whole chicken drumstick? But proponents insist it is not only safe when done properly but also promotes oral- and motor-skill development and a healthier, happier attitude toward food.

Ms. Best, now 47, began posting her first attempts with her twins on Instagram in 2019. They started off feeding themselves more traditional early foods, such as oatmeal and yogurt, but soon Ms. Best, an adventurous eater, grew bolder, offering them sardines, pieces of star fruit, even

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As Mennonites Settle in Amazon, Environmentalists Raise Flags

By MITRA TAJ

WANDERLAND, Peru — After weeks of living in jungle tents, the handful of Mennonite families trying to make a new home deep in the Peruvian Amazon began to despair. Wasps attacked as they tried to clear forest. Heavy rains turned the road to their camp to mud.

Running low on supplies, some wanted to turn back. Instead, they worked harder and eventually

carved out an enclave.

“There’s a place here where I wanted to live so we came and opened part of it up,” recalled Wilhelm Thiessen, a Mennonite farmer. “That’s what everyone did to have a place to live.”

Today, seven years later, the cluster of homesteads is now a thriving colony, Wanderland, home to roughly 150 families, a church — which doubles as a school — and a cheese-processing facility.

Another Contributor to Rapid Deforestation

It is one of a string of Mennonite settlements that have taken root throughout the Amazon, turning forest into thriving farms but also raising concerns among environmentalists about deforestation of a jungle already under threat from industries like cattle ranch-

ing and illegal gold mining.

Mennonite communities have come under official scrutiny, as well, including in Peru, where the authorities are investigating several, accusing them of clearing forest without required permits. The colonies deny wrongdoing.

Mennonites first started migrating to Latin America from Canada about a century ago, after the country ended their exemptions from education require-

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Stretching Hometown Roots
Riley Leonard is a small-town quarterback who has big-time ambition after transferring to Notre Dame. **PAGE B6**

Baltimore’s Batting Alchemy
A young, potent offense has the Orioles’ rivals trying to uncover what their secret is to developing hitters. **PAGE B7**

INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Push for Gaza Cease-Fire
Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken says Israel has accepted an administration plan to bridge some differences with Hamas. **PAGE A5**

Fire Exposes Migrants’ Plight
After 49 workers died in Kuwait, the government focused on building violations, not broader problems. **PAGE A4**

BUSINESS B1-5

Are Online Lenders Safe?
The collapse of an intermediary highlights the risk customers face when using banking start-ups. **PAGE B1**



SCIENCE TIMES D1-8

A Cellist’s Difficult Journey
Long Covid has presented Joshua Roman with health challenges, and has shaped the music he makes. **PAGE D1**

Waiting for a Martian’s Call
In 1924, airwaves were cleared so any messages from Mars could be heard. Then came a radio signal. **PAGE D5**

NATIONAL A10-19, 24

Iran Blamed in Hack of Trump
U.S. intelligence agencies confirmed that Tehran was responsible for the breach of his campaign. They said an effort to hack into the Biden-Harris campaign was unsuccessful. **PAGE A17**

Santos Pleads Guilty to Counts
The former congressman from New York pleaded guilty on Monday to federal charges that included wire fraud and identity theft. The plea all but ensures he will go to prison. **PAGE A17**

OPINION A22-23

Paul Krugman **PAGE A22**



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Drawing on Experience
Nava Mau is up for an Emmy for her role in “Baby Reindeer,” making her the first transgender person nominated in the limited series acting category. **PAGE C1**



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