

Biden Nominated by Democrats Far and Wide



Clockwise from top left: Jill Biden said her husband fought for “the soul of America”; Stacey Abrams tempered expectations about the nominee; Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez offered a progressive nudge; and Bill Clinton denounced President Trump.

Diverse Party With a  
Generational Gulf

By ALEXANDER BURNS  
and JONATHAN MARTIN

Democrats formally nominated Joseph R. Biden Jr. for the presidency on Tuesday night, anointing him as their standard-bearer against President Trump with an extraordinary virtual roll call vote that showcased the cultural diversity of their coalition and exposed a generational gulf that is increasingly defining the party.

Denied the chance to assemble in Milwaukee because of the coronavirus pandemic, Democratic activists and dignitaries cast their votes from locations across all 50 states and from the American territories and the District of Columbia — from the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., to the iconic welcome sign in Las Vegas and far beyond to the shores of Guam, “where America’s day begins.” They offered a grand mosaic of personal identities and experiences, many speaking in raw terms about their personal aspirations and adversities.

Appearing with his wife in a Delaware school after his home state put him over the top, Mr. Biden was feted by his grandchildren, who burst in with balloons and streamers and wore T-shirts bearing the words “No Malarkey” — one of his favorite phrases — in what amounted to a miniature version of the celebrations that typically ensue after roll call votes. “See you on Thursday,” he said, speaking briefly to thank the delegates, and referring to the day he will formally accept the nomination.

The second night of the Democratic National Convention straddled themes of national security, presidential accountability and continuity between the past and future leaders of the party. Like the opening night on Monday, it took the form of a kind of political variety show. Hosted by the actress Tracee Ellis Ross, the program skipped between recorded tributes from political luminaries, personal testimonials from activists and voters, and various forms of music and entertainment.

Two tributes by Republicans carried particular symbolic weight for a Democratic candidate seeking to appeal across party lines: Colin Powell, the retired general and former secretary of state, and Mitt Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts.

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A Candidate Pitched as a Steady Captain in a Global Storm

This article is by Katie Glueck, Matt Flegenheimer and David E. Sanger.

WILMINGTON, Del. — The Tuesday night speaking lineup for the Democratic convention was always intended as a muscular contrast on foreign policy and diplomatic integrity, presented to viewers under the evening’s unobtrusive theme: “Leadership Matters.”

There were two former commanders-in-chief, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, and a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

turned chief diplomat: Colin Powell. There was Sally Q. Yates, the former deputy attorney general who famously warned the White House in early 2017 that Michael T. Flynn, President Trump’s first national security adviser, had lied about his Russian contacts.

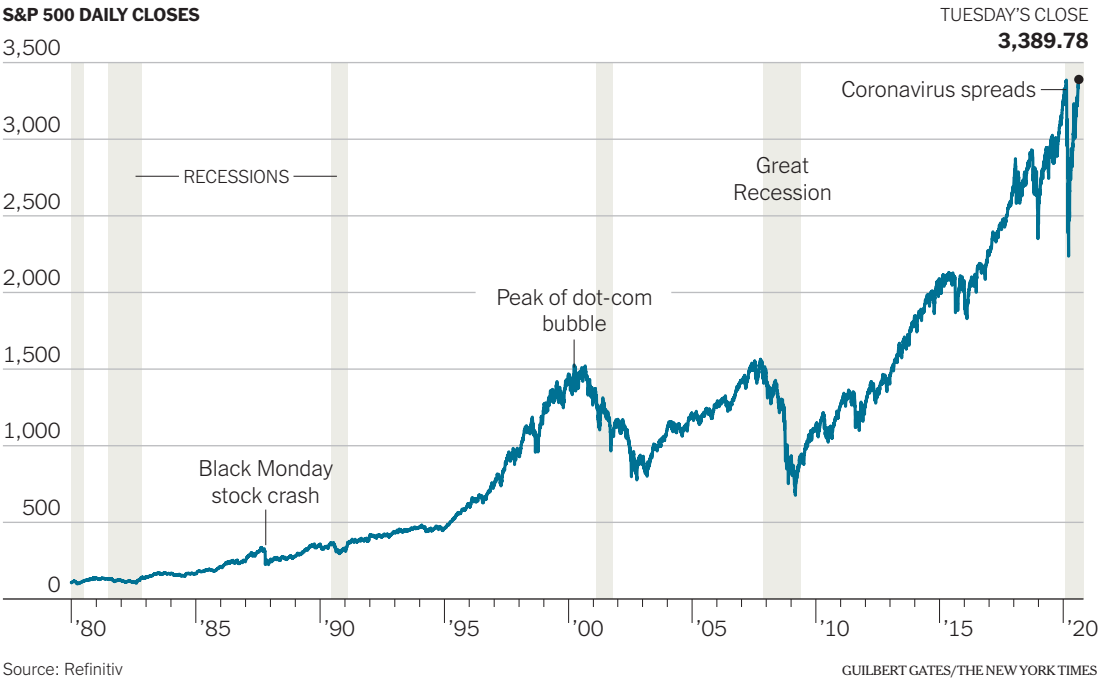
And John Kerry, the former secretary of state who negotiated the Iran deal that Mr. Trump decimated, was called in to validate Joseph R. Biden Jr., the Democratic nominee and Mr. Kerry’s former Senate peer, as a steady-handed statesman for precarious times.

