



STUDENTS Brad Butterfield and Maddy Montiel study in a camper in a parking lot at Cal Poly Humboldt. Photographs by WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

LIVING IN THEIR CARS TO AFFORD COLLEGE

Cal Poly Humboldt students found community and a sense of safety in parking lot G11. But when the school ordered them off campus, that all changed.

By Debbie Truong

Maddy Montiel and Brad Butterfield marveled at the community they found this semester at Cal Poly Humboldt. Montiel, an environmental science major, and Butterfield, a journalism major, had lived in their vehicles for several years, the only way, they said, that they could afford to attend college. They usually found parking in campus lots or on nearby streets. But the pair and about 15 others like them — students living in sedans, aging campers, a converted bus, who could afford a \$315 annual parking permit but not rent — found one another on campus parking lot G11. They started parking together in a row of spaces and named their community “the line.” They shared resources: propane tanks to heat their living quarters, ovens to cook meals. They helped one another seal leaky roofs and formed an official campus club aiming to secure a mailing address. [See College, A16]



BUTTERFIELD, a journalism major, stores his belongings with his dog Ollie. Living in his car is the only way he can afford the school.

Jewish professor is barred from USC campus

John Strauss is punished after his remarks about Hamas at pro-Palestinian protest go viral

By Matt Hamilton

Until recently, USC professor John Strauss was known mostly for his research on the economics of developing countries, with decades of fieldwork in Indonesia and China. That changed Nov. 9, when Strauss stopped before students staging a walk-out and protest calling for a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip and holding a memorial to thousands of Palestinian civilians killed in the Israel-Hamas war. The economics professor’s interactions with students that day ended with the 72-year-old Strauss, who

is Jewish, declaring: “Hamas are murderers. That’s all they are. Every one should be killed, and I hope they all are killed.” Students captured those remarks on their cellphones, almost instantly seeming to recognize a viral moment. “Can you say that for the camera?” one pressed. Within hours, Strauss’ comments were posted online, shared and reshared on X, Instagram, Facebook and TikTok. As his remarks raced across the internet, his condemnation of Hamas was often excised, leaving only his “hope” for “all” to be killed. Captions and comments online framed his de-

mand for “every one” to be killed in myriad, at times deceptive, ways. One Instagram post shared to millions of users claimed falsely that Strauss told the students, “[I] hope you get killed....” Within a day, an associate dean told Strauss that he was on paid administrative leave, barred from campus, and that he would no longer teach his undergraduates this semester. Within the week, a petition demanding that USC fire Strauss for his “racist, xenophobic behavior” and comments that “promote and incite violence” had collected more than 6,500 signatures. [See Professor, A10]



USC ECONOMICS professor John Strauss speaks with pro-Palestinian protesters on campus Nov. 9.

Not quite the Jersey Shore
But a new beach in Manhattan is a welcome haven in the big city. **NATION, A5**

Sneakerhead can smell a fake
Authenticator flips, pokes and sniffs shoes to determine if they’re genuine. **BUSINESS, A11**

Drug trafficker is shot to death
Eduardo Escobedo, 39, was linked to Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman’s son. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Movie theaters stage comeback
Pass the popcorn and fall in love with L.A.’s 27 best cinemas once again. **CALENDAR, E1**

Weather: Some sun. L.A. Basin: 71/49. **B10**



tion, with DWP general manager Martin Adams calling it “the guiding document for how we’ll go about our business moving forward to make sure that we deliver for everyone in Los Angeles.” Part of those plans includes the installation of at least 5,000 new electric vehicle fast-charging stations in underserved communities over the next five years. That will help get more charging infrastructure to renters, apartment dwellers and people in multifamily homes, officials said. “Affording an EV is one thing — being able to charge it is quite another,” said Cyn- [See Electric, A8]

MORE ISRAELI HOSTAGES RETURN HOME

After a delay, Hamas releases 17 additional captives, including 4 Thais, in exchange for 39 Palestinians.

By Najib Jobain and Samy Magdy

KHAN YUNIS, Gaza Strip — Hamas released 13 Israeli and four foreign hostages late Saturday in the second round of swaps under a temporary cease-fire deal, the Israeli military said, after the militant group initially delayed the exchange for several hours and said that Israel had violated the terms of a truce deal. The Israeli military said the freed captives, including four Thais, had been transferred to Israel. They were being taken to hospitals for observation and to be reunited with their families. Shortly after midnight, Israel began releasing 39 Palestinian prisoners to East Jerusalem and the West Bank as part of the exchange that ultimately went through after international mediation efforts. The Israeli hostages released Saturday included seven children and six women, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office announced. Most of the released hostages were from Kibbutz Be’eri, a community Hamas militants ravaged during their Oct. 7 cross-border attack, a spokesperson for the kibbutz said. The children ranged in age from 3 to 16, and the women ranged from 18 to 67. It was a bittersweet moment for the residents of Be’eri. A kibbutz spokesperson said all the released hostages either had a family member killed in the rampage or had left a loved one in captivity in Gaza. The mother of one of the released hostages, 12-year-old Hila Rotem, remained in captivity, the spokesperson said. Another, Emily Hand, is a [See Hostages, A4]



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