

Trump attacks Harris' identity

Republican nominee makes baseless claims about her race in a combative interview with Black journalists.

By ASIA MOORE, ANGEL JENNINGS, JAMES RAINEY AND FAITH E. PINHO

CHICAGO — Former President Trump made baseless assertions about Vice President Kamala Harris' racial identity during a combative interview at a Black journalism conference Wednesday, while polls showed his opponent had notched significant gains in battleground states.

Trump's question-and-answer session with three reporters at the annual convention of the National Assn. of Black Journalists grew heated from the start, when Rachel Scott, senior congressional correspondent for ABC News, rattled off a series of Trump's inflammatory comments — including that former President Obama was not born in the U.S. — and asked why Black voters should trust him.

He responded by lambasting Scott for a “disgraceful” start, adding, “I came here in good spirit. I love the Black population of this country.”

When Scott asked him about other Republican politicians' comments that Harris was a “DEI hire,” Trump asked for her definition of DEI. He challenged her response that the acronym means “diversity, equity and inclusion,” before saying of Harris, “She was Indian all the way and then all of a sudden she made a turn, she became a Black person.”

Harris, a Black and Asian American woman of Jamaican and Indian descent, was invited to speak at the convention but her campaign declined due to a scheduling conflict, according to NABJ. The association said it was planning a separate conversation with the vice president in September.

“Today's tirade is simply a taste of the chaos and division that has been a hallmark of Trump's MAGA rallies this entire campaign,” Harris campaign spokesperson Michael Tyler said Wednesday.

When pressed by the ABC reporter to say why Black voters should trust him, Trump said he had already answered the ques-

[See Election, A6]



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

TRAVELERS head to the LAX-it lot. It was billed as a temporary ride-hail zone, but after the opening of the Automated People Mover was delayed by several years, the lot-and-shuttle system remains in place.

Will L.A. trek from plane to ride-hail lot be fixed?

Thu Fiyth landed at Los Angeles International Airport from Paris to celebrate his 34th wedding anniversary. If only his family could begin their vacation.

After getting their bags, the group spent more than 20 minutes trying to figure out how to hail a taxi, looking right and left for a clear sign. They asked several people, including an airport worker, but no one clarified to them that there were several shuttle stops marked by neon green markers that would take them to the taxi and ride-hail lot.

LAX-it has bedeviled travelers since it opened as a temporary zone in 2019. A 2026 plan calls for a new area.

By COLLEEN SHALBY

They ultimately opted to make the journey on foot, after a Times reporter provided directions. The walking route directs travelers along the path that hugs the airport terminals, rather than the disjointed sidewalk spaces closer to the parking garages. But nearby construction sites, adjacent lanes of traffic and the occasional wait at crosswalks can cause confusion.

“We've been walking 10 minutes now to find a taxi. In a city like Los Angeles? That doesn't sound right,” said Fiyth, 67.

[See LAX-it, A12]

ANALYSIS

Slain Hamas leader was key to peace talks

U.S. scrambles to save negotiations after Ismail Haniyeh's assassination

By TRACY WILKINSON AND NABIH BULOS

WASHINGTON — The killing Wednesday of top Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh is likely to derail urgent U.S.-led talks to stop the fighting in Gaza and open the door to a potentially ferocious response from Iran.

In an action widely blamed on Israel, Haniyeh was killed in an airstrike while in Tehran for the inauguration of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. Israel has not claimed responsibility,

but few entities have the military capability to pull off what was apparently a precisely targeted lethal attack.

The timing of the assassination frustrated the Biden administration, which has invested enormous capital in cease-fire talks to bring at least a temporary end to the nearly 10-month-old Israel-Hamas war.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was in Washington just last week. Both President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris separately hammered him on the vital importance of agreeing to a cease-fire.

For months, the U.S., Qatar and Egypt have been engaged in tense and arduous negotiations with Israel and Hamas on a deal that would stop the fighting and release the hostages still being held by Hamas.

The hostages were captured in the Oct. 7 Hamas-led assault on southern Israel that killed nearly 1,200 people and triggered the current conflict. Nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's retaliatory attacks in Gaza, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not differentiate

[See Analysis, A4]

State Water Project supplies may shrink up to 23% by 2043



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

THE CALIFORNIA Aqueduct is part of the State Water Project, which moves water from north to south and serves 27 million people and 750,000 farm acres.

The forecast shows the need to invest in hydro infrastructure to adapt to climate change, officials say.

By IAN JAMES

Climate change threatens to dramatically shrink the amount of water California can deliver over the next 20 years and could reduce supplies available from the State Water Project by up to 23%, according to new projections released Wednesday by Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration.

The analysis by the California Department of Water Resources examined a range of climate change sce-

narios and projected that by 2043 the average amount of water transported through the massive network of reservoirs and canals to more than half the state's population could decline between 13% and 23%.

Such a loss in the State Water Project's water delivery capacity, if not addressed, could lead to major shortages for much of the state, including Southern California.

“The SWP was designed for the climate of the 20th century,” said John Yarbrough, the project's deputy director. “It's going to need continued investment to get it in a place where it's really able to function with the hydrology of the future.”

State officials analyzed

[See Water, A12]

UC sets records with its new fall class

The 93,920 first-year California students help make up biggest, most diverse group of undergraduates ever.

By TERESA WATANABE

The University of California admitted the largest and most diverse class of undergraduates for fall 2024, opening the doors of the vaunted public research institution to more California low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students of color, according to preliminary data released Wednesday.

In striking data, UC shared for the first time the gender identity of admitted students as part of its annual data release. Systemwide, women are the dominant gender among first-year students, reaching 55%. At six campuses — Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, UCLA, San Diego and Santa Barbara — the gender gap is greater, with men representing about 37% of students. UC Merced was the most evenly balanced, with 49% women and 46% men. The genders were at greater parity among transfer admits.

About 5% of admitted students identified differently — as nonbinary or transgender, for instance — or did not disclose their gender identity.

Overall, UC admitted 93,920 first-year California students, up 4.3% from last

[See Admissions, A9]

UC president to step down in 2025

Michael V. Drake led schools through COVID, protests and budget distress. **CALIFORNIA, B1**



WALLY SKALIJ L.A. Times

Ledecky wins 1,500 freestyle

American cements her legacy as greatest women's distance swimmer of all time in Olympics. **SPORTS, B10**

Roaring start to wildfire season

Blazes in the state are forcing evacuations and destroying homes. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

L.A. fashion era comes to an end

The owner of Fred Segal closes its two remaining clothing stores. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 84/65. **B6**

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