“When this president goes overseas, it isn’t a good-will mission — it’s a bloop reel,” Mr. Kerry said. “He breaks up with our allies and writes love letters to dictators.”

Earlier in the day, Mr. Kerry sent a fund-raising email that made even clearer that Mr. Biden was the person who could “begin the hard work of putting back together the pieces of what Donald Trump has smashed apart.”

But putting back the pieces is probably not a feasible option, with global affairs straying a great distance from the status quo Mr. Biden might recall from the last time he stepped out of the Situation Room.

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Source: Refinitiv

GUILBERT GATES/THE NEW YORK TIMES

‘This Market Is Nuts’: Stocks Defy a Recession

By MATT PHILLIPS

Widespread economic devastation, severe unemployment and a grim prognosis for recovery have not stopped the stock market’s exuberance. And on Tuesday, that undying optimism propelled the market to a new high, pushing it past a milestone reached only six months ago, when the coronavirus was just beginning its harrowing journey across the United States.

“This market is nuts,” said

Investors Think Worst  
Is Over, Fueling High

Howard Silverblatt, senior index analyst for S&P Dow Jones Indices.

To those outside Wall Street, the market’s rise may appear inexplicable given the human and economic toll of the virus, and a stalemate in Washington that has paralyzed efforts to provide more relief

that many businesses and workers desperately need. Still, investors have cast the nearly relentless drumbeat of bad news aside to focus on any signs that the worst might be over. They have also been emboldened by the Federal Reserve’s steadfast support of the markets and unwavering embrace of low interest rates.

Investors are taking into account the fact that the virus, which had seen a recent surge that threatened to set back much of the

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SENATE PANEL TIES  
RUSSIAN OFFICIALS  
TO TRUMP’S AIDES

G.O.P.-Led Committee Echoes Mueller’s  
Findings on Election Tampering

By MARK MAZZETTI

WASHINGTON — A sprawling report released Tuesday by a Republican-controlled Senate panel that spent three years investigating Russia’s interference in the 2016 election laid out an extensive web of contacts between Trump campaign advisers and Kremlin officials and other Russians, including at least one intelligence officer and others tied to the country’s spy services.

The report by the Senate Intelligence Committee, totaling nearly 1,000 pages, drew to a close one of the highest-profile congressional investigations in recent memory and could be the last word from an official government inquiry about the expansive Russian campaign to sabotage the 2016 election.

It provided a bipartisan Senate imprimatur for an extraordinary set of facts: The Russian government disrupted an American election to help Mr. Trump become president, Russian intelligence services viewed members of the Trump campaign as easily manipulated, and some of Mr. Trump’s advisers were eager for the help from an American adversary.

The report portrayed a Trump campaign that was stocked with businessmen with no government experience, advisers working at the fringes of the foreign policy establishment and other friends and associates Mr. Trump had accumulated over the years. Campaign figures, the report said, “presented attractive targets for foreign influence, creating notable counterintelligence vulnerabilities.”

Like the special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III, who released his findings in April 2019, the Senate report did not conclude that the Trump campaign engaged in a coordinated conspiracy with the Russian government — a fact that Republicans seized on to argue that there was “no collusion.”

But the report showed extensive evidence of contacts between Trump campaign advisers and people tied to the Kremlin — including a longstanding associate of the onetime Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, Konstantin V. Kilimnik, whom the report identified as a “Russian intelligence officer.”

The Senate report was the first time the government has identified Mr. Kilimnik as an intelligence officer — Mr. Mueller’s report had labeled him as someone

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President Trump often called the inquiry a “witch hunt.”

On Campuses,  
Greek Life Seen  
As a Virus Risk

This article is by Amy Harmon, Frances Robles, Alan Blinder and Thomas Fuller.

The big bouquets of roses. The towering signs spelling out the letters of each house in Greek. And the hundreds of rushees clutching their acceptance envelopes as they run through campus together.

Big day at the University of Alabama, when sororities decide which pledges will join their sisterhoods, is cause for celebration.

But this past weekend, women at the school, which has one of the biggest Greek systems in the country with 11,000 members, were warned not to party following their invitations to join any of two dozen sororities because of the potential spread of the coronavirus.

That did not stop all of them. The bars and sidewalks along the Strip were crowded on Sunday as sorority members and other students reveled in their return-to-school rituals, sparking criticism from public officials, the fury of university officials and worries from other Tuscaloosans.

The concerns over Greek life come amid reports of virus outbreaks at fraternities and sororities across the country. Universities are struggling with how to prevent tightly packed sorority and fraternity houses from turning into coronavirus clusters.

At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, officials abruptly called off in-person classes on Monday after identifying four clusters in student housing facilities, including one at the Sigma Nu fraternity.

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Post Office Cuts  
Are Suspended  
After an Outcry

This article is by Emily Cochrane, Hailey Fuchs, Kenneth P. Vogel and Jessica Silver-Greenberg.

WASHINGTON — Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, facing intense backlash over cost-cutting moves that Democrats, state attorneys general and civil rights groups warn could jeopardize mail-in voting, said on Tuesday that the Postal Service would suspend those operational changes until after the 2020 election.

The measures, which included eliminating overtime for mail carriers, reducing post office hours and removing postal boxes, have been faulted for slowing mail delivery and criticized as an attempt to disenfranchise voters seeking to vote safely during the coronavirus pandemic.

Mr. DeJoy, a major donor to President Trump who was tapped in May to run the Postal Service, said in a statement that “to avoid even the appearance of any impact on election mail” he was suspending changes “that have been raised as areas of concern as the nation prepares to hold an election in the midst of a devastating pandemic.”

Mr. DeJoy said retail hours at the post office would not change, no mail processing facilities would be closed, and overtime would continue to be approved “as needed.”

It was unclear, however, whether the agency would reverse measures already put in place across the country that union officials and workers say have inflicted deep damage to the Postal Service. That includes the removal of hundreds of mail-sorting

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Two Catastrophes in Michigan

The city of Flint hadn’t yet recovered from a crisis of lead-tainted water when the coronavirus struck.

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Iowa’s Slow Disaster Response

A week after a powerful storm tore through, thousands of displaced residents are feeling abandoned.

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A Fight to Save the Vulnerable

Times journalists were given rare access to a Covid I.C.U. at Houston Methodist Hospital, where most patients were Latino.

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Hotels as Homeless Shelters

When hotels on the Upper West Side of Manhattan became shelters, the neighborhood’s values were tested.

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Muted End to a Trial

Dismay prevails over the verdict of a U.N. inquiry into the killing of Lebanon’s former prime minister.

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Uber and Lyft Eye Franchises

The two ride-hailing companies, under pressure to classify their freelance drivers as employees, are discussing another option in California.

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Who Gets to Compete?

Inclusion and competitive fairness have come into conflict as transgender women engage in athletics.

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Class Is Out, but Football’s In

Administrators want North Carolina to play football although they believe it’s too risky to attend class.

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No Way! Yes Way, Dudes

Three decades later, Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter team up again as the historically clueless Bill and Ted.

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Must-Not-See TV

We take a look at the practice of pulling episodes deemed to have offensive content from circulation.

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The Power in Preserving

For one Los Angeles restaurant’s fans, moldy jam was disgusting. For Black jammers, it meant more.

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A Craving for Chaat

These complex Indian snacks captivate the chef Maneet Chauhan.

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Frank Bruni

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